

1-1-2011

Bibby Levine Alfond Scrapbook

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/levine_waterville

Recommended Citation

"Bibby Levine Alfond Scrapbook" (2011). *Levine Family of Waterville*. Paper 6.
http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/levine_waterville/6

This Scrapbook is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine Jewish History Project at DigitalCommons@Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Levine Family of Waterville by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Colby. For more information, please contact mfkelly@colby.edu.



Dorothy "Bibby" Adair Levine Alfond
April 16, 1916 - December 31, 2005

DOROTHY "Bibby" ADAIR LEVINE ALFOND
Born April 16, 1916 and died December 31, 2005

BILL ALFOND EULOGY FOR HIS MOTHER BIBBY:

My mother was a lifelong resident of the Waterville community. She was a member of Colby's class of 1938, and had over 40 other family members who attended Colby. Therefore, it is particularly meaningful for us to meet together today in her community to celebrate her life.

My mother was the matriarch of our family. Guiding us in her soft and comforting way, she set a loving tone for her children to grow up in. She taught her children and her grandchildren patience and understanding, and showed us the importance of giving back to society, which has given us so much.

Most importantly, she taught us the love of family. The ties that have brought us all together today and to our Great Pond camp every summer are a testament to her success

Unfortunately, my daughter, Kenden, is one of those who could not be with us today. This past summer, before beginning her professional career, which has taken her to the United Nation in Afganistan, Kenden spent some deeply meaningful time with her Nana. I would like to share with you one of the conversations they had together. "After dinner one night, Nana asked Kenden about her thoughts on Jewish rituals, why people are born into a certain religion, what happens in death, and why people believe what they do. Nana spoke at length about her parents, and her beliefs." Few people want to talk about death, especially their own. She was Brave and PREPARED.

I feel very thankful and I find comfort in knowing my mother and my daughter shared an important family evolution. Throughout her long and full life, my mother gave her total loyalty and love to her children, her grandchildren, her husband, and the Levine family. When I was young, my experience working at her family's store, Levine's, showed me where my mother learned her charm and what we in the family kiddingly referred to as her retail smile. My mother used these qualities her entire life, giving us important building blocks for a successful life.

She treasured the time she spent with family, and loved to hear news from her children and grandchildren. Recently, my son Justin visited Nana and she listened to him as he told her about his job and his dreams. She was a listener and a confidence builder.

Later, she and my wife, Joni discussed my son Reis and his fiancé Steff's wedding and Nana spoke of how much she looked forward to these family events, and also about the fashionable dress she planned on wearing.

For everyone in my mother's extended family, her greatest legacies include her love of family and her ability to listen and make each of us feel special. My mother was the youngest child of William Levine, my namesake, and as the baby of her family, she was known as "Bibby." Today, I have to say goodbye not only to my mother, but also to the last child of the William and Sara Levine family, Bibby Dorothy Levine Alfond.

TED ALFOND ON HIS MOTHER BIBBY:

When Mother was with my children, she constantly presented a sweet, loving, benign presence. I think they will always equate her with kisses, jellied orange slices, lollipops, and positive reinforcement. Her kindness was something that was intuited even by the very youngest, and transcended the spoken word. Our generation got the "preaching" and the love, and they just got the love.

I would describe my mother as kind, loving, family-oriented, and very conservative in her approach to gender roles and responsibilities. I think she was very aware not only of family, but of how the family was perceived by the outside world. It's always been interesting to me that her mother, Sarah, was a highly visible and highly effective businesswoman, but that my mother felt that it was her role to tend to the family and to let Dad be the public figure. Even so, her kind and humble nature was noticed and appreciated by a far greater public than she may have imagined, and in her own way, she had a profound influence on many, many people, who admire her to this day. Within the family, I know that she had an indelible influence on Gisele and Paula, (as did Aunt Frieda), both of whom lived their lives in an impeccably discreet, humble and modest manner.

I remember feeling puzzled by the fact that Mother would not let me see Aunt Evelyn when she was sick. She said "I don't want you to remember her this way." This reminds Barbara of Sara's great email

about Jewish thoughts: "Always whisper the names of diseases," which was so true of that generation. Never say the "C" word!

SUSAN ALFOND ON HER MOTHER BIBBY:

My mother dressed up everyday: skirt, heels, stockings, pocketbooks, hats, lipstick, nails, and hair. I loved to watch her get dressed and she would ask me what I liked and didn't. She was quite vain and very proud; she never let you know if anything was going wrong. I think that's a Levine trait.

She always went to the dressmaker twice a week to either take clothes in or out. I swore when I got older that if I lost or gained weight, I would throw my clothes out! I disliked the long trips to the tailor.

My mother used to go with my father to New York for the shoe show and it seemed like it took her a month to pack. She brought an extra trunk with her for the clothes that she bought while in NY.

WENDY MILLER ON GREAT AUNT BIBBY:

When my sister Julie with Lady Jean found dad (Howard) in the midst of a stroke on Sept 15, 2005, he had only two days before he made his transition into death. So many of us rushed to Thayer Hospital – family, friends, clerks from so many years at Levines, those who were like a second family to us. He was surrounded by love and respect. My sisters and I will never forget how we experienced the essence of aunt Bibby. She herself was in the late phases of her own bout with Parkinson's disease, but during the days of dad's passing, and his shiva, you never would have known that. She tapped into a primal force of love, responsibility and devotion that I believe is the essence of the Levine legacy. She said to her helpers, "Take me to the hospital. My Howard is there and my girls need me." She arrived in her beautiful attire, sitting in her wheelchair. She waited and waited with us, through many hours in the hospital waiting room, and with Sara in the den on Johnson Heights. And when Sheila or Alice would say, "Bibby, it's time to go home and take your medicine" or "Bibby, you must be tired, let me take you home," aunt Bibby would respond with; "I am going to stay right here with my girls." She would tell us, "My Howard is not

dying.” She said she had a dream and she did not want him to go. He was her nephew, but they grew up as if he was her brother. We were *her* girls and she would stay with us.

Days later, past the shiva days filled with people at our house, aunt Bibby called in the morning to see if we wanted to go to lunch at The Villager (a tiny little place that she and dad liked). “Aren’t you tired?” I asked. “Wouldn’t you like to rest today?” “I’ll be tired with you girls,” she answered.

That was aunt Bibby - filled with assurance, clarity of purpose, pride and love for us that ran so deep, holding us in the shared presence we had grown up with, having spent so much “maternal time” with not only our mom and nana, but with aunt Bibby as well.

The Levines truly were rich in intimacy, a gift and a skill I believe we have been given from our Levine heritage. Today with so much talk about family values, trying to manifest them in a global fast paced world has thrown many families off track. We are very fortunate that ours are ingrained so deeply and through so many generations of connection. We have a very strong narrative about not only our roots, but about the story of becoming, giving and being in America; the story of how community is made, how it is shaped and how it shapes a place and a people.

We continually hear the word “respect.” What is respect? A willingness to look again, to look again at the values of family and the legacy/gifts they gave us. And not just what it is but how to do it, how to recognize it. That is the legacy we have been given. A bond of belonging and cohesion that it turns out is quite rare in families today. How did we win the family lottery? Some people got such unskilled humans to guide them onto this task. Uncle Ludy told aunt Glenyce that his mom, Sarah Levine, would walk along the street and everyone loved her. She would say, “How do?” The president at Colby once stopped her and said, “Mrs. Levine, how do you account for having such wonderful children?” We don’t know what she answered him, but we do know that it is our task to answer and emulate.

SARA LEE ON AUNT BIBBY & UNCLE HAROLD AS TOLD TO ERIC:

My Aunt Bibby, what can I say! I loved her so much! When I was a toddler, Bibby would stay with our family for weeks at a time; she would come home from a date, late at night, and jump into my bed and hug & kiss me. After she graduated from Lesley College, she lived with us. She came back and forth from Waterville, so did Aunt Evelyn. After she married Uncle Harold, I stayed with them at their rental camp in Smithfield, Maine. When they lived in Norridgewolk, I would spent time with her at the factory house. Uncle Harold would take me to the factory. Edith Wentworth, his private secretary, would let me play with all the office machinery. Aunt Bibby & Uncle Harold were always good to me and we had a fun time together; they made me feel special. I loved both of them and I will never forget them.

