Ron Bishop ’53 Gift a Highlight of Annual Meeting

The 18th annual meeting of the Page Farm and Home Museum was held on Friday, October 15, 2010. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a painting of Ron Bishop’s father sitting on the porch of the family farm, drawn from an original photo taken by the famous photographer, Harry De Zitter.

Ron Bishop was born in New Gloucester and attended a one room school house; the Bishop school named after his grandfather. Bishop spoke fondly of his father Neal Bishop ’27, farmer, educator, politician, who had a great influence on his life.

Dr. Ellen Mallory, Extension Sustainable Agriculture Specialist and Assistant Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, gave a talk highlighting her work with the Northern New England Local Bread Wheat Project. The interdisciplinary project is a field to fork project to build farmers’ capacity to produce high quality bread wheat for local markets.

The membership approved the reappointment of Gary Anderson, Ben Dresser, and Judy Round to the Board and approved new members Norinne Hilchey Daly and Carl Smith. The slate of officers are: Chair, Pamela Chute; Vice Chair, Gerry Page; Clerk, Judy Round; Finance Chair, Gary Anderson, and Member-at-large, Mary Bird.

A Sad Goodbye to Many Generous and Loyal Supporters

Director Henner acknowledged with sadness the passing of several of our very generous and loyal supporters during the past year. They are Adam Fielding Davis, Frederick F. Hutchinson, H. C. “Mike” Lamoreau, Edgar F. Lord, Edward H. Piper, Mary Nardi Pullen, David Clayton Smith, and Arline K. Thompson.

A Perfect Opportunity to Rollover Your IRA (and benefit the Page Farm and Home Museum)

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 provides a retroactive extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover. For your gift to the Page Farm and Home Museum through the University of Maine Foundation to qualify for benefits under the extension:

- You must be 70 1/2 or older at the time of your gift
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to the University of Maine Foundation
- Your total IRA gift(s) cannot exceed $100,000 per year
- Your gift must be outright
- The expiration date for the Charitable Rollover is December 31, 2011.

By rolling over your IRA you not only help financially the Page Farm and Home Museum you also are to take advantage of the tax break that the extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover benefit offers.

For more information, contact Sarah McPartland-Good, Director of Planned Giving; Daniel Willett, or Daniel Williams, planned giving officers at the Foundation or visit the Foundation website www.umainefoundation.org, which has complete instructions on how to transfer your IRA.

As always the Foundation encourages you to consult with your financial advisor about this law.

End of the Year Fundraising Campaign

This year, two of our loyal supporters offered a challenge gift match. Each pledged $2500 to be matched dollar for dollar. This effectively doubled the donations of the first
$5,000 received. The Page Farm and Home Museum friends answered the call and surpassed the challenge goal with over $7,300 raised to meet the match. As of January 31, 2011, a total of $12,308 was raised to support the Museum. If you haven’t given yet, it’s not too late!

Blast from the Past
by Gene Pratt

The often used, “And now here’s a blast from the past” seems to be right on the money for those of us who remember the S & H Green Stamps. Did you just crack a smile of fond remembrance? The glue on the back of the stamps left a lot to be desired, but for those of you that were clever enough to use a sponge instead of your tongue, it eased the process of getting the stamps moistened and stuck onto the pages of the stamp books required to redeem the stamps. Having grown up in the Lewiston/Auburn area I can remember trips to the S&H redemption center to pickup our rewards for collecting the stamps.

Sperry & Hutchinson began their venture into the reward stamp business in 1896. The business was at its peak between the 1960s and 1980s. I can remember that many people benefited from the hard work that many unnamed individuals put into collecting the stamps as in the case of a family that lost all of their possessions in a terrible house fire that fortunately did not involve injury or loss of life, but was none the less heart breaking for those involved. My mother and father stood alongside their friends as their house burned to the foundation despite the heroic attempts of the fire department in the middle of that winter blizzard. Within days a group collected enough S&H Green Stamp books to replace a great many of the needed items for the family to take up housekeeping in a house owned by friends that was empty and up for sale.

