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Maine Statewide News Letter (December 1984)

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Dec 84



CENTRAL AMERICA WATCH

The Maine Coalition for Peace and Justice in Central America held a statewide meeting in Augusta Sat., November 10, to plan responses to the growing U.S. militaries in the region. Several concrete ideas emerged from this meeting, some of which have already been implemented. The Maine Coalition, in conjunction with allied national peace groups, envisions an escalation of domestic peace work in response to any escalation in military action by U.S. forces in the area.

In reaction to post-election military moves by the US which included placing battleships within 3 miles of Corinto (Nicaragua's major port city) Rapid Deployment troop movements, the use of intimidating sonic booms over Managua (Nicaragua's capital) and stepped up Reagan Administration rhetoric (which Miquel D'Escoto, Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, characterized as "bullshit"), there were two rallies in the State of Maine in the State of Maine in the week preceding Thanksgiving.

On Friday, November 16, 70 people gathered outside the Federal Building in Bangor to picket and listen to speeches by several local peace activists including Peter Bonthuis, Witness for Peace. The rally was followed by some less than fruitful discussions with aides to Senators Mitchell and Cohen and Representative Snowe. In particular, the Senators seem less than concerned about the issue in addition to being poorly informed. Letters to the effect of "Duarte, Somoza, La misma cosa" (the same thing), would seem to be in order.

The following day, Saturday the 17th, saw 110 people gather in Tommy's Park, Portland, to picket and hear speeches from Jerry Geneseco, Witness for Peace, and others including two members of a Nicaraguan basketball team in Maine that weekend to play at Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby colleges.

On November 27, press time, concerned citizens were being urged to phone and telegraph the President and their U.S. House and Senate members to voice their opposition to the growing U.S. involvement in Central America.

The most important decision made at the statewide meeting was to actively participate in the nationwide Contingency Plan. This is a national effort for anti-war activists to respond rapidly and massively to any major escalation of U.S. sponsored violence in the region. The plan entails the individual signing of pledges to respond with vigil activity and civil disobedience. Those who, for personal or other reasons, are unable to respond in this manner, are being asked to sign a pledge of support for those more actively engaged.

The week of December 3 through 10 will see a major effort at signing up pledges. As part of this effort PAUSICA (Portlanders Against U.S. In-

tervention in Central America) is planning a seminar in Civil Disobedience on December 2 at 3:00 p.m. at the People's Building, 155 Brackett St., Portland. Remember: There is a correct time, place and method for Civil Disobedience. For Civil Disobedience to be successful, training is essential. For more info about the pledge program call: Portland 773-8904 Bangor: 942-4055.

For every action, let there be a reaction. Join the struggle for Peace and justice in Central America today!

SAVE THE WEST BRANCH

The West Branch of the Penobscot River is in trouble and you can help! Great Northern Paper Co. (GNP) proposes to dam the West Branch at "Big Ambejackmockamus (big "A") Falls to produce electricity for its paper mill complex in Millinocket. Peter Yacovone, Pres. of GNP and its parent, Great Northern Nekoosa Corp., justifies the dam as a means to reduce dependence on oil: "We have historically competed successfully against Canadian producers. We believe we can in the future if we are allowed to do what is necessary to control the cost of making our product."

A coalition of at least 12 organizations concerned with the significance of this unique river have documented a compelling argument against the proposal. The following would be drowned by a 4.5 mile lake created by the 14 story high dam:

- 1) Ripogenous Gorge - recognized by the Maine critical areas program as being of state wide significance because of its scientific, scenic, historic, and natural attributes.
- 2) Four rare plants in Ripogenous Gorge.
- 3) Landlocked salmon - Perhaps the best remaining fishery of its kind in North America.
- 4) Whitewater boating - perhaps unequalled East of the Mississippi River. West Branch whitewater boating and fishing use for the 1983 season was in excess of 19,000 user days. These activities generated about \$2.6 million of direct spending in Maine. Further, river recreation use is growing rapidly.

