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Maine Women's History Month (1990)

Bangor Daily News Staff
Bangor Daily News

Maine WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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Women have made lasting contributions to Maine

Throughout the state's history, Maine women have proven their courage and resourcefulness in the face of difficulties, and today more than ever are emerging as leaders in their own right.

Since before Maine was admitted to the Union in 1820, women from this state and the Territory of Maine have made important contributions to life in Maine. Few had their deeds recorded, but their ability to endure the hardships of life in early Maine, and their resourcefulness in maintaining home and community life in an often-hostile new environment speak of their strength, both in body and in character.

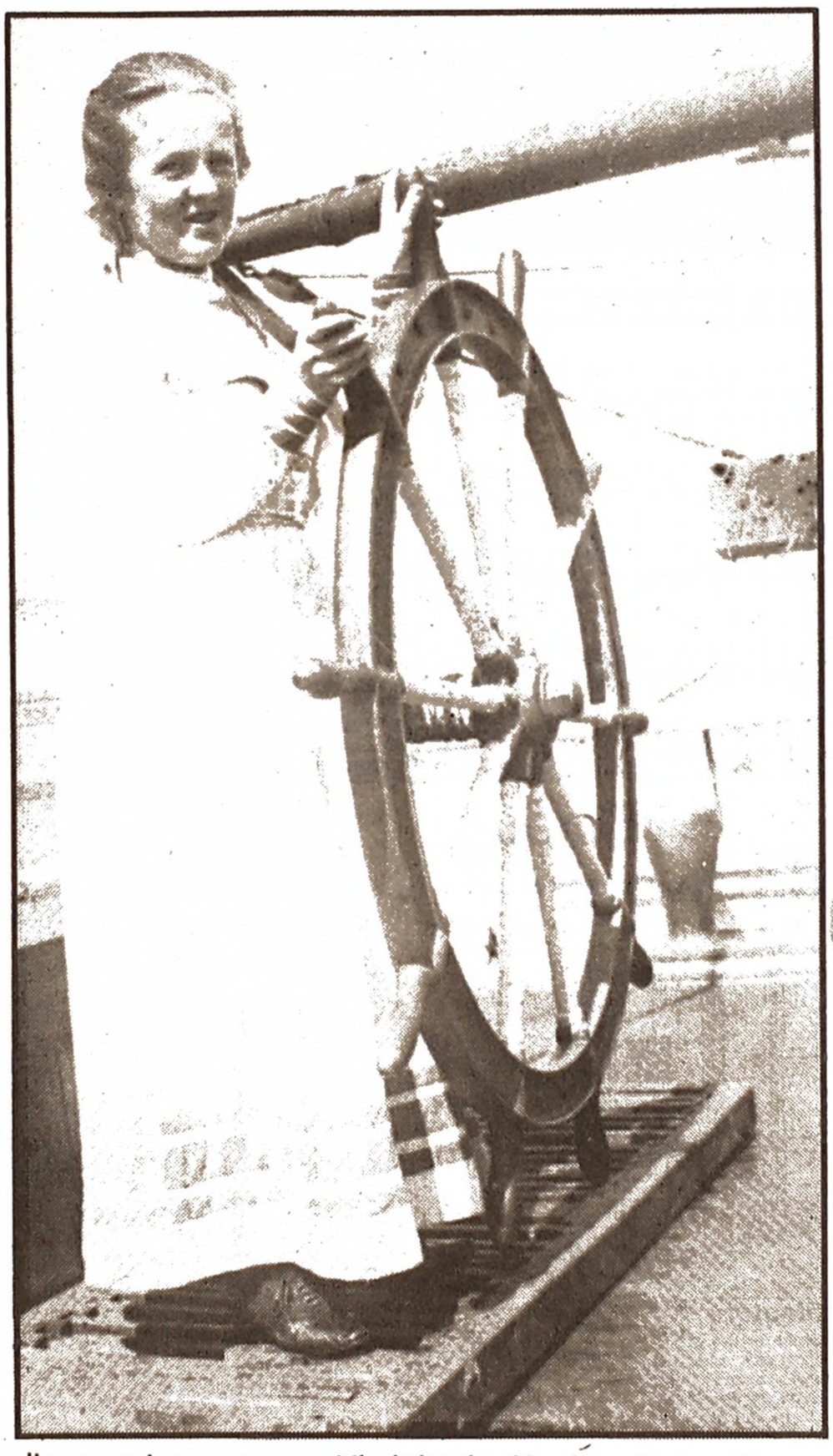
Nameless pioneer women early settled Maine, their lives quietly heroic in the face of hardship, deprivation, hunger and long, harsh winters unfamiliar to many Europeans. They helped tame the wilderness, raised children and doctored the sick. It was the energy of women that turned their limited crops into hearty meals and raw materials into clothing for themselves and their families.