All over the country S&H Green Stamps affected the lives of many people in a lot of ways. Stephen King’s first original short story [unpublished] HappyStamps, came from his mother’s collecting of the stamps. The city of Old Town, Maine accomplished the incredible feat of collecting enough of the S&H stamps and placing them in books to purchase a brand new ambulance! In Pennsylvania a group collected enough stamps to purchase a bus for a school for the deaf to transport students to and from school daily. Andy Warhol did an art piece on the stamps. And, of course, there is the slightly odd case of the Erie, Pa. area zoo that was benefited by the collection and redemption of 5.4 million stamps on a pair of real live gorillas.

The S&H catalog in the 1960’s was the largest publication in the United States. At the same time the stamps were being printed at a rate 3 times greater then the stamps issued by the United States Postal Service. S&H Green Stamps are no longer printed, but any in existence are still redeemable. They have taken on a newer, more modern version of their old life online with reward points. Information is easily found on the Internet by searching S&H Green Stamps. Farm families and city folk all shared in the benefits of the stamps.

New Century Fund Assists Replacement of School House Roof

The Museum was one of five nonprofit cultural organizations who were awarded the New Century Community Program Historical Facilities Grant from the Maine State Museum this spring.

“This was an exceedingly competitive grant round with more funding requested than we had available to award,” said Maine State Museum Director Joseph R. Philips. “Only five high-priority awards were granted out of 19 applications.”
The Cracker Barrel

The Museum award of $5,000 went to assist with reroofing the 1855 Chute Schoolhouse. Special thanks went to Dr. Howard Segal, member of the Page Museum board, who urged Henner to apply for the grant and who, as a member of the New Century Fund Committee, advocated for the funding.

Programs A-Plenty at the Museum

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Programs A-Plenty at the Museum

Saturday, February 12, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Valentine’s Day Tea Party. This children’s tea party will honor our best friends. What better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day than having a tea party among friends?

February School Vacation Pop-up Programming. An opportunity for all children to join our tour programs normally reserved for school groups. Tuesday, February 15 from 12 noon to 2 p.m., children learn all about 19th century art. On Thursday, February 17 from 12 noon to 2 p.m., children learn about what it was like to grow up in a typical Victorian rural household.

February 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Saturday Spinners group will host a needlefelting workshop. No experience is necessary. Purchase a kit in the Museum’s gift shoppe and join the group for an afternoon of felting fun. Bring your lunch. Beverages provided.

March 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Maine Maple Sunday. We will start with a video, The Maple Sugaring Story. Children (by grade level k-5th) will carry out a learning activity, play games or hear stories. Then we will travel to the University of Maine maple sugaring operation.

April 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. History Fun Day. This will be the tenth annual History Fun Day to celebrate and learn about Maine’s rich agricultural heritage.

Contact Patty Henner at the Museum 581-4100 for more information.

Curator’s Corner

Featured Artifact: Sap Trough by Emily Curran, Curatorial Assistant

Sugar making is a traditional process that has been carried out in Maine for centuries. To make sugar, Woodland Indians cut an incision into the maple tree about two feet above the base of the tree and collected the fresh sap into hollowed out logs called sap troughs. Sap troughs were usually made from birch, ash, pine or cedar logs hollowed out by an axe. Typically, these troughs were able to hold about two gallons of sap. Once the sap was collected, the Indians would then add rocks from the fire into the sap trough to boil the sap. The end product would be crystallized sugar, which was used as a sweetener and did not spoil when stored.

The trough shown here at the right was recently donated to the Museum by William ’74 and Donna ’72 Spencer and is from the Spencer Farm in North Anson, Maine. It measures 9 inches by 24 inches, with a center bowl 4 inches deep, 18 inches long, 7 inches wide and is made from a birch log.

In our spring-summer newsletter watch for a special article on the home vegetable garden by Norman Fuller.
To:

Travel from Past to the Future
Join us and become a Friend of the Page Farm and Home Museum

___ Yes, I/we wish to support the membership of the Museum

____ Enclosed is my $25 membership donation
____ Enclosed is my additional donation in support of the Museum $____________
   (make all checks payable to the University of Maine)
____ I wish to charge the amount of $_______ to my (circle one) Visa   Mastercard

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