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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 12 (January 1981)

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Number 12

January, 1981

"Return to a Season"

Donation 30¢

NO DUMPING ALLOWED

Not only would an article to prevent the dumping of nuclear and other hazardous waste liven up a town meeting, but it would also educate town residents about one of the hazards of nuclear power and the problems of dealing with any hazardous material, whether it is radioactive waste, chemical dyes, asbestos, chemical sprays, or whatever.

Both the Congress for Safe Energy and the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee are encouraging people to bring the following article (or something similar based on how local articles are worded) to their city/town council meetings or town meetings. (Deadline for submission of articles for town meetings, held in March, is usually during January.)

"The disposal or storage of hazardous wastes as designated under the U. S. Clean Water Act, Section 311, Public Law 92-500 and/or the disposal or storage of radioactive waste material as defined by '38 MRSA (361 D-1-B) within the boundaries of the town of _____, Maine, is prohibited."

"Any request for an exception to the prohibition shall be submitted in writing to _____ (select people and/or planning commission and/or town clerk and/or town manager and/or city council) and brought to the whole town of _____, acting as a body politic, to be voted on by all registered voters present in a Town Meeting."

Persons wanting this or a similar article discussed by town residents need only to bring or send this written statement to a town official (usually the clerk) for inclusion in the town meeting agenda.

Organizing for MAIN(e)

Not since the death of United Low Income a few years ago have low-income people had an advocacy organization for themselves. But MAIN (Maine Assn. of Interdependent Neighborhoods) wants to change all that. Representatives from Sanford, Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, and Bangor met recently to create MAIN and to begin organizing of low-income groups.

Poor people have the least power and endure the most suffering, they feel. Those attending mentioned vandalism, housing problems, "rent cards," and AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) inequities as immediate issues to work on. Elected officials rarely hear their voices.

What can they do to keep from getting the short end of the stick? They decided to begin an information network (this newsletter will serve that purpose temporarily), to work on legislation (such as Pine Tree Legal's), to seek funds from private and government sources, and to organize self-help groups and coops throughout the state.

MAIN meets again at Lithgow Public Library (State & Winthrop Sts.) in Augusta at 2 PM on January 15 to begin its organizing work. For details: Jim Oliver, Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council, 155 Brackett St., Portland 04102, 775-0105.

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→ At least two towns (Pittston and Whitefield) have petitioned (by signatures of 10% of their registered voters) for special town meetings to take up this issue. Pittston voted (cont. on page 2)

(cont. from page 1)

overwhelmingly for this article. They are responding to rumors that a company is looking to dump waste in the area if a location can be found.

Speaking with one's town officials, passing out information, or encouraging the forming of a "hazardous waste committee" are suggested as ways to increase public awareness of this issue.

For further explanations (you may want to know the specific definitions for 92-500 and 38 MRSA), contact Lucy Robinson or Alan Philbrook, MNRC, Box 2627, Augusta 04330, 622-4395.

And the hazardous waste issue is being addressed on another level, with a seminar open to the public (free) on Jan. 7 at 1:30 PM at the Oblate House (136 State St.) in Augusta. It will include participation from the Bureau of Health, Dept. of Environmental Protection, and Sen. George Mitchell. Tom Andrews, Maine Health Systems Agency, 9 Green St., Augusta 04330, 623-1182 is the contact.

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Nuclear Referendum Alive and Well

Anti-nuke activists will kick off the next phase in the reorganization of the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee on Sun., Jan. 11 at 2 pm at Jewett Hall, Univ. of Maine, Augusta. A permanent board of directors will be elected, by-laws approved, and task forces set up to begin the campaign for another referendum (which may differ from the previous one) in 1982.

Since the referendum, the group has opened an office at 335 Water St. (second floor), Augusta, elected a temporary board, and hired two part-time staff people to do research and maintain communications with local groups. It will mobilize support for bills being submitted to the legislature, mostly written by Safe Power for Maine or Sensible Maine Power members.

