

## “Employment”—Clerks Needed at 5 and 10 Cent Store (taken from MCS Anecdotes file)

Did you ever work in a 5 and 10 cent store during the taking of inventory? It is quite an experience and certainly a training in patience and counting.

After having worked first Saturday evenings, later from noon until ten o'clock on Saturday, finally all day from eight in the morning to ten at night, I applied for work during vacations. I had started at 50 cents an evening and a dollar for the 14 hour day. I was offered a job during the Christmas weeks, a week before and a week following Christmas at \$3.50 a week. The first week was a busy one, everyone waiting to do their shopping the last thing. The hours were 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each week day with an hour for dinner and supper. I worked part of the time at the candy counter where nearly everyone bought Christmas candy and kisses. I loved the chocolate and coconut marshmallows—and so did the mice.

After Christmas, inventory-taking time started. We counted and counted and counted—nails, screws, hooks and everything that was in and under the counters and shelves. It was easier after the doors were closed to the public, but counting and listing the items when waiting on customers was so slow work. But I was happy to be working at \$3.50 a week and it served as part of my training in patience, in accuracy, and working with the public. The store was Green Brothers 5 and 10 cent store with more expensive items in the annex. I never did work in any other store.

One very brief experience was waiting on tables at the Coburn Hotel, then one of the fine old hotels. My mother had worked there occasionally and she got me a

*Margaret Chase Smith on her wedding day, May 14, 1930*

chance but not for long. The pay was small and the tips helped but older women were assigned to the judges and regular patrons who tip better. There were some homes in town where girls could work in the evening hours helping with dinner and the dishes. I don't recall that babysitting was a part of it. I thought this might be a way to earn some money so asked Dr. and Mrs. Fred O. Sawyer if they would let me work for them (**Cont. p.3**) (**Clerks—Cont. from front**) occasionally. I did, but once only, as my mother did not permit me to continue as the time required was from

**Inside:**

**Hall of Fame-p.2**

**UMO students-p.4**

**Electoral College-p.5**

**Open House-p.6**

**Leeke Grant-p.7**

**Curator-p.7**

**Farewell Fellowship Students-**



**Upcoming Exhibit features space program—details in future newsletters**

## *La Rocque Praises Smith*

*From Armed Services Committee, Marine Corps Personnel Records, file*

In an October, 1970, letter, retired Marine Corps Captain Edward A. La Rocque wrote: "My thanks for your strength of character, your honesty, your courage in face of physical difficulties, your conscientious interpretation of duty and the faithful discharge of the dictates of your office. I was reared in Chicago where politics and politicians were not synonymous with the better things in life but since becoming a State of Mainer in 1959, your exemplary performance as a United States Senator makes me proud when speaking to out-of-staters that Senator Margaret C. Smith is my Senator from Maine. I hasten to assure that I have no axes to grind, nor am I looking for any favors. I just thought it time to say thanks to someone who is doing such an outstanding job as you are doing, day in and day out. In view of what has transpired in the past 10 years on our national political scene thank God we have people like you to add dignity and honesty to the high office of United States Senator. If the political climate is favorable in 1976 for the serious consideration of the first woman president, I know of no other person better suited than you."

## *Staff Members "Pin" Janet Reno*

Beautiful fall foliage, fantastic scenery, and an opportunity to meet honorees was the order of the day in October when staff members, Vanessa Caron and Angie Stockwell, attended the National Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Seneca Falls, New York. Joining 1973 recipient Margaret Chase Smith in this great honor were the 2000 honorees: Faye Abdellah, Emma DeVoe, Marjory Douglas, Mary Dyer, Sylvia Earle, Crystal Eastman, Jeanne Holm, Leontine Kelly, Frances Kelsey, Kate Mullany, Janet Reno, Anna Howard Shaw, Sophia Smith, Ida Tarbell, Wilma Vaught, Mary Walker, Annie Dodge Wauneka, Eudora Welty, and Frances Willard. The weekend activities began with a welcome reception at the Women's Rights National Historical Park followed by a candlelight procession through the streets of Seneca Falls, the home of the first women's rights convention in 1848. Prior to the induction luncheon and ceremony, Angie and Vanessa were pleased to present Attorney General Janet Reno with a "MCS" lapel pin which she graciously accepted, commenting that she had a copy of Senator Smith's "Declaration of Conscience" in her library. Congratulations, honorees!

