

Harrison Ford

Harrison Ford, a 1960 graduate of Maine East High School, lived in this home at 109 N. Washington when he was the first student broadcaster on his high school's new radio station, WMTH. Ford went on to Ripon College in Wisconsin where he did some acting before dropping out. Summer stock inspired him to go to California in search of a career in acting.

When he couldn't get beyond minor roles, he turned to carpentry to supplement his income. Although he had no experience as a carpenter, he learned from books and became known as the Carpenter to the Stars building a recording studio for Sergio Mendes, a deck for Sally Kellerman, and working as a stagehand for The Doors. Then a carpentry job for director George Lucas led to a supporting role in 1973 in *American Graffiti*, and another for Francis Ford Coppola gave him a role in 1974's *The Conversation*.

Later, Lucas hired him to read lines as other actors screen-tested for an upcoming space opera. Won over by his roguish portrayal—which incidentally his high school counselor John Huizinga said was, "Just Harry being Harry"—Lucas cast him as Han Solo. When *Star Wars* became the highest-grossing film in history in 1977, Harrison Ford became a superstar who has played adventurer Indiana Jones, detectives, the president, military men and many other romantic leads.