

REMEMBER

THOSE HOME MOVIES AUNT LOU USED TO TAKE?



Help Us Preserve Old Film Footage of Martha's Vineyard Before It Is Lost Forever

Home movies and videotape shot on Martha's Vineyard over the last century capture a way of life that is at once fragile and enduring. Help us ensure that this dynamic historical record of our Island is preserved for future generations.

As part of its Historic Movies of Martha's Vineyard project, the Vineyard Gazette is supervising an award-winning effort to collect, digitize, archive and present moving pictures of the Vineyard shot between the early 1920s and the end of the twentieth century.

Do you or your family have old film reels stashed in an attic, closet or basement? Without proper care, movie film can be lost or ruined, depriving you of an evocative link to your past and the Vineyard of an irreplaceable part of its history. To save this record, the Gazette has embarked on an urgent program to collect and preserve films and videotapes shot on and around Martha's Vineyard going back to the time when home movies were invented.

Here's How It Works:

The Gazette obtains an estimate from a specialist to transfer your original films to digital files. In most cases, the owner pays these costs. The Gazette collects and ships the movies and oversees the transfer. Digital copies are returned to the owners along with the original reels or cassettes, which some owners choose to donate for permanent storage to the Martha's Vineyard Museum.

The Gazette pays for its own digital copies of the films and enters into a license with the owners so that selections of film can be included in public presentations. It then researches the clips, archives them and presents highlights on its website as well as at Island theaters and other venues around the Vineyard. To view the films collected to date and read stories that accompany them, visit:

vineyardgazette.com/historicmoviesofmarthasvineyard

If you have films or tapes shot on Martha's Vineyard that you'd like us to consider for this project, please contact co-producer Tom Dunlop at historicmovies@mvgazette.com. Please do not run old films through a projector or old videos through a tape player, as they can be easily damaged or even destroyed.

Historic Movies of Martha's Vineyard, a project of the Vineyard Gazette, received the Innovator's Award for 2015 from the New England Newspaper Publishers' Association.