

*MCS with  
Maine  
Senator  
and former  
Governor  
Frederick  
Payne,  
1958*

## ***“Mashed, French, or Rice Pilaf”***

Idaho Potato Story from MCS Anecdotes

That you may know that it wasn't altogether legislation that members worked on, but it was 101 errands and complying with requests, speaking, etc. One Saturday morning, I was in the office working by myself, and I opened the mail which contained a number of letters from the Loring Air Force Base in northern Maine. Loring Air Force Base is right in the middle of the great potato area of Maine; in fact, at that time, I believe Maine was 7th in potato production in the world. Here we were right in the middle of that potato area serving Idaho potatoes. The letters were quite pleasant ones but very critical of the government spending money to bring potatoes from Idaho to an area where we grew our own and people could either go out to the fields and get them or at least get them more cheaply than they could the others. So I immediately called the Secretary of the Air Force, Loring Air Force Base being under his jurisdiction, and told him the story, told him it was crucial, and I wanted it corrected immediately. I said some more things, and he was working, as I was, on a Saturday morning hoping to get some work done, but instead he got together some of his people and they came over at two o'clock and said it was all taken care of. It had happened by error; they should not be bringing potatoes in from Idaho to feed the Air Force people in the middle of the Maine potato area. That was exceptional as far as service was concerned. It didn't take Secretary Douglas long to get that corrected and get word over to me so that by that evening, I got word back to the potato area people that they would not have to eat Idaho potatoes any more unless they wanted to. They would be available if they preferred them.

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# Researchers from Maine and Beyond

Gail Parker of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, is writing a chapter on MCS for a Globe-Pequot Press publication entitled, "**It Happened in Maine.**" Gail reviewed the "Declaration of Conscience" file, specifically concentrating on the draft versions of the speech and the fact that MCS wrote her famous 1950 speech in the living room of her home.

Maureen De Graff is a student in the History of Maine class at Kennebec Valley Community College. Asked to write a paper on someone of historical significance in Maine, Maureen selected MCS and visited the Library in June to gather material for her report.

University College students from Northwood University were here for a four-day session involving research into the career of MCS. Attending the first session (top) were: Michael Carnagie, Frank Randazzo, and Keith Schraft as well as Library Administrative Assistant Vanessa Caron. Second session attendees (bottom) were: Anthony Hanson, John Felis, John Collias, and Melissa Jekel. Professor Tom Luptowski and brother Clarence (right front and rear) make the long trek from Michigan three times each year to supervise the University College program as well as the MCS Fellowship program in the fall.

## ***Husband and Wife Teams Conduct Research***

Author Paul Dickson and wife Nancy searched the collection for material on the Bonus Army and the GI Bill. Mr. Dickson has written over 40 books on "subjects of interest," from baseball, Elvis, e-mail, ice cream, Sputnik, the space program, war slang, lawyers, and much, much more.

Joyce Spinelli and husband Frank traveled from Toledo, Ohio, to spend four days of intensive study of Senator Smith's career. Using sixteen case studies of major events in Smith's career, Mrs. Spinelli perused files, scrapbooks, speeches, and reviewed photos relative to the issues. Working toward her master's degree in American History, Joyce and Frank worked tirelessly from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day.

*Teacher Dianna Dumont has brought her Smithfield Elementary School students to the Library every year since its inception. In the early days, the boys and girls would sit and chat with Senator Smith.*

### ***SFPL and MCS Library Join Forces***

Library programs supported by the Skowhegan Free Public Library and the Margaret Chase Smith Library brought many new visitors, young and old, for two programs dealing with Shakespeare and the Northern Stars Planetarium.

