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Maine Developments, April 1963

Maine Department of Economic Development

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GOOD LUCK, JIM

James R. Pelletier of Waterville, one of the original team of industrial representatives in the Department of Economic Development, has resigned from state service to re-enter the private industrial realty field. He had operated his own realty firm in Lewiston for 15 years before joining the DED’s predecessor, the Department of Development of Industry and Commerce, as an industrial representative.

For several years Pelletier was director of the DED’s Industrial Promotion Division and it was while he was director that the DED was awarded the Society of Industrial Realtors trophy for the most effective development program among the states and the Canadian provinces.

DED Commissioner Lloyd K. Allen expressed regret at the decision of Pelletier to leave state service. “Each of the commissioners under whom Jim Pelletier served rated his industrial development activity as ‘outstanding’,” Allen said. “I am certain that he will be as successful in private industry as he has been in the service of the Maine state government.”

WHAT PRICE GLORY


The Maine Department of Economic Development won first place in the 1961 SIR awards.

Among the reasons for Kentucky tying for second-high honors were, according to the advertisements:

- Appropriations for industrial education more than doubled since 1960.
- Newly established industrial research facility and Agricultural Science Center.
- Eighteen new airports built in two years.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Well over one thousand industrial parks existed in 1962 in the United States, according to a survey by Industrial Development magazine, California, with 108 parks, was the leader, followed by Ohio and Texas with 60 each. Four states had none: Alaska, Delaware, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Massachusetts led the New England states with 30 parks, Connecticut followed with 9 and Maine was in third place with 8 parks. Rhode Island had four industrial parks and Vermont and New Hampshire each had three.

Governor John H. Reed, one of the speakers at the Institute for Maine Industry at Colby College late in March, made some remarks pertinent to Maine’s program for economic development. Here, in part, are those remarks:

“There is an understandable inclination, I believe, for us to be disappointed when we learn that a relatively new, large industrial operation is to cease because of market conditions. We tend to be equally concerned when a big wood processing plant is destroyed by fire. We all share a sense of responsibility that something must be done to correct these situations.

“I believe that all of our citizens have a right to know that something is being done, not only to compensate for such losses as are sustained, but to continue and to accelerate our effort to keep Maine going, industrially.”

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

“The development of a new or expanded industry is not a matter upon which we can issue news releases every day. For one thing, the selling of industrial sites and industrial products is one of the most competitive businesses that exists in the United States today. Hardly a state is not competing for industrial prospects.

“The premature reveal of advance information on an industrial prospect has, many times in the past, meant the loss of a prospect to the competition.

“There are, of course, indicators which can be spoken of, and these I refer to at this time. For example: for the first time in our industrial development history New York banks are expressing a direct and active interest in financing industrial projects in Maine.”

Governor Cites Maine Industry

The DED

“There is another heartening indicator which is of growing importance to our industrial development program. As of today the financial consultant in the Department of Economic Development is supplying information to sixteen prospects in the form of financial assistance presentations. . . .

“These prospects are now considering industrial sites in eight of the 16 counties, with a total prospective investment of $5,680,000, and potential employment of 1500 workers.

“It is in the light of these facts that I believe we should look at both sides of the current industrial picture, both from the viewpoint of prospective new industry and rehabilitation of the plants which have, for one reason or another, suffered a setback.

“For example, in the case of the Biddeford woodworking plant which was recently destroyed by fire, we are making every effort to see that this plant is back in full operation by next fall.

“Meantime, we shall go forward with our program of active solicitation of new industry, develop the contacts which have been built with financial institutions and use every device at our command to persuade those industries with which we are working today and every day that Maine has the answer to every industrial production demand.”

“The best selling point we have, however, is the job which existing Maine industry is doing. Their contribution to the healthy industrial climate of the State of Maine is setting an example that is the strongest attraction to prospective industries that we have.”

Shoe School Publicized

Two nationally circulated trade magazines have published feature stories about Auburn, Maine’s Shoemakers Training Center, in recent issues. They are American Shoemaking published in Boston and Leather and Shoes, Chicago.

Raymond W. Curtis, DED industrial representative, has been chairman of the “Committee to Establish a Shoe Training Center,” which got the school off the ground. Those active in the organization and operation of the school include representatives of Auburn and Lewiston city governments, Department of Education, Maine Employment Security Commission, Lewiston-Auburn Shoe Workers Protective Association, Auburn Shoe Manufacturers Association, Androscoggin Area Development Corp., U. S. Department of Labor and the Manpower Development and Training Act, from whence came the operating funds.

Manufacturers of the area loaned most of the machinery and provided much of the raw material for use in instruction, and company and Auburn School Department personnel served as instructors and supervisors.

