

(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)

Downtown Bangor might be able to learn a few things from Belfast, Camden, Ellsworth and Rockland, but it should not take all of its redevelopment cues from their successes, according to Bangor Center officials.

The downtown organization took 20 of its members on a bus tour on Thursday to the four coastal communities, both to glean a few tips on how to draw more people to the city's core and to reinforce the effective steps that Bangor already has taken toward this goal.

Bangor Center is funded by a special assessment placed on properties in a defined downtown district and operates independently of the local government, according to Sally Bates. Bates is the city's business and economic development officer and provides staff support to the downtown organization.

All four coastal stops on the bus tour have bustling downtowns, and all are facing development challenges in areas that abut their urban centers. Belfast, Ellsworth and Rockland all are working to improve their waterfronts, while Camden is trying to find tenants to fill the Knox Mill, which in 1994 was renovated into offices for credit-card lender MBNA but then vacated by the company last year.

Bangor also is pursuing an ambitious plan to renovate its waterfront, which, as in the other communities, is connected to its downtown.

The city's center is different from those in the other municipalities, however, in significant ways, according to people who went on the trip.

Brad Ryder, owner of Epic Sports and an officer with Bangor Center, said that Bangor's downtown is not a tourist destination during the summer. Parke Clemons, president of the group and general manager of Republic Parking, indicated that other municipalities would love to have entities with dozens of year-round employees located in their downtowns.

In Bangor, the University of Maine System and its 120 employees recently moved into the former W.T. Grant

building on Central Street. The pending relocation of Eastern Maine Development Corp. is expected to result in 50 workers moving into Norumbega Hall on Harlow Street by the end of the year.

Hollywood Slots at Bangor has opened its racino on Main Street, and in the next couple of years the Penobscot County Courthouse and the Bangor Police Department are expected to move into new buildings downtown.

25 years ago — Nov. 12, 1990

OLD TOWN — City officials here, always looking for ways to draw new life to the once vibrant downtown area, will begin reviewing plans this week to remodel the riverfront.

On Tuesday, the City Council will hold a public hearing to test public sentiment on a proposal to seek an application for a community development block grant, which, if approved, will be used to remove the old "pie plate" building and to conduct a study of the river front.

If all goes well, the city would work to attract some form of development to the Water and Main streets area. Although a CDBG application includes no specific amount requested, it does require the city to match 20 percent of the funds granted, according to City Manager David O. Cole.

The so-called pie plate building now is used for storage by the James River Corp., and is located across Main Street from Canoe City Video and Appliance.

If approved, the plans would set into motion the second of a one-two economic punch thrown by the city, which currently is working in concert with the James River Corp. to secure expansion at its mill here. Various public officials and private residents here have been working for some time to design a plan that would breathe new life into the down-town area, which during the pre-mall era witnessed bustling stores and crowded sidewalks.

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ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The University of Maine may not be a contender for a national football title, but the Black Bears' fight song ranks No. 5 in the eyes of one student of gridiron themes.

PICTURE FROM THE PAST



BANGOR DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO BY DANNY MAHER

A part of the Bangor residential scene since the early '40's, Fairmount Terrace off Union Street ("G.I. Village") is disappearing. Demolition contractor Frank Currier of Bradley has been hired to raze 37 buildings on the 23-acre site that will eventually be developed as a city-wide park. The government-owned development housed 43 military families up to last June. Above, one section is seen after stripping and start of demolition.

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Topping the list is Notre Dame's "Cheer, Cheer for Old Notre Dame" followed by the University of Michigan's "The Victors," the University of Wisconsin's "On Wisconsin" and Yale's "Down the Field."

The rating comes from Bill Studwell, a librarian at Northern Illinois University, who spent more than a month listening to recorded songs and watching football games before choosing the top 13 songs in the country.

"No one's going to like the list except for Notre Dame," said Studwell.

The winners came from a pool of 30 to 40 songs graded for music quality, lyrics and overall tone.

Studwell couldn't choose between the Naval Academy's "Anchors Aweigh" and the University of Maine's "Stein Song." So he ranked them both in fifth place.

Although Studwell is an avid Navy fan and his nephew graduated from the academy, he felt the school's fight song was not as inspiring as others.

"Anchors Aweigh" is not

as great as others at killing the opposition," he said. "It has almost a waltz beat to it, like a destroyer going up and down the ocean."

50 years ago — Nov. 12, 1965

BANGOR — Bangor's Symphony Orchestra will open its 69th season Sunday at 8:15 p.m., a the Bangor High School, Lawrence A. Peakes Auditorium.

The program, Peter Re directing, will include the 8th Symphony of Beethoven, The Overture to Die Frieschutz by Weber, music from the Royal Fireworks Suite by Handel, and Bartok's Roumanian Skethces.

The occasion prompts the question: What does it require to create a symphony orchestra?

First, musicians — string players, brass, percussionists, woodwinds — hopefully, with symphonic experience. Playing in a symphony orchestra is like no other musical endeavor. It requires a fine sense of performance with emphasis on

the ensemble. The individual player can contribute or detract from the overall sound of his section by his sensitivity, or lack of it.

In a community the size of Bangor, where the number of musicians with symphonic backgrounds is limited, it becomes the professional's responsibility to impart as much of his or her skill as possible to those who play for pleasure in a completely amateur status. It should be pointed out, however, that the term amateur does not denote lack of ability. In many cases a serious amateur can meet some of the highest standards of performance. Simply, he is one who plays for fun, but not for profit.

The Bangor Symphony is a community orchestra of amateurs and a few professionals. They donate their time and services for the satisfaction of playing great music by great composers.

Holding these elements of musicianship together, and directing their efforts toward a common goal is

the conductor, Peter Re of Colby College.

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BREWER — Freshman City Councilman Richard P. Ruhlin has proposed a redevelopment program that would turn one of Brewer's blighted areas into a modern, tax-paying business district.

Ruhlin says that he has considerable support in the council for the project that would spur at least a quarter million dollars in new construction on Betton Street.

The plan would have the city purchase four parcels of land on Betton Street and tear down existing dilapidated buildings. A portion of the land would be made into an off-street municipal lot while the rest would be resold to local concerns interested in expansion.

Ruhlin says that he is in contact with at least three concerns that are definitely interested in constructing new buildings in the area.

100 years ago — Nov. 12, 1915

ORONO — Bananas, the little club which has proved such a valuable asset to the football team as a mascot this fall, has been sold, and will leave the campus today. Coach Smith, who has had the care of "Bananas," thinks that his usefulness is over and that caring for him through the winter will prove too great a task; and no place is available for him to take the long sleep which is one of the habits of the bear family. Much regret is felt and shown by the students over the departure of such a good friend as "bananas" has been, and considerable talk has been current concerning the getting up of a subscription to buy him back again. No definite action has been taken, though Coach Smith has already kept his pet several days over the time set for him to leave. The idea may go through yet, for it is certain that every student would gladly help "bananas," that other teams might have the advantage of a mascot. "Bananas" has been promised to a party in Texas, but hte final deal has not yet gone through.

Compiled by Emily Burnham & Aimee Thibodeau

**He wanted 16.
He got 38.**

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