12-1-1961

Maine Developments, December 1961

Maine Department of Economic Development

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalmaine.com/decd_docs

Recommended Citation
https://digitalmaine.com/decd_docs/90

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Economic and Community Development at Digital Maine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Economic and Community Development Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Maine. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.
IN THEM THAR HILLS

Diamond drilling in the Blue Hill area of Penobscot County indicates a gross proven value of copper and zinc ores of $3.4 million, with a potential of $9 million or more, in the area.

This prediction was made to Governor John B. Reed by Charles D. Robbins, president of Black Hawk Mining Ltd. of Montreal when the governor made a personal tour of the boring site at the edge of Second Pond, recently.

Robbins said his company has spent $40,000 in operations and that another $200,000 would be required to explore the area completely. He said that an ore concentrating plant might be constructed within two years which would provide employment for 100.

FACE LIFTING

Maine communities are becoming increasingly alert to opportunities for self-improvement, according to Sulo Tani, director of the DED Research and Planning Division. Something like 58 of them now are engaged in various phases of 701 Programs through which federal, state and local funds are employed to get the facts upon which improvement plans can be made and carried out.

Here are some of the activities in which the Division directly is engaged in an advisory or supervisory capacity, or as the sole agency:

In addition to the fifty-odd 701 community programs, Area Redevelopment Administration projects in Washington and York Counties; Regional Programs involving the Greater Portland and the Knox County areas; a detailed and comprehensive planning study of the Penobscot Bay - Mt. Desert Planning Area.

And in cooperation with the University of Maine, Bowdoin College and the Maine Forestry Service, and utilizing Small Business Administration funds; studies relative to the Economic Potential of Particle Board Manufacture in Maine; the use of Maine lumber by Maine Building Trades; Labor Procurement Practises of Maine Business and Industry with Respect to Maine High School and College Graduates, and Financing Small Business in Maine.

A factual resource study of Industrial and Recreational Potentials of the West Central Maine Area was published in November and revision of a similar study of the southwestern area is under way. Development Resources of the Central Kennebec Valley and of the Penobscot Region have been published.

ANOTHER FIRST

The Maine Municipal Association's monthly publication MAINE TOWNSMAN won First Place in the nation-wide municipal magazine competition at the American Municipal Congress, held in Seattle this year.

Maine: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Shortly after accepting his appointment to be Commissioner of Economic Development, Lloyd K. Allen instigated a preliminary five-point analysis of the Maine economy, with tentative programs for its development. Now, approximately two years later, he reviews the record, as follows:

POINT ONE: We should take inventory to determine whether sufficient factual data is available for presentation to prospective new industries, and whether our communities are receiving the information necessary for adequate planning for population growth and industrial and recreational expansion.

"As I see it today, our factual data on the State of Maine and its communities, thanks to several studies and surveys, is more than adequate. And this information substantiates my belief that Maine can offer certain opportunities for expanding industries and for recreational investment which cannot be excelled anywhere."

POINT TWO: Concerned a re-evaluation of the program for the solicitation of new industry for Maine.

"This has been a period of great change and we have had to re-evaluate our program many times in order to keep abreast of the shifts in industrial plant location policies. Our greatest opportunity today is in seeking broad acceptance of the concept of diversification of industries and, even more important, in assisting existing industries to expand right here in their home State of Maine. The Legislature has endorsed this program by providing the means for two additional staff members to promote home industry and we are confident that increased job opportunities for our Maine labor force will result.

POINT THREE: Emphasized more and better vocational training for Maine youth.

"If there has been a failure in any of the five major points, this would be it. The demand for skills is becoming more imperative every day, not only in Maine but nationwide. We are convinced that increased capacities and efficiencies in our vocational-educational system are basic to Maine's industrial growth and we shall continue to press for improvement."

