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Awards, Awards, Awards

Edward D. "Sandy" Ives awarded Kenneth Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership at 2003 annual meeting of the American Folklore Society.

Once again, folklorist Edward D. Sandy Ives has been recognized by his peers for his outstanding work. This time he received the Kenneth Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership at the American Folklore Society meetings in New Mexico October, 2003. In presenting the award to Sandy Ives, Lee Haring remarked that he had known both Sandy and Kenny Goldstein for many years. He imagined what Kenny would have said if he'd been told an award was to be given to Sandy. He concluded that Kenny would have shouted, at the top of his lungs, "OF COURSE!"

The award signed by Jack Santino, President of the American Folklore Society

The award, named for Kenneth Goldstein (1927-1995), chair and for many years the guiding force behind the Department of Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania, recognizes outstanding abilities and achievement by a living scholar in academic leadership relating to folklore. "Leadership" includes folklore program development, organizational and center development, teaching, and advising. Ken Goldstein was a pioneer in creating LPs of folksongs, creating something like five hundred records. This was the inaugural award, and it is fitting that Edward D. "Sandy" Ives should receive it, given his long and distinguished career in folklore at the University of Maine, in teaching, research, publications and the founding of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History, the journal, Northeast Folklore, now in its thirty-seventh volume and the Maine Folklife Center. The award is especially meaningful to Sandy because he considered Ken Goldstein to be a good friend as well as a distinguished scholar.

Distinguished Dissertation Award given to Betsy Hedler

Elizabeth "Betsy" Hedler, who has worked at the Maine Folklife Center throughout her graduate student career until her graduation last May was recently awarded the Distinguished Dissertation Award by the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States. Hedler's dissertation is entitled "Stories of Canada: National Identity in Late-Nineteenth-Century English-Canadian Fiction." In the award letter, Hedler's dissertation was described as "strikingly original" and as of interest to both the novice and the expert in Canadian Studies.
MFC Well Represented at Oral History Conference

Jamie Moreira, Pamela Dean, Anu Dudley, and Erica Risberg presented papers at the Oral History Association Conference in Bethesda, MD, in October. Jamie discussed his interviews with farmers in Nova Scotia and the tensions between traditional attitudes toward agricultural development and efforts to make the industry a modern and sustainable part of the region’s economy. On the same panel, Anu described the interviews we have been doing on the history of the Maine Organic Farmer and Gardeners Association, focusing on the necessity of understanding the individual motivations of participants in order to explain the achievement of what is one of the oldest and most successful organization of its kind.

Pamela’s paper reflected her continued work on Rob Golding, well known storyteller from Perry, Maine. Titled “Performing Maine: Three Generations of Maine Storytellers,” her talk focused on the how three story tellers—Golding, Marshall Dodge, and Tim Sample—have performed Maine for audiences who, as we say here, are “from away.” Erica discussed the popularity of country music in Maine in the 1930s as reflected in the local programing of radio station WLBZ.

Erica, Jamie, and Anu combined the conference with research in various archives in the area, while Pamela concentrated on advancing the cause of MFC in the OHA. She has been appointed program co-chair for the 2005 OHA conference in Providence, RI.

- Pamela Dean

Wooden boat building traditions the subject of current research

The wooden boat tradition in Maine hails back to prehistory, when Native People prepared their birchbark canoes for traveling around Maine’s many waterways. Later, when immigrants arrived in wooden ships, they brought their boat building skills with them. There are many different types of boats built in Maine that are somewhat unique: from the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy canoe, to the wood and canvas models historically built by Old Town Canoe company and others, to the Rangeley boat, the Grand Lakes Stream canoe, the French trapping skiff and bateau, the V-hulled lobster boat of Vinal Haven, peapods, dories and so on. Maine is also the home of National Heritage Award Winner boat builder Ralph Stanley. Some of the folklorists (and members of our board) who have investigated this tradition in our area include two of our board members, David Taylor of the American Folklife Center and Richard Lunt of SUNY Potsdam. Keith Ludden, of the Maine Arts Commission is also working with Pauleena on this project and has conducted some interviews with builders in the state.