RABBI KRINSKY'S EULOGY 4 JANUARY 2006

although bibby alfond grew up as the youngest of her siblings, she came to be recognized as the matriarch of her extended family for more years than anyone today can recall. she came by her reputation of a nurturing, caring and loving individual not by wielding AUTHORITY, WHICH she easily possessed, but by demonstrating through her compassionate behavior the authenticity of her magnanimous personality. harold could rely on her whole-HEARTED SUPPORT in the pursuit of his business VENTURES. Ted, susan, bill and peter could depend on her motherly acknowledgment of their individualities and her open-mindedness to their differences. her grandchildren and great-GRANDCHILDREN, her nephews and NIECES could see in her THE guiding BEACON, WHICH would illuminate their paths on the journeys their lives would travel.

as she drew her inspiration for affecting the lives of her family from her keen perception of how and when she was needed, so she gave of herself to community causes that summoned in her the ELEEMOSYNARY spirit inherent in the alfond ethic of CHARITY and good works. you give not BECAUSE YOU have to, but because you can and will climb the highest mountain in response to human need, because the challenge is there and your responsibility is

clear. Such was bibby's concern for the welfare of the women and children receiving assistance at the *maine children's home for little wanderers*. such was bibby's interest in the program of the *holocaust and human rights center of maine*. In that regard, i must point out that bibby impressed on her children and their progeny the value and importance of drawing inspiration from and maintaining their jewish heritage.

TODAY WE have laid TO REST the WOMAN OF VALOR, cited in the book of proverbs, WHOSE HUSBAND TRUSTED HER AND WHOSE CHILDREN ROSE UP AND CALLED HER BLESSED. STRENGTH AND DIGNITY WERE HER CLOTHING AND SHE SMILED AT THE TIME TO COME. SHE OPENED HER MOUTH WITH WISDOM AND THE LAW OF KINDNESS WAS ON HER TONGUE. SHE LOOKED WELL TO THE WAYS OF HER HOUSEHOLD AND DID NOT EAT THE BREAD OF IDLENESS.

indeed, she looked well to the needs of many and provided them with the bread of encouragement. may the memory of bibby alfond be A blessing for all who knew her.

amen.

Dorothy Alfond, 89, of Maine, did community work

Dorothy "Bibby" (Levine) Alfond of Palm Beach, Fla., considered a pillar of her Maine community, died Saturday in Waterville, Maine. She was 89.

Born in Waterville, she lived in Norridgewock, Maine, before moving back to Waterville in 1993. She graduated from Coburn Classical Institute and Waterville public schools. She attended Colby College, later graduating from Lesley College in Cambridge.

Mrs. Alfond supported the launch of her husband's career as a leading shoe manufacturer in Dexter, Maine. She served on multiple community boards, including the Maine Children's Home and the Holocaust Human Rights Center.

Maine institutions that bear her name in tribute include the visitors center and middle school at Good Will-Hinckley, the campus of the Maine Children's Home in Waterville, the residence center at Colby College, the Regional Cancer Center at MaineGeneral Medical Center, and the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA at the Youth Recreation Center in Waterville.

She is survived by her husband, Harold; three sons, Ted and Bill of Boston and Peter of Puerto Rico; her daughter, Susan of Portland, Maine; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A public memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Lorimer Chapel on the Campus of Colby College, Waterville.

Burial will be private.

Arrangements by the Redington Funeral Home, Waterville, Maine.

DEATHS

ALFOND. Dorothy Levine, "Bibby"—Age 89, died in her native Waterville, Maine on December 31, 2005. A resident of Palm Beach, FL, who summered for nearly sixty years at the family compound she and her husband began on Great Pond in Belgrade Lakes, ME, she was a woman of immense charm and grace who devoted her life to her beloved family. A graduate of Lesley College in Cambridge, MA, she attended Coburn Classical Institute and Colby College, both in Waterville. In 1943, her marriage to Harold Alfond, who would found Dexter Shoe Company and become a legend in the shoe industry, began a legacy of philanthropy, generosity and commitment to community and family which will long remain as a standard for those who follow in her footsteps. In addition to her cherished husband, she leaves her son Theodore and his wife Barbara; her daughter Susan; her son William and his wife Joan; and her son Peter; thirteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren, all of whom aspire to emulate her dignity and goodness and who will miss her immeasurably. A Memorial Service will be held at Lorimer Chapel at Colby College at 1 PM on Wednesday, January 4th. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to the Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine, PO Box 4845, Augusta, ME 04330; The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers, 93 Silver St., Waterville, ME 04901; Colby College, Dorothy "Bibby" Alfond Memorial Fund, Waterville, Maine 04901.

From **The Boston Globe**
Tuesday, 3 January 2006

ALTHOUGH BIBBY ALFOND GREW UP AS THE YOUNGEST OF HER SIBLINGS, SHE CAME TO BE RECOGNIZED AS THE MATRIARCH OF HER EXTENDED FAMILY FOR MORE YEARS THAN ANYONE TODAY CAN RECALL. SHE CAME BY HER REPUTATION OF A NURTURING, CARING AND LOVING INDIVIDUAL NOT BY WIELDING AUTHORITY, WHICH SHE EASILY POSSESSED, BUT BY DEMONSTRATING THROUGH HER COMPASSIONATE BEHAVIOR THE AUTHENTICITY OF HER MAGNANIMOUS PERSONALITY. HAROLD COULD RELY ON HER WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT IN THE PURSUIT OF HIS BUSINESS VENTURES. TED, SUSAN, BILL AND PETER COULD DEPEND ON HER MOTHERLY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR INDIVIDUALITIES AND HER OPEN-MINDEDNESS TO THEIR DIFFERENCES. HER GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, HER NEPHEWS AND NIECES COULD SEE IN HER THE GUIDING BEACON, WHICH WOULD ILLUMINATE THEIR PATHS ON THE JOURNEYS THEIR LIVES WOULD TRAVEL.

AS SHE DREW HER INSPIRATION FOR AFFECTING THE LIVES OF HER FAMILY FROM HER KEEN PERCEPTION OF HOW AND WHEN SHE WAS NEEDED, SO SHE GAVE OF HERSELF TO COMMUNITY CAUSES THAT SUMMONED IN HER THE ELEEMOSYNARY SPIRIT INHERENT IN THE ALFOND ETHIC OF CHARITY AND GOOD WORKS. YOU GIVE NOT BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO, BUT BECAUSE YOU CAN AND WILL CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN RESPONSE TO HUMAN NEED, BECAUSE THE CHALLENGE IS THERE AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS CLEAR. SUCH WAS BIBBY'S CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AT THE *MAINE CHILDREN'S HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS*. SUCH WAS BIBBY'S INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM OF THE *HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER OF MAINE*. IN THAT REGARD, I MUST POINT OUT THAT BIBBY IMPRESSED ON HER CHILDREN AND THEIR PROGENY THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM AND MAINTAINING THEIR JEWISH HERITAGE.

TODAY WE HAVE LAID TO REST THE WOMAN OF VALOR, CITED IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS, WHOSE HUSBAND TRUSTED HER AND WHOSE CHILDREN ROSE UP AND CALLED HER BLESSED. STRENGTH AND DIGNITY WERE HER CLOTHING AND SHE SMILED AT THE TIME TO COME. SHE OPENED HER MOUTH WITH WISDOM AND THE LAW OF KINDNESS WAS ON HER TONGUE. SHE LOOKED WELL TO THE WAYS OF HER HOUSEHOLD AND DID NOT EAT THE BREAD OF IDLENESS.

INDEED, SHE LOOKED WELL TO THE NEEDS OF MANY AND PROVIDED THEM WITH THE BREAD OF ENCOURAGEMENT. MAY THE MEMORY OF BIBBY ALFOND BE A BLESSING FOR ALL WHO KNEW HER.

AMEN.

For Aunt Bibby, 1/4/06

Recollections from Miller-Levine Family

given by Wendy Miller (great-niece and daughter of Gisele and Howard Miller, Bibby's nephew), accompanied by her sister Sara Miller Arnon, Aunt Glenyce Kaplan (Bibby's niece and daughter of Frieda Levine Miller, Bibby's sister), and cousin Sara Lee Bloom (Bibby's niece and daughter of Betty Levine Kaplan, Bibby's sister)

It is very hard to stand here today and know that the last of William and Sarah Levine's children, to us, the family of elders has passed. We all speak of this but what did it really mean to grow up among the elders of our family? Although I am here today to represent the Miller-Levine family, and I will do my best to do that, I can only speak from the experience of my own generation, hoping that what I have to say will relate more than just my own.

My dad Howard and my Aunt Glen grew up with Aunt Bibby like another sister. Bibby's other nieces and nephew, Audrey, Harold, Tema and Sara Lee, also grew up with Bibby like another sister. That meant that to us, my own sisters and me, referred to as "the Miller girls," that we never quite imagined Aunt Bibby in that elder Levine group when we were growing up, even though we knew she was. She was of our parents age and generation. We grew up with her, with uncle Harold, and with our cousins like another set of sisters and brothers here in Waterville. All our holidays, all our Sundays, all our summers were spent together for most of what I can remember of my childhood -- the men watching sports games at Colby or blasting on the television set; my mom Gisele and aunt Bibby having 4 o'clock tea, every day, gossiping, telling stories, playing cards with their friends:

"Do you have any of those pinwheels, Gisele?"

