



Milo Historical Society Newsletter

High Street, Milo, Maine 04463 ● www.milohistorical.org

President: Virgil Valente, Vice President: Kathryn Witham,
Secretary: Allen Monroe, Treasurer: Susan McLeod, Curator: Gwen Bradeen
Trustees: Seth Barden, Audrey Chadwick, Margaret Pinette, Trelba Rollins

A Message From Our President

A lot has happened since Dr. Monroe passed away and I took over as president. It started when we had an assessment of the collection and the building done with a CAP grant in 2006. I will limit my remarks to the building itself since our curator will address any issues of the collection.

The contractor we hired to shingle the roof just prior to this assessment did a poor job and in fact we had leaks into the display area that were noticed by the assessors. We were worse off with our roof after the shingling than we were before. We lost the ceiling in the bathroom and part of the upstairs storage area near the steeple. Part of the ceiling repair and removal of an extra sink was done by Carroll Witham and crew who donated their time. As a stopgap measure, we paid a contractor \$550 to stabilize the roof until spring so we could put the job out for bid. We had plywood put down before the shingles to cover all the boards of the roof and then had ice and water shield added to the whole roof area before the new shingles were applied. The total cost of the new roof the second time was over \$15,000. This money was raised through donations, including \$10,000 given to us at the March Town Meeting.

We also had the back wall of the cellar rot out so that the cellar was open to the outside. Mark Knapp and his crew redid the wall using \$280 worth of supplies and donated their labor. Since the only access from the outside of the building to the cellar was sealed again, we had a new oil tank installed at the same time as the assessment noted that the old one was close to rupturing. Our furnace is relatively new, and we carry a service agreement on it. We do have a trap door in the museum to access the furnace.

The cellar is mostly a crawl space with an area dug out for the furnace and oil tank. It is a dirt cellar with granite blocks set on top of the ground to support the outside walls. The opening allowed moisture to get in, and we started to have a mold problem especially with our textiles. We purchased a dehumidifier for \$188 and had the dirt cellar lined with #6 mil plastic. This should prevent moisture from the sand getting into the cellar area and being carried into the building by the hot air furnace. The cost of the plastic and labor was \$135. This has lowered the humidity in the building, but we will have to wait for warmer weather before determining if what we have done is sufficient. We have also added containers of silica gel to our stored clothing to keep the humidity down.

The conservators voiced concern with some of our electrical wiring. We had an electrician come in, add some new outlets, and inspect the wiring. We were told that the wiring was safe.

We still have two other major projects facing us. The conservators pointed out that the steeple needs repair and the exterior of the building needs to be painted. Some of the slates on the steeple are hanging and some of the wooden trim needs to be replaced. We feel that this job is a major priority for us because of safety concerns for people walking by.

I have talked with Ken Woodbury at Piscataquis County Economic Development about a public facilities grant. He tells me that the next round will be in December of 2008. He told me that buildings of non-profit groups are eligible to receive grants of 75% of the cost. The Economic Development people will assist us in writing the grant.

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Mr. Woodbury also suggested we apply for money to repair the steeple, strip and repaint the building and fix the cement slab of the porch all at the same time. He said the grant could be for up to \$150,000.

This should give you some idea of the problems we have solved and those yet to be addressed. Once these projects are completed, the building should be stable for many years to come.

Early indications are that the repairs will cost about \$100,000, and we are trying to get estimates from contractors at the present time. The major expense will be the slate work and wood replacement on the steeple because of the requirement of a cherry picker or a high staging. We are trying to raise \$25,000 so that we can get a matching grant of \$75,000. We are in the process of publishing a book with the Brownville Historical Society of old scenes from Milo and Brownville to help raise these funds. Since the major support of the Society is from donations from people like you, I would like to ask for your financial support in finishing the needed repairs to our building.