An opportunity to get rid of some of your hard-earned money (and to encourage legislative action, a workable evacuation plan, and opposition to nuclear waste dumping) is available by participating in the pledge system, where you can pledge \$1 or more/month. MNRC, Box 2627, Augusta 04330, 622-4395.

2

ILL WIND BRINGS DRAFT

Men born in 1962 will face a choice on Jan. 5-10, 1981. To register or not to register, that's their question. Helping them to decide will be various draft counselors and anti-draft advocates maintaining vigils and witnessess and offering "the other side" to young men near or inside post offices. While there is awareness that registration is "the law," a large percentage (as high as one-third in some areas) broke that law in July/August of 1980.

What about sex discrimination, because women are not included? Isn't the draft involuntary servitude? Does the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" mean nothing?

"I want you to think before registering for the draft." "Consider being a conscientious objector to war." "Stay home and don't register." "Resist the draft and publicly refuse to register." These are some of the messages people will offer to young men on Jan. 5-10.

To join them, contact someone near you:

Hancock Co.: Tom Crickelair, RR 1 Box 180, Bar Harbor 04609, 288-3800.

Midcoast: Frank Ortloff, New Harbor 04554, 677-3675.

Knox-Waldo: Robert Bower, Isleboro 04848.

Brunswick-Freeport: Ralph Greene, RFD 3 Box 254, Freeport 04032, 353-2472.

Portland: Tom Tracy, 56 Pitt St., South Portland 04106, 799-5460.

Bangor-Orono: Jon Smith, 24 Main St., Orono 04473, 866-4364.

Lewiston-Auburn: Vic Reinstein, 182 Sabattus, Lewiston 04240, 784-3884.

Augusta: Kathy Mikulka, RD 2, Coopers Mills 04341, 623-1667.

Statewide (for other areas): Tom Sturtevant, RD 3, Winthrop 04364, 377-2370.

Other activities, like counter-recruiting and speaking in high schools is planned for many areas later on.

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REMINDER: Deadline for petitions from Maine Citizens for Utility Rate Reform for creation of the Maine Energy Commission and election of PUC commissioners is Jan. 10. Send all notarized names by that date to MCURR, RD 2, Gardiner 04345, 582-5236. Last minute petition signature gatherers welcome. Write for petitions.

COOPERATORS CONVENE

The Maine Federation of Cooperatives (Fedco) will be holding its first semi-annual two-day meeting for business and education at the Grange in downtown Garland (not a suburb of Dexter). Food and fun will mix with serious stuff, such as business meetings of the Federation and Fedco Warehouse on Sunday.

Registration will begin at 9:30 AM on Saturday, Jan. 10. Discussions on technical/financial assistance, a coop loan fund, the Cultivator (Fedco's newspaper), and coop stores will be followed from 11-noon by an orientation to the Federation (which is different from the Warehouse). Lunch will be a potluck affair.

The afternoon features two sets of workshops, including finances, nutrition education, the National Consumer Coop Bank, organizing in Aroostook, and volunteer systems as half of them. Following supper, two films, "As If People Mattered" (E. F. Schumacher) and "Another Fine Mess" (starring Laurel and Hardy and not about composting) will be shown. The Northern Valley Band will perform for an evening contradance.

Five dollars covers registration, meals, and lodging (housing provided, bring sleeping bags) for the weekend (except Sat. potluck). Free child care will be provided. Pre-registration by Jan. 20 is preferred but not necessary. Contact: Fedco, PO Box 236, N. Vassalboro 04962, 873-0716.

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Coops of the Future

Attention Visionaries!! The Good Day Coop Market Visions Committee wants ideas from YOU! The Visions Committee is planning for cooperative development in the Portland area. How does a coop greenhouse or root cellar sound? Or a credit union? A printing collective or auto repair shop? Can food production be made more cooperative and localized?

The committee is in need of more ideas and meets regularly. What coop brainstorm have you been holding on to? Write them down and send to Linda Martin-Hunt, Good Day Market, 155 Brackett St., Portland 04102, 772-4937.