*Angie Stockwell presents Attorney General Janet Reno with MCS Pin*

*Smith campaigns for the U. S. Presidency in February, 1964, at a pulp and paper mill in New Hampshire.*

*Bowdoin College students, Nia Spongberg, Bob Morrison, and Bill Hetzel spent a day studying the 1940 elections file and scrapbooks of that era in fulfillment of Professor Chris Potholm's course. Wrote the three, "It was fascinating to be able to browse through the scrapbooks and other memorabilia, and of real interest to all of us to see Mrs. Smith's home and to be able to work in the very same setting in which she did."*

five o'clock to ten o'clock serving dinner and washing dishes for 35 cents which she thought was unheard of. Another place was at the Frank Briggs home on Christmas where I worked the complete day waiting on everybody in addition to washing the dishes for many people—all for one dollar. That ended my days as a domestic.

My employment included: 5 and 10 cent store, telephone operator, selectmen's office, teaching school, telephone company business office, Independent Reporter, Daniel Cummings and New England Waste Process Company, Secretary to Clyde Smith, Congressman, and Senator.

It was in my work at the Daniel Cummings Company that I became more than ever conscious about working conditions. Working in the dye house or carbonizer area for 12 to 18 hours a day with no breaks and pay at 26 to 28 cents an hour for 108 hours a week seemed to me like slave labor, and it seemed that this was the way they were treated by Willard H. Cummings. It was while I was with the Mill that I was married, May 14, 1930. I worked in that office six months after I was married. The Cummings family had gone to France with their oldest son, Bill, where they felt they could live more cheaply and pick up some of the French culture, especially in the art world. Mr. Cummings came back bringing me two dresses, one from Italy (beige lace over pink taffeta) and another from France, handmade heavenly shade of blue lace, the latter I used as my wedding gown. With it I wore (dyed the same shade) high heeled sandals and crystal beads.

Mr. Cummings also said by being away during the "crash" and bank closing and leaving his accounts with me, I had saved him money, that instead of being worse than broke as he would have been, he had \$2,000 to his credit. Also that was the year he left Lakewood Inn in my hands. I paid all of the bills and kept the accounts. There was a deficit of about \$10,000 that year, but Mr. Cummings said he had expected it to be more.

It was during my association with Cummings and Lewis J. Rosenthal that I saw and learned

something of the financial world, also how dependent such businesses were on banks, the ups and downs of one's financial status, cutting corners, double billing, and the benefits of keeping up appearances for the sake of business. As the saying goes, "Nothing succeeds like success,"—real or not. Mr. Cummings often talked on long distance calls at length sometimes amounting to twenty-five or thirty dollars a call. When he saw I was concerned, he explained that a twenty-five dollar telephone call often saved him a trip across the continent—that after personal contacts had been made, sales would come from such a telephone call and was a saving of money.

This was also a time when I came to know something about progressive education—of allowing children to choose their own course.

Having completed three years with those two companies, I resigned and did not take another paid position until 1937 when I went on my husband's payroll for \$3,000 as secretary to the Congressman. While I did not have a paid position in those years of 1930-1937, I never worked harder, as I was a housewife, the wife of a man in public office, at that time Chairman of the Maine State Highway Commission, with a home of thirty-two rooms.

Having been the eldest of six children, always working, I had little or no training for this position. My husband's stepmother, Mrs. Willard F. Smith (Albra) lived with us. She was too old and frail to do much around the house but she did help me in learning to cook. It was during those years that there was a great deal of entertaining. Following Clyde's term as Chairman of the Highway Commission, he was elected to represent the Kennebec and Somerset Counties on the Governor's Council, 1932-1936, an all Republican Council with a Democrat Governor Lewis J. Brann.

I kept the house clean, always had plenty of food on hand for unexpected guests, did the laundry, attended to much of his mail, drove him wherever he went and spent considerable time at Augusta—all of which gave me a full time job. I enjoyed it and luckily I liked people.

We were always at home

weekends, a time when many people came to the house with their problems. I saw some of them but generally used that time to vacuum, dust and cook. When I dusted, I included the hardwood floors, doing them with a cloth on my hands and knees. When I cooked, I usually made angel cake, a sponge cake, cookies, pies or pie shells, baked beans and brownbread. Saturday nights were good nights for parties and I recall serving from six to sixteen by myself, serving and cleaning up after everyone had left. Those Saturday night dinners were often baked beans, brownbread, hot rolls, pickles (homemade) lamb chops or Frankfurt's, tossed salad, cake, ice cream and coffee. The kitchen facilities were convenient, the dining room and china and silver were beautiful and the house most conducive to such entertaining and I loved it all. I was fortunate that I did, also that I was well and strong physically, as Clyde was of no help other than looking after the guests. When there was time, I did a good deal of canning, especially berries from the garden that Clyde enjoyed working in. We had so many cultivated raspberries that I not only canned them but made jelly, jam and finally wine.

