

YESTERDAY

10 years ago — Sept. 8, 2006

(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)
SKOWHEGAN — No longer will behemoth mills be constructed in central Maine. No longer will massive shoe factories set up shop here.

“The structure of the economy is changing,” Skowhegan Town Planner Bruce Keller said Thursday at the second annual countywide Creative Economy Forum.

Surrounded by local artwork, more than two dozen town and state officials, artists, photographers, publishers and others discussed how creativity and the arts can benefit the local economy.

Skowhegan officials, in particular, were paying close attention. The shire town is using \$650,000 in state Community Development Block Grant funding to revitalize its downtown. Midway through the process, more than \$100,000 will be spent on facades, decorative lighting, flowers, and safer crosswalks. The entire infrastructure is being updated with new sewer and water systems.

But it will be shifting the local mind-set, Keller said, that will be the challenge.

“My role will be to translate what I learn here today,” he said, adding that understanding what the creative economy is will be the first step.

Artists, musicians, potters, bakers, cooks, sculptors, designers, carpenters, weavers and any other venue where creativity is employed qualifies, explained John Rohman of Bangor, chairman of the Maine Arts Commission. Rohman presented a program Thursday outlining the state’s creative economy and its impact.

“We are trying to shift people to the new economy,” Rohman said, an economy that focuses less on high-volume, low-price manufacturing and services to both high-value traditional industries - such as value-added agriculture, fisheries, arts and culture, design and specialty foods - and new economy industries such as graphic design and computer software.

Rohman used as examples a linen manufacturer in Hallowell who is shipping his finished products all over the world, three Maine fabric architecture manufacturers that are known all over the country, and the international reputation of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts on Deer Isle.

“My daughter lives in Montana and my son lives in Colorado,” Rohman said. When visiting them, he easily can buy Maine’s Stonewall Kitchen products, he said.

“We are raising the bar within those industries,” he said. Maine is gaining such a reputation for success within the creative economy that representatives of the New England Creative Economy Council will be visiting both Portland and Bangor within the next three weeks.

“They noticed that we are doing a much better job than the rest of New England, and they are coming to see what is happening here,” Rohman said.

In Maine, creative entrepreneurs are banding together and helping each other, he said. In Dover-Foxcroft, for example, creative residents have moved to and returned to town, forging a new direction for the community. A theater reopened, restaurants are booming and the arts are seeing a new surge and demand.

“This section of Maine’s economy is growing faster and higher than the rest of the economy,” Rohman added.

In 2003, Maine’s arts and cultural sector generated more than \$2.5 billion in revenues, growing at a rate of 4.44 percent compared to 2.6 percent for the rest of the economy.

The annual American Folk Festival in Bangor is a clear indication of that, Rohman said.

“When we first hosted the National Folk Festival five years ago, people said that we were crazy, that we’d never get 10,000 people,” he said. “In the first year, we had 65,000 people and this year, there were 165,000 people. That brings in six to seven million real dollars to the Bangor community.”

Audrey Lovering, downtown manager of the MainStreet Skowhegan program, is hoping that Skowhegan can build the same type of focus in the county seat. “Without art downtown,” she asked, “what do we have?”

Rohman suggested each community represented use a new community handbook created by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and the Creative Economy Steering Committee.

The handbook provides 10 strategic steps a community can follow to take advantage of its own creative economy.

PICTURE FROM THE PAST



BANGOR DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO BY DANNY MAHER

These are the buildings the city has bought in Pickering Square which will be torn down in order to redesign the square for 104 additional parking spaces in August 1959. The wrecking bids were due September 14. The entire project is estimated at \$125,000. The project takes in the entire block bounded by Broad, Water and Independent Streets and Pickering Square.

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“This is a road map,” he said.

25 years ago - Sept. 8, 1991

(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)

ORONO — Several dozen people gathered beside Shibles Hall at the University of Maine Saturday morning to usher in the campus’s latest construction project, a \$7 million business administration building.

Among the guests at the groundbreaking ceremony was Francelia Corbett, who donated \$1 million to get the project started. The remaining \$6 million was approved by voters three years ago.

With part of the foundation already in place, university officials said they expected the building to be completed by the fall of 1992.

Corbett made the donation earlier this year on behalf of her late husband, Donald P. Corbett, a UM alumnus and former member of the University of Maine board of trustees. The 48,000-square-foot brick building, which will be located between Shibles and Murray halls, will bear his name.

When completed, the three-story building will house the growing College of Business Administration with space for offices, computer labs, a 350-seat lecture hall and about a half dozen classrooms.

“You literally made a dream come true for those of us in the college,” W. Stanley Devino, the college’s dean, told Corbett.

