

Margaret Goes to Washington: Class Trip, 1916

(Taken from Anecdotes, MCS Library)

Can anyone identify Margaret Chase in this photo taken of the Skowhegan High School Class of 1916 ?

Graduation Day came and I received my diploma, having caught up on my school work by working evenings with teachers. Graduation exercises were held at the Municipal Building, the Class of 1916 sitting on the stage before a well-filled auditorium. The girls of this class united in wanting something different, and different it was—white middie blouses and skirts with large ribbon ties. Added to my dress was a pair of high oyster-white kid shoes, high heels and laced up front—hardly suitable for the middie blouse but shoes, always my hobby, were what I wanted and \$18 of my hard-earned money went for them.

The Class of 1916 was an outstanding one as was proven in later years. One of the highlights of 1916 was the class trip to the Nation's capitol, Washington, in early spring. The expense of the entire trip of ten days was to be \$60. This was quite a sum for me to come by so it was decided I would not go to Washington until my Grandfather John L. Murray, my Mother's father, whom I called "Banker" had been listening to all of the talk about it, took me to his bank, Skowhegan Savings Bank, talked with the cashier, Carleton P. Merrill, finally asking for \$60 from his savings account. I was elated but somewhat surprised when Mr. Merrill passed me a pen and a note for \$60 saying that I was to sign the note and pay with interest during the next year. My Grandfather was a shrewd man in business and knew what I was to learn later—that there was a greater appreciation of money earned rather than from a gift.

The trip was made by train to Fall River, Massachusetts, where the boat took us to New York, an overnight trip. From New York to Philadelphia by train, then luncheon and **(Cont. p. 2)** **(Cont. from front cover)** sightseeing were enjoyed after which the tour continued to Washington and the Pennsylvania Hotel.

Inside:

**Essay Contest—
p.2**

Kids Hel p—p.3

**Pol ished &
Shiny—p.4**

**2002 Fel lowship
Program Ends—
p.4**

At Wit's End—p.4

**Research—p.
(Five)**

**World Trip Re-
Visited—p.5**

**Sheri Shares—
p.6**

**Shuttle Display
at Good Will—p.6**

**Great Meetings
Workshop in
March—p.7**

Enza Update—p.7

**Appreciation
Day—p.8**

Essay Contest Submissions Welcome

Maine has benefited from the public service of many well-respected and influential national leaders over the last two centuries. Margaret Chase Smith helped lead at a time when the United States faced a struggle for civil rights at home and the tensions of the Cold War abroad. With the country currently confronting challenges such as the threat of terrorism, the risk of war, and the taint of corporate scandals, Maine high school seniors are invited to reflect on the qualities leaders will need to possess in order to be effective in the twenty-first century. The best essays will heed the lessons of the past and draw upon historical examples of outstanding leadership in considering the prospects for the future. Winners of the Margaret Chase Smith Essay Contest will receive prizes ranging from \$25 to \$500. Essays are due by April 1, 2003.

Submit Entries to:
David Richards, Asst.
Director
Margaret Chase Smith Library
56 Norridgewock Avenue



Maine leaders of the past include L-R: Edmund S. Muskie, William S. Cohen, Margaret Chase Smith, George J. Mitchell, and Joseph E. Brennan. Taken on August 30, 1984, at the dedication of the MCS Federal Building in Bangor by Brian Higgins Studios.

This looked like a grand hotel to us from the small town of Skowhegan, but it was actually very small and still stands in 1974, with its small lobby and rooms, four to a room.

The itinerary was a crowded one, and included going to the White House and shaking hands with President Wilson accompanied by our Representative in Congress, John Peters. Another event long remembered was visiting with Dr. and Mrs. George Otis Smith (Grace Coburn) in their home on Bancroft Place. Dr. Smith was head of the Geological Survey for years and the Coburn-Smith families were well known and prominent citizens from the early settlers in Skowhegan, Maine. Their son, Charles, was in my class. This was an experience for most of us who did little socially. We were served Harlequin ice cream, three colors. It was the first we had seen and intrigued us. Other events included the usual sightseeing tours.

Carrabec High School theater students were involved in a community service project sponsoring a food and coat drive for needy families. Donations received gained admission to a production of "Little Shop of Horrors." In photo above, Dr. David Richards shows the thespians one of the Library's more than 500 scrapbooks.

