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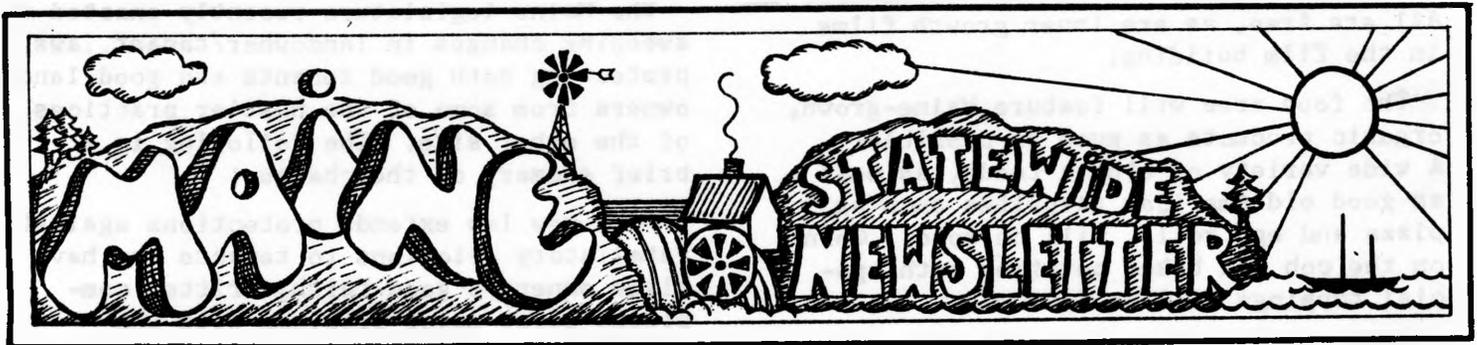


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Number 20

"All the News That Fits to Print"

September, 1981

DIGGING THE COMMON GROUND (FAIR)

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

If you long for the days when country fairs meant exhibits of home-produced goods, animals, the sharing of ideas, and a chance to meet people who enjoy rural life and the diversity of Maine's communities, rather than just amusement and spending, than you should head on down to MOFGA's 5th annual Common Ground Country Fair in Windsor, Sept. 25-27.

Solidarity Day. No, it's not in support of Polish workers. It's Sat., September 19, a day when a hoped-for $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ million people will converge on Washington, DC for a march, music, and speeches. Solidarity Day has been so named by the AFL-CIO as a day when all American trade unionists, non-AFL-CIO union members, labor's supporters, elders, women's groups, low-income groups, and anyone else opposed to the Reagan administration's assault on social programs can speak out.

This year's fair includes exhibits on agriculture, renewable energy, shelter, inner growth, crafts, education, and social concerns; animals, including a poultry show, dairy goat show, draft horse and sheep shows, sheep dogs, donkeys, mules and hogs; speakers including Stewart Brand, Ray Shadis, and Beatrice Trum Hunter; and entertainment including The Augusta Symphony Ragtime Ensemble and Community Band, Devonsquare, Tim Sample & Marshall Dodge, Lee Bryant, Jazzm, Abrams & Anderson, Jud the Jester, Marilyn Ryan, Country Choir, Mr. & Mrs. Fish, Rockport Puppet Theater, and a fiddle contest (phewwww!!!!).

It will be a day to assert the demand for jobs and justice, human rights and social equality, for decent social security payments, occupational health and safety laws which protect workers, minimum wage laws which are maintained, and a government which helps "little people" as well as big ones. Another message will be that there is no mandate, as the administration has claimed, for reducing spending for human needs programs. Peace groups will be asking for a rearrangement of priorities--more money for peace and social programs and less for the Pentagon.

One highlight promises to be the 2nd Annual Harry S. Truman Manure Pitch-Off, where contestants can test their manure-slinging abilities in the four categories of Garden Spread, Basket Pitch, Bed Spread, and Distance and Accuracy (the Punt, Pass, and Kick of organic agriculture).

