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Portland's Community College

Portland Junior College, a roving school in search of a home for the first half of its twenty-year existence, finally found haven in the historic old Deering Estate on the outskirts of Maine's largest city. Here the story of this unique school's building is told by Portland Junior's registrar.

By Harold Lawrence

It all began in the midst of the depression of the early thirties. A group of Portland business men became interested in providing advanced education for those qualified high school graduates who did not find it practicable to seek college training in other localities.

Working with the trustees and staff of the Portland Young Men's Christian Association, these men evolved a plan whereby college courses would be offered inexpensively in Portland through the use of the excellent facilities of the Y. M. C. A. building.

After requesting and being assured the cooperation of the four colleges in Maine and of Boston University, the group obtained from the State a charter as a non-profit educational institution.

Today's Portland Junior College, housed in buildings that include part of the historic old Deering Estate, (home of the family who gave beautiful Deering Oaks Municipal Park to the city) Portland now has the benefit of a community college.

This is a private, non-profit corporation offering two years of college courses in liberal arts and business administration. Since 1933, Portland Junior College has been giving college courses of high standard to local students who then go on to their junior year of a four-year college or into the various fields of business.

Following the philosophy of the most significant educational development of recent years, the college has offered evening courses in many subjects and under many different arrangements, on campus and in industry, for the general public and for special groups. During the past two summers the college has added another of its community projects: supervised study of correspondence courses for high school credit. The increased enrollments in the courses promise that the project will become an established feature.

Portland Junior College has been granted by the state legislature the right to award degrees, and it has a beautiful campus under ancient trees,
but in the early years the college changed its location almost as frequently as it changed its offerings to meet the fluctuating community needs.

UNDER THE direction of Everett W. Lord, Dean of the Boston University College of Business Administration, five full-time instructors and several visiting professors from Boston University announced two freshman programs: one in liberal arts, acceptable to the Maine colleges, and one in business administration identical with that of the freshman year of the Boston University College of Business Administration.

Seventy students registered at once. At the end of the first year they asked for a second year of business administration. These early students went on to other colleges and did such ex-

**West Hall and the Auditorium in the cloak of Winter.**
cellent work that they helped to convince other institutions and associations of the quality of the college. In 1938 Portland Junior College was accepted as an active member of the American Association of Junior Colleges. It also joined the New England Council of Junior Colleges. In 1940 it was recognized by the United States Office of Education as an accredited junior college.

As war approached, Portland Junior College entered a new duty: in 1940 it was approved by the Civil Aeronautics Administration for a unit of the Civilian Pilot Training Program. In cooperation with Portland Flying Service a unit was established in 1941. In 1942 Dean Luther I. Bonney was appointed by the American Association of Junior Colleges a member of a national committee to make recommendations concerning aviation training in junior colleges. And in the summer of 1942 Portland Junior College was approved for a full-time pilot training unit under the plan for accelerating the training of Army and Navy flyers through the use of the facilities of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

In the spring of 1943 after the Army Enlisted Reserve had been called out and many direct enlistments had been made, chiefly in the flying services, the student body of the college was reduced to fourteen. In June, 1943, the directors voted to suspend scholastic activities for the duration.

During the summer and fall of 1945 it became clear that veterans in large numbers would seek to obtain a college education under the G. I. Bill. Many of these had not completed high school or lacked basic courses necessary for admission to college.

With the cooperation of the Veterans Administration in Maine and the State Department of Education and with the encouragement of the Maine colleges a program of intensive college preparatory courses was or-

Left: Dean Bonney addresses the entire student body in the new Students Lounge. Right: The radio class gets training in Radio transmission at Portland Radio Station WPOR.
ganized and put into operation by the college in January, 1946. The initial enrollment of seventy grew to over two hundred and fifty by summer. The original quarters at Lee Memorial Building were outgrown before the end of the first sixteen-week term. At the beginning of the second term the classes were moved to the Mountain View Recreation Center in South Portland, a federal project built for the service of workers in the shipyards. Here the college was housed until July, 1947.

The Pre-College Program, as it came to be known, was in continuous operation, summers included, until June, 1949. It is still in operation during the regular academic year in conjunction with the college programs. Over a thousand veterans have been served by it.

In September, 1946, the college curriculum was reestablished and Freshman classes in business administration and liberal arts organized. The Sophomore program in Business Administration was restored in the following year and specialized college programs instituted for two-year terminal students.

During 1946 the quest of the college for a suitable site for a permanent campus was successful. Arrangements were made for the purchase of approximately six acres from the historic Deering Estate. The longer dimension of the campus lies along Falmouth Street and upon this side opens the entrance to the central group of college buildings. The shorter side of the campus lies along Brighton Avenue, from which is the entrance to the office building.

The college is especially fortunate in its site. To the south and east a considerable drop in the level of land yields a pleasant vista in that direction. About the campus magnificent trees, such as might grace the campus of a college centuries old, seem to have grown in anticipation of shading college walks and college halls. The main arteries of transportation from all surrounding areas lead by or near the campus. Although in the heart of Portland and easily accessible, there is present an atmosphere of spaciousness, restfulness, freedom and light such as befits a college campus.

Located on the campus and bought with the land were three buildings of the Deering Estate that have proved of great value in housing the college.

Near the junction of Brighton Avenue and Falmouth Street is located a charming Cape Cod house. It is said to have served as the farm house of the original estate and to be more than one hundred and sixty years old. The building with its original fireplaces restored and its wide, single-board wainscoting preserved has been adapted to use as an administration building. Its air of grace, dignity, and stability is not lost on any who see or enter it.
The Auditorium was the old stable.

Near the center of the campus along its southern line was located the stable of the estate. This remarkable example of Colonial art and architecture has been made the focus of the campus buildings, as it is the focus of campus life.

The basement has been finished in brick and knotty pine and contains the student lounge room, snack bar, toilet and showers. The upper floor has been converted into an assembly hall with a seating capacity of about four hundred. Here the restoration is especially interesting. All the hand hewed timbers with their wooden pegs have been preserved just as they were put in place in 1804. The windows follow the design of the original window over the stable door which has been incorporated into one of the present windows. The total result is a hall of unique charm.

Near the auditorium is a sizeable shed which gives welcome space for workshop and storehouse.

The remaining buildings on the campus consist of three one-story buildings and provide ten class rooms of varying size, faculty offices, a book store and a large library room.

Utilizing the facilities of its new campus the college is providing service to the community in every way possible. It has organized both credit and non-credit courses in the evening division. It provides leadership and facilities for the Great Books discussion forums, now in their fifth year. It has conducted Human Relations both at the college and at places of business. Many local organizations have developed the habit of using the college auditorium for meetings and special features.

Although a survey of its history prevents anyone to predict the exact nature of the future of Portland Junior College, twenty years of service indicate that the college is accepted as a community necessity and twenty years from now will be helping the people of Portland and of Maine to meet the requirements of education in the 1970's.

A TELEVISION crew from the National Broadcasting Company has been filming Colby College, preparing a motion picture for a half hour show in the “American Inventory” TV series. Colby was selected from among all small liberal arts colleges in the country “as the prime example of the kind of a small college which must be preserved since it demonstrates in essence what is valuable about such an educational institution.” The film is being made in cooperation with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and is one of several which have been taken on location throughout the country.