As I look back over all of this, I come to believe that I did all of this because I had to keep busy to overcome some of the problems of two people, man and wife, more on the basis of a team, both interested in people and doing for them than doing for each other.



# Scholarship Winners Announced

Winners of the 2000-2001 MCS Scholarship at the University of Maine in Orono are Dana O'Day-Senior, Justin Ripley, Lincoln Hunt, Eric Dyer, and Jason Moor. Dana will continue to investigate for a second year the use of arsenic and arsenate compounds as pesticides in Maine to see if the usage is responsible for abnormally high concentrations in groundwater. As a political science major, Justin's research will center on the motivation of young voters in Maine.

Lincoln is a junior Wildlife Ecology major who will research the policies surrounding endangered species management and the way management affects the local human populations when species are listed as endangered. "Why isn't environmental stewardship taught in all of Maine's schools?" asks Natural Resources major Eric Dyer. Jason will explore what Maine high school mediation or conflict resolution programs are doing to counter increasing violence in our public schools. Each recipient will receive \$3,000.

Four of the MCS Scholarship winners are pictured with the director of the MCS Center for Public Policy at UMO, Deirdre Mageean, and Robert Whelan, Professor of English.

## Feedback.....

Says Katie Bishop of the Medway Middle School, "I just wanted to thank you for helping me with my project! I also wanted to tell you that the website was awesome and helpful, too!" **The web site is receiving numerous "hits" daily, prompting requests for further information.**

From Patrick of the Canaan Elementary School, "Thank you very much for your donation of 200 smackers. It will help many people." **The library financially assists students with the community service projects in which they are involved.**

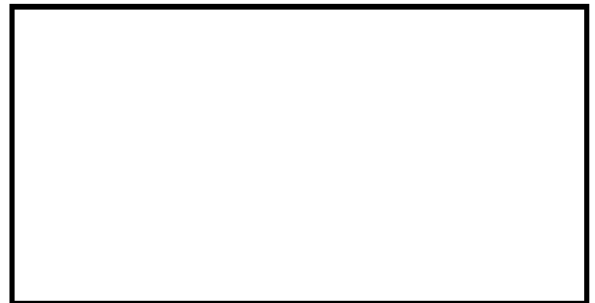
Heather Lawler, also from Canaan, wrote, "The library taught me that she wanted people to see the book called 'I think I can, I think I can.'" **The book referred to, The Little Engine That Could, sits in the foyer of Senator Smith's home and was one of her favorites.**

## UMO Student Studies Quoddy

University of Maine student, John Kushiner, of Harpswell, Maine, spent an afternoon at the library studying Senator Smith's efforts on behalf of the Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project. Quoddy was an effort started in the 1920s by Dexter Cooper who felt the high tides in the Passamaquoddy Bay area of Maine should be harnessed to provide electricity for both the United States and Canada. Senator Smith took up that cause throughout her congressional career.

Teacher Edith Dickinson and students from New Hope Christian Academy in Pittsfield visit the library.

Jasmine Mitchell of Canaan Elementary School accepts a donation from Library Assistant Director David Richards to assist in the school's holiday food drive. Students in grades K-6 collected over 1100 items as part of this annual community service project.



John Kushiner studies Quoddy

Benton Elementary School students tour the facility in November

## *Electoral College Abolishment—Is It Time?*

In the early sixties, Margaret Chase Smith proposed abolishment of the Electoral College, feeling that the will of the people in national elections would better be served by a national direct primary and general election whereby the popular vote would determine both the President and Vice President of the United States. She supported this effort for more than a decade until her retirement in 1973. The Al Gore/George W. Bush presidential election has caused the MCSL to wonder if Senator Smith's idea so many years ago will perhaps be re-introduced in congress. History reveals that twice in the nation's past the Electoral College vote outweighed the popular vote of the people. Her proposal suggested:

1. Abolish the Electoral College system.
2. Provide for election of the President and Vice President by direct popular vote.
3. Abolish the national convention system of nominating the presidential and vice-presidential candidates of political parties.
4. Provide for the nomination of presidential and vice-presidential candidates by direct primaries.
5. Provide for runoff elections in both the general election and the primary in the event that no candidate received a majority of the total number of votes cast (to be held 28 days later).
6. Require that in order to qualify as a candidate in the direct primary, a person must file a petition signed by at least two percent of the total vote cast in the last presidential general election (this would require 700,000 signers for the 1968 primary) to be filed not before January 2 and no later than 2 months prior to the primary election.
7. Require that a political party have a registered membership of more than 5 percent of the total registered voters in the United States in order to qualify to get on the ballot.

