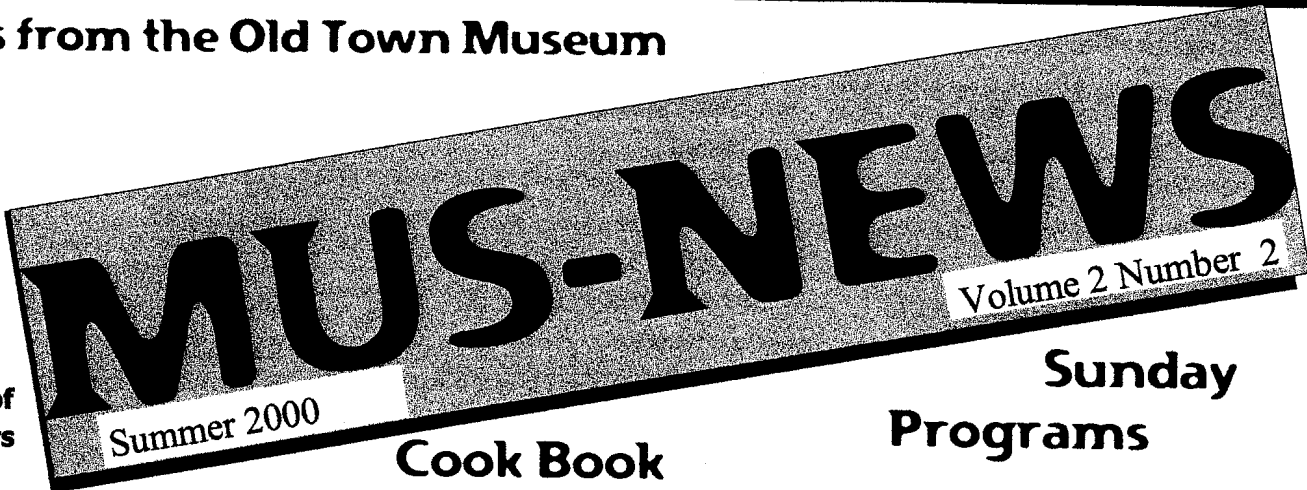


News from the Old Town Museum



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Cook Book Published

This year, as an additional fund raising activity, the Old Town Museum published a cookbook. This activity was chaired by Board Member Peggy Manzer.

This cookbook titled "Family Favorites — Then and Now", contains over 290 recipes provided by members of the community. These are all intended to be recipes that had passed the test of time and were the favorites of the contributors.

The cookbook can be purchased at the Museum or by contacting a Museum Board Member. The cost is \$7.50 plus tax for a total of \$7.88. Mail orders are accepted but there is a \$2.00 postage and handling fee in addition to price of the cook for a total of \$9.88.

Come visit your Museum

There are several new exhibits in the Museum this year. Of special interest is an exhibit showing some of the history of the Old Town Fire Department. This exhibit was organized by Ken Sirois and Harold Lacadie.

Sunday Programs

Harriet Woodsum assisted by Joyce Harris arranged for an excellent set of Sunday Afternoon Programs this year. These have been well attended and have resulted in many additional people viewing the exhibits.

Program this year have covered a wide range of subjects including several musical programs. Museum Board Member Charles Buck presented a program on Maine Gem Stones and Jeanne Spaulding presented a program on preparing meals for one or two people. Ringo the Clown also provided an entertaining afternoon.

If you have not taken advantage of the programs, scheduled for 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, you still have an opportunity. The balance of the Programs are:

August 27

Ray Voyer - Karate demonstration by an expert.

September 10

Joe Hempel - Fun with cartoons

October 1

Recognition of People interviewed for Video History Project

(See Page 3)

A Moment in our History

I recently visited the Old Town Public Library intending to do some research for this column in the Mus-News. While there, one of the Library staff handed me a photocopy of 40-page booklet printed in 1906 and titled "City of Old Town and its environs". Most of the booklet is devoted to information about "Industrial and Mercantile Concerns" in Old Town with a few pages devoted to Orono. This booklet indicates it was intended as a "souvenir" and sold for 35 cents per copy.