Lawrence High School's Leadership Class, led by Steve Knight and Eric Brown, raised \$1800 for needy families at Christmas. They also collected 130 coats for the "Coats for Kids" project.

MCS Scholarship winners from the University of Maine were featured in the September, 2002, issue of the newsletter. Recipients visited in October with UMO MCS Center for Public Policy Director Jonathan Rubin (L). Pictured are Matthew Stein, Megan Brown, Michele Savage, and Deirdre Anderson.

Students from the Chelsea School raised money for the local food cupboard as part of their community service project.

Students from Bloomfield Elementary School visited in October. Wyatt Perkins (far left), is the son of Special Projects Assistant Crystal Perkins.

Students from Norridgewock’s Central Grade School made cards, sang Christmas carols, and donated gifts to the residents at Maplecrest Nursing Home in Madison. In photo above, they explain their project while at the MCS Library in January.

From Taylor Bogner of Canaan Elementary School

“Thank you soooo much for the donation. We had a goal and we beat it with your help. Before I end this letter there are some things I want to tell you. I learned that Margaret Chase Smith was a very important person, and she loved roses and many more facts but if I tried to name them all this letter would be 5,000 pages long. One more thing, when I entered Margaret Chase Smith’s home, right then I decided I wanted to become the first woman president. I wanted to get involved.”

Editor’s Note: Thanks, Taylor, when the time comes for you to run for President, you will have our vote!

Third grade students from Bloomfield Elementary School bought Christmas gifts and sang carols for the residents at Woodlawn Nursing Home in Skowhegan. Said Logan French, “We will make alot of people happy.”

Fourth grade students from the Canaan Elementary School collected over 1100 items for the local food cupboard, establishing a new school record. Dr. Richards gave them a tour of the house, using a scale model as part of his presentation.

Fellowship Program Ends With Many Memories

Brian Gardner, Jontra Rolle, Lynn King, Alex Jimenez, Matt Miklos, Kristina Smith, and Vanessa Caron pose with then Governor Angus King and Representative Shirley Richard during a visit to the State House.

Joan Keeps Things Shiny

Although retired for over five years, Joan Brown generously returned to the MCS Library to polish and clean Senator Smith's silver collection. Not a fun task by any means, Joan feels it's something Senator Smith would want done. On her return from wintering in Florida, Joan plans to return to the library to continue her "polishing project." Thanks, Joan for continuing to keep Senator Smith in your heart.

Joan Brown polishes candle holders in MCS residence.

Presidential Candidates Entering the Race in 2003 Prompts Review of 1968 Article

At Wit's End—Hold Everything, Folks!

We've Got a Candidate! Article by Erma Bombeck,
Boston Globe, October 24, 1968, from MCSL scrapbook

This is a strange election year. The President was the only one in the country who wanted to be drafted. The peace crusaders nearly wrecked Chicago and two little known vice presidential nominees have made the names of Furlin Huskie and Spiral Egglogg household words. People are confused. Can Nixon make the streets safe? Can Humphrey make the White House safe? It was almost refreshing to receive in the mail a letter from Yetta Bronstein, a housewife who ran for President in 1964 and is trying again in 1968. Yetta is running on the Best Party ticket for such things as stronger government, fluoridation, better government, national bingo and sex education. Her platform is a strong one. What this country needs is a pot for every mother...a mother for every pot. She says there will be no stealing, cheating or arguing among government officials. If they want to insult one another, they will be enlisted in the Army, Navy or Marines.

Her first act as President will be to disband the U. S. Post Office. Instead she will breed 10 million pigeons and train them to carry microfilm to replace conventional mail. She will also eliminate the zip code. In a test, she mailed two identical letters at the General Post Office. The one with zip code took 39 hours for delivery; the one without zip code took only 26 hours. In her appeal to youth, Yetta asks, "Who is the only person in your life you trust? Your mother. Who REALLY handles the money in your family? Your mother. If the Good Fairy gave you one great wish to come true, who would benefit from such a dream? Your mother. "Pay your mother back for all the washing, ironing, crying and lying she has done for you. Put a parent in the White House." Will anyone take Yetta seriously? Will Margaret Chase Smith have an extra key made for the women's room to show good faith? Will a woman ever have a cabinet that isn't full of dishes? Will a woman ever be appointed to anything but the Department of Labor? Is Yetta a put-on? Sure, but isn't everybody?

