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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 19 (August 1981)

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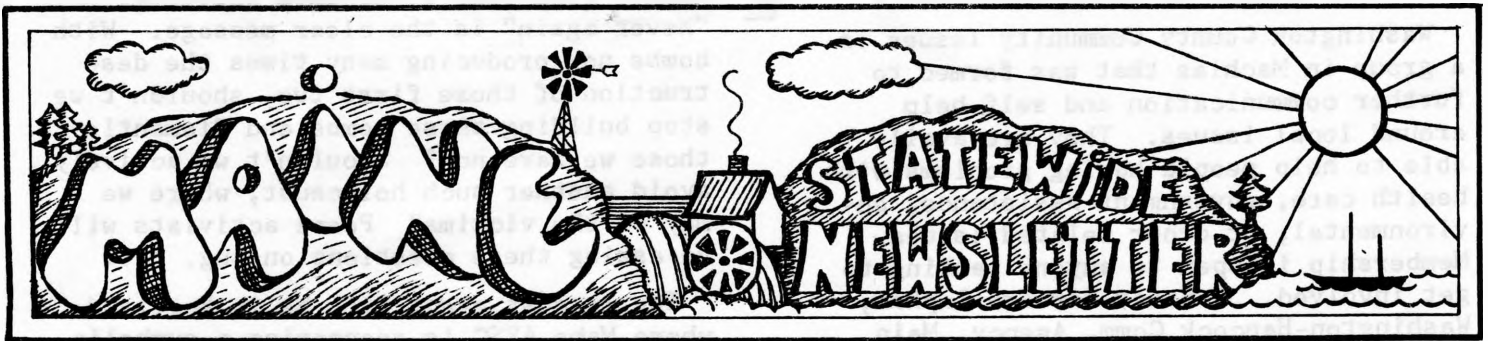
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Number 19

"All the News That Fits to Print"

August, 1981

THE ROAD TO EQUALITY

One part of the road to equality may lead from Washington Co. to beautiful downtown Portland. August brings with it Women's Equality Day, and Maine NOW (National Organization for Women) is organizing a journey from one end of the state to the other. Will you walk, jog, bike, wheelchair, skate, or otherwise transport yourself (no motor vehicles allowed) on one or more legs of this trek?

Then join Project ERA Expedition to Ratify the Amendment. The march starts with a kickoff rally in the southwest part of Washington Co. on Fri., Aug. 21 and ends with a noontime rally in Portland on Wed., Aug. 26. Travelers can go one mile or the whole distance, depending on their abilities and time.

Each participant will be assigned a stretch--a specific day, time, and place to go their distance for ERA. They are asked to get pledges, although they are not required to have them to participate. An ERA "Freedom Car" will accompany each participant and verify their pledge sheet. The march will wind thru Bar Harbor, Ellsworth, Bangor, Farmington, Lewiston, and Brunswick before reaching Portland on Aug. 26.

For registration forms, pledge sheets, etc. write Maine NOW, 23 March St., Bangor 04401, call 942-2830. Registration deadline is Aug. 11.

Along with pledges, persons may want to send a little money to Maine NOW's Political Action Committee (see address above), which is dedicated to raising and distributing money to promote NOW interests in the Maine legislature. Not only are contributions tax deductible, but PAC coordinator Joanne Dauphinee

MEMORIES OF THE PAST; CHANGES FOR THE FUTURE

They were without doubt the two greatest single disasters in modern times. On Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Over 150,000 people were killed almost instantly and at least as many more died of the aftereffects in the days, months, and years following.

From the July, 1980, Atlantic Magazine, P. 56-57, comes this account from survivor Futaba Kitayama: "There was a terrible smell in the air...I rubbed my nose and mouth hard with a tenugui (a kind of towel) I had at my waist. To my horror, I found that the skin of my face had come off in the towel. Oh! The skin on my hands, on my arms, came off too.... I found myself sitting on the ground, prostrate. Gradually I registered that all my companions had disappeared. What happened to them?...Around me was just debris, wooden framing, beams and roofing tiles; there wasn't a single landmark left....People by the hundreds were flailing in the river. I couldn't tell if they were men or women; they were all in the same state: their faces were puffy and ashen, their hair tangled, they held their hands raised and, groaning with pain, threw themselves into the water."

