

**Board of Directors**

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 Csavinsky  
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

**Sunday  
Program Schedule  
- Balance of the year -**

**September 15** - Baycka Voroniet-sky; "Piano wizardry, popular and light classical". This favorite from past seasons is returning for another program

**September 22** - Jean McLean - "Lighthouses of Maine", a slide presentation showing the differences and locations of many of the lighthouses that dot the Maine Coast.

**September 29** - A special Fund Raising activity, "Old Time Follies". This program directed by and starring your neighbors is a part of the fund raising activities for the repairs to the Museum.

We hope you will join us for a 2 PM, "Sunday at the Museum". The programs on September 15 and 22 are free but there will be an admission charge for the September 29th Program. Although two programs are listed as "Free" we still appreciate any donations that are made by attendees at the programs. Donations, Program Charges, Gift Shop sales and Membership Fees are all part of the fund raising necessary to operate the Museum.

Come early or stay late and take a few minutes to view some of our history

**Museum  
scheduled for  
repairs to face**

The most pressing repair needs for the Old Town Museum, (former St. Mary's Church) consist of repairs to the brickwork in the bell tower and to the top of the front wall including the roof flashing. Over the past several years, cracks have developed in the bell tower brickwork and these cracks have been growing as each winter passes. A careful examination suggests that this problem had occurred on two previous occasions with repairs not correcting the basic cause.

This year, the Museum Board has contracted with a firm that specializes in solving the type of problem that has caused the cracks in the bell tower brickwork with the expectation this problem will not have to be corrected again in the near future. The Museum Board believes the former St. Mary's Church has become an excellent home for the Museum and its collection and that further, the building has historical significance to the community. For these reasons, the Museum Board wishes to preserve the building as close to its original form as possible. For this reason the Board agreed to the necessary repairs and to seek the support of the community to cover the necessary costs.

# A Moment in Our History

## - Why was Old Town an important rail center

In an earlier issue of Mus-News, we mentioned Old Town was the terminus of the second railroad constructed in the United States. One may have wondered why Old Town was so important as to be a part of the early transportation activity. One needs look no further than "LUMBER". In the early and mid 1800s, lumber was in great demand and Bangor became a major "East Coast" seaport. Much of the shipping from Bangor were two important products, lumber and ice.

Water power was a key element in any mill and Old Town had an ample supply. There were three areas in Old Town that had significant potential. Some of these have continued to be energy sources to the present day. The availability of water power plus the Penobscot River to serve as a transportation method for logs were the reasons for Old Town's early development.

The first mill built in the area was constructed in 1798, long before Old Town became a community. By 1833, seven years before Old Town became a separate municipality, there were 16 mills in the area that would become Old Town. The largest of these mills as well as a majority of the mills was owned by Samuel Veazie, who would later become involved in the "Veazie" Railroad.

Henry David Thoreau, on one of his trips into Maine's north woods passed through Old Town. In his book entitled "The Maine Woods", Mr. Thoreau describes Old Town as follows: "Within a dozen miles of Bangor, we passed through the villages of Stillwater and Old Town, built at the fall of the Penobscot, which furnishes the principal power by which Maine woods are converted to lumber. The mills are built directly over and across the river. Here is a close jam, a hard rub, at all seasons; and there the once green tree, long since white, I need not say as the driven snow, but as a driven log, becomes lumber merely ... There was, as I read, two hundred and fifty saw mills on the Penobscot and its tributaries above Bangor, the greatest part of them in the immediate neighborhood, and they sawed two hundred million of feet annually." (Editor's Note: Its thought the reference to two hundred and fifty mills may mean two hundred and fifty separate saws.)

Not only was Old Town the terminus of the second railroad built in the United States, it was the first place that a "gang saw" was used on the North American

Continent. It is also reported that in 1860, only 20 years after Old Town became a separate community, more lumber was manufactured in Old Town than in any other town in the United States.

For many that worked in the Maine woods during this period, Old Town was the "jumping-off" point for the lumber crews and river drivers. This was the starting point for the trip by bateau or by horse team for men and supplies. It was also the place where workers were paid at the end of their woods season.

It is clear the development of the lumber industry in Old Town and the development of rail transportation between Old Town and Bangor are closely tied. Further, if it were not for Old Town's lumber mills and the railroad, Bangor would have been a much less important seaport.

-----  
Have you ever wondered what type of facilities the loggers had for living and eating accommodations? Have you ever wondered how it was possible for all of the logs to be floated down the Penobscot River without the ownership of each log being lost? Have you ever wondered at what types of tools "River Drivers" used to keep the logs moving on their down stream trip? Have you ever wondered what stopped all of those logs from continuing on right by Bangor into the Atlantic Ocean as they came down the river? Have you ever wondered how the logs were sorted when they arrived at their destination so that the proper logs arrived at the right sawmill? Have you ever wondered how it was possible to get the right logs into the Stillwater River for the mills located on that side of the island? Have you ever heard of a "boom" that wasn't a loud noise?