This will be a special event, because it is the first major demonstration in Washington called by the AFL-CIO.

The Inner Growth area will be greatly expanded, with a special tent open from 10-3 (Fri./Sat.) and 12-4 on Sunday. Spiritual Healing (John Ineson), Exploration thru Psychodrama (Doris Twitchell Allen), Reflexology/Shiatsu (Keith Rosenberger), massage, meditation, hospice, astrology, and yoga are (cont. page 2)

There is a Solidarity Committee in Maine. One bus is filled, and they hope to fill several more. Coordination is coming from the Maine AFL-CIO and local union leaders. To be on a bus or to contact local supporters, get in touch with Gail Halfkenny, 1 Crescent, Portland 04102, 772-0792, or Charles O'Leary, Maine AFL-CIO, 72 Center St., Brewer 04412, 989-3630.

MILK IS A NATURAL

The third annual La Leche League Area Conference will be held on Oct. 17 at Skowhegan High School. La Leche League, an international organization which promotes breastfeeding and parenting, has over 30 local groups in Maine.

Many topics will be offered at the day long event, including breastfeeding under special circumstances, the family bed, the vegetarian diet, the father bond, and family approach to discipline.

A featured conference speaker is Viola Lennon, co-author of The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding. Members of the Maine medical profession, specialists in nutrition and childbirth, and certified League leaders will also speak.

Pre-registration: Carol Bull, 10 Cobb Rd., Bath 04530, 443-5361.

!!!!!!!!!!!! \$!!!!!!!!!!!!!

LOOKING SUNWARDS

College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor will sponsor SUNWARDS Solar Conference from Oct. 15-17. The conference is for northern New England's solar professionals and the general public. Technical presentations on state-of-the-art solar technology for builders and designers will be featured, followed by a trade show and architectural exhibitions. Presentations for the general public begin at 9 AM on Saturday, such as reviewing solar domestic water heating, solar retrofitting, new home design options, wind generators, and much more. For info on displaying or attending: Judy Berk, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor 04609, 288-5015.

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THE WISDOM OF ELDERS

The Gray Panthers are looking for more members. If you want to work on developing creative alternatives to the injustices in society which confront people at every phase of life, please contact Pam Smith, 297 Cumberland Ave., Portland 04101, 774-6974 or attend the next monthly meeting on Sept. 8 at 1 PM at the Salvation Army Golden Age Center, Room 10, 297 Cumberland Ave., Portland.

The Gray Panthers are people of all ages working for social change. They believe that every person, regardless of chronological age, has much to contribute to society. Gray Panthers are working for a new age of reason, justice, and concern for old as well as young and they won't settle for less. Why should they? Why should you?

TAKE THE PLEDGE

In order to sustain the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee's (MNRC) efforts for the coming year so it doesn't go broke a month before the Nov., 1982 election, the MNRC is initiating its Monthly Pledge Program.

The program, according to coordinator Charlie Frair, is simple: People pledge a monthly sum to the MNRC. In exchange, they receive monthly updates and a return envelope for their pledge. Any amount is helpful, but \$5/month or more is ideal.

MNRC is actively seeking more pledgers, with a goal of 500 by Aug. 31 and 800 more by the end of Sept. To get a pledge card or details, contact Charlie at MNRC, Box 2627, Augusta 04330, 622-4395.

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SMASHING STEREOTYPES

"Learning and Teaching About Indians in Maine" is an opportunity for teachers, librarians, and other educators to learn about Wabanaki culture and native issues from tribal resource people. There will be workshops on classroom teaching, stereotyping, and culture. Books and materials for display and sale will be available.

The conference will be from 8:40-4 PM on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Riverton Community Center, 1600 Forest Ave., Portland. Registration, including coffee/donuts, child care, and lunch is \$10 before Sept. 23 (\$15 after). Facilities are accessible to handicapped people. To register or for details: Maine Indian Program, American Friends Service Committee, RFD 1 Box 177A, Freeport 04032.