There will be commemorations and events in several areas of Maine to remind us ^(next page) has promised to match with her own money every dollar sent in by Sept. 1.

Finally, NOW has recently formed a new chapter in Auburn-Lewiston. They are planning a late-summer pro-choice rally, a displaced homemakers program, and membership recruiting in the L-A area. Contact Jill Stinson, Perkins Ridge Rd., Auburn 04210, 786-2632.

COMMUNITY ISSUES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County Community Issues is a group in Machias that was formed to further communication and self-help around local issues. They are available to help people having problems with health care, government assistance, environmental, or other related issues. Membership is open to anyone wanting to get involved. Contact Barbara Lapham, Washington-Hancock Comm. Agency, Main St., Machias 04654, 800-432-1766.

CELEBRATING FOR A COMMON CAUSE

Common Cause will hold its first annual Festival at Hyde School in Bath on Aug. 22. The festival, billed "We, the People," is to celebrate the spirit of citizen participation in government, and will tie in with the Bath Bicentennial Celebration. A variety of activities are scheduled throughout the day and evening. Festivities will begin at 10 AM with the Yankee Spirit festival of exhibits, featuring quality crafts and unique antiques. Booth space is still available for \$15. Films and slide shows and "Year of the Coast" will be shown at 11 AM and 1 PM. Afternoon events include a children's poetry hour and the Shoestring Puppeteers.

Guest speakers will be Common Cause national chairperson Archibald Cox and economist Jeff Faux, co-director of the Center for Economic Alternatives. At 3 PM former Maine governor Ken Curtis will lead a panel discussion on "What should be the economic recovery plan for Maine?"

An auction of many unique items, including a genuine script from the television program M*A*S*H*, a day of ocean sailing, and autographed books by several Maine authors will begin at 4:30. The "best lobster dinner in Maine and the world" will be served at 6. Reservations are required by Aug. 15 for the dinner.

The Buckfield Lather and Leather Show will be the evening entertainment. All events will be held rain or shine. For reservations or for more information, contact Bill Taylor, Common Cause, 48 Winthrop St., Augusta 04330, 622-5798.

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(cont. from page 1) of this activity. "Never again" is the clear message. With bombs now producing many times the destruction of those first two, shouldn't we stop building these bombs and dismantle those we have now? Shouldn't we actively avoid another such holocaust, where we may be the victims? Peace activists will be asking these questions on Aug. 6-9.

The largest event will be in Portland, where Maine AFSC is sponsoring a symbolic fast for 1-4 days on the theme, "Bombs or Bread." There will be noon vigils on Thurs. and Fri. in Monument Square and films at 7:30 PM at St. Lukes Episcopal, 143 State St. Saturday will feature petitioning on the Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race campaign and a candle-boat launch (a tradition in Japan) at a location not yet confirmed. The fast will be broken on Sunday. Contact Denise Ewell, 83 Summit St., S. Portland 04106, Marby Payson at 781-4769, or Maine AFSC, 772-0680.

In Bangor/Orono, there will also be fasting, petitioning, and, on Thursday, a public statement at 12:30 in downtown Bangor. Music, a Hiroshima slide show, and a film will be presented at 7:30 PM in Webster Park, Orono (rain date Aug. 9). Fasters will speak in area churches on Sunday. Dick Mori, Bangor area CALC (Clergy and Laity Concerned), 38 Smith St., Bangor 04401, 942-9482 and Cheryl Hook, 866-2895, have details.

Hancock Co. CALC will sponsor a blood-mobile ("give your blood for peace, don't shed it for war") at the Ellsworth City Hall on Aug. 6, 2-6 PM and at the Bucksport Fire Station, 2-7 PM on Aug. 7. They will also be at the Renaissance Fair in Blue Hill. Contact Elaine Hewes, Box 115, Blue Hill 04614, 469-2144 to give blood.

In Waterville, there will be church bells ringing on Aug. 6, a Friday vigil at noon in Castonguay Square, and petitioning by the Waterville area CALC. Annette Kuderka, 4 Maple St., Fairfield 04937, 873-1127 is the contact.