Most important, there is a sensible alternative. GNP has already dammed and flooded 19 sites in the West Branch watershed. Their intention for the 40.5 Mega watt "Big A" Dam is to close an already existing oil-fired generator, using the low cost hydro as an alternative. However, their oil-fired plant could be converted into a wood-fired plant for a lower cost and greater savings in oil consumption. S.D. Warren, for instance, built a 47.75 megawatt wood-fired boiler for a cost considerable less than the \$100 Million "Big A" pricetag. Further, oil consumption

was reduced at S.D. Warren by about 700,000 barrels/year compared to the GNP estimated 438,000 barrels/yr. savings from "Big A". Perhaps GNP is worried only about the cost of the 200-300 permanent jobs that would be created to support the forest biomass harvest, transportation, and boiler operations.

GNP has already filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Comm. for a license to build the dam. They must also apply to the Maine Land Use Regulatory Commission for a State permit. The crucial task of the Coalition to save the West Branch is to intervene in the LURC/FERC permit process. Very recently FERC notified GNP that the "Big A" Dam application was deficient in a number of areas and gave them 90 days to correct the problems. This is a good sign for the West Branch.

If you want anymore information or want to help write: Penobscot Coalition to save the West Branch, 271 State St. Augusta, Maine 04330. or call: 622-3101.

JOIN A BRIGADE

~~There are brigades going again~~ this year to Nicaragua to help with the coffee and cotton harvests. Six groups will go from late Nov. to Feb.

Last year over 650 women and men of all ages participated in these brigades for 2, 3, or 4 weeks. Volunteers paid their own way (\$700-1,000) to Nicaragua, stayed outside or lived in barns or with poor families, ate basic foods, and worked daily w/Nicaraguans in the fields. These brigades are a way to understand the country and to learn more about the Sandinista revolution and current problems in the country. They are also a witness against current U.S. policy toward the country.

brigade volunteers are needed (applications need to be submitted by late Nov. - Dec). Last year several Maine people participated. To join a brigade, contact Suzanne Murphy, 82 Pine St., Portland 04102, 773-8904 or Ken Perkins, Box 246 E. Winthrop 04343, 395-4339. To talk to a former brigade member, try Selma Sternlieb, 725-7675 or Connie or Bob Canney at 324-6292.



FEDCO SEEDS

Gifts

THE ARK ANIMAL SHELTER

Construction plans are underway for Washington County's first of its kind animal shelter to be built in Columbia. The Ark will provide humane refuge for homeless, stray and abused animals in the Washington/Hancock County area. The shelter will be a privately run, non-profit organization which plans to work closely with the newly formed Washington County based PETSociety.

Plans for the shelter include spacious, clean stalls and runs constructed of concrete block for the dogs and a roomy exercise yard where they can run and play. Cats will live in a homelike environment inside the shelter with access to a large outdoor enclosure. Floors in the shelter will be tiled, windows will be plentiful and solar and wood will heat the water to bathe the dogs and clean the shelter.

All the animals will receive individual attention and training to enhance their chances for adoption. On a rotating basis, each dog will spend a period of time in the manager's home. This will provide an opportunity for observation and correction of any problems that might arise when the dog is adopted. This will also help socialize the animals, making an easier transition for them into a permanent home.

with a major emphasis on an effective spay/neuter program, The Ark hopes to break the vicious cycle perpetuating so many thousands of unwanted animals.

Foremost on the shelter's agenda is raising funds for construction with a goal of \$50,000. In addition to donations cans being placed in local businesses, The Ark plans a membership drive to coincide with the mailorder sale of Christmas wreaths.

The public is invited to monthly shelter committee meetings in Harrington and anyone interested in learning more about the ark is urged to write Alanna Gertz at Box 244 North St. Harrington, Maine 04643 or phone 483-4002.

ILLICH COMING AGAIN

Ivan Illich, who participated in the Maine Summer Institute, will speak at UMO in Orono (101 Neville "all) at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 6. He will speak on the relationship between dreams, water, and space as vehicles for social imagination. He will also be part of various seminars at UMO on Dec. 6-8, including a philosophy department seminar on the "history of economics and the war against subsistence."

For more info: Susan Hunt, RFD 3 Box 650, Dexter 04930, 277-5593 or call Mark Hall at the UMO Presidents office.



1985 marks Fedco Seeds' 7th annual co-operative garden seed pre-order. We have revamped our selections, adding more than 40 new varieties of vegetable, herb and flower seeds, expanding our accessories section to include organic pest controls, foliar sprays in different sizes, soil test kits and garden books.

