

OLD TOWN MUSEUM

353 Main Street, Old Town, Maine 04468
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 375
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Established 1976

CHRISTMAS 2022

The Old Town Museum is a volunteer effort dedicated to preserving Old Town's history.

Christmas Remembered

Christmas is such a special time of year!
It's filled with good times and happy Christmas cheer.
In Old Town Christmas comes in many different ways,
And we share warm memories of special winter days.
Downtown was all lit up, store windows all aglow.
There were many places in which to shop in the Old Town of long ago.
Sklar's, Cutler's, Goldsmith's and more had all kinds of clothes to sell.
Woolworth's, Grant's, and the Trading Post had a toy for each guy and gal.
If you wanted to stay outside and play and you had some time to kill,
You could go sliding up on the top of Academy Hill.
If you weren't into sliding and still wanted a place to go
You could always go skating at the rink across from St. Joe's.
If you got really cold while you were out on the glistening ice,
You could go to the little shack there and get a warm drink, which was nice.
If you crossed the bridge in the center of town when the winter winds were cruel,
You could find a Christmas Party at the Treat and Webster School.
While you were on the Island, why not take the bus from Cyr's
And go to a basketball game and support your team with cheers.
The Old Town of long ago was a simple postcard treat
Where you said, "Merry Christmas", to all the people you did meet.
Old Town's changed and is now not exactly the same old sight,
But it's still the place you want to be on a snowy Christmas night!

~ Pam Dorr



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The President's Annual Appeal

We hope you enjoyed the great summer weather we had this year. Now that the season has changed to winter we hope you will enjoy those things that make Maine such a special place to live in winter conditions. As the Christmas holidays approach we hope you will keep in mind those less fortunate and do what you can to help them in these trying times.

The Old Town Museum has been proud to be open this summer and back to our more normal operating schedule. Brian Folster and Lauren Tibbits have been great additions to our staff and have enjoyed welcoming our visitors this summer. We will soon be installing a new large digital sign on our front lawn. With the loss of the Penobscot Times, we have not had a method of communicating with the public regarding our programs and events. Thanks to a very generous donor we will have a large sign to do so. We hope to have the sign installed by year end. We are now dealing with some serious cracks to the brickwork in the belfry area and the rear entrance of the Museum. The repairs being done now are a stop-gap measure and we will need further evaluation next spring to ensure that things are stable.

As always with any "non-profit", funding is always an issue. Please take a moment to join us by filling out one of our membership forms, or if you prefer, just make a donation. No amount is too small or too large! The Museum is a 501(c)(3) designated charity, so any and all donations are tax deductible.

Have a wonderful and prosperous 2023!

Bill Osborne, President, Board of Directors



Name: _____	OLD TOWN MUSEUM <hr/> P.O. Box 375 353 Main Street Old Town, Maine 04468 <i>Established 1976</i>						
Address: _____							
City: _____							
State and Zip: _____							
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E-mail: _____	<table border="1"><tr><td>Individual \$30</td><td>Senior \$20</td></tr><tr><td>Family \$50</td><td>Life \$400</td></tr><tr><td>Group or Business \$175</td><td>Donation: \$ _____</td></tr></table>	Individual \$30	Senior \$20	Family \$50	Life \$400	Group or Business \$175	Donation: \$ _____
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<p>Membership entitles you to voting rights at the Annual Meeting. The Old Town Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization. <u>PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL FOR FUTURE NOTICES FROM THE OLD TOWN MUSEUM</u></p>							

MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eisso Atzema, Joe Ayotte, Barbara Connors, Pamela Dorr, Robert Dorr, Philip Dunn,
Carol May, Cassandra Pool, Bill Osborne, Carolyn Smith, Robert Stanley, Tiffany Tibbits, David Wight

The Winter Kitchen

"In the winter, the kitchen with its shiny black stove took on a special significance. It was the warmest room in the house and, therefore, the natural place for gatherings. On the stove was a tea-kettle -- strategically placed so that a constant trickle of steam escaped from its spout to combat the dryness of the kitchen's heated air. The kettle was also the source of instant hot water for a leisurely cup of tea or cocoa.

There were places around the stove where wet mittens and woolen socks could be hung for drying. Because of its relatively high legs, there was enough space between the stove's bottom and the kitchen floor for a small child to slide under it (feet first on one's stomach to a point above the waist) for a fast warm-up on cold mornings -- before jumping into one's outer clothing. Or, on cold stormy days, with family cat beside you, it was the ideal place to leaf through the latest catalog or traded comic book.