MULTIPLE SKILLS

Multiple skills training was stressed, “to provide more valuable help for manufacturers and a better standard of living for shoe workers.”

The Training Center opened in Auburn early in February, can give instruction to 34 trainees concurrently. Six multiple-skill courses require from six to 12 weeks for completion, each. Twenty-three completed the first 6-weeks course in April; 17 were placed in jobs promptly.

DED Commissioner Lloyd K. Allen commented: “The State already has received one valuable, if unexpected fringe benefit. The publicity in two leading magazines of the shoe trade has helped to expand the image of Maine as a progressive state and an excellent place to locate an industrial plant.”
MAINE PRODUCTS SHOW

Early in April close to 40 requests had been received from Maine manufacturers for exhibit space at the Maine Products Show to be held in the Central Maine Fairgrounds in Augusta. The dates are May 27 and 28, 1964.

Edward Biddleford, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Maine Ports Authority, who is also president of the Maine Retail Merchants Association, Inc., said in describing the "Showcase for Maine Industry" which will be held at the Maine Port Authority Building, that "This is a very good thing, for the kin provide skin to wrap Bilby Buntings in.

The feasibility of constructing new shipping facilities at Searsport to promote the export of Maine potatoes is being studied by Bangor & Aroostook Railroad and Department of Economic Development personnel. The study follows a meeting at Searsport sponsored by the DED, which would provide for an enrollment of 300 in about four years.

NEW CAED MILL

Bare ground which was covered with snow a scant four months ago now is the site of a going Aroostook County concern. Ground was broken for the Diumon Cedar Co. in Fort Kent in December, the company started cutting orders for early March.

For More Potato Exports

Growing European populations with rising living standards, coupled with inferior potato production in Europe, were factors in what Fred H. Vahlsing, Aroostook County potato processor and shipper termed "a new market for Maine potatoes.

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Maine has been promised an exclusive, almost, showing of an amazing spectacular this year. From only one other state ... hear a crumple-horn jersey heifer or a peanut roaster a-way up in the tip top of a tall oak tree and blame DED for it.

“Aunt Vi” is known as “Aunt Vi” to her macintosh pocket, and listened. She listened to the north, she listened to the east and she listened to the west. Sure enough, the sounds indeed were coming from the tip top of the oak tree whose leaves had not yet attained the proportions of a small rodent’s aural appendages. Not one. Apparently everyone else was as flabbergasted as was Aunt Vi, for nary a soul replied. Not by so much, even, as a single peep. Not one.

Whereupon Aunt Vi removed her apron, stumped into her rubbers, stuffed her ear trumpet, nature book and opera glasses into her macintosh pocket and sallied forth. Whereupon the good woman extracted her ear trumpet from her macintosh pocket and looked in the index, first under “p” and then under “f” but try as she would, she couldn’t find any reference to a philleелоo bird or his French cousin, the Fililou-d’Feathered Vertibrate, either. But she did find a picture which was a perfect likeness of the slim gray bird perched atop her tall oak tree with the miniscule leaves — the ones which were not so big as a mouse’s ear, yet. The nature book said that this bird was a mocking bird and that it was capable of making all sorts of strange and startling noises, imitating country birds, jets, heifers, dapple-gray percherons, calico cats, frogs, and even peanut roaster whistles — with the greatest of aplomb and a rare precision withal. "Well, I’ll be . . . !!!!" vouchsafed Aunt Vi. "Do you suppose that this can be a living specimen of the rare philleелоo bird? I’ve heard so much about but never seen?”

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Tale From A Tall Tree

Once upon a Monday a West Gardiner lady, affectionately known as “Aunt Vi” to the birds and chipmunks for whom her husband bought suet and sunflower seeds, thought that she heard a frog singing or croaking or whatever it may be that frogs do when they are of a mind for making noise. The date was April 1, 1953.

Now here was a very strange circumstance indeed, for the pond by her house was locked in ice; snow blanketed the bog and the pale hand of winter yet lay heavy upon the land. In short, it was not very good frog weather. "Well, I’ll be . . . !!!!" stated Aunt Vi. "I’ll bet the Kennebec Journal would like to know about this.

Whereupon Aunt Vi removed her apron, stumped into her rubbers, stuffed her ear trumpet, nature book and opera glasses into her macintosh pocket and sallied forth. The sound appeared to be coming not from the pond at all, at all, nor yet from the bog, but from the tip top of a tall oak tree which Aunt Vi had been keeping an eye on day by day because of aplomb and a rare precision withal. "Well, I’ll be . . . !!!!" Aunt Vi remarked. "Who ever heard of a frog talking from the top of a tall oak tree before? Leaves are as big as a mouse’s ear, yet?"