*Thespian Duncan Inches from the Maine Renaissance Festival presented “A Little Touch of Will” in which William Shakespeare’s life comes alive in humor and verse.*

*John Meader of Northern Stars Planetarium explains the procedures for entering the silver dome pictured above. He presented two children’s programs entitled “Moon Witch” and “Native American Legends” that explained the moon’s motions and phases, and the origins of the constellations.*

*Skowhegan Area Middle School students, Mike Therriault, Brian Pratt, and Ben Doty visited the Library in June to report on their award-winning, Maine History Day projects prior to leaving for the national competition at the University of Maryland.*

*Greenville High School Key Club members under the direction of Keyth Carter raised \$1300 through a talent show to refurbish the high school gym and support summer scholarships at the Pine Tree Camp for handicapped children.*

*Glenburn Elementary School students under the direction of teacher Gloria Westrin gave books to the Marissa Pinkham Library Project and turkeys to the Manna soup kitchen. They also purchased land in the Latin American rain forest as an Earth Day project.*

*Jim Ramsey’s CAPS (Creative and Applied Problem Solving) group from Skowhegan Area Middle School raised money for the local library’s Children’s Room by producing a movie about post-World War II America. Two of the students were part of a group of four to win at the junior level of the Maine History Day competition—Haili Muse (standing second from left) and Ian Dorko (kneeling second from left).*

*Nathan Kinney of Phillips Middle School was one of two students in the state to receive the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. In an effort to revitalize the entrance to town, he led the way in building a new sign that highlights area businesses. Receiving \$1,000 and a silver medallion, Nathan traveled to Washington, DC, for several days of recognition events. He and other Student Council members visited the Library in June. Plans to build another sign on the other side of town are underway.*

## “Splendid Game” Explored in Potholm Book

Over thirty-two years in the political arena would certainly qualify Margaret Chase Smith as a player in the “Splendid Game.” **This Splendid Game: Maine Campaigns and Elections, 1940-2002**, Senator Smith plays a major role in Christian Potholm’s study of the campaign practices and procedures of the elections dating back to the beginning of Smith’s career. Potholm writes, “Margaret Chase Smith had drive and determination and political savvy to spare, but facing two popular political figures in 1948, she needed a campaign that would help her to carry the day. Successful campaigns require unsuccessful campaigns by opponents. Smith, Ed Muskie, Ken Curtis, Bill Cohen, James B. Longley, and Angus King lead successful campaigns. Whether each was a ‘better’ candidate than their opponent, whether each ‘deserved’ to win or whether each fielded a superior campaign effort, all were aided by the type and quality of campaign waged by their opponent. This yin and yang aspect is often overlooked. Margaret Chase Smith won in 1948 in part because the sitting governor and his campaign staff made some very bad judgments as to strategy and how to handle a woman candidate in a hotly contested race.”

A professor of government at Bowdoin College, Potholm also brings fresh insight into the history of politics in Maine through his other books: **An Insider’s Guide to Maine Politics**, **The Delights of Democracy: The Triumph of American Politics**; and **Just Do It: Political Participation in the 1990s**.

*Dr. Christian Potholm (seated) is introduced by Dr. Gallant at the 2002 Legacy of Leadership Conference.*

## Red Hat Ladies Arrive on a Red Hot Day

Ladies from the Lincoln, Naples, Pittsfield and Palmyra area donned their “Red Hats” and were given an informative and enlightening tour of the house and museum by staff member, Crystal Perkins. Strictly a social club, the women gather periodically for field trips and dining at area restaurants. According to their web site, [www.redhatsociety.com](http://www.redhatsociety.com), the Red Hat Society is for women

from all walks of life who choose to have fun after fifty. They believe silliness is the comedy relief of life and they might as well join red-gloved hands and go for the gusto together. The Society is often referred to as a “disorganization.” It was begun by Sue Ellen Cooper of Fullerton, California, when she and a few friends took inspiration from a popular poem entitled “Warning” by Jenny Joseph, which begins “When I am an old woman...” Since the poem mentions wearing a red hat and purple attire, she and her friends formed a group that met on a regular basis for tea in their red hats and purple dresses - in public, of course.

The main responsibility is to have fun! The group provides an opportunity for those who have shouldered various responsibilities at home and in the community during their lives to say goodbye to burdensome duties.