SMALL SCHOOLS DO A BIG JOB

LET THEM EAT CARS!

School is starting soon, but some children will not be returning to a traditional education. The following are most of what are often called "alternative" or progressive schools in Maine. They are all private, small, have a high teacher/pupil ratio; and emphasize parent involvement and individualized instruction. Most cover grades K-8, except those with a *, which are usually higher grade levels. New Day School also has a nursery school for children ages 2-5:

In Brazil, millions of acres of rain forest have been stripped and planted with sugarcane, to produce alcohol to help power Brazil's 7 million cars. This has caused extensive environmental damage, and driven thousands of small farmers off their farms and into the already overcrowded cities.

The World Bank is loaning millions of dollars to African countries, and even India and Bangladesh, to likewise destroy the base of their agricultures in order to feed their cars.

And now a gasahol plant is being proposed in Portsmouth, on the Maine border. It would be located in an area near two housing projects, a shopping center, and huge oil and gas storage depots.

There are also rumors of a huge plant being planned for the Auburn area, using potatoes and "excess" Midwest grain.

Is there a connection to all of this? Susan Johnson of Kittery seems to think so, and she is trying to find money and legal talent to fight the proposed Portsmouth plant, as well as raising people's consciousness about gasahol. "Gasahol makes sense on a small farm where there are bad crops and waste, and can be used to the farmer's advantage, but otherwise it is wasteful and must not be considered solar energy," she says.

Contact Susan at 13 Cromwell St., Kittery 03904 if you want to help.

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There is also considerable support in Maine for the idea of "Growing Without Schooling," a home education concept advanced by writer/critic John Holt. Maine contacts include:

- Marilyn Bacon, N. Sullivan 04664.
- Andi/Bill Cutler, 8 Towle St., Auburn 04210.
- Mabel Dennison, Box 538, Temple 04984.
- John Goldfine, RFD 2 Box 151, Belfast.
- Mary Jo/Chris Hawkins, 189 Maple St., Bangor 04401.
- Anne Martina, Box 15, Harborside 04642.
- Dick/Beedy Parker, 68 Washington St., Camden 04843.
- Carol/Bill White, RFD 1 Box 112D, Charleston 04422.

Kix The Community School, Box 555, Camden 04843, 236-3000.*

K Country Mile School, Star Rt., Robinhood 04530, no phone.*

me Dunbrook School, RFD 1 Box 1313, Farmington 04938, 778-6253.

lin Homestead School, Box 663, Ellsworth 04605, 667-2021.*

luc Maine Reach, Chewonki Foundation, Wiscasset 04578, 882-7323.*

uab New Country School, Rt. 113, West Baldwin 04091, 625-4962.

Ken New Day School, RFD 1, Readfield 04355, 685-9053.

ken Our School, Rt. 1 Box 188, Waterville 04901, 873-4460.

luc Riley Country School, Box 91, Glen Cove 04846, 596-6405.

York Salmon Falls School, Box 198, Hollis 04042, 727-3118.

Frank Sandy River School, RFD 3, Farmington 04938, 778-2386.

York The School Around Us, Log Cabin Rd., Arundel 04046, 967-8333.

W Skitikuk School, Bennoch Rd., Orono *Seaside* 04473, 866-4052.

me Saltwater Farm School, Hancock 04640 422-9029.

me Strawberry Fields School, RFD 1, Freedom 04941, 382-6423.

me Tatnic Hill School, RFD 2 Box 329, Wells 04090, 985-2238.*

me Toddy Pond School, RFD 2 Box 151, Belfast 04915, 338-3080.

York The Village School, Gen. Delivery, Wilton 04294, 645-3078.

Alternative schools have also formed the Maine Small Schools Consortium, which meets occasionally for business and pleasure. Contact Peter Zack at the New Country School for more on this group.