Students from the Waterville Adult Education program visited the Library in December. Book discussion leader, Dr. David Richards, meets regularly with this group as part of a Maine Humanities Council reading and discussion project. He is also leading a New Books/New Readers series in Jackman and a Let's Talk About It series in Skowhegan, Newport, and Fairfield using interactive television technology.

Gardiner Middle School students discuss their community service project with Dr. Richards during a visit in January. The boys and girls raised money and decorated lunch bags for the "Meals on Wheels" program for the elderly. In the spring, they will conduct oral history interviews with senior citizens.

Research Mission Continues

As part of a U. S. History class assignment at Winslow High School, Courtney Voisine visited the Library to study the career of MCS. During an interview with Senator Smith's former secretary and current Collection Specialist, Angie Stockwell, Courtney reviewed the early years of Margaret Chase—her jobs, travel, hobbies, and family life. Copies of Smith's birth and marriage certificates were also included in her report as well as information concerning major events that occurred during Senator Smith's lifetime.

Courtney Voisine

Bowdoin College Students Conduct Research

Jared Porter and Lora Trenkle came in November, 2002, to study the leadership of Maine Governor Lewis Brann and his interaction with Margaret Chase Smith. Shortly after, Alison George, Mehran Ahmed, Ben Campbell, and Beth Muir came to review Senator Smith's career as it dealt with state, national, and international affairs. Students of Professor Chris Potholm at Bowdoin College, these students are directed to the MCS Library as a resource when conducting research for their classroom projects.

Beth Muir, Alison George, Ben Caldwell and Mehran Ahmed arrive from Bowdoin.

Lora Trenkle and Jared Porter here from Bowdoin College

World Trip Sites Re-Visited

Stacy Caron, daughter of Administrative Assistant Vanessa Caron, agreed to take photos of the sites Margaret Chase Smith visited during her World Trip in 1954-1955. As part of Northwood University's "Term in Europe," Stacy visited many of the same places Smith toured during her tenure in the U. S. Senate. The World Trip will be the topic of the 2004 Library exhibit which is in its early planning stage. Stacy's efforts were supported by an Ada E. Leeke Research Fellowship grant. The photos should provide a look at the changes in Europe from 1954 to 2004. Thanks, Stacy, for making this effort!

Stacy labels photos on return to the U.S. after a "Term in Europe."

Maine History Day Inspires Students

Skowhegan Area Middle School students, Ian Dorko, Haili Muse, Toni Gammon, and Liz Michaud, hope to win in their category at the Maine History Day competition. In preparation, they have studied primary source documents at the MCS Library, interviewed Dr. David Richards, and taken photos of Library displays for use in their 10-minute presentation. Good luck!

Ian, Haili, Toni and Liz conduct research in February.

"Our Project group from 'Maine Politics' would like to thank you for your help in researching Margaret Chase Smith's accomplishments. Your tour was incredible and all of the resources were great! Proudly, we earned an 'A' on our presentation...we couldn't have done it without you!"
Mehran Ahmed, Ali George, Beth Muir & Ben Caldwell, Bowdoin College

Sheri Shares

It's been a busy start to the new year as I've settled into my new job and have begun the many projects planned for this year; one of which is establishing a cataloging system for the museum collection. People visit museums to see "things" and visitors come here to learn about Senator Smith by viewing the exhibits, touring her house, and researching the archives. My role is to document and store the artifacts in the best conditions possible so that they survive for future generations. I've been cataloging the artifacts found in the Eisenhower Room of the house.

Recently, I removed over 100 household linens (tablecloths, napkins, hand towels, doilies, and some needlework pictures) from one bureau drawer in the Eisenhower Room. I believe Senator Smith, her mother Carrie Chase, or Bill Lewis' mother, Nelle Lewis, made most of these items. Textiles are especially vulnerable to physical deterioration because of improper environmental conditions and storage materials. Light can deteriorate the fibers and fade the fabric dyes. Textiles are susceptible to mold, mildew and pest infestations. The bureau drawer in which I found the linens was lined with brown craft paper, which is extremely acidic. Over time, the paper would have bled onto the linens. To protect textiles, it is better to store them flat (to avoid creases) in archival boxes with acid free tissue. Many of the items had taped notes attached to them. Scotch tape becomes brittle and yellows over time. It can pull delicate fibers while leaving gummy residue behind. The notes were written in black marker and the ink had already started seeping through the paper. Good thing I found them! It was only a matter of time before the ink reached the fabric. These taped notes are carefully removed and each linen is assigned its own unique accession number. The number is then attached to the linen using safer, and more efficient, methods. To do this, I use cotton fabric labels, writing the number on the label using acid-free ink and sealing the ink with B72 lacquer to prevent it from bleeding, and then gently stitch the tag onto the back corner of the textile. These materials are safer for the object and can be easily removed, if necessary in the future, without damaging the object.