Virgil Valente, President

From The Curators Desk

In 2006 we received a CAP Grant in the amount of \$6,500 to pay for a consultant to assess our collection and another consultant to assess our building. Their #1 concern was the high humidity in the museum. On their recommendation we bought a dehumidifier that allows us to keep the humidity at a more appropriate level for archival items. Also, high on their concern list was the roof which we have since had completely redone.

During 2006 and 2007, we received many items from Barbara Doble's family, among which was a WWI trunk that belonged to Capt. James McFadyen, a sleigh used for RFD Postal Deliveries, and an attractive cabinet used for displaying dishes. We call it the Lucy Bishop Cabinet because it once belonged to Lucy Bishop who was a well-remembered teacher in Milo. They also gave us many dishes, a campfire girl's dress and headband, several blacksmithing tools and many other items.

In 2006, we were given several boxes of wonderful memorabilia from Roy Monroe and received another box this last year, including a box of drafting tools.

One of the items given us by the Ralph Monroe family was a 1918 Milo subscriber's rate listing to the Moosehead Telephone & Telegraph Co. The annual base residential rate was \$27.00 for an individual line, \$24.00 for a 2 party line, and \$21.00 for 6 party or for a 15 or more party line. Business rates were \$36.00 for an individual line, \$27.00 - 2 party line, \$24.00 - 6 party or 15 or more party line. Oh, for the good old days!

Last summer Kathy Davis gave the museum several dresses from the 30's and 40's that belonged to her mother, Joanne Brigham. What a fashionable lady she must have been because the dresses are very chic.

M.S.A.D. #41 donated one of their copy machines that they were replacing to us. It was much appreciated as we were at the point where we had to replace ours.

Gayle Shirley, Joyce Philbrick, and several other people gave pictures, articles and/or items to the museum. We are very thankful that people want to share the past with others by donating them to the museum.

With the help of Schuyler Horton of Horton Computers, Pleasant St., Milo, we have purchased a refurbished computer to network together with our existing one. This will allow two people to catalog items at the same time, or one to search for information without disturbing the person cataloging.

We have several copies of *Memories of Maine* magazine at the museum featuring an article in it called, "The Inside Pitch" about Milo's Bull Pen. They are free and we would gladly give them to anyone who is interested. Please call Gwen Bradeen at 943-2369, Virgil Valente at 943-2167, or Allen Monroe at 943-2268 to arrange to get a copy or to visit the museum.

Gwen Bradeen, Curator

The Milo Historical Society would like to extend a big thank you to all volunteers who have contributed their time and energy in a number of ways over the past year. Your efforts on projects and assistance in keeping the museum open are greatly appreciated and make the preservation and enjoyment of our community's heritage possible. A special thank you goes to the Milo High School



Sugar Bowl

William T. Livermore (b. 5/28/1840) bought this sugar bowl for his wife, Alice Stone Livermore (b. 2/15/1871). They lived on the River Road in Derby. This piece is on loan by W. Livermore's Great Granddaughter, Gayle McLaughlin Shirley.

To The Girls Of The Five and Dime

This poem was purchased on Ebay. It was hand written and it was difficult to determine the signature.

We are not certain if the author lived in Milo or was just a visitor.

There's a little town named Milo
Way up in the state of Maine
Nestled 'mong the birch and hemlock
Where folks are "always the same"

They greet you with a smile
And a cheery "hello" too,
It makes you feel so welcome
"Cause you feel it thro' and thro'

There's a store on the corner
That they call "The Five and Dime"
Where the clerks are always courteous
Even tho' its five 'till nine

There's Connie in the candy
With smile that's just as sweet
As the candy she is selling
Which really is a treat

You'll find Viola turning windows
And she really knows her work.
Such a busy little person
Never does a task she shirk

If you want to be a glamour gal
Consult Loretta for sure.
Her line of jewelry and cosmetics
Are the kind that has allure

If it's a gift you're needing
For the wee girl or boy
It may be a downy blanket,
A baby book, or toy