No one replied. Maybe it was because everyone assumed this to be a rhetorical question which, as everyone knows, does not call for an answer.

Whereupon Aunt Vi extracted her ear trumpet (an anniversary present from Uncle Bud) from her macintosh pocket, and listened. She listened to the north, she listened to the south, she listened to the east and she listened to the west. Not one. Whereupon Aunt Vi extracted the opera glasses from her macintosh pocket, aimed them at the tip top of the oak tree with the minuscule leaves and asked you what do you suppose she saw . . . ?

A crumple-horn Jersey heifer? Naye.
A calico cat? No, it was not a calico cat.
A dapple-gray percheron? Not that, either.
A peanut roaster, complete with whistle? Guess again.
A frog, then? No, no, a thousand times no.
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What she did see was a bird. A slim, gray bird it was, the likes of which Aunt Vi never before had seen, and it was making all of the noises enumerated above along with some others thrown in, for good measure. And why is a total eclipse so much better than a partial one? "Professor" Richard A. Hebert, assistant director of the DED Recreation Promotion Division who has been publicizing Maine’s favored position throughout the land, declares that a partial eclipse is to a total eclipse as standing room at a sideshow to a reserved seat in the front row of the grand stand under the Big Top.

To put it another way: partial eclipses, wherein the moon obscures only a portion of the sun from earth’s view, are no great rarity. But it’ll be more than 200 years before Maine sees another total eclipse. For many of us, this will be the last chance to observe the moon hiding the face of the sun completely, in this region.

A committee of Maine college science professors serving as an Eclipse Advisory Committee to DED. A copy is yours for the asking. The folder contains a map depicting the path of totality across Maine, which suggests the most favorable locations for viewing the Big Show.

Information available at this time indicates that the total eclipse will bring spectators flocking to Maine by the thousands. Already, many accommodations near favorable viewing locations have been completely reserved. The unusual public interest in things astronomical, due to recent space flights and those to come, is reflected in inquiries reaching DED from many states and nations.

The first issue of 50,000 folders and maps has been exhausted and another 50,000 has been ordered. Radio, television and newspaper releases by DED and articles in scientific magazines have publicized the event. DED is negotiating with a TV network for broadcasting the spectacle.

Op Lasting Value
Commissioner Lloyd K. Allen pointed out that the total eclipse can be of lasting value to the Maine tourist industry. "Thousands will be coming to Maine for the first time, to see the eclipse," he said. "If they like Maine, they are likely to return for vacations in the future. It’s up to us, as DED, to make them like our state, by treating them graciously and by sprucing up our towns and countryside to make the best possible impression.

Members of the Eclipse Advisory Committee to DED, in addition to Mr. Merriam, are: Dr. Noel C. Little, Bowdoin College; Dr. Karl S. Woodcock, Bates College; Arthur S. Fairley, Colby College; and J. Frank Harper, University of Maine.

The nearby "official insignia of the Total Eclipse in Maine" was designed by Linwood V. Partridge, DED illustrator. It will be used in DED newspaper and magazine advertising. Proofs and mats are available for use by Maine newspapers and magazines to tie-in the eclipse with their product advertising.

The cruller is for confirmed dunkers.

A Maine Exclusive

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"Well, I’ll be . . . !!!!" enunciated Aunt Vi. "Do you suppose that this can be a living specimen of the rare philleелоo bird? I’ve heard so much about but never seen?”

Still No Peep

Aunt Vi wasn’t having very good luck with her questions this day, for once again there was no reply. No, not even a peep. None.

Whereupon the good woman extracted the nature book from her macintosh pocket and looked in the index, first under “p” and then under “f” but try as she would, she couldn’t find any reference to a philleелоo bird or his French cousin, the Fililou-d’Feathered Vertibrate, either. But she did find a picture which was a perfect likeness of the slim gray bird perched atop her tall oak tree with the miniscule leaves — the ones which were not so big as a mouse’s ear, yet. The nature book said that this bird was a mocking bird and that it was capable of making all sorts of strange and startling noises, imitating country birds, jets, heifers, dapple-gray percherons, calico cats, frogs, and even peanut roaster whistles — with the greatest of aplomb and a rare precision withal. "Well, I’ll be . . . !!!!" vouchsafed Aunt Vi.

This touching little tale is recounted here as a public service to Maine Development subscribers and those who stand in line to borrow this periodical from them after they have read it, for it has been reported that mocking birds are showing up in Maine in increasing numbers in recent years, just like the tourists, and you never can tell when someone may hear a crumple-horn Jersey heifer or a peanut roaster a-way up in the tip top of a tall oak tree and blame DED for it.