

Margaret

(as told by Margaret Chase Smith in the Anecdotes file)

Margaret first entered kindergarten when hardly more than four years old. She attended school from first grade through the seventh at Lincoln and Garfield Schools—buildings on Leavitt Street, and was an average student. She remembers having a note passed to her from the boy seated back of her, Harry Stewart, also answering it, handing it back to him. (Second grade with Lizzie Higgins as teacher). Wore curls until fourth grade when long hair was braided in two braids, tied about an inch from the bottom with narrow colored ribbon. In fourth grade, she recalls a run of lice, also the girl sitting in seat back of her taking some from her own hair and putting them in Margaret's braids. Mother complained to teacher as Chase family had no lice—poor but very neat and clean. Money coming in from the barber shop was too little to feed and clothe the family so Carrie worked out from time to time throughout her life—waiting on tables at the Coburn Hotel, in the 5 and 10 cent store, Green Brothers, and the shoe shop as a fancy stitcher. She was a fine looking small woman weighing less than a 100, had shapely feet, ankles and legs. She never complained although she was the breadearner and manager of the Chase household. She washed and ironed and cooked and cleaned in addition to her outside employment and always took the time to have birthday parties (for which George made vanilla ice cream in a hand-cranked freezer), Christmas trees and children's playmates in the home.

When the two little boys, Roland and Lawrence died, Mrs. Chase determined to have small stones for their burial places, ordered them and paid for them by furnishing the Marble family (stone makers) with a quart of milk a day, the milk coming from the cow the Chases had for awhile. It was Margaret's job to deliver the milk each morning before school, walking about a mile, sometimes in below freezing weather. The Marbles, the only family in town to have a Negro cook and maid, also got their washings and ironings done by Mrs. Chase to help pay the stone bill. The maid often took Margaret into the kitchen and rubbed her chilled hands in cold water. *(Cont. on p.5)*

(Margaret—from front cover) The cow was not a luxury as it helped on the food and neither was the pig

Margaret Chase 1924

Inside:

***Sheri Shares-
CAP Grant—p.2***

***Madame
Chiang—p.2***

***MCS
Scholars—p.3***

Research—p.3

***Friends Meet—
p.4***

***Moyer
Interviews—p.5***

Chronicle—p.5

***MCS
Fellowship—
p.6***

***Young at
Heart—p.7***

***Little Engine—
p.7***

***Evelyn Chase
Williams Dies—
p.8***

Sheri Shares

In April the Library announced it had been awarded a Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). The results are in. In July, Bruce MacLeish, Director of Collections for the Newport Restoration Foundation in Rhode Island, and Tobin Tracey, preservation architect, and his assistant Geoffrey Melhuish of Portland, Maine, reviewed the collections and inspected the conditions of the buildings.

MacLeish’s report (over 60 pages long!) recommends several ongoing projects that focus on the nature and care of the collections. He divided his report into several sections: staffing and training, collections management, exhibition and storage, environmental controls, pest control, security, and a prioritized recommendation list. A major recommendation is to continue a full inventory and cataloging of the collection. In his own words “first the museum simply must know what it owns; therefore, more information about collections can be incorporated into interpretation in exhibitions; and, the museum can better judge its priorities in deciding which objects should receive conservation examination and treatment first.” He recommends that the paper and photographic items on display and electronic media be the first to receive collections care. He also recommends improving collections storage for better efficiency and re-packing delicate objects using archival materials.

Tracey’s report focused on the condition and maintenance of the Library building and Senator Smith’s residence. His report summarized the conditions of the site, both exterior and interior, with a more in-depth analysis of roofing and drainage, clapboards and wood trim, doors and windows, the foundation, plaster and interior partitions, interior woodwork, flooring, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection, and accessibility to the site. In his own words “overall, the Margaret Chase Smith Library is in good condition. The majority of damage is a result of the age of the materials, moisture infiltration, and/or lack of cyclical maintenance.” Not alarmed by anything he saw, Tracey made practical suggestions for the Library to consider in maintaining and preserving the buildings. His recommendations include moving some plantings away from the building, improving site drainage, replacing some of the slates on the roof, improving attic ventilation, and refinishing some worn interior finishes.