"Yes, I have them for the kids."

"Well, get them out. I wouldn't have them in my home, but I'll eat them here!"

And the various age groups of cousins, Ted, Susan and my sister Sara, walking to the movies in their camel hair coats, with their camel hair hats,

while us younger ones, Bill, Peter, my sister Julie and I, with our many Boston cousins, were left to fend for ourselves just schmoozing and playing with whatever camel hair items were left for us! We grew up in the same homes, 33 Ticonic Street, 28 Johnson Heights, 127 Silver Street, camp (It was William and Sarah Levine's camp that Aunt Bibby had grown up with and knew), and of course, Levine's Store. Family among us was a daily, weekly event.

Everyone speaks of Aunt Bibby's kindness as her legacy, all that she gave to the community, with her generosity, her passion, and her love of children. For me, it is more personal. Aunt Bibby is one of the threads of the fabric of my upbringing. As a parent now, I am so aware of the relationships that our children need to develop with other adults. Growing up in Waterville, I don't think we were aware of how lucky we were to have had such a strong dynamic in that way. It was just a given. The family and its extensions were one fabric, not a quilt pieced together, but one large fabric that belonged to all of us, and that comforted each of us. Now, one by one, as each passes, a particular thread is pulled out, and the holes have begun to show themselves; we feel the air and the wind coming through the colors of our covering. But, with these openings, we are also called forth to do our part, to see the incredible texture, the character, the weight, the pattern and design of that weaving that we have called our own. Our family. Our love. Our Great-Aunt.

Aunt Glen and Sara Lee had their last conversations with Aunt Bibby over lunch. The last in-person conversation that my sisters and I had with Aunt Bibby was after she took "Howard's girls, her girls" out to lunch after dad died this fall. We were at The Villager, Aunt Bibby having her milkshake and peanut butter crackers that she so loved. When we parted, she said, "Whenever you are in Waterville now, you come and stay with me. My home is your home." We knew exactly what she meant. Our home. Our family. Our Great-Aunt Bibby.

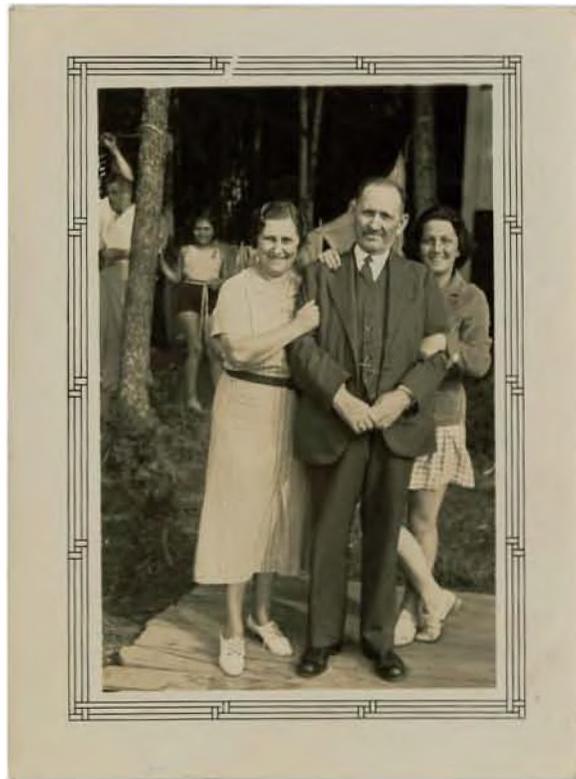
Aunt Bibby, just as you visited your father William Levine every single day of his life, all of the Levine's, Miller's, Alford's, Kaplan's, Schutzer's, Wolff's, Gold's, Lunder's are waiting for you. Their home is your home.



PRIOR to Bibby's Birth in 1916 - includes brother, Ted

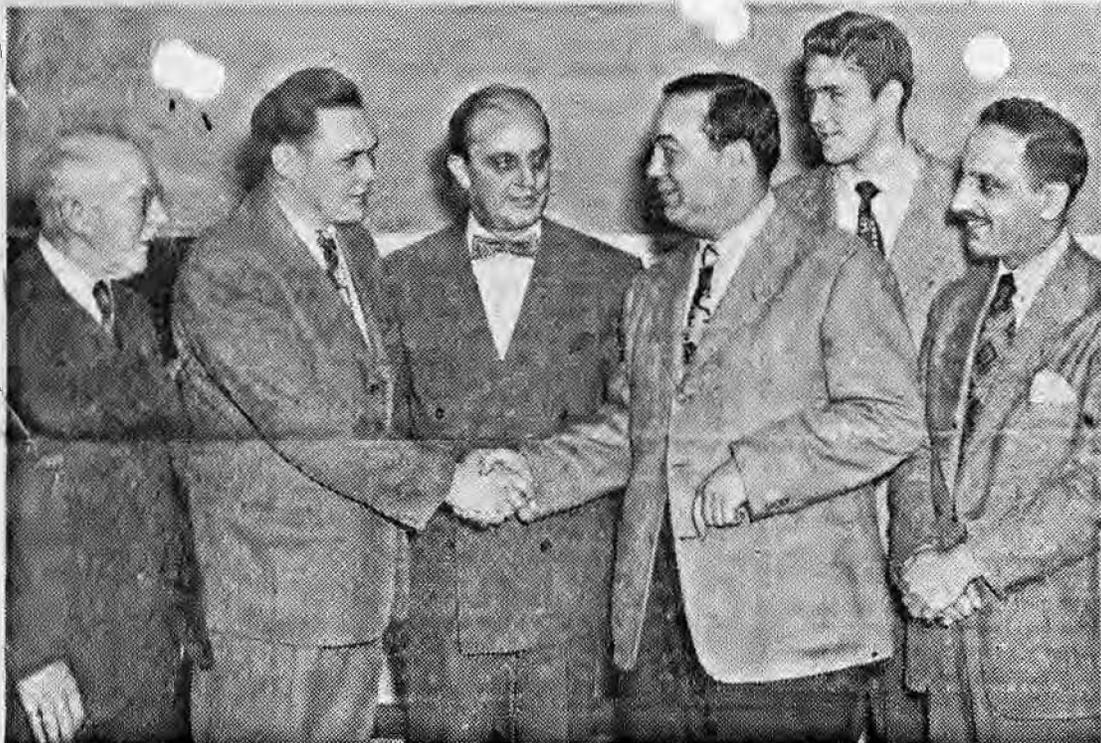


The Levine Siblings Circa 1960









COLBY BASKETBALL CHAMPS were feted at the Hotel Templeton Thursday evening by the Mayflower Associates. Coach Lee Williams, who teamed the Mules to State title is congratulated (center) by

Harold Allond. Others from left to right: George E. Ferrell, Percy Levine, Capt. Bill Mitchell of the Mule five and Charles N. Nawfel. (Sentinelman Tobey)