The principal roles are played by a Colby trustee, Robert Wilkins, class of 1920, Hartford, Connecticut; his son, Robert Wilkins, Jr., class of 1951; and Wallace E. Parsons, president of the Keyes Fibre Co., Waterville.
Now that rods and reels are tucked away for the long winter months and the old tackle box gathers dust in a hall closet, there's time for a closer inspection of the 1953 fishing season results.

To every fisherman, each season is marked by its triumphs and heartbreaks and is long remembered because of them. Tales of the big one that got away will always outnumber the success stories. Perhaps that is best. These continuing reports cannot but serve to illustrate the presence of out-sized fish in most Maine waters.

These yarns are also a tonic to the imagination of the unsuccessful fisherman, and for a certainty are most reassuring to all interested in problems of conservation. During recent years more and more of these old "lunkers" have been brought to net in Maine waters. Right or wrong, I take more than a little pleasure each time in noting the startled amazement of perennial skeptics who preach that all fishermen are liars anyway.

If reports from guides, camp owners, wardens and old timers mean anything, 1953 with few localized exceptions has proven to be the best Maine fishing season for many years.

Brook fishing in the deep holes paid off from the very beginning of April when the legal hour to angle arrived in southern counties. All the way from Sebago to lakes near the Canadian border, early landlocked salmon fishing was something to be remembered. Early in May, while visiting Moosehead and other waters in the region, action was terrific. Executive Councilor Leon Sanborn of Gorham and brother Bryant of West Newbury, Mass., shared in the experience. Landlocks from three to five pounds were ordinary and plentiful instead of "hard to come by." Square-tails were also feeding on the surface and eagerly smashed at our lures. Numerous times during that trip less than an hour's fishing was required to take the limit. Most of these fish were, of course, carefully released unharmed after the party enjoyed one good fish-fry at camp.

Later that week, my twelve year old son Robert arrived on the scene. He had never caught a salmon. Thursday forenoon, his first day, "Bobbie" hooked and played to net seven trout and salmon ranging from one to three pounds. Incidentally, we are all streamer-fly fishermen. Grey Ghost and Red & White Bucktail streamers were used almost entirely.

It would be easy to judge such action as an unusual spring "flurry" if it were not for the fact that fishing equally as fast held up for many weeks all over the State. It was not until the hottest of summer suns arrived that those salmon, trout and togue retreated to deeper waters and
More and more of these Old Lunkers have been brought to net.

Bass fishermen were taking no back seat during these days. Even then the deep trolling fraternity, using minnows, night crawlers, wobblers and a variety of other "dishpan" gear, accounted for more fish than usual during the hot days of July and August.

Bass fishermen were taking no back seat during these days. Washington County waters, the Belgrade Lakes and a number of other southern and coastal spots took top honors from June 1st until late in the season. On three separate occasions during mid-

September, I connected with surprising action using a dry fly. Good sized bronzebacks smashed the deer-hair fly as often and as savagely as they did in June.

In looking back over this and other recent fishing seasons, it is interesting to inspect the records of Maine’s "One That Didn't Get Away Club." Membership in this exclusive group is open to anyone holding a Maine fishing li-
cense who catches a landlocked salmon weighing ten or more pounds, a trout weighing six or more pounds, a black bass weighing five or more pounds, a togue (lake trout) weighing fifteen or more pounds, an Atlantic salmon weighing fifteen or more pounds, or a white perch weighing three pounds or better.

Organized in 1939 "to honor the angler who lands an extra-ordinarily large fish" in Maine, the club lists an imposing number of fishermen who have really landed trophy fish. From the first year in 1939 until 1945, a total of only forty-five disciples of Izaak Walton qualified. From that year on, the roster climbed rapidly. Sixty-four were registered as members in 1949 and sixty-seven more in 1950. The year 1951 saw an all time record of 103 "club" fish listed. Last year's total of ninety-one fish was impressive... but this year, 103 fish have already qualified, equalling the all-time record, and entries are still coming in!

Top fish for 1953 were: Eastern Brook Trout, 6 lb. 15½ oz.; Landlocked Salmon, 11 lb. 8 oz.; Togue, 23 lb. 4 oz.; Black Bass, 7 lb. ½ oz.; Brown Trout, 16 lb. 8 oz.; Rainbow Trout, 8 lbs.; and Atlantic Salmon, 19 lb. 10 oz.

Good hunting conditions existing over the past few days are almost certain to increase Maine's deer kill this year. Should they continue, the influence may be substantial. Opening day for the whitetails (with gun) came on Wednesday, October 21st, in Aroostook, Franklin, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Somerset counties. In all other counties, the legal season with shotgun or rifle started November 2nd. Inland Fish and Game Department officials expect that the kill will exceed last year's figure of 35,171 deer. In 1952, Penobscot, Washington and Hancock counties took top honors in that order for the total number of deer tagged in their respective areas. The season closes statewide on November 30th.

**Bears** have not been showing up as frequently as usual in their regular haunts, according to reports sent in by Inland Fish and Game Wardens from several sections of the State. This does not necessarily mean, however, that the bear population is drastically reduced. These big animals often range over an area of many miles from day to day. There is much concern though in some quarters for the future of Maine's Black Bears. They are not protected at any season of the year, and a bounty is paid to any person who kills one... whether it be a cub or an adult.

An early snow for tracking purposes is even more helpful to the hunters of old Bruin than it is to the nimrod after whitetails. With the arrival of the first freezing weather, Black Bears start to "den up" for the winter. Hollow trees, logs, caves in a hillside, and even under piles of leaves and brush are among their favorite spots. A good soft tracking snow often makes it easy to move in on one of these wily animals while he's out grubbing around for a last feed of beechnuts before his long snooze... or to even surprise him in the den.

The New England Outdoor Writers' Association chose Maine again this year for their Fall gathering and business meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald York, proprietors of Yorks Log Village at Loon Lake in the Rangeley region, were hosts to the group in cooperation with the Rangeley Lakes Publicity Bureau.

Highlights of the successful September 26-27th N. E. O. W. A. session were a trap shooting and firearms demonstration by Steve Stanton of Saco (in which members participated); field trips to various fishing wa-

Writers in the region, and an illustrated discussion of some of Maine’s Inland Fishery and Research Management projects by Dr. W. Harry Everhart, Chief Biologist for Maine’s Department of Inland Fisheries and Game.

* * *

Ducks and geese became legal game once more in Maine at noon on October 9th. Native birds, mostly blacks, were in good supply on inland waters. Gunners who staked their chances on coastal locations did not fare quite so well, however, since the migration of sea ducks had not yet started in earnest. Teal were fairly plentiful in the Merrymeeting Bay area where the usual heavy concentration of hunters started jockeying for position soon after daylight.

At the magic hour, I was deep in the reeds, on the shore of a small fresh water pond by the ocean at Harpswell. “Doc” Dyhrberg, Westbrook, Bill Lane, West Falmouth, and our host, Dan Toothaker, Harpswell, made up the foursome.

Eight of George Soule’s “Coastal” decoy blacks swung gently back and forth before us in a light breeze. A truly perfect afternoon with the fall foliage at its most beautiful . . . we hardly cared whether any birds came in or not. “Doc” and I munched a sandwich and watched the sky. Then they came . . . four big blacks. “Doc” dropped the first one as I missed twice. Dan’s gun roared over on our right, and another bird crumpled.