!!Women Marching in the Streets!!

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!!Women Marching in the Streets!! #2

Women in the Portland area are gearing up for a second "Take Back the Night" march, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 24, 1981. Last year almost 500 people participated in an evening march thru Portland streets declaring their solidarity in ending violence against women. in the street and in all aspects of their lives. Earlier in the day many attended workshops on topics like self-defense, rape, street violence, pornography, and sexual harassment.

For those who missed last year's Women's Pentagon Action where several thousand marched outside the Pentagon and several hundred, including a few from Maine, were arrested, there will be a second action on Nov. 15-15, 1981. The date was chosen to commemorate the death of Karen Silkwood, a worker in a plutonium factory apparently killed before she could expose the dangers of nuclear radiation in the Kerr-McGee plant she worked in.

A few women met in early August and decided a similar event was needed again. A lot more women's energy is needed, however, so a public meeting will be held at 7 PM, Sept. 3, at the Portland Public Safety Bldg. Among the agenda items are confirming the date, structuring duties and committees (a two-coordinator system has been suggested), committee membership, and financial reports.

Planning in New England for an even larger response than last year has begun, with a carryover "Unity Statement" and a theme of weaving. One meeting discussed weaving something large enough to cover the Pentagon. Organizers anticipate having extensive training about militarism and civil disobedience and need trainers and trainees. There may be an informational meeting at the Common Ground Fair to provide more details.

For more info, or if you need childcare for the meeting call 772-6953.

For information regarding the WPA send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Sheila Garrett, PO Box 429, So. Harpswell 04079, or call 833-5502.

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SEE HOW THEY RUN

GET YOUR NAME IN THE PAPERS

Run for Working Women is a three mile road race to benefit the Working Women's Rights Project. The project is a legal education effort by the Maine Civil Liberties Union aimed at increasing awareness of women's rights in the workplace. The run is an opportunity for both women and men to show support for working women whether they be homemakers, blue, pink, or white collar workers.

Women who own their own business have an opportunity to be listed in two new Women's Development Directories soon to be published at UMO. Info on how to be listed or how to obtain a directory is available from the Women's Development Directory, Office of Equal Opportunity, 259 Aubert Hall, Univ. of Me. at Orono 04469, 581-2245.

Date is Sat., Oct. 3rd (rain date Oct. 4) at 10:00 AM. The race will take place in the Old Port area of Portland, beginning at Tommy's Park at the corner of Exchange and Middle Sts. Entry fee is \$3.00 and free T-shirts will be given to the first fifty registrants.

Dr. JoAnn M. Fritsche, director of the program is preparing both a statewide and a greater Bangor area directory which will list businesses and services run by women, agencies that address women's special needs, and individuals who wish to share their skills but have no established business.

For an entry form write to Working Women's Rights Project, Maine Civil Liberties Union, 97 Exchange Street, Portland 04101 or call Kam McCully at 774-5444.

There is no charge for listing in the directories which will be distributed to consumers, non-profit organizations, and others involved in economic growth and development.

CROW YOUR OWN (TOMATOES)

For six weeks, beginning the end of August, over 2000 migrant farmworkers will be on strike in the tomato fields of northwest Ohio. These people are members of Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) which has been working since 1968 to get large tomato processors, especially Campbell's and Libby's to include farmworkers in contract negotiations with growers. FLOC is organized primarily in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, and though we in Maine are not directly involved in the effort, the union is asking consumers nationwide to boycott Campbell and Libby products as a show of support for the Ohio tomato pickers.

Currently contracts are signed only between the processor and the grower. The processor dictates prices as well as growing instructions in a take-it or leave-it situation. They tell the grower when to plant, when to spray, and when to harvest. FLOC states that for years growers have enjoyed a profitable return on their investment primarily because of the availability of farmworkers as cheap labor, not because of outstanding possibilities offered by the processors. Further, FLOC recognizes that the grower can only afford a limited overhead so that when the grower must accept the price given by the processor, wages for the farmworker are thereby set.