Our prices, however, remain familiarly low: 25 cents for packets of winter squash and beets, 30 cents for packets of peas and beans, 35 cents for packets of herbs, and only \$1.50 for pound bags of peas. From alyssum to zinnias, from bush beans to zucchini, it's all there at the lowest possible price!

Minimum order remains \$25 (easy if you get together with a few friends and neighbors) with substantial discounts for orders over \$100, \$200 and \$500, thus encouraging co-operation. Your club, group, chapter or co-op can use the discounts as a money-maker if it wishes.

Order forms and/or complete variety description lists are available after Dec. 1 by writing c/o CR Lawn, 52 Mayflower Hill Dr., Waterville, Me. 04901 or calling 872-9093.

Orders are due on Groundhog day, Feb. 2., regardless of whether or not he sees his shadow.

Deliveries are in March. Or take advantage of our special early delivery option for tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, celery, lettuce, onions & cole crops (shipment by Feb. 16) if you start seedlings early.

Don't let winter's bluster get you down: Think Gargens!

Phoenix News

In the Phoenix, the publication of the Long Timers Group at MSP, several inmates interviewed warden Martin Magnusson and discovered that, of the \$2 million being earmarked for MSP, \$1.5 million will be used for renovations of administrative offices and no money for cell block improvements. The warden hopes, however, that some improvements can be made in the ancient East Wing in 1985. For a copy of the Phoenix (soon to be monthly): c/o Long Timers Group, Maine State Prison, Box A, Thomaston 04861-0500. Subscriptions are \$6. The most recent issue also has articles on recent directions for the Supreme Court, abolition of prisons, and a tribute to "Rose Man" Joe Morin, who committed suicide after 38 years behind bars.

Finally, there are four constitutional amendments: Limits on bonds, limits on business loans, no taxes on water craft, and, the most controversial, #6, a state equal rights amendment. The ERA for Me. committee has lots of reasons to support the amendment. Contact them at 761-0071 (Portland).



Welcome to the Maine Statewide Newsletter's annual holiday gift article. Just when you're tired of all the useless junk and stuff made by exploited labor in this country and in the Third World, here comes the MSN with an alternative of things locally made, more useful, more ecological, and more in line with what you believe. So here goes:

A few groups have special items to offer. As usual, calendars are big, with the Maine Freeze Campaign offering one for \$7.50 (write MFC, Box 3842, Portland 04104, 772-0680), the Bird Identification Calendar from Maine Audubon Society for \$7.95 (MAS, 118 Old Rt. One, Falmouth, 781-2330), and Maine Attractions (Portland men) for \$5 from Our Books (4 Pine St., Portland 04102, 773-5540). Both Maine Freeze and Audubon also have books, buttons, stickers, and other holiday items.

How about something for the garden or greenhouse? Look no further than Gro-Tek, which will help you with books, tools, pots, fans, plant food, insect controls, shades, and all you'll need to produce more and better crops. Their catalog is only 50¢ and can be gotten (along with answers to questions) from Gro-Tek, RFD 1, S. Berwick 03908, 676-2209.

Then there are gift packages of foods--dried fruits, nuts, cheeses and meats, etc.--from the Fedco Warehouse in Winslow. What could be more useful than food? You can order through your local food coop or directly from the warehouse such goodies as cheese packages, smokehouse gift boxes, herbs and spices, candles, and baskets. Call Fedco at 800-543-3326 for a local coop (store) outlet or how to order.

If you are looking for books, a few special places to find them might be New Leaf Books, 438 Main St., Rockland 04841, 596-0040, Gulf of Maine Books, 61 Maine St., Brunswick 04011, 729-5083 (environmental books a specialty), Our Books, 4 Pine St., Portland 04102, 773-5540 (lesbians and gay men), Wise Woman Books, 20 Park Ave., Portland 04101, 761-2053 (feminist), and the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 25A Forest Ave., Portland. And for mail order, there's Dog Ear Press (also Maine authors) PO Box 143, S. Harpswell 04079, 833-6314. Ask for a catalog. Educate and celebrate!