*Red Hat Ladies are pictured in the Library research room*

*MCS’ great, grand niece and nephew visited the Library to rekindle the fondness for their Aunt Margaret. Sarah and Matthew Bigelow are shown seated at the small piano which displays family photos including those of Sarah as a young child and Matthew as an infant. The piano was a gift of Secretary of Defense James Forrestal.*

*Leonard Sussman, a longtime friend of Senator Smith through her association with Freedom House, visited the Library in August. Leonard was instrumental in Smith’s receipt of the Korean Gold Crown pictured above. The crown was a gift of the South Korean government for her efforts on behalf of freedom of the press while serving as Chairman of the Board of Freedom House. The crown is a replica of one from the Silla Dynasty 500 A.D.*

## *“Thanks for the Memories”*

The gentle lady from Maine and the nation’s great inspirational “funny man” have left behind a legacy of caring for their countrymen and women. Both shared a love of the military. One worked tirelessly to see that any injustice to servicemen or women was rectified. The other gave of himself so that the military men and women serving this country could enjoy a bit of humor in the foreign lands to which they had been sent. In 1964, this man and this woman met in New York to accept the prestigious Gold Medal Award from the National Institute of Social Sciences. Margaret Chase Smith was honored because of her “competence, diligence, integrity and dependability. She rightly prides herself on voting her convictions regardless of political considerations.”

Bob Hope’s “priceless quality of humor has enriched American life. With little concern for self, he has traveled far and wide over the face of the earth for nearly a quarter of a century in the interests of his country. He has given generously of himself particularly for the welfare of American youth and our armed services. He recognizes that his gift of great talent carries with it great responsibility—he has discharged that responsibility magnificently in his contribution to the American spirit.”

In subsequent years, Bob Hope and Senator Smith crossed paths many times. In a November 10, 1986, telegram, he wrote, “Welcome to Palm Springs. I am enroute to Japan so can’t be there to personally greet you. Dolores joins me in wishing you our very best.” Thank you, Bob Hope—thank you for sharing your humor and wit with the hundreds of thousands who served our country!

*Bob Hope, Margaret Chase Smith, and Richard M. Nixon receive honorary degrees from Whittier College in 1965.*

### *Moynihan Tells the Story*

In July of 1989, Senator Smith received the highest honor bestowed on a civilian, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In a letter dated July 25, 1989, Daniel Moynihan tells a bit about the history of the Medal.

“Early in his administration, President Kennedy mentioned to Arthur Goldberg that he wanted to establish a system of civil honors. Goldberg assigned the subject to me. After a year of intermittent effort, I came to the conclusion that it couldn’t be done. We sent a note to the President saying that better men than he had tried and all had come to grief, most recently President Eisenhower. (He had had a commission headed by the Secretary of the Smithsonian work at a proposal for four years only to see it come to grief on the Senate floor when Wayne Morse discerned the onset of monarchy and involved the constitutional ban against titles of nobility!) He took this with good cheer; he was a special President. We then said that if he wanted a system of civil honors, the only thing to do was to announce that he had one. For this purpose, we discovered the obscure decoration created by President Truman after World War II to be awarded to intelligence operatives, which is to say persons who had performed heroically during the war for the United States government but were not in uniform and could not be awarded the Navy Cross or whatever.

On Washington’s birthday in 1963 the White House issued a bland statement that the Medal of Freedom, “the highest civil honor” conferred by the United States government, would henceforth be awarded only once a year, would be called the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and would be conferred for service to the arts and humanities as well as government. In those innocent days of long

ago, The Washington Post and The New York Times put this announcement on the front page without a single inquiry as to when was it last conferred on anyone and when it had become the “highest civil honor,” etc.

There was a poignant end to Kennedy’s involvement. The 1963 awards were to be presented on December 6, following his return from Dallas. In the event, President Johnson made the presentation with a posthumous award going to Kennedy. I wrote the citation, which are the last words to appear in the final volume of JFK’s public papers. And so it is a Presidential medal in a most special sense.”

*Senator Smith receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President and Mrs. George Bush in a July, 1989, ceremony.*

## ***Richards and Leahan Hit the Streets***

David Richards has a legitimate concern. The vacant buildings in downtown Skowhegan are unsightly and the display windows need a bit of redecorating. David has encouraged and helped to organize a group of citizens working to invigorate the historical downtown area of Skowhegan by choosing informative material to display in the vacant shop windows. Copies of photos from the MCS Library adorn several storefront windows and people are actually stopping to take a look at what is offered.

