

## Les Fossel, Jr.

Born October 1946. Since 1975 Les has run Restoration Resources, an historic building contracting business. He chaired the DaPonte String Quartet, Deck House School, Morris Farm Trust, and the Eldercare network of Lincoln County. He currently serves on 10 Maine boards and committees. Les served two terms in the Maine Legislature, co-chairing the Moderate Caucus. Les was a faculty member of both USM and KVCC. He has taught thousands of homeowners, realtors, carpenters, assessors, appraisers, and inspectors. Les was in the RHO class of Leadership Maine. Les and his wife Merry (they met in high school) live in an 1815 Alna Cape with 3 barns (with 28 kw of solar panels and 4 heat pumps), a greenhouse, and 39 acres with a large organic garden, orchard, pasture, & hayfield. Together they have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

## Les Fossel, Sr.

(B. April '16 D. August '54, by suicide). '37 St Olaf College BA  
August '40 Married Virginia Van Brunt (B. July '14, D. August '91) '37 U. of Wisconsin. Won Vogue's Prix d' Paris  
They had 5 sons ('42-52), 13 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren

'38 **Mom:** June 15th smuggles 1st concentration camp photos out of Germany (working for Paris Vogue)

'37-38 **Dad:** Weekly newspaper reporter & editor

'38-41 Fortune Surveys/Elmo Roper (my brother's godfather)

'41-42 June '41 **COI** Elmo Roper was General William Donovan's 3rd hire.

*"Pollster **Elmo Roper** was recruited, as was Roper's friend **Leslie T. Fossel**"*

to Les Sr. probably worked on COI projects, but paid by Elmo Roper's Fortune Surveys

Sept '41 Les Sr 8th on the COI payroll. Spoke 5 languages.

Sept '41 **OI Branch New York:** Intelligence unit that interviewed refugees & foreign officials.

to April 27th Authored an OSS organization plan that Gen. Donovan sent to Pres. Roosevelt.

May '42 Recruited employees (maybe Ralph Bunche). Reported to Col. Buxton & William Vanderbilt

May '42 **OSS New York & Washington** Scandinavian Section. Liaison with Scandinavian leaders

to Oct. '42 Commissioned 2nd LT, USNR

Apr '43 SOE sabotage training in Canada. Intelligence plans & development. Reported to Allen Dulles

Apr '43 **OSS London.** Chief of the Scandinavian Section. Ran all OSS operations including:

The "Shetland Express" sending agents across the North Sea to Norway

Raiding (with William Colby) the Nazi Heavy Water plant in Norway, stopping their A bomb

to Living with Trygve Lie Norwegian Foreign Minister & later 1st UN Secretary General ('46-51)

Travelled to Sweden, the Irish Free Republic, & Portugal for unknown purposes

Likely ran Raoul Wallenberg's saving 10,000 Jews on their way to the death camps

Set up training camps in Sweden along the border to train 7-8,000 partisans

Aug '44 Worked with Col. David Bruce, J. P. Morgan, & Ambassador Lithgow Osborne (my godfather).

Aug '44 **OSS Washington DC** Executive Officer for Central Europe & Scandinavia.

Chief of the Scandinavian Section with 30 employees, including Elizabeth Dunlevy, later executive secretary to a series of DCIs, including Dick Helms

to According to his medal from Norway, he fought in Norway behind enemy lines.

Close friend of Emily Rado, who Dulles said was "one of the real unsung heroines of the OSS"

Severely injured in London by a V1 rocket. Recovered with a steel plate in his head, a steel bone in his arm & a 100% disability pension - which he turned down, saying his head was fine.

Nov. 45 Worked for General Donovan, Walter Langstram, General Magruder, & Whitney Shepardson

'45-46 Admiral Hart (CT US Senator) Administrative Assistant. Also various other job projects,

'46-54 According to Peter Karlow (author of the official history of the OSS) Dad worked for the CIA.

'46-49 Ray Baldwin (CT US Senator) Administrative Assistant. Dad caught up with Senator Joseph McCarthy outside the hearings, and said: "*You just lied, you son of a bitch!*" McCarthy said: "*Sure I did, but I got away with it, didn't I?*". (footnote from the book Reds).

Sen. McCarthy's two aides were Roy Cohn (Donald Trump's advisor) and Sen. Robert Kennedy

'49-50 William Benton (CT US Senator & owner of the Encyclopedia Britannica) Administrative Assistant

'50-52 Harold Stassen (President, U. of Pennsylvania, former Minnesota Governor) Special Assistant

'50/ 52 Press Bush (my brother's godfather) CT Senate campaign chair. Father & grandfather to presidents Elizabeth Rigo was my father's secretary, & press secretary to both Senator Bush & Ribicoff. She was also a good friend of President Biden - they both kept their Delaware roots.

'52-54 Walter Thompson International Division Account Executive  
The international division was likely a CIA front.

'54-65 **Mom:** Walter Thompson Fashion Director

There is no evidence that my mom was CIA, but it fits. In 5 weeks she buried my father, sold our Westport house, bought & moved into our Pound Ridge house, hired a housekeeper, & got a job. We were there for the 1st day of school. She was extraordinary, but I suspect she had help.

'65-81 **Mom:** New England College Professor. Founded their Communications Dept. Named Great Teacher twice

'81-87 **Mom:** Retired to Jameson Point, Rockland