While many private stories of women are hidden in history, there other Maine women had public achievements that were documented, including several who came into their own during the 19th century and who themselves achieved fame throughout the nation as writers, social reformers, artists and performers.

Every woman of accomplishment — private or public — had her own personality and style, yet each expressed some of the qualities often associated with Maine people: fairness, tough-mindedness, independence, persistence, and ingenuity.

March is "Women's History Month" nationwide and has been proclaimed Maine Women's History Month by Governor John McKernan. Throughout the country and across Maine, schools, groups, and organizations are celebrating this month with a variety of events and activities.

This special edition recognizes the significance of women from Maine's past, congratulates the accomplishments of today's women, and encourages the dreams of women in the future.



It was rare to see a woman at the helm of a ship, although wives of some Maine sea captains learned navigation well enough to regularly plot the ship's courses. This photo circa 1902, depicts Ruth Montogmery, then in her early twenties, posed at the wheel of her father's ship, the bark "Carrie Winslow." Her father was Capt. Adelbert Montgomery of East Boothbay. (Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Chesebro and the Penobscot Marine Museum).

Olympic gold medalist Joan Benoit Samuelson of Freeport running in a Bangor race. Samuelson's 1984 marathon victory was the first in the world for a woman. She has broken many records for long-distance running in her decade as a world-class athlete. (NEWS photo by Carroll Hall).

Maine women often went to sea in 1800s, early 1900s

By Jennie Borodko Stack
NEWS Advertising Staff Writer

Fairness, tough-mindedness, independence, persistence, and ingenuity — these qualities found abundant expression in the lives of Maine women along coast, many of whom went to sea with their husbands.

According to records from the 1880 census, forty percent of Searsport sea captain's wives accompanied their husbands at sea. While men were skippers of the Maine-built ships that voyaged around the world, it was not unusual for women to be part owners of the vessels and more than one captain's wife or daughter learned navigation well enough that her skills became invaluable.

One such captain's wife who developed skill as a navigator found her husband depended on her daily readings to chart the ship's course for the day was Dorothea Moulton Balano. She had used her college classes in trigonometry to teach herself celestial navigation. Sailing on a schooner, during the early 1900s, when steamships were beginning to outdistance sailing vessels, Balano kept lively diary which was published in 1979, called "The Log of the Skipper's Wife."

At sea, there was always the risk of danger from storms and in some parts of the world, pirates. In 1855, one Maine clipper ship ran aground on a reef in the China Sea, in an area feared because of pirates. As breakers slammed the remains of the ship, and its crew fought to keep the boat from coming apart under the strain, they spotted what appeared to be a boat full of pirates ready to board their broken vessel.

The crew panicked at the thought of their fate and began to scream in fear. However, they were surprised into quieting down when a small figure emerged from the cabin dressed in men's clothing and armed with a dagger ready to defend the ship.

It was the captain's wife, Mrs. Robert Holmes.

Although her first name is obscured, her contribution to maritime history was a bold one. Her bravery enabled the men to calm themselves, and as their panic subsided and daylight increased, they realized the dreaded pirate vessel was only the skeleton of a long-wrecked Chinese ship. The crew safely made it to a nearby island, where they remained for about two months. After Mrs. Holmes and her husband returned to Maine, they both retired from sailing.

Service to country: a tradition among Maine women

By Brian Swartz
NEWS Advertising Staff Writer

Eliza Allen joined the U.S. Army to follow the man whom she loved. **Patricia Buchanan** belongs to the Army National Guard unit commanded by her husband. **Deborah Doane Dempsey** captains an American-flag vessel in international commerce, making her the first womam to rise to such heights in the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Their stories reveal how many women from Maine have committed themselves to their country's service.

Born in Eastport in January 1826, **Eliza Allen** lived in a wealthy family. When she was 19, Eliza fell in love with William Billings, a young man often employed by her father. Eliza's parents quashed the pending marriage, however.

Saddened by the decision, Billings wrote Eliza a letter, informing her that he planned to join a company of volunteers headed for the war with Mexico. He sailed before Eliza could read the letter.