At first glance, these in-depth reports appear overwhelming; however, both MacLeish and Tracey carefully prioritized their recommendations using the categories urgent, necessary, desirable, and monitor. Not everything has to be completed at once. The reports are to be used as a tool for long-range conservation planning. The great news is that the majority of recommendations are **preventative measures**. Overall, the CAP process was a wonderful opportunity for the Library. The survey reiterates the proactive measures the Library has already undertaken and establishes strategies for improved collections care and preservation of the buildings. The consultants brought new energy to the Library, viewed our organization with a fresh perspective and offered new ideas. Though they discussed “ideal” situations, both assessors offered pragmatic and short-term solutions in their reports— solutions that will be most helpful and achievable to us as a small organization. Please contact me if you are interested in more details. I will share some of the recommendations with you in future newsletters as we accomplish them.

CAP grant assessors (R), Tobin Tracey and Geoff Melhuish are shown with Curator Sheri Leahan reviewing architectural plans.

Bruce MacLeish (L) of Newport Restoration Foundation in Rhode Island, assesses the MCS Library collection in July.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek Dies

Born in China in 1898, one year following the birth of Margaret Chase, Soong Mei-Ling, better known as Madame Chiang Kai-shek, died on October 23 in New York at the age of 105. These two strong female contemporaries were close personal friends who each became prominent women in their own countries. Madame Chiang served as the interpreter in 1955 during Senator Smith’s World Trip when she interviewed President Chiang Kai-shek. When touring the residence portion of the Margaret Chase Smith Library, visitors are able to view paintings by Madame Chiang which were gifts to Senator Smith. The 2004 Library exhibit will focus on the World Trip and feature momentos from many of the twenty-three foreign countries visited by Smith.

Senator Smith and Madame Chiang at a September, 1965, luncheon in her honor.

Cover Girl Draws Researcher

Lisa Lombard decided to include the newest Library exhibit in a project for her media writing class at the University of Southern Maine. Since Margaret Chase Smith had such a big influence on politics and the media, Lisa thought “Cover Girl—Margaret Chase Smith in the Media” would make an excellent case study.

Lisa Lombard studies Cover Girl exhibit for USM class.

MCS Scholarship in Public Affairs Recipients Visit

Established in 1991 with gifts from Harold Alfond, the MCS Scholarship at the University of Maine recognizes Senator Smith’s years of dedicated service to Maine and the nation. Scholarship recipients must be Maine residents and have a 3.0 or better GPA. The two students selected this year are Caterina Anderson and Robin Arnold.

Caterina is a senior International Affairs and Anthropology double major from Bangor. Her project deals with the issues of U. S. immigration and refugee resettlement policy, its impact on Maine, and the phenomenon of secondary migration in which refugees brought to the U. S. by the government choose to resettle in different regions.

Robin is a junior Geology major from Orono. She is studying the physical structure of the Belfast, Maine, coastline to determine its susceptibility to erosion and how the area might respond to sea-level rise due to global warming. She is also interested in the issue of coastal development.

Researcher from Toronto Receives Leeke Grant

Eric Crouse, recipient of a Ada E. Leeke Research Fellowship, has extended his research begun in 2002 to include the topic of religion and McCarthyism as seen through the prism of Margaret Chase Smith. Eric is an Assistant Professor of History at Tyndale University College in Toronto, Canada.

Eric Crouse

Code Topic of Study

Molly Quaid, a Smith College student from Brunswick, Maine, delved into the issue of ethics in politics and how the Maine Code of Elections has affected campaigning. Molly preceded her study by interviewing Director Gregory Gallant and later visited the Library to determine Senator Smith’s views on morality and ethics in campaigning.

Molly Quaid

Posed in front of the Cover Girl exhibit are L-R: Library Director Gregory Gallant, Caterina Anderson, MCS Center for Public Policy Director Jonathan Rubin, and Robin Arnold.