At the present time, Pauleena is conducting interviews with current boat builders primarily in the Brooklin, Maine area. The interviews focus on the artistic tradition as well as the verbal art associated with the tradition: stories, sayings, proverbs and so on. Three seniors from the University of Maine are working with Pauleena on senior capstone projects for the New Media department under the guidance of Professor Bill Kuykendall. Heather Small is planning an exhibit and web page, Amy Appleton is working on a video documentary that features boat building stories and Renee Sanfacon is preparing a video documentary about the art of boat building.

The current plan is to feature the results of this fieldwork, as well as the work of other folklorists at the National Folk Festival this summer. We will have demonstrations of boat building skills and programming that includes interviews with some of the artists. We will keep you posted as the project moves forward.

- Pauleena MacDougall
Maine Indian Basketmakers’ Alliance Director Awarded International Prize

On October 15, 2003, Theresa Secord Hoffman, a member of the Penobscot Nation, received an award at the Palais Wilson, headquarters of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights.

WWSF Executive Director Elly Pradervand declared “It behooves the Prize for Women’s Creativity in Rural Life that the first laureate from the United States be an American Indian -of the Penobscot Nation, one of four tribal groups living in Maine.” Ms. Hoffman organized the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (MIBA) which has blossomed since its founding in 1992.

Ms. Hoffman, with the support of MIBA’s board of directors and staff, spearheaded effective marketing efforts that have included opening an elegant gallery/shop in Old Town, ME, publishing an 86-page guide to basketry and other traditional Native American crafts in Maine, and collaborating with the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor on the annual Native American Festival and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Market at the Hudson Museum on the University of Maine’s Orono campus. Such efforts have given Maine Indian basketmakers a high profile throughout the state and nation. The result is a nearly tenfold increase in the sales value of baskets, making basketry a viable livelihood. According to Rebecca Cole-Will, head curator of the Abbe Museum, “Through Theresa’s leadership, MIBA has developed into a vitally important organization that continues to cultivate a vibrant and growing Wabanaki crafts community.”

For more information, visit the WWSF website www.woman.ch - Mailing address: Women’s World Summit Foundation, PO Box 2001, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland. (Phone: +4122-738.66.19)

TIMBERRR...A History of Logging in New England

by Mary Morton Cowan

If there has been a need for a brief, clearly written description of what it was like to work in the lumberwoods, on the river-drives, and in the sawmills of a hundred years ago, this attractive little volume fulfills it splendidly, and I hope it finds a place in every secondary school library, at least in the State of Maine, if not beyond. For the rest of us, it’s worth having around simply for the many photographs, which are judiciously chosen and generally well reproduced. The chapters follow the usual historical sequence, beginning with the colonial mast trade and moving on through cutting and hauling, river-driving, and mill work and following up with some chapters on current forestry practices and problems. Back matter includes a helpful - and quite complete - glossary, a very brief bibliography, and some suggestions on where to turn to learn more (including museums and web sites).

Each chapter does its job describing what the work involved in perfectly standard form, but the book’s unique approach - and it is this that should make it most appealing to young people - is seen in the inclusion of almost a dozen brief fictional narratives: “A Day in the Life of a Teamster,” “A Day in the Life of a River Driver,” etc. The imagining by an outsider of how it was or would have been for an imaginary insider is both a challenge and chancy business, especially in a book that has the word history in its title. Let me conclude this brief review by saying Mrs. Cowan brings the whole business off very well, and I thank her for a job well done.