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MOFGA Shows Its Best

The 1981 Agricultural Trades Show will again have an extensive program sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn. This year it will be on Tues., Jan. 13 at the Augusta Civic Center. Dr. Garth Youngberg, Coordinator of Organic Agriculture for the US Dept of Agriculture will be the featured speaker.

Educational workshops and films on various aspects of organic agriculture will be held throughout the day, going from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Discussion topics include "Organic Potatoes, Can They Be Grown Competitively in Maine?" "Chemical Trespass, the Volume and Extent of Chemical Use in Maine Agriculture," "Land Use, a Moral Dilemma," "A Rural Education Center for Maine," "Farmers Markets," and "Producers' Cooperatives."

There will be two workshops going simultaneously, plus information booths and displays in the Civic Center. For a workshop schedule or more information: MOFGA, Box 188, Hallowell 04347, 622-3118.

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PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FRUGALITY

With January snow and cold on its way, what better way to "think spring" than by getting a Fedco Seeds 1981 order sheet. This is the third year Fedco Seeds is offering gardeners and farmers in Maine and other northerly states quality, untreated seeds at bargain prices.

Most vegetable seeds come from Johnny's Selected Seeds in Albion, with most herbs and flowers coming from Herbst Bros. in upstate New York. People can buy seeds as individuals in \$25 or more quantities, but they are urged to get together with friends and neighbors, pool orders, and buy cooperatively.

Over 150 varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flowers are included, with most packet-sized quantities priced from 10¢ to 35¢. Larger quantities are also available at large savings over other catalog prices or the local hardware or seed store.

For order sheets, write Fedco Seeds III, 8 Boutelle Ave., Waterville 04901, or call 873-2540. Orders are due on Jan. 23.

Back to the Land

"There is no doubt in our minds that many of today's financial problems stem from the inability to match labor to occupation. We have a vast amount of unemployment, underemployment, and welfare recipients. We are setting up a program and support center end this problem."

Everyone should have food, shelter, heat, and some medical care. Most of these things can be provided by the victims of poverty themselves if only there were land, equipment, animals, and seed available."

Patchwork Farm Homestead School is a tuition-free school designed to help people get back to the land. We pursue our task with a sense of outrage that the US, potentially the most agriculturally productive land in the world, is losing 300 acres of food-producing land an hour. AN HOUR!! Hunger is right here among our own brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, neighbors, and, worst of all, senior citizens."

"We want people to be able to grow their own food, produce their own clothing, furnishings, housing, and fuel. The time is now for people to get back to the land."

"We have received much moral support but very little "real" support. You can help with funding and telling others about us--people in all age and income brackets, different philosophies, and people interested in helping people get back to the land. Contact Ed & Elaine Moore, RFD 1 Box 401B, Pittsfield 04967."

* * * * *

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF NONE

Not one, but two! If you know what to ask for, you can get two different Comprehensive Energy (Resources) Plans. One, produced under former Office of Energy Resources director John Joseph, is very different from the one released under new head Gordon Weil. Public hearings will be held on Dec. 29 at 9:30 AM at the Bangor Hilton and on Dec. 30, same time, at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Portland. Written comments can be submitted thru Jan. 9 to OER, Station 53, Augusta 04333, or call Jamie Firth at 289-3811.

Safe energy activists point out, however, that the Joseph plan may contain important alternative/renewable information that the Weil plan overlooked or consciously left out. They encourage people to get both plans from the OER, compare the two, and let everyone within earshot know what they think of both of them.

THE FREE PRESS

"Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one." With this in mind, a print media and literary center in in the works for the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance (MWPA). It may be in Richmond, at Sasanoa Press, with letter press and offset equipment and instruction available to those who have political or literary information they want to produce.

MWPA will meet at 1 PM on Sun. Jan. 18 at Sasanoa (corner of routes 24 and 197) to discuss this proposal, creation of a small press library/bookstore, and other business. The MWPA catalog is just out, listing over 100 publications by Maine writers. For a free copy of this or other details on MWPA (Membership is \$5/year), write Mark Melnicove, PO Box 143, S. Harpswell 04079.