But of all my recollections, the best has to do with my mother's cooking. How well I remember the many times coming into the house after that long, cold (and sometimes very snowy) walk from school, being greeted by the aroma of baking bread or molasses cookies fresh from the oven! To this day, I am still amazed by the magic found in a glass of milk and warm molasses cookies.

When Mama was a child growing up on the Island, they used to enjoy what was called 'Kitchen Breakdowns.' Adults and children (neighbors, friends or relatives) would gather in someone's large warm kitchen. Then they would fetch the neighborhood fiddler who would provide the music for the dancing and singing that followed. 'That's how we children learned to dance,' Mama would relate. When asked about the types of dancing they did or learned, she would smile and say, 'Oh, the popular were step dancing and waltzing. Your Uncle Edward and Uncle Andrew were very good step dancers.' Later, we would learn how she and our grandfather as dance partners were trophy winners in dance contests sponsored by Lodges located in Old Town."

~ Reta L. Graham, Ed.D

OEUFs A LA NEIGE

John Michaud

"This is a recipe that my mother (Alvine Lavoie Michaud) made for me, when I was a little boy. (Actually, let me rephrase that, I was never little -- even as a young boy.) It was delicious and it was called 'Oeufs a La Neige', or if you hung around with the Irish Catholics who went to St. Mary's Church it was called Eggs in Snow. My older sister says her mother never made this dessert dish, but my mother indeed did, which just goes to prove my theory that I was an adopted child, and my real parents were Sonja Henie and Groucho Marx."

Make a meringue mixture with:

3 egg whites - whipped

4 Tbsp. sugar

A drop of vanilla

Drop mixture in large spoonfuls into:

2 cups of scalded milk - do not let boil.

Remove cooked meringue puffs and set aside.

Make a custard sauce with:

4 egg yolks - beaten

1/4 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. salt

A drop of vanilla

Stir in 2 cups of milk (used to cook meringue).

Stir over a very low fire - do not boil - cool sauce.

This is meant to be a liquid base, so the custard is not a firm one.

Spoon custard into meringue puffs.

**The Old Town Museum
is closed for the Season
and will reopen in
May of 2023**

**Interested Parties are invited to
inquire about entry during our closure.
Call 478-9012**

The Winter Kitchen memories
and the Oeufs a La Neige recipe
are from the

**Nos Histoires de l'Ile
livre de cuisine**

*a Collection of Recipes from
French Island in Old Town, Maine*

*The loose-leaf bound collection of recipes and
memories is available for purchase from the Museum.*

FREE - KIDDIES' PARTY - FREEEE

The Penobscot Indian Trading Post

Invites All Kids to Their

ANNUAL KIDDIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Strand Theatre - Monday Morning, Dec. 15 at 8:30

FREE SHOW of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck Cartoons, etc.

Community Singing Led by Santa Claus

Community Singing Led by Santa Claus

FREE

FREE

This notice appeared in the December 18, 1947 issue of The Penobscot Times

A Glance at the Past

from Our Archives of The Penobscot Times

110 Years Ago
The Old Town Enterprise
January 16, 1912

"The Old Town Lodge of B.P.O. of Elks (synonymous with charity) specialize this Yuletide season on the children. They intend to bring joy and gladness to every deserving child (of school age) in Old Town. City Hall will be the stamping ground for this joy party and it is expected about 200 children will participate and share in the benevolence of this lodge. Each child will receive a bag of candy and a souvenir. The High School Orchestra (14 pieces) will furnish the music, and a bright and merry children's party is assured.

- Miss Maude Gould was the director of the Old Town High School orchestra.

- A choice lot of Holly and Mistletoe for Christmas decorations could be found at Small's Greenhouse. Patrons were advised to order early to avoid disappointment.

- The school children in the area were enjoying their vacation and every puddle and frog pond was covered with skaters.

- Sidney Sewall arrived home from St. Mary's School in Concord, New Hampshire to spend Christmas with her aunts Misses Sidney and Hannah Sewall of Stillwater Avenue.

- It was the time of year when "the merchants have to have extra help and school teachers and others like a change of labor and the extra emoluments thereof." Misses Nona Yerxa, and Alta West were with Gray & Co., Miss Caroline Carrow is at C. H. Grays, Misses Isabel Dempsey, Hazel Hatch and Harold Dempsey were at Fraser's Rexall Store.