5 mo. old









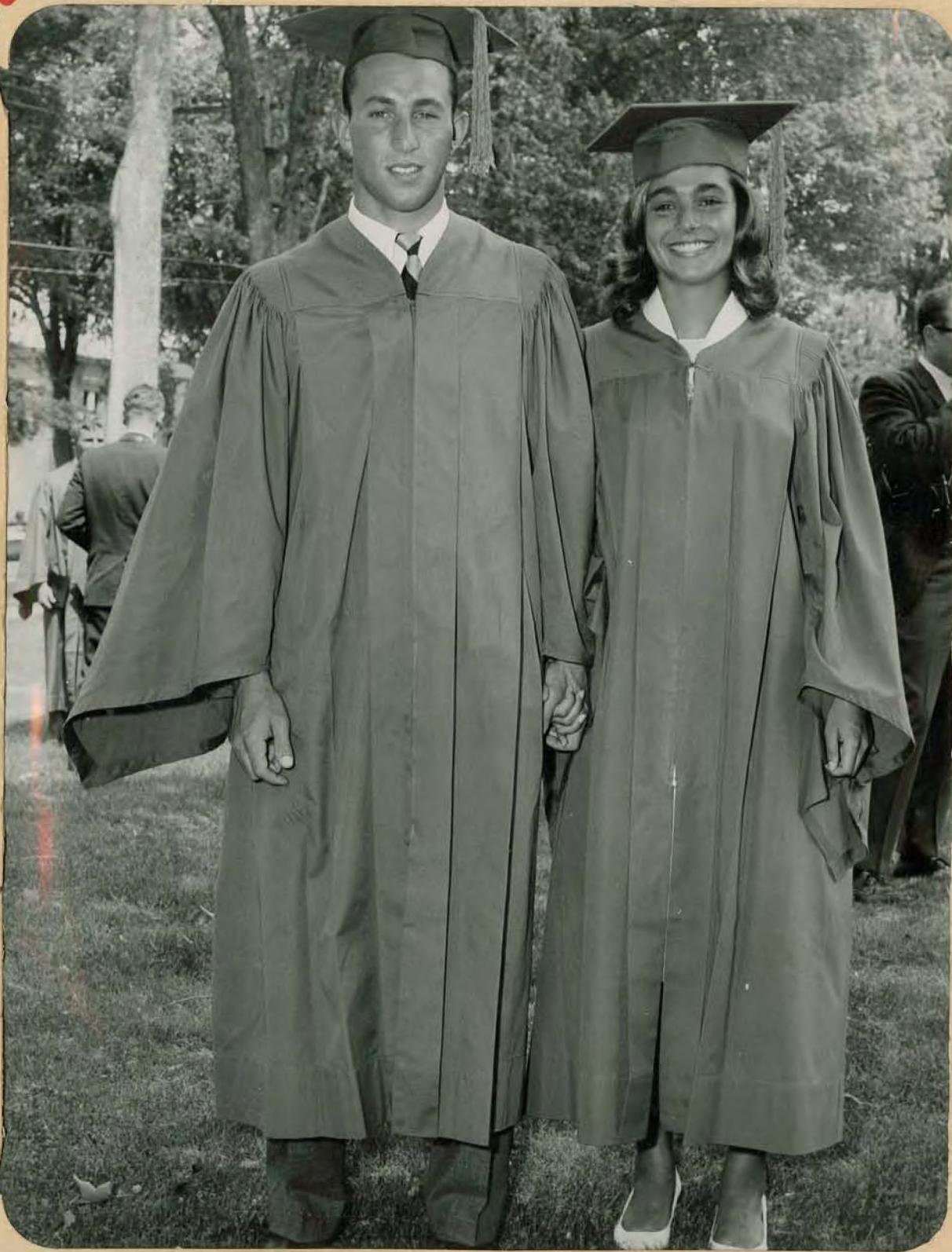


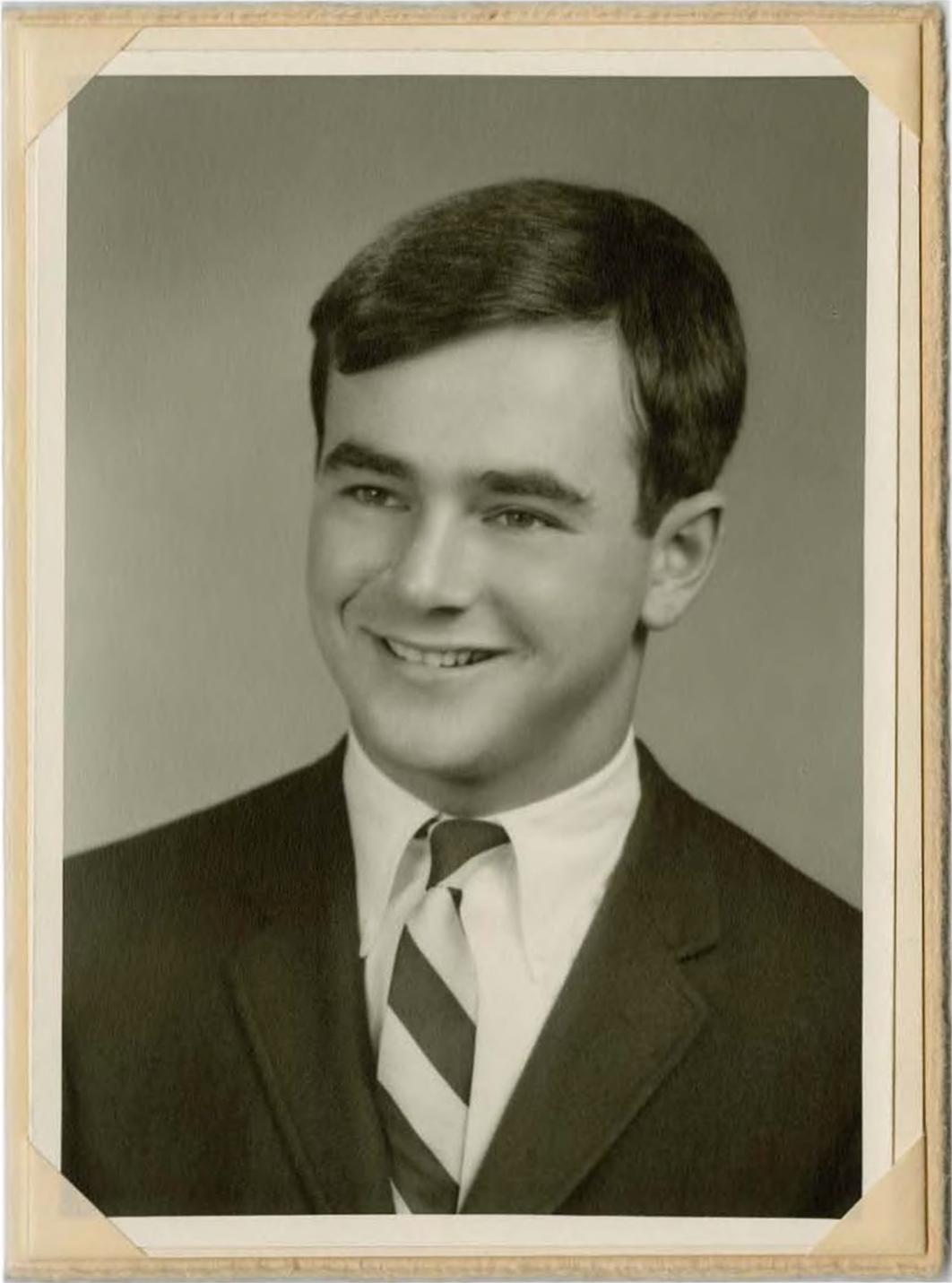






KODAK

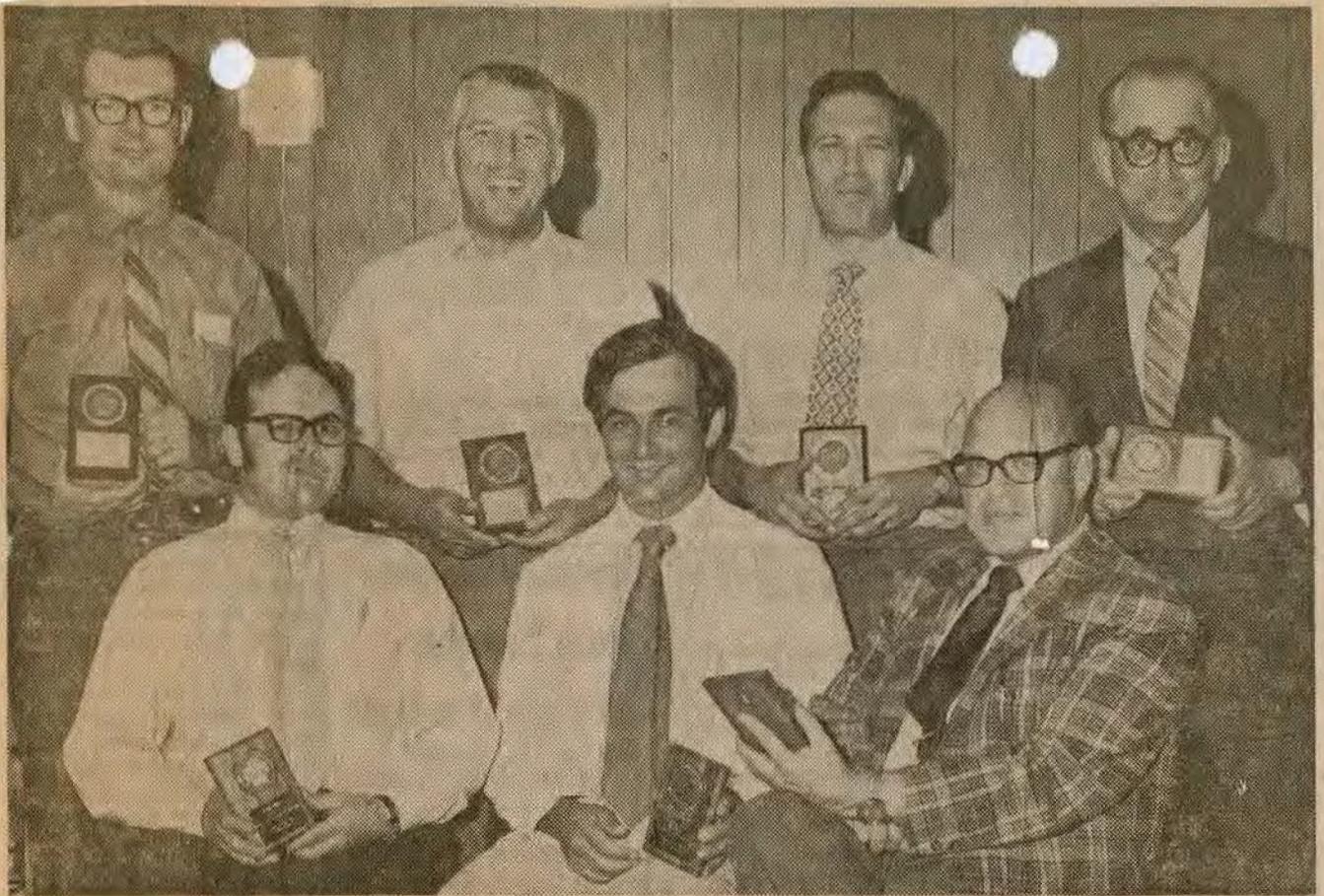




Sara



here,
Susan



Little League Sponsors Honored

At a recent meeting held at the Boys' Club sponsors of the Little League were honored. Front, left to right, Wil Turgeon, representing the Jaycees, Bill Alfond, representing Alfond's and Herbie Sterns,

of Sterns. Back, Bart Leighton of Rotary; Bernie LaLiberte of Lions; Dick Diversi of A. Diversi and Ludy Levine of Levine's. (Sentinel Photo by Dick Maxwell)

7-11-70





*The Alfond's have added
a New Style
to their line..*



Name of Style	<i>Michael Simon</i>
Size Range	<i>5 lbs. 6 oz. – 18 1/2 inches</i>
Delivery Date	<i>December 14, 1969</i>
Specifications	<i>Made to order</i>
Ornamentation	<i>Boy's</i>
Kicker	<i>Decidedly</i>
Backstay	<i>Fornidable</i>
Strap	<i>Only when necessary</i>
Forecast	<i>Predicted to become firm's most successful venture</i>

*From the Happy Loafers,
Dolores and David*









Preview To Art Auction

Mrs. Bibi Alfond, left, and Mrs. Paula Lunder look over an original signed lithograph similar to what will be offered April 28 during the fifth annual art auction, sponsored by Waterville Chapter of Hadassah. The event will be held at the Fenway-Maine Motor Hotel and will include a sherry hour from 6 to 7 p.m. when works to be featured may be previewed.

Mrs. Lunder, Hadassah treasurer, holds an ad booklet sponsored by local merchants and members of the community. She served on the solicitations committee chaired by Mrs. Alfond. The booklet was published by Theodore N. Levine Chapter of Bnai Brith. (Ron Maxwell Photo)

Annual Hadassah Art Auction April 28

