

Golden Slipper Square Club Honors Eleven Fifty Years Ago

In his introduction of Senator Smith during a "Salute to Women," at the Golden Slipper Square Club banquet in February of 1956, President William H. Sylk

remarked, "It is no secret that I was among those who helped persuade our Board of Governors that a group of outstanding women should be recognized and honored. I have always been a great believer in honoring women, especially the warm-hearted, the lovely, the chic, the wise and the clever. Present tonight are men of substance and large affairs—and these men, very often pay 'lip service' to the 'second sex.' We recognize their superior virtues, their gentleness, their charm, their

feminine decency, and yet, in every act of recognition there often

"She is a moment in the Conscience of America."

lies, hardly concealed, the barest trace of that "Thank God I Am a Man" feeling. I must apologize for my error and the 'lordly' male feeling of the Slipper's masculine membership. I also affirm that women, those we honor tonight, are wise, noble, courageous, creative and in addition, irresistible. I apologize for using the phrase the 'second sex.'

Women are human beings with all the creativeness, nobility, wisdom and accomplishments we find in every gender. They are neither

worse nor better than men.

Dimly, I remember a phrase from Latin class, 'God indeed preserves the ship, but the mariner conducts it into the harbour.' The mariners in many fields, in the people we honor

tonight, are women. Last year, Walter Lippmann, a wise political writer, published a book called **Democracy's Sickness**. In it, he said, 'In public offices, which are sensitive to the vehemence and passion of mass sentiment, public men have no sure tenure. They are in effect perpetual office seekers, always on trial for their political lives, always required to court their restless constituents. They rarely feel they can afford the luxury of (Cont. on p.3)

Inside:

Seniors in Politics—p.2

Golden Fleece—p. 2

NEBHE Award—p.2

Field Trips—p.3

Appreciation Day—p.4

Nutting, Temple & Alford—p.4

Book Signing—p.5

Lovering Returns—p.5

Fellowship Program—p.6

Great Kids—p.7 & throughout

Mills Research—p.8

Valentine Display—p.8

Trivia—p.8

Seniors in Politics

From Scrapbook v. 167, an interview in 1955 with Margaret Chase Smith by Ruth Scott for *Journal of Lifetime Living*

Q. Would you say that a person's age has a bearing on his participation in political life?

A. There is a place for any citizen to help make our government work. Age is not the question. But I've observed that a larger number of senior citizens have the necessary time. The first step is to become an informed voter. It may be that as a person grows older, he becomes more conservative. But I believe that most senior citizens are well-informed and prepared to vote wisely. Seniors today have the time and the aids to keep informed. It has been suggested that they often spend more hours in front of TV sets and radios than younger voters, and learn more about government through these media. TV and radio do help keep listeners close to issues and informed on problems. But I don't want to overstress such listening, because I believe that participating in local discussions in any kind of group is helpful.

Q. Would you say that seniors tend to become indifferent to the importance of voting?

A. Certainly I've seen no signs of it. They are not indifferent to the responsibilities, as well as the privileges of citizenship. But seniors should not only make sure to vote themselves—they should help get out the vote. Getting a representative vote—as near the whole qualified vote as possible—is vital and basic to good government. If our political candidates were elected by a majority of all people, we could abide safely by their choice. When only a minority of the people vote, and a majority of this minority elects our officials, trouble often follows.

Q. Would you recommend that more seniors try to run for public office?

A. Yes. Most younger men and women are so closely tied to running their homes, getting their children through school and participating in church and local problems that they have no freedom for office-holding. When the children leave home or reach the upper grades, both men and women find new time to serve in office. I'm thinking especially of Mrs. Frances P. Bolton of Ohio who brought up three sons. She came to Washington when her husband was elected to the House. After his death, the voters sent her to the House in a special 1940 election to fill his unexpired term. She's been re-elected to every Congress since.

