

“The Bridges Way”

Senator Bridges

(Taken from MCS Anecdotes file)

Senator Styles Bridges and I had little in common except we were both born in Maine and were Republicans, he an ultra conservative and I a moderate. Senator Bridges was said to have expressed his disapproval of me but while we often differed in our thinking and with our choice of associates, Senator Bridges was always courteous, thoughtful with an appearance of friendliness, always recognizing and giving me a chance to express my views. He was a senior member of the Senate and Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee.

Senator Bridges and Senator Owen Brewster, also a senior member of the Senate, worked very closely together and with Senator McCarthy, Senator Dirksen, Senator Karl Mundt, and other conservatives as were then called McCarthyites. They upheld and encouraged Joseph McCarthy in his anti-communist effort techniques. I was as opposed to Communism and Fascism and all outside influences that would destroy the U. S. government but was bitterly opposed to the tactics being used by the McCarthy group which came so close to destroying freedom of speech and reputations. Styles Bridges tried to get me to be less active against McCarthy and one day came to my office by appointment and talked to and with me for nearly three hours. While I appreciated this recognition, I felt as strongly the other way and so told him.

Later when it was decided that the new standing Committee on Space and Aeronautical Sciences would be made up by appointing senior members of other standing committees, Karl Mundt, South Dakota, the top ranking Republican on the Government Operations Committee, was in line for the new committee. I was number two on the Republican side of this committee and was next in line for an appointment to the new Committee on Space. This was a real test of my position in the Senate. It was Styles Bridges and the late William F. Knowland of California who called on me, explaining, as they had to Senator Mundt, that an appointment would require me to give up one of my three Committees—Appropriations, Armed Services or Government Operations. The Rules of the Senate limited a Senator from holding more than three major committees. I had served on Government Operations since entering the Senate (it was then a minor committee and given to me as a new member). I had served on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of which Senator McCarthy was chairman; and in an unprecedented move, had replaced

me with a new Senator, his friend Richard Nixon, declaring that he, McCarthy, would get rid of me on the full committee before long. I had often wanted to give that Government Operations Committee up; but because of McCarthy’s threat, held onto it until the offer of the Space Committee appointment came to me, saying, “Thus the seniority system prevailed.” As time went on and space issues became more complex and expensive, Senator Bridges often conferred with me about positions to be taken. One of the most controversial items was whether or not the Committee would go along with President Kennedy’s proposal “to put a man on the moon.” Bridges talked with me at length and on all angles, political, financial, and practical, always stressing that such a project would eventually cost the enormous sum of 20 billion dollars and once we started voting for the program there would be no

Senator Smith is shown with Doloris & Styles Bridges on the occasion of his 61st birthday, September 9, 1959

place to stop, that it was a question of not to start or be prepared to go all of the way. After several talks, we both decided that it was worthwhile and **(Cont. on pg. 6)** **(Bridges-Cont. from front cover)** agreed to go through with it to the end. We did, until he died. I received a call from the President when the first word came through from the moon.

Again because of the seniority system, I moved up to the ranking position on the Space Committee, working closely

Amy Hassinger Authors Maine Studies Textbook

Says Amy, “I am writing a Maine studies textbook for the University of Maine Press which will be published in August, 1999. Margaret Chase Smith is featured as an important person in Maine history—a biography of her appears in Chapter 11 as well as a discussion of the *Declaration of Conscience*.” Included in the Resource Guide will be activities centered on her career. Amy’s research at the MCSL involved finding just the right photographs and political cartoons to assist in portraying Senator Smith for inclusion in **Finding Katahdin: An Exploration of Maine’s Past**.

Amy Hassinger visits on January 29, 1999

Personal Assistant and Confidante Passes Away

Blanche Bernier Hudon, personal assistant and confidante of Senator Smith, passed away on February 14 at her home in Brunswick, ME, at the age of 94. In 1940, Blanche moved to Washington, DC, to be on the staff of Congressman Clyde H. Smith. Following his death, she continued on as Senator Smith’s assistant and was responsible for the creation of the more than 500 scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings. Now housed in the Margaret Chase Smith Library, they serve to enhance the research capability of all scholars interested in the events and history of the nation from the 1940s to date. What Blanche Hudon started is continued today, as newspapers are scanned each day for reference to Senator Smith and her continuing influence on the politics of the day.

She was predeceased by her sister, Mother Superior Delphina Bernier, and her brother, Joseph “Spike” Bernier, who also served as the office manager of the Washington office and was married to Senator Smith’s youngest sister, Laura. Their son, John, currently serves as a director on the both the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation and Margaret Chase Smith Library Boards.



Michael Hussey pictured at the library on January 29, 1999

Public Affairs Scholarship Recipient Visits Library

Michael P. Hussey is a University of Maine (UMO) sophomore Economics major from Alfred, ME. He is researching a dual problem facing Maine: (1) decreasing enrollment and student quality at the University of Maine, and (2) many high-skilled workers leaving Maine to attend out of state colleges or for better employment opportunities. By interviewing both UMO students and residents of this small college town (Orono), he hopes to present his ideas to UMO and Orono administrations in hopes that incentives to draw students to this part of Maine will serve to benefit the University and the economy of Orono. Michael visited the library to gain a better feeling for the lady whose name appears on the MCS Public Affairs Scholarship of which he and four others are proud to be recipients.

Blanche Hudon is shown with MCS in July, 1948

Skowhegan Area Middle School Students Take a Walk

SAMS seventh and eighth grade students left their classrooms on November 25 and went for a walk. Carrying plastic bags, they carried more than 2300 food items to the Skowhegan Food Cupboard for use by those less fortunate. Their seventh annual journey, the students have been bringing in items from home during the month of November to be delivered on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to needy people. In 1997, they collected 1600 items and hope to increase that figure each year. Invited to visit the MCSL, members of the student council were given a \$200 check to be used for a worthy cause. “We thought about adopting a child through an overseas mission foundation...donating to the Red Cross Foundation for the people in Colombia who have suffered through a recent hurricane; or donating part of the money to Project SMILE. It gave us self pride to know that important people like Margaret Chase Smith cared about small-town communities and their young people...and why she loved Skowhegan so much.”

Students from Skowhegan’s Middle School visit on January 26, 1999



John Wayne is Back in the Saddle

Skowhegan’s annual “Getting to Know You Fair” was held on February 13 with cowgirls and cowboys seen in all directions of the high school in keeping with the theme. Library staff members, David Richards and Angie Stockwell, greeted visitors, distributing library brochures and miscellaneous material about Margaret Chase Smith. Angie made over a hundred cookies with a sign “Free, A Cookie for a Promise,” and those taking cookies had to promise to visit the Library. The anecdotal book compiled by Herb Paradis, Angie Stockwell and Ginny Foster, **What Can I Do For You**, was raffled off with the lucky winner being Debbie Irvine of Madison. Congratulations, Debbie.

On display was a photo of Senator Smith with little cowgirl Hayley King taken several years ago and a *pencil sketch of John Wayne done by Northwood University’s own Michael Turner*, son of co-founder *Arthur E. Turner* of Midland, Michigan. Actually, many people were in hopes that the sketch of John Wayne was the item being raffled and were sorely disappointed! Other staff members, Lynnette King and Vanessa Caron, dropped by occasionally while working at their respective service organization booths, Semper Fidelis and The Dove Society. It was a great day and a wonderful way to meet old and new friends.

Angie and David man the booth located in the MCS Lobby. “Little cowgirl” Hayley King is growing up fast (background) with her photo on display to far left.

Actor/Comedian Does Research at the Library

Chris Elliott, wife Paula, and their daughters visited the library in hopes to find more about the West Cundy Harbor summer home of William C. Lewis, Jr. The Elliotts have purchased the home and were thrilled to study the contents of the file entitled “Residences, Cundy’s Harbor.” During his younger years, the Robert Elliotts were neighbors of Bill Lewis and Senator Smith. The Elliott family seems to be most pleased to finally have a place of their own in one of Maine’s most beautiful spots—West Cundy Point—where the ocean view is spectacular!! (*Chris recently starred in the movie, “There’s Something About Mary.”*)

Over Seven Thousand Miles in Seven Weeks

In the fall of 1959, Senator Smith made her twelfth annual tour of the State of Maine. Seven weeks in duration, she traveled 7,158 miles and spoke at 84 different engagements around the state. Most frequent appearances were in the Portland-South Portland area with seven speeches and meetings; the Augusta-Gardiner area with six; the Bangor area with five; the Lewiston-Auburn area with five and the Rockland-Camden area with five.

The average day involved two speeches and meetings and 170 miles of driving. The most northern town visited was Van Buren—most southern Kennebunk—most eastern

Calais—and most western Fryeburg. With the completion of the annual tour in early November, Senator Smith had accumulated a string of 31 successive months in which she had been in Maine for a part of each month. With the exception of a lecture at Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama on November 2, 1959, she had restricted her speaking and travel activities exclusively to the State of Maine.

The time, mileage and engagements were approximately the same as for each of the past five years. During that five-year period, she had approximately 500 speaking engagements and meetings throughout Maine, had traveled approximately 35,000 miles requiring 34 weeks. (*Taken from Scrapbook v. 211, p. 141*)



*Right: Smiling
Margaret Chase Smith
on the campaign trail
in 1948*

"Friends" Newsletter is published by the Margaret Chase Smith Library. Editor: Dr. Gregory P. Gallant; Coordinated by Angela Stockwell with the assistance of Vanessa Caron, Lynnette King, Crystal Perkins, Byron Pooler, and David Richards. 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.
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Friends of the Library Newsletter

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Condolences to the McIntire Family

One of Maine's most charming and gracious ladies has passed away and the library staff would be remiss in not sending our deepest sympathy. Wilda H. McIntire, 87, wife of late former Congressman Clifford G. McIntire who passed away in 1974, served on the Library Advisory Committee for many years. Her quiet, unassuming demeanor endeared her to the hearts of all who knew her. She was born in Perham, ME, and taught school for many years in Perham, Washburn, and Wade. Senator Smith and the McIntires enjoyed a long relationship through their many years in Washington. Our condolences to the entire McIntire family, some of whom are pictured right.

Senator Smith holds Holly McIntire while proud parents, Blynn & Janie, (left) and grandparents, Wilda and Clifford, (right) look on in a 1966 photo.

Messalonskee (Oakland ME) High School Spanish class is pictured above. Teacher Carol Sturtevant (r) wanted her students to develop an appreciation for other cultures. With that in mind, students began Operation **"Give Up a Lunch to Buy a Lunch."** Students donated their lunch money to help Hurricane Mitch victims in Central America. An invitation to other Maine high schools to join in this program provided more than \$2,000 in donations to the Red Cross.

COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGHOUT MAINE FULFILLS DREAM OF SENATOR SMITH. THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS OF THE FIELD TRIP FUND WHICH BRINGS CARING STUDENTS TO THE LIBRARY. *Highlighted throughout newsletter are stories of young people who have made a difference! If you are interested in supporting this effort financially, please contact David Richards at the MCSL.*

Leadership Class Sends Thanks

"On behalf of the Lawrence Leadership Training Class, we would like to thank you for inviting us to the Margaret Chase Smith estate. Being older now, we have come to appreciate just what Margaret Chase Smith has done for our country. We would also like to thank you for the gift. It is greatly appreciated and will go to a good cause, not a pizza party!! We also felt moved that you saved our birthday cards from our younger years. It goes to show that Margaret Chase Smith truly cared about tomorrow's leaders. May her legacy live on." *Michelle Gayne, Elizabeth Neto, Mindy Vigue, Jessica James, Michael LeComte, Jessica Nielsen, Joshua Richard, Isaac Stone, Meghan Foley, Brian Bardwell, Frank Gioffre, Jocelyn Hatch, Richard Haywood, Monica O'Clair, Jenny McGraw, Jason Palmer, Abel Russell, Amy Smith, Alan Smith, Jen Stedman, Bobby Dee Bachelder and teachers Steve Knight and Eric Brown.*

*Editor's note: The "gift" referred to was a check for \$200 to help defray expenses of the field trip; the cards from "younger years" refers to library files containing handmade drawings by these same students when they visited with Senator Smith in 1988 while in the 2nd grade.

Steve Richardson's 4th grade Bloomfield Elementary School visit on February 11; above, he assists student in finding answers to trivia questions about Margaret Chase Smith which can be found by looking at library displays.

Lawrence (Fairfield ME) High School students visit on February 5

Serving as the new receptionist at the library during the medical leave of administrative assistant Vanessa Caron, Crystal Perkins (left) introduces herself, "Hello! My name is Crystal Rose Perkins, and I am originally from Windsor, Maine. A 1982 graduate of Erskine Academy, I then went to the University of Maine at Farmington where I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in history.