All of these and many more questions can be answered by just one trip to the Old Town Museum. The Museum has an extensive exhibit covering the logging industry, especially as it related to the Old Town area and the many saw mills that developed along the banks of the Penobscot River in this area.

The lumber and logging industry were a major part of Old Town's history and the Old Town Museum is trying to preserve and display this history as a reminder of by-gone days. Without these displays, few people can visualize the area before the days of computers, electric lights or power, telephones or extensive use of gasoline engines. Manpower, water power and animal power were the basis of most every commercial activity.

# Old Town Museum Happenings -

We ask our readers to visit the Old Town Museum Booth at this year's Riverfest on Saturday, September 21st. The Museum will have a booth in the midst of the activities at the City Park Area where a variety of items will be on sale. If you have not already done it, this will give you one more opportunity to participate in the Museums "50-50 Raffle", the drawing of which will occur in early afternoon of Riverfest.

This year the Old Town Museum held two Sunday Programs along with a week-long exhibit on "Quilting". As far as attractions to the Museum, this proved to be one of the best attractions held by the Museum for several years. People from a wide geographical area visited the Museum to see the wide variety of quilts either made by members of the local quilting group or on special loan to the Museum for the exhibit. The craftsmanship that was displayed was outstanding and in some cases, it was difficult to imagine the amount of work that was required to produce the colorful and detailed graphics.

The Old Town Museum is extremely grateful to all of the members of the "Canoe City Quilters" and others who contributed items that made this "Quilting Display and Program" a success, both as a special exhibit and as an attraction to see other items that were on display in the Museum.

This year, Harold Lacadie, a member of the Old Town Museum Board of Directors, constructed a mock-up of a portion of an early 1900 kitchen complete with a black iron sink and an operating hand pump. These items along with a display of an early hand-operated washing machine and old flat irons that were heated on the "wood stove", brought back many memories to those that have seen the exhibit. This exhibit was also an "eye-opener" to younger museum visitors whose memories do not extend back to the age prior to "running water" and electrical appliances. The prices listed for some of these items in an early Sears-Roebuck catalogue on display also showed how prices have changed in the last century.

William Osborne, Treasurer of the Old Town Museum Board, provided an exhibit of recorded music in America that was a part of his extensive personal collection. Museum visitors not only had the opportunity to see

ious rpm disks, tapes and CDs, they were able to hear music recorded from these various media. There are few places in the State where one could see the improvements in the recording media that was on display in the Old Town Museum. The quality of the recording has certainly improved over the years. However, we will leave it to each individual's own taste to determine if the quality of the music has improved.

The Old Town Museum voted to amend its bylaws to provide for "Honorary Directors". Any person who has served on the Museum Board for 3 terms (9 years) and is no longer a member of the Board is eligible to become an Honorary Director. An Honorary Director has many of the same rights and privileges as a regular Member of the Museum Board except they can not vote in Board Meetings. This position allows a former Board Member to remain associated with the Museum without the commitment to maintain the same level of activity.

The Old Town Museum Board has arranged for a \$25,000 loan from the City of Old Town to assist in covering the payments for the necessary repairs to the former St. Mary's Church. When the Museum first purchased the building, the City assisted in the financing through a loan double the size of the one recently approved. Repayment of that initial loan has been as scheduled with only a few monthly payments remaining. It should also be noted that the Museum took out two loans at the time the building was purchased with the second loan coming from a local bank. The bank loan has already been paid off so there is only a very small outstanding debt from the initial purchase. The availability of this new loan does not reduce the need for the Museum Board to have an active "fund raising" activity, it only provides a method of making timely payments to contractors, even if the fund raising activity is slightly delayed.

The Old Town Museum Board has initiated an extended fund raising campaign to provide the funds necessary for the scheduled repairs to the Museum's home. This fund raising will also assist in the timely repayment of the loan from the City of Old Town. We hope that all of the people who have contributed to the Museum in the past or who have been members of the Museum, will be extremely generous and consider further contributions or donations to the Museum this year. If you have not visited your Museum, we also urge you to do so and see some of our history.

# 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 nor is it supported by tax dollars. 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. We especially hope you will be generous in any donations to the Museum's "Repair Fund". The Museum 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. Please visit the Museum even if you are not a financial supporter. A visit may bring back old memories.

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 your donation dedicated to the Museum "Repair Fund", please indicate on the Donation Form.

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 or Donations**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SuNL**

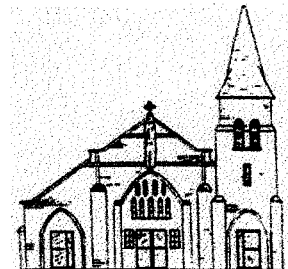
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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:	\$ _____

1976-2002  
 26 years of Service  
 to Old Town and it's  
 Surrounding  
 Communities

138 South Maine 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 at (Telephone No.) \_\_\_\_\_