Franklin Historical Society

November 2021

The most significant news is that Easter Seals is closing the Recovery Center, with the last clients finishing up their treatment by this coming week. The Society was assured that the heat will remain on and a custodian will be making regular rounds. Most importantly, Easter Seals is not abandoning the property, but is actively seeking more effective ways to utilize the buildings and surroundings. Contact with a representative of Easter Seals will be maintained to monitor any changes, and for the Society to offer any aid, advice, or assistance in determining the best possible use of the property in continuing to be of service to the community.

This **Thursday**, **November 4th at 7p**, Andrew Cushing will present a program "**NH's Bureau of Historic Sites**" discussing how these acquisitions (the Weeks Estate, Wentworth-Coolidge mansion, Daniel Webster Birthplace, and Franklin Pierce Homestead, among others) came into the possession of the state, and the ongoing challenges in maintenance, visitor programs, and volunteer participation. After learning about these fascinating properties, it is hoped more members will choose to visit them and spread the word of the importance of these sometimes overlooked treasures.

After the talk, light refreshments will be offered, followed by the Society's last business meeting of 2021. For everyone's safety and peace of mind, it is requested, vaccinated or not, that masks be worn except when eating or drinking, when proper distancing is requested. Thank you in advance for your compassion and understanding.

"Thank you" seems to be a phrase often used by the Society, to show gratitude for donations, membership renewals, visits to the museum, and volunteering in various capacities. This month is no

different, with acknowledgement to the following individuals for all they have done to make the Society even more inspiring. To Paul Doucette, for answering questions posed in the last newsletter, referring to the location of the George E. Sawyer Confectioner's store and furnishing the identity of the sailor who trained at Great Lakes, Illinois, and served aboard the USS Randolph in 1966. George E. Sawyer's store was on Congress Street, in *Portland, Maine* (where Paul once lived and worked, so he was acquainted with the area!) and where the photo will be sent "home" to the Maine Historical Society. And the sailor's identity? Robert Brian Pope, whose picture appears in both books. Thank you Paul!

Robert B. Pope Kenton J. Powell D. L. Ramsett J. R. Ramires Daniel V. Roy

To **Rita Norander**, for taking time out of her daily schedule to come vacuum and tidy the Society, after noticing the building could definitely benefit from a little "cleaning up". Such thoughtful service should always be acknowledged and appropriately appreciated.

And then an outpouring of gratitude to all those who donated photos, newspaper clippings, and objects of historical note: from **John Benham** a C.P. Stevens Co. advertising card which once sported a thermometer, a 1977 Trumpeter with an article on the Sidney Holmes tennis tournament, a hard-bound book "Memorial Addresses for Cyrus A. Sulloway" from 1919, a 1978 booklet "One Hundred Years of Griffin Hacksaw", and an 1880-1890's scrapbook from Swanzey, (which will be mailed to the Swanzey Historical Museum with *their* gratitude); from **Annette Cain** a pre-1967 (before phone numbers went to seven digits) unused Garneau Co. sales slip, and as a pass-through for donations from **Kim Barbosa** including a 1991 Citizen newspaper with articles on the discovery of framed portraits of 19th century city leaders (now hanging in the Society's front parlor) in a forgotten storage area under the stairs in city hall, and an article on the approval of a "Shopping Mall Plan", plus a postcard of the Republican Bridge;

from **Linda Pauwels** her usual additions of interesting newspaper articles and Franklin related obituaries; from **Christine Reeder McAllister** a poster card of views of the Republican Bridge with the poem by Alice Shepard immortalizing the span, and seven vintage postcards from the area; from **Donna Savage** (via **Kathy Fuller**) a framed map of what appears to be an 1893 summer housing/hotel development proposal for Webster Lake called "Webster Park" (see below); from **Zarne Whiting** a "glass" brick from the "Top O' Town" bowling alley, which later became the Steenbecke Lumber Co. before being demolished and replaced by the CVS Drug Store; from **Diane Seamans*** a vintage Acme dress from size B (the Society has a size A, now we have a matching set!); and then, a discovery hidden in a Annual Hospital Report from Bill and Lynne Burns—a black and white snapshot from 1955 of Bill's childhood home on Babbitt Road!

* Diane left the dress form on the back porch of the Society, and because of the infrequent and sometimes unpredictable visits to the Society, it is recommended that donors wishing to leave gifts at the Society please inform, either by phone (603-934-8222) or by email through the Society's website (www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org) of the time of delivery, so that these precious items can be retrieved before suffering from the ravages of weather, or worse.

Question of the month: from Evelyn Blaisdell O'Brien (via FaceBook)—does anyone remember a race track, perhaps in the 1960's, off N. Main street, in what is now a sand pit? You may answer with a reply to this newsletter, through the Society's FaceBook page, or at the meeting Thursday night.

Finally (at least for this month), if any one has any use for Epson printer cartridges E-601 (black), E-602 (blue), E-603 (red), or E-604 (yellow), for free, please contact Leigh at 603-934-8222. As always, the Society wishes you to stay safe, stay well, and continue to care for one another.

