

Carmel Historical Society Newsletter
PO Box 214 Carmel, ME 04419 848-7468
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Winter

Summer has always been my favorite time of the year; so it follows that winter is not so much, especially when it is dark, frigid, and seems like snow is here to stay. Bruce, my Northern Mainer husband, doesn't necessarily share my feelings and actually likes to plow. That means to plow all the way across the lawn and to our stone wall. At first I was annoyed that we had to reseed each spring. But then, as a flatlander, I learned the mathematics of snow volume, the area needed to relocate it, and the power needed to move it there.

When we were younger we got out more in winter. We cross country skied, snowshoed, snowmobiled some. We went to camp and got the fire going. We went to the fishing derby where Bruce caught the biggest tagged fish one year. (I learned to watch for my trap's flag from the window where it was toasty warm.) There used to be poker runs in Benedicta that were such fun! - either on a snowmobile or by truck. The entry fee was five dollars and at each stop you picked a card. For that price, at the end, was a bean supper and prizes for best hands; tons of donated really nice big prizes. There was also a prize for the worst hand: the signing of the infamous toilet seat. Every family was there for miles around. One of my favorite times and memories. Allegedly these were then considered betting with rules and lists of winners required so frequency diminished.

During fishing derbies, some had their fishing shacks, some had bonfires, and some bought red hot dogs from the snack shack. In those days there was even ice golf. Spots had been cleared of snow and cups placed in the ice for those who teed off. No need to build hazards; the snow did that. Both derbies and ice golf have suffered from a lack of volunteers to set them up. Fish had to be caught, tagged, and released in advance for lucky winners to catch.

I have favorite winter memories from those times. Trucks, snowmobiles, and four wheelers hit the ice at 4 a.m. One year we had guests: one a teacher from South Carolina, a plump lady, but not obese. She was afraid to go out on the ice even when we pointed out all the heavy trucks and ice shanties. She was sure she would fall through the ice and wouldn't you know that an ice bubble took that minute to move beneath the ice at her feet. She stayed inside to watch and tend to the hot chocolate.

Another time there was a small boy that I can still picture in my mind who was barely big enough to handle his dad's four wheeler. He was tough! No hat, no gloves, and a runny nose. He zoomed all over until he found his ideal spot and helped his dad use the ice auger to drill himself a hole for his trap. His dad cut him no slack as he tried to handle a tool as big as himself. His trap was right in front of our camp where we knew the water was shallow and the weeds thick. We talked about how he would be disappointed when he didn't catch a fish. Weren't we surprised when he caught a big pike!

Cabin Fever

It's hard sometimes to wait for ice out; which can be another reason to make a contest to guess when it will happen – and a diversion from the cold. I am not good at predicting when the ice will leave. After being housebound in the cold, I do know what cabin fever feels like. And I have had Cabin Fever Parties. I don't have the invitation, but I did save the details on my computer.

Invitation front:

I got cabin fever,
It's burning in my brain

We've got cabin fever,
We've lost what sense we had

I got cabin fever,
It's driving me insane

We've got cabin fever,
We're all going mad

Inside:

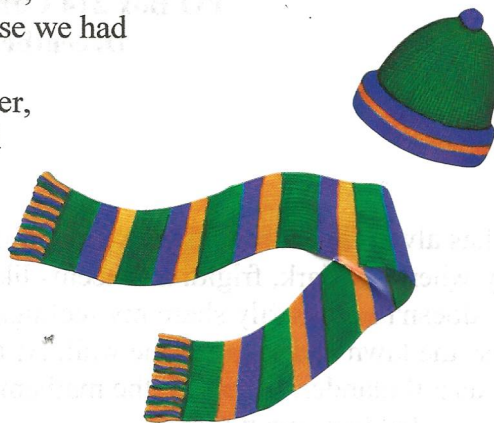
Same thoughts? Then join us . . .