The fifth annual benefit art auction, sponsored by Waterville Chapter of Hadassah, will be held April 28 at the Fenway-Maine Motor Hotel.

Patrons of the auction will be afforded the opportunity to preview works during a sherry hour from 6 to 7 p.m.

Art offerings will include original oils, watercolors, etchings, drawings and lithographs. All art is matted and framed.

Artists whose lithographs will be featured include Picasso, Renoir, Dali, Chagall and Churchill.

Miss Linda Saperstein is chairman, assisted by Mrs. Elsie Miller, publicity; Mrs. Marcia Beckerman, Mrs. Giselle Miller, admission; Mrs. Maida Eisenbert and Mrs. Elizabeth Geller, special arrangements.

In conjunction with the auction,

Theodore N. Levine Chapter of Bnai Brith has published an ad booklet sponsored by local merchants and members of the community. Mrs. Giselle Miller was chairman and Mrs. Maida Eisenberg, co-chairman. The solicitations committee included: Bibi Alfond, Pauler Lunder, Ellie Glaser, Marion Hains, Myrt Wolman, Liz Geller, Frieda Miller, Cella Levine, Rona Rosenthal, Minna

Pachowsky, Irene Green, Judy Brody, Phyllis, Russakoff, Elmore Fisher, Elaine Levine and Phyllis Shiro.

Funds raised will continue the work of the Anti-defamation League, programs for orphaned and disturbed children around the world. Operation Stork, a program conducted in conjunction with the March of Dimes, and the Hadassah Medical Organization.

Pine
ed to
orea
sup-
that
lona-
fede-
ecre-
ucks-
ear-
ons."
d to
for-
rom,
291
Le-
for-
pro-
rela-
nder-

ers
need
ound
now
sday
ular
at 8
ough
Win-

d by
hair
at
pro-
the
was
liza-
ard
and
ted
ker
any

M
Dea
Se
intro
my
simp
a b
eggw
and
crum
eggs
B
cons
eggs
serv
plen
Th
fork
free
I
all
whit
out
som
twis
Al
a m
pal
I hr
It
ach
the
A
me
aut
unt
A
no-
Dea
W
wra
tow
Th
live
full-
Dea
To
on U