Q. How can one make a start in public life?

Don't be afraid to make a beginning. My only political office before my late husband was elected to the House was election from my county to the Maine Republican Committee. Whatever contributions you are able to give begin with your informed vote. From there, with open eyes, you may find your own special way to serve our country. By participating in government, you will acquire a feeling of security which will permeate your whole life.

"Golden Fleece Award" Creator Dies

William Proxmire, a Democrat from Wisconsin who served in the United States Senate from 1957 to 1989, had much in common with Margaret Chase Smith. Proxmire was elected to fill the vacancy created by the death of Joseph McCarthy, the Wisconsin Republican who for many years was Smith's nemesis and had an entire "Era" named for him because of his anti-Communist crusade and witch-hunting tactics. Senator Proxmire was a tireless "watchdog" of wasteful government spending. Senator Smith likewise received the Golden Bulldog (*Pitts*) Award for being the "Watchdog of the Treasury." The first Golden Fleece Award was presented by Proxmire to the National Science Foundation for funding an \$84,000 study on "why people fall in love." Nationally known columnist Mark Shields said "my personal favorite remains the \$100,000 study to determine whether fish that had consumed tequila were more belligerent than fish that had stuck with gin."

In a letter to Senator Smith in December of 1970, Proxmire said, "It was wonderful to have your support on the amendment to delete funds for the SST [Supersonic Transport]. I know how strong the pressures were on all sides in this matter and I deeply appreciate your decision to oppose SST funding." In excerpts from other correspondence, Proxmire wrote, "Among my fondest memories of the Senate were recollections of you and your shining integrity. Even before I came to the Senate, the way you stood up to my predecessor thrilled many of us in Wisconsin. When President Kennedy moved on to the White House, I moved over to his desk in the Senate and the day after he died, I remember your graciousness in placing a rose on that Kennedy desk. It was so typical of your remarkable grace and thoughtfulness."

Proxmire refused to take any campaign contributions and was an early advocate of campaign finance reform. Smith did not accept campaign contributions and returned monies no matter how small or large. Both Proxmire and Smith took their jobs seriously. Smith's all-time consecutive roll call voting record was 2,941. Between 1966 and 1988, Proxmire responded to 10,252 consecutive roll call votes. Both Senators were harsh critics of absenteeism in the Senate. It would seem that legislators of today have much to emulate when following in the footsteps of William Proxmire and Margaret Chase Smith.

"Two of a kind" — Proxmire and Smith are shown in a February 1964 photo. In background is a painting of former Wisconsin Senator, Robert LaFollette.

Policy Center Receives Award

The New England Board of Higher Education's 2006 Higher Education Excellence Award recipients have been announced. NEBHE also awards six state merit awards and is pleased to present the Maine award to the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy's *Maine Policy Review*. The publication provides an independent analysis of public policy issues relevant to Maine by providing accurate information and thoughtful commentary. The journal is published two to three times per year by the Policy Center and the MCS Library, with the majority of articles written by Maine citizens, many of whom are readers of the journal. The journal encourages the submission of manuscripts concerning relevant public policy issues of the day or in response to articles already published in the journal.

Excellence Awards will be presented on February 24 to: The Honorable J. Joseph Garrahy, former Governor of Rhode Island; Father J. Donald Monan, Chancellor of Boston College; the New Hampshire Community Technical College System's Project Running Start; and Grace K. Fey of the University of Massachusetts.

(Slipper—Cont. from cover story) telling the truth to the people.’ This is probably a valid judgment by and large. It is the Great American, who in our tradition, departs from this description. I here assert my belief that our guest is one of these Americans! She is part of the great tradition who have insisted upon being themselves, and who never sacrificed their own intellectual and moral standards for popular favor. In 1950, at a time when the blackest clouds of prejudice disseminated by Joe McCarthy was poisoning American traditions of ‘fair play,’ she was the first Republican senator to attack him. She wrote the famed ‘Declaration of Conscience’ which was a bitter denunciation of all McCarthy represented. Six other Senators signed this Declaration which among other things stated, ‘I think it is high time we remembered that the Constitution speaks not only of Freedom of Speech but also of Trial by Jury, instead of Trial by Accusation. Those of us who shout the loudest about Americanism or making character assassinations are all too frequently those, who by their words and acts, ignore some of the basic principles of Americanism, namely, the right to criticize, the right to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest and the right to independent thought.’