But the dark-haired Eliza decided that Billings would not slip from her life so easily. Naming herself George Mead, she cut her hair, donned men's clothing, and sailed for Portland while her parents were away.

Eliza failed to find Billings in Portland. Still disguised as a man, she enlisted in a company that sailed for Texas and trained on the hot Lone Star plains. After the battle of Monterey in Mexico, Eliza extended her enlistment in hopes of finding Billings somewhere within the Army.

During the battle of Cerro Gordo, Eliza received a sword cut to her left arm. She wrapped the wound with a bandana, then walked to the medical station for further treatment.

While Eliza sat nearby, the surgeon dealt with a wounded man who asked if he would die. Recognizing Billings' voice, Eliza almost fainted from her blood loss. The surgeon restored her to full consciousness, and Eliza begged him to continue working on the man spread across his table. Unfortunately, Billings shipped from the hospital before Eliza could tell him who she was.

With a peace treaty finally signed, American troops went home. Eliza and Billings ironically sailed aboard the same ship to New Orleans and New York. By now discharged from the Army, Billings and his friends frittered away their money on liquor and gambling, so they decided to join the California Gold Rush. Eliza learned too late that Billings had sailed for San Francisco.

Eliza sailed from New York two weeks later aboard a ship that discovered a shipwreck in the Straits of Magellan. Among the 12 men rescued by Eliza's vessel was William Billings.

Eliza, Billings, and some aquaintances panned for gold in California, where Eliza remained silent about her identity. She nursed Billings back to health after he contracted a dangerous fever, and he finally decided to return to Maine.

After their ship arrived in Boston in September 1849, Eliza left Billings, found a private lodging, and turned herself from a man into a woman. She returned to the hotel where Billings and his companions had spent the night drinking and gambling and, despite a series of mishaps and near-misses, met the man whom she had followed into war and across a continent.

Billings decided that he and Eliza must marry immediate-

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Dempsey commands U.S. flag vessel

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ly. Letters passed between Eastport and Boston, and Eliza's parents granted their approval for the marriage. Eliza Allen and William Billings were married in Eastport later in 1849.

Patricia Buchanan enlisted in the Maine Army National Guard's 195th Army Band in April 1976, when she was a senior at Lawrence High School in Fairfield and a saxophonist in the high-school band. After high school, Buchanan studied music performance at the University of Maine for a year. By now a young wife, she left school for two years when her son Kenneth was born.

In 1979, Buchanan went to Beal Business College and earned an associate's degree in business science. She and her husband divorced; undeterred by the difficulties of being a single parent, Buchanan pursued a full-time career while still playing with the Army band.

A Bangor hospital hired her in 1981 as a full-time medical assistant. Not entirely satisfied with her medical career, Buchanan returned to the university as a full-time student in 1984 and earned a bachelor's degree in education, with a major in secondary science education. Buchanan worked part time at the hospital until she graduated from college in 1986.

Buchanan worked full time for the Guard for two months after college, then started teaching science at Hermon High School in the fall of 1986. Five days a week, Buchanan teaches biology, earth science, wildlife, marine biology, and astronomy to between 80 and 90 students and monitors another 25 or so students in a study hall. One weekend a month and two weeks a year, she dons her Army uniform and performs her duties as a staff sergeant.

The Guard has been an excellent outlet for Buchanan's musical talents. Once the band's bassoonist, Buchanan now serves as the saxophone section leader and as a squad leader for seven other people.

For several years, Buchanan played in the band with Stan Buchanan, a Brewer native who is the music director for Nokomis Regional High School in Newport. Patricia started dating Buchanan when both musicians were sergeants; he was later promoted to CW2 and named the band's commander.

After they were married, the Buchanans lived in Holden for several years before moving to Carmel in 1986. Patricia's son, Kenneth, attends sixth grade at the Caravel Junior High School in Carmel.

Deborah Doane Dempsey took to blue water when she was growing up in Essex, Conn., a small town near the mouth of the Connecticut River. The daughter of a pharmacist and a registered nurse, Dempsey and her family sailed on nearby Long Island Sound.

Dempsey went inland to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Vermont, but a friend's advice called her back to the sea, and she enrolled as the first woman cadet at the Maine Maritime Academy.

