



The Library Lookout

January 2000

Tel: 474-9072



LATEST NEWS

Compiled by Mary Davies and Jim Foster

The big news is that the library has purchased a new *Encyclopedia Britannica* set and it is on the shelves. This is the Cream of the Crop reference. Be sure to examine a volume when you come in. You could sit down and read it like a novel. We've had other encyclopedias more recently, but we haven't had a new *Encyclopedia Britannica* since the 60's and we are PROUD.



Dr. Seuss books continue to arrive. Some were on back order; they are still in great demand. All the grown-ups are picking them up.

Thanks for providing a whole new spotless collection for the children of Skowhegan.

Check out the new book sale near the circulation desk. Thanks to the Woman's Club, we have been able to update collections and sell the duplicates. New titles and great bargains.

Happy New Year. Here we are, safe and sound.

The New Year is the time honored time for personal assessment. What do we want of life? How can we improve the world? Most of us have only a little corner of the world under our power, but we can achieve great circles of change in our community. The library is one place we can affect the future for many by keeping it the hub of life-long learning and entertainment. Working together we can attain a first rate library in a first rate building. Much of the ground work has been done.

In *Skowhegan on the Kennebec*, Lizzie Therese Hussey wrote that that in 1886, ex-Governor Coburn donated \$30,000 to the Trustees of Bloomfield Academy, to be used at their discretion in founding a public library. The building was erected for about \$20,000, including a stipend from the town of \$5,000 for a memorial to the men of the town who served in the Civil War. This room was known as Memorial Hall and now serves as our reading room. Above the fireplace there is a large brass memorial with all the names of the veterans who served. When did you last look at it?

We can easily understand that we got a great gift; and how that gift of what seems like pocket change now, has been truly the bargain of the century. It has served us 111 years, received very little care and it still stands proud, if not quite so strong. So every hundred years we've got to do some work to keep it going and to keep faith with the generous donors who understood that literacy and life-long education is the road to the future.

We're all proud of our library and we all want to keep the gift going for another century. Ready? Set? Let's Go!

The ivy is down to the ground; some structural damage from it was expected and, sure enough, it's there. The lilacs have been trimmed under the direction of Jim Hastings, Treasurer of the International Lilac Society, and it was done right. Boynton's Greenhouse donated lime and fertilizer

LATEST NEWS

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for the lilacs and the young shoots will come up gloriously. Thanks to Rick Anzenc, Bill Laney, Jim Hastings, Charles Bolstridge and Greg Dore. Thanks once more to Marcia Granville who was there early in the a.m. to get a picture of the historic event.

Evidence of tossed cigarettes in the leaves by the building will result in a NO SMOKING ON THE GROUNDS sign being placed on the building. That's all we'd need.

The side rails on the steps will be improved in January as we try to assist the climb to the front door. Another access is planned but we needed help right now. Many people find it too difficult to use the steps without a rail all the way to the door.

Holiday Open House was wonderful. Rev Mark Tan-

ner and Police Chief Butch Asselin read *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and we found it just as delightful as if it were written yesterday. Bloomfield Trustees Betsey Hall and Rick Anzenc hosted the refreshment table, which was full of fattening goodies. We were good sports and ate them.

Cathy Hughes, Katherine Connell and Corrilla Hastings held story hour and served refreshments in the children's rooms and the kiddies came down beaming with their handmade striped canes, paper lace candy holders and decorated construction paper with lots of fancy additions, and I would say they vote YEA for story hour. The staff and Betsey wore lovely corsages, a gift from the Friends, and everyone felt like God Bless Us Every One.

Lois Moody has been away from the children's rooms with a sprained hand. Cathy Hughes and Thelma Butler have been filling in, for which we give thanks. We hope Lois is soon back at her post and feeling fine.



We Wish You all a
Happy New Millennium



**TWO
New
Series**

The Friends of the Skowhegan Public Library & The Kennebec Valley Computer Society



are repeating our series of FREE classes at the Skowhegan Free Public Library on the following topics:

Jan. 7 (day)	Jan. 11 (eve.)	Computer Basics
Jan. 14 (day)	Jan. 18 (eve.)	The Windows 95/98 Operating System
Jan. 21 (day)	Jan. 25 (eve.)	Using Your Computer
Jan. 28 (day)	Feb. 1 (eve.)	The Internet
Feb. 4 (day)	Feb. 8 (eve.)	Resources Available Online
Feb. 11 (day)	Feb. 15 (eve.)	File Formats & the Programs that Love Them

Two Series: Fridays, from 1:00 to 2:30, and Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30.