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Another Anti-Nuke Publication

Writers: Not only can you submit articles on nuclear power to Mark Melnicove (see address above) for a special Stony Hills edition (see Dec. newsletter), but you can also send energy-related pieces, graphics, etc. to Ellen Larsen, 165 Cumberland Ave., Portland 04101, who is compiling a special anthology for Women and Children for a Nuclear-Free Future. Themes can also include what a nuclear-free world would be like or the terrors of any nuclear technology. Publication will be in 1981, so hurry with your creations. An item which might not be appropriate for one publication might be just right for the other.

Consciousness Raising NOW!

The Greater Portland chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women) will be sponsoring a 10-week series of feminist consciousness raising (CR) sessions to start in February. Marilyn Kirby and Christine Torraca, trained CR leaders, will conduct a free public demonstration of feminist CR at the Women's Room at the Y. W. C. A. in Portland on Wed., Jan. 14 at 7:30 PM.

In the CR program, small groups of women meet for free 10 week sessions with trained leaders to discuss, in a supportive environment, what women have in common. Women's awareness of their social conditioning is heightened, as is understanding of their life roles.

During the Jan. 14 meeting, Marilyn and Christine will explain the basic philosophy and general ground rules of CR, after which all will participate in a mini-CR meeting. This demonstration is to give participants enough experience to decide whether they wish to sign up for a ten-week session beginning in February.

Since CR is not a class, a therapy session, or a problem solving group, no special education or experience is needed. Women from all ages and backgrounds are welcome to attend and to decide whether they want to join a CR group. Membership in NOW is not required. The YWCA is wheelchair accessible. For further information or to arrange for child care, please call 772-2753 or 799-8744 or write Gr. Portland NOW, PO Box 4012 Station A Portland, Me. 04101.

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SUPPORT GROUP FOR BATTERERS FORMS

Women have responded to the battering of their sisters and children with counseling of victims, legal action, and shelters for the victims. Even the recent "Take Back the Night" march could be seen as women asserting their right not to be assaulted in any situation, even in their own family.

But what about the men who do the battering? One attempt to work on this end of the problem is a men's support group being formed in the Bangor area for such men. After being organized by Dave Davis with help from Spruce Run, the group has been meeting weekly since November, every Tuesday night at 7PM at the Cooperative Extension office (directly behind the County Courthouse, across Court St. from the YMCA) in Bangor.

It is primarily a self-help group, trying to answer the question, "Why do men batter?" The group is open both to batterers and potential batterers and to those who want to help themselves and others to understand the problem of men's violence against women and children better. Contact: Dave Davis, Extension Service 105 Hammond St. Bangor, Me. 04401 or call 942-7396.

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CORRECTION. Last month's article on Amnesty International said there are no chapters North of Brunswick. Prof. Jonathon Weiss of Colby College, is trying to set up a chapter at Colby (and possibly for the greater Waterville area). Write him at French Dept. Colby College, Waterville, Me. or call 873-1131 for more info.

Here is our omni-present MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER subscription/feedback form. We would appreciate your returning this form, whether it is with comments/suggestions, articles, a subscription (paid or not) or all of the above. Please return this form to INVERT, RFD1, Newport, Me. 04953

- ☐ I like the newsletter but have no cash to spare now. Please keep sending it.
- ☐ I like the newsletter and want to contribute. Here is \$4 (one year) or \$-----
- ☐ I would rather not receive the newsletter. Please take my name off the list.
- ☐ I would like to (send articles/help produce) the newsletter. Please contact me.

The post office charges us 25¢ for each incorrect address. If your address has changed or will soon, please let us know.

My correct mailing

address is:-----

"THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW"

While only a few bills have been submitted so far, several groups are preparing packages of legislation to submit to the 110th legislature.

Medicaid, landowner-tenant, and AFDC legislation will be special concerns of Pine Tree Legal Assistance. A bill to provide work incentives and job training to AFDC recipients without penalizing them through a loss of financial benefits is being introduced. Under attack is a system which shames people for not working and then gives them even less to live on when they are.