The accession number serves as the link to the object's documentation and donor information. As an artifact is catalogued, the object name, description, material composition, measurements, condition, and location information is recorded. A digital image of each object is included in the file. Photographs are vital to monitoring the condition of the object over time. All of this information is then entered into a database (PastPerfect). The database makes it easy to find and sort records. When cataloged, each object is given an object name, category and sub-category, according to accepted museum nomenclature. This nomenclature is a structured and controlled list of terms organized in a classification system. For example, a needlework picture is given the following information: Object Name: Picture, Needlework/Category: Communication Artifact/Sub-Category: Art. Using nomenclature assures that the data is standardized and saves having to make multiple searches or guessing where the information may be found. Hardcopies are kept of all object records in addition to the computer files. Once the linens are catalogued, they are repacked in archival boxes so they can lay flat, separated and padded with acid-free tissue.

The linen collection is important as it illustrates the detailed handiwork of Senator Smith, her mother, and Nelle Lewis. The patterns range from simple stitches to more elaborate embroidery as everyday household items were made into fancy work. I hope to share more of the collection with you in future newsletters as I complete this portion of the cataloging project.

For those who may have missed the Space Exhibit while at the MCS Library in 2002, it is now on display at the Margaret Chase Smith Gallery at the Bibby and Harold Alford Visitors Center on the campus of Good Will-Hinckley in Fairfield, Maine. While the exhibit focuses on the leading role Senator Smith played in the development of the space program from 1958 to 1972, it has taken on new meaning in the wake of the recent space shuttle tragedy. In fact, her efforts were considered instrumental in the United States' moon landing. Said Senator Smith of the space program in 1965, "The United States was pushed into a space program by necessity rather than by design. For the United States to go into space was as necessary as it was to launch the first American flagship on the oceans of the world nearly two hundred years ago. Space will not go away. It is up there surrounding the earth, our moon, our solar system, on to infinity. It is up there to be exploited, to be used for peace—and to be used for the defense of our nation if necessary. But it cannot be ignored. Space has already provided many benefits to us. It is now possible to obtain worldwide weather information...invaluable information on hurricanes, typhoons, and other hostile weather disturbances. It has saved millions of dollars in the prevention of destruction."

Learn more about Smith's prominent role in the space program and pay tribute to the fallen heroes of the Space Shuttle Columbia. A condolence book will be available for guests to sign which will be sent to the NASA History Office in Washington, DC, at the close of the exhibit.

Curator Sheri Leahan straightens Apollo XI photo at MCS Gallery

Hand Towel: Detail. "C" for "Chase." 23.25" x 17"

Needlework Picture: Interior, domestic, fireside scene. 8" x 12.25"

Business Workshop in March

Skowhegan Adult Education in cooperation with the MCS Library and Pamela Plumb of Pamela Plumb & Associates of Portland will offer a program in March entitled, "Great Meetings, Make your Meeting Productive." Learn to develop clear purposes and outcomes for your meetings. Learn how to create forceful openings and closings. Learn how to facilitate the discussion and keep the meeting on track. Learn how to intervene in difficult situations. This seminar is being held on March 19 from 1-4 p.m. at the MCS Library. For more information or to make reservations call Skowhegan Adult Education at 474-7553.

Two Benton Elementary School classes visited in December. Benton is one of the largest elementary schools in the state and the boys and girls visit the library throughout the school year.

Fourth and sixth grade students from Cascade Brook School in Farmington were involved in a school and community beautification project and sponsored a Red Ribbon week as part of drug and alcohol prevention.

Student Council members at Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield raised over \$500 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Says Advisor Tanya Kingsbury, "Last year you invited my officers to visit the MCS Library and led them on a tour of the building and talked to them about Senator Smith's commitment to community service. Although the topic was chosen in response to the efforts schools like ours made in response to 9-11, I find that community service is a topic relevant at any time in a person's life." Ms. Kingsbury (seated right) was selected by students last year as MCI's teacher of the year. She generously donated the cash prize to the Library's field trip fund.