“Doc” just couldn’t seem to miss that afternoon . . . but I had no trouble in doing it. Bill accounted for his share of birds, and I learned respectfully that whenever eighty-three year old Dan Toothaker’s beautiful Parker Double spoke up . . . it was time to
retrieve a bird! Later in the afternoon as more ducks came along, my self-respect was redeemed. The score: eight blacks, one teal, one coot . . . and best of all, the congenial new friendship of a grand old man in Harpswell.

* * *

HUNTERS! Whether you hunt in Maine or in some other locality this year, PLAY IT SAFE ... FOR YOURSELF AND THE OTHER FELLOW. We printed this list ... The Ten Commandments Of Hunting Safety in PINE CONE last year. These rules are recommended by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute and are still the best we’ve seen.

PLEASE READ AND REMEMBER

1. Treat EVERY gun with the respect due to a LOADED gun. This is the cardinal rule of gun safety.

2. Carry only EMPTY guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp and home.

3. Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.

4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle even if you stumble.

5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.

6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.

7. Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.

8. Never climb a tree or a fence with a loaded gun.

9. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water.

10. Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.

No genuine sportsman EVER will point a gun at another person, nor engage in horseplay with anybody holding a gun—loaded or not.

Accidents often happen because a hunter has just shot at a deer or other game and seeing the bushes move he pulls the trigger before positively identifying his target. ALWAYS be certain that it is game you’re shooting at—even when you’re in the heat of the chase. One man’s life is far more valuable than all the game that might get away.

Maine is one of the safest places in which to hunt because of its vast expanse of wide open spaces. Hunters need never be concentrated in a small area here. This makes Maine a safe State—and LET’S KEEP IT SO!

In Rockland the Junior Chamber of Commerce has undertaken a project to make four guest moorings, to be set out near the public landing next spring. These will be for the use of visiting yachts as an accommodation while stopping at Rockland Harbor.
The progressive spirit of the citizens of the shire town of Somerset County has given a new connotation to the Indians' designation. It boasts of being an industrial, agricultural, trading and vacation center and has the distinction of being the only community so named in the world.

By Richard A. Hebert

The Indians called it "Skowhegan"—which means "A Place To Watch"—and for some 200 years of white settlement the name has been retained with a constantly growing sense of civic pride.

Some years ago, in fact, one of Skowhegan's ardent boosters came up with the thought that it is the only town of its name in the world. Such a promotional tidbit is never overlooked when the many present-day town boosters have occasion to toss off a few thousand well-chosen words to "talk up" the home community.

Especially is this true in the slightly more modern twist that has been given to the meaning of "Skowhegan". The Indians used the word to mean "A place to watch" for fish—salmon, sturgeon and trout—which were speared as they leapt the granite-ledged falls of the Kennebec River at this point.

Community-minded citizens of these later years proudly claim Skowhegan is still "a place to watch"—for civic progress, industrial growth, as a business center, a major highway junction and for some outstanding municipal improvements.

Skowhegan, with about 7,500 population, is the crossroads of U. S. cross-country Route 2 and the principal Maine-Quebec highway, Route 201. It is the central community of an agricultural, small industry and vacation-travel business area of west central Maine, with an effective trading population estimated at more than 30,000 persons. During the months from May to November, the vacation-travel industry swells this area population to an estimated peak of 50 percent more.

An indication as to the credibility of this estimate is shown by the first Summer's operation in 1953 of an Information Center sponsored jointly by the Junior and Senior Chambers of Commerce and the town government. In operation only during July and August, actual count showed 7,700 callers at the Information Center—more than the entire resident population of the town. And experience
Skowhegan is the principal community hub of the County.

shows that only a small proportion of vacation travellers made actual stops for official information at the center.

Skowhegan has had a varied economic history since its first settlers, Peter Heywood and Joseph Weston, established themselves on farm grants from the Kennebec Proprietors in 1771-72. The site they chose was on the west side of the river, three miles below Skowhegan Falls, in what was set off as Canaan Plantation. Canaan was incorporated as Maine’s 57th town in 1788 and the section now known as Skowhegan was set off and incorporated as the Town of Milburn, the 251st town, in 1823. The ancient Indian name of Skowhegan was restored and made official in 1836.

Sections of adjoining Norridgewock and Cornville were annexed to it from time to time and in 1861 the town of Bloomfield, across the river, also was united to it. Skowhegan’s present area of 39,763 acres is larger than the average Maine township.

Rich Kennebec Valley soil on rolling hills and gently sloping, multi-acred fields made the area a choice agricultural section, once the forests had been cleared away. Today, nearly 200 years later, agriculture is still a basically important economic feature of this entire section of southern Somerset County, with Skowhegan, the shire town, as the principal community hub.

A companion activity with agriculture, conforming with the general pattern of inland Maine town development, was lumbering and sawmill activity, with the water power at Skowhegan Falls being harnessed early for
Pulpwood destined for paper product mills further down the Kennebec.

the operation of sawmills, grist mills and pulp and paper production.

An island at the head of the Falls divides the Kennebec River into two channels for a short distance and the first mills were built on the island and the mainland banks to take advantage of the water power on both channels. Around these mills grew the village, still the heart of the township. The water power on both channels is today held by Central Maine Power Company, which established one of its early basic power stations on the site.

As to lumbering and allied activities, Skowhegan is still the center of Kennebec watershed timberland interests and a control point for pulpwood drives destined for paper product mills further down the Kennebec, at Fairfield, Winslow-Waterville and Augusta. Some half-dozen sawmills in the area still ship lumber and special wood products to customers throughout the United States.

Within the past 75 years, however, industrial development, utilizing both water and power, veered into the woolen and worsted fields, with establishment of mills of the American Woolen Company and the Maine Spinning Company as the two principal concerns still in that field. Within the past 30 years, shoe and moccasin production has come along at a rapid pace, with indications that this field is still expanding in the area. United Shoe Machinery Corporation, big gun of the industry nationwide, recently established a service branch in Skowhegan to serve the growing industry.

Among the lesser industries, which include specialty wood products, printing, canning, bottling and several score retail and service establishments, is the Maine headquarters of the American Waterworks Service Company. As the Somerset County seat, Skowhegan also is a central office point for various state and Federal agencies serving the area. A canning plant, three creameries, besides several local dairy establishments and a rapidly-growing poultry industry also add to local employment opportunities, both seasonal and year-round.

Up-to-date evidence of the town's burgeoning economy comes from the nearly two-score new homes under construction; a new F. W. Woolworth Company building, which is to be one of its first self-service stores in New England; a new A. & P. Supermarket; and, in the past few years, a new, locally-owned supermarket, a new department store, renovations to two major retail establishments, a new, drive-in theater, and, just being completed, a de luxe, $100,000 motel.

In the opinion of Town Manager Joseph A. Hill and other civic leaders, "Skowhegan is just starting to grow!" They estimate that some 200 to 300

Nearly two-score new homes under construction.
workers in the town's businesses and industries now live outside of town and would be in the market for Skowhegan homes if they were available. One business and financial leader estimates conservatively that there is a firm demand right now for some 50 new homes and it is likely that this total may be built during the next few years.

Evidence that the townspeople themselves share this optimistic view came in a 1953 town meeting when, without a voice raised in opposition, the town voted to buy the Maine Central Railroad station property in the center of town for a municipal parking lot. Price tag on the deal was $90,000, which also included steel railroad bridge across the Kennebec. This will be used as a footbridge for the present time and eventually may be used as a one-way vehicular bridge to provide rotary traffic access to the center of Skowhegan's business district. Talks are underway with the Maine Highway Commission looking toward this possibility.