It is generally agreed that our guest is one of the Nation’s most able legislators. Her greatness, however, also lies in her respect for human worth. She believes in the dignity of the individual, and as the Psalm says, ‘For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels and has crowned him with glory and honour.’ This philosophy she lives by, since she recognizes the essential dignity of the littlest human being among us, bade her speak when others were still. She is, therefore, deserving of the tribute that Anatole France paid to Emil Zola, who helped put to right the Dreyfus affair. ‘Zola,’ he said, ‘has honored his country and the world through an immense work and through a great action, envy him his destiny and his heart which made his lot that of the greatest, he was a moment of the conscience of man.’ It is thus, a memorable occasion for me to present to you, a lady of whom it should be said, she is a “moment in the Conscience of America, the Honorable Margaret Chase Smith, Senator from the State of Maine.”

Other women so honored were: Mary Roebling, Mrs. Efrem Zimbalist, Catherine MacFarlane, Althea Hottel, Elizabeth Eyerly, Dorothy Shaver, Ivy Baker Priest, Perle Mesta, Jennie Grossinger, Eloise English, and Inez Robb.

The Square Club, one of the foremost fraternal and philanthropic organizations in Philadelphia, has a membership of 900 business and professional men and women. It was originally affiliated with the National League of Masonic Clubs.

Madison Junior High School students, Marlisa Emerson and Brianna Moon, came up with the idea for a coin drive to raise money for Hurricane Katrina relief. In one day, the school collected \$500, which was presented to the American Red Cross. For the remainder of the school year, students will be helping a Louisiana school it has adopted. Brianna was born in Louisiana and still has family there. Angie Stockwell speaks to the group and library visitors about the extensive collection and research requests which come to the Library. MCS Fellowship student, Dominique Williams, looks on.

A 4th grader from the Chelsea Elementary School writes down the answer to his research question. Students are given questions relative to the career of Margaret Chase Smith. Answers can be found by reviewing the displays and time line.

Students representing the Cascade Brook School in Farmington and their classmates raised \$900 for Hurricane Katrina relief by holding a coin drive. The money, along with 100 stuffed animals and over 300 pen pal pencils, was sent to schools in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Did anyone notice the young girl on the right in the photo? It’s young Margaret Chase in a life-size blow-up.

Bloomfield Elementary School students from Skowhegan spent time reviewing their research questions with teacher Sharon Provost following their tour of the house and museum. .

Each year, Cottrill Elementary School, under the supervision of teacher Glenna Pomelow, spends time with the elderly at the Redington Memorial Home. In years past, some residents have accompanied the students to the Library for a tour of the house and museum.

First grade students from the Cottrell School in Monmouth made cards decorated with favorite animals and sold them to raise money for Heifer International. With nearly \$700 they bought two water buffalos, some sheep, and a trio of rabbits. They did it because they wanted "to change the world."

Senate Portrait Focus of Annual Appreciation Day

After four years, the Margaret Chase Smith portrait now hangs in the United States Capitol Building. The lengthy process was due to criteria that often makes it difficult to handle posthumous commissions. In speaking to visitors at the Library's annual Appreciation Day, artist Ron Frontin said he wanted Smith to look "presidential but approachable." In explaining his creative processes, Frontin talked about his initial interest in art. It came in the 5th grade when he won first place for his artistic interpretation of "Tom and Jerry." At this point, "I couldn't get enough of museums of art and tried to replicate the masters, painting all that touched my heart," said Frontin. Ron talked about composition, lighting, and his frugality in re-using canvas that was not quite to his liking in order to create something new. Well received by the audience, Ron's brief talk was most enlightening and educational.

Ron Frontin poses beside a portrait of his wife and child which is on display in the children's reading room at his local public library.

