

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

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

Sat., August 14, 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.: *Harold Smith*, in conjunction with the BHHS, will host an *Open House* at "Mini-Mu", the museum he has built to hold his collection of vintage David Bradley tractors and early mechanical industrial and farming tools. The museum is located on Puckerbrush Lane, at 553 Long Plains Road (Route 22) in Buxton. (The lane is right across the road from Redding Oil Company). Parking is available down the lane. BHHS members will provide refreshments.

Sun., Sept. 19, 2 P.M. Please join us at the new Buxton Center Elementary School (912 Long Plains Rd., Buxton) for a celebration ceremony commemorating the closing of Buxton's *four elementary schools (Jack Memorial School, Eliza Libby School, S.D. Hanson School & Frank Jewett School)* and the dedication of the new *Buxton Center Elementary School*. Refreshments and tours of the new facility will follow the ceremony. Additionally, there will be an open house at the nearby *N.C. Watson One-Room School* on Groveville Rd., Buxton.

Tuesday, October 12, 6:30 P.M. at the Old White Church, 15 Salmon Falls Rd., Bar Mills: *Leith Smith of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission & John Mattor 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 Annual Meeting Buffet* @ Bar Mills Community Church, *Portland Rd., Buxton*. Gather, view displays, celebrate our volunteers and review our 40 year history and achievements, plan for our future. Buffet \$15. Call Pat @ 929-4044 or Jan @ 929-8834 by Nov. 7th for reservations. Send checks to Pat Chase, 253 Haines Meadow Rd., Buxton 04093.

Harold Smith's Love For Old Equipment Translates into "Mini-Mu"

Harold Smith of Buxton knows Buxton and Hollis pretty well. One might even call him an expert. His family has lived here for many generations, and he was the postmaster in Hollis for thirty years. He has a genuine deep affection for the people and the place—past, present, and future. He also has a lively curiosity about how things worked in the old days. The result has been the development of "Mini-Mu," built to accommodate his increasing collection of David Bradley tractors and expanded to include a fascinating

collection of devices and tools that predate our mechanized age.

Sometimes a collection is just too big for a glass case in the front hall, and the David Bradley tractor collection is in this category. As Mr. Smith acquired tractors, he needed a way to locate them in a suitable viewing space so that the history of their development could be appreciated. The company had been manufacturing other farm machinery, but in the 1950's they added tractors to their production, building them through the 1960's. The tractors are all walk-behind garden

tractors. A number of ingenious attachments, such as rototillers, were built to be used with them. A prime example is a generator that was powered by the tractor.

"Tuffy" is a favorite in the collection. George H. Davis, a long-time farmer, entered the mechanical age in 1954 when he purchased Tuffy brand new. The tractor was used by three generations of Davises and was always dependable. It was eventually sold to Carlton Berry who used it for several years before it found its final resting place in the Mini-Mu. It still runs, as do all of the tractors in the museum.

A rare *Cunningham Garden Tractor*, which was produced only from 1944-46, is also on view. Cunningham had copied its engine from Briggs and Stratton. In spite of the general belief that copying is the strongest form of flattery, Briggs and Stratton was not amused by the Cunningham maneuver. They won their legal protest and put Cunningham out of business.

These tractors would never pass today's safety standards. All of the belts were exposed. One of them required the operator to wind a rope around the engine to start it; Anyone standing in front of the tractor was subject to being run over.