As part of the deal, the town transferred to the railroad acreage on the south side of the river for a new terminal, which is now being built—with an eye toward likely industrial sites in the new railroad station area.

Metered parking for 100 automobiles on the former railroad area is expected to be ready during the coming year, with eventual space for some 400 cars—all within a two-minute walk of any store in the business section. Several years are planned for complete development of the parking area, including appropriate landscaping and location of the Official Information Center, which was located this past year next to the Town Hall.

Another forward step taken by the 1953 town meeting was authorization of a Planning Committee, which presently is working on building and zoning ordinances for submission to the voters. Business developments expected on all four sides of the parking lot area, as well as possibilities inherent in the rotary traffic plan and development of the railroad terminal-industrial area, are pointing Skowhegan citizens' thoughts toward sound, long-range planning for the community. Municipal officers also foresee the need for future property revaluation and remapping.

Probably the most outstanding product of sound, but imaginative community planning is Skowhegan's new elementary school building, which is attracting national attention. The result of more than a year of joint planning, study and design by the School Superintendent, the Building Committee set up by the 1952 town meeting and the Alonzo Harriman Associates, Auburn architects, the struc-
Skowhegan's new elementary school building is attracting national attention. Built at a cost of approximately $2.00 per square foot less than the State-wide average figure, it has the most modern features. Soon will be featured in Architectural Forum and national educational publications. Not only is it rated as one of the most scientifically designed schools in the Nation, its basic cost makes it one of the most economical. As against a State-wide average school cost of $12.50 per square foot, it was built at approximately $10.50 per square foot, or a total construction outlay, including built-in equipment, of $164,500.

The new school houses some 350 pupils, from sub-primary through Grade 6. In the language of the dedication booklet, the building "not only embraces the foremost ideas of architectural planning of small schools, but it is also economical and an asset to the community.

"A school building and classroom must also stimulate and challenge children and teachers alike. It must be an awake, lively place, an inducement to forward-looking, up-to-date teaching methods.

"This building . . . is not the same as any other school, for the land it rests on, the position it faces, the children it is to shelter, all have influenced its design."

The new school consists of eight basic classrooms, two kindergarten rooms, a large general purpose room, and associated administration rooms, kitchen and toilets. Kindergartens and first grade rooms have individual toilets also. Each classroom has its own exit door to the play area. This, together with the building's one-story height, gives unequalled fire safety as the building can be emptied much more quickly than any other type of
school. Exit doors to the toilets allow these to be used from the playground area as well as the school itself.

The classrooms themselves have the most modern features, not the least of which is a sink and drinking fountain in each. Perhaps the most advanced classroom feature is the lighting. This is controlled by photo-electric cells, so that the lights are switched on automatically whenever the outside daylight gives too little light in the classroom, or shut off automatically when natural lighting reaches the minimum level.

This feature, together with the white roll-up shades, used when direct sunlight enters the room, is a far cry from the older custom of keeping shades halfway down the window and then using artificial lighting to light the classroom, often inadequately and also often with sunlight glare reflected from floor and desks.

HEATING AND ventilating, under the windows, also is entirely automatic, with a constant supply of fresh air at the desired temperature at all times. Occasional panes of colored glass are used in the kindergarten window walls, for stimulation of young imaginations, as well as for pleasing decorative effect. The separate kindergarten entrance, with its adjacent courtyard, combine to give the youngest children a sense of home and belonging. The multi-purpose room, while primarily a cafeteria-physical education room, can be used for rainy-day recess play, assembly purposes and evening adult meetings.

Color also was an important factor in the new school plans. Both to satisfy every child's love of color and also for the sake of the child's desire for membership and identification with a group or room, accent color is varied between rooms.

"This building is for the child, for his enjoyment and instruction," the booklet continues, and the finished structure bears this out. "It is no civic monument, no dignified, staid composition of brick and marble and granite, but rather a joyful, sparkling and happy building that children can take to and love and enjoy."

This might be said to be the gist of the thinking of the Building Committee members, composed of John Sealey, Jr., chairman; Superintendent Erwin A. Gallagher, secretary; Mrs. Harvey McGuire, Mrs. Brooks Savage, Edward Merrill, 2nd, John Carman, Willard Croteau, Raymond Finley, Lionel Foster, Frank Roderick and Dwight Witham.

Next on Superintendent Gallagher's program is a new high school, for which land already has been purchased. While the present high school building is adequate for now, the current school population of 1,250 is expected to rise to at least 2,000 by 1959. A new high school planning committee will be requested at next year's town meeting. Besides the public grade schools, a parochial school of Notre Dames de Lourdes Church enrolls about 230 pupils from kindergarten to the 8th Grade, who later go to the public high school.

Besides running a school system, the salary scale of which rates near the top for the entire State, Skowhegan also maintains a school bus system for both public and parochial schools which covers some 300 miles of rural roads. A fleet of eight buses travels up to 70,000 miles a year, with an annual budget item set up for a new conveyance replacement each year. An expert crew of mechanics and drivers keeps the buses in tiptop shape at all times.

SKOWHEGAN adopted the town manager system of municipal government, with a governing body of seven selectmen, in 1944. Until the new elementary school was voted in 1952, the town's funded debt had been pared down to $7,000. With the new elementary school and the parking lot project, the town debt has gone up to $270,000, still way below the statutory debt limit, with provision for payment in ten years. The acid test of the town's credit rating was met when the local savings bank did not hesitate to loan the town the funds for both the new school and the parking lot project.

As summarized by one municipal leader, Skowhegan's civic policy, as expressed in recent official actions, is
Agriculture is still a basically important economic feature of this entire section.

to keep ahead of the town's problems, not merely abreast; to keep the town attractive; to keep building it up; to keep it a good place in which to live and raise families; and by doing all these things to attract new business and industry.

Not the least of the town's assets is the pool of skilled, highgrade labor, both in Skowhegan and surrounding towns, most of whom own their own homes. For years the American Woolen Company mills at Skowhegan, producing mostly high grade women's suitings, have been reputed in the industry as among the most efficient and productive of that combine's units.

The Maine Spinning Company, in producing worsted yarns, has employed a two-shift force steadily for years and is completing a new machinery installation program planned to make it the most modern factory of its type in the world. Among its latest products are floor mops and fish lines. Norwock Shoe Company, V-B Shoe Company and Skow Moccasins, Inc., utilize some of the area's leather product skills, while a new firm, the Skowhegan Box Company, currently is employing some 40 workers in making shoe boxes.

Steady industrial and business growth of the past 75 years has had its effect in changing the population complexion of Skowhegan, with an ever-increasing percentage of French-Canadians and their second generation, native-born descendants, now estimated at nearly 50 per cent of the population. A new $250,000 brick, limestone and granite Notre Dame de Lourdes Church was dedicated last year, replacing a 65-year-old church destroyed by fire in 1946.

This year, the Centenary Methodist Church observed its 125th anniversary. Other churches serving Skowhegan are the Federated (Congregational and Baptist), the Bethany Baptist Church, the First Church Nazarene and the Episcopal All Saints Mission Church. The Christian Science Society also maintain reading rooms and services.

With the rise of the Maine vacation-travel industry, especially during the past 30 years, Skowhegan has grown as an important center of recreational activity. Only a few miles away, on Lake Wesserunsett, Lakewood, in the town of Madison, has become a nationally-famous summer resort, with a summer theater attracting the most famous stars of Broadway and Hollywood. Nine other cabin colonies and motels, including
The Maine Spinning Company.

