

Much Planning, Work by Many People Devoted to Sesquicentennial

Hundreds of Residents Join Hands To Make a Memorable Week

The observance next week of Houlton's Sesquicentennial will be the culmination of the efforts of thousands of local citizens into a finished product...

Probably this has been one project undertaken by the community that has touched every segment of Houlton life from young to old...

leigh, Arnold Peabody, Bither, Austin, Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Cotton, Esters Aaron Putnam Leo Spain, Rev. Royal Davis, Mrs. Helen Atchison and Mrs. Cordelia Inman as another body to continue the study of the Sesquicentennial.

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM

Leaving February, we jump to March when Otis Putnam accepted the general chairmanship of the Houlton Sesquicentennial coupled with his first announcement that the Sesqui headquarters would be located at the corner of Military and Franklin streets.

Division chairmen named were

Revenue, Carlisle Stieler and Leslie Rhoda, Promotional, Harold S. Inman and Mrs. Cordelia Inman, Spectacle Tickets, Sanford Gregg, Spectacle, Earl Pierson, Publicity, Richard Sprague and Bernard E. Esters, Hospitality, Ethel Clark, Special Events, Clayton Currie, Decorations, George Wilson, Headquarters, Arthur Putnam, Treasurer, Gerald Gardner and Secretary, Polly Thompson. The official name of the corporation was also announced at this time, The Houlton Improvement Society Inc.

Next on the agenda was that

Press committee, Andrew L. Andrews and George Rich, with Joan Hynes, Betty Mason, John Ryan, Mrs. Ralph Tozier, Dick Dansereau, speakers, Norman Rogerson, radio and TV, Stanley Lyons, distributive, Mike Swallow with Paul S. Wheeler Bill Whited, Percy Hoar and Eugene Goodine.

It was decided that space opposite the intersection of Bangor and Military streets would be ideal for Sesquicentennial headquarters. Arthur O. Putnam made the spot available and a log cabin was provided by the Ward Cabin Company at a substantial discount.

PROHIBITS SHAVING

On May 27, Acting Town Manager William Whited signed a proclamation prohibiting shaving by Houlton males and launching the now famous Brothers of the Brush. Probably no other facet of the celebration attracted as much attention and comment as did this.

With 11 weeks ahead of them, the Sesqui committee announced approval of fireworks.

ARMY JOINS FRAY

The Army Recruiter, Sgt. Donald Bahr, stirred up a hornet's nest when he hurled a challenge, saying, "I could beat any 10 men in Houlton in raising a beard."

The beard raising contest reached out to Nickerson Lake

against each other for the coveted crown. Later this figure was revised with four girls dropping out leaving only 19 contenders garnering votes from their friends and fellow citizens. The contest closed Wednesday, August 14.

Miss Houlton wins an all expense paid trip to New York City for three days with her escort, plus the honor of reigning over the eight days of the town's 150th birthday. She will be crowned Saturday night by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Chauncey Robbins.

The contestants included Marie Bither, Helen Inman, Laura Jean Wilson, Jean Burt, Norma Chase, Mary Lou Taylor, Ruth Lloyd, Peggy Jones, Brenda Ayotte, Lorraine Davis, Dawn Williams, Carole Kirk, Eleanor Ruth Ingraham, Beth Ward, Jean Worthley, Lois Vail Maureen McGillicuddy and Barbara Fitzpatrick.

Committee members for the Miss Houlton contest were Mrs. Richard Niles, Mrs. Michael Regan, Miss Elouise Hillman, Mrs. John Maines, Mrs. Robert Goodwin, Mrs. Dean Ingraham, Mrs. Harold Bossie, Mrs. James McPartland, Mrs. Donald Dunn, Mrs. David Dunn, Mrs. Paul Coleman, Mrs. Bernard Esters and Mrs. George Beatham.

STYLE SHOW

Next on the Committee's agenda was the lining up of an Old Fashioned Style Show for presentation Sunday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 21 sponsored by the BPW headed by Mrs. Bernard E. Esters and Mrs. Phyllis Cumming.

Models were secured to display the hoop skirts, Gibson Girl attire, Gay Ninety apparel, hats, skirts, mutton-leg sleeves, fans, parasols, plus of course the Roaring Twenties mode of dress.

