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MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume nine, Number four

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Annual Meeting: The 148th Annual Meeting of the Society will convene in Luther Bonney Auditorium on the University of Maine Portland campus, June third. After the discomfort experienced last year when some members were forced to stand in hallways and the Reading Room, it was agreed that a hall large enough to accomodate everyone must be sought.

We trust that it will not prove too great an inconvenience for those who wish to see the special Sesquicentennial Exhibit in the Society building or the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and Garden to pay a visit to Congress Street sometime during the morning hours on Annual Meeting day.

The business meeting will commence promptly at 2:00 P.M. to be followed by the annual address at 3:00. Dr. Ronald F. Banks, Assistant to the President, University of Maine, will speak on the subject of the Separation of Maine from Massachusetts.

Included on the agenda as part of the Sesquicentennial observance this year will be the announcement and presentation of the first annual awards for the Prize Essay Contest.

Departing from past procedures, prescribed in the Bylaws adopted last September, the election of the Standing Committee shall include, in addition to those assembled at Portland, the vote of those members unable to attend who have submitted a proxy. Another departure, under present Bylaws, provides for the election of the Officers of the Society by the newly elected Standing Committee, rather than by the membership assembled for Annual Meeting.

The Longfellow Elm: On Sunday morning, May second, the tree immediately behind the Wadsworth-Longfellow House was removed, a victim of Dutch Elm disease. Repeated treatment failed to check progress of the disease in the 130 year old tree which



Photograph by Walter Elwell reproduced through the courtesy of Guy Gannett Publications.

threatened all of the remaining elms on the property.

President of the Longfellow Garden Club, Mrs. Edward W. Atwood, was joined by two past presidents, Mrs. Keith C. Parris and Mrs. Bernard F. Harris; in addition, Mrs. William J. Murphy, Chairman of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House Committee, Mr. Robert G. Albion, President of the Society, and several other interested observers, gathered to witness the sad event.

The removal, a rather hazardous operation because of the huge tree's proximity to both the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and the Society building, was skillfully supervised by Mr. Roydon K. Maddocks of the Lucas Tree Expert Company, who donated all of their equipment. The giant crane, which served to hoist the tree up and out of the garden in immense sections, was generously donated by Mr. Paul E. Merrill. The entire cost of the labor involved was borne by the Longfellow Garden Club.

The long and complicated task of making all arrangements was carried out by Mrs. Bernard F. Harris, Chairman of the Longfellow Garden Committee.

Mrs. Shirley E. Welch: We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Shirley E. Welch to the position of Reference Librarian. A graduate of Gorham High School, Mrs. Welch received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maine, Orono in 1960. After teaching a year, Mrs. Welch entered library work and earned her Masters in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston. Her most recent position was with the Perkins' School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts. We feel fortunate indeed to have a woman with such a fine background join us at the Society in this key position.

Archives Program: Conceived and brought about through the efforts of Professor James S. Leamon of the History Department at Bates College, a course in the study and handling of manuscripts is underway here at the Society under the supervision of the Manuscripts Librarian and the Director. Sponsored jointly by Bates College and the Maine Historical Society for the first time this year, the program is intended to offer history students actual experience in the care, preservation, arrangement, and study of historical manuscripts. Miss Sandra Hopkins, junior, and Mr. James McQueston, senior, the first students in this program, will be with us for six weeks at work on a variety of projects.

NEW MEMBERS

From MAINE Augusta: John W. Briggs, Brooks Brown, Jr., Mrs. Charles K. Hewins, Jr. and Miss Shirley M. Thayer *Bar Mills:* Mrs. William H. Bruce *Berwick:* Mrs. Clifford H. Wilson *Biddeford:* Kenneth J. Scott *Boothbay Harbor:* Patrick T. Jackson and Mrs. Patrick T. Jackson *Brewer:* Richard Hede *Brunswick:* Leroy D. Cross *Calais:* Wayne A. Newell *Castine:* Arthur M. Johnson *Cape Elizabeth:* Miss Judith F. Anderson, Mrs. Franklin F. Ferguson, Mrs. Bernard Harris, Robert A. G. Monks and Paul Stearns *Cape Neddick:* Miss Brenda Kuhn and Miss Doris R. Marston *Cumberland Foreside:* Mrs. Lawrence Dana *Falmouth:* Donald A. Ricker *Gardiner:* Hayden L. V. Anderson and Mrs. William Harvey *Gorham:* Mrs. Robert P. Mertens, Miss Lucille Moore and Miss Martha Sanborn *Greenville:* Charles M. Skinner *Hallowell:* Mrs. Sanford L. Fogg and Miss M. Martitia Walker *North Anson:* David H. Ela *Orono:* Mrs. Ella C. Smith *Portland:* Mrs. Helen C. Cohen, Miss Catherine R. Congdon, Miss Velma V. Goodwin, Miss Molly M. Isenman, James G. McLoughlin, Peter L. Murray, Russell Norris, Colin W. Sargent, Mrs. Theodore W. Sottery, Gordon Sprague and Allan R. Whitmore *Presque Isle:* Warren H. Horton *Raymond:* Mrs. Gilbert D. Brown *Rumford:* Miss Carolyn Kennard *Saco:* Charles W. Fenderson *South Portland:* Mrs. George E. Beal, Mrs. Marie K. Hammond and Miss Doris W. Royal *Westbrook:* Larry Geraghty *Yarmouth:* Mrs. Hubert H. Barker *York Harbor:* Henry Cadwalader.

Other States CALIFORNIA La Jolla: Douglas A. Land *Santa Ana:* Mrs. P. J. FitzGerald *CONNECTICUT East Hartford:* Henry J. Stone *NEW YORK Putnam Valley:* Roland O'Neal *RHODE ISLAND Newport:* Harold J. Carroll.

LIFE MEMBER Mrs. Eugene H. Drake of *Gorham.*

CORPORATE MEMBERS MASSACHUSETTS Boston: S. D. Warren Company Foundation *MAINE Portland:* Consumers Water Company, Guy Gannett Foundation and Noyes & Chapman, Inc. *West Buxton:* Maine Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.