

EATING AT THE CAPITOL

Taken from the Anecdotes of Margaret Chase Smith

It is often said, “What one doesn’t know doesn’t hurt him.” Menus at the Capitol dining rooms and cafeterias are in this category. While eating in the same places daily becomes monotonous and is a subject of discussion, it was generally tasty and well cooked or cooked to suit the tastes of people from every part of the country brought up on foods of the areas represented.

Congress convenes daily at twelve noon, sometimes earlier but never later. This makes it necessary for Members of the House and Senate and staff members throughout the Capitol to have food available for lunch and often for dinner as well. There is always Bean Soup, an item required by law. Steak is one of the more dependable items as is graham cracker pie.

As a member of the Senate Rules Committee, I often questioned the prices and the large sums required to subsidize this service, sometimes in the Senate alone a half a million dollars. As I examined the accounts, it seemed that costs were based on high quality foods while the food itself was often of poor quality. There were from time to time ugly rumors with respect to those benefiting by these differences. As a member of the Rules Committee subcommittee on food facilities and my own feelings, I often looked around, coming to the

conclusion that there was little regard for sanitary conditions and on inquiry learned that District of Columbia laws and city inspectors had no place at the Capitol. Employees were complaining to me about the uncleanliness, the long, long lines of people waiting for service, bobby pins and even glass found in puddings and pies, that cockroaches were running rampant everywhere.

About that time in walking through the basement from my office to the Committee room, I saw in one of the small rooms to which the door was partly opened, two men, one with his shirt off with his entire arm to the arm pit in a large stainless steel mixing bowl stirring the cream filling for pies. That was the graham cracker pie in the Senate dining room. I was having guests to lunch that day, friends who chose Wednesday so as to have that “delicious pie.” I never again ate cream pie in a restaurant.

Not long after the pie incident, my eyes and ears still open to restaurant talk, I delayed having dinner until late evening hoping to eat in some other place than the Senate dining room.

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(Restaurant—Continued from front)**

There was no choice when there was a late session. Hungry and feeling that steak was usually good and safe I

Trivia answer: sound barrier

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Calendar of Events:

**August 6—MCS Day
SCAG Honors area Women**

September 26-27—MCSL Board & Advisory Meetings

November—annual appreciation day

ordered a medium rare steak. The dining room was well filled. The steak was served sizzling and a picture to look at when suddenly running across it was a fat and lively cockroach. I screamed and went without dinner.

That was enough. I had prepared a resolution calling to investigate the Senate restaurant, the purchases, the payrolls, the service in cafeterias and dining rooms alike. With all the criticism on the part of Senators and especially their wives and staff, I easily obtained the signatures of 29 Senators who were willing and anxious to support me on such an investigation. I finally was able to get the Rules Committee to schedule a date for a hearing. It was widely publicized. The day and hour of the hearing arrived and there was only one Senator who appeared besides myself. I always believed that Senator Carl Hayden, Democrat from Arizona, President Pro Tem, Chairman of Appropriations and Chairman of Rules Committee, the most influential member of the Senate, had gotten to his colleagues. He was not for the investigation.

Some good temporary effects resulted, however. There was some general cleaning up around the many nooks and corners, including the dining rooms—painting and other gestures were made, but the subsidies, and large ones, continued; even though the cafeterias were opened to the public, causing me to question the propriety of government subsidized food services for tourists—said tourists paying the same prices that Senate employees paid and while Senate employees waited, having no other place nor time to go to eat. My effort proved clearly that being a Senator of the Majority Party, having service enough to be Chairman of two committees like Appropriations, the money committee, and Rules, the patronage committee, wielded greater influence and control than any other effort.

Note: The Senate Restaurant was the subject of investigation in 1954 and 1955.

Cornville Elementary School students came with Corilla Hastings (R) to tell about their children's guidebook project for the Skowhegan History House.

Benton Elementary School students get an opportunity to study photos taken of previous Benton students

In recognition of their community service work, Mt. Blue Middle School students from Farmington visited with teacher Jan Welch. They and their classmates cleaned up at Mt. Blue State Park and conducted a food drive.

Students from the MCS School in Skowhegan were involved in a Millennium Project that surveyed world history over the past 1000 years. Funds raised by the performance were donated to the Skowhegan Opera House renovation. Christopher Caron, second from left, is the son of staff person, Vanessa Caron.

Students from the Mallett School in Farmington held a food drive.

School Trips Booming for 2000

This has been our most successful year for field trips since the days when Senator Smith was alive and able to greet students herself. During the past 12 months, 77 groups, consisting of over 1700 students, teachers, and chaperones, have visited the facility. Over 70 percent of the groups (55) have come through the support of the Field Trip Fund. Total expenditures from the fund have amounted to \$10,233 to date. Forty-four groups were invited because of their service work which ranged from community cleanups to holiday food drives to penny drives for medical charities to benefits for humane societies to student mentoring to international efforts on behalf of Kosovo refugees, Romanian orphans, Kenyan students, Zambian entrepreneurs, the poor of Ecuador, and the rain forests of Belize. These worthwhile charitable endeavors of Maine young people are documented throughout this issue. Anyone wishing to support the Field Trip Fund may contact David Richards.