Though other processing companies also operate in Ohio, (Heinz, Stokely Van Camp, Hunts) Campbell and Libby are the strike targets because of company policies. Libby-McNeil-Libby is actually owned by Nestle Corporation, a company which has become subject to world discussion and boycott because of its third world infant formula marketing policies.

In an open letter regarding the boycott, Campbell Soup Co. states that it "seeks the good-will of both suppliers and their employees because both are vital to a supply of materials needed to produce (their) product.

Also, Campbell questions if FLOC truly represents the majority of Ohio

farmworkers. (to which FLOC has replied that if they are voted out they will get out).

Campbell's says that it would be impractical for them to participate in the business of their many thousands of suppliers. Company position on the contracts is that it would be "improper and presumptuous" and probably illegal to interfere in grower/farmworker negotiations.

FLOC's legal counsel has advised that any number of parties may enter into a contract and though what they propose is unusual in labor relations, it is not illegal.

This August union demands were set at the FLOC Organizational Convention, one reason this years strike is considered crucial. Workers want to be guaranteed 28 hours of work each two weeks, similar to a law covering Wisconsin workers. They want to receive transportation costs of 15c per mile for travel from Florida and Texas and an additional 3c per mile for worker passengers. They are also seeking medical coverage for a four month period of employment with demands for safety from pesticide spraying. FLOC hopes to negotiate a minimum wage of \$3.50/hr. put into effect when the hoped for rate of 45c per hamper (33lbs) does not equal that.

In response to the question of wages, Campbell cites a US Dept. of Labor study done in 1978 which shows the average pay for Ohio tomato workers ranging between \$4.32 and \$7.64 per hour, well above the minimum wage.

FLOC disputes the validity of this study because the figures were taken from farmer's pay records which do not reflect the fact that often 4 of 5 family members, including children and elders, are paid as one unit. Also, Dept. of Labor studies are done at "peak" season, excluding the slow beginning and end of the season.

One wage study done by the American Friends Service Committee recorded the actual number of hours (cont. on P.8)

(continued from page 7)

worked by a selected group of pickers. The hourly wage ranged from 35¢ to \$5.46 with an average of \$1.96.

The fact that children travel and often work alongside their parents is also a concern in the dispute. A bonus system which deducts pay from "peak" periods to encourage workers to stay until the end of the harvest keeps parents working when they would normally go back home to get the children into school.

Campbell operates a "Labels for Education" program whereby schools and religious organizations can redeem labels for tape recorders and other equipment. FLOC is especially offended by this program because, in their eyes, Campbell perpetuates a situation which detracts from the education of farmworker children. So far, over 500 institutions have pledged support to FLOC and no longer participate in the "Labels for Education" program.

Support for the boycott and FLOC is growing nationwide. Many individuals and religious groups have offered money, time, and support. The US Catholic Church's Campaign for Human Development has granted FLOC \$89,000 to undertake their work.

Though most Maine supermarkets remain blissfully unaware of the boycott, some local coops and alternative stores have taken positive steps. Hungry Chuck's Food Coop in Waterville voted in March to buy no more stock of Campbell's V-8 juice in support of the boycott. Their supplier and a source for many Maine coops, the FEDCO Warehouse in N. Vassalboro, continues to stock V-8 juice. Efforts in other states have included protest letters, leafletting, and discussions/negotiations with store managers.

A similar boycott has been encouraged for all Libby's products, although there is already a boycott against it. Libby's is a subsidiary of the Nestle corporation, which has been charged with improper marketing of infant formula in Third World countries, thus causing the deaths of many babies. This provides a second reason to boycott Libby's and other Nestle products.

In 1979 Campbell ordered all its growers to mechanize the harvest and not to utilize farmworkers. And because a mechanized harvest is supposedly cheaper, Ohio tomato growers were offered \$7 less per ton in 1981 than the year before. Ohio farmers are seemingly being forced into the American agricultural pattern which begins when the farmer can barely make a living.