Professor Sends Bowdoin Students

Traditionally research at the Library is conducted about Margaret Chase Smith, her elections, her stand on issues or the workings of Congress. Four students of Bowdoin College Professor Chris Potholm concentrated their study, however, on Senator Smith’s husband, Clyde H. Smith, a career politician who successfully won forty-nine elections during his career. Clyde worked his way up from Superintendent of Schools, Selectman, Sheriff, State Senator, Highway Commissioner, Governor’s Councilor, and State Representative to Congressman. Chris, Ricky, Justin and Trevor went through the Clyde Smith file as well as ones covering elections of the late thirties and 1940. It was victory in the latter that enabled Margaret to retain Clyde’s seat in the House of Representatives. These Bowdoin students were very impressed by the resources they found here. Said Justin, “**the presentation really turned out well and I definitely think Professor Potholm was pleased. The photographs were especially a hit...thank everyone else at the Library for all their help in making it a success.**”

*Bowdoin students: Seated L-R—Chris Bucci and Ricky Leclerc;
Standing L-R—Justin King and Trevor Powers*

“Friends” Meeting Held in October

Members and guests at the 21st annual meeting of the Friends Advisory group were on hand to hear about the past activities and future plans of the Library. Director Gregory Gallant, Assistant Director David Richards, and Curator Sheri Leahan reported on each aspect of the Library’s operations. In addition, Dr. David Long reported on the status of Northwood University, the Library’s “parent” organization.

Following two days of meetings and an evening of entertainment by comedian Jimmy Dunn, many members remained for a lecture by journalist Peter Sussman. Sussman, former editor of the **San Francisco Chronicle**, addressed the issue of ethics in journalism during war-time. Sponsored as the Library’s Ada Leeke-Evelyn Shaw Lecture on International Affairs, the talk concentrated on the ethical conflicts when journalists have contradictory obligations. “Ethics,” said Sussman, “is concerned with what principled journalists and the public agree they ought to report or conceal, not what they or the government is required to do.” Citing instances where ethics play an important role in what is reported, Sussman referred to the al Qaeda attacks and 9/11 and asked the audience to comment on several scenarios including troop movements, operational secrets, tactical security, responsibility to other nations, embedding of reporters in military units, Osama Bin Laden’s taped statements, and the viewing of dead bodies and POWs in captivity. Each scenario brought into play the balancing factors or balancing tests designed as tie-breakers in deciding what, when, where, and why items are reported. According to the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists, reporters should “Seek Truth and Report It, Minimize Harm, Act Independently, and be Accountable.” Professional integrity is the cornerstone of a journalist’s credibility.

Photos: Top (L-R)—Speaker Peter Sussman; Mert Henry and Declan Freisberg; Karen & Bill Lemke with Anne Herrin; David Long and Shirley Richard.

Bottom: (L-R)—Greg Gallant displays MCS Fellowship jackets; Linwood and Shirley Nutting; Comedian Jimmy Dunn; Penny Bryden and Joe Hanslip, and Peter Sussman with Joey Yatouma and

which, when grown, was butchered and furnished meat for the family, but the horse which Mr. Chase insisted on having was, except it did provide transportation for the family and got them out to Smithfield East Pond (one of the Belgrade Lakes) for a Sunday now and then. Mrs. Chase also managed to get an upright piano paying for it by small weekly payments, also having Margaret take music lessons, then 50 cents a week, one-half hour. Like many children, Margaret was not very appreciative of all that mother was doing and practiced never more than an hour a day with one eye on the clock. Showing some promise and wanting Margaret to have advantages other girls were having, arrangements were made for one-half hour lessons from a very accomplished pianist, Miss Marjorie Morrison, who took on the new pupil only on the promise of three hours a day practice. This was an expensive luxury and did not last long because Margaret did not change her practice habits. Margaret's music career ended not to be taken up again until long after her graduation when she learned to play the clarinet. All of this was of short duration as Margaret didn't continue to practice and lost her "lip."