And don't forget crafts, from craft coops such as Chosen Works, 35 Central St., Bangor 04401, 947-3418, Perspectives, 54 Bayview, Camden 04843, 236-8470, Praxis, 136 Main St., Freeport 04032, 865-6201, or the Maine Potter's Guild, 9 Moulton St., Portland 04101, 774-1633. HOME Coop, as usual, features a wide variety of crafts at their Orland store and also mail order. For a catalog: HOME, Box 408, Orland 04472, 469-7961. And art freaks can buy an original work from a well-known (at least in Central Maine) artist on December 15, noon-9 PM, at Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville. Live music is included that day too.

Finally, if there's nothing in this list that appeals to you, try "News from Lake Wobegon" and all the other Prairie Home Companion artifacts. For a catalog: Minnesota Public Radio, 45 E. 8th St., St. Paul, Minn. 55101.

P.S. For the person who has everything, there's a subscription to the Maine Statewide Newsletter (available for \$4, or more or less).

Famine Relief

It's easy to feel paralyzed about the problems of the world, especially when there are major disasters such as the famine in eastern and southern Africa. What can be done to help? One effort is a fund-raising dance, with money being sent to Oxfam America for famine relief.

A rock band and a bluegrass band have donated their talents at Guilford High School on the evening of December 8 (tentative), with proceeds going to Oxfam, which provides food, non-food support, and self-help programs to 26 countries throughout the world, including Ethiopia. While donations won't do much to solve the root causes of this problem, it will alleviate immediate starvation for thousands or millions.

To help out in organizing or publicizing the dance, contact Wayne Cook, RFD 1 Box 780, Cambridge 04923, 277-5384. If you want to donate directly to Oxfam, their address is: 115 Broadway, Boston, Mass. 02116.

C.A.U.S.A.

What do you think of communism? The CAUSA Ministerial Alliance sees it as being responsible for 150 million murders, most in the Soviet Union and China. Communism has spread genocide and terror wherever it has existed, and, if they take over this country, nothing can stop their vengeance, CAUSA believes.

The CAUSA Ministerial Alliance, affiliated with the Unification Church of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, is sponsoring all-day seminars about Communism in several locations--two in Augusta and Bangor in late November and one in Portland on Dec. 4 (Holiday Inn, 88 Spring St.) and Lewiston on Dec. 6 (Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant St.)--entitled, "Communism: A Christian Critique and Counterproposal." They hope to mobilize people in the struggle against communism. Included on the agenda will be lectures and films and opportunities for questions and answers. Meals will be provided for those who contact the CMA ahead of time.

Many readers of this newsletter may be in opposition to these ideas and may want to attend to understand or criticize these perspectives. For more info on the CAUSA Ministerial Alliance: PO Box 15010, Portland 04101, 761-0677.

VIGIL

"Help us keep warm. Join our vigil" is the cry of the Sanford Area Forum, which will be holding a meeting and peace vigil each Wednesday at 7 PM in Sanford. The group will gather at the Sanford Unitarian Church, then march to the town square for a silent vigil (with signs), and then return to the church for discussion or warming up. Can you join them?

If you can join them on December 5, 12, 19, or 26, or want more information on local activities, contact Diana Waterman, Box 74, Emery Mills 04031, 636-3836 or call John/Cynthia Morgan, 324-3191.

BOOKS

Among the new publications from Maine authors are two of special note. One, not well-publicized but with important perspectives by and about Native Americans, is "Look! A Nation Is Coming--Native Americans and the Second American Revolution," by Robert Mendoza of Bradley. Mendoza's book, sponsored by the National Organization for an American Revolution and with a forward by organizer James Boggs, demonstrates the importance of Native Americans in leading the US toward a more culturally and racially diverse and open society and toward a Rainbow Coalition capable of making basic economic and political changes in the US.

Genocide against native people continues, he says, because of outside control of the land and economy both in the US and in other (especially Latin American) countries. He traces briefly the history of native-white relations and the rise of the Native Movement. And he compares the plight of natives in Maine to those in Central America. Finally, he offers visions of a second American Revolution and how both Natives and whites can get there.

The 70-page book is available directly from the author for \$3, postage included. Write to Robert Mendoza, Gen. Delivery, Bradley 04411.