I moved to Skowhegan in 1986 when I married my husband Mark. We have two sons – Dillon, age 8, and Wyatt, age 5.

A firm believer in community service, I belonged to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and the Semper Fidelis Club. I served on the Board of Directors at the Skowhegan Nursery School, and currently belong to GFWC/The Dove Society.

I love working with the public and am sure I will enjoy my time here at the library."

Welcome, Crystal!! and Best Wishes to Vanessa!!

Maine Humanities Council Holds Seminar Series

Dorothy Schwartz, Executive Director, of the Maine Humanities Council has announced a special seminar series for civic leaders which is being co-sponsored with the MCSL.

Community and Change in Maine and America is a facilitated reading and discussion program funded through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment. Professor Charles Biebel, Research Associate at the MCS Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine, and Charles Calhoun, historian and staff member of the Maine Humanities Council, are the program leaders. The first of six monthly sessions was held on January 11 with a light dinner being served from 6-7 p.m. and discussion from 7-9 p.m.

The premise of the series is that leaders of civic institutions should reflect on their roles—to explore past traditions of thought and action, to discuss with colleagues their place and special mission in the community. A variety of texts by national

Pictured above, participants discuss issues relating to Aroostook County during a Maine Studies Program also sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council .

and local authors will be discussed. This program, including readings and dinners, is offered free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. If any interested readers would like to attend one or more of these discussions, please contact: Gregory P. Gallant at the MCSL at 207-474-7133 or Dorothy Schwartz at 207-773-5051.

LION 4 UNIT OF WW II HONORED

The Honorable Howard Coble of North Carolina rose on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on June 22, 1998, and paid homage to "a little-known, but immensely significant, group that valiantly served our country in World War II. This heroic group of individuals, members of the 'Lion 4' unit, served to supply and repair the many needs of the huge Navy presence in the Pacific theater. This unit...helped us defeat the Japanese and end the war months earlier than expected. The Lion 4 unit landed on the Admiralty Islands north of New Guinea, with the daunting task of building a base equal to Pearl Harbor with the ability to anchor over 400 ships. They landed on February 29, 1944, and by March 10, a badly damaged airfield was operational. By July, 36 major units were operational. These men had almost single handedly created the largest and most important naval and air base in spite of knee-deep mud, torrential rain, 120 degree temperatures, malaria, and the constant risk of death from the war."

The MCSL is proud to join in this accolade to all the men of the Lion 4 unit and particularly proud to note that Advisory Committee member Joshua Treat, III, of Belfast, ME, was one of those brave men. We salute you!

Baking cookies brings joy to ill children at Franklin Memorial Hospital. Vicki Farsaci's first grade students from the Wilbur Mallet School (Farmington, ME) used the simplest of pleasures, home baked cookies, to provide a community service to others. They baked and sold cookies, bought books, and donated them to the children's ward at the local hospital. In photo above, they tour the MCSL research room under the guidance of Dr. Richards on February 9.



with Lyndon Johnson (Texas), later Robert Kerr of Oklahoma and Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, the last two and I practically carrying the committee work and the Space program through, sometimes with strong Senate opposition, to the near conclusion of the man in space program. Many minority staff members were capable, diligent, and most helpful to me, especially my professional staff member, Bill Parker, an expert accountant, space authority, and dedicated to me.

Many stories can be written about Senator Styles Bridges. He was a likeable and colorful figure in the Senate but not always admired. When he died, his wife, Doloris, decided to run for the Senate. She always showed her dislike for me personally as well as politically. But as much as she had criticized and ignored me, it was me she came to for political help.

Senator Bridges was likeable and necessary to stay on the right side of, as he was through the years a part of the Republican leadership, Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, Appropriations Committee, Armed Services Committee and generally looked upon as the “boss”—he played politics to the hilt on everything. Yet Styles Bridges and I were far apart politically in our philosophy and friends. While he worked with everyone, he had a way of helping or belittling them. When at a dinner party at the home of May Craig, there were many observations that should have been recorded for history. Some called Bridges’ methods devious. MCS called it “the Bridges way”—a way that few could get away with. **(For ease of reading, this anecdote has been changed from its mixture of third and first person narrative to first person only. Space restraints make it impossible to print the entire anecdote. If you would like a copy of the story in its entirety, please notify Angie Stockwell at the MCSL.)**

Washington Post Journalist to be Keynote Speaker at Maine Town Meeting

In an effort to provide Maine citizens with a forum to examine important national issues and discuss and debate their relevance to Maine, the MCSL is proud to host its annual Maine Town Meeting on May 19 with E. J. Dionne, Jr. of the *Washington Post* as the featured speaker.