Part of the Maine Women's Lobby's tentative list includes tax incentives to private industry providing day care, an increased penalty to employers who engage in sexual harassment, and an amendment to the "informed consent" law on abortion which would require doctors who won't terminate a pregnancy to tell women where locally it can be performed.

Among Safe Power for Maine's proposals will be: (1) Limiting the number of fuel assemblies that can be stored at Maine Yankee; (2) Referendum approval for any new nuclear plants, waste repositories, or uranium mining; and (3) Public notification of all releases of radioactivity at Maine Yankee.

Both ideas for drafting more bills and help in lobbying is needed. Contact: Marshall Cohen/Chris Hastedt, Pine Tree Legal, Box 2429, Augusta 04330, 622-4731; Mary Herman, Maine Women's Lobby, 182 Second St., Hallowell 04347, 623-2159; or John Jerabek, Safe Power for Maine, Box 70, Steuben 04680, 546-2187. More on this next month.

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Maine Hearing Voices from PEST

The hearing season is with us again, and so is The Gadfly, the newsletter of PEST (Protect Our Environment from Sprayed Toxins). Hearings on various agricultural chemicals and sprays are being held throughout December and January by the Dept. of Agriculture and the Board of Pesticides Control. PEST is acting as an intervenor to demonstrate instances of chemical trespass, uses/misuse of pesticides, health risks associated with pesticide use, and to show cases of successful Integrated Pest Management programs and alternatives to pesticide use.

Guthion will be the subject of January hearings, on the 13th in Presque Isle (10 AM at Northeastern Hotel) and the 15th in Machias (10 AM at Powers Hall, U. of Maine). Legislation to restrict pesticide use and protect human life/health will also be offered.

PEST memberships (\$5/year) are also encouraged and include a subscription to The Gadfly. For details: Terre Orlando, Rt. 1 Box 74-1, Steuben 04680 or call 546-7293.

PEST also recommends the booklet, "Working Safely with Pesticides and Chemicals," put out by the Bureau of Labor Education, 128 College Ave., Orono 04473.

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YOU write the laws! What do you think "oughta be a law?" Just write up what you think should be changed or created in Maine and find a friendly legislator to sponsor it. Deadline for submitting a rough version is Jan. 16.

FEEDBACK FORM--Feel free to add additional comments on another piece of paper.

I do/do not want my name given out for use by other groups or used for special mailings.

What do you like most about the newsletter?

What do you like least about the newsletter?

What would you like to see more coverage of? Can you send information on such topic(s)?

If there are other people who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us their names and mailing addresses. Thanx!

Pentagon Action Follow-up

Maine women who were involved in the Women's Pentagon Action (see Nov. newsletter) met in Portland on Dec. 17 to share a meal, a slide show, re-evaluation, and to discuss future plans.

"The five women who participated in civil disobedience told about their treatment during the arrest procedure, the arraignment, and the time they spent in jail. We had quite different situations. Three were in a gym with other women from the action in Alexandria, Va., one was in the DC jail, and I was sent to Alderson Fed. Penitentiary in West Virginia, along with 33 other women from the action."

"I think we all felt that our arrest was a valuable lesson in how our government regularly abuses our rights as citizens and creatures on this earth. Some thought their time would have been better spent doing work on the outside. But those of us who had contact with regular prisoners had an opportunity to share our concerns with them and vice-versa. To me this was one of the most important parts of the action. I did away with stereotypes of prison women and made a lot of new friends. I met a woman who had never heard of Three Mile Island and many who didn't know what the Pentagon was. Regular prisoners were really moved by the fact that this was an all women's protest and that we were confronting the place where so much of this country's money is disappearing to--money that could go to feeding and housing people."

"In the future, some of us would like to concentrate our energies on in-state actions. Others want to see more women from Maine becoming involved on a national level. Follow-up work will continue for those interested in learning more about civil disobedience, planning for future actions, and more. One meeting in Brunswick is coming up in mid-January."

See the article in the Dec. issue of the Portland Women's Community Newsletter, and for more info on the Brunswick meeting, contact Sheila Garrett, Box 429, S. Harpswell, 04079 or call 833-5502.