The booklet makes very interesting reading, not only for the information it provides but also because of the way the material is written. Even though it was intended to be a souvenir, it reads much more like a promotional piece to attract people to the area.

According to this booklet, in 1906 Old Town was one of the most thriving, prosperous and progressive cities in Maine and on the way to becoming one of the most prominent places in the U.S. It states that in previous years new industries in Old Town had been given a tax exemption for ten years as an encouragement to build in Old Town. In 1906, liberal inducements were still allowed but the 10-year tax exemption was not a standard.

At the time this booklet was being published, the development of the Old Town Fall had just started. This was expected

to make a substantial increase in the amount of power that would be available to Old Town industries.

We get a brief glimpse of the history of Old Town through this booklet's description of businesses and industries. Some names are recognized today but others have been forgotten by most Old Town residents.

Some of the business and industries mentioned are:

Old Town Cigar Co.

This business, located at 71 Main Street, not only sold smoking products, they rolled cigars from tobacco leaf. The Dell Hoff was the premium product made by the company and sold for 10 cents. It was considered an extra-fine cigar. The company also made a 5 cent cigar know as the T.W. Island that "was pleasant in taste and smell".

This business was owned by Cleveland J. Pond who purchased the company in 1905 after working for it for four years. Mr. Pond employed five assistants because of the volume of business.

Old Town Tea Company

This company established by J.W. Farrow in 1888 and located on Main Street, blended and packaged it's own teas and coffees. The company sold a wide variety of products besides tea and coffee that included, fresh butter and eggs, canned goods, china, glassware, crockery and kitchen furnishings.

City Hotel & Cousins Hotel

In 1906, Old Town was re-

ported to have two fine hotels, both with excellent reputations for both their sleeping accommodations and their dining rooms. The City Hotel was the smaller of the two, located on Water Street and having 13 sleeping rooms. The Cousins Hotel, purchased by George C. Cousins in 1899, was located at the corner of Center Street and Water Street and was much larger than the City Hotel. It as noted the Cousins Hotel had steam heat, electricity and bells as a part of the modern equipment installed by Mr. Cousins after he purchased the hotel.

Burham Bros.

G.W. Burnham and S.P. Burnham purchased the livery business located on Center Street from George C. Cousins (see Cousins Hotel) in 1901. G.W. Burnham had worked for Mr. Cousins in the livery business for 20 years prior to the purchase. This company provided excellent care for both livery, boarders and transients. They also had a fine selection of carriages.

N.H.A. Gammon

What would horses be without harnesses? This company located at 111 Main Street was established in 1894 and since that time there had been no need for Old Town citizens to go elsewhere as Mr. Gammon could handle every requirement of the horseman. His specialty was "high-grade" harnesses known for their durability and workmanship. He also sold other leather goods such as trunks, suit cases, and bags.

(Continued next page)

Katie Goldsmith

This confectionery shop was the only "woman-owned" business described in the souvenir booklet. Located on Main Street, Miss Goldsmith, sold not only confections but also carried an extensive selection of foreign and domestic fruits and all types of products for smokers. The booklet makes note of the fact Miss. Goldsmith was born and educated in Russia and was now well respected in Old Town.

T.M. Chapman's Sons' Co.

This company, originally established in 1851, was known throughout the U.S and the maritime provinces for it's excellent manufacturing equipment. It's specialty was saw-mill machinery where it held many patents. They also produced gas engines for stationary or marine use. In addition they also did foundry, mill work and general jobbing.

By 1906, this company's name had been changed twice. In 1890 the name was change to T.M. Chapman & Son and then in 1900 the name was changed to T.M. Chapman's Sons' Co with Fred Chapman as President, Ralph Chapman as Treasurer and Harry Chapman as Secretary.

Jordan Lumber Co.