Related to the above-mentioned book is The Digest, the newspaper of the Central Maine Indian Association. This semi-monthly newspaper concentrates on the activities, programs, and events of off-reservation Native Americans. The August-September issue, for example, talks about the Raker Center for blueberry rakers in Cherryfield, does a profile of Pine Tree paralegal Rene Attean, has a short story, and reviews the Penobscot Nation Festival '84. To get on their mailing list (no cost, but donations are appreciated), write CMIA, 95 Main St., Orono 04473.

Finally, on a much less serious note (and also much more publicized) is The Uncensored Guide to Maine, by Mark Melnicove and Kendall Merriam. "Outrageous" is a good description for this 128 page collection of details (great for Trivial Pursuit) about the underside of Maine. What's the worst place in Maine? Read and find out. What are the state's favorite pests? A vasectomy of Paul Bunyan? Favorite tourist traps. Maine recipes. Who owns the state.

Find the answers to all these and more in the Uncensored Guide. See Gov. Joe Brennan in a compromising position, and read interviews with Congressman Jockstrap and Congresswoman Snowball. Perfect reading for your bathroom or outhouse, with lots of pictures and cartoons.

For your very own copy, look in regular (and some irregular) bookstores or rush \$9.95 to publisher Lance Tapley, PO Box 2439, Augusta 04330 or call 622-1179.



Quotes

The Maine Statewide Newsletter has again painstakingly collected some of the world's best quotes--this year it is all in the form of bumper stickers and buttons--to again tickle your holiday funny bones. You are again urged to cut these out and put them up in a conspicuous place--bathroom, refrigerator, outhouse, bulletin board--to give you that needed pickup every once in a while. Here goes:

Adam was a rough draft

I just said "no" and I don't feel guilty

Minds are like parachutes, they only function when open

Trust in God, She will provide

Cancer cures smoking

Turkeys give thanks to vegetarians

Gardners have a better sense of humor--hoe, hoe, hoe

Having abandoned my search for truth, Am now looking for a good fantasy

Lead, follow, or get out of the way

How dare you presume I'd rather be thin

It's not kosher to be a male chauvinist pig

Don't die wondering

30 million poor--a gross national product

Support the right to arm bears

Maine--A state of mind

He's pretty, but can he type

Life, liberty, and the happiness of pursuit

People who think they know it all, really annoy those of us who do

A Man's home is his castle--let him clean it

Be a draft dodger--weatherstrip Nuclear weapons--may they rust in peace

An all male senate leads to a STAGnation

Our country: Right its wrongs

There's no government like no government

Curb your dogma (or My Karma ran over my dogma)

Women who seek to be equal to men lack ambition

ERA won't go away

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance

Monogamy, monopoly, monotony

"Those who ignore history, are condemned to repeat it."

The ten commandments aren't multiple choice

Military intelligence is a contradiction in terms

Racism is a social disease

Lesbians unite in armed snuggle

We must all stop war, or war will stop all

More Quotes

Born again atheist (or lesbian, or humanist, or agnostic or pagan)

All those in favor of conserving gasoline, raise your right foot

Thank god I'm an atheist

"Ferraro and What's his name"

Take interest, but don't touch the principal

The new right preaches the old wrongs

Live simply, that others may simply live

If you brake for animals, why eat them?

Oral majority (or immoral minority)

The pedestal is the pits

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

If we can send one man to the moon, why not send them all?

An army of lovers cannot fail

If you think the system is working, ask someone who isn't

War--doesn't decide who's right, only who's left

If you complain about farmers, don't talk with your mouth full

Better bread than dead

I wasn't born Democrat, Republican, or Yesterday

"It is possible to live in peace" Gandhi

If the people lead, eventually the leaders will follow

It's nice to be kneaded

I'm unattached but very together

P.S. If you're interested in getting these on a button or sticker, most of them are available either from Ferne Sales, PO Box 113, W. Orange, N.J. 07052 or Donnelly/Colt, Box 271, New Vernon, N.J. 07976.

Nuclear Ref.

The Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee has again jumped into the electoral process, with a petition drive aimed at giving voters a voice in deciding how Maine's low-level nuclear waste will be dumped. About two-thirds of the 46,000 signatures necessary to put a referendum question on the ballot were collected on election day. More signatures are obviously needed, and the group hopes to collect them at downtowns and shopping centers before the holidays. The deadline for collecting and submitting signatures is the end of December.