Death Has Come to Three Dear Friends

Shirley Nutting, a long-time Library volunteer, in addition to neighbor and personal friend of Senator Smith, passed away in November, leaving behind her loving husband, Linwood, daughter Lynda Quinn and son Peter, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Always available and willing to help at the MCS Library, Shirley generously gave of her time each week for over ten years until ill health prevented this warm, charming, and wonderful lady from leaving her home across the street and making herself available to the Library staff. No project at the Library is complete without credit to one of our finest volunteers and friends. We miss you, Shirley!

Barbara Temple, member of the Advisory/Friends Committee, who, along with husband Norman was instrumental in the establishment of the MCS Library, has passed away at the age of 81. Barbara was a devoted mother and grandmother and active in her Gardiner community for many years. She and Norm were very good friends of Senator Smith and actively involved in helping to assure that the Library continues to provide worthwhile projects and educational programs. Barbara will be missed, not only by her family, but by all those who were privileged to know her.

Dorothy "Bibby" Alfond and husband, Harold, have been dedicated benefactors to multiple worthy causes throughout the State of Maine. Bibby's death causes much sadness for those who were fortunate to know her personally as a warm and loving person. Appreciation for her involvement in many community projects was the driving force in naming many institutions in her honor. Such tributes include the visitors center at the Good Will-Hinckley campus, which was the original Chase Homestead and now houses the Senator Margaret Chase Smith Gallery. Other tributes include the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers, the Colby College Residence Center, the Cancer Center at the Maine General Medical Center, and the Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA in Waterville.

Shirley Nutting is shown working on a correspondence file project in 1998.

Barbara and Norm Temple are shown with Senator Smith during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Library in 1981.

Bibby Alfond addresses the audience at the dedication ceremony of the Bibby Alfond Visitors Center at the Good Will-Hinckley campus in 1996.

Students Continue Tradition of Laying Wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery

In 1894, a band of "displaced" Mainers got together in Washington DC, and organized the "Maine State Association," in order to maintain a home away from home, provide a little touch of Maine, keep alive a sense of roots, and boost the image of the State of Maine in the national capital. Today, over 100 years later, The Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. continues the practice begun in 1994 of laying wreaths on graves at Arlington. Wanting his students to become involved in this tradition, teacher Larry Ross of the MCS School in Skowhegan arranged for an educational field trip to Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, and New York City. Students were privileged to meet Christa McAuliffe's mother, Grace Corrigan, at the Challenger Learning Center at Framingham State College in Massachusetts; visit the Garden of Reflection in Makefield, Pennsylvania, in honor of one of the pilots killed on 9/11; visit with Reverend William Douglas Banks, a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings; lay wreaths at the nation's main veterans cemetery, and visit Ground Zero. All wreaths were donated by Morrill Worcester of the Maine Wreath Company in Cherryfield, Maine. Tributes were placed at the Kennedy gravesite, the Tomb of the Unknowns, as well as the USS Maine and Shuttle Challenger Memorials. Students were also able to visit the Russell Senate Office Building where Maine Senator Susan Collins spoke to them about her lifetime admiration of Senator Smith.

MCS School students stand in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial (above). The students helped place some of the 5,000 wreaths seen in the photo below.

The Albion Elementary School Student Council organized a coin drive and raised about \$600 for Hurricane Katrina relief. They also collected 2000 items for the local food pantry. A fifth-grade student with cancer was the recipient of a sunshine box filled with letters and presents as well as money for the family.

Book Signing/Reception Held for Author David Richards

Poland Spring: A Tale of the Gilded Age, 1860-1900, became the focus of a well-attended gathering at the Library on November 6. Assistant Director Dr. David Richards explained how he became interested in the topic and the process of writing the book. He went on to describe how a country farm in 1860 was transformed by 1900 into a "summer city," having become one of the grandest resort communities in the entire country. Attending the reception was Gloria Ricker Gramaglia, a direct descendant of the Rickers, the family that turned "the fountain of health" at Poland Spring into "mountain of wealth."

