

1955

Ada and Anna Chambers Correspondence

Ada Chambers

Maine State Library

Anna Chambers

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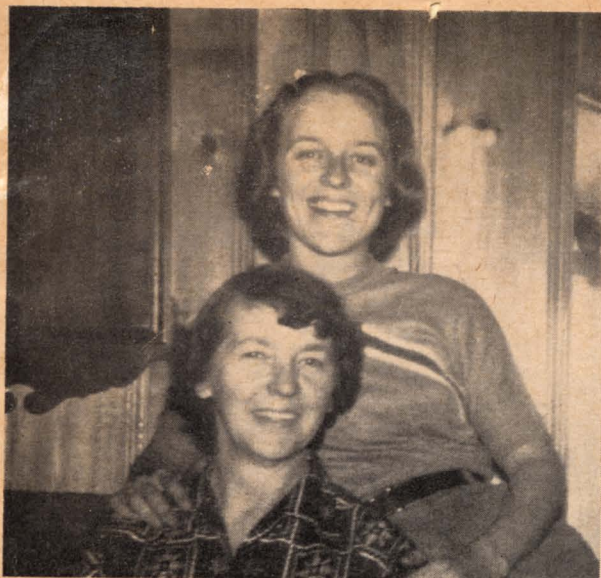
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CHAMBERS, Ada and Anna

b. Washington County.



Soon To Be Published

POD RUN

by ADA and ANNA CHAMBERS

We have written a book entitled POD RUN concerning our town, Grand Lake Stream, Maine, in its youth — a town born because of its waterways convenient to the outside world and its great wealth of hemlock in the surrounding forests — a town growing so rapidly that in 1881 (the period about which we have written), this little place in the Maine wilderness boasted the largest tannery in the world and imported hides from far away places like China, Brazil, India, and Zanzibar!

From old diaries, factual records, and stories passed along by word of mouth, we have taken choice morsels; added a youthful romance, a bit of spice and intrigue, and have come up with a yarn that is such a combination of fact and fiction that now WE wonder which is which!

In POD RUN you'll meet Sophie Yates, our heroine, and Dan Patrick, a Canadian who loves her; Aunt Feb, a doer of all good deeds, and her husband Frank, noted tall-story teller; Captain Carr, a gentleman with a bitter memory of the Civil War, and George, a colored boy who learns much of Northerners in this teeming village; Mrs. Winkler, and Josephine Lowe who loves Dan; Father Murphy, a priest. You'll walk down Tough End with Amanda Tucker, the town gossip, and smell the stench from the Tannery, and look through her eyes at this, the notorious street of the town. The Indians, too, are there; young Joe, his father, and the Old One, who hates the white man's intrusion on her people's lands.

The will to thrive among the numerous nationalities in this wilderness of virgin forest is inspiring. From our Yates Genealogy we find that our ancestors first came to Maine some 160 odd years ago and we feel privileged to weave a tale about what COULD have happened to some of them who had settled here by the late 1800's.

A limited number of copies of POD RUN will be printed in the first edition at \$3.50 a copy and will be autographed. If you wish one of these books, please fill out the order form on the enclosed card and return to us, either with money order, check, or C.O.D. order.

POD RUN is now being published and your copy or copies will be mailed as soon as they are off the press.

POD RUN
CHAMBERS

ADA and ANNA CHAMBERS GRAND LAKE STREAM, MAINE

February 15, 1955

Ada and Anna Chambers
Grand Lake Stream
Maine

Ladies:

POD RUN sounds fascinating, and we look forward eagerly to seeing a copy when it is published. Our order is enclosed.

It occurs to us that your book should be in the Maine Author Collection. Do you know about this permanent exhibit of Maine books? They number about two thousand now, and are almost all inscribed presentation copies, making a valuable and intensely interesting display, which constantly attracts students and visitors. We also gather all available information about our authors, so that our files may be as complete as possible. We do not know whether you were born in Maine, but you certainly are resident here, and your new book is about Maine, so we shall hope that you will share with us the feeling that POD RUN would be a fine addition to the exhibit.

You have our very good wishes for the success of the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 14, 1955

Ada and Anna Chambers
Grand Lake Stream
Maine

Ladies

POD RUN has arrived, and we made the acquaintancw of Dan and Sophie and all the other characters with eagerness and interest. This is a section of Maine not frequently appearing in books, and your familiarity with it and its history should provide you with more exciting stories. We certainly hope so.

We are always delighted to welcome a new name to the list of Maine authors, and to note a new Maine book in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association. POD RUN will be noted in the next issue, due in February.

We wrote to you earlier about the Maine Author Collection, and we continue to hope that you will want to inscribe a copy to present to this permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, and about Maine. POD RUN would be a most desirable addition. We always like to have biographical information about our authors, too. Would you be willing to let us have a brief biographical sketch of this nature?

You are to be congratulated upon your novel, and upon the skill and wisdom which you have shown in writing of people and places which you know well. Your research and study contribute to the story, and we trust that it will enjoy a most satisfying success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Grand Lake Stream, Maine
November 18, 1955

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

We are mailing you a copy of "Pod Run" for the Authors' Collection.

We are: Ada, mother, and Anna, daughter; both of us born and raised in Washington County where we now live. "Pod Run" was begun about six years ago not as a book but as short stories for our children's use. Four generations of our family have lived and died in this small town of about 200 people and from many of them as well as factual records came to light in our eyes this story.

The actual writing of "Pod Run" was rather "hit and miss" as we

both have done the seasonal work offered here in the Sporting Camps.

Ada, has 3 daughters: Martha 33, Anna 29, and Sophie 13. Anna has a son, Michael, 7. He both were educated here in the public schools. Anna graduated from High School in Calais and attended Husson College in Bangor.

It is hard to write a letter for both of us and I have skipped around quite a bit as a thought would come to me of anything you'd like to know.

One of our objectives now is to help someone as uneducated as we are to realize that they can write. We are learning through experience only how to write and are on another story which we hope will show some or something that we have learned. One thing we

admit, we are having an easier time of gathering facts and putting them together with our fiction

Our lack of confidence that anyone would be interested but our own family, kept us from trying to find a publisher at first. And only after we'd been told that it had possibilities by a well-known Boston Publisher's Representative did we have any hope of seeing it in print.

Please forgive me, Mrs. Jacobs, for rambling on and around. I hope I have covered what you wanted to know. Thank you for reminding us again.

Sincerely yours,
Ada & Anna Chambers
(Cochran)

November 21, 1955

Ada and Anna Chambers
Grand Lake Stream
Maine

Dear Ada and Anna Chambers:

Thank you very much for writing such a friendly and informative letter in response to our request for biographical information. It is extremely kind of you to understand our desire to have as complete details as possible on our authors, and to help us this way.

The Maine Author Collection copy of POD RUN is gratefully acknowledged. We are indeed happy to be able to add your first novel to this Maine collection, and we are delighted to learn that you are at work on the next. We shall watch for it eagerly.

Again our good wishes and warm thanks go to you

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj