

AIN'T NO STOPPING OUR

LADY...even in 1944. The story continues: "We hopped in a plane from field to field and everywhere were greeted by enthusiastic groups of WAVES. They generally assembled in one of the big empty hangars and there we delivered brief speeches to them. It was hard to make oneself heard at times, so many planes roared overhead. Captain Mildred McAfee and I spoke and so did Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, then a Congresswoman, a member of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, who accompanied us on our tour. The Navy's fine sense of pageantry and ceremony was shown at the graduation exercises for one of the groups of cadets who had finished their training and were receiving their diplomas as naval aviators. They were so young and military, their proud families so anxiously concerned, Admiral George Murray, who made the awards, so impressive and so kind, and the vision of the death to which many of them were going on the carriers in the South Pacific was so vivid in my mind that I found the simple ceremony very moving.

"We had been brought down from Washington to Pensacola in a Navy plane

.With great nimbleness and dexterity, Mrs. Smith nipped over the back of the front seat...

and they sent us back in the same way. Several members of our party left us at Washington but the rest of us continued on to LaGuardia Field, where we were met by cars from the USS Hunter in the Bronx, to take us there for an inspection.

"That brief ride nearly eliminated some of the members of the Advisory Council. The asphalt roads were wet from the melting snow of an early April storm. As darkness fell they had frozen over with a glare of black ice. I was riding in the first of the three cars, Captain Amsden's sedan, driven by a sailor whom I knew

only as "Arthur." Next to him sat Dr. Achsa Bean, one of the medical officers of the station, and in the back seat with me Mrs. Gates and Margaret Chase Smith. We were followed by two station wagons carrying the rest of the party. I can still see that film of black ice shining under the street lamps as we came down the ramp from the Triborough Bridge to the Bronx. I can still see the car speeding from the other direction which suddenly got out of control and skidded directly towards us. Arthur most skillfully evaded it and brought the sedan to a halt alongside the curb, but the skidding car struck the two station wagons behind us, injuring some of the members of the Advisory Council, chiefly with shock and bruises, and seriously hurting one of the sailor drivers, who received a bad cut on the head.

"Knowing that something had happened to our comrades, Arthur and Dr. Bean got out and went back to

slide slowly toward the middle of the ramp. Meanwhile, inexorably and ruthlessly, the heavy traffic continued to whiz past us on both sides of the roadway. Another moment and we should be struck. But with the greatest nimbleness and dexterity, Mrs. Smith nipped over the back of the front seat, seized the steering wheel, and guided us to the curb again. **My already high opinion of her went up some degrees, and I know why she now makes such an excellent Senator."**

(Taken from "The 'Waves' of the Navy: How They Began" written by Virginia C. Gildersleeve, Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Women's Reserve U. S. Navy, World War II, and reprinted from Many a Good Crusade in 1956.) Now located in Scrapbook Vol. 173, p. 105, at the MCSL.

investigate, while I remained in the rear seat of our car with Mrs. Gates and Mrs. Smith. Presently our wheels began to slip on the film of ice and the car started to

Congresswoman Smith in 1944

State Chat

The Woman Senator

M—aking her mark in the Hall
of Fame

A—lways alert to the needs of
Maine

R—eady to help anyway she can

G—oing all out for the common
man;

A—iming to lead, and speak her
mind;

R—eady to vanquish subversive
kind;

E—ager to show that a woman's
vote

T—allies effective with men of
note.

C—autious and quickly to
recognize,

H—armful suggestions to bold
disguise,

A—bly she seeks to weigh each
mite,

S—ifting the wrong, to find the
right,

E—ver to better her public's
plight.

S—miling and bravely she meets
each task,

M—ounting in limelight where
she might bask;

I—mpels to vision a woman sent,

T—here to the hallways of
government,

H—onors a bid to be President.

Richard W. Murray

Auburn, Maine

Reprinted from Lewiston Journal

Meet the Staff:

Fifth member of the staff to be featured, entering his eighth year, is our able leader, Gregory P. Gallant. Having done his dissertation on Margaret Chase Smith as a doctoral candidate at the University of Maine at Orono, Greg had spent extensive hours of research work at the center. From January to September of 1984, he buried his thoughts in research and began assisting five days a week with summer cataloging under the supervision of former director, Dr. James C. MacCampbell. Upon the resignation of Russell Fridley as director, Greg relinquished his duties as assistant director in 1987 and became the new director for the facility.

A native of Massachusetts' Cape Cod area, Greg has been in Maine since 1974. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Maine.

His dissertation is entitled, "Margaret Chase Smith, McCarthyism, and the Drive for Political Purification." Senator Smith laughingly remarks, "He knows more about me than I do."

A sports fan, most particularly a baseball enthusiast, Greg admires the writings of Roger Angell. He strongly recommends 9 Innings by Daniel Okrent and the classic, Father's Play Catch with Sons, by Donald Hall. Given the power, he would eliminate the designated hitter rule before tonight's evening news. Greg and wife Susan reside in Bowdoinham.

Library Director, Dr. Gregory P. Gallant

They Will be Sadly Missed...

Deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Samuel Rosen of Bangor, Maine. Dr. Rosen played a significant role as an Advisory Committee member at the Library. Preceding him in death was his wife, Doris, who worked for many years in the political arena as a strong campaign supporter and friend to Senator Smith.

Miss Alice Hansen of Cleveland, Ohio, also a member of the Advisory Committee, passed away recently. Alice worked for over 46 years caring for Charles Bolton, son of U. S. Representative Frances Payne Bolton. In 1988, Bolton established a scholarship in Hansen's name to provide financial aid for students who are studying gerontological nursing.



SHE SEWED, SHE CLIPPED, SHE DID IT ALL......even in the early days of Senator Smith's career, she admits it would have been most difficult had it not been for the loyalty of her staff; most particularly, Blanche Bernier Hudon. Blanche began her work with Senator Smith as a housekeeper/seamstress, creating the simple but elegant wardrobe worn by the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress and the first woman elected to the U. S. Senate in her own right and at one time, selected as the Best Tailored Woman in Government in 1950. The spring clothing exhibit, "A Fitting Tribute," in 1992 at the MCSL was clear evidence of the fine workmanship of Blanche. A small town girl herself from Madawaska, Maine, Blanche joined Clyde Smith's staff in 1940 and continued as Representative Margaret Smith's personal secretary in 1941. In 1949, she married the U. S. Senate Librarian, Edward G. Hudon. The sister of Office Manager Joseph A. (Spike) Bernier, who was the husband of Senator Smith's sister, Laura, Blanche remained ever loyal. Her duties included fastidious attention to the Scrapbooks, which now number over 500, daily clipping every newspaper article which included a reference to the congresswoman or information relative to current issues before Congress.

At the age of 90, Blanche continues her interest in the library, only recently finding her way to Skowhegan from Brunswick where she currently resides, taking the opportunity to look through some of the old scrapbooks and enjoying a delightful luncheon with Senator Smith, seated at the very table which overlooks the beautiful Kennebec River where they sat those many, many years ago answering mail and tending to the business at hand.

Readers may have missed the January story in **Down East** magazine which featured our own first lady, "*A Singular Act of Courage*," by Sarah Goodyear. The seven-page article highlights the 1950s when Margaret Chase Smith "stunned the nation when she stood up to denounce the monstrous Joseph McCarthy on the floor of the Senate. But no one in Skowhegan was surprised." As Senator Smith wrote in her autobiography, "Joe had the Senate paralyzed with fear. The political risk of taking issue with him was too great a hazard to the political security of senators." Yet take issue with him she did. As Ms. Goodyear writes, "In true Yankee fashion, Margaret Chase Smith had listened to her conscience rather than to the whispers of political expediency she heard in Washington. It was the best advice she ever got."

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Blanche Bernier Hudon looks over one of the more than 500 scrapbooks she helped fill

In photos taken during the annual Appreciation Day and Open House, Maxine and Herman Janson of Hartland/Canaan view the displays; Staff Member Reggie Collins serves punch to Charlie Comstock while Hayley King and Sarah Bigelow enjoy apple cider as Vanessa Caron looks on; and Director Gregory Gallant speaks with Walter and Joyce Pfizenmayer of Damariscotta.

REVIEWS CONTINUE TO COME IN... “best we’ve ever attended...the panels and speakers were excellent.”

CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS CONFERENCE IN REVIEW

Two days of panel presentations and discussions at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland provided much insight and information regarding research accessibility, archival preservation, and innovative technological advances to participants from across the country. More than 70 archivists, authors, librarians, professors, historians, congressional members and support staff benefited from the first conference of its kind since 1978 and 1985.

In opening remarks by Merton G. Henry, chair of the Margaret Chase Smith Library Executive Board, attention was called to the need for careful and thoughtful preservation of the personal papers of members of Congress, adding the well wishes of Senator Margaret Chase Smith whose library is a testament to her long career in public service. Although unable to attend, Senator Smith was actively involved and deeply supportive of the initiatives and goals of the conference. Mr. Henry also provided a bit of historical background of the “City by the Bay” and welcomed participants to Portland, Maine.

Chancellor of the University of Maine System, Dr. J. Michael Orenduff, delivered the opening address.

Friday and Saturday agendas were capably administered by Moderator Frank H. Mackaman of the Gerald R. Ford Library. Dr. Mackaman earned his Ph.D. in U. S. History from the University of Missouri-Columbia and serves as adjunct Professor of History at the University of Michigan, frequently contributing articles and serving on professional committees. He is former Executive Director of the Everett M. Dirksen Congressional Leadership Center.

On Friday afternoon, Richard A. Baker, Raymond W. Smock, and Michael Gillette, spoke of the changes in the field since the two earlier conferences. Baker has served as Director of the U. S. Senate Historical Office in Washington DC since its inception in 1975. He holds a doctorate in history from the University of Maryland and is author of several books including **Conservation Politics: The Senate**

Career of Clinton P. Anderson. He organized and directed the 1978 Conference on Research Use and Disposition of Senators’ Papers.

Until recently, Dr. Raymond W. Smock was historian of the U. S. House of Representatives, graduating from Roosevelt University, earning his Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland. He was co-editor of the 14-volume documentary series **The Booker T. Washington Papers** and **A Guide to Manuscripts in the Presidential Libraries.**

Michael L. Gillette is Director of the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives. Dr. Gillette previously directed the Oral History Program at the LBJ Library for 15 years and served 3 years as Director of the Presidential Election Study at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Merton G. Henry welcomes participants to

..thanks for all you did to make our stay in Maine so pleasant and so professionally

Dr. Frank H. Mackaman opens the Congressional Papers Conference

Dr. J. Michael Orenduff delivers the opening address

Responsibilities of the Creators was the topic of the first Saturday morning panel, featuring the Honorable Dante Fascell, former U. S. Representative from the 19th District of Florida. Fascell spoke of his new understanding of the need to preserve congressional papers, the difficulty to that end, and the expense of preservation. William E. Brown, head of the Archives and Special Collections at the University of Miami where Fascell's papers are housed, reiterated those concerns and discussed fund raising efforts and responsibilities.

Frank Mevers, director and state archivist for the State of New Hampshire and co-editor of ***New Hampshire: The State That Made Us a Nation***, provided an enlightening look into the problems faced by a small archive operating on limited resources. He called for members of Congress to have a heightened awareness of the binders placed on institutions taking possession of congressional collections, oftentimes under mandates. Mevers expressed a desire to see senators and representatives take a more active role in the despository funding of their collections. Often, he lamented, they give little or no thought to their paper's legislative importance.

Robert Schulzinger speaks as a user of research facilities

James and Louise Kenneally enjoy a bit of the tasty refreshments during the reception

THE FUTURE of Congressional Papers was the topic of the last panel of the conference when Karen D. Paul of the U.S. Senate Historical Office; Cynthia Pease Miller of the Historian's office of the U. S. House of Representatives; John A. Constance of the National Archives and Records Administration; and Gabrielle V. Michalek and Edward A. Galloway spoke to the group about advances being made in technology which broadens and enlightens the scope of availability and access for serious scholars and researchers interested in congressional holdings. Technological advances were clearly shown by Mr. Galloway's slide presentation and computer demonstration, all currently being used by the Senator H. John Heinz, III Collection at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Historians/Scholars/Users of Collections were the highlight of Saturday's afternoon panel. Robert Schulzinger, Professor of History at the University of Colorado at Boulder, currently writing a book on the Vietnam War, spoke to the group as a user of research facilities—the problems encountered in travel logistics and accessibility once at the archival center. Schulzinger is the author of six books including ***Henry Kissinger—Doctor of Diplomacy and American Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century***.

Brian Balogh, Associate Professor of History at the University of Virginia, next addressed the conference about issues of access. Prior to the conference, Dr. Balogh spent a day at the Margaret Chase Smith Library reviewing the Aeronautical and Space Sciences file as part of his study of James E. Webb.

Julian Zelizer is a Ph.D. candidate at Johns Hopkins University. Author of "The Third House of Congress: Wilbur Mills and the Revenue Acts of 1962 and 1964." Zelizer also discussed his multi-archival approach to research and unnecessary restrictions placed upon researchers.

Fourth member of the panel, Dr. Janann Sherman, University of Memphis, currently awaiting publication of a biography of Senator Smith, addressed problems encountered when dealing with research facilities, having traveled extensively around the country to study those holdings which had pertinence to the career of Senator Smith or clarification of the times. Naturally, her presentation dealt specifically with her reactions of her several years of research at the MCSL.

All scholars called for a consistent approach to regulations imposed on the use of collections.

***CARTER STRIKES BLOW TO
CLINTON ADMINISTRATION***

(Hodding Carter, that is)

Dinner speaker Hodding Carter, III, addressed current issues of the day—most particularly President Clinton’s decision with regard to the situation in Haiti.

One of the most respected and articulate journalists in Washington DC, Hodding Carter is best remembered as the effective and polished State Department spokesman during the Iranian hostage crisis. He went on to anchor the Emmy Award winning series, *Inside Story*, on PBS from 1981-1984 and currently is the President of MainStreet, a television production company in Washington. Admitting his vote for Bill Clinton during the presidential election, Carter reported his deep concern over the foreign policy decisions of the administration and the lack of leadership in an office which is regarded as the epitome of supreme leadership—the Presidency of the United States. Listeners were quiet as Carter ended his address but it was clear that he had given each much food for thought!

Senate Historian , Richard Baker, addresses the group

Hodding Carter’s thoughts on Clinton Administration

The Honorable William S. Cohen

addressed the group during luncheon, speaking not only of his experience as a U. S. Senator but also as a writer of novels, specifically recalling his collaborative efforts with Gary Hart in the making of a novel involving espionage, drugs, the Senate, and the Kennedy years. Spellbinding!

Above, Karen Paul and Peter DeLottinville enjoy a laugh at reception prior to dinner

Below, participants listen to questions from the floor

LAUGHINGSTOCK KEEPS EVERYONE IN STITCHES!!!

In a hilarious spoof of archivists and their moth-ridden, mildewy, dusty, paper collections, LaughingStock Comedy Company entertained participants of the Congressional Papers Conference in delightful banter and joviality. And it is, of course, common knowledge that at such affairs, there always has to be a “volunteer” from the audience! Out of those sinking deeper in their seats to avoid selection, comes a lone voice, “the moderator, take the moderator.” Having missed his calling as an actor, it was clear in those few precious moments that a “star had been born.” Frank Mackaman rose from his seat; ascended the staircase to the stage; tripped and fell; (hushed quietness fell over the audience); Dean Steeves of the comedy company offered a hand of support as co-actors expressed concern that Frank might have injured himself; Frank rises; calmly remarks, “I’m from the Gerald Ford Library!” And so the fun continued!!!

Following a delicious lobster bake with the fixins’ (clams, corn on the cob, chips, yeast rolls, & cake) prepared by the local Lion’s Club, the evening’s entertainment began. Staged at the Island Playhouse Theater on beautiful Peak’s Island, Laughing Stock provided a fun-filled conclusion to two days of panel discussions.

Many asked about the Island, located in Portland’s Casco Bay, which is part of the so-called “calendar islands”, so called because there are reported to be 365. In 1700 Colonel W. Romer made an inspection trip and reported, “said Bay has a multitude of islands, these being reported as many islands as there are days in the year.” Slightly exaggerated, however, as the actual number appears to be 136. Most heavily populated of the Bay islands, Peak’s Island consists of 720 acres, close to the city, and linked to Portland by commuter ferries. Peak’s was first settled over 350 years ago by the Palmers and Bracketts until the families were massacred by Indian raids in 1689. The name has changed as ownership changed until it became Peak’s after Samuel Peak and now is Portland’s bedroom suburb with more than 1,000 homes and Casco Bay’s great summer attraction. Technically a part of Portland, it is still geographically and spiritually an island. Once residents land on the home wharf, the old and lasting values reassert themselves and the city might as well be a hundred miles away as three.*

(Taken from Dorothy Simpson’s “The Maine Islands” and Bill Caldwell’s “Islands of Maine.”)

Morning agenda begins with the Orenduff address at the Holiday Inn by the Bay conference facility

Edmund S. Muskie Archives director, Chris Beam, confers with Merton G. Henry

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The Library is a non-profit research center and museum of 20th Century political artifacts committed to bringing the ideals of Senator Smith's career in public service to the people of Maine and the Nation.

Panelists William Brown, Honorable Dante Fascell, and Frank Mevers prepare to address the group

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