For more information call Jim Foster at 474-2589, or send e-mail to jfoster@somtel.com

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Book Review

By Marcia B. Granville



Tony Horwitz's interest in the Civil War began when his great grandfather showed him a book of pen and ink sketches. As he matured he discovered that the Civil War held a fascination for the people of many other countries and cultures. In order to discover the *reason* for the period's fascination, he visited the many towns and battle fields of the south. The result is his book, *Confederates in the Attic*.

Mr. Horwitz won the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, which scared me a little. I don't often like the books, movies or music which are prized by the intellectual world. I often find them incomprehensible or too high brow for my taste.

Confederates in the Attic is different. Mr. Horwitz includes thumbnail sketches of the people he met along with facts about certain Civil War events. He writes humorously as well factually in his reporting of events. Above all, he writes in an easy readable style. The book has something for everyone, even for reverse snobs like me.

New Look For Friends' Website



Be sure to take a look at our website, mainetoday.koz.com/maine/friends which has recently undergone a number of changes. To begin with, all the maintoday sites now have a new look, without the surrounding blue background which many considered rather unattractive, and are easier to navigate.

In addition, we have added a good deal of new content, including selections from both the current and last three back issues of this newsletter, the text of the computer classes which are being given at the Library, and a section devoted to photographs of activities at the Library. We have also added a "hit counter", and were gratified to see that our page has been visited by more than fifty people since mid-November, not including the visits we have made to update it.

If you have comments or ideas for improving the site, please e-mail me at jfoster@somtel.com.

BECOME A FRIEND OF YOUR LIBRARY

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library, a not for profit group dedicated to supporting and improving the library for all members of the community, invite you to join us. Dues are \$10. individuals, \$8. Seniors & Students, and \$15. for families. We normally meet at the Library the second Wednesday of every other month, unless scheduling conflicts require another date. For more information, call Corilla Hastings (474-3949) or Mary Davies (474-7446).

Please complete this form and mail to Hilma Millett, P.O. Box 215, Skowhegan, Me 04976. Welcome

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Tel. # _____
E-Mail Address _____

This newsletter is
Sponsored and Supported by



LIBRARY HOURS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ADULTS	1-6:30	10-5	1-6:30	1-7:30	10-2
CHILDREN	3-5:30	10-6:30	3-6:30	3-6:30	10-2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 3 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: any book recently read
- Jan. 7 1:00 p.m. Computer Class: Computer Basics
- Jan. 11 7:00 p.m. Computer Class: Computer Basics
- Jan. 12 7:00 p.m Friends Meeting. Program: Lifetime Learning Bill Laney**
- Jan. 14 1:00 p.m. Computer Class: The Windows 95/98 Operating System
- Jan. 18 7:00 p.m. Computer Class: The Windows 95/98 Operating System
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- Feb. 11 1:00 p.m. Computer Class: File Formats & the Programs that Love Them
- Feb. 15 7:00 p.m. Computer Class: File Formats & the Programs that Love Them
- Mar. 6 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: Poetry
- Mar. 8 7:00 p.m Friends Meeting. Program: There's Gold in Your Attic Tim Gould**
- Apr. 3 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: Mystery
- May 1 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: A play TBA perhaps a reading by all.
- May 10 7:00 p.m Friends Annual Meeting. Program: Book Reviews Skowhegan Readers of all ages.**



The Library Lookout

**Friends of the Skowhegan
Free Public Library**

c/o Skowhegan Free Public Library
Elm Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your Librarians Are:

Helen Shaw,
Francoise Labonte,
Lois Moody
and Thelma Butler

Your Library Trustees Are:

Warren Shay, Mary Davies,
Betsey Hall, Kathy Dorko,
Toni Jo Blaisdell and
Rick Anzelc

Friends Officers Are:

Jim Hastings, Pres.,
Mary Davies, V.P.,
Marcia Granville, Sec. and Hilma
Millett, Treas.