POINT FOUR: "There still is plenty of growth potential in Maine for resorts, ski areas, modern sporting camps, winter vacation resorts, camping sites, salt water fishing, and we have had to re-evaluate our program many times in order to keep abreast of the shifts in industrial plant location policies. Our greatest opportunity today is in seeking broad acceptance of the concept of diversification of industries and, even more important, in assisting existing industries to expand right here in their home State of Maine. The Legislature has endorsed this program by providing the means for two additional staff members to promote home industry and we are confident that increased job opportunities for our Maine labor force will result."

With The Promotion Divisions

RECREATIONAL

INDUSTRIAL

Maine gained 3,540 new jobs and an increase in industrial property valuation of $203 million during the first nine months of 1961, James R. Pelletier, Director, DED Industrial Division, reported. The location of 17 new firms and expansions among 22 existing plants added more than 1 million square feet to Maine manufacturing space during the three-quarter period.

The acquisitions and expansions were spread among 13 of the 16 counties, from Aroostook and Washington to York. The new firms represent a variety of products including garments, shoes, light metals, food processing and marine and wood products.

The pulp and paper industry accounted for the lion's share of expansions, mone-

Modernization and expansion began by four paper companies totalled $14,750,000. Expansions occurred also among firms manufacturing shoes, garments, woolens, metals, printing and processed foods.

During the period nine firms ceased operation, with a loss of 1,080 industrial jobs. More than half the job loss was accounted for by closing of the Continental Mill in Lewiston, a textile firm producing greige goods. Four of the closings were the result of plant destruction by fire.

With The Promotion Divisions

RECREATIONAL

INDUSTRIAL

Here are some of the stimulants being formulated for the Maine Vacation Travel Industry as a result of the 100th Maine Legislature's prescription of more funds for this purpose, according to Robert O. Elliot, Director, DED Recreation Promotion Division.

For the first time in half a dozen years, publication of a major booklet on Maine vacations, to have 32 pages in full color; 250,000 copies to be ready for mailing about January 1, in response to mail inquiries from an expanded national space advertising campaign;

Preparation of a 35 millimeter color film to be distributed by 20th Century Fox and viewed by 50 million theatergoers across the land; with 16 millimeter versions in color for viewing by groups, and black and white copies for television;

Participation in the filming of an hour-long NBC spectacular of the eastern states, to be released next spring;

Doubling the Division staff by addition of two writer-photographers; Roger Woodcock of Rumford, one-time president of the Maine Newspaper Association, and Keith Ruff, formerly assistant news director of Station WGAN, Portland.
MAINE (Continued)
increasingly acute. Maine has the resources with which to provide them."

POINT FIVE: Concerned speeding up the opportunity to swap his Doleful Documentary on Decay for a Salubrious Spectacular of Maine Progress.

JA 16 '62

MAINE RESOURCES
The West Central Maine region, accord-
ing to the booklet, "offers a unique combin-
ation Industrial and Recreational Exhibit in
Lewiston, Maine.

The new product is Pilot Lite, put up in
smallest packages of some $30 per thousand feet, wholesales at
3 cents per pound in bulk, so it can't be
Wood flour, at best, brings but from 1 to
keadied into wood flour certainly can make
industry, and that the DED would be most
easy to picture Maine as a down-at-heel, dying-on-the-vine

New Products
It is written that Banger, Maine, once
to provide lumber for the mushrooming
buildings, according to the West Central Main
told by Potter's young friends, Maine."pu

It's been a long day, so I'm going back
but a lot of the customers who come in, have
been bought in the past, and we preferred to remain at

Taking a look at the Proctor, Maine, phone book, I'm
about the decline in the

As a part of the DED's promotional efforts, industrial films were
ed in PARADE, to commemorate the award, pre-
m to operate on Channel 10 by Colby,

HAIL, CHANNEL 10!

no wonder industry is appreciated communities by industries located all over
now, since the 24-mile stretch of scenic Interstate

Among the October, 1961 awards were
ried and 350 Maine
work, whole

But there are two sides to every story and

This situation sometimes has resulted in
to which something has been added to ren-

There have been slight in almost every instance

By the time the lumber reaches the

and in mineral resource explo-
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
The president of Barthercums, Richard E. Koch, is a member of the Society of Security Analysts with the im-
ies in the telephone and try to sell the lumber to

As a result, the number of Maine stories and pictures in national maga-

There were three private
educational institutions formed together, to produce a
uction of Maine project of this magnitude," he said.