You'll find Clara and Mrs. Doble
There to lend a helping hand.
They know their stock, are sweet and kind,
And always understand

And if you need a gift for "him"
Who is far across the sea
Ida will gladly help you
Her advice is always "Free"

She has knack of knowing
Just what would please him most
That he'll be proud to show the fellows
And perhaps he'll like to boast

These things came from Milo
And they reached me right on time.
Mom knew where to buy my presents
At Ben Franklin's Five and Dime

If you're a stranger here—
And mighty lonesome too,
Just drop into the Five and Dime
They'll say "hello" to you

With a smile that really means it
And a welcome that rings true
No finer girls are ever found
Friends like these are very few.

Dedicated To The Girls Of The Five And Dime
By Loys Phillips



**The following is an interesting article from our collection. Our records indicate that a Dr. Seth B. Sprague is listed in Milo in the 1885-86 and 1891-92 Maine Registers. There is also an E.K. Sprague – physician listed. In 1891-92, S.B. Sprague is also listed as a Justice. We would appreciate anyone having further information on this topic of history to please contact the historical society.*

**Elm Wood Asylum, Milo, ME.
For the Treatment of Disease.**

This Institution is situated on the line of the Bangor and Piscataquis R. R., thirty-five miles north of Bangor, being one of the most desirable and healthy localities in New England, with an atmosphere free from miasmatic influence, with scenery varied and diversified by mountain, lakes, and ponds.

**All Classes Of Patients Taken
AT THIS INSTITUTION,
AND ALL DISEASES TREATED WHICH
FLESH IS HEIR TO,**

Upon Rational and Scientific Principles.

Special attention given to diseases of the Heart, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys, and Chronic Diseases, as well as Diseases of Women, Men and Children. All patients receive prompt Medical and Surgical Treatment when required. Persons wishing to improve their health without Medical and Surgical aid, but by the hygienic influence of pure country air, pure mineral water, and a healthy diet, can do so at this Institution by simply paying the price. N. B. Pure Mineral Water will be furnished daily to all the inmates of the Asylum water, from the Katahdin Mineral Springs free of charge. Special operations in Surgery and Medical treatment Extra. Board from Five to Ten Dollars per week. Patients before coming to the asylum will please give the Superintendent, when convenient, two or three days' notice of their arrival.

**S.B. Sprague, M.D.
Superintendent of Elm Wood Asylum,
MILO, MAINE.**

Special Notice

Persons wishing to consult Dr. Sprague, of the Elm Wood Asylum, Milo, Me., who reside at a distance, and who are unable to attend this Institution, can receive medical treatment at their several places of abode by addressing DR. SPRAGUE, enclosing one dollar, giving the name, age, sex, color of eyes and hair, and the principal symptoms of the patient, and on the receipt of such

communication a diagnosis of the case will be made on scientific principles, and a prescription forwarded to the patient, post paid. Said prescription will be written in English or Latin as the patient chooses. In most cases one prescription will be all that is required to effect a permanent cure, but in rare cases the second or third prescription may be necessary. Medicine will be sent by mail if convenient, instead of a prescription if the patient requires it. In all cases general information in regard to the management of the case, will be given in addition to the prescription.

All diseases which flesh is heir to, will be prescribed for and cured if curable, so that if the patient knows the disease it can simply be named, and a prescription will be forwarded for the particular disease, for the small sum of one dollar. The 1st great question is, "What ails you?" The 2d is "What will cure you?" The DOCTOR warrants a correct diagnosis and invites all cases however complicated. He has from his youth possessed intuitively the faculty of discovering the hidden cause and nature of disease, and prescribing with a promptness and precision particular to himself.

Consultation at his Office, Free.