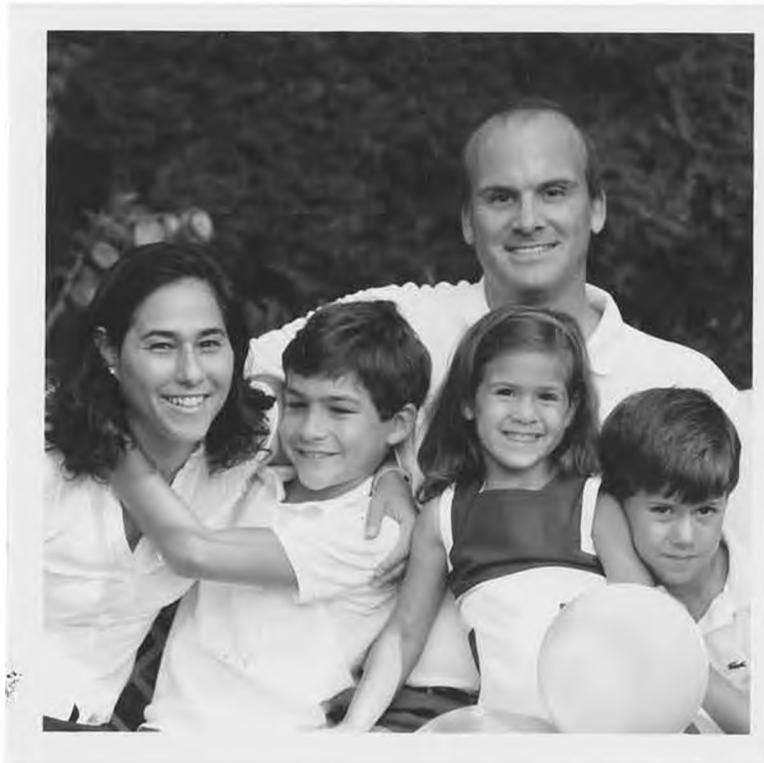










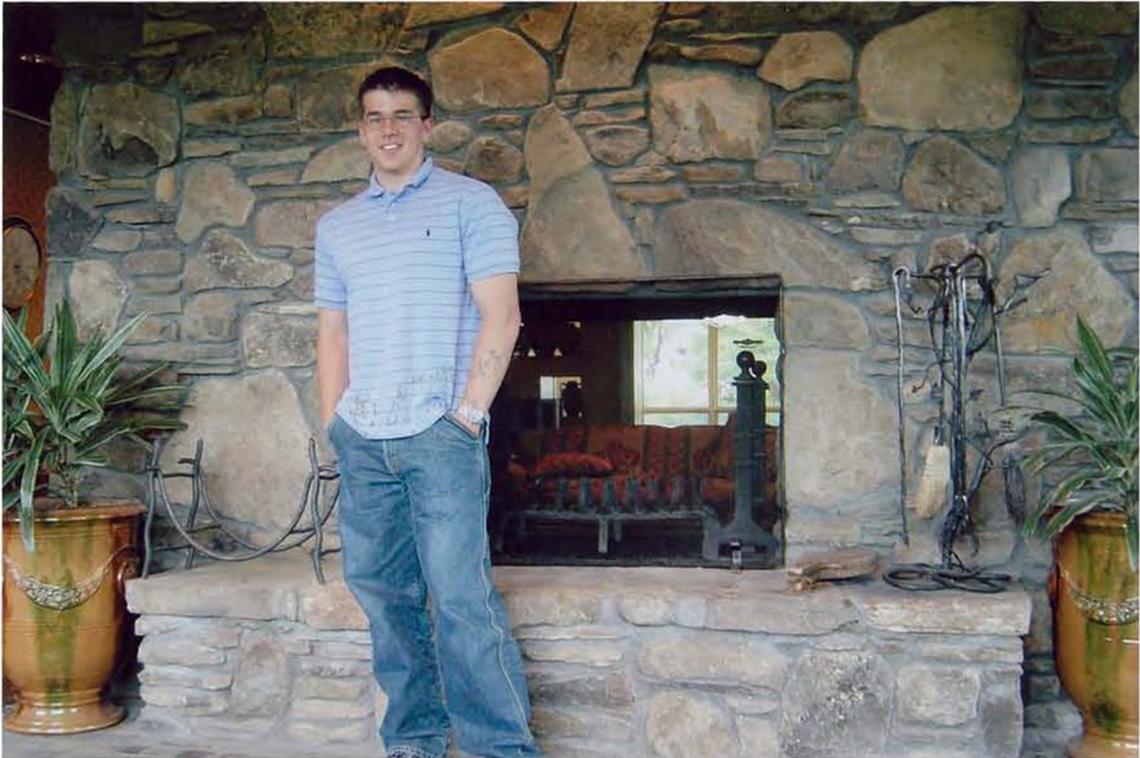




























*Dorothy "Bibby" Alfond
Campus*



**THE
MAINE CHILDREN'S HOME**
for little wanderers

Our Mission

*To build and strengthen families and their
children, instilling hope for the future and a
better quality of life.*







WATERVILLE: Humane Society to seek expansion permit tonight • B4

Editor:
Anthony F. Cristan, 861-9249

Local

Morning Sentinel

SECTION

B

Monday, October 4, 1999

1

Colby revels in success of fund-raising effort



Staff photo / BILL FLAHERTY III

Harold and Bibby Alfond receive a laugh as a dedication ceremony for the new Colby Senior Housing Complex on the Colby campus gets underway Thursday evening.

By COLIN HICKEY
Staff Writer

WATERVILLE — Colby College officials, supporters and students last week celebrated more than \$8 million worth of recent construction, as well as an ongoing fund-raising campaign that already has surpassed its \$100 million goal.

At a Friday dinner that drew more than 700 alumni, students, parents, faculty members and friends of the college, Colby officials revealed that the Campaign for Colby fund-raiser has raised \$141 million since its inception in 1992. The campaign continues through Dec. 31.

Money from the initiative was used to build the Harold and Bibby Alfond Residence Complex and the Lunder Wing of the Colby Museum of Art, two facilities that opened this year and were the focus of celebrations that began Thursday, Colby spokesman Stephen Collins said.

Collins said the college has used Campaign

for Colby money to construct about a dozen buildings on the Mayflower Hill campus since 1992.

In contrast to the annual fund-raising drive, Collins said Campaign for Colby focuses on capital goals, including increasing the college's endowment.

"A large chunk of this is for scholarships," he said. "You have an endowment to offset the cost of college tuition."

Collins said Colby's endowment currently stands at \$290 million.

Harold and Bibby Alfond donated \$2.5 million of the \$6.8 million used to build the campus apartment building that bears their name. The facility, which opened to 107 college seniors this fall, offers suites that accommodate from four to six students.

With the addition of the Alfond building, Collins said, Colby houses at least 97 percent of its students, who number about 1,800.

"Colby is a residential college as opposed to a commuter college," Collins said. "Colby holds

that what you learn as part of living and being a part of the campus is important."

If Colby also cares about art, the same can be said of Peter and Paula Lunder, the Waterville couple whose generosity made possible the \$1.3 million Lunder Wing.

The addition to the Colby Museum of Art, which opened in late June, displays the museum's American art collection and has been featured in American Artist magazine, as well as in major newspapers.

An official dedication of the Lunder Wing was held Saturday to complete three days of celebrations at the college.

During the festivities, the college also announced \$2 million had been donated to recognize Colby president William R. Cotter and his wife Linda K. Cotter.

The money will be used to establish the William R. Cotter Distinguished Professorship and the Linda K. Cotter Endowment for Student Internships. Cotter, Colby's president since 1979, plans to retire next June.

Millions

from A1

once told the Portland Press-Herald. "My advice is to get a college education no matter what the cost. In my day, you could get along without it. Not today."

Alfond migrated north, coming to Maine to work with his father at the Kesslen Shoe Co. in Kennebunk.

At the time, northern New England was the heart of the North American shoe industry. Shoe shops hummed in nearly every city built along a river, employing thousands.

IF THE SHOE FITS

In 1940, Alfond was just six years out of high school.

According to legend, he picked up a hitchhiker who told him about a vacant shoe factory for sale in Norridgewock. Alfond mentioned the building to his father, who dug into his savings to purchase the factory for \$1,000.

Together, they founded Norrock Shoe Co.

A mere three years later, with his father in poor health, Alfond sold the shoe company for \$1.1 million. The agreement ensured he would stay on as the company's president, a position he held for 25 years.

That same year, 1943, he married Dorothy "Bibby" Levine, daughter of a prominent Waterville family. Together, they would raise four children in central Maine: Ted, Susan, Bill and Peter.

Friends and family alike say Bibby, now 89 and suffering from Parkinson's disease, has quietly shaped Alfond's decision making and is key to an understanding of his life.

"She was a wonderful woman and a wonderful wife," Susan Alfond said. "She's been right there with him, right there at his side."

Alfond was an affluent man before he was 25. His next venture, however, would put him among the nation's wealthiest businessmen.

Encouraged by Maine's two U.S. senators, Owen Brewster and Margaret Chase Smith, who wanted to bring economic development to a struggling central Maine town, Alfond bought a vacant mill in Dexter.

In 1957, aided by tax breaks, Dexter Shoe Co. was born.

The company would sell more than 100 million shoes and transform the shoe business, reshaping much of central Maine along the way.

NOBODY TOLD HIM HE'S RICH

Alfond usually is described as affable and unpretentious. A rich guy who acts like an average Joe.

Newspaper articles note the holes in his shoes. Friends describe him as humble and modest. In pictures, his clothing is often rumpled, and he's usually wearing a pullover sweater — not a coat and tie.

His bald head reflects light and his shoulders slump slightly forward. His mouth forms a half-moon smile.

He looks into the camera like he's just finished telling the photographer a particularly funny joke.

"He's a very uncomplicated person," said Mahaney, the Webber Oil owner, who talks to Alfond nearly every day. "He's rich, but nobody told him."

He's good, easygoing company, friends say. But almost any mention of Alfond includes a mention of another side of his personality: a fierce competitiveness.

Whatever game he's playing, Alfond wants to win.

That seems especially true on the golf course. Ask for a memorable Alfond anecdote and friends — who have nicknamed him "the commander" — unfailingly remember an afternoon on a golf course.

Colby College President Hank "Bro" Adams remembers the first time he played with Alfond. He could tell Alfond was checking out his game, trying to determine what kind of competition he would present.

On the first tee, Adams bogeyed. Alfond made par.

According to Adams, Alfond turned to him with a mischievous smile and said, "You want to play for money?"

And when Alfond plays a game for money, friends say, he almost always wins — a fact as true in the business world as it is on the golf course.

"If you get into a putting contest with him," said friend Deering, "you'd better watch your dollar."

But if Alfond wins the money, he'll likely give it away. Friends joke that he fights like a dog to



ALFOND FAMILY: Dorothy "Bibby" Alfond looks at a plaque given to her by children in 2002 during a dedication and open house at the Dorothy Bibby Alfond Campus of the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers. Harold Alfond is behind Dorothy at the right.

Staff photo by David Leaming

win one dollar, then donates \$5 million a day later.

Friends also say Alfond is humble about his generosity. But they say the philanthropist is not generally shy — despite his reticence with the media and desire for a low profile.

Even in front of the cameras, he has his moments.

At a recent press conference announcing MaineGeneral's intent to build a \$30 million cancer-treatment center — and a \$5 million Alfond Foundation gift toward its construction — the day's hero surprised the crowd by scrambling to the podium and launching into a rousing, impromptu news conference.

"This isn't just going to be the best (cancer center) in Maine," he rasped into a microphone, with words that again revealed his competitiveness. "This is going to be the best in New England!"

BITTER FEELINGS

Alfond donations such as the one to MaineGeneral always bring favorable publicity — and rightfully so.