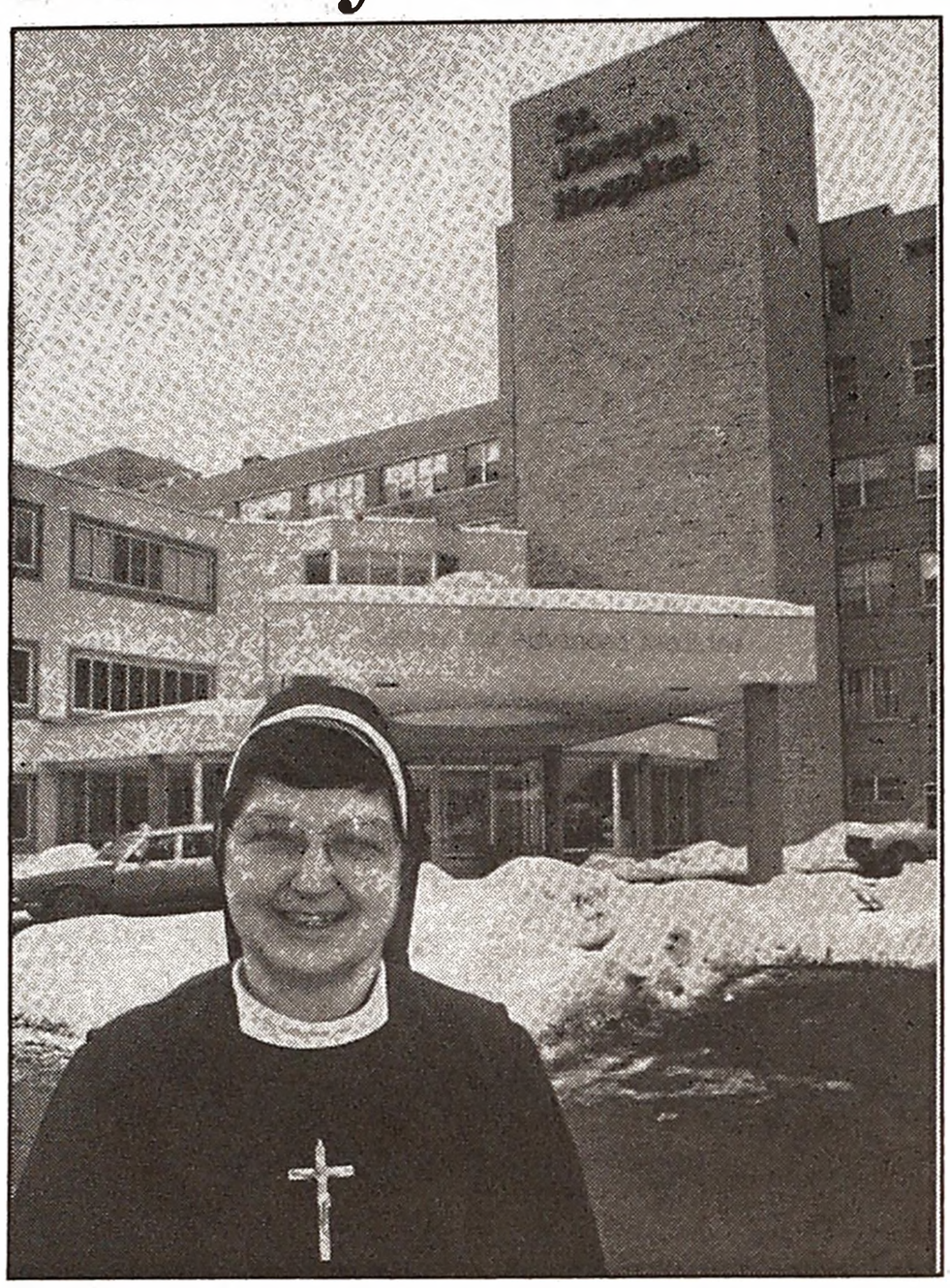
According to John Staples, the public-relations officer at MMA, Dempsey transferred many credits from the University of Vermont. When she graduated as the valedictorian her class in 1976, Dempsey was not only MMA's first woman graduate, she had completed her MMA education in 2½ years.

Dempsey sailed with the Lykes Lines of New Orleans while she was a cadet, and this line hired her after graduation. She went on to become the first woman in the Merchant Marine to hold a second mate's license, a chief mate's license, and a master's license rated for any merchant ship sailing on the world's oceans.

