

Herb Carrier Receives Boston Post Cane

by Robyn Hatch

The Pelham Senior Center threw a huge birthday celebration for everyone aged 90 and over, including a surprise birthday wish to Carol Law, who recently moved to Pelham and turned 101 years old. During the celebration, the Senior Center presented the Boston Post Cane, a 100-year New England tradition, to Herb Carrier, the oldest male voter in Pelham. The oldest voter in a town, male or female, always receives the award.

But it wasn't always that way. In 1909, a letter was received from the *Boston Post* classifying the intention as to what was meant by the oldest citizen to receive this award. Women were not to be considered and the oldest citizen meant the oldest male who was a voter.

However, on August 26, 1920, Congress passed the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, thus stirring interest by women that they also had the right to receive the cane. In 1923, the small town of Maynard, MA, presented the cane to the first woman, and she held the cane for the next five years.

The first recipient of the cane in Pelham was David Narch Gould, who was presented the cane on August 28, 1909, at Old Home Day. Since that first presentation, many rules have been put in place, such as the length of time you must be a resident. Pelham has a person older than Herb this year; however, she has only been a resident of Pelham for one year, which does not qualify her to receive the cane.

So today, the true roots of the cane allowed Herb Carrier to qualify and receive this award. Congratulations!



*Right: A quiet smile from Herb Carrier
- 2010 Boston Post Cane winner*

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staff photos by Robyn Hatch

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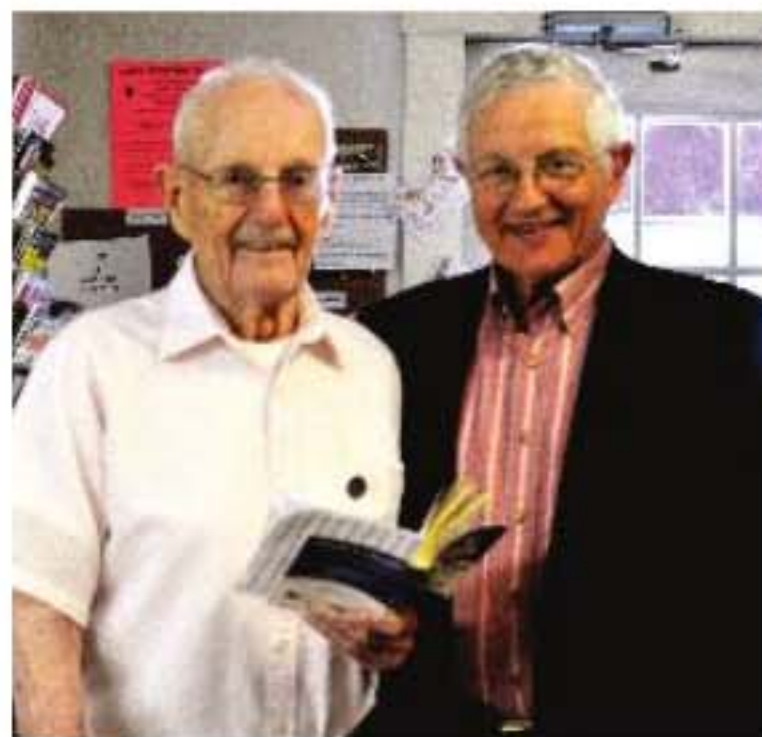
Nancy Landry, who just turned 90



Carol Law celebrates her 101st birthday



Charles and Pauline Hobbs, who have been married for three years. The Pelham Senior Center house was the place in which Charles and his family grew up



Herb Carrier with his son, Philip