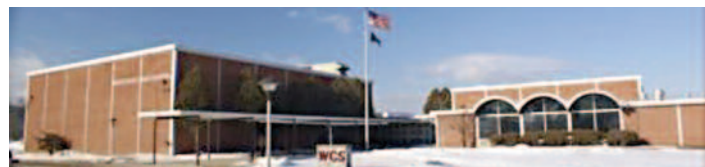


Case History: Whitehall Central School District, Whitehall, NY

Original Medart bleachers converted to Evergreen Bleachers™ saving 30% during gym refurbishment

with a bat multiple times, they were satisfied that this was the solution to broken boards.

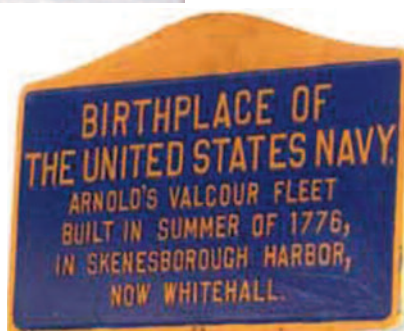
Converting the bleachers to new Evergreen Bleachers™ had to be done as part of an overall gym refurbishment project. The Bleacherman worked closely with the general contractor and coordinated the removal and reinstallation of the bleachers as needed.



Situation: *The Whitehall Junior-Senior High School gym was slated for a complete makeover, which included a refinished floor and new bleachers.*

The original Medart wood bleachers were in rough shape, from indoor baseball practice and decades of wear-and-tear.

The school district wanted the new replacement bleachers to stand up to heavy use and punishment of indoor practice. The Bleacherman provided a sample of our plastic seat module and invited the administration to hit it as hard as they could with a baseball bat. After walloping the plastic seat module



How did Whitehall, NY come to be known as the “birthplace of the U.S. Navy”? See pg 4.

As with virtually all Bleacherman installations, self-storing end safety rails, aisles with P-rails, ADA rails and the patented Century Design® “no-sag” system were installed to make the bleachers safe and meet all applicable safety codes.

The new Evergreen Bleachers™ were also upgraded to full power operation. Removable pendant controls are used to

open and close the bleachers. New plastic seat modules match the school’s colors and padding features the school’s “Railroaders” team logo.



The original Medart bleachers in the Whitehall gym. These manually operated wood bleachers had seen better days.



Many of the original riser boards had been damaged or broken, and were replaced by non-matching wood, as seen above.



The original bleachers had large gaps between sections – a potential safety hazard. Note plywood replacement risers.



Bleacherman crew member begins to dismantle the original bleachers.



As risers and footboards are removed, the original "four horse" system of vertical support columns is exposed.



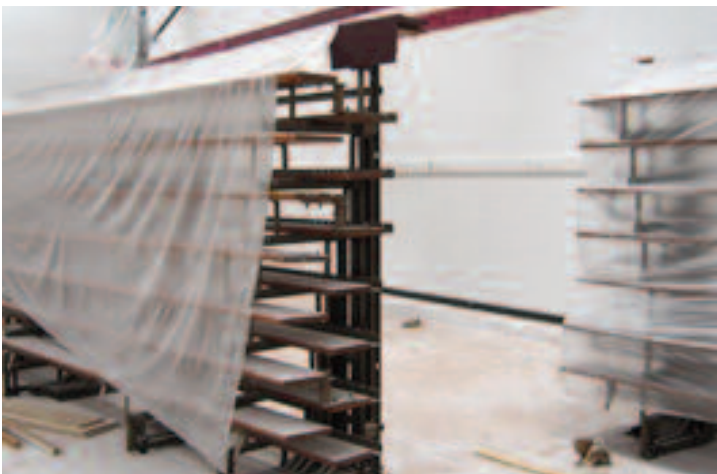
Another view of the understructure from below. The original four horse system (uprights) is much stronger than the two horse system of many new telescopic bleachers being sold today. Believe it or not -- these "low-bid" bleachers can span up to 26 feet with just two uprights!



Most of the boards have been removed in this picture. Lumber was recycled for use as footboards and heelboards in the new "closed deck" bleachers.



The Bleacherman crew often worked into the night to meet the production schedule necessary for the overall gym refurbishment.



Original understructure is salvaged and reconditioned. Here the understructure has been unanchored from the wall and covered in plastic.



Photo shows bleacher understructures before they were removed from gym and stored, so that gym refurbishment work could continue without the bleachers being in the way.



When the Bleacherman's work is complete, the bleachers are transformed into Evergreen Bleachers™.



Wide angle photo shows completed job with new plastic seat modules in school colors, self-storing P-rails at aisles. Note newly refinished gym floor, basketball backstops, lights, etc.