The topic of the day-long seminar is “Democracy Endangered? The Inquisitorial State and Civic Engagement.” Focus will be on the current state of political discourse and based on Dr. Dionne’s article, “After Impeachment: What We Need is Real Partisanship,” the question as to whether principled partisanship has been destroyed will be discussed by those attending.

Dr. Dionne excels in defining the strengths and weaknesses of competing political philosophies. His analysis of American politics and trends of public sentiment is recognized as among the best in the business. He believes America is about to enter a new progressive era, a period of reform in government and renewed civic activism in our neighborhoods. His best-selling book, *Why Americans Hate Politics*, which *Newsday* calls “a classic in American political history,” anticipated all the major themes of the campaigns of both Bill Clinton and Ross Perot.

His second work, *They Only Look Dead: Why Progressives Will Dominate the Next Political Era*, was published in 1996. His most recent book, *Community Works: The Revival of Civil Society in America*, was published in 1998.

“Skowhegan Girl” Program Scheduled for June 21-25

Experience what it was like to live in the early 1900’s in Skowhegan, ME. Make craft projects, play games, sing songs, and bake recipes from that era. At the same time, learn about the history of the time and Margaret Chase Smith’s “road” to her distinguished career in Washington, D.C.

During the week of June 21, children ages 8-12 are invited to join Vanessa Caron and MCSL staff members from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. for a “Day in the Life of Margaret Chase.”

Monday thru Friday children will tour the library, listen to readings about Margaret Chase Smith, learn a bit about history, help bake Senator Smith’s favorite blueberry muffins, create paper doll clothing, play croquet, and do needlework.

If you are interested in having your child or grandchild attend this free program, please contact Vanessa Caron at the MCSL, 474-7133. Enrollment is limited to ten children on a first-come, first-served basis. Numbers beyond the ten will be placed on waiting lists for future programs. It is the Library’s hope that “Skowhegan Girl” will become an annual week-long program for the young people of Skowhegan and surrounding towns. Please call now to reserve your child’s place in a program that should be interesting, educational, and fun, fun, fun!

Winona Rhodes Passes Away

Our condolences to Reverend Fred B. Rhodes. His lovely wife, Winona, passed away in Anderson, South Carolina, at the age of 89. Both Winona and Fred served on the MCSL Advisory Committee. Fred worked very closely with Senator Smith in Washington as a committee staff aide, involved particularly in the Investigations Subcommittee which dealt with the Korean Ammunition Shortages in the fifties. *(Fred & Winona Rhodes are pictured right with President & Mrs. Richard Nixon in March of 1972)*

Joe's Girls

Former MCSL researcher Mary Brennan of Southwest Texas State University will be presenting a paper at the 92nd annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on April 25, 1999. Brennan's paper entitled Joe's Girls: Gender and Joe McCarthy should prove interesting to participants. David Oshinsky, Rutgers University, who gave a lecture on McCarthy on June 5, 1989, at the MCSL, will preside over the workshop.

Students from Skowhegan Area High School's "Outing Club" with teacher Iver Lofving visited on February 11. An environmental service club, the Outing Club has been active in conservation for the past five years and are currently monitoring water quality at Lake George Regional Park. *The young lady pictured, Toni Lombardi, portrayed Margaret Chase in the 1997 play "Woman of Destiny."*

Kotlas Connection—*Students from Kotlas, Russia, (above) visit Maine & Skowhegan on March 2 as part of an ambitious exchange program with a theme of rivers. In September of 1998, Maine students (below) from Waterville, Messalonskee (Oakland), Winslow, and Lawrence (Fairfield) High Schools began studying the ecology of the Kennebec River, while in Kotlas a similar group was examining the Northern Dvina in Russia. Plans for Maine students to visit Russia were cancelled when the events in Serbia began to escalate.*

Jan Johnson & Karen Biermann's classes from Benton Elementary School toured the library on February 23. In photos above, there is great excitement in seeing school pictures from previous visits in the library scrapbooks. A personal letter from Senator Smith to Karen Biermann when she attended Waterville Junior High School was viewed in the collection as well.