Not forgotten were old fashioned night gowns and swimming suits

Nancy Lee, Jeanmerry Peabody, Judith Anderson, Gail Henderson, Carol Cunliffe, Carol Ivey, Carolyn Roach, Marilyn Smallwood, Barbara Getchell, Laura Wilson, Dolly Warman, Ann Leavitt, Carol Kirk, Elene Nevers, Mary McDonald Barbara McGillicuddy, Eddie Currie, Clayton Grimm, Westley Marshall, Charles Pryor, Norman Hay, David Hammond, Michael O'Hara, Jane Chase, Russell Porter, James Porter, Richard Simpson, Linda Smith, Dawn Barton.

Marilyn McCarthy, Judy Lambert, Marilyn Hoar, Elizabeth Ebbett, Karen Milner, Linda Hensey, Betty Nealey, Elaine Salisbury, Doris Nealey, Barbara Burlock, Roanne Seeley, Joan Holland, Sylvia Grant, Mary Welton, Barbara Dansereau, Linda Haley, Caroline Laura Mersereau, Olivia McIntosh.

Lisa London, Nancy Dansereau, Marsha Robinson, Maureen Lambert, Sandra Britton, Joanne Margeson, Nancy E. Bell, Jane Dunn, Joanne Dunn, Joe Inman, Linda Lee Rideout, Althea Porter, Larry Porter, Mildred McIntosh, Herschel McIntosh, Eva McCain, George McCain, Robley Morrison, Audrey McCready, Barbara Oakes, Royal Davis, Kenneth Anderson, Doreen Anderson, Francis Lowery, Eldon Kelly, Marie Peabody, Earle Peabody.

Peter Bubar, Melissa Bubar, Michael Anderson, Joe Inman, Torrey Sylvester, Billy Colbath, Basil Grant, Albert Ellis, Bob Crawford, James Donald, Pete Caldwell, Yanna Plourde, David Inman, Carl Stieler, Robert Davenport, Louena Merrithew, Ruth Haney, Glenna Rines, Josephine Grant, Joyce Stewart, Betty Stone, Robert Palm, Jay Maines, Judy Carson, Sharon Esterbrook, Judy Rich, Sally Wiggins, Gayle Carson, Dawn Daly.

Judi London, Janet Small, Donna McKay, Beverly Hurd, Nancy Good, Mell Putnam, Al Holden, Harold Lycette, Larry Porter, Vinal Welch, Lois Lycette, Fred

As the Sesquicentennial Week Approached



Make-up ban proclaimed by Town Council chairman Arnold Peabody as Mrs. Richard Burrill looks on.



have enjoyed the jam-packed days of fun, frolic and festivity. And throughout these days and nights all will be aware of how our ancestors lived and died in the last century and a half.

C. OF C. SPARK PLUG

Plans began in February of 1957 when Paul Coleman, then president of the Houlton Chamber of Commerce arranged a special meeting of citizens to discuss preliminary plans for the Sesquicentennial.

Prior to this first step, the Houlton Pioneer Times had been warning the people that the 150th birthday of the town was due to come up in 1957 and had suggested on several occasions in its editorial columns that something should be started to commemorate the event.

One of these editorials came to the attention of the John B. Rogers Producing Company of Fostoria, O., specialists in the arranging and producing of such celebrations. An inquiry from this firm to the newspaper aroused local interest and, at a preliminary meeting it was voted to invite a representative of the company to come to Houlton and confer on the matter of lending their services to a local committee.

The first meeting was attended by representatives of many local organizations and it was voted to enter into a program for Houlton's Sesquicentennial observance. The meeting was presided over by President Coleman and a report of preliminary negotiations with the John B. Rogers Company was given by Bernard E. Esters, editor and publisher of the Houlton Pioneer Times. President Coleman appointed a committee composed of then town manager Maynard Austin, Mrs. Margaret Cotton, Lawrence Burleigh, Mrs. Cora Putnam and Miss Helen Mitchell, to confer with James Mace who was sent here by the John B. Rogers company.

On Monday, February 18, the final step was taken after meeting with Mace and the decision made to hold the Sesquicentennial in Houlton for August 1957. Mace explained what the significance of the celebration was and what the costs of such a vast undertaking would be.

Also at this time a Sesquicentennial Corporation was named with Lawrence Burleigh elected president, Roy Bither, vice president and Leigh P. Cleveland as secretary and treasurer.

Coleman also appointed Bur-

was also announced at this time. The Houlton Improvement Society Inc.

Next on the agenda was that the week of August 17-24th had been selected for the gigantic celebration.

SEAL CONTEST

Now that the leaders had been chosen and a definite path chosen to follow, the Press Committee opened the Seal Contest and before it was through eight entries for the winning design going to Mrs. Esther Faulkner of Court street in Houlton. For her artistic efforts she received a silver well platter.