RESEARCH STUDY ON WORLD WAR II BRINGS LEMKE HERE

William Lemke of Westbrook made use of library archives in preparation for an article on World War II and Representative Margaret Chase Smith. Finding just the right photographs to accompany the article seemed to be the task at hand. Lemke is a former member of the Maine State Legislature and a professor at St. Joseph's College in Standish, ME.

William Lemke

LIBRARY POLICY/PROCEDURES FOCUS OF SHERRY LEE'S STUDY

Sherry Lee, a student at the University of Maine in Augusta, currently employed by Kennebec Valley Technical College in the library, visited the MCSL to learn more about library materials, preservation, and policies governing use of the facility. Sherry is pursuing a degree in library science and hopes to continue her career at KV Tech.

Sherry Lee

LIFE OF TWO SKOWHEGAN WOMEN FOCUS OF STUDY

Ester Franklin, a student at the University of Maine in Farmington, spent part of a day at the library looking at the life of Margaret Chase Smith in comparison to the life of another Skowhegan resident, Delia Demo. Ester's interest focused on the presence of religion and tradition in the lives of both subjects and what impact their lifestyle had on their future.

***Want to conduct your own research on MCS?
Check out our website at: www.mcslibrary.org!***

Ester Franklin

ADA LEEKE FELLOWSHIP GRANT RECIPIENT TRAVELS FAR

The Library was pleased to welcome Marie Pomeon to the United States and Maine. As the second foreign recipient of an Ada E. Leeke Fellowship Grant (the first was Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland), Marie spent a week in Skowhegan looking for relevant material on MCS and Joseph McCarthy. She particularly focused on the issues of women in politics in the late forties and fifties and gender and McCarthyism. Originally from the island of Mauritius, Marie currently lives in Saint-Etienne, France with her husband. Marie is completing her MA dissertation at Jean Monnet University. From early morning until library closing, Marie reviewed the files and scrapbooks for information relevant to her study.

She took one day, however, to see first-hand a bit of Maine's beauty when visiting Mt. Desert Island where she enjoyed Thunder Hole, Sand Beach, and the grandeur of Maine's rockbound coast. This was followed by a stroll through downtown Bar Harbor. She found Maine to be a beautiful state.

Marie is also a free-lance journalist for a Mauritius newspaper and hopes to submit an article about her stay at the Margaret Chase Smith Library. We look forward to reading her views.

Marie is shown above on the walkway to Thunder Hole on the Maine coast; below, she is shown copying material for her study of gender and McCarthyism

Madison High School students, represented by Jeremy Bouford, teacher Maureen Davis, Evangeline White, Jaime Avery and Terri Goden, provided Thanksgiving dinners for senior citizens, did conservation work at Lake Wesserunsett, and raised \$2000 to build a marketplace in Zambia.

Marina Zazhigina and Marina Abakumova from Kotlas, Russia, were given an overview of Smith's life during their visit, with special emphasis on her association with the former Soviet Union. The library was pleased once again to support the Kotlas Connection student exchange program.

Nobleboro Central School students toured the library and explained their participation on the Civil Rights Team.

Cornville Weeblos collected supplies at school for the local food cupboard.



Albert Hall School students from Waterville visit the library with teachers Cathy Lovendahl and Louise Harrington. They conducted a penny drive for the "Ending Hunger in Maine" campaign. Cathy is the granddaughter of Agnes Staples, the housekeeper and child care provider when Margaret was a girl.

Lucy Dorris

Long-Distance Request for Info from Georgia

Lucy Dorris of Marietta, Georgia, portrayed MCS at a "Presidential Reception" on April 14. In the role of Senator Smith, Lucy wore a blue suit, red rose, and pearls, and made a replica of the Presidential Medal of Freedom which Smith received in 1989. On the table one sees a host of Smith memorabilia—basketball (MCS was on the Skowhegan team which won the state championship in 1916); a flag, headphones (MCS was a telephone operator in earlier years); roses, and brochures about her life and career. Lucy's use of the website in her preparation was invaluable as well. The Library was pleased to assist Lucy in this endeavor. Congratulations, Lucy, on a job well done.

Clinton Elementary School students enjoy an indoor picnic lunch during their tour.

Megan Brooker and Abby Weeks with advisor Tom Godfrey have been actively involved in a mentoring program sponsored by Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Called "Sidekicks," the program allows Bangor High School students to serve as mentors to children in the Bangor school system.

Fourth-graders Sarah Josselyn and Colleen Callahan from the Cascade Brook School in Farmington raised money for the Kosovo relief effort.

Student groups from Jay High School; Smithfield Elementary; Skowhegan's Bloomfield School; Atwood-Tapley School in Oakland; and Sanford's MCS School end the school year with field trips to the MCSL.