From the Garfield 7th grade, Margaret went to the school on the island (taken down in 1973) from the eighth grade through high school, graduating in 1916 in a white middie blouse and skirt and high off-white kid laced shoes (most inappropriate but an indication of what later became one of Margaret's expensive habits, buying high heel dressy shoes). One of the girls in that class received a Shepard prize for her improvement in grades in Botany which caused Margaret's question, "Does it pay to be honest?" The girl cheated on her final Botany test looking across to Margaret's paper, also having small notes made in advance to refer to. Margaret, however, did not change her policy of honesty which her mother had instilled in her from childhood.

During these years, Margaret wanted so much to go to Sargent's Physical Education College in Massachusetts, but was offered a job by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Clyde H. Smith. She had worked in the 5 and 10 cent store for \$3.50 a week, six days including Saturday evening, as telephone operator at 10 cents an hour, or \$1.00 for all night, waiting on tables briefly at the Coburn Hotel, substituting for her mother and one evening serving dinner and washing the dishes at a local dentist's home. It was the one and only time, as Margaret's mother said, 35 cents for seven hours of that kind of work was more than even a poor family could take. Margaret talked with many people when sitting at the switchboard during the long evenings or nights, among them being the much-talked about and admired Clyde H. Smith, who called to ask for the correct time, gradually adding to his question and conversation until the night he asked her if she would be interested in helping in the town office during the tax assessment time, explaining that the work would consist of writing names, property and taxes in a large book, requiring 12 weeks at \$12.00 a week. Margaret had never met nor seen Mr. Smith, as she always called him, until the day she went into the office for the interview with the three selectmen—Smith, Judson Packard, and Henry Demo. Margaret responded that she would not graduate until June and her mother did not want her to leave school even for the high salary of \$12.00 a week. Mr. Smith suggested she talk with the Principal and see if arrangements could be made for evening and weekend classes. This she pursued, arrangements were made, Margaret as poor a penman as she was, went to the Municipal Building in early April where she sat day after day with the three men, writing and figuring the taxes. The progress was slow because of the many people coming in for help and advice, both of which Smith was *(Cont. on p.6)* *(Margaret—Cont. from p.5)*

well known for. Occasionally at noon, he would suggest that I take my notebook and he would drive me home. He was driving a low, shiny El Car which would impress any young lady, or old. I would sit in the car or walk around, write a note or two and often *Iran* home to lunch, getting back to the office at one o'clock. One day he said,

WCVB-TV Boston Here to "Chronicle" Skowhegan

Peter Mehegan, host of the Chronicle program produced by WCVB-TV, Channel 5, in Boston, arrived in September to cover the small, central-Maine town of Skowhegan. He was particularly drawn by the activities relating to the HBO movie, "Empire Falls," which was filmed in the area during the months of September, October and November. Coverage of Skowhegan would be incomplete without a bit about its most famous citizen, Margaret Chase Smith. Peter toured both the museum and Smith's home. He also interviewed staff members, Gregory P. Gallant, David Richards and Angie Stockwell in order to get a feel for the Lady from Maine.

Peter Mehegan interviews David Richards in the Eisenhower Room in the residence portion of the Library.



Moyer Has Taping Well in Hand

Historian Dr. Judith Moyer of the University of New Hampshire has begun oral history interviews. Interviewed to date have been Merton Henry, Lynnette King, Georgia McKearly, Don Nicoll, Shirley & Linwood Nutting, John Reed, Shirley Richard, Angela Stockwell, and Norman Temple. Oral recollections are an important aspect of history as interviewees are able to relate insights not typically found in the written record. If you think you might have memories worth recording, please contact the Library.

Judith Moyer is shown at the Library in October, 2003.

"I have to go to Athens, 16 miles north of Skowhegan, do you think your folks might like to ride out with me?" I asked them, and they accepted the invitation, my mother, a very wise woman reluctantly so.

The Sunday came, Mr. Smith came to the house, picked us up for the ride, a most pleasant one. This led to other short trips, but always with the family, never myself alone.

