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**President**

Richard Eustis  
827-2238

**Vice President**

Charles Stevens  
827-3230

**Secretary**

Sue Gleason  
866-2434

**Treasurer**

William Osborne  
827-7245

**Members**

Charles Buck  
866-4393

Barbara Csavinszky  
827-6785

Beverly Clarke  
827-2650

Barbara Connors  
827-3654

Virginia Fortier  
827-3472

Harold Lacadie  
827-4691

Margaret Manzer  
827-3847

Howard Merrill  
827-2649

Cora Paradis  
827-4120

Florence Wheeler  
827-5586

Harriet Woodsum  
827-2953

**Old Town Museum  
Loses Friend**

Beverly Spencer, a well known Old Town Attorney and a person with a strong interest in local history, died on March 26, 2001. Beverly had served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Old Town Museum including three terms as Board President. His many contributions to the development of the Museum helped make it is today.

In 2000, Beverly was one of the long-time citizens of Old Town who allowed the Museum to make a video tape recording of his memories of growing up in Old Town, including his memories of the Great Works area and "Picketville". Even though he is no longer alive, future generations will be able to see and hear him describe his vivid memories of an earlier time. Many of his memories are not recorded in any location other than this video tape.

Beverly Spencer will be missed by not only the Old Town Museum which he helped develop but by all of the others that were his friends.

**Museum  
takes steps toward  
long-range financial  
stability**

One of the first items of business for the Old Town Museum in 2001, was the approval of a by-laws amendment to create an "Endowment Fund" for the Museum. This new fund will permit individuals to make the Museum a part of their "estate planning", to make donations at any time with the intent of the principal remaining in tact, or to establish "Memorials" for those they wish to recognize.

All "Memorial Gifts" and all other donations to the endowment fund of \$250 or more, will retain a separate identity within the endowment fund. Once a separately identified account has been created, it can be increased with contributions of any size. Growth of the Endowment Fund resulting from investment will be reflected in the individual accounts.

The first accounts within the endowment fund will come from the existing investment resulting from "Life Membership" payments and a bequest received last year from the estate of Hortense Monahan.

## A Moment in our History

If you are a current resident of Old Town, do you realize you might have been living in Orono if it was not for some actions by earlier residents. When Orono became a town in 1806, the land area of Orono included all that is Orono today, as well as the land that is currently Old Town with the exception of approximately 2000 acres.

In 1830, only 10 years after Maine became a state, Orono had a population of just under 1,500. In that year the Town Meeting considered the subject of dividing Orono into two towns and appointed a committee of 3 to report on a proposed boundary between Orono and the new town. All of the members of this committee lived along the Stillwater River and their report showed this influence. Nothing happened as the result of that report.

In 1839, there was new agitation for the division of Orono as the size and limited roadway network made for a cumbersome town. A new committee was appointed that had a more diverse representation than the earlier committee. Some of the people who served on this committee have names that are still familiar, Benjamin Shaw, Levi Hamblen, John Smith, Nathaniel Treat, Isreal Washburn Jr., Ira Wadleigh, and Joshua Lunt Jr. The committee recommended a boundary, as it exists today, between Orono and the new town. In March 1840, the Maine Legislature ap-

proved the incorporation of Old Town. It is reported this name was selected as the area was the ancient seat of the Tarratine and later the Penobscot Indians.

At that time, acts of the Legislature did not take effect for 30 days after passage. However, Old Town residents were impatient. They met and organized the new town government only 10 days after the Legislature had acted. It required substantial action by the following year's Legislature to legalize the actions of the towns inhabitants.

One of these actions was the holding of the first Town Meeting and the election of the first town government. Again some familiar names appear. Dr. Niran Bates was the Moderator at the first town meeting and John Hilliard was Town Clerk. Samuel Cody, Joshua Ward and Samuel Pratt were elected Selectmen. Asa Smith was elected Treasurer and John Smith was elected Tax Collector. At this first Town Meeting, the town appropriated \$400 for schools, \$750 for the poor and \$500 for roads.

Lobbying of the Maine Legislature was also prevalent at that time. The only major change to the boundaries of Old Town occurred about 3 years after the separation from Orono. At that time the Legislature removed a 2000 acre parcel known as the "Moor Trust" from Argyle and transferred it to Old Town. This occurred even though the citizens of Old Town had expressly voted "not to admit" this additional land parcel.

Old Town was a rapidly growing area in the early 1800s. In 1830, when Orono included the area now know as Old Town, the total population of Orono was just under 1,500. By 1840, when Old Town was incorporated, the population of Old Town alone stood at approximately 2,350. This was a significant growth by today's standards.