To survive, farmers become highly competitive, and they must turn to capital intensive instead of labor intensive farming to grow their tomatoes. Some of the tomatoes (farmers) do not make it past this stage, but the ones with more juice (money) do. Then they become big tomatoes. But often even they do not make it, because there is an even bigger tomato waiting around the corner. And there it is. Ketchup? No! Agribusiness! The little tomatoes get squeezed out by the giant ones who can afford expensive machinery but accept no responsibility for people left without a job. So, the next time you see Campbell's or Libby's products on the coop or grocery shelf, think about all the little tomatoes.

Among the Campbell's products on the boycott list are Campbell's Soups and Tomato Juice, V-8 Juice, Prego Spaghetti Sauce, Vlasic Pickles, Bounty Soups, Franco-American, Pepperidge Farm baked goods, Swanson Frozen Dinners, Recipe Pet Foods, and any other products with Campbell's as the parent company.

Products of Nestle/Libby's include all Libby's products; Souptime, Maggi, and Crosse and Blackwell soups; Pero, Sunrise, Decaf, Nestea, Nescafe, and Taster's Choice drinks; Stouffer and Rusty Scupper restaurants; Stouffer's frozen foods, cheeses with names like Swiss Knight, Wispride, Gerber, and Old Fort; and other Nestle corporation products.

For more information or to express your feelings about the issue, write: FLOC, 714 S. St. Clair, Toledo, Ohio 43609, 419-243-3456 or D. Y. Robinson, Director of Consumer Services, Campbell's Soup Co., Camden, N. J. 08101, or I. W. Murray, Pres., Libby's, 200 S. Michigan, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

A HUNGER FOR CHANGE

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Work around hunger issues continues in preparation for World Food Day, Oct. 16, when representatives of coops, food banks, agricultural groups, and nutrition programs will promote the theme of "Food Self-Sufficiency."

Among the potential ideas for activities on that day include a Maine Menu (all Maine-grown foods) for schools, hospitals, and day care centers, food drives for local food banks, and distributing information on food issues like Food Stamps, WIC (Women, Infants, Children) program, food coops, etc.

More planning for the day will be happening on Sept. 9, 1 PM, at Papoose Pond, N. Waterford (near Norway/S. Paris). All interested food activists are welcome. For details: Ann Thaxter/Eileen Whynot, PROP, 140 Park St., Portland 04101, 772-6543.

Papoose Pond will also be the site on Sept. 10 (9 AM-4 PM) for "Nutrition, Nursery Rhymes, and You," a program on nutrition education for young people by Prof. Margaret Eastman Butler of the Univ. of Me., Farmington. She'll show how to turn rhymes like "Little Tommy Tucker," "Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater," and "Jack Sprat" into nutrition lessons for all ages.

Registration (\$20) includes lunch. Scholarships and mileage reimbursements are available. Ann Thaxter is the contact (see above).

On the international level, Bread for the World, another World Food Day co-sponsor, is beginning a campaign for congressional support for the Hunger and Global Security bill now before Congress. The bill is intended to address root causes of world hunger, which Bread for the World feels is maintaining global insecurity. More food will bring the world closer to world peace, they believe.

Thirteen Bread for the World members met recently with Rep. David Emery and received his support for at least part of the bill, such as Title III (latitude in food aid). Bread for the World hopes to meet with him again in Sept. and with Maine's two senators.

The group is organized in Maine's 1st congressional district, mostly in the Portland area. They are looking for more contacts in the Biddeford/Saco, Bath/Brunswick, Rockland/Belfast, and Kennebec Co. areas. They can help anyone wanting to begin a group in Olympia Snowe's district. Contact: Wesley Mills, Bread for the World, 91A St. Lawrence, Portland 04101, 773-2653.

MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION/FEEDBACK FORM

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