Three weeks later, Aug. 27, the film "War Without Winners" will be shown at 7:30 PM at the conference center in Brown's Mill, 16 Vaughn St., Dover-Foxcroft. Gwen O'Connor, 46 Court, D-F 04426, 564-2754 is making the arrangements. Events may also be planned for the Augusta area and Franklin and Washington counties.

BEGINNING ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Would you like to join an organization that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977? Would you like to help secure the release of political prisoners in all parts of the world? You can do this by joining Amnesty International (AI), a human rights group which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience from all over the world.

An AI group has formed in Central Maine and is looking for new members. They have already "adopted" a political prisoner, a Pakistani lawyer arrested without charge in March, and have started a letter writing campaign to help win his freedom.

AI is independent of all governments, political factions, economic interests, and religious creeds. To join the Waterville-Augusta group or to attend the next meeting (Aug. 5 in Hallowell), contact Jonathan Weiss, 20 Messalonskee, Waterville 04901, 873-1744, or Sarah Shed, 72 Middle St., Hallowell, 623-3163.

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AND DON'T FORGET EL SALVADOR

In spite of a virtual media blackout and reduced awareness of El Salvador events, groups in Brunswick and Auburn-Lewiston are continuing to mobilize support for an end to the fighting.

Mid-Coast Citizens for Peace and Justice in El Salvador (c/o Selma Sternlieb, 21 McKen St., Brunswick 04011, 725-7675) will have a fund-raising picnic, with music, a speaker, and food at the Sternlieb house on Aug. 16, 3-6 PM. Cost is \$4, half for membership in the group.

The Lewiston-Auburn Coalition on El Salvador (Box 7278, Lewiston 04240) has been meeting every other week at Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston (Aug. 4, 18, Sept. 1) and will go weekly in the fall. Contacts are Fred Brodeur, 41 Dunn, Auburn 04210, Mary McNally, 782-0393, or Forrest McCluer, 345-9768.

THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

POWER (People Organized Working for Economic Rights) is made up of groups and individuals concerned about the effect of Reagan budget cuts on local communities. Government policies which cut corporate taxes and social programs while increasing military expenses is seen as a hardship to low- and middle-income tax payers.

On Wed., Aug. 5, 7:30 PM, POWER will co-sponsor a meeting on "How Will New Maine Laws Affect You" at the Capehart Community Center. Pine Tree Legal staff will discuss legislation such as AFDC, tenant laws, food stamps, and other important changes. Admission is free. For more on POWER: Ilze Petersons, 9 Broad St. #32, Bangor 04401, 947-6833.

FOOD FOR PEOPLE.....

This October 16 has been declared World Food Day, a global undertaking with activities being planned in more than 120 countries. Events are being planned for central and southern Maine by the People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP) and Maine Child Nutrition Program (MCNP), with the goal of increasing the consciousness of Mainers about food issues.

A meeting is set for August 3, 1 PM at the Multi-Purpose Center, 145 Birch St., Lewiston, to begin planning World Food Day events. For more information or to help out in your local area: Eileen Whynot/Ann Thaxter, PROP, 140 Park St., Portland 04101, 772-6543, or Russ Brimmer, MCNP, Box 4770 DTS, Portland 04112, 773-8084.

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PAC-ING THEM IN

The People's Action Committee (PAC) was organized in fall, 1980, by members of the old Lewiston Tenants Union, VISTAs, and low-income residents of Lewiston. In Feb, 1981, the VISTA Volunteers were pulled out of the group by the local CAP agency, but the group has stuck together and is continuing to organize efforts for social change. Two major tenant-land owner bills were passed by the Maine legislature because of the persistence of PAC.

PAC hopes to become a viable organizer of self-help projects through which the community can meet its housing and other needs. They are especially interested in doing workshops on tenants' rights and new tenant laws in Androscoggin, Oxford, and Franklin counties as well as other areas. If interested in a workshop or for more information, contact Doris/Bob Towle, 5 Knox St., Lewiston 04240, or write to PAC, Box 7029, Lewiston 04240 c/o John Lemieux, 784-1558.

Both the Seacoast Clamshell and Seacoast Anti-Pollution League (SAPL) are actively working against the planned Seabrook nukes and are looking for support.

This June the New Hampshire legislature killed a bill that would have given hundreds of millions in rate-payer guaranteed bonds to bail out PSCO and the nukes. For the first time in five years, the fate of Seabrook has been openly debated in the legislature. In the last six months PSCO twice asked for emergency rate hikes and was turned down. A third request is still pending before the PUC.