Skowhegan Downtown Manager Named

Audrey Lovering brings much to this position, not only because of her love for downtown renewal, but also because of her background as a secondary school educator, fundraiser, and public relations intern. Her advanced training in economic analysis, appraisal, and evaluation, project management, grant writing, and strategic planning will bode well for the community as she begins work as the new Downtown Manager. During a recent visit to the Library, it was discovered that Audrey's history also included a "Betty Crocker" association with Senator Smith. During a 1988 field trip with fellow students from Bonny Eagle Junior High School in Standish, Audrey presented Senator Smith with a cake decorated in red roses made by her mother.

Audrey is shown with a 1988 photo of her presenting Senator Smith with a "rose" cake.

Dr. Richards greets Sr. Joyce Mahany and Gloria Ricker Gramaglia and at a reception in his honor in November.

Dr. Richards holds a 1949 photo of the Maine Business and Professional Women's Convention which Margaret Chase Smith attended at the Poland Spring resort.

Audrey Kowatch, Angie Albright, Library Administrator Lynnette King, Dominique Williams, and Jennifer Denver sort wool with sheep farmer, Joe Miller, prior to learning how to card wool.

Angie Albright attempts to spin wool at the Rivercroft Farm in Starks, Maine.

State Senator Janet Mills took time from her busy schedule to describe the workings of Maine government.

Students are shown with Library staffers, Crystal Perkins and Angie Stockwell, in Governor John Baldacci's office during a trip to the Maine State House, Maine State Museum, and Blaine House.

Following its success constructing an electric car, the Electrathon Team at Foster Regional Applied Technical Center in Farmington has moved on to a project to build a solar-powered car. The Library wishes these young engineers success, breaking the nation of its "addiction to oil."

Red Hat Ladies Out for Fun (and a little education, too)! Diane, Linda, Margaret, Marlene and Diddie visited in January.

Teachers Tabitha Brewer and Lauren Taylor were proud of their 4th grade Canaan Elementary School students who held a food drive and collected 1015 items for the local food cupboard.

The Forest Hills Student Council from Jackman raised \$3000 for Hurricane Katrina relief. The entire community got involved in a project to donate \$20,000 worth of lumber to a hurricane-damaged school in Bogalusa, Louisiana. The two schools are hoping to continue the relationship through student exchanges.

Students from the Lyman Moore Middle School visited during October. Ninety-eight students divided their time between the Library and team building exercises on the grounds. They enjoyed a picnic lunch and viewed the video on Senator Smith's life, toured the house and Library and discussed their aspirations with Assistant Director Dr. David Richards. With such large groups, students are rotated from indoor to outdoor activities, a system which works best when the weather cooperates.

These two Bloomfield Elementary School students study the material in display cases for answers to research questions provided by the Library as part of their visit. Their field trip also included a visit to the Skowhegan Free Public Library and the Skowhegan History House.

Students from Erskine Academy in South China, Maine, load relief goods for transport by Ray Brown, a logger by trade, and father to Nichole Brown who visited the Library with Brittney Greene and Whitney Underwood in November. Mr. Brown was going to Louisiana to harvest "blow downs" before the trees begin to rot. A Plum Creek forester visiting with the student group from Jackman (see p.6) said there are about 125,000 acres of downed trees that need to be salvaged. The entire school collected food, water, and personal hygiene products. The Sophomore class also had a community service day in which they worked on trails and cleaned up the playground, in addition to sorting and packing the goods for Katrina relief. Brittney, Whitney and Nichole are shown in the insert at upper left.

