

# Mill

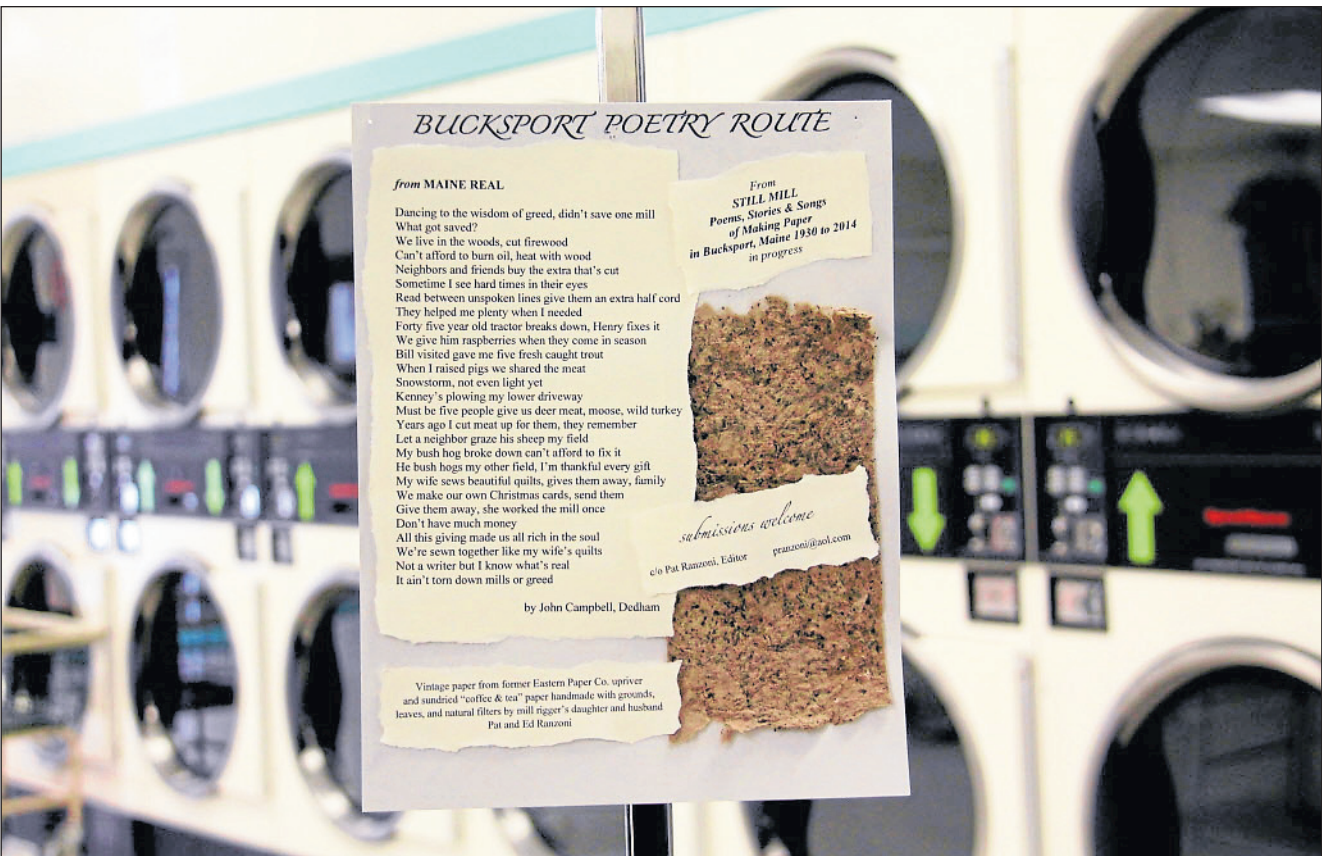
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Doyle is from a paper-making family. His grandfather, mother and brother all worked at the mill, and he has fond memories associated with it.

“My grandfather was a machinist in the woodyard when I was a kid, so he only worked the day shift and got out of work at [4 p.m.] every day. Part of our routine as a family was for my grandfather to come home that time in the afternoon,” he said.

He remembers his grandfather would always stop at the store after work and call his grandmother to see if she needed anything picked up for dinner. He would come home, wash his hands, put on a fresh shirt and sit down to read the newspaper. This routine daily moment remains a fond childhood memory of Doyle’s.

“I have great respect for the millworkers. They’re really proud of the work they did at the mill, and they should be. ... It’s important both as a way of grieving



An excerpt of the poem “Maine Real” by John Campbell of Dedham is paired with paper made by Ed and Pat Ranzoni and exhibited by Gold Star Laundromat. Campbell and his wife, Linda, worked at the Bucksport mill for decades.

and as a way of honoring that heritage and as a way of finding hope for the future. ... The next generation or

two — they’re gonna hear about the mill, and it’s going to be really important for them to hear those stories

and understand that heritage,” Doyle said.