Construction continues at Seabrook anyway, and an operating license was applied for on July 1. SAPL needs at least \$25,000 to intervene in the license proceedings. One fundraising event planned for Aug. 16 is a benefit concert by the Shaw Brothers. It will be from 2-4 PM at the Kuhn Gallery in Cape Neddick, Maine. This concert is part of a family day beginning at 1 PM.

Send money to or contact Seacoast Clam, Box 1415, 208 Market St., Portsmouth, N.H. 03801 603-431-5942 or Seacoast Anti-Pollution League, 5 Market St., Portsmouth, N.H., 03108 603-431-5089

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NEWS TRAVELS THROUGH THE AIR

Welcome to a new publication, WINEWS, a newsletter put out by the Maine Wind Energy Association. The newsletter is written with the purpose of providing information on wind machines, how to get started in wind siting and installation and where to go for more information and products.

The first issue of WINEWS, which was sent to over 2,000 people offers four pages of book and product reviews, dealer listings, schools, courses, owner feedback and more.

If you are interested in receiving WINEWS, joining the MEWEA, or just want more information on wind power contact Homeworks, 16 Vaughn St., Dover-Foxcroft 04426 564-2733

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This November, Maine citizens will have a chance to vote for an elected Maine Energy Commission to replace the Public Utilities Commission, whose members are now appointed by the governor.

The Committee for an Elected Maine Energy Commission (ELECT), spearheaded by Bruce Reeves, needs money and workers to insure success of the referendum vote. They are expecting a flood of radio and TV ads from CMP and other utilities.

The proposed Maine Energy Commission would be composed of three commissioners who serve four year terms and are elected by voters. The MEC will promote conservation and alternative energy sources and will also accept the responsibility of planning for energy needs, a function now (mis)managed by the utilities.

Only the public can make the PUC (and through it the utilities) accountable for their errors. The ELECT committee needs your support. Contact them through RD 2, Gardiner 04345, 582-5236.

DEVELOP YOUR ESP

Energy System Parameters (ESP) is sponsoring an Esoteric Studies Conference at UMO from Aug. 16-21. Keynote of this year's work is: "The Disciple; Let the Future Stand Revealed." Group coordinator is Gordon Feller of Planetary Citizens, a group which declares allegiance to the oneness of the human family.

ESP describes itself as a service Organization offering itself as a vehicle for the energies of the Buddha (Light) and the Christ (Love) in the synthesis of planetary energy systems. At every level of the financial, political, and spiritual ecosystem, ESP works to replace self-centered orientation with holistic centered realities underlying the entire world. Contact person is Nancy Backman, P.O. Box 8, Brooks 04912

HEAL YOURSELF

The 2nd Annual Maine Healing Arts Festival will be on Aug. 21-24 at Hidden Valley Camp in Freedom. Hosted by the New Life Foundation for Holistic Studies, it will offer opportunities to explore numerous approaches to health and healing. Workshop leaders will share knowledge and experience through both intensive and general programs.

A few of the workshops offered are: Therapy of Touch, Psychic Awareness, Astrology, Tai Chi, Bach Flower Remedies, Energy Awareness and Massage, and Thy Rhythms of Life.

Participants can stay in cabins or camp out. Prepared vegetarian meals will be served in the dining hall. A few partial scholarships and work exchanges are being offered. Look for more details in the latest New Life Now or contact New Life Foundation, Box 355, Athens 04912, 800-462-6630.

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SUMMERING IN BAR HARBOR

Finishing the Summer Forum Series at the College of the Atlantic (Women's Party organizer Helen Caldicott was featured in July) will be New Alchemy Institute's Gary Hirshberg, talking on "Meeting Food and Energy Needs in the 80's" (Aug. 5) and chemist Bryant Rositer on "Chemistry, Agriculture, and World Food Supply" (Aug. 12) at COA.

For details on these events or for a schedule of future forums: COA, Bar Harbor 04609, 288-5015.