The new product is Pilot Lite, put up in

number of small farms, or for any other reasons.

in the past, and we preferred to remain at
real estate

In the second place, the census revealed that
is larger than the current size of all Maine farms

The $100 million total dates back to
100,000,000, for those who are interested. We had no sales
of farms has decreased, the. average size and

In the fifth place; although the number

$30,000.)

so that what we would be a party to a scheme to picture
Maine as a down-at-heel, dying-on-the-vine
determines the amount of Maine to be divided among the

Government contracts
Contracts have been awarded Maine firms for a variety of services and other
and services, and just about every kind of project from the

The $100 million total dates back to

the number of small farms, or for any other reasons.

In the second place, the census revealed that
is larger than the current size of all Maine farms

The $100 million total dates back to

so that what we would be a party to a scheme to picture
Maine as a down-at-heel, dying-on-the-vine
ALAS, POOR YORICK

Among our culch we ran across an issue of the defunct American Magazine containing a two-page spread of Maine recipes which included "Ethel Maloon's Scalloped Scallops," "Helen Mosher's Haddock Lasaseolle," "Laura Ellis's Maine Squash Yeast Rolls," "Laura LaBay's Blueberry Squares" and "Nellie Tarr's Whipped-Cream Cake."

It's pretty disheartening to reflect that a magazine that provided its readers such outstanding fare as this could disappear from the newstands and perish from the earth.

MAINE BUYER'S GUIDE

Approximately 2,500 Maine firms are listed in the 1961-62 Maine Buyer's Guide and Directory of Maine Manufacturers — a gain of more than 100 over the 1959-60 issue. Ten thousand copies will be ready for distribution, probably in January.

The Department of Labor and Industry compiles the data and the DED publishes the 100-page booklet for distribution among purchasing agents, industrialists and others interested in Maine industry or in becoming a Maine industry.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower freight rates in and out of Aroostook County are indicated, if a proposed new rail-truck service is approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission. The services would be a joint venture between the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad which now serves the northern part of the state and Fox and Ginn, Inc., whose common carrier trucking service covers the area below Bangor. Rates would be based upon present truck rates, somewhat below railroad rates.

SHANKS' MARE & R.R.'S

Maine railroad management is both "capable and dedicated," Governor John H. Reed told the governors of 10 states at a conference with eastern railroad officials in New York City. They are "dedicated not only to the operation of their own facilities but they exhibit an abiding faith in the Maine economy." The Governor described legislation enacted by the 100th Maine Legislature which eventually may reduce state excise taxes on the Maine roads by about $1 million.

Having acclaimed the transportation situation in Maine, the Governor hopped into a cab, requesting that the horses not be spared on the trip to the airport, that he might take off in time to make an important function in Augusta. The cabbie got lost in the Gotham jungles, and had a flat tire. Whereupon the Governor picked up his bags and walked to the airport.

OF THE BIRDS

National Cat Week crept upon us November 4.

PRACTICALLY UNANIMOUS

Rarely do voters anywhere register such overwhelming approval of causes as Maine ballot-casters have expressed in favor of Urban Renewal programs. Here are some examples, in percentages of the total local vote.

Rockland 92.3; Sanford 83.5; Lewiston 78.3; Hallowell 77.8; Gardiner 77.8; Waterville 74.6; Bath 71.5.

MAINE'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

by Earle Doucette

The cold winter sun peered over the Atlantic horizon and the first thing that it saw in all the vast country of ours was the coast of Maine.

The scene was bleak and wild, just as it had been for centuries piled upon centuries. But now, on Christmas Day in 1604, a great transition was heralded.

Bathed in the pale sun's light was a white man's settlement; the first in this great land except that in St. Augustine, in what now is the State of Florida.

