

PHILANTHROPISTS

NABBY ALLEN (1816–1893) [vol. 1: 286, vol. 2: 254]

HENRY MERTON SCOTT (1874–1956) [vol. 2: 220]

DONALD DREYER CAEL (1925–1969) [vol. 2: 346, 349]

EDWARD ADDISON EAMES (1895–1980)

Edward Eames spent his entire working life on his family's farm, which spanned the border of Whitingham and Halifax on Collins Road. The Eames farm was kept beautifully and had a fine sugar bush. At the time of this publication, the property is owned by Bob and Louanne Crosby.

Ken Fisher, who was a friend to Ed Eames and handled his estate, related a story about Ed's parents during World War II. Freddie Bernard from Whitingham sold war bonds and went to the Eameses to give a talk on how they could help the war effort by buying bonds. He told Ken that neither of the Eames said a word or asked any questions during his sales pitch. When he was done, they left the room to talk over their decision. After half an hour, Ed's parents came

back into the room with \$45,000 in cash, which they handed over to Freddie to purchase war bonds.

After his parents died, Edward sold his family's home in Whitingham to the Maces (Louanne Crosby's parents) in 1961, reserved three acres of the farm, and moved to a little house on these three acres just up the hill in Halifax. For the first time in his life, Edward had running water and indoor plumbing.

According to those who knew him, Edward was a quiet and hard working man who kept to himself. He lived very simply, produced most of what he needed, managed to amass a substantial fortune over the years. He consulted his friend Ken Fisher on how to invest his money. Ken advised him to put some of the money in his sizable checking account into certificates of deposit, which continue to gain considerable interest. Despite his relative fortune, Ed was extremely frugal. To demonstrate this quality, Ken tells the story about how Ed patched an old pail when the bottom rotted out rather than buying a new one. He was one of the largest producers of maple syrup in Vermont. A firm in Seattle was his largest customer. This company gave the syrup to its employees and customers as gifts. Edward fashioned little wooden packing crates for shipping his syrup. As long as he was able, he worked his parents' farm, which had a sizable dairy herd

Ken Fisher was ten years old when he first met Eames, who impressed him with his ability to mow hay with a scythe. Louanne Crosby recalls Edward Eames treating her children to rides on the haywagon. He used a horse for collecting sap and hauling hay. He was very fond of this horse. When it died, he bought a tractor but was disappointed with its performance and lamented the loss of his horse. His woodshed was a work of art with his neatly stacked wood. He also had a dog by the name of Sparky, who was his constant companion. Bob Crosby states that he always made a point to pay a visit to Ed Eames whenever his family was staying down the road. Ed made his own hard cider and blackberry wine, which he offered freely. He loved to talk and ended every story with "otherwise."

In his later years, Edward Eames had a number of health problems. Ginny Fisher helped care for him when he came home from a stay in a nursing home; however, his health and mental state continued to decline. Finally unable to care for himself, he went to live with Mable Wheeler in Jacksonville. When he asked Ken Fisher to draw up his first will, Ed expressed his gratitude to the women of Halifax who brought him a Thanksgiving basket every year. Apparently it was this act of kindness which moved Ed to leave money to the town of Halifax. He later changed his will to give half this amount to Whitingham. Upon his death in December 1980, Edward Eames provided for the towns of Halifax and Whitingham as follows:

All the rest, residue and remainder of the personal estate, together with accrued dividends and interest, to the Towns of Halifax and Whitingham, in equal shares, to be held in trust and safely and securely invested by the selectmen of said towns and only the income therefrom to be used by the selectmen for the general purposes of their respective towns.