Graduation came and that morning, I found at my place in the office a small gold watch, blue lettering, on a chain. I could feel my face flush and knew the two older gentlemen were looking at me—perhaps suspicious that Clyde's attentions might be other than good, they perhaps knowing him better than I did. He had a reputation of liking the girls, especially younger girls. Clyde was single, having been divorced from Edna Page (later Mrs. Fred Bunker) in January 14, 1914. While Clyde was at that time 39, Margaret was 17, actually the divorce proceeding started two years earlier when Margaret was 15. Margaret Chase did not meet Clyde Smith until the spring of 1916 or more than two years after the final divorce decree. Margaret Chase married Clyde Smith May 14, 1930, or more than sixteen years after the divorce.

Bloomfield Students Send Supplies to Iraqi Children

Writes Sam Powers of Barbara Winslow's 4th grade class at Bloomfield Elementary School in Skowhegan, "We want to make a difference for the Iraqi children by sending notebooks, markers, crayons, and pencils." Says Matt Kay, "I hope they will be friends with us." Maddie Brochu adds, "I think that gathering all these school supplies is a good way to let the Iraqi schools know we don't want to hurt them; we all want them to open that box and imagine the smile on their faces." From the mouths of America's babes come words to live by.



David Richards listens to a presentation by Bloomfield Elementary School student during visit in October. The boys and girls mailed letters to the soldiers in Iraq. Other classes are providing gifts to patients in local nursing homes.

Essay Contest Focuses on Civic Engagement

Margaret Chase Smith firmly believed that civic engagement was a fundamental responsibility of all Americans. To promote this vital virtue of a thriving democracy on the eve of the 2004 presidential election, the Margaret Chase Smith Library invites Maine high school seniors to submit essays proposing ways to encourage young people to become more involved in the political process. The best entries will draw upon historical examples as well as personal experiences and opinions.

The Library will award \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$125 for third place, and five \$25 honorable mention prizes. Essays are due by April 1, 2004. Prizes will be announced on May 3rd. To submit entries or for more information, please contact David Richards at 474-7133 or davidr@tdstelme.net

Fellowship Program Ends

Research papers complete, the MCS Fellowship students, Eva, Declan, Joey, Johnathon, Crystal, and Judson have returned to their campuses in Michigan, Florida and Texas, but not without taking a bit of Maine with them.

Photos: at Moosehead furniture; with Governor Baldacci; wearing new Northwood MCS Fellowship jackets; and appearing on local cable channel 17 "Keeping Pace with

Students from Highview Christian School from Charleston were impressed with the vast amount of material contained in the MCS Library and promised to return again. Mr. Philbrick and his young men and women will always be

From the Files

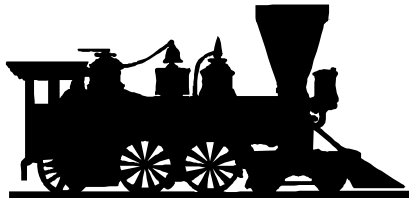
In a letter from Tristram Coffin to Margaret Chase Smith written in October, 1973, during the midst of the Watergate scandal, the famous Maine writer recalls: “Out of all this crazy nightmare, I remember some very wise words of yours. I asked you what Nixon was really like, in January, 1969, and you replied: ‘He is a very strange person, and he lives in various fantasies most of the time. When he has to face the truth, he goes into a room by himself, locks the door, sweats, bites his fingernails, and God only knows what will come out.’”

Young at Heart Hits the Bookstores

Author Anne Snowden Crosman interviewed Senator Smith in 1992 in order to gain insight into the process of “aging gracefully with attitude” for her book **Young at Heart** in which 61 older Americans share their secrets for longevity. Crosman presented the MCS Library with an autographed copy of her book which will serve as an inspiration to the elderly who wish to stay fit and enjoy productive lives.

Anne Snowden Crosman poses with her book, Young at Heart.

Little Engine Program Inspires Students



Students from Bloomfield Elementary School enjoyed a tour with David Richards which included a discussion of the “Little Engine That Could.” This favorite childhood book, which enjoys a prominent place in Senator Smith’s home, provides inspiration for boys and girls to pursue goals with determination and to help others, two messages Senator Smith wanted to pass on to young people.

