



A Century-Old Story

WOOD LUMBER: POWERING UP CAPE COD FOR GENERATIONS

People come and go. Businesses do, too. It's the natural rhythm of Cape Cod, like the tide coming in and going out. That's why a story about three generations running a business here for over a century is worth telling. Why, the Miskell family of Wood Lumber Company practically built Cape Cod...in more ways than one. They're also an important part of our story.

Flash back to 1912. The New-Bedford-based Green and Wood Lumber Company bought James Cameron's small lumber yard on Locust Street in Falmouth and sent Joseph B. Miskell, then 22, to run the branch. The company's first ad in the *Enterprise* promised that they would "welcome all the old customers and try to win new ones."

And, they did. Wood Lumber made it through the Great Depression. They also made it through the Hurricane which tore through New England in 1938. In fact, Joseph Miskell took out an ad in the newspaper announcing that the company "is in a position to furnish money for materials and labor required to repair hurricane and flood damage and restore homes."

In 1936, the company scored a big order for the construction of Camp Edwards in Bourne, later part of the Massachusetts Military Reservation, which included Otis Air National Guard Base and Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. Just four years later, under the shadow of World War II, the U.S. Army leased Camp Edwards to use as a training facility for 30,000 soldiers of the 26th Yankee Division. Wood Lumber won the share of the housing material orders in what the *Falmouth Enterprise* reported as "Joseph B. Miskell's spectacular moment in business." He delivered the first 200,000 feet of lumber to the camp within 72 hours.

When Joseph died in 1957, his son, Joseph Jr., better known as Bud, took over the helm for more than 30 years. Today, Bud's son, Dana, and his wife, Eileen, represent the third generation of the Miskell family to own and manage the company.

"We both grew up in Falmouth and chose to move back here in 1986 to manage our family's business," Dana said. "With its natural beauty and sense of community, the Cape is a great place to live, work and raise a family."

So, Dana left a successful career in the computer industry to oversee the buying of the company's lumber, roofing and millwork. Eileen uses her MBA and business experience to manage the "back office" and the service and installation department.

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Like Joseph and Bud, Dana and Eileen have been very active in the Falmouth and Cape Cod community, volunteering for numerous nonprofit organizations and serving on the boards of Falmouth Service Center, Falmouth Academy and The Cape Cod Foundation.

That's where their story intersects ours. Eileen served as the Chairman and President of The Cape Cod Foundation's Board of Directors from 2014-2015 and has been the Advisory Committee Chair of The Falmouth Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation since its inception in 2009. This is the third year Wood Lumber has sponsored the Foundation's Non-Event, our irreverent, no-attendance-required fundraiser. We can't thank them enough for helping us Power Up! our civic leadership initiatives for local nonprofits.

"The nonprofits we have supported over the years enrich so many people's lives," said Eileen. "They provide essential social services and healthcare, safeguard the environment and open space, enhance education and artistic pursuits and develop science and discovery."

Dana added, "These organizations also employ thousands and add to the overall economy of our region. As a long-time business on the Cape, we are the beneficiaries of the nonprofit economy, so we are happy to support The Cape Cod Foundation's role in making these organizations stronger and more productive in their work."

"By taking a civic leadership role," Eileen concludes, "The Cape Cod Foundation is providing resources and opportunities to help organizations grow professionally, collaborate successfully, and leverage limited resources...for all of us."