But whenever there's an announcement of his generosity, or another glowing television report, there is also grumbling from people who say they knew a different Harold Alfond.

There are many who knew him as a hard-driving boss. People who worked in his factories. So if Alfond is now considered Maine's very own Santa Claus, there are a raft of former employees who still — years after they left shoe shops behind — consider him a real-life Scrooge.

"Sweat shops," said Royce Libby of Skowhegan, referring to the Alfond-led factories where he worked for 20 years. "That's the only way I can describe it."

Libby and others remember grueling days of hard labor that paid poorly and offered few benefits. They remember long-time workers fired for arriving a few minutes late. They remember unsympathetic foremen who pushed workers beyond their limits.

They even remember outright brutality.

Libby's wife, Winn, who also worked at a Norrock Shoe factory, recalls a time when a female co-worker fell to the floor, apparently from a stroke. She cracked her head on the concrete, her blood spreading like milk spilled on a table.

Workers, horrified, were told to put shoe racks around her, to shield her from view, and get back to work.

The woman didn't receive medical attention, Winn Libby said, and died on the factory floor.

The Libbys worked for Norrock Shoe when Alfond was the company president. The harsh orders they recall rarely came from Alfond's mouth.

Still, the couple blames Alfond for his supervisors' harsh actions.

"I don't know where those (supervisors) would have gotten their directions if they hadn't gotten them from him," Libby said. "They were told what to do. They didn't do it on their own."

Workers remember Alfond as a boss who would visit the factories sporadically. Once there, he'd sometimes gather employees around, exhorting them to work harder in the face of foreign competition.

It's unclear if Alfond's factories

HAROLD ALFOND

■ Born 1914 and one of six children of Russian immigrants, Harold Alfond grew up in Swampscott, Mass. He turned down an athletic scholarship to Dartmouth, instead following his father in shoe industry.

■ In 1940, legend says, he learned from a hitchhiker about a vacant shoe factory for sale in Norridgewock. With his father's help, he purchased the factory for \$1,000. Three years later, he sold it for \$1.1 million, while staying on as company president.

■ Also in 1943, Alfond married Dorothy "Bibby" Levine, with whom he would raise four children.

■ In 1957, Dexter Shoe Co. is born. It would grow to include at least 80 log-cabin style stores across New England and produce 30,000 shoes a day.

■ In 1993, Alfond sold the company to Warren Buffett —



not for cash, but for stock in Buffett's much-desired holding company, Berkshire Hathaway. The stock was valued then at \$420 million — and now likely well in excess of \$1 billion.

■ Today, Alfond is Maine's largest benefactor, giving through his foundation millions to fund athletic facilities, schools, hospitals and other charities.

were harder places to work than others during a time of heavy industry. It's equally unclear if it was Alfond's desire to compete and win that led him to push his workers.

But it is clear that hard feelings toward Alfond linger in some parts of central Maine.

Alice White, 63, of Clinton once worked in a Norrock Shoe factory.

She was 17 and recently married when she went to work there.

"Was it a good place to work?" she said. "No. We worked like hell."

White jokes that everyone should have a chance to work in an Alfond-run factory, because the experience creates an appreciation for every other workplace.

But White was serious when she said many of Alfond's workers led tough lives. They worked hard to support their families. They did the best they could. And, White said, they could have used even a minuscule bit of the generosity Alfond now is so famous for.

They never got it. "Every time we see him give \$1 million away, I say, 'There goes a little more of our money.' Maybe that's a bad attitude," White said, "but he really made that on the back of the workers."

SHREWD BUSINESSMAN

Dexter Shoe started small. But it got very, very big.

By the time Alfond sold the company in 1993 to the legendary billionaire investor Warren Buffett, Alfond and his nephew, Peter Lunder, had built the company into a behemoth producing 30,000 shoes a day — a success made all the more remarkable because it came as the domestic shoe industry was in sharp decline.

By most accounts, Alfond and Lunder built the company by investing in technology, keeping debt low and being innovative.

Some credit Dexter Shoe with inventing the factory outlet store. Alfond apparently noticed people would buy slightly imperfect shoes, so he opened a store in Dexter that sold them.

The outlets were a hit, but the factories weren't making enough imperfect shoes. So Alfond started selling "stale inventory" at the store, making a profit on

shoes that weren't selling in department stores.

Dexter's log-cabin-style stores became ubiquitous across New England's landscape, numbering 80 at the time of the company's sale.

Other shoe companies moved operations abroad, but Dexter bucked that trend and continued to make much of its product domestically. When Alfond agreed to sell to Buffett, according to an article in Forbes magazine, it had four factories in Maine, employing 2,400 in state and another 1,500 in Puerto Rico.

Alfond had rebuffed other offers, but listened to offers from Buffet, an investor legendary for his business acumen. The Nebraskan is considered the world's wealthiest man.

Buffett offered cash, but Alfond told him he would only take stock in Buffett's mammoth holding company, Berkshire Hathaway.

It was an arrangement Buffett had never accepted before, but agreed to this time.

He gave Alfond 2 percent of his firm's shares, which then had a value \$420 million.

That stock today has an estimated value of about \$2.1 billion, although it's unclear whether Alfond still owns all the shares.

"What they did, in effect, was trade a 100 percent interest in a single terrific business for a smaller interest in a large group of terrific businesses," Buffett wrote in a 1993 letter to Berkshire Hathaway shareholders.

"They incurred no tax on this exchange and now own a security that can be easily used for charitable or personal gifts."

FOUNDATION OF GENEROSITY

That fortune forms the lifeblood of The Harold Alfond Foundation.

With offices in Portland, the foundation relies on a \$25 million fund that Alfond replenishes when necessary. And its choices on what projects receive money still depend on the impulses of just one man.

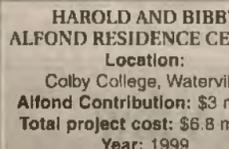
"There are only two active trustees," said Greg Powell, who manages the foundation. "There's him and there's me. And only his vote counts." Alfond tends to support ath-

THE PROJECTS

Below are 8 of the hundreds of projects that have benefitted from The Harold Alfond Foundation.



ALFOND ATHLETIC COMPLEX
Location: Colby College, Waterville
Alfond Contribution: \$3 million
Total project cost: \$6 million
Year: 1993



HAROLD AND BIBBY ALFOND RESIDENCE CENTER
Location: Colby College, Waterville
Alfond Contribution: \$3 million
Total project cost: \$6.8 million
Year: 1999



ALFOND RECREATION CENTER AND ALFOND MUNICIPAL POOL
Location: North Street, Waterville
Alfond Contribution: \$6.5 million
Total project cost: \$10.6 million
Year: 1999



ALFOND MIDDLE SCHOOL
Location: Good-Will Hinckley Home, Hinckley
Alfond Contribution: \$1.5 million
Total project cost: \$3.5 million
Year: 2000



BELGRADE COMMUNITY CENTER
Location: Belgrade
Alfond Contribution: \$455,000
Total project cost: \$820,000
Year: 2001



ALFOND RECREATION CENTER
Location: Good-Will Hinckley Home, Waterville
Alfond Contribution: \$1.5 million
Total project cost: \$2.4 million
Year: 2002



THE MAINE CHILDREN'S HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS
Location: Silver Street, Waterville
Alfond Contribution: \$1.2 million
Total project cost: \$1.5 million
Year: 2002



HAROLD AND TED ALFOND ATHLETICS CENTER
Location: Kents Hill School
Alfond contribution: \$1.75 million
Total project cost: \$6.15 million
Year: 2002



Source: The Harold Alfond Foundation

Staff graphic by Sharon Wood

letic facilities because he has always loved sports. He has a soft spot for academic buildings and hospitals, too — especially if they're in Maine.

But he does not have a soft spot for wasting money. Powell and others credit Alfond for bringing a corporate mindset to the charitable world.

The foundation's donations almost always come as matching grants, meaning the money comes only when the charity has raised an equal amount of money. There's no free ride.

"It builds the donor base of a charity," Powell said. "So that, in the future, there's a whole group of people involved in the organization and there to support it."

Getting Alfond money is like an honor in itself. Because of the thousand or so requests he receives every month, Alfond chooses only organizations that are well run and have an important mission.

"To him, picking a charity is like picking a stock," Powell said. "He's applied business principles to his giving."

But if an institution receiving money expects Alfond to fade into the background after the money is raised, they're in for a surprise. He stays involved until the building is occupied. Even then, he might make a few visits.

"You work with him on a project," said William Cotter, one of four Colby College presidents to work with Alfond. "You don't just present it to him."