- Edward D. “Sandy” Ives
Setting up the craft marketplace

Kwabena Owusu, drummaker from Ghana

Robert Childs, Luthier, talks with Jonathan Cooper

Woodsound Studios staff demonstrate guitar making

The beautiful harps of Jay Witcher

MFC Director Jamie Moreira and volunteer Betsy Hedler shamelessly promoting *Northeast Folklore*

Millie Rahn facilitates Somalian cooking demo with Fatuma Hussein

MFC Narrative tent - musical instrument makers talk about their art

Demonstration of Moroccan cooking

Volunteers serve beanho
Maine Folklife

Luthiers on stage

Musical Instrument makers exhibit outside demonstration tent

Rowan ash to make basket strips

Moses Bridges demonstrates birch bark canoe making

The Gabriel Frey family discuss the tradition of Passamaquoddy basket making

Violin bow maker Bill Halsey

Penobscot Joe Dana carving walking sticks

Birch bark arts in the Native American tent

Bich Nga Burrill cooks Vietnamese style

Basketmaker Molly Neptune Parker
I went to Eastport in August to give a talk on Rob Golding and to share some of our recordings of him telling stories; I got back much more than I gave. The audience was made up mostly of people who had known Rob, who died in 1969.

Joyce Jackson and Patrick Mealey, who own Rob’s house on the Golding Road in Perry (and are doing a wonderful job restoring it) brought 100 year old Emma Golding, Rob’s sister-in-law, and his daughter Virginia Pottle was there as well. Pamela Beverage set the event up for me—they stabled her horse at Rob’s when she was a child—and had generously arranged for me to stay at her mother’s B & B. The Todd House, perhaps the oldest house in the area, is full of antiques and owner Ruth McInnis makes some of the best blueberry muffins I’ve ever had.

A cookout on the shores of Tomah Stream. Left to right: Amy Golding Tucker, Rob’s sister; Emma Golding; Ethel and Bob Buker (Bob worked for Rob summers when he was in high school and college); Florence Golding, Rob’s third wife; and Rob.

Frances Raye helped me arrange interviews with Emma Golding, Rob’s cousin and neighbor Bill Kendall, and Bill and Merit Wilson, all of whom have fond memories of Rob. The Wilson’s recalled their first visit to Perry. The next day after a long trip from Michigan with their young children, the Wilsons woke to find Rob in front of their cabin, scything the yard. “I couldn’t have you visiting here with children and not have the yard mowed,” he told them. Bill Kendall, whose father was Rob’s first cousin, told me that when he was a small child he and his little brother always came running to see Rob when he visited Bill’s parents. It wasn’t something his parents told them to do, he said, but they both knew that when Rob was around it would be fun.

Joyce Jackson and Patrick Mealey gave me tour of the house, including the basement with its stone foundation built by Rob and his father. They have been collecting stories and photos of Rob since they bought the house a few years ago. Among the treasures that came with the house was a large framed photo of Rob in his Spanish American War uniform; they were delighted to discover the uniform was there too. It was seeing the uniform as much as anything that convinced me that I want to do a video documentary on Rob. The many people who remember him so vividly, the photos the Mealeys have collected, the hours of audio recordings of Rob that we have in our collection, and the home movies of him in the Archie Stewart Collection at Northeast Historic Film seem to me to offer vivid portrait not only of a remarkable man but of life in Maine in the late nineteenth and early 20th century.

Since I returned from my visit to Eastport I’ve heard from other friends of Rob and continue to do interviews with them. This project just keeps growing.

- Pamela Dean

The Maine Folklife Center is pleased to welcome our new graduate fellow, Erin Kearney. Erin grew up in Durham, Connecticut, graduating from Coginchaug Regional High School in 1997. She then headed north to St. Michael’s College, located in Winooksi, Vermont, in order to pursue her soccer and snowboarding careers, as well as her bachelor’s degree. Erin completed her bachelor’s degree in history in 2001 and proceeded to Claremont Graduate University, located east of Los Angeles, in order to pursue her master’s degree in Applied Women’s Studies. After graduating with the degree in January 2002, Erin tired of the Los Angeles traffic and returned home to New England in order to pursue her Ph.D. in history at the University of Maine. Erin will be studying modern American history with an emphasis on women’s history and currently resides in Bangor with her dog Guera. We haven’t met Guera yet, but we like Erin quite a bit.
Archival Notes

