

Board of Selectmen, Newton, New Hampshire

Presented the Boston Post Cane to R. Badger True, 92 years old

On November 28, 2005, Chairman Harding announced that R. Badger True had attained the honor of becoming the oldest man in Newton and therefore the holder of the Boston Post Cane. R. Badger True was born on May 21, 1913 and a resident of Newton, NH for about 28 years. Mr. & Mrs. True, with their children, first came to Newton by train from the Boston area during the summer of 1945, getting off at the Newton Junction train station where they spent two weeks with Everett Coombs in Wilders Grove and every summer since. Mr. True bought his present home 52 years ago and in 1977 he moved to the pond, making it his residence.

Mr. True was actively involved with the Wilders Grove Cottage Owners Association acting as Treasurer for several years. He was involved with a weed and clam clean-up project a number of years back and an active member of the Newton Junction Baptist Church.

Sadly Mr. R. Badger True recently passed away



In 1909, the publisher of The Boston Post distributed 431 canes to towns in New England as part of a circulation promotion. The canes, made of African ebony and capped with 14-carat gold heads were given to the Selectmen of each town with a request that they be distributed to the oldest male resident in town. In the 1930's, the editor of the Boston Post Cane granted the town's permission to issue the cane to a woman as well. Since the 1930's many women have "held" the cane. Today, more women than men receive that coveted honor.

The cane has been "retired" for some years now and is currently being kept in the town vault in the Selectmen's Office. We hope to someday put it on display in a glass case for all to see.