He said that the college had outgrown the space it shared with the anthropology department in South Stevens Hall. Devino also said that the college boasts more than 1,000 undergraduate students and about 100 master’s degree candidates.

Acting UM President John C. Hitt said that the university’s business administration program was one of only three programs in northern New England that is accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. Among the estimated 1,200 programs nationwide, Hitt said only about 230 have been accredited through the AACSB, the primary accrediting organization.

During the ceremony, Hitt and others, such as philanthropist Harold Alfond, described the late Corbett as someone who set high standards and expectations and had a great affinity for the university. Both Corbetts graduated from UM with the Class of 1934. Donald Corbett, who died in 1988, served as a trustee from 1956 to 1962.

The new hall will not be the only Corbett Hall on campus. An old dormitory also bears the Corbett name and apparently was named after Donald Corbett’s uncle.

LUBEC — Mary O’Donnell Finnegan, a Lubec native and great-grandmother of three, was awarded a doctorate in humanities from Florida State University in Tallahassee at the age of 83.

Finnegan retired officially in 1972 after 35 years of teaching Latin, English, French and Social Studies to New Hampshire high school students. Her love of learning took her into the classroom again, this time earning a master’s degree from Tufts University, teaching several years at the University of New Hampshire’s School for Lifelong Learning, and as a teaching assistant at Florida State University, now her alma mater.

Other honors that Mary Finnegan has earned include a Distinguished Service Award from the Classical Association of New England, the Most Distinguished Alumna award from the College of New Rochelle, an honorary doctorate degree from the University of New Hampshire and professor emeritus status from the University of New Hampshire System.

Finnegan’s roots to native Washington County are important to this self-professed “Lubecker.” She graduated from Lubec High School as Salutatorian before her 16th birthday, where she received “excellent college preparatory instruction.”

Her ancestral home in West Lubec is familiar and unique to many, boasting a fan design over the front door. This dwelling, the subject of an article she is writing for the Lubec Historical Society, was where Mary Finnegan was born and from which she was married. Four generations of her family lived there between 1831 and 1941 and only one other family has owned the home since it was built many years ago.

On a recent summer visit Finnegan experienced another college campus as an Elderhostel student at the University of Maine at Machias. Two years later she returned as a teacher in the popular program and shared stories of how the ancient Greeks enjoyed a sense of humor. “Humor is the universality of human nature,” Finnegan told her students. “People may have different ideas and lifestyles, but they have held the same hopes and fears and dreams through the centuries. It is humor that makes life bearable.”

50 years ago — Sept. 8, 1966

(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)

AUGUSTA — The chairman of the Baxter State Park Authority said he will request in his annual budget proposal \$5,000 to establish added safety features on Mt. Katahdin.

Forest Commissioner Austin Wilkins said the three-man authority has proposed methods ranging from emergency rescue caches to free brochures which will aid in promoting safety on the mountain.

Wilkins stated: “While we are keeping in mind the codes governing the use of the park established by former Gov. Percival Baxter when he donated the land, we feel justified in any

move that will ensure safety with the limits of the park.”

The forestry commissioner had explained earlier this week in a talk before the Millinocket and East Millinocket Chambers of Commerce that three new gate houses on park entrances are being erected.

“In addition to these,” he said, “we will erect signs along the trails leading up the mountain warning of the dangers of leaving the trails. This has proved to be a common problem with mishaps on the mountain.” Wilkins pointed out.

“We feel that signs warning of the dangers of slippery rocks and leaving the marked trails will adequately relieve some of the dangers encountered by the amateur climber.”

Wilkins expressed the belief that the authority cannot prevent future accidents that are bound to occur on the mountain. “We can only ensure that safety features are there, and in this way attempt to keep the accidents to a minimum.”

The commissioner explained that along some of the trails, which have not yet been selected, the authority will provide shelters for use in “emergency cases only.”

The brochures that Wilkins referred to would be distributed at the gate houses to each visitor of the park.

Wilkins explained that contained in the booklets would be information on mountain climbing, wearing apparel and what to do in certain types of weather.

The new Bangor Housing Study Committee hardly launched its work Thursday when it became apparent that gathering of updated general data on the subject would probably have to await finished reports from the city’s comprehensive planning study currently underway.

The committee was appointed recently by the City Council to review housing conditions and needs here, and reuse of Capehart living units.

At the committee’s initial “work” session, a lineup of department directors from urban renewal, public health and planning, submitted initial information.

But from Planning Director Carl Kosobud and Comprehensive Planning Consultant Richard Wengraf, the group learned that many of their questions on housing conditions were currently being

surveyed in the larger plan.

Kosobud and Wengraf agreed that data would not be ready possibly until late this year.