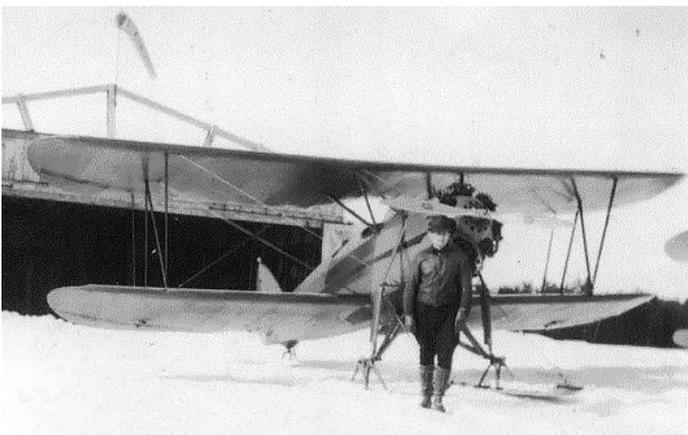
**S. B. Sprague M. D., Physician and Surgeon,
Milo, Maine.**

The Milo Historical Society would like to extend their sincere appreciation for all donations we have received, especially so at this time. To ensure that we are taking the correct course in our efforts, we recently received a professional assessment of the building and our collection by conservation experts. Their report has pointed to a number of measures that need to be addressed in the short and long term in order to secure the preservation of the building and the artifacts. The good news is that in spite of our limited budget and manpower, we are doing many of the right things to preserve our collection. Unfortunately, we are facing some significant issues with our building that need to be taken care of. The dilemma is that no matter how well we catalog and preserve the individual items and memories of Milo's past, if we don't have a secure home to house them in we cannot guarantee their future. Any gifts will greatly assist our mission to preserve the history of our community, and we thank you very much for your consideration.

A Milo First

**From a newspaper clipping,
year unknown.*

May 20- The first airmail flown from Milo was dispatched by special pick-up mail plane, piloted by Kermit Hatt, Thursday afternoon at 3:50. Pilot Hatt landed at the Katahdin Country Club where a large crowd had turned out. Several fans were present with cameras, and moving pictures were taken. Postmasters from Howland and Burlington brought their pouches of air-mail to the field and together with the pouch from Milo, containing mail from Medford, Lake View, Brownville, and Brownville Jct., they were handed to pilot Hatt by the village mail carrier, Chauncey Monroe. The plane left on schedule time and arrived in Bangor on schedule. Postmaster Clark states that around 520 airmail letters bearing the Milo postmark and special Maine map cachet were dispatched on the flight



PARACHUTE JUMPING

AT MILO - SUNDAY

By James Hatt

This will be the first Parachute Jump he has ever made but plans on doing it like an old-timer, leaping into space at 3,000 feet.

50c FLY FOR 50c

Stunt Flying Exhibition by Klinky Hatt-

These posters are from the 30's,

PARACHUTE ★ JUMPING

AT CHASE'S FIELD, MILO
Saturday & Sunday
AUGUST 26th and 27th

FLY for 50c

FLY FOR 50 CENTS

*PARACHUTE JUMPING by
Harry Reynolds from 5000 feet.*

2:30 P. M. and 6:00 P. M.

Stunt Flying Exhibition every day
by "Klinky" Hatt.

MILO PRINTING CO., MILO, ME.

Won't You Join Us!

Milo Historical Society Dues:

(Dues cover May 1, 2008 ~ April 30, 2009)

Active Membership:

\$5.00

Student Membership:

(under 18 yrs.)

\$2.50

Patron Membership:

\$25.00

Return membership dues and/or

Contributions to:

The Milo Historical Society

C/O Allen Monroe, Sec.

23 Park Street

Milo, Maine 04463

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

◆ If you are renewing your membership, the date below your address on the mailing label indicates the date of your last membership contribution. **Our membership for 2008-2009 starts on May 1, 2008.**

The Milo Historical Society has a number of projects "in the works".

We are always eager and happy to have volunteers to assist with getting things done. We have projects that involve preserving and documenting donated items, along with tasks that need attention around the museum building and displays. If you have some free time and an interest in our community's history, please



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23 Park Street
Milo, Maine 04463