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Going Places with Jean Murray

WLBZ Radio

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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Going Places with Jean Murray

Date: July 3, 1950

Recording number: D 16.23; CD 4, track 15

Length of recording: 12:54

[transcript begins]

MURRAY: Hello, everyone. Here we are on one of the big days on our calendar, the day before the 4th, of course it's the 3rd of July and in the year 1950. As most of you know, today this program is being transcribed, and that means just one thing, that yours truly can take advantage of the long holiday weekend and at about this time, is probably basking on the shores of Lake Umbagog and of course listening to WLBZ and the Going Places program.

We have lots of things to talk about today, primarily the 4th of July. I've tried to dig up material from every angle of this holiday and probably you will find a few things that will interest you and I know that there'll be a few things that you'll be glad to brush up on. I think the first thing we better do is take care of a shopping note that's quite important, and this first shopping note today is particularly directed to any of you summer visitors who might be listening to this program this afternoon. This is traditionally the weekend that marks the beginning of vacations for many people who feel that the state of Maine is their summer home. And to all of you, I want to extend a cordial welcome from Grants in Bangor. This Grants store is located right in the center of Bangor's business district, and it offers for your convenience four shopping floors of items for the home and for every member of the family. Here you will find all the extra items that will make your stay in Maine more pleasant. If you're sports minded, and most of our vacationists are, by all means plan to visit the sports department in the downstairs store at Grants in Bangor and there you will find fishing and water equipment of all kinds, tennis rackets, golf clubs, and a complete photography section that will help you to recapture the memories once you get home. Grants also features a pleasant lunch counter where you will find lunches and snacks to keep you refreshed during your shopping hours. Remember that Grants in Bangor is particularly interested in making shopping a pleasure for all of you summer visitors.

Now to get on to some social notes that will tell you where to go and what to do during this busy season. One thing that might interest you will be held today, this of course July the 3rd, at Exeter, Maine. You can enjoy a fine round of horse pulling at the Exeter Fairgrounds and after that you can dance to complete an enjoyable evening. Now horse pulling is something that many of you from out of the state have never had the opportunity of seeing and it really is quite a thing. Particularly if you have youngsters along, I think they'll get a big thrill out of this, and regardless of who you are and where you are, probably you'll enjoy dancing anyway. Now there will be purses of \$105 at stake to heighten the competition at the Exeter event, and there will be 2 pounds of rock to 1 pound of horse, which should

sound intriguing to you. It certainly does to me. So if you think you'd like to watch these horses test their muscles and coordination, plan to drive to Dexter [?], Maine, for this evening, July 3rd, for the horse-pulling contest and of course the dance that follows. And the event will start at 7:30.

Then of course there are lots of other things taking place in the state of Maine. Yesterday started Old-Home Week at Eastport, Maine, and from yesterday, the 2nd, on through the 8th of July, there will be Old-Home Week celebrations at Eastport. Then as far as the big day, the 4th, tomorrow is concerned, there will be a number of local celebrations almost any place you might be in the state of Maine. I understand there will be celebrations in Portland, and Bath, and Norridgewock, Belfast, Lubec, Windham, Houlton there'll be a carnival, the 4-H Club Dairy Show in Morrill Park in Bar Harbor, and then in Milo, from Milo, we have quite a bit of information. I understand there's going to be a big 4th of July celebration there. There will be a grand parade in the morning at 9 o'clock, there will be a horse show, then a ball game at 10:30, a baked bean dinner, more horse pulling at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. There will be another ball game in the afternoon at the athletic field, a greased pig contest, which is something again that many of you out-of-staters might never have seen before, and perhaps many of you in-staters might never have seen it because I saw my first one last year. It's really quite a sight to see, a number of men chasing madly around after a very slippery little pig who is very anxious to avoid all of them. Then to complete the affair at Milo there will be square dancing and a big fireworks display at 9 o'clock in the evening.

Now there will be a number of fireworks displays throughout the state. I'm sorry to say that I don't have the details on all of them for you, but it will be a simple matter to find out wherever you are. If you happen to be near a Maine Publicity Bureau office, and those are quite clearly marked, there is one in Bangor, you will be able to inquire there and they will give you all the information. However, wherever you are, if you'll stop in at the local drugstore, post office, or anything of that sort, I'm sure they'll be able to help you out.

Now before we turn to anything further as far as the 4th is concerned, there is a shopping note I have here that should be of special interest to homemakers, and I don't want to let this get by. Grants in Bangor will start this week to offer you their special blanket layaway plan. They call it their Blanket Bank and this is how it works. During this Blanket Bank feature, you may go to the blanket department on the second floor and choose just the blankets that you will need for your family come fall. Make a 50 cent deposit, then arrange for small, regular payments throughout the summer and come fall your blankets will be all paid for and ready to take home. In other words, a 50 cent deposit will hold any blanket for you. Now blankets of all types will be included in this plan, crib blankets, sheet blankets, cotton blankets, and all-wool styles. I'll tell you more about this fine plan later on in the week, but right now I think you want to make a note of it and start to make an inventory of your present supply at home so you'll know just what to look for when you stop in yourself at Grants in Bangor to make a 50 cent deposit in your own Blanket Bank.