They said that although their studies entailed neighborhood analysis, the results would indicate which neighborhoods or blocks needed housing corrections rather than being so specific as to point out conditions house by house.

The committee’s job will be to determine generally the housing picture and come up with recommendations on federal programs, possibly a public housing program for Bangor if their findings so indicate. A major element in the citizen study will be how to fit Capehart into the housing program.

Urban Renewal Director Harold Thurlow told the group that urban renewal actually has a small impact on the general housing picture. He said that only 80 families were involved in relocations from the Stillwater Park project, 40 percent of them moving outside the city limits.

Thurlow said that although a third urban renewal project, in the Hancock Street area, has been contemplated for some years, detailed studies showing how many buildings and families and what relocation housing existed had never been carried out.

Under questioning, he guessed that a third project would probably await the point where Bangor’s downtown project showed redevelopment and solid tax returns to the city, “until the downtown economy is pretty well established.” He estimated this point to be two to three years away.

He said offers had been received for 15 of the 204 Stillwater Park housing lots, the city’s first urban renewal project, but they had gone on sale only since July 21, and “we have not yet started our big promotional push.”

100 years ago - Sept. 8, 1916

(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)

On Friday night, 4,500 persons went in one of the worst storms of the season to Bangor Auditorium to hear a 50-minute address by Charles Evans Hughes, Republican candidate for president of the United States.

The estimate of 4,500 is conservative — for every seat in the immense building was taken, while many stood. It was the climax of the Maine campaign — the last link in

the chain that is to forge a Republican victory on Monday. And it was the most impressive political demonstration Maine has known since the days of James G. Blaine.

On Friday morning, Mr. Hughes spoke in Lewiston, and on Friday afternoon in Waterville and Pittsfield. In all three he was enthusiastically greeted; but his Bangor welcome was a revolution. It was a spectacular panorama of cheering throngs, marching men in uniform, band music, flaring torches, red fire — a reminder of the good old days, when much of the life was not refined out of politics, and an unmistakable indication of the sentiment of eastern Maine. And it continued until 10:39, when the candidate retired to his private car in the Maine Central station after one of the most strenuous day in even his red-blooded career.

EASTPORT — It was late Thursday night when the second annual Fish Fair came to an end and the last fakir had packed his wares and departed. It was estimated that fully 12,000 strangers visited the city Thursday and about 8,000 Wednesday, and the majority of these visitors came from the many Canadian settlements about Passamaquoddy Bay and Bay of Fundy. The most important event along the water front Thursday was the 7 h.p. motor boat race, with five entries and only one of them an American craft. The other four are owned at Wilson’s Beach, N.B. This race was won by Captain Charles Newman of Wilson’s Beach, who also came in a winner last fall, and he retains the handsome silver cup offered by ex-Mayor E.M. Cherry, president of the Fish Fair Association. Newman’s time was 25 minutes and 50 seconds, the course being estimated at 4 ½ miles.

Crowds visited the North Carolina as she remained at anchor until 5 p.m., and the daring flights in the two hydroaeroplanes from the ship and circling not only the entire harbor but the city, was one of the finest exhibitions of the two days. The ship’s band came ashore for the ball game during the afternoon and rendered excellent music.

There were more motor boats tied up at the wharves on the closing day than ever seen here before. Assistant Secretary of Navy Franklin Roosevelt enjoyed both days.

Death Notices

SOMERS, Michael L., Hampden.

ROBBINS, James Elmer, 104, Deer Isle; at Deer Isle, Aug. 29, 2016. Jordan-Fernald, 49 Main St., Blue Hill.

ALMENA, Almena B. Lenfestey Faulkingham, 85, Jonesport, Aug. 31, 2016. Service 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, at the Church of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, West Jonesport. McClure Family Funeral Services, Machias.

WASHBURN, George ‘Jeff’ F. III, Laconia, NH, Aug. 29, 2016. Service 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ. Tossing Funeral Home.

NEWBEGIN, Cheryl M., 68, Caribou; at Bangor, Aug. 31, 2016. Service 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, at Mockler Funeral Home, 24 Reservoir St., Caribou.

LISCOMB, Elizabeth A., 60, Bar Harbor, Feb. 27, 2016. Service 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, at Holy Redeemer Cemetery, Bar Harbor. Jordan-Fernald, 1139 Main St., Mount Desert.

DECKERS, Annette Jeanne, 58, Lamoine; at Bangor, Aug. 21, 2016. Service 2 p.m. Sept. 11, at Lamoine State Park waterfront.

BATES, Margaret M., 87, Ellsworth; at Bar Harbor, Sept. 1, 2016. Jordan-Fernald, 1139 Main St., Mount Desert.

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