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NO HOPE FOR UNION

A music festival to support the relocation of Union Chemical Co. has been planned for Aug. 9. Union Chemical Co. is located in the village of South Hope, a town with over one hundred families. The company sits in and around an old church, on a hill 150 feet above Quiggle Brook. Between the plant and brook lies marshy ground which contains exceedingly high levels of hazardous chemicals which have already leaked out. Traces of five toxic wastes have been found in the stream, and the company is being developed into a hazardous waste disposal site. Town residents are saying "NO."

Proceeds from the festival will be given to the people of South Hope, who are pursuing legal channels for relocation of the company. The festival will be on Sun., Aug. 9, 11 AM to dusk, at Twin Springs Farm in Union. Musicians are invited to come and play on stage. For more info or directions: Doug/Margaret Hamill, Twin Springs Farm, Union 04862, 785-4976, 845-2707.

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FAIR ENOUGH

"Friends Fair Extraordinaire" has been scheduled for Aug. 8 at the Rowe Elementary School in Yarmouth from 12:30-5 PM. Admission is \$2/child (adults free if accompanied by a child). There will be puppets, clowns, cooperative games, face painting, wandering minstrels, and more.

The fair is sponsored by American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Children and Non-violence Group. It offers ideas on cooperative activities, creative experiences, and positive action and thinking to adults who work with children. Contact Raun Rasmussen, RD 2, Oxford 04270, 998-2174.

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PUPPET PARADISE

August 15-16 will be a cultural paradise, with two events to liven the spirit.

Although happening in Glover, Vt. (south of town on Rt. 122), the Bread and Puppet Theater's annual circus is a true spectacle, with plays in the woods all day, larger than life puppets, music, free bread, free admission and camping, a puppet museum, and an incredible circus performance both days. Past circus goers claim it is well worth the long drive. Mabel Dennison, 778-2513 can give more details if needed.

Closer to home, the 8th Annual Buttermilk Hill Festival, Aug. 16, will again feature old time, traditional, foot-stomping music intermingled with a little puppetry and dancing beginning at noon. Buttermilk Hill is off Rt. 27, 2½ miles south of Belgrade Lakes. Rain location is the Bel. Lakes Rec. Hall. Write: John Gawler, Belgrade Lakes 04918.

There have been some important gains and losses for women in the 110th Legislature. The major defeat was the demise of the Women's Training and Employment Program.

Some legislators felt that WTEP was "another layer of bureaucracy" and they did not want to create more State jobs. Others wanted to fund the existing Displaced Homemakers Services. At the last minute, the legislature did fund the Displaced Homemakers for \$30,000 next year. WTEP had requested \$92,000.

Other minuses from the session included the overwhelming vote against the lesbian and gay rights bill; and defeat in the appropriations committee of the day care tax credit to industry and the tax exempt status for domestic violence shelters. The lawmakers also chose not to change the AFDC calculation formula to create more of an incentive for people on welfare to work.

One significant bill that did become law this session strives to coordinate existing training, education and employment programs for AFDC recipients. This bill was written by members of Pine Tree Legal Assistance and sponsored by Senators Charlotte Sewell and Richard Pierce and Reps. Libby Mitchell and Chip Hayden. This legislation funds three positions in the State Apprenticeship Council to create new apprenticeship slots targeted for welfare recipients.

Other issues acted upon by the 110th were housing, child prostitution, part time work for state employees, and Family Protection. Not all of the decisions were favorable to women. If you want to know more about what is going on in the Statehouse contact the Maine Women's Lobby, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, 04347

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"Rags make paper, paper makes money, money makes banks, banks make loans, loans make beggars, beggars make rags."

"In a society, some are guilty, but all are responsible."--A. Hescheil

If you're in prison, what's it like being "on the inside"? If you're "on the outside", what biases and misconceptions do you have of those in prison?

These questions will be answered at South Parish Cong. Church, State Street, Augusta, the site of the next program of the Maine Council of Churches Prison Study Committee. Constance Baugh, Citizen Advocate for Justice in New York City, will offer a workshop on August 3, from 6-9 PM.

The first half of the session will concentrate on the biases and misunderstandings of people "on the outside", with the second half focusing on how to relate outsiders to insiders and vice versa.

Participants are asked to contribute \$3 and to bring some food for dinner (more food will be provided as well). For details: Walter Van Hoek, SR 68 Box 254, N. Fryeburg 04058, 697-3471.