One of American Woolen's two plants.
The Skowhegan State Fair is the blue ribbon event of its kind.

the new, de luxe development mentioned previously, cater to summer travelers. Lake Wesserunsett also is the site of the new Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, recently established by the Zorachs of New York, with a distinguished faculty.

The Skowhegan State Fair, held annually in August, is the blue ribbon event of its kind in Maine—and the oldest, having passed its 134th year. Its “Miss Maine” Contest winner goes to the “Miss America” pageant in Atlantic City.

It is customary for many vacationers to spend their entire stay in Maine in the cabins and cottages in the Skowhegan area, visiting the many scenic places in the region and enjoying the fishing, swimming and boating on the many nearby lakes and ponds. Being on the “Canada road,” travel through Skowhegan to and from Quebec and across the State along Route 2, brings many visitors from Canada and the Mid-West.

Alert businessmen in the area note Skowhegan’s strategic location for visitors from these places going to such famous resort areas as Bar Harbor, Moosehead Lake, Rangeley Lakes and the White Mountains. The new Bar Harbor-Nova Scotia ferry, destined to begin next year also is expected to produce a considerable boom in vacation travel through Skowhegan.

Skowhegan has given many notable citizens to the world, including Governor Abner Coburn in 1863 and three Congressmen, Stephen Coburn, Samuel W. Gould and Forrest Goodwin. It has produced artists, writers, musicians, missionaries, lawyers, doctors and businessmen of more than local or State fame.

But its most distinguished contemporary citizen is U. S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith, first woman to be elected to that office in the history of the country. A parade and civic reception in her honor recently was noted locally as a symbol for the growing spirit of community unitedness.

As the Indians said, Skowhegan is “A Place to Watch.” And as the semi-weekly Independent Reporter carries on its banner: “There are eleven Bostons, many Londons, but only one Skowhegan.”

A number of new highway signs have been erected by the Maine State Police along Route 1 between Yarmouth and Winterport. These carry the seal of the Maine State Police and the message “Drive Carefully.” To make sure that the message of the signs receives not only attention but also compliance, members of Troop D will perform foot duty along some of these signs, at some time of each day, in periods of thirty minutes at a time, observing passing drivers, counting the flow of traffic and reporting to Thomaston barracks any violations noted. This use of the signs and the dismounted duty assigned to some of the troopers is on an experimental basis at present.
By Ruth Harvey

The fleeting hours of lazy summer days have gone down time-burnished trails into the never-never land of happy memories. The spectacular days of autumn are passing swiftly too. A rampage of color strides through the fields and over the hilltops—and then it is gone—leaving a carpet of crackling leaves.

Pine Tree Clubs

A new season approaching, with its new activities... Down in Washington, D.C., the following officers have been elected by the State of Maine Society for the coming season: President, Hon. Clifford G. McIntire; Vice Presidents, Lt. Col. T. E. Lewin, Lloyd Stover, and Mrs. Charlotte Drinkwater; Director of Public Relations (a new office created at the last annual meeting), Dorothy L. Bigelow; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mildred Dort; Treasurer, Louis Knowles; and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. Clark Noble.

Maine folks who wish to become members of the Maine State Society in Washington may join now by paying three dollars dues which will cover the rest of the current calendar year and the year 1954. Mrs. W. Clark Noble, 1736 Columbia Road, N. W. (Tel. HObart 2-7287), is chairman of the Membership Committee.

Word of an organization in New York City of which I had not previously heard has just come to my attention. It is a group that calls themselves the New Englanders. They are an organized club whose purpose is to give yearly scholarships to deserving young students entering college. Their main fund-raising event is held in October and at the present time is in the form of a barn dance and bazaar. Booths are set up representing the various states and the committees in charge of these booths collect products representative of their particular state. If you live or work in New York City and would like to know more about this club, the President is Mrs. Belmira N. Miranda of 608 W. 135 Street, New York, 31; and the Secretary is Mrs. Georgianna Werner of 526 142 Street, New York, 31.

Winter Reading

The early dusk of fall and winter evenings bring an abrupt cessation of our favorite outdoor activities, and we must needs find other forms of relaxation. I for one like to don com-
fortable slacks and settle down with a book and a plump red apple. I believe the usual procedure is to “curl up in one’s fireside armchair”; but a drop-in visitor is more apt to find me stacked up in the chair sidewise or even almost upside down! Comfort, like contentment is where one finds it.

I always like to know what our Maine authors are doing, and two new books on my current list for a pleasant evening of reading are John Gould’s “The Fastest Hound Dog in the State of Maine,” and Ruth Moore’s “A Fair Wind Home.” The former is a hilarious, salty, down-east fable written in the deadpan humorous style for which Mr. Gould is noted. Miss Moore, the author of “Spoon-handle,” writes her first historical novel, a story of 18th century America, which according to the New York Herald Tribune review “recaptures the living quality of the time. An unusually good novel.”

Light reading for an evening of reminiscing on the “good old days” could easily be the little booklet by a former resident of Lubec, Grace Mahlman Drew, which is entitled, “My Recollections of the Silent Movies.” Mrs. Drew was employed as pianist and organist for 20 years in the theaters of Rochester, New York, during the days of the silent movies. Her recollections should be many and varied.

For more serious reading, what could be nicer than the new publication of the Macmillan Company, a selection of poems concerning Maine places and people by one of the State’s most distinguished poets, Edwin Arlington Robinson. The book is “Tilsbury Town: Selected Poems of Edwin Arlington Robinson,” and it is edited and has an introduction and notes by Lawrence Thompson, Professor of English and American Literature at Princeton and an author of repute himself. Many of the Tilsbury Town poems are familiar to readers of Robinson’s work, but heretofore have been isolated and scattered throughout some 1400 pages of Robinson’s “Collected Poems.”

Another book just published by Houghton Mifflin is “My Seven Steeples,” a story about Maine written by a resident who has lived and worked in intimate contact with the daily lives of some of Maine’s people. Ten years ago Margaret Henrichsen was left a widow alone and faced with the necessity for making a new life. For years she had been devoted to the church, and this book is her story of becoming pastor and friend to the parishioners of seven churches in the so-called Sullivan circuit of Maine.

Don’t be misled into thinking this is a religious book. Mrs. Henrichsen doesn’t preach God (except possibly in her Sunday sermons)— she lives with God as do all her flock. As one of them once said to her, “Nobody couldn’t live here and watch these tides day in and day out and not know somebody was in charge of things.” Here’s a story you’re sure to enjoy, done in an easy style with all the humor and pathos of real life right there in black and white. Incidentally, “Life” Magazine liked it so well that they devoted a goodly portion of their October 19th issue to a digest of the book with a representative selection of illustrations by Maine’s Kosti Ruohomaa.

Now, this bit of information forthcoming may cause some of my male readers to chuckle at the peculiar ways of women, but we girls know there’s no better reading in the world than a cookbook (unless you’re a highbrow—and go in for reading dictionaries). Another point that might be taken into consideration—reading a cookbook is one of the easiest ways I know of to cook. It’s amazing how much I enjoy tasting the intricate concoctions I have mixed and rolled and patted and baked, all from fine black printer’s ink!