» We’re pleased to announce that we have received our third grant from the Maine Historic Records Advisory Board for preservation work.
» I presented workshops on how to do oral history projects at the Maine Archives and Museums Conference November 8 at Colby College, and at the meeting of the Union River Watershed Coalition at the Otis School, November 20.
» Archival assistant Erica Risberg has left us for greener pastures. The Maine Atlas Project can pay her more and offers her new challenges. If you detect a hint of resentment in my tone it is true. You just get them trained and they leave you. Ah, well. Erica has done a great job for us the past two years and we wish her well.
» Poet Bea Gates consulted our archives recently for source material on life on the Maine Coast in the 1950s for an opera libretto she is writing. The story features fishing, textile mills, and relations between the summer people and native Mainers. Gates wanted to be sure her text accurately reflected the language and concerns of the region. She is a long-time summer resident of the area and is working with the Stonington Opera House on this project.
» The Maine Cheese Guild called on us for photos for their exhibit for the 2nd annual Maine Food Festival, co-sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and MOFGA and we were able to find several that illustrated the equipment and techniques of traditional cheese making.
» When Donna Ryder searched the internet for information on Hog Island, where she’d spent childhood summers, she found the collections of the Maine Folklife Center. Thanks to the recent addition of finding aids to our website, Ryder discovered a 1975 interview with her great aunt. When she told us she had a family photo album of life on the island around 1910 we were delighted to trade her a copy of the tape and transcript for scans of the photos. The 80 photographs in the album, such as the two above right, document haying, fishing, spinning, and boat building, among other aspects of island life in the early 20th century. Those on weir fishing are particularly vivid and full of action. We are grateful to Donna Ryder for her contribution to the Center.

- Pamela Dean

St. John Valley Cultural Assessment Completed

A cultural heritage assessment of the Upper St. John Valley of northern Maine and New Brunswick was recently completed by the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF). The driving force behind the assessment was to explore how this international region can increase its connection, organize itself, and build upon its resources, strengths and challenges. The QLF is trying to determine the viability of an international cultural heritage route connecting both sides of the international region. The Maine Acadian Heritage Council has already secured funds to begin developing the route. For more information, contact Sheila Jans, senior fellow, Quebec-Labrador Foundation, 207.728.4820, e-mail: sjans@qlf.org, or visit the QLF Website at www.qlf.org.

Planning for 66th National Folk Festival Underway

Julia Olin and Dennis Blackledge visited Bangor the last week in October and MFC staff met with them and other organizers to plan next summer’s musical presentations, to talk about material culture offerings and to discuss various logistical matters. On Tuesday, October 28th, Sandy Ives, Jamie Moreira, Pauleena MacDougall, Jeff McKeen and several members of the greater Bangor community met to listen to artists in several genres including Celtic, Native American and Franco-American music. It was much more fun than it was work. The programming committee conveyed its preferences to the NCTA staff and they returned to Maryland with some ideas for next year’s musical offerings. Of course, choices are also limited to some extent by cost and who is available as well as what we all like to hear. But we have confidence that the NCTA will do what it is so well qualified to do and we will have a wonderful festival once again.

- Pauleena MacDougall
Join us!

Membership dues and contributions enable the Maine Folklife Center to function as a self-supporting unit of the University of Maine. By pledging membership, individuals and institutions play a vital role in encouraging the study, documentation and presentation of Maine’s traditional cultural heritage. Benefits of membership include:

• an annual copy of our monograph series, *Northeast Folklore*
• the Maine Folklife Center Newsletter
• a ten-percent discount on audios, videos, and publications

Please circle desired membership level:

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$ 100 Sponsor
$ 50 Friend
$ 25 Basic Membership

Other Donation (Please specify amount)

Any contributions greater than the $25 basic membership is considered a gift. Please make checks or money orders payable to the University of Maine. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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