

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**Tues., April 13, 6:30 P.M. @Hollis Community Center:** *Rita Anderson* leads a discussion of *Hollis Center residential and commercial buildings* for the purpose of adding to our *Hollis Architectural Roadside Survey* information. Please come to learn and share your knowledge of the area's history.

**Tues., May 4, 6:30 P.M. @ "Mr. Barnes Old Jewelry Store",** now in Pat & Andy Packard's backyard, 47 Fountain St., Bar Mills: Come explore tiny works of art with Hollis resident *Mary Markley*, President of the Maine State Button Society, who will show some of her lovely button collection, including antique and Victorian clothing buttons. The historical society's recently acquired button collection donated by *Sheila Johnson* will also be on display. You are invited to bring any of your old buttons you might like to know about.

**Tues., June 8, 6:30 P.M. @ Old White Church, 15 Salmon Falls Rd., Bar Mills:** *Jim Libby*, author of the postcard book, *Buxton*, will present his collection of pre-1923 *Hollis* postcards. (If you have a good recollection of old Hollis, join us on *May 22 @11 AM at the Historical Society* as we help Jim prepare. Bring your old Hollis postcards.)

**Sat., July 24, 9A.M. to 3 PM:** BHHS sale and information table @ Buxton Community Day/Dorcas Fair, Tory Hill Church Common. Visit us at the fair and get the newest *Gibeon Bradbury "Wild Roses and Hummingbird" note cards* and items of historical interest.

**August & September—To Be Announced**

**Tuesday, October 12, 6:30 P.M. —** *Leith Smith of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission & John Matton of the Hollis Conservation Commission* will update us on the archeological investigation at Pleasant Point and recent developments at the Indian Cellar properties.

**Sat., Nov. 13, 6:30 P.M. 40th Anniversary Banquet Annual Meeting—To Be Announced**

## The Passing of Saco Valley Civic Association — The End of An Era

It is with a sense of sadness and also a sense of acceptance and gratitude for a job well done that we acknowledge the passing of the *Saco Valley Civic Association* in Dec. of 2009. We also gratefully accept for safe keeping the gift of their wooden sign, which their past president, *Virgie Wright*, had painted for the organization near and dear to her heart.

Times have changed and the purpose for which the organization came together was being well fulfilled by other groups.

The SVCA was incorporated on Dec. 12, 1959 in an effort to promote the growth, prosperity, cul-

tural development of the several rural communities of the Saco Valley. The welfare of the greater Saco Valley was to be placed above that of individual communities. The organization was the inspiration of four ladies: *Mary Davis, Olga Walker, Grace Davis Braun and Edith Virgie Wright.*

One of their main goals was to empower women. (Men were allowed to be associate members only.) In 1958, the organization included over 300 members, 1/3 of whom were teenagers. The first Board of Directors consisted 17 women: *Eva Bradbury, Angela Elwell, Madeline Plummer, Helen Bruce, Frances Eastman, Lida Elwell, Dorothy Ferguson,*

*Kelsea Gillette, Arlene Hill, Mary Libby, Trenetta Mallory, Constance Marcoux, Eleanor Parker and the four founders.*

One of the first services the SVCA provided to the community was the first pre-school for four and five year olds. They ran three schools at once: one each in West Buxton, Bar Mills and Groveville. By 1967, SAD #6 instituted Kindergarten into their curriculum and the pre-schools became a single school offering first school experiences to many area children. It was held in the Bar Mills Parish House and continued into the 1990's.

SVCA also started Adult Education in 1956, before Adult Ed was offered by the school system. Classes were offered at a nominal fee and included

stenciling, rug hooking, oil painting, driver ed, nature study and other classes. Public forums were also sponsored by the group at which an invited speaker gave a short lecture followed by a group discussion on the topic.

The Youth Committee sponsored dance lessons, dances and a Winter Carnival for teens. The publicity and public relations committees joined together to publish a public directory, since there were no phone book yellow pages available. Newsletters were published to keep all member abreast of upcoming of upcoming events. A flea market, an important fund raiser, was held annually in August. A quilt, hand-crafted by accomplished quilter members during the winter months was raffled every year. Two scholarships were