National History Day Winner Update

In 1996, eighth-grade student, Enza Loera of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, won first place in the Junior Individual Performance Division with her portrayal of Senator Smith. Enza won the competition with careful attention to detail—hair, suit, red rose, enunciation, and mannerisms. She focused on the 1950s and Senator Smith's courageous stand against Senator Joseph R. McCarthy with her now famous "Declaration of Conscience." In the summer of 1997, Enza portrayed Senator Smith once again at the annual meeting of the Library's Advisory Committee. Recently, Enza was kind enough to send along 3 CD-Roms of her interviews with people who were directly or indirectly involved in the McCarthy Era—Tony Hiss (son of Alger Hiss); Ring Lardner, Jr. (one of the original blacklisted "Hollywood Ten"); Former Maine Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Authors Joel Kovel, Griffin Fariello, Patricia Wallace, Janann Sherman; Journalist Don Larrabee; Professor Eileen Eagan, State Legislator Jane Amero, Attorney Janet Mills, MCS' sister Evelyn Williams, Library Director Greg Gallant, Attorney Merton Henry, and Northwood University President, Dr. David Fry. These interviews will provide a valuable resource for students studying that period in U. S. History.

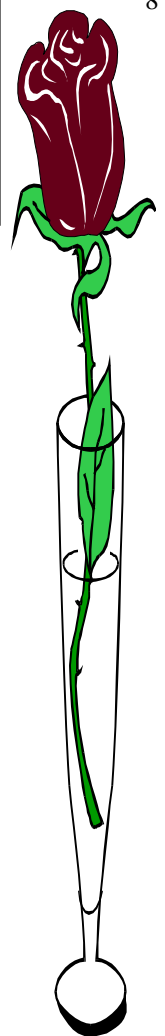
Enza is now a junior political science major at Saint Vincent College in Pennsylvania. She plans to go to law school after her undergraduate work and has been involved in a research fellowship study of natural law and contemporary public policy. Working on a political campaign for a local senator this past summer has inspired Enza to perhaps run for political office one day.

"In my dorm room is the poster, "Opening Doors for Women." Senator Smith continues to serve as an inspiration to me." Enza Loera

Women Pioneering the Future

The National Women's History Project has selected Margaret Chase Smith as one of nine honorees for Women's History Month in March. Senator Smith is being honored for her courageous speech on the floor of the Senate on June 1, 1950, when she challenged Senator Joseph McCarthy for his brutal tactics and anti-communist crusade. Honored with Senator Smith is Brigadier General Wilma Vaught who was instrumental in the building and dedication of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, DC, honoring all military women from the American Revolutionary War through the present and future. That Memorial also honors Maine's own Margaret Chase Smith. For complete biographies of others honored, visit the Learning Place section of www.nwhp.org.

“Trivia” Answer from November Newsletter—The answer is on page 10 in the credits box between David Richards’ name. The first thing MCS noticed when meeting other women was their shoes. Second time winner was Phillis Russakoff. One of the children who visited during the school year, Dillon Perkins, also called in with the correct answer. It’s rewarding to know that children as well as adults are reading the newsletter. Congratulations! The February trivia question is: How many siblings did MCS have? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter. Be the first to respond with the correct answer **and** where you found it in the newsletter. You might win a prize!



Appreciation Day Brings Many to Hear Christmas Carols

The singing Tanner family entertained visitors with beautiful carols during the annual Community Appreciation Day in December. Reverend Mark Tanner and wife, Deb, along with their two children, Josh and Kaley, entertained more than forty visitors. Held from two to four in the afternoon during Skowhegan’s Holiday Stroll, in which the entire downtown area of Skowhegan is closed to traffic and all stores remain open, the music provided by the Tanners coincided nicely with the spirit of the season. Special thanks to all Library supporters for your encouragement and participation in programs!

*Deb and
Reverend
Mark Tanner
fill the halls
with music.*

"Friends" Newsletter is published by the Margaret Chase Smith Library. Editor: Dr. Gregory P. Gallant; Coordinator: Angela Stockwell, with the assistance of Vanessa Caron, Lynnette King, Sheri Leahan, 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@tdstelme.net; gpg@tdstelme.net; or davidr@tdstelme.net

Friends of the Library Newsletter

Margaret Chase Smith Library
56 Norridgewock Avenue
Skowhegan ME 04976

Nonprofit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Skowhegan ME
 Permit No. 20

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