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CHILMARK SELECTMEN

February 11, 2015

To the honorable selectmen and the people of the Town of Chilmark;

Basil Welch loved Martha's Vineyard. He loved hunting, fishing, walking the back fields, and finding old forgotten barns, shacks and tired farm equipment from another era. Always with a camera, he photographed his beloved island every chance he got.

He loved the history of the six towns and he knew stories about most every one and every place. Dad preserved the memories and history of his island by collecting and copying the old photographs and glass plates he had, or borrowed from those who also collected history that would have been lost forever.

Dad spent many years with the old photos, identifying the people who stare back at us without smiles, the old farm house, the name of a pond hidden in the woods, and the dates they were taken.

These photos, 5x7's and 8x10's are in a series of 20 albums and 7 boxes of 5x7. All are seperated by town, and labeled. All the albums and boxes have recently been donated to the Martha's Vineyard Museum. The photos show a history rich with people and of everyday life from mid 1800's to about 1985. Most recently I have come across more boxes of 4x6 color photos starting at 1984 to 2010. These have also been donated to

the Museum. This is dad's way of giving back to the island, the beauty it gave to him.

We hope people will enjoy them for a long time to come, and will find in them, a history they never saw, but can only imagine or read about. these albums are dedicated to each of the six towns on Martha's Vineyard Island in memory of our father.

Please visit the Museum and enjoy the photos of a time long ago and the island he loved.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Voluckas
Laurie C. Clements

Basil's daughters