This company was the largest employer in old Town with employment of between 250 and 300 people. In addition to the four building owned by this company on Water Street, the company owned and operated two mills in Milford, one in Bradley and one in Grindstone.

The company produced long and short lumber, house finishing materials, spool bars and novelties and it had an excellent reputation throughout New England for quality box shooks.

J.L. Keith & Son

This firm, established in 1878, specialized in boots, shoes, and rubbers. In addition to a store at 196 Main Street, the company also operated a manufacturing facility on Center Street where it made it's specialty, river driver's boots and shoes. These were sold throughout the U.S. with an especially high demand in the northwest.

These brief descriptions of Old Town businesses provide a small view of life without TVs, computers or many of the other things we now take for granted.

RiverFest

Mark your calendar for September 16, 2000. This is the date for RiverFest and the Old Town Museum intends to be an active participant. As was the case last year, the Museum will be holding a "Food Sale" and a "Yard Sale" as a part of the activities. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the Yard Sale, they may be left at the Museum during the times the Museum is Open on Wednesday through Sunday.

The afternoon of RiverFest is also the time for the "drawing" on the Kayak Raffle. If you have not already purchased your Raffle Tickets (\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00), they are available at the Museum, from Museum

Board Members or at Burr's Market.

October 1st Reception to recognize Video History

The Video History Project chaired by Virginia Fortier has proved to be a great success. To date, the following people have been interviewed: Ruth Littlefield, Ruth Gray, Anna Griffith, Edith and Howard Merrill, Herbert Sargent, Joseph Sewall, Theodore Mitchell, Beverly Spencer, Benoit Bouchard, and Eugene Paradis.

These people have made a permanent record of some of their memories of earlier times in the Old Town area. Future generation will have an opportunity of hearing first-person reports of thing that many of us have only read about.

The Museum Board has scheduled an open reception on October 1, 2000 to honor and thank the people who willingly allowed the recording of things about the area that they remembered. The Board also wishes to express its appreciation to Prof. Jamie Meirara who conducted the interviews and did the recording.

At this Reception, Prof. Meirara will tell a little about the project and show portions of some of the taped interviews. We hope that a large number of area citizens turn out see the results of this project and to honor the people who have helped record some of our local history

Membership Drive

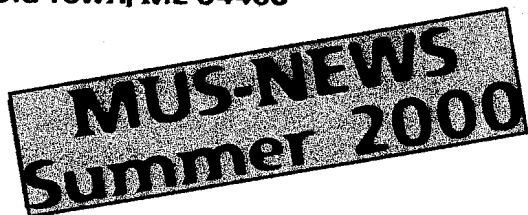
Last year the Museum saw an increase in the number of Members as well as an increase in the amount of private donations to the Museum. This was a substantial help in the funding of the Museum operations. We hope the readers of this issue of Mus-News will continue their support of the Old Town Museum. This is the place where the history of the area is displayed for your viewing. A place to visit to bring back old memories or to show your children how things were in earlier times.

The membership drive is underway. We hope to increase the number of members over last year.

Remember, donations of any amount to the Museum may qualify for a tax-deduction in accord with IRS Regulations. Donations should be sent to the same address as dues.

If you would like to donate to the Museum or become a member of the Museum, please complete and mail the form at the bottom of this page.

The Old Town Museum
 PO Box 375
 Old Town, ME 04468



TO:

Old Town Museum; PO Box 375; Old Town, ME 04468

Membership/Donations

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donation or Type of Membership

(Circle appropriate item and if Donation, fill in amount)

Individual	\$20	Senior	\$10
Family	\$30	Life	\$250
Group or Business	\$100	Donation: \$	_____

1976-2000
 24 Years of Service
 to Old Town and it's
 Surrounding
 Communities



138 South Main St

Membership entitles you voting rights at the Annual Meeting and free admission to the Museum and it's Sunday Programs (Special ticketed events excluded). Donations are "tax-deductible" but Memberships are not.

___ Yes, I would like to be a Museum volunteer, please call me - Telephone no. _____