Date:

Time:

Alternative Camp Site: (Home if not camp)

RSVP:



Menu that year:

WILD DINNA MENU

Moose Chili
Venison and County Tater Pie
Beanhole Beans
Biscuits – Mainah Molasses
Pickled Fiddleheads
Mincemeat Pie

WILD ACTIVITIES

Sorry, no hints

DRESS

Wear comfy Maine winter gear to go
with camp and comfort foods
totally relaxed: camo, sweats, pj's

Let us know if you would like to add to above

(Not a requirement for coming):

What flatlanders call appeetizas

bread

moonshine

desserts

folding chairs

suggestions – for food/fun; not this invite



Winter Prep

The above menu was thanks to the efforts of Bruce, the hunter, and myself. Besides loving to give themed parties, I also have that New England ethic of preparing for winter as judged by my grocery pantry in the basement and my big freezer. I want to share with you the words of Lura Beam “Work” (from *Life in a Maine Hamlet*, 1957, about life in Maine 1894-1904):

Winter food depended greatly on the woman's skill in canning, preserving, pickling, and jelly making. In the cellarway above the stairs, or on the cellar shelves, jars stood in long rows: pint jars of strawberry and gooseberry jam, quart jars of string beans and peas, two-quart jars of corns. There were stone crocks of Bennington ware full of mincemeat and cranberries and boxes of dried apples. There were also stores of butter and eggs, salted and candled during the summer abundance, to use when the cows went dry and the hens did not lay.

Winter Chilling Facts

Monthly Snow Totals: The record monthly snowfall in Caribou was 59.9 inches in December 1972. But Portland, much further south, beat that record with 62.4 inches in January 1979.

Seasonal Snowfall Record: Caribou's record snow fall of 181.1 inches of snow in 1954-55 was beaten in 2007-8 when the record in Caribou was 190.7 inches. (I ache when forced to shovel 6 inches of the wet heavy type)

Temperature: Caribou is rated the third coldest city in the contiguous US with an average annual temperature of 38.9degrees F, however the lowest recorded temperature in Maine was -48 degrees on January 19, 1925 in Van Buren. However, the single coldest recorded temperature in the US was in Prospect Creek, Alaska at -80degrees F. (BRR. . .)

White Christmas: A white Christmas is defined as having at least one inch of snow on the ground on December 25. If you're in Caribou, you have a pretty good chance at 97 percent, and an 83 percent chance in Portland. But if you are hoping for 10 or more inches of snow for Christmas, in Caribou you have a 57 percent chance, and in Portland, just a 13 percent chance.

But we are a tough bred when it comes to surviving. . .

It wasn't winter survival, but it was survival worth a million dollars in the 2008 CBS reality show Survivor when Maine teacher Bob Crowley "survived" all challenges. Bob was a 57 year old physics teacher, tree-pruner, and lobster man from South Portland. He survived in Gabon, Africa. Yes, different temps, but I still couldn't have done that – or even wanted to do that. But congratulations to Bob.

You're from Maine when. . .

You call 4 inches of snow "a dusting"

Your heating system ids fueled by large logs

You call the area around your back yard "the dooryard"

Your basement is called "downcellah"

You know how to pronounce Calais, Damariscotta, Wytotitlock, and Saco

You eat ice cream with flavors like "Moose Tracks", and "Maine Black Bear"

You know that "stove up" has nothing to do with cooking

You've had a vacation from school just to help pick potatoes.

You've left your car running while you ran into a store.

Driving in the winter is better because the potholes are filled with snow.

You know "The Counties of Our State" song.

You measure the distance between places in hours, not miles.

You've made meals out of Jordan's red hot dogs, a bag of Humpty Dumpty potato chips, and a can of Moxie.

You know Bob Marley is a comedian, not a singer.

You know 24/7 refers to the hours at LLBean.

You've watched *Murder She Wrote* and snickered at the fake accents and the west coast boats shown in the intro.

You know where to find fiddleheads.

You love bean suppers – and know they are the best deal going.

It takes you hours to go to the store for 1 item, even when you're in a rush, because you have to stop and talk to everyone. You also wave to everyone you pass in your truck.

You won't eat Manhattan clam chowder or beans in tomato sauce.

You have a full body bug suit, or at least a head net, during black fly season. (fiddlehead time)

Did You Know... that Marshall Point, Point Clyde, is the site of the lighthouse Forrest Gump runs to in the movie of the same name? 5 Other Modern Movies Shot in Maine:

Message in a Bottle, released in 1999, was filmed in Phippsburg at Popham Beach and in the communities of Bath, New Harbor, and Portland. This big hit starred Kevin Costner, Paul Newman, and Robin Wright Penn.

Cider House Rules, also a 1990 movie, which won an Oscar for Best Movie, was filmed partly in the town of Bernard, Bass Harbor, and at Sand Beach in Acadia National Park. This hit starred Tobey Maquire, Michael Caine, and Charlize Theron.

In the Bedroom was a 2001 melodrama with Sissy Spacek and Marisa Tomei and won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. A number of Maine locations were used including Rockland, Camden, Rockport, Belfast, Owls Head, Old Orchard Beach, and Wiscasset.