Said Smith, *"It is my sincere belief that this proposal is responsive to what the overwhelming majority of the citizens of the United States desire. It is my belief that the selection of the party candidates should be made by the people themselves in a direct primary rather than by national convention. I believe that candidates should openly declare their candidacies and make themselves available to recorded expression of the voters directly rather than refraining from a Presidential primary and instead relying on power plays in the back smoke-filled rooms at national conventions where a handful of people can make the choice of the nominees.*

*I believe that the position of Vice President has become so important that it should not be relegated to the status of consolation prize nor should it be decided by the vote of one person (the Presidential nominee) to the exclusion of the votes of tens of millions of Americans."*

**With the recent controversy over the 2000 presidential election, how do readers feel?**

*Richard Callan's vocational building trade students at Carrabec High School in N. Anson visited the library to tell about their community service project. These young men built a playhouse which they generously donated to a local day care center.*

*Students, Porter Allred and Alice Martin, study the 1948 campaign of MCS as part of their course requirement at Bowdoin College.*

*"Make A Difference Day" in Norridgewock certainly inspired these young students from the Riverview School to pitch in and clean up the community. David Richards presents a check to assist in that effort.*

## *Alcohol Abuse Topic of Project at Carrabec*

Kate Drummond's Carrabec High School students have been involved in an anti-alcohol project. As part of the "Youth Voices" Task Force, the group, pictured right, is publishing a collection of real-life stories on the harmful effects of alcohol on both users and non-users.

## *Holiday Spirit Abounds at Appreciation Day/Open House*

*Reverend Mark  
Tanner of Skowhegan  
Federated Church is  
accompanied by the  
catering team from  
Heritage House in a  
Christmas medley of  
tunes. Meanwhile,  
little Mikayla,  
daughter of new  
curator Craig Day,  
attempts to play and  
sing her own version  
of "Jingle Bells"!*

---

## *Margaret Chase Smith School Sign Re-Dedication Ceremony*

The Skowhegan school named after Margaret Chase Smith in 1964 has a new sign. In a December, 2000, ceremony, Student Council members spoke about the school's namesake—her many honors and awards; a summary of her life and career; and a timeline of world events during her time in Washington. Featured in the background in the photo below is a large rose, a flower worn daily by Senator Smith. The program would not have been complete without the singing of Smith's favorite song, "Peg O' My Heart." Well done, boys and girls!

*MCS School students participate in ceremony re-dedicating the school sign on December 18. Speaking is Dillon Perkins, son of MCSL Special Projects Assistant, Crystal Perkins.*

*Special Projects Assistant, Crystal Perkins, gives tour of library and home to students from Bloomfield Elementary School on October 5, 2000.*

## *The Barn Doors are Open at the Dostie Farm*

As part of the cultural aspect of the Margaret Chase Smith Fellowship program, six Northwood University students experienced what Maine farmers have known for generations—farming is hard work! Waking before the crack of dawn to head to the cow barn for milking is routine for the Egide Dostie family on the Back Road in Skowhegan. Not so for the Northwood students! This did not deter them, however, from rising early to watch the milking process. Following this experience, the students made a breakfast stop at the home of Director Gregory Gallant and then were on the road to Oakhurst Dairy in Portland, buyers of the Dostie milk. Oakhurst processes the milk into a variety of products the average consumer is very familiar with—cottage cheese, chocolate milk, and yogurt.

*Sara Kulzer falls in love with a newborn calf at the Dostie Farm.*

## *Curator Joins MCSL Staff*

The MCSL is pleased to announce that Craig Day has joined the staff in the position of curator. Craig will handle the care and management of the museum collections, as well as maintenance and preparation of exhibits. He will be responsible for that part of the collections which consist of the contents of Senator Smith's house and the political memorabilia she accumulated during her 32-year congressional career. Exhibits include a permanent timeline display, an annual special exhibition, and occasional traveling displays. His recent experience at the Maine State Museum and the Old York Historical Society as a guest curator should prove helpful in his new job. Craig comes to us with a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Southern Maine and is completing requirements toward a Master's degree in Museum Studies/Material Culture from Vermont College of Norwich University. He is a resident of Bowdoin, Maine, where he lives with his wife, Kristin, and two daughters, Mikayla and Naomi.