Gloria Westhrin's class from Glenburn Elementary School donated food and money to the Salvation Army at Christmastime. They also raised money for Eastern Maine Children's Museum and Literacy Volunteers of America.

3rd graders from the Garrett Schenck School in Anson came to the library to tell about the Ansonville Project, a program which introduces the students to town government.

Joanne Kimball's 8th graders from Veazie Community School did community service by providing Meals on Wheels to the elderly and visiting the Maine Veterans Home.

Under the direction of teachers Donna Cameron and Joyce Foley, students from the MCS School (Skowhegan) showed slides and gave reports on their community service work at local day-care centers and nursing homes.

Elizabeth Korhonen, Nico Barney, and Nick Moody have been actively involved in Madison Elementary School's "Before and After School" program

Brewer Food Cupboard Beneficiary of State Street School's Generosity

Jarrold Jamieson and Kasie Roberts (pictured below), under the direction of teacher Kathleen Bolduc, were busy in May providing over 1,000 meat, produce, and dairy items to the Brewer Food Cupboard. Says Ms. Bolduc, "the students are still buzzing about it [their visit to the library] and were most impressed with how our Community of Caring words were included in your presentation."

Teacher Priscilla Conner (C) is shown with students from Mt. Blue High School's Future Business Leaders of America club. The group donated food baskets at Thanksgiving.

Winthrop Middle School students, represented by Max Beauregard, Molly Schenck, and Devin Young, raised money for the Ronald McDonald House. Principal Rod Biddle (L) helped direct them in this worthwhile effort.

Students from St. Mary's School in Augusta visited in April. They donated time and goods to the local soup kitchen, Bread of Life Ministries.

Douglas Alford was surprised to find on display a drawing he had done after a previous visit. Douglas was here with the Brownville Elementary School.

Benton Elementary School students visit the library with teacher Kathy Berkhart.

During Womeon's History Month in March, Mt. Blue Middle School students from Farmington visited with teachers George Chimenti, Anne Trefethen, and Rachel

Accompanied by Principal Jim Dyer, Hartland students visited in March. They came to make a presentation about their solar energy project.

The Peer Mediation Team from Nokomis High School visited in April, Pictured are: Maryellen Ortego, Brandon Harrington, Sara Brown, Victoria Whitten, Autumn Curtis, Caleb Curtis and advisor Derwin Emerson.

Secretary Rita Corson brought a group of Canaan Elementary School students in May. The school raised money to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

First graders from the Belgrade Central School enjoy a picnic on Library grounds prior to a tour of the facility. They held a penny drive to raise money for the Kennebec Valley Humane Society.

“I learned she had two messages for kids and they were to have goals and dreams and to serve others.” *Brian Pratt from Cornville Elementary School*

Cornville Elementary School students with teacher Glenna Pomelow rendered community service by visiting and befriending the elderly at the Redington Home in Skowhegan. We applaud their efforts.

Searsport High School students worked tirelessly to raise money for a trip to Kenya during which they donated over 3 tons of textbooks to Kenyan schools.

Teacher Don Finley (R) brought his Skowhegan Area High School students for a tour in May to prepare for their upcoming Advanced Placement U. S. History exam.

Alternative Education students at Waterville High School held a food drive for a local food cupboard. They also made holiday cards and ornaments for residents of a senior center and nursing home.

“Trivia Answer from April Newsletter—

The other woman who ran against Margaret Chase Smith in the 1960 election was Lucia Cormier of Rumford. The answer can be found on the last page, lower left, in the address correction section. July trivia question: When Margaret Chase Smith flew in a F-100 fighter plane in 1957, what did she break? (Find the answer somewhere in the newsletter) Let us know—you might win a prize!

Says Angie Pooler of E. Madison regarding the trivia questions, “Keep ‘em coming, I’m hot! Angie found the April answer by reading Senator Smith’s book, Declaration of Conscience.

Skowhegan Girl Program—Educational, Fun!

Under the tutelage of Vanessa Caron, ten participants in the second annual Skowhegan Girl program completed the week-long sessions with a renewed understanding of the role MCS played in history. During the week, students read from “First Lady of the Senate,” by Alberta Gould; made pine sachet bags; baked blueberry muffins; created social calling cards; learned proper etiquette; visited the local History House; created paper dolls; and played games of the era—croquet and kick ball. Ice cream made by using coffee cans was the last order of the week. What a great alternative to electric ice cream makers and store-bought ice cream!

Amanda Hogate, Brittney Kirk, A. J. Barter, Rose Presby, Allisen Beane, Heather Piawlock, Julia Allen, Reeve Baker, Anne Violette, and Patricia Keister came from several area Maine communities—Cornville, Waterville, Farmington, Norridgewock, as well as Skowhegan, to learn about Margaret Chase Smith. It was a wonderful week filled with the spirit and vitality of young people!

Coordinator Vanessa Caron (C) is shown with Skowhegan Girl participants on the final day of the program.

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Friends of the Library Newsletter

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