"Ten Myths and Facts on Homosexuality" is just what it says. Even lesbians and gay men say they've learned something from this booklet. For a copy, send 50¢ or more to Northern Lambda Nord, Box 990, Caribou 04736.

THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR TREES

Red Nugget Harvesters is an association of apple pickers committed to high quality picking and responsibility for sharing in decision making with other crew members. Their wages are high for the area due to their reputation for quality and self-regulation. They have contracted to pick 25,000 bushels in Wilton, Their fifth year with the same grower.

Members must be willing to work 45 or more hours a week for 6 weeks beginning about Sept. 12. The crew should be complete by Aug. 25. Persons interested in joining the crew should contact Peter Armstrong, RFD 3, Farmington 04938, 778-2407 or, Doug Wurtz, Morse Rd., New Gloucester 04260, 926-4343.

SPRUCE BUDWORM: SHOULD NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE?

This spring, between May 15 and June 30 Maine was part of one of the largest aerial spray programs in the US, the Spruce Budworm Suppression Project. Presently 1.2 million acres of timber in northern Maine are considered an epidemic infestation area, wood that will possibly die because of defoliation by the Spruce Budworm.

Much of the forest that grows today in northern Maine is a uniformly mature spruce-fir forest, about 60 years old, according to the Maine State Forest Service. These trees grew up from the last Spruce Budworm epidemic in 1917, which killed the then existing forest. Budworm mortality is part of a forest growth cycle and has happened periodically for 300 years, probably much longer.

In 1981, however, more people than ever are dependent on the vast spruce-fir resource. The Forest Service regards the next five years as crucial in the battle against the budworm. If trees are defoliated and die, Maine will have a glut of pulp wood for 2½ years (the time dead spruce can be left standing) and then a severe shortage. Consequently, the Forest Service sees their role in the budworm spray project as being tied to Maine's entire wood industry and the livelihood of many people in the state.

The state Forest Service administers a \$9 million spray program budget. Other duties include overseeing the actual application of the spray and determining which acreage will be treated and how.

Spray blocks are very specifically mapped out. Buffer zones which allow no spray have been established around permanent habitations, publicly maintained roads, beehives, organic farms, eagle nests, blueberry lands, critical fisheries, and water bodies visible at 1000 ft.

Two insecticides are used most extensively against the budworm, Sevin-4 and Bt. About 95,800 acres were treated with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a bacteria commonly found in soil. Bt, which works by paralyzing the gut of butterfly and moth larvae, would seem to be a good alternative to using chemical insecticide. However, the Forest Service gives it a

low effectiveness rating (35%) and finds it hard to work with because it must be applied under ideal conditions. This combined with its high cost make Bt interesting but not good enough to be used exclusively. Sevin-4 seem to be the "agent of choice."

Sevin-4 (carbaryl) is a broad spectrum insecticide that is mixed with fuel oil and applied at a rate of 3/4 lb. per acre on targeted areas. The tons which are sprayed on much of the Maine woods constitutes a major contract for Union Carbide. Sevin is widely used and can be bought by anyone at a local Agway. Easy accessibility, though, belies its potency.

Sevin kills more than just the budworm. It is especially toxic to honeybees, a fact well known by people at the Forest Service who conscientiously contact all beekeepers in spray target areas. Dogs also seem to be sensitive. Scientific studies link Sevin with birth defects in dogs, guinea pigs, mice, and chickens. Some scientists say similar effects can be expected in humans. Studies done at UMO by Dr. Mary Ann Jerkofsky show carbaryl to be a viral enhancer, making human tissue samples less resistant to viruses.

Some people feel that just being given prior warning of spraying is not enough. Barbara Lapham of Marion Township has challenged the spray program in court. Her case specifically challenges unconsenting human exposure, saying environmental laws are impossible to enforce because spray drift is unavoidable.

Another group organized against the spray program is PEST (Protect Our Environment from Sprayed Toxins), Box 74-1 Steuben 04680, 546-7293. Articles about PEST's activities have been printed in previous issues of this newsletter.

Notable among spray opponents is Mel Ames, president of the Maine Woodsmen's Association, a group whose livelihood is dependent upon the resource in question, the Maine woods. How can he justify not doing every thing possible to prevent a collapse of the wood industry?