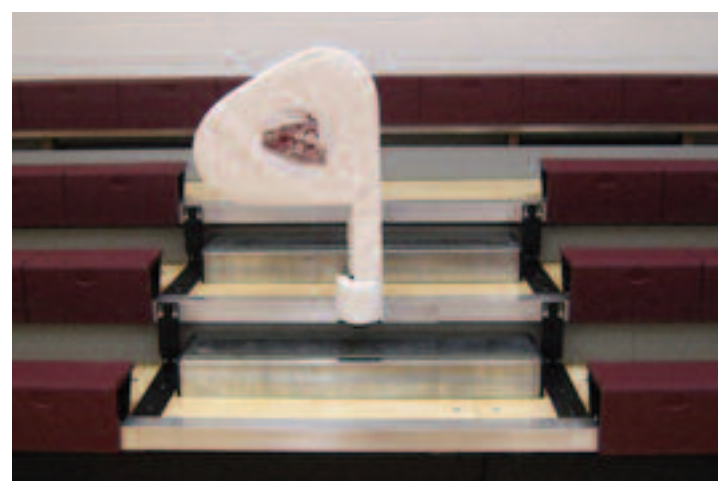
Safety features needed for code compliance include end safety rails, closed deck system, ADA cutouts and rails, P-rails at aisles, intermediate steps with non-skid strips. Patented Century Design® "no-sag" system reinforces the understructure, providing continuous support, whether open or closed.



Straight, even row spacing shows these bleachers are not sagging. With the Century Design® system in place, these bleachers will not sag.



On the "visitors" side of the gym, the bleachers are four rows high. This photo shows ADA cutout at end of bleachers, with padding on safety rail. Note end safety rails at the end of rows 2, 3 and 4.



View of aisle, with P-rail wearing removable padding. Note black strips at floor level. Century Design wheels contact these strips when opening or closing to provide continuous support in any position.



Completed bleachers in newly refurbished gym. These bleachers are covered by a 20-year warranty against sagging, drive wheel delamination and motor drive failure. Bleacher conversion and re-installation was coordinated with general contractor in charge of gym refurbishment; and was completed on schedule with no cost over runs. Compared to the cost of purchasing new bleachers, choosing Evergreen Bleachers saved the owner approximately 30%

To see another case history of a similar situation -- where the Bleacherman replaced old Medart bleachers with new Evergreen Bleachers™ -- see the case histories for Quechan Tribe Community Center, Franklin County Technical School and Corinth High School in the case history section of Bleacherman.com.

How Whitehall, NY became known as “the Birthplace of the United States Navy”

Small town on Lake Champlain played a key role in pivotal Revolutionary War sea battle

Whitehall, NY seems an unlikely place for the U.S. Navy to begin -- it's not a big seaport or even located on the ocean. But that's where the U.S. fleet was born and fought its first naval engagement happened, during the Revolutionary War.

This town at the southern end of Lake Champlain was settled in 1759 and was originally known as Skenesboro. It was the first permanent settlement on Lake Champlain, which at that time was an important center of maritime trade as a north/south travel route between Quebec and New York City.

The settlement's founder was British Army Captain Philip Skene. He operated a trading schooner that traveled this route prior to the Revolutionary War. When hostilities broke out, Skenesboro was captured by American forces and Skene's trading schooner was seized, becoming the first ship of the U.S. Navy, in 1775.

The schooner was used to capture a British ship, the *Enterprise*, on May 18, 1775. The boat was used under the leadership of Colonel Benedict Arnold.

Before turning traitor, Benedict Arnold was one of the leading military men in the revolutionary cause. Although his name later became synonymous with betrayal, his efforts commanding the region during this time showed great courage and daring.

In 1776, Congress ordered General Schuyler to construct a fleet of ships to counter the British invasion, expected to come from Quebec. Thirteen ships were added to the four

already patrolling Lake Champlain during the summer of 1776 - the first U.S. Naval fleet.

In October of 1776, this fleet (led by Benedict Arnold) fought a much larger British fleet in a desperate struggle that became known as the battle of Lake Champlain at Valcour Island.

While the battle ended in defeat for the Americans -- they ultimately burned their ships to prevent them from falling into British hands - the engagement caused a delaying action that saved the American Forces at the Battle of Saratoga.

The Saratoga battle is considered to be the turning point of the Revolutionary War, when the tide turned in favor of the Americans.

In 1960, the New York State Legislature honored this legacy by naming Whitehall as the “Birthplace of the U.S. Navy.”

Today, Whitehall is proud of its place in history and preserves its legacy in a museum housed in a 1917 canal terminal building.



Historical marker in Whitehall commemorating captured British cannon used by the Lake Champlain fleet.



Whitehall, NY, Birthplace of the U.S. Navy.