A few more familiar names appear in the early history of the area that is today Old Town. Richard Winslow was the first white settler in the area and he served as a Selectman in Orono in 1806. Hannah White was born on February 23, 1800 and was the first white child born in the area. Ira and Jesse Wadleigh, brothers, arrived in 1816 and built their first hotel. Ira Wadleigh was the first Postmaster in Old Town. Moses Averill and his father arrived in 1817 and built a sawmill. Moses was Town Clerk in Orono prior to the separation.

In the early years of Old Town, the rivers were a very important means of transportation. In 1848, a stern-wheel steamboat named the "Governor Neptune" began service between Old Town and Winn. This steamboat was built in Old Town. Business was apparently good as the following year, a larger steamboat named the "Governor Dana" was put into service on this same route. Steamboat service on the Penobscot River was available until 1867 when the company was purchased by the railroad.

## **Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Old Town Museum and a Meeting of the Board of Directors were both held on February 26, 2001. Beverly Clarke, William Osborne, Florence Wheeler, Charles Buck and Richard Eustis were elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Directors. Later the Board elected the following officers for the coming year; Richard Eustis, President; Charles Stevens, Vice President; William Osborne, Treasurer; and Sue Gleason, Secretary. Virginia Fortier, Harold Lacadie, and William Osborne were elected to 1-year terms on the Executive Directorship.

The Executive Directorship reported that Joe Ayotte had been hired as the Operations Manager for the year and the Board approved the wage rate for this position.

The Board approved a 2001 schedule that provided for the Museum to open on a 2-day a week schedule on April 20, 2001, The 5-day a week schedule would begin on June 6th with the "Opening Reception" to be held on Sunday June 10th. The Museum will close for the season on October 28, 2001.

Committee Chairs were appointed for this year as follows:  
Exhibits Committee -  
Virginia Fortier  
Programs Committee-  
Harriet Woodsum  
Acquisitions Committee -  
Sue Gleason

Ways & Means Committee -  
Barbara Csavinszky  
Operations Committee-  
Peggy Manzer  
Publicity Committee-  
Barbara Connors

In addition to these Standing Committees, several people were appointed to serve as Chair of Special Committees. These were:

June Opening Reception -  
Virginia Fortier  
Yard Sale -  
Charles Stevens  
Food Sale -  
Peggy Manzer  
Raffle -  
Barbara Csavinszky  
Membership Drive -  
Bill Osborne  
Newsletter -  
Dick Eustis

(Note: The Yard Sale/Food Sale will be held in conjunction with RiverFest)

The Board indicated a need to increase the number of Old Town citizens involved in Museum activities. Although the Chairs of all of the Committees should be Museum Members, the Board agreed that non-members could volunteer to serve on any of the committees. The main issue is to generate increased interest in the Museum.

The Board agreed to undertake a full-scale membership drive to increase the number of Museum Members. It was noted that it has been several years since the Board has had an organized membership campaign. Bill Osborne agreed to develop a new "Membership Card" that will be given to all persons pay-

ing membership dues. It was also agreed that receipts should be sent to anyone sending in a "donation" to the Museum.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Bob Morin and the R.J. Morin Company for their repair work on the Museum Heating System and the discount on the invoice.

The Board voted to amend the Museum By-laws to provide for the creation of an "Endowment Fund". This fund would be separate from the normal operating fund but the annual income from the endowment fund would be used for operations. The endowment fund would provide the opportunity for firms or individual to make gifts, bequests memorial donations or other contributions to the museum with the principal remaining in tact and only the interest used each year. Because the Museum is a 501(c)3 organizations, these gifts would be tax deductible to the extent permitted by IRS Regulations.

The Board is arranging for directional signs to be installed to help tourists and other visitors find the Museum. Board Members indicated one of the major problems facing the Museum was lack of visitors. The Board will be looking for ways to increase museum visitations.

The Board set the schedule for Board Meetings for the balance of the Year. Meetings are scheduled for May 8, August 13, and November 7 with all to be held at the Museum at 7:00 pm. Any interested person may attend a Museum Board Meeting.

# Membership Drive

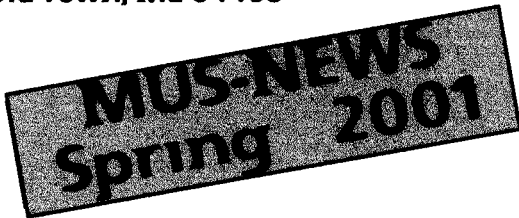
Membership in the Old Town Museum is one way which anyone can help in preserving the history of the Old Town area. Dues and donations are a substantial help in the funding of the Museum operations. Remember, the Museum does not charge an admissions fee. Your Membership payment or your donation is greatly appreciated.

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 and a place to show your children (or grandchildren) how things were in earlier times.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

SpNL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership or Donation

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

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

1976-2001  
25 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. \_\_\_\_\_