The settlement was located on tiny St. Croix Island, in the river of the same name, and its few little buildings seemed to huddle together for protection from the elements and from the savages upon the mainland.

In the buildings was a company of Frenchmen who had come to grasp a share of the New World for their fatherland. It was a most unusual group for that day and age of religious strife, for it was headed by Champlain, the great explorer, a Catholic, and De Monts, a distinguished merchant, a Protestant, and clergymen of both faiths were present.

They made history by bringing religious tolerance to the New World, and by being the first to establish a settlement north of Florida.

Now, as the cold winter sun came up, they were about to inscribe yet another page of history because there, on St. Croix Island, they became the first on this continent to celebrate the feast of Christmas. Religious services were held in the common chapel, and there was peace on the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

Today St. Croix Island is alone and deserted, but it is to be made a national shrine to which all can turn in brotherhood; a monument to Maine's first Christmas.

VACATION COSTS

The American Automobile Ass'n. estimates the same thing for two persons vacationing by car at $29.

According to Maine Author T. Earle Doucette it's been 54 long years since any one has presumed to offer for official record a landlocked salmon as preposterous as the salmo Sebago tha of their excavated from Maine's Sebago Lake more than half a century ago. It's a 22½-pound-plus-some-ounces World Record that still stands.

Maine cans more sardines than anyone else in the country, too, and nutritionists rave over their almost unbelievable content of vitamins and other things that contribute to a long and happy life.

Also, it has been said that the lobster business is probably the oldest, continuously-operated industry on the whole North American continent, and as recently as 1959 made more than $11 million for Maine fishermen and a little something for the dealers and restauranteurs as well.

There is no record of a lobster ever winning a beauty contest, but no one need be ashamed to admit that he likes Maine lobster to eat.

Merely by putting them on the menu such exalted authorities as the banquet commit-tees of the Gourmet Society and the April in Paris dîner-outers of New York City and the Committee of 100 in Florida have won the everlasting affection and gratitude of their illustrious members, who have sometimes paid as high as $300 a plate (tax included), so it is said, for a feed featuring Maine lobster.

Incidentally, pictures of Mr. Edward B. Blakely, a former New York teacher and his stupendous salmon will be used in a State of Maine ad in the 1962 Sports Afield Fishing Annual, along with copy extolling other Maine World Record Fish. And this is well, for no other teacher, not even Socrates, ever has done anything to equal what Mr. Blakely accomplished on Sebago Lake so long ago.

GIFT EVERLASTING

The public spirit of the practitioners of Maine industry and commerce will be com-memorated for a long time to come by a granite slab weighing 500 pounds and measur-ing three feet square on the surface and four inches thick, in Boston.

There was some scurrying around to find Sills funds to provide and transport this slab to be set in the ground along with others from the New England states near the corner-stone of Boston University's new Union Building. The Deer Island Granite Corpora-tion of Stonington solved part of the prob-lem by providing the slab, free, with the State Seal, the Governor's name and the date cut in it. And Cole's Express, through the good offices of the Maine Truck Owners As-sociation, hauled it all the way from Bangor to Boston, for the same price.

The slab is of gray granite, rapakivi tex-tured, and interlarded with pink and white crystals. The deposit from which it was cut was formed during the Devonian Period, some 350 million years ago, according to Webster Stickney, assistant state geologist.

IT'S NOT CHICKEN FEED

Two Maine firms are finding it expensive to dispose of something like 100 tons of waste seaweed residue every week, after the ingredients which go into the manufacture of algimates have been extracted. A DED Industrial Division staff member is trying to find a use for the dried weed.

University of Maine chemists have turned thumbs down on the possibility that it might pay to process the seaweed to make poultry feed or fertilizer, but there are indications that it may possess substantial value in certain trace elements and minerals. Research now is under way along these lines.

Harold Brook, DED researcher in charge of the project, envisions the day when utilization of the millions upon millions of tons of aquatic plants which abound along Maine's rockbound coast will be a very large industry indeed. Finding an economical use for the probable waste material could hasten the day.

Of Fish, Fun, Fame and Fortune