What is happening in Skowhegan's downtown area is not unusual—large retail stores across the country are establishing multi-faceted stores outside of the downtown areas of cities which create competition for small, owner-operated businesses. Often, the “Mom and Pop” stores are forced to close. Skowhegan's Downtown Business Association hopes to have Skowhegan designated as a “Main Street” Community, which will bring funding and expertise to revitalize the town's commercial center.

*Sheri Leahan is shown in front of a vacant storefront window in downtown Skowhegan where material about Margaret Chase Smith is on display for passersby. The Skowhegan revitalization project hopes to increase public awareness of the town's history and local offerings.*

## ***Big “To Do” in Skowhegan Over Movie***

Miles Roby finds it difficult to retain his usual calm when owner Francine Whiting continues to dominate the operations of the restaurant he has run for more than a decade. The Empire Grill is all he knows, having returned to Empire Falls, Maine, when his mother was dying. His alcoholic father, Max, doesn't lend much to his sanity either. But when his teenage daughter is asked to befriend a troubled high school classmate, Miles is faced with the torment that confronts parents when their child may be in danger. Such is the setting of the movie to be aired on HBO in the near future. Based on the book, **Empire Falls**, by Pulitzer Prize winner, Richard Russo, the movie is currently being shot in Skowhegan. Buildings renovated; traffic re-routed; many asked to leave their homes during shooting; and area residents jostling for roles as extras—all this makes for excitement in central Maine's crossroads town. High profile actors, Helen Hunt, Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman, and Ed Harris, will remain in the Skowhegan area until the movie is completed. Aspiring actress, Administrator Lynnette King (and her car), has been selected as an extra, as have Special Projects Assistant Crystal Perkins and computer technician/maintenance man, Byron Pooler. Although playing a small part in the development of the movie, the MCS Library is pleased to have assisted young researcher, Derek Mitchell, in his quest for photos which might help portray “Empire Falls” to the viewing audience.

## ***Maine Citizen Corps Launched***

Governor John Baldacci joined interested citizens in the launching of Maine's Citizen Corps, a group organized to provide security for Maine in conjunction with the Federal Department of Homeland Security. Liz DiGregorio, Director of the Office of Citizen Corps in Washington, DC, spoke to the assembled group as did Governor Baldacci. Area emergency response units displayed information about their work and showed off equipment designed to protect the public.

*Shown above L-R are: Governor John Baldacci and Liz DiGregorio at the launching of the Maine Citizen Corps. The Somerset County Emergency Response Team displays hazardous material suits and protective gear.*

*Skowhegan High School senior, Derek Mitchell, has been retained as an assistant by the Empire Falls Production Company.*

## *A Dear Friend Leaves Us*

Betty Ward Mitchell passed away on September 20 leaving behind a loving extended family and many friends at the MCS Library. Betty was a member of the Library's Advisory Committee, now called "Friends of the Library," and a faithful supporter of its programs and mission. She and husband Hamilton always offered much to the meetings. "Ham" provided a thoughtful, experienced view of the operations of the Library, while Betty brought a quiet, graceful dignity in her dealings with other participants. Our condolences to her family. She will be sadly missed.

*Sheri Leahan explains paper-dolls to visitors during Take a Dip Into History Day. A favorite pastime when Margaret Chase was a child (long before Barbie) was dressing paper dolls in various paper clothing.*

## *Oral History Project Underway*

The MCS Library Oral History Project has begun! Dr. Judith Moyer of Durham, New Hampshire, is an expert on oral history and has begun the process of interviewing friends, constituents, and colleagues of Senator Smith for the archival collection. An author/humanist/actor, Moyer is responsible for "It Had to Be Done, So I Did It," a role playing presentation depicting how the role of women has changed through the years. Dr. Moyer hopes to visit Skowhegan soon to interview area residents for an insight into this Skowhegan girl who successfully established herself in the Washington scene. If you have memories to share, please contact the Library

*Betty Mitchell is shown at a 1998 meeting of the Advisory Committee.*

## *Museums Open for Take a Dip Into History Day*

Several area museums opened their doors for interested visitors in July for Take a Dip Into History Day. Special events, tours, and fun activities were provided for visitors to the Fairfield Historical Society, L. C. Bates Museum, Norridgewock Historical Society, Skowhegan History House, and the MCS Library.