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PEACEMAKERS POTLUCK IN PORTLAND

A potluck dinner for peacemakers will be the "inauguration of a new movement for peace" in the Portland area. The Reiche School on Brackett St. will be the scene of this event, from 6-9 PM on Thursday, Jan. 22.

Its purpose is to bring together individuals, groups, and churches committed to peace, to give incentive and support to peacemaking activities, and to share resources, ideas, and cooperation.

Soup and drinks will be provided. A \$1 contribution and some simple food like bread, fruit, vegetables, cheese, or whatever to share is requested.

Groups or individuals wanting to help or to present information about themselves at the potluck can contact Tracy Booth, 35 Foreside Rd., Cumberland Center 04110, 781-5159, or Denise Ewell, 83 Summitt St., S. Portland 04106, 767-4193.

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BABEs in Port-Land

The acronym award for this month belongs to BABE (Better Awareness of the Birthing Experience), the Portland affiliate of NAPSAC (national Assn. of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth).

BABE's recent activities have included a birthing conference, a resource booklet, and a monthly lecture series. They have been compiling information on health care providers, looking at how closely they cooperate with BABE's concerns about open communication, sharing decisions with mothers, and avoiding invasive procedures.

Among their goals: (1) Promoting education on natural childbirth; (2) Helping to establish safe home birth programs; (3) Encouraging more education of parents concerning childbirth; (4) Assisting in establishing maternity and birthing centers.

BABE can be written to at PO Box 4051 Station A, Portland 04101 or called at 774-2552 or 839-6324. Their next meeting is Jan. 7.

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"Be realistic, do the impossible."

Dec. 29-30--Hearings on Comp. Energy Plan in Bangor and Portland*

Jan. 5-10--Anti-draft leafletting*

Jan. 7--Seminar on hazardous waste in Augusta*

Jan. 7--Monthly meeting of BABE*

Jan. 8--Hearing on guidelines for co-generation and small power producers at 9:30 AM, PUC Bldg., 242 State, Augusta.

Jan. 9--"Cut and Run" showing, Jewett Hall, Univ. of Maine, Augusta.

Jan. 9--Connie Hunting and David Walker read their works at Waterville library.

Jan. 9--Deadline for written comments on Comp. Energy (Resources) Plans*

Jan. 9-11--"Centering" (developing internal growth). Birdsong Farm, PO Box 143, N. Berwick 03906, 676-4038.

Jan. 10--Deadline for MCURR petitions*

Jan. 10-11--Fedco meeting in Garland*

Jan. 11--MNRC meeting in Augusta*

Jan. 13--MOFGA Ag. Trade Show in Augusta*

Jan. 13 & 15--Hearings on Guthion in Presque Isle and Machias*

Jan. 14--NOW CR group in Portland*

Jan. 15--MAIN meets in Augusta*

Jan. 16--Deadline for submitting legislation for state legislature*

Jan. 16--First meeting of Lesbian couples group in Kennebunk. Cantabrigia, Box 80, Fox Farm Hill, N. Berwick 03906.

Jan. 18--MWPA meets in Richmond*

Jan. 18-23--"Knowing--A Basic Workshop in Human Interaction," in Temple, N. H.

Address Correction Requested

Jan. 22--Peacemakers Potluck in Portland*
Jan. 23--Deadline for Fedco Seed Orders*
Jan. 24--MOFGA annual meeting at Winslow Grange (tent) from 10 AM to 5 PM*
Jan. 25--Newsletter circus in Farmington*
Jan. 29--Congress for Safe Energy meets.
For location and time: Box 777,
Brunswick 04011, 832-5013.
Feb. 8--Holly Near Concert in Brunswick.
Brunswick Women's Assn., 24 College, Brunswick 04011.

Again, we need help in writing, typing, and printing the newsletter in Palmyra. If you ever want to take a day off to see Maine's beautiful backroads and a funny round dome to boot, please get in touch. We need you more than Uncle Sam does. INVERT, RFD 1, Newport 04953. 938-2219.

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