82 Years Ago
The Penobscot Times
December 19, 1940

A & P WILL OPEN SUPERMARKET IN HINCKS STORE TODAY

Large Market Will Embrace All Kinds Of Foods;
Will Be One of Maine's Largest and Finest
Atlantic and Pacific Establishments

A new type of supermarket, self-service food store, representing the latest developments in food merchandising and operated by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, will open in Old Town on December 19th, it was announced by Mr. J.S.K. Hunt, local division manager for A&P, Old Town's first A&P supermarket, the new store will replace the company's former "service" store.

- Joseph Leonard was elected chairman of the Infantile Paralysis committee. Other members were George Desjardins, Jules Desjardins, Waldo Burnham, Barbara Larlee, Frank Kent, Edgar Cousins, T. R. Phillips and Catherine Cust.

- The pupils of the Mayhew School presented a gala Christmas program at the Milford Town Hall. The program was directed by Ruth Cunningham and Pearle Libby, teachers of the sub-primary and second grades.

- Otis LaBree, sports writer for the Times wrote the following Christmas message in his column: "We can be thankful in these United States, that we have a clean conscience, and that instead of killing we will observe Christmas Day as a day of rejoicing, instead of killing. Let us have a fine Christmas. Let us give to the needy. Let us sit besides our friends and relatives, and eat Turkey, Chicken or what have you? And when we go to bed on Christmas night let us pray to the one who was just born that we may be spared the horrors of War, and that we may help those across the waters and spare them from further destruction.

68 Years Ago
The Old Town Enterprise
December 18, 1954

"Excavation For Parking Lot To Begin Next Week

"Weather permitting, excavation for parking on the Robbins Block lot should begin the middle of next week, City Manager Archer Scribner said Wednesday.

"It is planned at present to excavate a 40 foot section the entire length of the lot on the Sewall side. This section would be given a gravel coat and could accommodate 75 cars."

- The Old Town High School basketball squad was ready for their first contest with Bar Harbor. Team members were Dalton Runnells, Leith Wadleigh, Ralph York, Eddie Provost, Ronald LaPlante, Edward Cowan, Wilfred Martin, Dick Sturgeon, Richard LeVasseur, Skippy Chappelle, Buddy Stevens, Paul Gallant and Wallace Blair. Coach was John Barker.

- Old Town High School was set to put on the senior play. Edward Oakes, Nadine Nichols, Richard Desjardins, Edward Cowan and Richard Sibo were performing.

- St. Cecelia Circle 428 Daughters of Isabella had a membership of 237 members.

- Andrew Akin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Watie Akin, celebrated his 14th birthday with a party at his home. Guests attending included Ronald Parady, Louis Thibodeau, Raymond Lavoie, Alfred Robichaud, Thomas Stewart, Michael Akin and Ann Marie Akin.

- The Old Town Woman's Club met at the home of Mrs. Dawson Cutcliffe with president Mrs. Irma Sacy conducting the meeting. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Jean Huff and Mrs. Harriet Burr.)

NOW OPEN ...
Bring the Kiddies!
Firestone Toyland
BAILLARGEON'S Firestone STORE

Avoid Disappointment . . . Shop Early For

LIONEL
A Model for Every Junior Railroader
from **19⁹⁵** to **69⁵⁰**
A Small Deposit holds any train until Dec. 15

TRAINS and ACCESSORIES
Lionel Section Gang Car **7⁹⁵**
Lionel Diesel Switcher **25⁰⁰**

For Straight Shooters!
Reg. 1.19
Sale **77^c**
Lane Rider Holster Set
Repeater action cap gun . . . red and white leather holsters.

Firestone SERVICE TRUCK
Removable wheels and side panels. Tools included. **2⁸⁸**

ENGINE SET
+ 2 fire engines, chief's motorcycle, firemen. **1⁶⁹**

Jeweled Sword, SCABBARD & SHIELD
Flexible plastic sword—no sharp point! **2⁹⁸**

HOWDY DOODY the Wall Walking Wonder
79^c
Walks down a wall by itself . . . no winding needed.

HOWDY DOODY PUPPETS
Choice of Howdy Doody, Clarabelle, Mr. Bluster or Pinco. **98^c**

DOLLS . . . DOLLS . . . DOLLS
Ideal's Walking