The fact that Mel Ames sees the budworm in a different light answers the question. "The problem with (cont. on P. 8)

(cont. from P. 7) their thinking is that the forest will not die. It didn't before," says Ames. He explains that there are a lot of factors in management of the budworm. Major mortality happens on poor soils, the silty clay that comprises about 20% of the state. The budworm also takes the poor trees. This is always going on in the woods.

Mel Ames wished that all the money spent on the spray program which began in 1955 had gone into forestry management. "We will look back at it as a farce, and the public has paid for it."

A landowner himself, Ames manages 700 acres of woodland in north central Maine and thinks that he has been successful in dealing with the budworm. In fact, he has invited the Forest Service to look at his land and discuss management techniques. The spray program in his opinion has "complicated the issue. One application of spray does more damage than none because the natural balance is upset."

Twenty six years of spraying have not yet eradicated the budworm. Because of public concern about health hazards of chemicals, new ways are constantly being sought to insure survival of the woods. Paper companies, well aware of the problem, are replanting budworm resistant species such as red pine, jack pine, black spruce, and larch. The Forest Service is especially interested in pheromones, which act by disrupting the mating cycle, and also fungi, which attack insects in certain stages of development.

One article printed in a Maine newspaper suggests placing plastic trees in decimated areas to attract the downy woodpecker, a voracious feeder on the budworm. Actually, birds, ants, forest spiders, and soil bacteria are considered as much a part of a forest as the trees to European foresters who will inoculate a new forest with these factors.

Not only forests are affected by spray; it's an issue that lawmakers and the courts must recognize too. Last month the Maine Supreme Court gave the state Attorney General's office power to proceed more quickly with lawsuits against firms violating pesticide laws.

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Recently legislative changes were made which makes participation in the spray program voluntary. Previously a landowner had no say in whether or not the land was to be sprayed, and then received a tax assessment based on the number of acres owned, not actually sprayed. Now, landowners must request to participate in the protection program and commit their land for 5 years.

According to the Forest Service, the spray program is carefully planned and monitored. Most spray samples of plant and animal life are scrutinized, and spray pilots have come to realize that Maine is more restrictive than other states. They express an amiable attitude toward spray opponents. They say efforts of people like Barbara Lapham have made them develop a responsible program, and they need that kind of voice.

The question remains, though, about the best way to manage Maine's forest lands. Can we believe that 1 million acres will be dead in 5 years if the budworm is not eradicated: Will nature take care of her own (that's us too) or has the problem grown to such gigantic proportions that there is no way out?

Perhaps author Rachel Carson can offer some insight into this problem in her book Silent Spring:

"In some quarters nowadays it is fashionable to dismiss the balance of nature as a state of affairs that prevailed in an earlier, similar world--a state that has now been so thoroughly upset that we might as well forget it. Some find this a convenient assumption, but as a chart for a course of action, it is highly dangerous. The balance of nature is a complex, precise, and highly integrated system of relationships between living things which cannot safely be ignored any more than the law of gravity can be defied with impunity by a man perched on the edge of a cliff."

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"We will learn to live together as sisters and brothers, or we will die together as fools."--M. L. King

"Libraries will get you thru times of no money better than money will get you thru times of no libraries."--A. Herbert

MORE PETITIONS

Another worthwhile petition being circulated in the state is the "Petition to End World Hunger." This petition is aimed at the American delegation to the North-South Summit Meeting on Cooperation and Development. It will be held on Oct. 22-23 in Cancun, Mexico, where leaders of 22 nations will meet to discuss ways to assist developing nations to feed their people.

All petitions should be returned to SHARE, 1416 Madison St. NW, Washington, DC 20011. In Maine, Nancy Backman of ESP, PO Box 8, Brooks 04921 has petitions and further explanations.

Maine's largest environmental group, the Natural Resources Council, has endorsed the Sierra Club/Friends of the Earth petition drive aimed at removing Interior Secretary James Watt. Nearly 1 million signatures have been collected nationwide in this campaign. To add your name to the growing list or get petitions, contact the Natural Resources Council of Maine, 271 State St., Augusta 04330, 622-3101.

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THE NEXT MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER

circus to collate, staple, and label will be on Sunday, Aug. 23, beginning at noon, at Ann Renner's house, 52 Mayflower Hill Dr., Waterville, 873-9093. We'll fit a potluck in and zip right thru it. Can you come and help?

