



# THE MAINE FOLKLIFE CENTER

Celebrating Traditional Arts and Culture of Maine and the Region

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### **Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral history collection sold to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress**

ORONO — A new collaboration between the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center and the University of Maine will preserve a unique archival collection that documents the history and traditions of Maine, other New England states the Canada's Maritime Provinces. That collection, the entire holdings of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and History, is part of UMaine's Folklife Center.

The library will acquire the entire collection, preserve it at its state-of-the art facilities and serve it online and in person to researchers from around the world. Digital copies will remain accessible at UMaine's Maine Folklife Center.

The folklife center will contract with collaborators for audio and video file digitization while scanning manuscripts and photos on site in Orono. The original items, along with copies of the digital files, will move to the Library of Congress for further processing and storage while a copy will remain available in Orono.

Founded in 1958 by the late Edward D. "Sandy" Ives (1925-2009), an eminent folklorist, oral historian and UMaine

professor for more than 40 years, the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History contains unrivaled documentation of community life, traditions and iconic occupations of the region, including commercial fishing and logging. Materials in the archives include over 3,000 one-of-a-kind audio recordings of interviews with ordinary people about their lives, along with 325,000 pages of interview transcripts and other manuscripts, 10,000 documentary photographs, and other materials.

"The collection of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History is one of the largest and best regional folklore archives in the country," says Dr. Peggy Bulger, director of the American Folklife Center. "Its holdings are of great value to scholars and the general public especially because they feature recordings of people talking about their own lives, including the techniques of their work, the songs they sing, the stories they tell, the foods they eat, the ways they predict the weather and many others things, which, taken altogether, reflect the distinctive texture of life in the Northeast."

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Willard Tilton, pack basket maker