Her seal featuring fishing, agricultural and hunting scenes and the Aroostook County Court House has been used in practically all the advertisements in this issue, on posters, programs, official stationery and on the wooden 'nickels. Leon Goodwin submitted the second prize winning entry and Lenona Flanders the third one. Others competing were David Cosman, O. S. Allen, Charlene Taylor and Daryl Crawford.

MORE WORKERS

In early May, more workers were selected including Gordon Bither as underwriter, Roland Atchison, historical program, Bernard Maher, novelties, Albert Cameron, concessions, Cedric Osgood, Brothers of the Brush, assisted by Roy Bither and Bill Dunne, men's hats, assisted by Floyd Haskell, Mrs. Richard Burrill, Sisters of the Swish, Elizabeth White, sunbonnets, assisted by Mrs. Raymond Salisbury, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Porter and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bishop, promotion and caravan, scenario and title, Margaret Greaves, assisted by Helen Atchison and Leigh Cleveland, cast, Mrs. Harry Little, properties, Pete Logan assisted by Doreen MacIlroy, spectacle and music, Mrs. Edna Arnold, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Smith, and Ruth Mooers, cosmetics and make-up, Mrs. John Walker.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Hospitality, Ethel Clark, dignitaries and guests, Mary Hall, assisted by Mrs. Norman Rogerson, housing, Nell Chadwick, official entertaining, Doris McKay with Bea Cleveland, pioneer recognition, Mrs. J. C. Madigan and Mrs. James Archibald.

Historical windows, Ken Ramsdell, parades, Ken Bossie, music, Joe Robinson, special days Floyd Ledger and Don Edwards, merchants promotion, O. S. Allen.

tary personnel be clean-shaven at all times.

The beard raising contest reached out to Nickerson Lake where the cottage owners issued another challenge to their neighbors at Grand Lake to see who could grow the best facial adornments. Gerald Riley was elected president, J. Fred Donald, vice president and Lester Thompson, treasurer of the Nickerson Lake non-shavers.

Before the beards were to be shaved over 500 men in Houlton had some sort of a beard ranging from the well-kept, trimmed adornment to the let-'er-go type. Those joining the B. of B. contributed one dollar to the Sesqui fund, purchased a bowler derby and shoe-string tie making their enrollment official.

NO MAKE-UP BAN

While the ladies were chuckling over their spouse's and boy-friends attempts to raise beards, the Town Council Chairman Arnold Peabody proclaimed a make-up ban for all women until the end of the Sesqui week. The taboo list included no lipstick, rouge, eye shadow, foundation cream, nail polish, tinted or bleached halos, perfume or jewelry. Unless of course, the ladies purchased cosmetic permits and wore sunbonnets allowing them to join the Sisters of the Swish.

Before the annual Fourth of July celebration, Chairmen Mrs. Richard Burrill and William Dunne urged all the citizens to wear their bonnets and derbies during the holiday here. Heeding the call, hundreds of men and women turned out for the day giving visitors a brief preview of the August program.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

During this same week, the Lydia Putnam Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution completed erecting 16 historical markers in and about Houlton pointing out the homes and sites of dwellings of residents who played such an important part in the development of this community. Not forgotten was the grave marker of Pvt. Hiram T. Smith, one of the early soldiers who died in Haynesville while enroute to Houlton for service in the Aroostook War.

QUEEN CONTEST

Following the Fourth of July, the Miss Houlton queen contest was launched designed to add royalty to the festivities of the week. Basically, a popularity campaign, 23 girls agreed to vie

parasols, plus of course the Roaring Twenties mode of dress. Not forgotten were old fashioned night gowns and swimming suits worn by men. Assisting on the committee was Mrs. Louise Currie.

WOODEN NICKELS

Not to be outdone, another committee issued 10,000 wooden nickels in five, ten and 25 cent denominations, all legal tender, too, at least until September 2. The fad however hasn't caught on as well as some of the others, as merchants found the coins awkward to handle and difficult to separate from their regular currency.

CAST OF 400

One of the more outstanding events planned was the Pageant featuring a cast of 400 tracing the history of Houlton from 1807 to 1957 under the capable direction of Arden 'Moose' Peting, a representative of the John B. Rogers Producing Co. 'Moose' is in the professional theatre during the winter and free-lances during the off season. He rewrote the regular scrip adapting it to local conditions.