Boys and girls from the Chelsea Elementary School and Mt. Blue Middle School in Farmington visited in October

Reader Comments:

We recently received the following note from a summer visitor to the Library: “Although we were aware of some of her accomplishments, including the famous anti-McCathy speech, neither of us knew of the depth and breadth of her contributions to this country, especially in the field of education. Many thanks for the excellent tour...we hope to visit again on our next trip to Maine to learn more about this truly remarkable woman.” **Shirley Kemelhar, Bethesda, MD**

Senators Collins and Snowe Comment on “Cover Girl” Exhibit

“Margaret Chase Smith was, at the time she rose to prominence, the only woman in the Senate, but that cannot explain the 70 magazine and book covers. Margaret Chase Smith stood out not because she was a woman politician but because she was a principled politician. I am proud to call her my role model, my inspiration.”

Susan Collins, USS

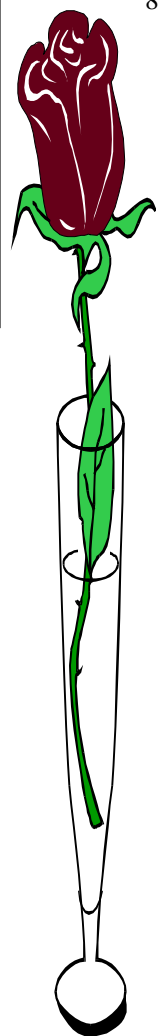
“Margaret Chase Smith is a role model to women across the country, and certainly one to me. I have always looked to Senator Smith with high regard and respect for the trail-blazing stance with which she approached her career...this extraordinary exhibit is evidence of the incredible impact Senator Smith made on American politics.”

Olympia Snowe, USS

The classes of Maureen Giunta and Joyce Whitmore from Ellsworth High School spend a day each year at the Library reviewing the McCarthy file. Material is copied from the files, scrapbooks and statements and speeches in preparation for class discussion when returning to school. The student above found a comfortable spot on the floor to review her case study.

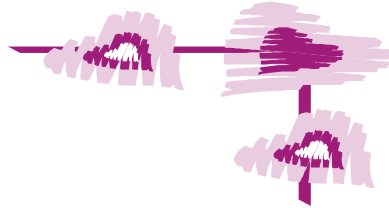
Six classes of 5th graders from Albert Hall School in Waterville visited the Library in November and December. These students had worked on a hunger project and donated money to the Muskie Center.

“Trivia” Answer from October Newsletter—The answer is in the cover photo amongst the potatoes. Margaret Chase Smith hoped to abolish the Electoral College. Congratulations, Colin Quinn, for being the first to respond with the correct answer. Miles Phillips and Judy Minar also responded correctly but a bit too late. The December trivia question is: In 1947, Margaret Chase Smith visited a foreign country as a member of the House Armed Services Committee. Government officials were “particularly enthusiastic regarding Mrs. Smith, not only because of her personal intelligence and charm but also as representative of American womanhood...her visit may have a far-reaching beneficial effect on the position of women in public life.” What country did Congresswoman Smith visit? 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!



Last of the Chase Children Dies

Evelyn Chase St. Ledger Williams passed away on October 10, 2003, following the deaths of her sisters, Laura Bernier and Margaret Chase Smith, and brothers, Wilbur, Roland, and Lawrence, in earlier years. Evelyn died at the age of 94 and will be sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren. Daughter Anne is a member of the MCS Library “Friends of the Library” and she and husband Jim provide continued support to the library and its mission. Since the Library’s inception, Evelyn has endeared herself to the staff members who were fortunate enough to have met her. Her charm and grace were attributes that clearly were a Chase characteristic. We will miss her.



“Our birthright and duty to vote is the most important right and obligation we possess as citizens of a free society.”

Margaret Chase Smith, 1970

See pg. 6 for information on the Margaret Chase Smith Essay Contest.

"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.