Pet Sematary by Stephen King was filmed in Hancock, Bangor, Ellsworth, and Acadia National Park. While more than 50 of his books were made into movies and most of them take place in Maine, only this one and *Thinner* were filmed in Maine. (I was sixth grade teacher to Stephen and Tabitha's son Owen, but that is another story of memories.)

The Whales of August was filmed in 1987, partly in Portland and Cliff Island in Casco Bay. The film starred Bette White, 79, and Lilian Gish, 95, as sisters who had been coming to the Maine coast for decades. Knowing they are near the end of their lives, they try to resolve their differences.

Maine Inventions

Donut Holes: Captain Hanson Gregory of Camden has been credited with inventing the donut hole itself. In 1916 Gregory told the Washington Post that in 1847 as a 16 year old teenager aboard a lime-trading ship, he tired of the raw centers and heavy greasiness of the ship's donuts. His solution? Punch a hole in the center of the dough with the top of a round tin box. He later brought the technique to his mother. Doughnuts are cited in print from at least 1861.

In 1920, Russian-born immigrant Adolph Levitt created the first automated doughnut machine. The futuristic automated donut-making process was featured at the 1934 World's Fair in Chicago. The Fair advertised doughnuts as "the food hit of the Century Of Progress" and they became an instant hit across the country.

Earmuffs: This one most of you probably know already, but there is some fiction mixed with fact. In 1877, Chesler Greenwood, 15 year old young man from Farmington, Maine, patented his simple invention: earmuffs. Greenwood, who first had the idea for this "improvement in ear-mufflers," as the patent document describe it, turned chilly ears into a business.

Like most inventors, Greenwood was trying to solve a problem. He loved to skate outdoors on the frozen ponds of his town, but he couldn't stay on the ice for very long because he was allergic to the protective wool caps with ear covers that were, at the time, typically used as ear protectors.

As the story goes, motivated by his sore ears, Greenwood devised a solution. He asked his grandmother to sew either pads of beaver fur or flannel onto a wire headband with two hoops on the end. Although his friends initially mocked him, the earmuff caught on quickly. Its popularity led Greenwood to make further improvements, such as replacing the wire with a band and hinging the pads. The factory he built near his hometown employed numerous Farmington residents and eventually became the seat of his earmuff empire.

It's a cute story, but, Greenwood didn't exactly invent earmuffs. "It wasn't the first earmuff. It was an improved earmuff," according to patent agent Dennis Haszko.



Motor Ice Boat (a forerunner to the snowmobile): While the recreational snowmobile as we know it today wasn't invented until 1927, there were plenty of precursors to it. These machines were typically invented to serve practical purposes, improving operational efficiency in a number of industries.

The first one that came along was the Lombard log hauler, a train-like vehicle which was equipped with skis on instead of front wheels. Invented in Waterville, Maine in 1908, it vastly improved transportation throughout the lumber industry.

Toothpick: Strong, ME: The Rise and Fall of the Toothpick Capital Of The World: At one point, 95 percent of all wooden toothpicks manufactured in America were made in Strong and its environs. In the aftermath of WWII— Strong's golden age—over 75 billion toothpicks were being made there a year. Not bad for a town of little over 1,000 people. But why did toothpicks become such a big business and how did a tiny town in rural Maine become a global toothpicking powerhouse?

Toothpicks, made of orangewood, found their way to the Portuguese colony of Brazil where natives started copying and whittling them, and it was here in the middle of the 19th century that Charles Forster had his first fateful encounter with them. Bostonian Forster was a great American entrepreneur. Forster dreamed of a machine-made wooden toothpick, a toothpick that would be of consistent shape and quality and available to princes and paupers alike. In short he sought a toothpick for the modern world. There was only one problem. How was he to construct such a machine?

Shoe pegging machines could peel logs into narrow strips of veneer from which uniform pegs could be stamped out. Converting one of these machines to his uses, Forster began testing out various different woods. Working with the shoe pegging mechanic Charles Freeman, the two finally discovered that white birch was perfect for their purpose being soft and pliable and retaining a faint sweet odor. As the tree grew in abundance in Maine, Forster set up his operations there, opening his first toothpick mill in an old starch mill in Strong in 1887.