Welcome, Craig, to the MCSL! We look forward to benefiting from your expertise!

*Curator Craig Day*

---

### *Valley High Students Do Research*

Recent political history of the United States; the 2000 presidential campaign; Maine referenda; campaign finance reform; government spending; and American popular culture—these were the topics of study when students from Upper Kennebec Valley Memorial High School were here on October 24. Contemporary history class teacher, Matt Pearson, divided the 18 students into six focus groups with the hope that the MCSL would have sufficient material germane to their study. This was the first time any of the students had experienced hands-on research at an archival facility such as the MCSL. Although working with such a large group is more challenging, staff members were able to assist the students and enjoyed time spent with the voters of tomorrow.

### *West Coast to East Coast ...*

Deborah Wertz arrived from California in November to begin her study of Joseph McCarthy and McCarthyism. A student at Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles, Deborah is exploring the question, "Why was MCS able to deliver her Declaration of Conscience at a time when other public officials were so intimidated by Joseph McCarthy out of fear of public retribution for being soft on Communism?" Wertz asks: "Were there specific events, people, and influences in her life that shaped her? Did she suffer personally or politically as a result of her speech?"

To assist Deborah in her research, the library was pleased to award an Ada E. Leeke Fellowship Grant to help defray travel and lodging costs while in Maine. More information about this program can be obtained by contacting the library.

### ***DON'T FORGET—ESSAY CONTEST***

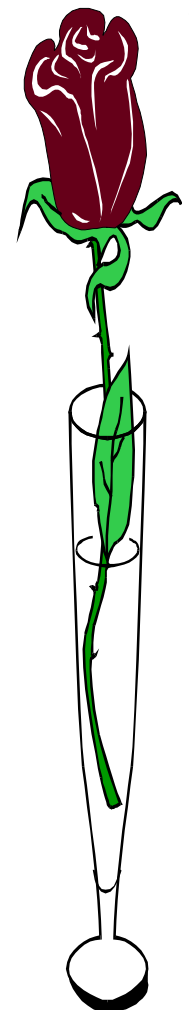
***Theme: Impact of science & technology***

***Deadline: April 2, 2001***

***Contact: David Richards (davidr@somtel.com)***

# “Trivia” Answer from November Newsletter—

The answer can be found on page 12 in the credits box. William D. Hathaway defeated MCS in the 1972 election. **February Trivia Question:** Bob Trout once asked MCS, “What would you do if you woke up one morning and found yourself in the White House?” Said Smith, “I would apologize to Mrs. ? and go right home.” To whom did MCS say she would apologize? Be the first to respond with the correct answer and where you found it in the newsletter and you might win a prize! Congratulations to Bennett Katz of Augusta and Mabel Desmond of Mapleton for being the first readers to respond to the November trivia! Others responding were: Art Crowell, Dorothy Furst, and Michael Lord.



## Quilts Teach and Comfort

Students from the Bean School in Sidney diligently completed quilts with teacher Cara Stacey. The handiwork tells the story of the town and the patterns of nature. Charitable organizations will be the recipients of this worthwhile effort. Some of the students proudly display one of the quilts during a recent visit to the MCSL.

## Fellowship Students End Term

Northwood University MCS Fellowship students have returned to their respective campuses in Florida, Michigan and Texas but not without many memories of their 10-week stay in Maine. Kevork Tanielian, Jake Barclay, Jessica Yurkovic, Michel Click and Sara Kulzer are shown with former Maine Speaker of the House and current Attorney General Steven Rowe (second from right) who took time from his busy schedule to visit with the students for a question and answer period. Our thanks to Maine State Representative Shirley Richard (center) who arranged and participated in this informative meeting. Student Philippa Huyler is absent from the photo.

"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, Craig Day, 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. Tel. 207-474-7133; e-mail: angies@somtel.com; gpg@somtel.com; or davidr@somtel.com.

### Friends of the Library Newsletter

**Margaret Chase Smith Library  
54 Norridgewock Avenue  
Skowhegan ME 04976**

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Skowhegan ME  
Permit No. 20

Please return address label with corrections to above address if incorrect.

- Change name & address as shown on address
- Please remove name from mailing list.