The mill has been a way of life and a cultural experi-

ence for many of Bucksport’s residents, just like all those in Maine’s mill towns.

HANS KRICHELS



TROY R. BENNETT | BDN

Using black ink, a brush and a steady right hand, Portland artist Aaron Staples creates a detailed painting of an oyster shell. Greenpeace recently hired Staples to create art for their yearlong campaign against environmental and human rights issues associated with the Asian tuna-fishing industry.

# Artist

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ful and captivating visual stories,” she said in an email. “Because the Not Just Tuna campaign shows how current methods of fishing tuna impact, both the diversity of marine life and the humans who are working in terrible conditions, we knew we needed a special artist to be able to illustrate that complexity. Furthermore, our campaign is global, but Aaron’s images don’t need to be translated — they tell the entire story of the campaign in images.”

Within Staples’ large images of the fish themselves are detailed scenes of overfishing, bycatch and the human toll of tuna fishing.

A vertical image of an albacore, illustrates the problems with long lining, showing the unintended catch.

“It’s basically miles and miles of lines that are set out with baited hooks, and it really just picks up anything in the ocean: Turtles, sharks and seabirds are often caught on the indiscriminate hooks,” Staples said. “It’s heartbreaking. You wonder how people can do this. But, you know, these are people who really have no choice. They are trying to fill the boat as fast as they can and make as much money as possible and they are receiving, generally, slave wages. It’s the major companies which are sanctioning this cruelty.”

Which leads to his depiction of a yellowfin, showing the harrowing conditions many of the workers face.

“There are stories of people’s experiences on these boats that are absolutely horrific,” he said. “Life is worth very little at sea.”

The third images is of a skipjack. It shows a “fish aggregating device,” a man-made object floating on the surface, tethered to the bottom.

“It sort of becomes this shoal where smaller fish will come to hide, larger fish pursue them and it creates a sort of ecosystem, floating in the middle of the ocean.”

Then fishing vessels come with large nets and scoop up everything — tuna or not.

“It’s basically bear-baiting at sea,” Staples added.

Greenpeace paid Staples to create the large paintings, but because he believes in their cause, he gave them a substantial discount. He

usually doesn’t keep close track of how long it takes to create a piece, but a film crew watched him make the final image of the skipjack and it took a full 80 hours.

“If I was to break them down hourly, it would be less than minimum wage,” he said.

The organization will display the paintings and disseminate the digital copies throughout the coming year to raise awareness of the tuna-related issues. Eventually, the originals will be auctioned off at a fundraising gala.

Staples said he understands that art alone won’t change anything. People must stop buying tuna from the worst offending companies.

“It’s easy to become pessimistic. It’s basically money that motivates any sort of change,” he said. “But working with Greenpeace amplifies my voice more than I could do on my own.”

He hopes people looking at his images will have conversations they might not otherwise have had and make them think twice about their choice of tuna sandwich filling.

“All we can do is say something. Whether or not we change somebody’s mind, at least we can say we tried and did what we thought was right,” he said.

# Tours

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why don’t we get a bunch of homes decorated and sell tickets to see them?” she said.

At first the chamber recruited only older homes for the tour. However, the chamber is now including a variety.

“Not everybody goes for the historic aspect,” Keay said. “A lot of people go to see the decorations.

“This year we have a beautiful new home that people are curious about,” she said.

People also are curious about John and Christina Smith’s house, referred to in the program as the “Newcomb house” after the original builder, John Newcomb, who came to Eastport in 1792.

When Keay stopped by to see how the Smiths’ renovations were going, she asked the couple if they were interested in being a part of the tour, she said.

“We talked about it and said, ‘You know what? That might be fun,’” said John Smith, adding he and his wife had gone on the tour for several years but never participated as hosts.

John and Christina Smith, who are originally from California, moved to Eastport in 2010. They started a company, Beyond Renovations, to restore old and abandoned homes, renovat-



MEG KEAY

The Hayden house dining room with a chandelier, flowers and a tree is shown during last year’s house tour sponsored by the Eastport Area Chamber of Commerce.

ed several in Eastport, and sold them or rented them out. They decided to keep the one that will be in the tour because the three-story building with 17 rooms is big enough for Christina Smith’s art studio and John Smith’s library and bookstore.

Renovations took about a year to complete. Decorating was considerably easier, requiring the two of them to work only about 10 hours each, Smith said.

Decorations include four

The dance will feature family-friendly music for all ages and all dances are taught. Caller is John McIntire with live music by Some Reel People. Admission is \$7 per person, \$12 per family. For information, call 277-3961 or 924-3925.

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## Baked bean supper at snowmobile club

HAMPDEN — A public baked bean supper will be held 4:30-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at Hampden Snowmobile Club, 844 Western Ave.

Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children.

## Family contradance at Garland Grange

GARLAND — A family contradance will be held 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at Garland Grange Hall, Oliver Hill Road.

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