And now to start on our 4th of July details. Of course, fundamentally, this is a very serious holiday, it means a lot to all of us who enjoy the privilege of being citizens of the United States. And I have no doubt but that many of you will find your youngsters asking questions that you might find a little bit

difficult to answer. As a matter of fact, those of you who are familiar with listening to this program know that on almost every holiday I try to bring forth all this historical data and present it to you. And there's an interesting story behind that because I first started in radio on Washington's birthday several years ago and for want of anything better to do, frankly at that time not knowing really what my listeners would want, I dug up quite a bit of material on George Washington and I was positively amazed to find within the next half hour ever so many phone calls from people telling me that they really appreciated that, that they had youngsters who just chock full of questions and would ask many questions that they just couldn't answer from the backs of their minds and so they really appreciated the fact that I had presented them with the details. So I took that at its face worth and ever since then whenever there's a holiday I've made it a point to bring out all the details that I could find so that the parents would have a much easier time in educating their young ones.

Well, as far as the 4th of July is concerned, of course, this celebrates the day that the Declaration of Independence was declared in Congress, and it was July 4th, 1776, quite a few years ago. But to give you a little bit of background on that, on June 7th, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution in the continental Congress to the effect that, and I quote, "These united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent." That's the end of the quotation. Now although the vote on the resolution was in doubt, believe it or not, Thomas Jefferson was appointed chairman of a committee to prepare a declaration, and it is said that he did so at one sitting without reference to a book or a paper. Other members of the committee were Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston. The result was the Declaration of Independence, which of course is an immortal statement of American liberty that is probably one of the most valuable documents of American history today. And you know all about the Declaration of Independence, I'm sure, from that point on. It is the fundamental statement of all the rights that we enjoy today. And it's interesting to note that was on July 4th, 1776 that this Declaration of Independence was first given in Congress and signed by, of course, many of our famous statesmen.

And it wouldn't hurt at all when you're talking with the youngsters and explaining the 4th of July and its meaning to them to dwell a little bit upon the significance of this day because of course in these times there's a lot of unrest and it would do us all a good deal of good to stop and think of what this Declaration of Independence meant to people way back in 1776 and then what it has meant all the way up to us.

But now, to turn to the lighter side of the 4th of July, of course for a good many years, fireworks were something that seemed to be vastly important to all of the small fry. Today, in the state of Maine and in many other states, practically all of them I understand throughout the nation, the use of personal fireworks has been banned. However, in most areas, there will be public fireworks displays so the youngsters won't miss any of the glory and the sound of the 4th of July fireworks, but it should be much safer and much saner for them.

However, if you'd like to have something a little bit different, I came across the most interesting suggestion for a centerpiece for youngsters and I think you're going to really enjoy hearing about this. Let the small fry have their fireworks of a type right in the middle of the dining room table. Now don't

get excited, I don't anticipate blowing up your dining room, but you know, the kids would just love a centerpiece that bubbles and bobs, and you can make one very easily with things that you very probably have in the house, and if you don't have them in the house, you can get them in a very short while. Take a big, black bowl, or perhaps a dish, fill it with red, white and blue marbles, that is just fill the bottom with red, white and blue marbles, and if you have a few tiny American flags that you can stand in among the marbles, with the flag part out of the water, of course, well do so. Now comes the mystery part. Add a quart of water, one tablespoon of citric acid, one tablespoon of baking soda, and 10 mothballs. I'll go over those ingredients in a minute, but the whole thing just starts to bubble and bob and goes on for hours, and when that bubbling stops, all you have to do is add a little more baking soda and the show will go on. I'm going to give you those details again because I think they're well worth paying a little bit of attention to. To your bowl with red, white and blue marbles in the bottom, add a quart of water, one tablespoon of citric acid and one tablespoon of baking soda, and 10 mothballs. Now there are four ingredients, a quart of water, a tablespoon of citric acid, a tablespoon of baking soda and 10 mothballs, and that should just go right to it and bubble and pop. Of course, it's perfectly harmless, but it will keep those marbles bouncing around in your bowl and it should keep the youngsters, and the oldsters, too, very much intrigued during the 4th of July meal. I think you'll get a big kick out of doing that. I have seen it done just once and it really turned out beautifully and there doesn't seem to be any trick to it at all.

But for some of the other little 4th of July items I think it's always rather pleasant to stop and do a bit of reminiscing come the 4th of July. For one thing, of course, the traditional dish is salmon, peas, and watermelon. So if you're going to eat at home or at one of our restaurants or hotels, undoubtedly you will have salmon, peas, and watermelon. But there's another little bit of tradition that pops in the 4th of July and it seems to be almost as strong, that is the family picnic, and if the family can just get away for the day, that picnic can be as glorious as an entire weekend away. One thing, though, as far as you, Milady, are concerned, I would suggest that you make this picnic as easy as possible. Stock up on a good supply of paper plates and paper cups. Go to your downstairs store at your Grants in Bangor and pick up some of those plastic items that are going to make things easier for you. There will be plastic spoons, and plastic straws, and plastic cups, and all of those things mean that you're not going to have to worry about too much dish washing. You're certainly not going to have any problems on your hands as far as throwaways are concerned, and you can enjoy your picnic.

Now that takes care pretty much of other things except you'll undoubtedly want to stop and reminisce a little bit, think about what you did on the night before the 4th and the 4th of July when you were a girl, and then beyond that, I just want to issue another word of warning, do be careful. Be careful as far as the water is concerned, be careful as far as too much sun is concerned, and be especially careful when it comes to traffic. That just about takes care of us for this afternoon. I want to remind you if you have any club notes or club reports, we would very much like to have them for our programs throughout the week, and have a very nice 4th of July, until Wednesday at this same time, this is your hostess, Jean Murray.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

Fogler Special Collections
5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library
Orono, ME 04469-5729
207.581.1686
[um.library.spc @ maine.edu](mailto:um.library.spc@maine.edu)