I have, however, digressed. The book I wanted to tell you about is a new edition of the State of Maine’s best Seafood Recipes which has just been published by the Maine Development Commission in cooperation with the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries. Contained within its pages, which are illustrated in color, are time-tried and true recipes, handed down through the generations, for all of Maine’s delectable denizens of the deep. Would you like...
a copy? Then write the Maine Development Commission at Augusta or the Maine Publicity Bureau at Portland. They have them for free.

**LET'S EAT**

WHILE WE'RE on the subject of lobsters—well, we were not, precisely, but speaking of seafoods brings to mind that queen of the sea—there's a concern in Portland called Downeaster Incorporated, at 487 Commercial Street. They freeze lobsters in fancy dress—lobster pie, lobster stew and lobster royale. Just a few evenings ago I tried the lobster pie, and now I can scarcely wait to try the others, it was that good. I don't know how far afield the firm markets, but their display at the recent exhibit of Maine products at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, evoked a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of visitors. Some had tried these products, and all who hadn't were eager to know where they could be obtained. If your grocer doesn't already, I predict that he will be stocking these items soon.

Another firm in Portland which has come out with frozen shellfish specialties is Bill's Lobster Pound at 280 West Commercial Street. Some people don't like lobsters, and for them Bill's has Maine clam cakes and Maine fried clams frozen in convenient meal size packages, which take just a few minutes to heat, and there you have them!

Then, down the coast at Round Pond, there is the Down East Seafood Company which asserts that "Anyone can make a clambake." All you need do, at the start, is to order the essentials—the lobsters, clams, and the all-important rockweed—which will be shipped to you via Railway Express with guaranteed delivery at a specified date up to 1800 miles. Complete instructions are included as to what to do and what you'll need besides, and then with a little labor of love you will have an old fashioned Maine clambake for any size group from eight to one hundred people.

One of the brightest memories of my childhood summertimes is the eager anticipation and exciting expectancy attendant upon one of our summer colony clambakes on the shores of Penobscot Bay. But I have no doubt that you could have just as much enjoyment from a clambake in your own backyard in a city suburb. Try it sometime and see.

**PARSONS LIBRARY**

WE ARE indebted to Mary Carpenter Kelley of Alfred for the following:

On October 6th, the Parsons Memorial Library at Alfred (PINE CONE, AUTUMN, 1950) celebrated its 50th anniversary. This building of beautiful Alfred granite was given to the town of Alfred by George Parsons of Kennebunk and the Rev. John Parsons of Brookline, Massachusetts, in memory of their parents and of their brother. The forebears of the donors, William Parsons and his son, William, were among the earliest inhabitants of Alfred.

From time to time the Parsons Memorial Library has been the recipient of many valuable gifts. Among them is a leather-bound copy of the Original Proprietors' Records of Phillips Town, the first name of the Town of Sanford. The originals of these records are now owned by the Maine Historical Society, but the Alfred copy has maps and Indian signatures put in by hand. Its autographs include those of Sir William Pepperell, John Alden, Thomas Salter, and Samuel Adams.

The library has also a volume of tax receipts for moneys distributed in 1836 to citizens of the town from the Government Surplus after the War of 1812, $1.33 to each person. It has too the family Bibles of Alfred's illustrious John Holmes, chairman of the committee which drew up the Constitution of the State of Maine in 1820, and of Justice Daniel Goodenow of the Supreme Judicial Court.

**BOOTHBAY TO BELGIUM**

EAST BOOTHBAY is one of our pretty little coastal villages. It is also a town where sturdy Maine sea craft are built. Last month at Boston, an East Boothbay-built minesweeper, the
The Maine State Police Force, as part of the Publicity Bureau's informational network, has become known as the best informed law enforcement agency in the country.

AMS-103, was transferred to the Kingdom of Belgium following commissioning ceremonies at the Boston Naval Shipyard. The minesweeper was built at Hodgdon Bros.-Goudy and Stevens shipyards and is the fourth to be transferred to Belgium at the Boston Naval Shipyard under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program. Just another instance of Maine's continuing leadership in the world of ships and the sea.

More Publicity

Alice Easton, Institutional Food Consultant for H. A. Johnson Co., manufacturers and distributors of food products and equipment in Boston, gives high praise to two Maine restaurants in a recent edition of Bestovall News, Johnson house organ. Miss Easton speaks of the High Tide Tea Room in Camden where, when the lobster stew is served, the waitress places a bread board and knife in the center of the table with a small loaf of warm home-made bread. Any of the loaf that is not eaten is given to the diner to take home!

The other Maine restaurant praised by Miss Easton is one which has been mentioned previously in this column—the County Fair at Damariscotta. County Fair is operated by Frank Grinnell and his wife, who as Hazel Young authored the cookbooks "A Working Girl Must Eat."

For Art Lovers

The University of Maine in Orono has recently announced its program of exhibitions for late 1953 and 1954 at the University of Maine Art Gallery located in Carnegie Hall. The gallery is open free to the public as
well as to the students and faculty of the college. All exhibitions presented are of original works, with special attention given to artists living or working in Maine. The exhibitions are arranged by Professor Vincent A. Hartgen, Head of the Art Department, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

Maine exhibitors in November and December include: Leo Meissner, Monhegan, wood engravings and drawings; Eunice Utterback, Brewer, watercolors; and Gardner Roberts, Portland, photographs.

FOR VISITORS

HERE’S SOMETHING to make your travels in Maine more enjoyable during the fall and winter months. For the past twelve years, the Maine Publicity Bureau has maintained a summertime network of information offices throughout the State in cooperation with local chambers of commerce, boards of trade, etc. Beginning in October of this year, the Bureau’s Information Extension Program went on a year-round basis with regular bulletins to all information offices staying open through the year. These together with the six offices of the Publicity Bureau and every member of the Maine State Police force will make a total of more than 200 official travel information outlets here in the Pine Tree State during the winter months. Now you can ask questions ‘most anywhere and get an official answer!

So, won’t you come and see us? Anytime!

THE FOOD packed by Maine canneries last year, if shipped out of the State entirely by rail, would require enough cars to form a giant train stretching 18 miles from engine to caboose. John W. Gault, Maine representative of the American Can Company, reports that the State’s packers produced about 7,488,000 cases of vegetables, fruits, soups, meats, fish and other items in 1952. On the basis of 3,600 cases for each carload, last year’s pack would fill 2,080 freight cars—the equivalent of an 18-mile long train. Fish, principally sardines, herring and clams, constituted the major pack. Vegetables were second in importance with sweet corn accounting for nearly half the total. Another popular product was blueberries, of which approximately 600,000 cases were canned last year. Popular products among the “non-seasonal” foods packed in Maine are dry beans, Indian pudding, brown bread, spaghetti and macaroni.

* * *

THE PORCUPINE Islands and Bar Harbor’s Municipal Pier will be the pictorial background for a national program of automobile advertising. George C. McKay, Jr., Bar Harbor photographer, has been commissioned by the N. W. Ayer advertising agency of Philadelphia to take pictures of the Bar Harbor waterfront. According to the Philadelphia firm, the advertising artists will copy the well known harbor with a new model Plymouth in the foreground. The advertisement will appear in several thousand newspapers and magazines throughout the country.
Fish the Fish River Chain

While fishing in what he terms “the best landlocked salmon waters in the world,” Owen discovers that the big fish are all right for the records but the prime five pounders are tops for the sportsman.