Alfond doesn't require that his name adorn the buildings he helps fund. But Powell and others said it's an honor Alfond is thrilled to receive.

He wants to be remembered, they said, and wants to leave a lasting legacy.

That legacy includes the foundation itself. Though he declined to discuss specifics, Powell said The Harold Alfond Foundation is set up to exist — and give — well beyond the life of its 91-year-old founder.

But the funding process will by necessity become more formal, and foundation recipients won't receive lasting lessons from Alfond.

Former state Treasurer Sam Shapiro remembers a campaign he chaired for a Waterville synagogue many years ago. He approached all of its members, including Alfond, whom he asked

to donate the modest sum of a few thousand dollars.

"Kid, I'm going to teach you a lesson," Alfond said. "You never get more than you ask for. You could have gotten a lot more from me."

SHUTTERED FACTORIES

Less than 10 years after Alfond sold to Buffett, the Dexter Shoe factories that employed so many were closed. As with much of New England's manufacturing, the factories migrated overseas where labor is cheaper.

"I think it was a heartbreaking experience for Mr. Alfond to see the company lose its footing in Maine," Powell said. "I don't think he could have brought himself to do it."

Just outside Boston sits a red-brick, four-story building. Across the building's front, large gold letters spell out: "Harold Alfond Center."

This is the home of the Two-Ten Foundation, an organization that provides counseling and financial support — including a large college scholarship program — to shoeworkers left behind by the industry's departure.

Alfond has given that foundation more than \$2 million.

"He's been one of the most wonderful donors," said Peggy Kim Meill, the foundation's president, from her office in Waltham, Mass. "If the world had more Harold Alfonds, it would be much more compassionate."

Dexter Shoe's impact in Maine has diminished, but the impact of its founder will last.

At the University of New England campus in Biddeford, future doctors attending the state's only medical school attend classes in the Harold Alfond Center for Health Science.

At the University of Maine at Orono, hockey fans cheer in the Harold Alfond Sports Arena and football fans roar in the Harold Alfond Sports Stadium.

At the Goodwill-Hinckley School for Boys and Girls in Fairfield, hard-luck kids study in the Alfond Middle School and play in the Alfond Recreation Center.

The list could — and does — go on and on . . . and on.

Chris Churchill — 623-3811, ext. 431
cchurchill@centralmaine.com

Colby dedicates Levine grounds

By LARRY GRARD
Staff Writer

WATERVILLE — From his customary spot in the back of the end zone, 1927 Colby College graduate Pacy Levine would have cheered as team captain Brandon Irwin faked a handoff on the opening kickoff Saturday and raced 35 yards down the left sideline. Older brother Ludy (Colby '21) would have risen from his perch in the bleachers.

The Levine brothers, legendary at Colby and in Waterville, watched most of the home games in a Colby-Amherst rivalry that dates back to 1903. And if the Levines had anything to say about it, the Lord Jeffs would not have enjoyed a 22-4-1 series lead after Saturday's Homecoming game.

"If Colby lost, they had a bad day," said philanthropist Harold H. Alfond, married to the Levines' youngest sister, Bibby. "There will never be any others like them. They were great spectators."

Alfond spoke just prior to the dedication of the Ludy and Pacy Levine Athletic Grounds. Bibby Alfond and Howard Miller, their nephew who helped run Levine's clothing store for decades, unveiled the plaques that will sit at the entrance to the football field and surrounding track.

The lifelong bachelors died a year apart — Pacy in 1996 and Ludy in 1997. Levine's, the well-known "store for men and boys," closed in 1996. But the sign on the storefront remains, a reminder of the

Please see COLBY, A2



Staff photo / JIM EVANS

Bibby Alfond sports a photo button of her brothers, Ludy and Pacy Levine, during a ceremony Saturday at Colby College honoring them.

• Colby

Continued from A1

days when people came off the street to buy quality clothing and view memorabilia in the "Colby Corner." And now, the Levine brothers are memorialized forever at the college they loved.

"No one in the history of Colby College has ever walked more times up and down this field than Pacy and Ludy Levine," said Richard Whitmore, Colby men's basketball coach and former athletic director. "They were simply the heart and soul of what we were about in athletics."

Colby's "C Club," celebrating its 100th Colby Night, honored the Alfonds and Levines on Friday night as C Club Family of the Century.

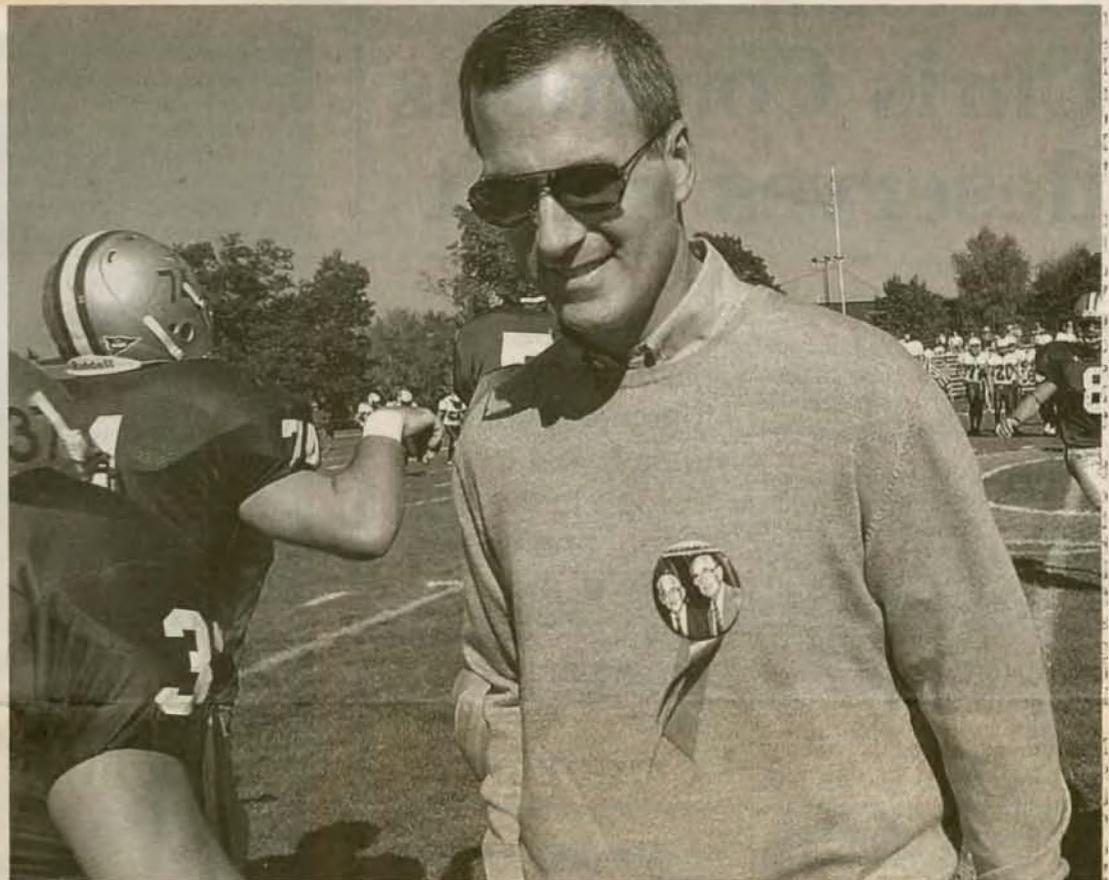
On Saturday, the campus was dressed in its autumnal garb for the Homecoming events.

"Ludy and Pacy loved Colby College with a passion that was rare and they adored Colby sports," Miller said. "How they cheered. Some students thought they were part of the coaching staff."

William Alfond looked at his mother, Bibby, as he took the podium behind the Colby bench.

"This is a great day for you and the Levine family," Alfond said.

Alfond added that Colby sports was the brother's truest love, although the Red Sox might have tested that today.



Staff photo / JIM EVANS

Steve Kaplan, representing the family of Ludy and Pacy Levine, leaves the field at the start of the Colby College homecoming football game Saturday after performing the coin toss. The legendary Levine brothers were honored for their long-time contributions to Colby athletics.

"Go Colby, beat Amherst," Alfond said, in his best imitation of his uncles.

The Levine brothers' love of Colby extended to the clothing

store that was the shopping centerpiece of downtown Waterville.

A newcomer to Mayflower Hill could open an account at the store as a first-year student and

not pay the bill until after graduating and finding a job.

"We never lost a dime on that," Ludy said in a 1996 profile published by the Boston Globe.

Dorothy “Bibby” Levine Alfond’s Legacy:

- Theodore “Rocky” Alfond, great grandson of Dorothy “Bibby” Levine Alfond