These first toothpicks were flat, but Forster and Freeman soon created a round toothpick that tapered to a point.. But what was to be done about the folksy Americans who still liked to whittle their own toothpicks out of twigs? How could Forster convince them to give up their rough handiwork for his machine-made masterpieces? It was here that Forster revealed the dark side of his genius. To create demand Forster would hire people to ask for toothpicks in stores. When the shopkeeper was forced to admit he didn't carry any, Forster would appear soon afterwards offering his wares to them. In Boston, he hired Harvard men to dine at the city's finest restaurants. Soon toothpicks became essential signifiers of status, with cane-twirling dandies chewing on toothpicks outside fashionable hotels to suggest that they had just finished eating there

By WWII, American toothpicks were at their most popular, and Strong remained at the center of toothpick production; its fire engines even read "Toothpick Capital of the World". But in the post-war, years nylon floss cut into the market, as did cheap imports from China and Southeast Asia. What's more, picking one's teeth at the table became something of a social *faux pas*, something your rough-and-ready grandfather might do. .

Strong attempted to diversify with the Forster firm inventing toothpicks with square middles that prevented them rolling off the table, but it was too little too late. Its toothpick mills slowly began to shut down. The Forster Manufacturing Company's mill was the last to go, closing in 2003. Strong makes not a single toothpick these days.

Zig Zag Stitch: Helen Blanchard's improvements to the sewing machine allowed for the industrial growth of sewing machines. Twenty-two of Blanchard's twenty-eight patented inventions were installed in large factories, saving time and money in the commercial sewing industry.





Born in Portland, Maine, Blanchard showed an aptitude for mechanical devices at an early age. She did not begin patenting her inventions until her family ran into financial difficulties. After business losses from the panic of 1866 and the death of her father, Blanchard and her family had to sell their property. She borrowed money to pay for her first patent.

Blanchard is best known as the inventor of the zig-zag stitch sewing machine, which she patented in 1873. The zig-zag stitch seals the edges of a seam, making a garment sturdier. Blanchard continued to make incremental improvements in both sewing machines and needles, and in 1881 she established the Blanchard Over-Seam Company of Philadelphia. Her company was profitable, and Blanchard was eventually able to buy back her family's lost property.

Although most of Blanchard's patents relate to sewing, she experimented with other ideas, including a patented design for a pencil sharpener.

The Sealed Dive-suit: In 1834, Maine inventor Leonard Norcross patented what is widely accepted as the first practical, sealed dive suit. The suit had weighted feet and a hard, water-tight helmet. Exhaust air was pushed out the top of the helmet, which allowed divers a full range of motion underwater for the first time.

The Maxim Gun: The world's first portable, fully automatic machine gun was invented by Sir Hiram Stevens in 1884. Though the actual patent happened in England, Stevens was a Maine native who lived in the state until his 40s. He also held patents on devices such as the mousetrap, hair-curling irons, and steam pumps.

The Microwave Oven: Percy Spencer of Howland, Maine became an expert in radar tube design and participated in experiments using microwave rays. One day he noticed that his candy bar had melted in his pocket and began to see the potential of microwaves for heating food. He patented the first microwave cooking oven on October 8, 1945.

The Steam-powered Automobile: I found this interesting - twins Francis and Freelan Stanley invented a quieter vehicle for eluding police officers. Their Stanley Steamer was created in 1897 and sold more than any other car up to that point. The twins eventually sold their patent to Locomobile. Now from the beginning:

Francis (1849-1918) and his twin brother Freelan (1849-1940) Stanley were born June 1, 1849 in Kingfield. They formed the Stanley Dry Plate Company in 1883 to manufacture dry plates for the photographic process invented by Francis. After 22 years, they sold the company to Eastman Kodak in 1905. Their interest had turned to steam-powered automobiles.

The brothers had invented the "Stanley Steamer" in 1896, the first steam motorcar in New England, and formed the Stanley Motor Company to manufacture them with Francis as president. To promote their machines, they actively competed in auto races, pitting their steam power against gasoline-fueled engines, often winning. The "Stanley Steamer" achieved fame when brother F. E. Stanley did a mile in 2:11 on a dirt track with a 30 degree incline. They set a world record in 1906 for fastest mile, 28.2 seconds or 127 mph.

George Eastman bought the rights to the Stanleys' earlier photographic patents, supplying the brothers with capital to manufacture 200 standing orders for the Steamer, which eventually became the "Locomobile." By the time Henry Ford incorporated the Ford Motor Company in 1903, the Stanleys' plant already employed 140 workers.

The Stanleys sold the business in 1918, having manufactured more than 10,000 "Steamers."