We are definitely behind our goal for 1981 of 1,000 subscriptions (paid or not) and \$3,800. We stand in late July at 420 subscriptions and \$1,669.50 in donations. Because of increased mailing rates and especially a lot of receivers of the newsletter who have never indicated any interest in receiving it, the October and November issues will be a time for asking for some sign of life from people who have been receiving it but have never responded. Those who do not respond by late Nov. will be dropped from the list. So why not send us a subscription form and save us the trouble? If the newsletter is worthwhile, it ought to support itself, right?

We need articles and events for Sept. (deadline Aug. 20). Send them post haste to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport 04953, 938-2219.

MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION/FEEDBACK FORM

Please return this form with comments/suggestions, articles, and/or a subscription, (paid or not). Return this form to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport, Maine 04953, 938-2219.

- ☐ I like the newsletter but can't give a donation now. Please keep sending it.
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- ☐ I would like to send articles/events (deadline is the 20th of each month), help with production in Palmyra (August 20-21) or with a collating circus, or be part of a newsletter review committee. (Please specify)

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

What do you like most about the newsletter? What do you like least about it? Can you send us information on topics we don't adequately cover? If there are others who would like to receive this newsletter, please attach to this form their names and correct mailing addresses.

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Listings with numbers following have more details on that page number)

July 31-Aug. 2--The Maine Festival, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. Music, crafts, films, poetry, etc.

Aug. 3--Prison workshop in Augusta (6)

Aug. 3--World Food Day meets in Lew. (3)

Aug. 4, 18--L-A El Salvador meetings (3)

Aug. 4-10--"Coaster" opening of Railroad Square's cafe screening room. RR 2 Cinema, Box 945, Waterville 04901, 873-6526.

Aug. 5--POWER Forum in Bangor (3)

Aug. 5--Amnesty International meeting in Hallowell (3)

Aug. 5, 12--Summer Forum at COA (5)

Aug. 6-9--Hiroshima/Nagasaki activities throughout the state (1)

Aug. 8--Freinds Fair in Yarmouth (5)

Aug. 8-9--Renaissance Fair, crafts, music, food, etc. at Rowantrees Pottery, Rt. 177, Blue Hill 04614, 374-2193.

Aug. 9--Benefit for South Hope/removal of Union Chemical (5)

Aug. 14-20--Seventh Northeast Communities Gathering, Another Place, Rt. 123, Greenville, N. H. 03048, 603-878-9883.

Aug. 15-16--"Women in the Healing Arts." conference. \$20-35. Hardscrabble Hill, Box 130, Orland 04472, 469-7112.

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INVERT

RFD 1

Newport, Maine 04953

Address Correction Requested

Aug. 15-16--Bread and Puppet in Vt. (5)

Aug. 15-21--Minorities week at World Fellowship Center. "Unlearning Indian Stereotypes," "Minorities, Urban Politics, and the Klan in the 1980's." WFC, RD Box 136, Conway, N. H. 03818, 603-447-2280.

Aug. 15-22--"GALA III, A week for gays and lesbians." Ferry Beach, Saco 04072, 284-8612, or Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns, UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston 02108.

Aug. 16--SAPL benefit in Cape Neddick (4)

Aug. 16--Buttermilk Hill Festival (5)

Aug. 16--El Salvador benefit picnic in Brunswick (3)

Aug. 16-21--Pilgrim's Progress/Esoteric Studies Conference at UMO, Orono (4)

Aug. 18-21--Maine AFL-CIO Summer Labor Institute, steward's training, contracts, grievances, etc. AFL-CIO, 72 Center St., Brewer 04412, 989-3630.

Aug. 21-24--Maine Healing Arts Festival (5)

Aug. 21-26--ERA March from Wash. County to Portland (1)

Aug. 22--Common Cause Fair in Bath (2)

Aug. 23-27--"Organizing in Smaller Cities and Rural Communities" workshop in E. Sebago. Ellen Fleischmann, North Country Institute, Box 7484, Portland, 775-3050.

Aug. 23--Newsletter circus in Waterville (9)

Aug. 27--Film in Dover-Foxcroft (2)

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