This historical day was sponsored by the Central Kennebec Heritage Council.

at 474-7133 to arrange for an interview.

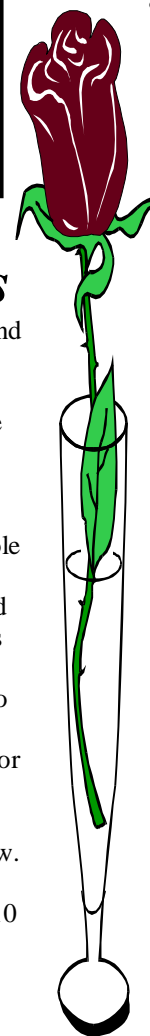
## *MCS Fellowship Program Begins*

Students from Northwood University's three campuses in Michigan, Texas and Florida arrived in Skowhegan after Labor Day to spend their fall, ten-week term in Central Maine. **Eva Anderson** lives in Dallas, Texas. An International Business major, Eva is a former student government vice president, a member of the Baptist Student Ministries, and says she is "currently living my dream" as an independent agent for a small event planning company. **Declan Freisberg** is from Boca Raton, Florida. An International Business major, Declan loves tennis, golf, racing, reading, and history. A world-ranked tennis player, he hopes to attend law school upon graduating from NU. **Johnathon Ott** is from Hartland, Michigan, and enjoys lacrosse, boating, hiking, and snorkeling. He restores antique furniture and says, "I am an adamant cigar connoisseur and enjoy fine dining." A Banking and Finance major, Johnathon may attend Officer Candidates School in the Marine Corps following graduation. **Crystal Romania** is from Phillipsburg, New Jersey, and attends the Michigan campus. She is a Marketing/Management major and enjoys running, working out, photography, and travel. She hopes to own a wedding consultation firm after graduation. **Judson Stafford** is from Garland, Texas, and an International Business major. He enjoys golf and is a member of Delta Epsilon Chi. **Joseph Yatouma** is from Clinton Township, Michigan. A Banking and Finance/Economics/Management major, Joey is a member of NU's Young Republicans and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. He hopes to become a lobbyist, a senator from Michigan, and "to see the Green Bay Packers play at Lambeau Field." While here, the students conduct research and prepare two scholarly papers on some aspect of Senator Smith's life and career as a part of their course curriculum.

*MCS Fellowship students pose in atrium: Standing in back row L-R: Eva Anderson, Declan Freisberg, and Joe Yatouma; Front L-R: Judson Stafford, Johnathon Ott; and Crystal Romania*

**Margaret Chase Smith: Legacies of Her Career** was presented in August to students at the University College at Thomaston as part of the Strong Maine Women series of the Coastal Senior College program. Assistant Director David Richards did a slide presentation and spoke of the continuing legacy of Margaret Chase Smith to the men and women who were her loyal and admiring constituents.

**“Trivia” Answer from August Newsletter**—The answer is on p.2 in the “Twenty Years of Scrapbooks” article. Senator Smith was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force. Congratulations to Pauline Kimball who called with the correct answer! Remember, the answer and location are required! The October trivia question is: Margaret Chase Smith hoped to abolish what type of college? 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!



## Cover Girl Exhibit Opens

Wonderful reproductions of covers of famous and not-so-famous publications in which Margaret Chase Smith is the “Cover Girl” adorn the walls of the Library. Curator Sheri Leahan has produced this most worthwhile exhibit which chronicles Smith’s involvement in social clubs in the 1920s until her retirement years in Skowhegan. The exhibit provides a clear picture of the importance placed on Maine’s most famous lady. Her role as a woman leader never failed to impress those with whom she met. And her smiling, down-home candor and honesty became obvious in the thousands of photographs taken by newspapers and magazines across the country. Glamour shots of Smith were not the norm but there is no doubt she was the oddity in a Senate chamber filled with ninety-nine men and one lone woman. Always smiling for the cameras, Senator Smith caught the eyes of photographers.

The 2003-2004 “Cover Girl” Exhibit is on display now. View the “covers,” as well as some of her clothing and jewelry. The Library is open Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Cover Girl” photos line the walls of the MCS Library. *Newsweek, Time, Saturday Evening Post* and many more news magazines used MCS as a front cover subject.

"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

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