In the spring of 1989, Lykes Lines named Dempsey captain of the M.V. Lyra, a RORO (roll-on, roll-off) containership. When Dempsey sailed in late June 1989 for Galveston, Norfolk, and three European ports, the occasion marked the first time that a woman commanded a deep-ocean U.S.-flag vessel that was engaged in international commerce. Her husband, Jack, sails as captain of the Howell Lykes, another U.S.-flag vessel.

Capt. Deborah Doane Dempsey

Sr. Mary Norberta: both business and spiritual leader



Sr. Mary Norberta, president of St. Joseph Hospital

Women in hospital adminstration are a minority, both nationally and in the state of Maine. Only four of the 43 hospitals in the state have women as chief executive officers.

One is Sr. Mary Norberta, president of St. Joseph Hospital in Bangor.

"I think it is a great time for women. A few years back there were hardly any women in hospital administration and now there has been a significant rise," said Mary Norberta.

Sr. Mary Norberta has been administrator at St. Joseph Hospital since the early 1980s.

Educated at Tufts University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sr. Norberta combines her Ivy League formal education with a personal touch that springs from deep religious convictions and from her roots in the working-class neighborhood of South Boston.

Sr. Norberta has taught at the Harvard School of Public Health and Boston College School of Nursing. She has served as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Massachusetts General Hospital and holds two master's degrees, one in public health and one in management.

Her list of professional memberships is impressive: Sr. Norberta serves on the board of directors of Cellular Technology, Inc., the Maine Hospital Association, Maine Public Health Association and the New England Conference of the Catholic Health Association, among others.

"It's actually been kind of a paradox and a puzzle to some of my classmates and colleagues from MIT — how I could get the same education they are getting and a comparable salary and turn it all into the (Felician) order," she said.

Sr. Norberta said she values both her clinical background and her management experience.

"I think all of my background has been very instrumental in contributing to the position I am in," she said.

However, "The mainstay is the spiritual aspect. I couldn't do the job, both as a woman religious and as a businesswoman without some cornerstone or foundation. The foundation is prayer," said Sr. Norberta, who leads the staff in daily devotions and opens all meetings with prayer.

Essential to her job is guiding the 130-bed facility through its period of growth so that it will retain its personal touch.

"It's important that you don't lose sight of the reason that you're here. If we lose sight of that, all the technology is really unimportant," she said.

Sr. Norberta takes the lead in keeping in touch with the concerns of patients by practicing her own brand of hands-on management. In addition to official visits at the request of staff members, she often makes unannounced calls in hospital rooms, without identifying herself or wearing a name tag. She has been known to deliver a food tray at mealtime. She talks with patients and more important, listens to their comments about the hospital she heads.

"I enjoy talking with them and finding out how things are going...I could take care of 'X' number of patients myself, (as a nurse) but in this role I know that I can make a difference in the quality of care throughout this institution," she said.

"It has to be a cooperative effort. You can't run an institution in this day and age without working hand-in-hand with the people you are working with," she said. However, "When all is said and done, the buck has to stop on somebody's desk, somebody's got to make the final call," she said.

Other Maine women who serve as hospital administrators are Ann Morrison of Sebasticook Valley Hospital in Pittsfield, Patricia Tracy at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington and Karen Fiducia, at St. Andrews Hospital, Boothbay Harbor.

Her Franco-American heritage important to Claudette Jalbert

By Brian Swartz
NEWS Advertising Staff Writer

LEWISTON — Claudette Jalbert, an assistant vice president for Fleet Bank, learned French from her parents, but a lifetime spent in Lewiston rendered her ancestral tongue almost obsolete in daily use.

A petite, soft-spoken woman who administers the personnel functions at the bank's operations center, Jalbert traces her Franco-American heritage to her parents, Maurice and Marie Ann. Though born in Lewiston, Maurice Jalbert could claim a direct link with French Canada; his mother had been born there. Marie Ann moved to Maine from Canada when she was 4 years old, and she and Maurice were married in Lewiston.

Jalbert recalled growing up with a brother and two sisters in a heavily French community that was already becoming Americanized. "Our parents spoke to us in French, and most of the time we answered them in English," she said.

"We grew up with English-speaking friends, so English was the language we used most often," she remembered. "I gradually lost my fluency in French; I still speak it, but I often have to stop a moment and think about what to say."

Jalbert attended Holy Family Catholic Church and its parochial school, where French was spoken two hours a day in language and religion classes. She participated in school plays that were presented in French. "Everything was well-memorized," Jalbert recalled.