MAMMOTH STAGE

In addition to the hundreds of costumes and varied props needed for such a spectacle, 'Moose' drew up plans for a mammoth stage 50 feet by 75 for his nightly production during the birthday party.

The music, habits, dance and descriptive history of the town are among the lines of the outdoor performance with hundreds of local actors and actresses taking the leading roles complete with choirs singing the songs of years ago. The colorful spectacle should be entertaining and also informative for those attending. With the professional touch of Moose, it should be a dramatic presentation.

The complete cast includes the following:

Sharon Ardene Gartley, Carole Ann Hamilton, June Harbison, Jane Morrison, Jane Walker, Margaret Shepherd, Barbara Reed, Mary Donald, Janice Harbison, Deborah Hall, Sandra Tidd, Susan Rich, Barbara Howe, Laurella M. Gentle, Jill Peabody, Judith Maines, Judy Gormley, Brenda Hare, Judy London, Janice Porter, Lucia Madigan, Mary Barbara Lee, Linda Peabody, Rachel Sylvester, Charlene Wolhaupter, Bonnie Reed, Judy Russell, Lulu McCue, Sue Carroll, Beverly Young, Virginia Nason, Linda Porter, Jane Robbins.

na McKay, Beverly Hurd, Nancy Good, Mell Putnam, Al Holden, Harold Lycette, Larry Porter, Vinal Welch, Lois Lycette, Fred Doescher, John Small, Norma Welch, Virginia Doescher, Eldon Kelly, Mabel Bubar, Ivan Bubar, Foster Gordon, Peggy Gordon, Frank Peltier, Genesta Small, Rachel Peltier, Marie Peabody, Earle Peabody, Althea Porter, Martha Duff, Benjamin Duff, Priscilla Bubar, Peter Bubar, Melissa Bubar, Susan Bohan, Patricia Carroll, Nancy Bohan, Jean Small, Steven Porter.

Stephanie Bubar, John Small, Ann Doescher, Jay Doescher, Susan Gordon, Nicholas Gravel, Allen McFadden, William Gravel, Margaret Burleigh, Joseph Barlock, Jane Fitzpatrick, Susan McCann, Terrence Curry, Carleen Williams, David Fitzpatrick, Linda Faulkner, Wilbert Bossie, Wayne Shaw, Stephen Smith, Francis Fitzpatrick, Herbert Gentle, Ervin MacDonald, Stephen Rich, John Coffin, David Weston, Kevin Cowperthwaite, Charles Ingraham, Scott Bither, Colin Hogan, David Lawrence, Fred Putnam, Clement McGillicuddy, Jack Coffin, David Vincent Harry Graves, George W. W. Shean.

Pat Mullen, Malcolm Hare, Harold Dickinson, Brian Hogan, Leland Hall, Peter Tidd, Mike McEnnis, Donald Meade, Larry Burton, Vonal Tracy, Lois Tracy, Fred Huggard, Clara Huggard, W. E. Lewis, Mildred Lewis, Vaughn Byron, Hermon Porter, Mary Porter, Ray Varney, Alice Varney, Merritt Lenentine, Louise Lenentine, Henry Valente, Katherine Valenti, Lerdy Crane, Irma Crane, James Porter, Mildred Porter, Claude Tomilson, Margaret Tomilson.

Irving Gibson, Flossie Gibson, Arthur Thompson, Ada Thompson, Clarence Lenentine, Phyllis Byron, Iva Lenentine, Charles Thompson, Willie Varney, Beverly Thompson, James W. Hussey, Vaughn Byron, Henry Valente, Katherine Valente, O. B. Porter, Tom Totman, Mavis Hobert, Calvin Hobert, Wendell Grant, Hazel Grant, Percy Hoar, Victor Totman Robert Ellis.

Mike Mullen, Fred Lowrey, Jerry London, David McGillicuddy, Rodney McKay, Peter Lambert, Sara Young, L. D. Young, Isabelle Esterbrooks, Reta Gentle, Oren Gentle, Charles Wood, Crete Gentle, William Burton, Liola Burton, Dorothy Hand, Pauline Merrill, Faye Albert, Maxine Albert, Jeannette Daniels, Lila Gardiner, Ruth Stoton, Verna-belle Stewart, H. S. Estabrooks.



Cedric Osgood, Brothers of the Brush chairman, distributes pins to bearded citizens making their membership official.



Several members of Battery B, 152nd F. A. Bn. raised beards during the summer before leaving for camp August 17.



Harry Brown, seated, was caught in the act as he tried to have his beard trimmed but was thwarted by Brothers of the Brush.