Leadership Students Undertake Projects

The Student Leadership Class at Lawrence High School in Fairfield, under the supervision of Steve Knight and Eric Brown, was involved in multiple community service projects. These active and altruistic teens organized a coin drive for Hurricane Katrina which resulted in collecting \$1200, which was matched by local businesses. They also collected more than eight bags of coats for the Coats for Kids project with the assistance of elementary school students from Albion, Benton, and Clinton. They made Thanksgiving baskets for four families with the help of the National Honor Society. They spoke to a school-wide assembly about the Pakistan earthquake, which resulted in collecting over \$650 for survivors through coin and bottle drives and selling movie passes. The money was sent to Doctors Without Borders. The students also collected \$1300 for tsunami victims as part of the Sahana Project and were noted as being the number one donor school. They also held a Homecoming Dance to raise money for Christmas gifts which were presented to eight children who are now part of the case load of a former LHS Leadership Class student who currently works for the Department of Human Services. As if the aforementioned projects were not enough, the students also stacked four cords of wood and moved propane bottles for a ranger during their climb to Mt. Katahdin, Maine's tallest mountain.

Lawrence High School's Student Leadership Class

Student/Teacher Comments:

(Referring to the amount of daily mail MCS received) "I would probably write back a day after I got all that mail, too. She must have written until it was 8:00 or later. Margaret Chase must have been very tired at the end of the day." *Melissa, Cornville Elementary School*

(Referring to President Eisenhower visit in 1955) "I cannot stop thinking about where the president laid. Margaret Chase Smith was very generous to let him take a nap in her house." *Allison, Cornville Elementary School*

"On behalf of the Albion students, I would like to thank you for inviting our children to visit and tour the Margaret Chase Smith Library and house. You commended our students for the caring they showed for others in need. I commend you for helping us educate our youngsters and showing them that their efforts make a difference." *Claudette Massey, Principal, Albion Elementary School*

The Energy Patrol students at Messalonskee Middle School monitor the lights and televisions in 75 rooms throughout the school. To date, they have saved the school about \$75 per month in lower electric bills. They will be testing light levels to see if they can be reduced, coordinating an energy audit, and overseeing the installation of vending misers.

Students representing the Skowhegan Area High School National Honor Society and the Sustainable Future Club raised money for Hurricane Katrina relief by holding a Karaoke Extravaganza in which students bid for selected teachers to sing selected songs at a school assembly. Science teacher Mary Finnemore graciously sang "Hot Stuff." The project raised \$700 for the American Red Cross. The National Honor Society also organized school blood drives and participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The Sustainable Future Club oversees recycling, composting, and energy conservation at the high school.

“Trivia” Answer from November Newsletter—The answer (marriage) is on page 5 in the text of the “Fall Fellowship” article. Margaret Chase Smith got married on May 14, 1930. Congratulations to Art Crowell for being the first to respond with the correct answer and location. Others responding were Phillis Russakoff, Sharon Worthley, Michael Lord, and Dara McIntire. The February trivia question is: What was the name of the one-room school house in which Margaret Chase taught? 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!

Valentine Cartoons on Display til March 31

On January 27, 1964, Margaret Chase Smith announced her candidacy for the Presidency. As luck would have it, 1964 was a leap year, and an old saying was that a girl could ask a guy to marry her in a leap year. Cartoonists loved that image and used it to poke fun at Senator Smith’s run for the Presidency. The Library is currently displaying some of the cartoons featuring Senator Smith as the **Leap Year Valentine**. These images depict her chasing after the Presidency, the Grand Old Party, and other presidential hopefuls, including Barry Goldwater, Nelson Rockefeller, Henry Cabot Lodge, and Richard Nixon. “**Triangle Affair**” was drawn by cartoonist Vic Runtz and published in the Bangor Daily News on the February



Attorney and free-lance political analyst Paul Mills came to study the Peter Garland and Stanley Tupper files. Both were Maine congressmen during the 1950s and 1960s. Tupper’s recent death prompted the inquiry by Mills.

"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.

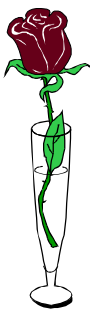
Hours: Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Telephone: 207-474-7133; FAX: 207-474-8878

e-mail: angies@mcslibrary.org; gpg@mcslibrary.org; or davidr@mcslibrary.org.

Web Address: www.mcslibrary.org

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 label.

Remove name from mailing list.