Although French fell from daily use in her life, Jalbert enjoyed a heritage that dated to 19th-century Quebec. Frequent family get-togethers meant a good time for the young Claudette, who remembers how "someone would play the piano, or someone else would play an instrument, and we would sing. Those of us who were young would play together, and we'd just have a good time."

Her Franco-American heritage included delicious foods. Jalbert said that *tourtieres*, or pork pies, were a favorite dish during the holidays, while more common dishes were crepes with maple syrup, sugar pie, and ragout, a dish made with chicken broth or pork meatballs.

After graduating from high school, Jalbert went immediately to work. Looking back to those first years out of high school, Jalbert attributes her work ethic to lessons learned from her family.

"I think that being French, we were brought up in a hardworking, persevering atmosphere," she stated. Jalbert believes that her grandparents moved to Lewiston in search of work, which many Franco-Americans found in the textile mills lining the Androscoggin River. One grandmother worked at the Hill Mill, and some of Jalbert's aunts and uncles started working at other mills while still children.

Her father pursued a different career by working for his father, who was a contractor. The Jalberts helped to build St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, the tall-steepled edifice that stands out against the Lewiston skyline.

Jalbert joined the business world after high school. "Back in those days, you became a secretary or a hairdresser," she said. "I was fortunate; I got a job in the office at Bates Manufacturing."

The First National Bank that hired Jalbert in 1961 has gone through several mergers and name changes, finally becoming Fleet Bank of Maine in 1988. Jalbert left the bank after eight years, but she returned in 1970 as a part-time employee selling food stamps in what had become Northeast Bank. Working primarily in bank security and personnel, Jalbert became a personnel officer in 1983 and an assistant vice president in 1985.

Jalbert still remembers her childhood French, a language that has stood her in good stead in the corporate world. "It was always nice to have that French there," she said. "Sometimes, I'd be asked to translate a French phrase or how something should be spoken or written in French. I always felt good that I could help someone who didn't know French."

Jalbert and her husband, Paul, live in Lewiston with their son, Stephen, who is a student at the University of Southern Maine.

Mathews Brothers (Sisters?) Co.

In eastern and coastal Maine the Mathews Brothers window company is a well-known name, but less well known is that for several years, the Mathews *sisters* ran the family business.

The three brothers who had founded the company in 1854 had died by the end of the 19th century and the leadership of the firm was left to their widows and one daughter. In 1899, the chief executive officer of the company was president Clarrie Starrett Mathews and Addie Richmond Mathews was vice president. Although 30-year-old Maude Eliza Mathews was listed treasurer of the Mathews Brothers, it is generally agreed that she was more involved in the company than her aunts.

"Maude was a very capable woman and probably ran the mill for a while after her father's death," said Avis Howells of Belfast, a descendant of the Mathews sisters. This photo

shows Maude Mathews at about age 40, when she had been leading the company for several years. (Photo by Frank Forrestall Adams, courtesy of Avis Howells)

'Flyrod' Crosby: Maine Guide, outdoorswoman

By Jennie Borodko Stack
NEWS Advertising Staff Writer

Cornelia T. "Flyrod" Crosby was born in Phillips in 1854, and turned a prescription for poor health into a new growth industry for Maine. When a doctor prescribed for her more time outdoors, Crobsy not only recovered, she went on to become Maine's pioneer outdoorswoman and the state's first tourism agent. Introducing out-of-staters to the wilderness of Maine became her personal mission.

She took up fishing and her skill at the sport soon earned her the nickname "Flyrod." It stayed with her as she wrote columns for newspapers in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston and for "Field and Stream" magazine on Maine sporting life in general and flyfishing in particular.

At 6 feet tall and strong, Crobsy fearlessly ventured into the woods of the Rangeley area all seasons of the year. No doubt, she was the first woman many sportsmen had seen in "their" domain, but Flyrod Crosby was the first to do a lot of things.

She was the first licensed Maine Guide, male or female.

Crosby was the first woman to obtain a fishing license and is said to have caught more fish with an artifical fly than any other woman in the world.

A crack shot, Crosby was the first woman to shoot a caribou in Maine and the last person in the state to bag one of the creatures legally.

Flyrod enthusiastically promoted the state of Maine, from guiding groups of men (and a few women) in the Rangeley Lakes region to coining the state's first tourism motto, "Maine, the playground of the nation."

