

Kay Silloway Receives Boston Post Cane

by Lynne Ober

Pelham resident Kay Silloway received the Boston Post Cane during a tea at the Pelham Senior Center.

President of the Council on Aging, Danny Atwood, presented her with flowers.

In August 1909, Edwin A. Grozier, *Boston Post* newspaper publisher presented a gold-headed ebony cane to the boards of selectmen in 700 New England towns. His request was that it be presented with the compliments of the newspaper to the oldest male citizen of the town, to be used by him as long as he lives (or moves from the town), and at his death handed down to the next-oldest citizen of the town. The cane would belong to the town and not the man who received it.

The canes were made by J.F. Fradley and Co. in New York. The African ebony seasoned for six months, turned on lathes, coated and polished. Each had a two-inch 14-carat gold head decorated by hand, and a ferruled tip. The head was engraved with the inscription, - Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of (name of town) - "To Be Transmitted."

In 1930 it was decided to include women as holders of the cane. This decision was surrounded with controversy, but that tradition has carried forward and today the cane is given to the oldest living resident.



Kay Silloway, her son and president of the Council on Aging, Danny Atwood, and Selectman Bill McDevitt.