By Owen M. Smith

Wham! A salmon hits your pearl wobbler and we really mean hits—for it's another big one! Last time it was the 9-3 streamer that took the beating. Next time it will be a flatfish, for you’re trying everything—and producing up in the Fish River country.

Probably you know it like a book—the Fish River Chain, located up there only a few miles from Fort Kent, top of Maine, on the northern edge of the great Aroostook potato country. In fact, on several of the lakes you can see the potato fields patched onto the side of the neighboring hills.

But when you get home and start showing those snapshots, one will want to study a map in order to get the feel of the area, for there are eight lakes in the chain, seven of them flowing into Eagle Lake. Big Fish, Portage and St. Froid flow in from the southwest, more or less, while Long, Mud, Cross and Square bring their waters down to Eagle from the northeast. Eagle lets this medley of waters mix with its own and then pours them down into the St. John River at Fort Kent where they will separate the United States from Canada.

You'll probably explain that while Eagle Lake is the focal point of two watersheds, it is Square Lake that's the hot spot for fishing—Square Lake surrounded by forests with only the waterways and the sky to bring in the fisherman. In fact, you'll probably say Square is the best landlock salmon lake in the world!

If you do, be ready to duck, or back up that statement! For Long Lake, head of the chain, will claim the biggest fish. East Grand Lake, farther south and east, will step right up and challenge even Long Lake on the score of big fish. Sebago down near Portland, original home of the landlock salmon, will remind you of those two giant fish caught in one day, weighing 31½ and 35½ pounds, and one wishes that there were such a thing as “officially registered” back in 1893. Today, Sebago is still producing some mighty fine salmon fishing. Moosehead and the Rangeley—oh, you've stirred up quite an argument on a pretty touchy subject. But just keep on fishing Square!

Perhaps it has been a long time since you've fished all the lakes in the Fish River Chain with their connecting thoroughfares (which we'd call streams most anywhere else). If so, you'll want to get down “The Fisherman's Guide to Maine,” by Earle Doucette,* and turn to pages 155-166, and he'll take you step by step, or paddle by paddle, the length of the chain. But let's just get a fisherman pilot's quick view of each water.

Big Fish has no smelts; therefore, no salmon. Trout, yes. And it's the only lake of the eight with togue and white fish. Don't forget the brook trout fishing in her tributaries, or you'll be missing something for the flyrod and frying pan!

*Published by Random House.
All of the other seven lakes in the chain flow into beautiful Eagle Lake.

Portage, a summer resort, is not rated as highly as the others, in spite of the fact that every now and then someone comes in with a trout up to 3 pounds. The town of Portage is located on Route #11 above Ashland.

St. Froid has both trout and salmon, as do all the rest of the lakes in the entire chain. Its salmon do not run large, but in late May and June you can strike some fast action. On its thoroughfare to Eagle, it's likely you'll pick up fish too.

Eagle is the lake beautiful of them all. The Michaud Eagle Lake Camps located on a birch knoll is one of those picture book fishing camps. Eagle Lake above Portage, on Route #11 and the railroad, has some good fishing. In the 5 mile thoroughfare to Square Lake you'll find plenty of chance to work out your flyrod and warm up your spinning reels and wobblers. The fishing can be excellent there in the spring.

Square is classified by the American Airlines as one of the hundred best fishing waters in the world. Many sportsmen who should know call her the best landlock salmon lake there is. A man and his daughter, one memorable afternoon, caught two trout, squaretails, my friend, weighing 7 pounds and 7 1/4 pounds. Today a 4 pound trout is a mighty big one. No one will say what is the biggest salmon Square Lake has produced, but there is one in the main lodge at Fraser's Inlet Camps that was taken in the pool in front of the camp on a 4 1/2 ounce Thomas rod with a Supervisor streamer fly that weighs 15 lbs., 4 oz.

In Square Lake, as in the rest of the Fish River Chain, the best fishing is usually early May through to
late June. In addition, Square Lake has its famous bar fishing—when the nymphs start hatching on the mile-long bar out in the middle of the lake, and the fish come in to gobble them up, that’s about the fastest fishing you’ll find, and it usually occurs during a few days in the June 15-25 period. The fish ordinarily are not large. Fly casting—spinning and trolling—the fish will take anything that’s moving when they’re on their feeding spree.

July is the time of the deep troll, when you’ll have to go down with the hardware and weighted line. In August the fishing slows down. The cool weather of early September cools the water and the fish begin feeding on the surface again. From then until the season closes, September 30th, is usually another good fishing period.

The thoroughfare from Square to Cross is about three quarters of a mile long, but when the ice is first out in the early spring it produces the most exciting fly fishing you can imagine. Sportsmen come back year after year to fish these waters.

Cross is not so popular as Square, possibly because it is so easily reached by car on Route #161. Just the same, this June 1 saw Gerry Wheeler and his wife from Rutland, Vermont, bring in a 3½ and a 4¾ pound salmon when Square Lake just refused to produce. Best time to hit it is in the spring—hottest spot is said to be in the mouth of the thoroughfare that comes in from Mud Pond.

Mud Pond, which is a nice lake and not a mud pond, used to produce some of the biggest fish in the chain, but for some reason has fallen down during the last decade. There are all kinds of theories for this fall from grace,
but one of the best is the eel grass infestation. Not that there aren’t still some good fish taken from Mud. But it’s not Mud Lake but the thoroughfare from Mud to Cross that makes sportsmen’s memories bounce!

Long is the T shape lake at the top of the chain. Route #162 goes to Sinclair, with its amazing houses facing the thoroughfare that remind you of Venice. The big fish push ever upstream until they reach this lake, and having found its waters find them good. Only one lake can challenge the size of the fish caught there—East Grand Lake. As you’d expect, they’re not easy to catch, but when one hits you may really have one for the net and the book. You’ve always been shooting to break the Museum of Natural History record salmon taken from there, scaled in officially at 20 lbs., 7 oz.

So we have skimmed the fishing of the waters of the Fish River Chain, from ice out to October 1st, not forgetting the neglected brook fishing of this great area, and especially not forgetting the September fishing when both trout and salmon are at the peak of their size and beauty.

Clint Fraser, bronzed experienced guide, son of Gordon, and I sat watching the September northern lights, and discussing material for this PINE CONE article. “One more thing,” Clint said, “I think fishermen have a mistaken idea about big fish. They’re not the real fighters—give me a five pounder!” He waited for my query, “Why?” “Because a five pound salmon and a two pound trout are fish at their best. Like mature fighters in the ring, they’re experienced and in their prime. Now these big fish, 10, 15, yes, even 20 pound salmon, are fat and overweight. They’re all right for the records but they’re like fat, overweight old men. They may bring a lot into the ring but that isn’t what it takes to put up a terrific battle.

“Delicious 8 and 10 inch brook trout for the pan; big beautiful squaretails; one and two pound salmon you don’t even count; three and four pounders that are magnificent; the five pounders that are tops; and those big record busters. We’ve got them all up here in the Fish River Chain! Come and get them!”

AUTUMN, 1953
marginalia

A housewife on a holiday, a well-known editor, a beekeeper, a woman jurist, a mother of seven, a sculptor, a grandmother, a businessman, a woods guide... what strange phase of the moon brought these widely diversified types together? What odd enchantment enfolds them all? The answer is simple and mysterious: the magic of words. This Walpurgis festival of words is the Writers' Conference and each summer, dale and glen echo with the incantations of a curious tribe of soothsayers, those semantic seers who weave a web of words around reality, practise the witch-craft of imagination and travel past, present and future via that most reliable of all time machines, the typewriter.