Her efforts to promote the state sometimes included bolder measures, such as a stint at a sportsmen's show in Madison Square Garden in 1896 in which a log cabin and outdoor gear were hauled from Maine to New York City. She astounded many fairgoers by setting up camp there and demonstrating her woods skills. Crosby also shocked some people by wearing a comfortable, practical outfit that included what was then a scandalously short skirt — seven inches from the floor.

That outfit helped start a trend in women's sportswear just as her habit of wearing an old felt hat decorated with many hooks and fishing flies was enthusiastically imitated by sportsmen.

Crosby was highly regarded by her peers and by amateur sports alike. Her friendships included some of the outstanding athletes and outdoor enthusiasts of her day. She knew both sharpshooter Annie Oakley and showman "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and was a friend of Louis Sockalexis of Old Town, a Native American who played professional baseball for Cleveland, and for whom the Cleveland Indians were named.

A knee injury and other ailments forced Crosby to retire from her vigorous lifestyle in her 50s. She lived in Phillips until 1929, and died in 1947 at age 93 in a Lewiston nursing home.

There are some people in Phillips who still recall Crosby in her later years. Maxine Richmond was in her youth when Crosby lived in her house in Phililps.

"Everybody knew Cornelia and I think they stood a little in awe of her," recalled Richmond.

TEXTILE MILL OPERATIVES at Pepperell Mill in Biddeford (ca. 1890). The foreman sits in the middle of this group portrait, surrounded by workers ranging from young children to mature adults. Women ran machines; men were supervisors and mechanics and delivered materials to various parts of the mill. Children swept floors and replaced spools of thread. (Photo courtesy of the York Institute).

rom Maine to Arctic and back, iper has journeyed to help others

By Jennie Borodko Stack
NEWS Advertising Staff Writer

Cecelia Piper's life has taken her a ong way — from the coast of Maine to e frozen North Slope of Alaska and ck again.

In the past 50 or so years, Piper has cked potatoes in Aroostook County, uled lobster traps on the coast of ine, worked as an airplane mechan- during World War II and served as a ıssionary bush pilot deep inside the ctic Circle.

An ordained minister since 1958, she s led churches in South Addison, in th Gouldsboro and in Alaska and orked for several years as an itiner- t minister for the Maine Seacoast sion based in Bar Harbor. After re- in the early 1980s, Piper wrote a k detailing her experiences in Alas- , called "Summer Was Yesterday." e paperback was printed in a limited , but copies of the book have ended in Africa, Australia, Greenland, and course, the North Slope villages here Piper lived and worked from 959 to 1964.

In her prime, Piper was a physically trong 6-footer at home in the outdoors d capable of holding her own in a gged environment. Although shy, her deep concern for people and strong aith led her into the ministry.

"I'm not the kind of person that en- oys public life....I've worked mostly in o t-of-the-way places, and among peo- ple that have had less opportunity," she id quietly.

After theological school in the 1930s nd World War Two in the 1940s, Piper worked for a decade in South Addison, hauling lobster traps to support herself while starting and leading the church there. She became aware of the need for a missionary to people she had nev- er before thought much about: the peo- ple of the Arctic circle in Alaska. She was reluctant to leave her friends and parishioners, but held to her goal de- spite the discouraging remarks by those who thought that at 45, she was too old for such a venture.

Although she experienced culture shock at the difference both in climate and in customs, and was unfamiliar with the language, Piper soon devel- oped a love for the Eskimo people, which apparently was mutual. While at first intimidated by her stature — she towered a foot taller than most of the Eskimos — they helped her adjust to life in the frozen north, literally teach- ing her to survive in the harsh climate.

After two years there, an airplane was donated for her use, and she be- came a certified pilot. She used it to reach remote villages, rescue lost hunters, fly the sick to medical facili- ties and deliver supplies and mail to isolated areas.

Piper remained physically active un- til the past few years, when health problems, including failed eyesight and heart surgery, have forced her to slow down. Now 76, Piper must reluctantly leave most chores to others, but she still enjoys venturing out on her lobster boat, even if it must now be piloted by a friend. She can no longer read the Bible for herself or paint the vivid seascapes that she enjoyed creating and that sold themselves, sometimes before they were finished.

Just three months after triple-bypass surgery, Piper said, "It's a real treat to be alive. I have a whole new respect for life."

Indian women made influence felt

By Brian Swartz
NEWS Advertising Staff Writer

The Indian women who kept the fires burning, raised children, and answered the domestic needs of their tribes lived countless generations in the Maine woods, their daily existence seldom recorded in a white man's history more concerned with Indian warriors than with Indian mothers.