If enough signatures are gathered, a question would appear on the November, 1985 ballot reading, "Do you want the right to vote for or against any plan to store or dispose of low level radioactive waste?"

Although a goal of 20,000 signatures more was set for the weekend after Thanksgiving, additional petitioners willing to help in December are strongly encouraged. For more information on how you can help, contact the MNRC, PO Box 2627, Augusta 04330 or call Alva Morrison at 622-4395 or 582-1200.

CALENDAR

SUN MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT

Nov. 30, Dec 1 & 2 - H.O.M.E. Inc., is sponsoring a colloquium on "Public Theology: religion and social justice. Cost: \$5 to \$15 for course (depending on income) and \$15 to \$30 for meals. There are overnight accommodations. (rustic) Childcare provided. For more info contact Karen Saum, Box 10, Orland Me. 04472 ro call 469-7961.

Dec. 2--Bangor Peace Initiative members speak at Hancock Co. CALC meeting, 7 PM, Unitarian Church, Ellsworth. Charles Stephens, 49 Court St., Ellsworth 04605.

Dec. 4--Sen. Tom Andrews speaks on the Nuclear Education Clearinghouse, 7:30 PM, at Damariscotta Baptist Church. CONA, c/o Al Eipper, Box 7, Walpole 04573, 563-1378.

Dec. 4,6--Seminars on communism in Portland and Lewiston. Contact CAUSA Ministerial Alliance, Box 15010, Portland 04101, 761-0677.

Dec. 5--"StoppingHistory" shown for Nuclear Arms Control Forum at Woodfords Cong. Church, 202 Woodfords, Portland. Jan Wilk, 787-2158.

Dec. 6--Ivan Illich speaks at UMO, Orono Susan Hunt, RFD 3 Box 650, Dexter 04930, 277-5593.

Dec. 7--Tax Resistance meeting at St. Mary's, 41 Western Ave., Augusta, 6:30-9:30 PM. WTR Resource Center, 11 Old Mill Rd., Orono 04473, 827-3107.

Dec. 7--Moving Matters (for incest survivors), 1-3 PM, \$10, Evelyn de La Tour Dance Center, Box 6A, Sedgwick 04676, 359-2763.

Dec. 8--Oxfam/Ethiopia benefit dance in Guilford. Contact Wayne Cook, RFD 1 Cambridge 04923, 277-5384.

Dec. 8--Deadline for Fedco Trees orders. Fedco Trees, Box 340, Palermo 04354.

Dec. 9-10--"Nicaragua: Report from the Front," Public Safety Bldg., Bucksport (9th) and Unitarian Church, Bangor (10th) 7 PM, \$2. Call 947-6858 or 469-3157.

Dec. 14 - Susan Savell, Music for peace Fairfield Hall, First Parish, Congregational Church, Main St. Saco. 3:00 p.m. Tickets at the door.

Dec. 14--Walk for peace and candlelight vigil in Presque Isle. Contact Marty Alexander, RFD 1, Easton 04740, 488-3321.

Dec. 15--Art sale at Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville, 12-9 PM w/music. RR Square, Box 945, Waterville 04901, 873-6526.

NOTICE

Subscriptions jumped about 400% last month to a whopping \$75.00 which is one way of saying things are pretty abysmal in that department. The Newsletter provides a valuable service to people of the Left in Maine yet those same people are taking advantage of this low cost resource. Not simply is the Newsletter not paying for itself but it is taking money from H.O.M.E. which continues to pay for its printing despite the absence of revenue. Unless subscriptions begin to start coming in at an appreciable rate, alternatives to this alternative news source will have to be considered...

SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription rates are \$4 per year. Anything above that would greatly be appreciated as the extra goes toward a college fund. So anything you can spare is appreciated.

Yes, I would like to subscribe to the MSN.

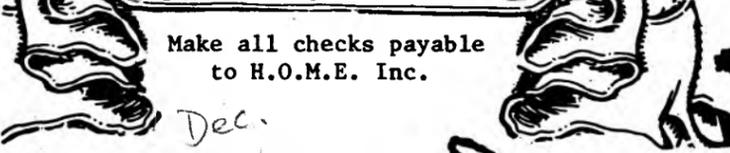
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