Far-fetched? Not at all. That housewife is a well-paid feature article writer, the editor turns out one of finest regional magazines in the country, the beekeeper writes poetry, and so it goes. The cast varies, the scene changes, but the play on words goes on summer after summer.

One of the most interesting of the word fests is the annual Maine Writers' Conference held each August at Ocean Park under the aegis of Adelbert M. Jakeman, Superintendent of the Ocean Park Assembly and Loring Eugene Williams, editor of American Weave, co-founder of the Conference. The Maine Conference grows richer in content and attendance each succeeding year and this last August saw such familiar names as Eric P. Kelly, Richard Merrifield, Alexander Williams, Adelbert Jakeman, Loring Williams, Adelaide Field, Lew Dietz, Doris Ricker Marston, Bill Harris, Harold Gleason, Charles Rawlings, Betty Finnen, Ann Campbell, yours truly and many others heading the various panels and forums.

If you write, if you would like to write or if you just like to see and hear writers tick (and talk) then you positively must circle these dates on next year's calendar, August 25, 26 and 27th. The 14th Maine Writers' Conference, 1954, is highly recommended.

WRITERS' CRAMP

A story is a lovesome thing, God wot!
A plot,
A scheme,
A lot
Of theme;
The veriest fool
Can write, but you'll
Agree 'tis all for naught
Unless you sit upon a stool
And write. Rather than with words bedight
I'd lief be President than write.

Dan Kelly
Book End
Augusta, Maine
The Fog Around Us
The fog moved in upon us unaware,
Wrapping us weirdly with its cold, damp air,
In silence sealed our eyes and chilled our lips,
Its lingering frayedness touched our fingertips.
We huddled there though we could hardly trace
The well-known contours of each other's face,
Helpless until the fog should set us free,
Unwilling prisoners in a maze of sea.
All that we knew was somehow set amiss
As though there were no other world than this.

ESTHER J. JUDKINS

Rangeley Lakes
High in the hills each dawn wakes over
Range after range where the trees march down
All of the way to a meadow clover Where patches of heaven wear lakes for a crown.

SARAH BRIDGE GRAVES

Ayuh
You need no pines, no rockbound coast,
No Yankee weathervane; A simple pointed, plain "Ayuh" Will tell you, you're in Maine.

MICHAEL SCRIPPS

Golden Touch
The green lace dress
The white birch tree
Wore summer days
Has suddenly
Been turned to gold.
King Midas might
Have come and touched it in the night.

CATHARINE CATES

Sundown
In summer the day bursts into
A Roman candle of evening Like a small boy, reluctant to
Surrender to his bed, But the winter day passes
Quietly into night Like an old man drowsing Into sleep.

INA LADD BROWN

Conundrum
I have not one but many faces. I smile not when I seem to smile. I move alone through crowded places Yet I am listening the while.

You own me but I am not yours. There are deep caverns in my mind. I hide behind a thousand doors, More than you will ever find.

BEATRICE OAKES

Eastern Sky
Spruce In endless array Shoot steeple tops To gray of eastern sky. Blue gray packs of sheep wool Form Like hunch back mountain.

YVONNE FLORENCE

Country Town
I'd rather live in a country town Where life is a "party line," Where my business is everyone's And everyone's business is mine. I'd rather live in a country town And sit on the porch and chat About the weather and garden crops And the Johnson's latest spat. I'd rather live in a country town Where each farmer tills his sod, Where one grows close to his neighbors And closer to his God.

GENEVA MARIE FROST
Island Visit

The loneliness of all the earth
And sadness found in death or birth
Were on this island in the sea
In close and fearful company.

Complaining gulls on rock and reef
Were symbols of a living grief
Where fires once kept hearthstone warm
And trees were brave against the storm.

A schooner's bones upon the ledge
And buildings at the water's edge
Let wind and rain assert their ways
Throughout the wild and empty days.

Yet here where no one seemed to care
Was beauty more than I could bear.

Compensation

I would not wish for endless summer time,
I would not grieve for flowers that are dead.
The grass is diamonded with frosty rime,
It takes the frost to turn the maples red.

Mistress Autumn

My titian-haired beauty now stands and sways
before the frosty mirror
plucking idly at her hair.

Reginald E. Carles

Sea Sleep

The moon grew tired of the sea
And sent it back to land.
The sea fell wearily ashore
And slept on sand.

Patricia M. R. King

Jason

Jason leans upon the plow and gazes at the stars,
He mends the pasture fence and dreams of masts and spars.
Where did this farmer's son whose only family ties
Lie with the land get those wind-swept, sea-filled eyes?

Eight years he worked and dreamed by lantern light and moon
Out in the old deserted barn. "Crazy as a loon."
The neighbors said, but Jason dreamed of Samarkand
And built a thirty-footer sailing boat by hand.

Dee Scribner

Mending Day

Humility is the keynote of the morning,
The grasses quiver as their seedy tops bend low,
The trees, now heavy with the weight of summer fullness
Accept with acquiescence the cool, caressing touch,
It is a healing morning,
Without wind, or storm, or heat of blazing sun.
I think I'll sit and sew
And mend the ragged edges
Of my days.

Florence Kimball

A Leaf

This is the shape of a leaf
God and an ounce of chlorophyll,
Wept into a summer tree
When the heart of it was still.

Marion Schoeberlein

Winter Peace

The frozen brook is now at ease
Her peace is made with winter's storm
Quiet she lies in her ivory tomb
And trees let fall a snowy tear
Remembering sounds they cannot hear.

Don Conant

THE PINE CONE
Dear PINE CONE Reader:

If you read this issue carefully you may have noticed Vol. 9, No. 3, inscribed on the inside front cover. This is simply a publisher's device to denote that it was nine years ago that the magazine came into being.

During these nine years, we have endeavored to bring you a word-picture story of some of the highlights that go toward making up this grand State of Maine. We hope that we have achieved some measure of success in this endeavor.

Now, it is with the greatest reluctance, that we are forced to suspend publication of the PINE CONE with this, the Autumn, 1953 issue. The decision was not an easy one, nor one that we wished to make, but circumstances left no alternative. The PINE CONE is, in a word, a victim of rising production costs.

We at the Maine Publicity Bureau, as publishers, would like to pay tribute to the many people who have helped to make the PINE CONE possible over the past nine years.

The list would be almost endless but certainly include: Dick Hebert who, as editor for the first seven years, gave much time and effort 'over and above' his 9 to 5 day getting the magazine started; the Kennebec Journal Print Shop, Augusta, for the fine printing of the book; the Waterville Sentinel Engravers, Waterville, for the excellence of the engravings; all of the contributors who have so generously lent their talents and finally you, our subscribers, who have loyally supported the PINE CONE.

We cordially invite each of our readers, particularly those from out-of-state, to keep in touch with us here at the Maine Publicity Bureau at Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine. We are, and will continue to be, at your service at any time.

GUY P. BUTLER
Executive Manager

WILLIAM A. HATCH
Editorial Manager

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Autumn Scene

By Edna A. Hurd

Wild flame across the hills from frosty morn to morn;
Rich black furrows turned; earth open to the sun;
Side-hills a harvest picture, neat-bound shocks of corn;
Cider and firelight and old books when day is done;
And in late Autumn from infinity
The first cloud-clippings falling silently.