Indian women have made their influence felt in Maine, however, both during Colonial and modern times.

By her sheer physical presence, Molly Molasses earned herself a place in Maine history, yet her story retains mysterious elements even to this day.

The mystery began with Molly's upbringing. Born to Penobscot Indian parents in 1775, Molly lived during the heyday of the white man's colonization of the lower Penobscot Valley. Accor... ing to Fannie Hardy Eckstorm of Bre... er, Molly's actual name was Mary, wi... the word "Molasses" corrupted fro... Balossa or its derivatives, Balloses ... Bellowsis.

Molly once told a Maine judge th... white men called her Molasses becau... she was born in a canoe on Green Lak... which the Indians supposedly calle... "Merlassie." No historical account ha... ever assigned this name to Green Lak... however,

However she gained her nickname... Molly developed a reputation as ... tough, independent-minded woman n... afraid to say her piece. Described b... Eckstorm as "the bitterest, most sa... castic person in the whole Penobsco... tribe," Molly was nevertheless an im... peccably honest woman who was gran...

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DURING THE EARLY 19th century, Penobscot Indian Molly Molasses was a familiar and imposing figure in the lower Penobscot Valley, where Indians and white men alike hinted that she possessed "m'teoulin," or magic. This painting by Isabel Eaton hangs in Bangor's Tarratine Club.

olly Molasses: woman of mystery

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free passage aboard the steamers lying the Penobscot River. Even Gen. muel Veazie issued orders to let Mol- ride unencumbered on his Bangor-Old Town railroad.

By old age, Molly shrouded herself in eeper mystery, as Indians and white en alike claimed that she possessed m'teoulin," or magic. Believed to be a ortune teller, Molly did not deny the uspicions of magic — nor did she go out of her way to avoid angering people. o the contrary, people attempted to tay on her good side, even pressing a ver coin into her hand when passing er on the street.

She died in 1868.

Born in 1915 on Indian Island in Old own, **Eunice Nelson Baumann** earned er bachelor's degree in psychology rom the University of Maine in 1939, aking her the first Penobscot Indian graduate from the university. She obtained a master's degree in psychol- gy from New York University in 1951.

A librarian while an undergraduate at the University of Maine, Baumann k a position during the 1940s as a eference librarian at Vassar College. efore serving from 1951 to 1953 as the ead librarian of the Museum of the erican Indian in New York, she su- rvised the art library at Vassar.

Baumann specialized in social work. 1953 and 1954, she directed two work camps for the American Friends Service Committee, then worked for the New York City YWCA.

She moved to Indianapolis, Ind., in 955 to work as a research associate for the Board of Fundamental Education. While working for the board, Baumann pursued her doctorate in human relations from New York University.

Her doctoral work brought Baumann into contact with NYU's Interdisciplinary Center for Human Relations Studies. When she earned her Ph.D. in 1957, Baumann became the first Penobscot Indian to hold a doctorate.

By now married to Swiss native Gerold Baumann, Eunice Nelson Baumann then moved to California and taught sociology and anthropology at the University of California at Davis; she also taught the same subjects at Indiana and Purdue universities.

After Gerold Baumann earned his master's degree, the Baumanns joined the Peace Corps in 1964 and moved with their two adopted children to Lima, Peru. The family's service in South American included a tour in La Paz, Bolivia, that ended in the fall of 1970 during the gunfire of a routine Bolivian coup d'etat.

The Baumanns moved to Berne, Switzerland, then later returned to Lima while Gerold Baumann supervised a program run by Swiss Aid. The Baumanns ultimately retired to the United States and made their home on Indian Island.

Eunice Nelson Baumann remained active in tribal and local affairs, taking a position in 1977 as director of Penobscot Indian Health and Human Services and teaching courses at the University of Maine and at the College of the Atlantic. In 1977, the university awarded Baumann an honorary doctorate in humane letters.

AT THE WHEEL

Mrs. Maynard Hanson of Portland drives her family's car with her two young sons. This was one of the earliest autombiles in Maine. Circa 1903. (Photo courtesy of Stanley F. Hanson and University of Maine's Fogler Library Special Collections).

Thank you!

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- Books "The Log of a Skipper's Wife" by Dorothea Moulton Balano; "Message Through Time by Abbie Sewall; "Hilary," "The Prince of Egypt" and "The Little Big World of Doc Pritham" by Dorothy Clarke Wilson and "Williamson's History of Belfast."