Wolf Moon: In Native American culture, the first full moon of the year is known as a Wolf Moon. Across folklore, the name suggests it is a moon of mystery and a time where wolves howl at the night sky. In popular culture, a wolf moon might be associated with werewolves and human transformation into a beast. But what scientifically is a wolf moon and why did Native Americans call it that?

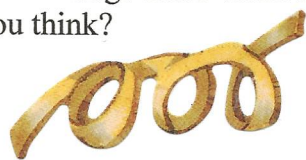
A wolf moon is essentially the first full moon that appears during the month of January and is when the moon has reached the opposite side of the Earth in Orbit to the sun. This means that the moon's surface is in direct sunlight and is fully illuminated for us to gaze up at. The wolf moon remains for the 14th-15th day of the cycle and then begins to return to a new moon.

There is much debate as to where the wolf moon name originated from. It is thought that the wolf moon name does stem from Native American culture. But other research suggests that the Anglo-Saxons were the first to name the January full moon a wolf moon. Across the northern hemisphere, there are many similarities in landscape and seasons, so it isn't uncommon to use the same name. It is thought that the moon names used today are actually a combination of Native American, Anglo Saxon, and Germanic month names.

The first full moon of the year is always called the wolf moon. There is roughly a full moon every month of the calendar and each one has a different name. The names come from ancient beliefs and they are based on seasonal happenings, so they vary between cultures. (For example, April's full moon is often referred to as a "seed moon" or "awakening moon". This is because the month of April can be associated with spring. However, there are many different names for the full moons throughout the year, depending on where you are in the world.)

Across the northern hemisphere, there are similar elements that resemble a time of year. The January full moon is called the wolf moon because this is the time of year that you are most likely to hear a wolf howling. January is the wolves mating season, hence the increase in wolf howls.

Across popular culture, there is an association of when there is a full moon, people will feel different and sometimes become a little crazy. This is where the term lunatic comes from. It is said that a full moon could affect your behavior and it's associated with insomnia, because of its brightness. There is no evidence to suggest that your behavior will change more when there is a wolf moon compared with any other full moon of the year. What do you think?



January Trivia/Facts

The name for January comes from the Roman god, Janus, who is always depicted with two heads. He uses one head to look back on the year before, and the other head to look forward into the New Year!

Originally, the Roman calendar had only 10 months, and it excluded January and February. King Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, is responsible for adding both January and February to the Roman calendar. He did this so calendars would be equivalent to a lunar year. Even so, it only had 30 days.

Finally, Julius Caesar added the 31st day to the month and completed it to the full month of January we practice now!

Oddly enough, couples tend to separate or divorce more so in January than any other month of the year.

In Pasadena, California, there has been a Rose Parade held every year since 1890. It has since been broadcasted worldwide and is typically viewed in over 100 countries around the globe.

If you were born in January, your birthstone is a garnet! The dianthus caryophyllus is the birth flower of January – more commonly known as the carnation! January has two zodiac signs – Capricorn, which is until January 19, and Aquarius, which is for the rest of the month.

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Some historical names for January include “Wulfmonath,” which came from the Anglo-Saxons because it was the month hungry wolves would come scavenging. King Charlemagne would call it “Wintermanoth” meaning “winter/cold month.”

One of the most influential events in the U.S. happened in January – on January 1, 1892, Ellis Island opened, allowing for the immigration of over 20 million people!

Generally, January is the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The equivalent month of January in terms of temperature in the Southern Hemisphere is July!

In the United Kingdom, some people practice “Dry January.” This is a movement to encourage people to quit drinking alcohol for the month in order to encourage public health.

January is month full of wacky and weird days. January 17 – Ditch New Year’s Resolution Day. Let’s face it, you probably didn’t expect yourself to last the whole year when you made your New Year’s Resolution did you? Well ditch it then, today is the day for it!

January 21- Free Hug Day. We actually were in the Netherlands one year for this holiday. While shopping, we were approached by people holding signs advertising free hugs. I have a picture of Bruce getting his hug.

Benefits from a hug: 1. Hugs help reduce stress and anxiety. 2. Hugging helps children develop healthy brains through sensory development. 3. Adults hug to improve communication skills, build trust and reduce stress. 4. Hugging is a form of comfort and communication when words can’t be said. 5. Hugging improves blood pressure by lowering cardiovascular activity. 6. Hugs boost your immune system. The hormone Oxytocin is released when we hug. Higher levels of Oxytocin can reduce inflammation and help wounds heal faster.

So I am like that emoji (a small digital image or icon used to express an idea, emotion, etc.) my grandchildren send us: Sending Air Hugs to you all:

