The Lamoine Quarterly

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Town Meeting set for April 16th, 17th

(Lamoine) — Lamoine's annual town meeting is set for Friday, April 16, 1999 and Saturday April 17, 1999. Voting by secret ballot will take place on Friday between 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM at the Lamoine Town Hall. The open town meeting will take place at the Lamoine Consolidated School beginning at 9:00 AM.

The Town Meeting determines who will hold the various elected offices which run town government, how much the budget will be, and some of the local rules under which town government can operate. The voters of the town are the ultimate authority in those matters, and the town meeting is the opportunity for the voters to exercise that authority.

Moderator

Before the heart of the town meeting gets under way, the voters present at the beginning must select a moderator. There will be a change this year. Harvey Kelley, who has moderated several town meetings in the past, is unable to perform that service this year. The questions and comments were very positive.

The Candidates

It shouldn't take long to count the candidate votes, unless there is a massive write-in campaign at the last minute. None of the four offices up for election on the 16th are contested.

Running for a 2nd term as Selectman is Glenn Crawford. Mr. Crawford was first elected three years ago, and has served as chairman of the board for the past year. He owns C&C Machine Shop in Ellsworth, and is constructing a new home on Asa's Lane, where he will live with his wife Donna and their two children.

Running for re-election to the School Committee is Bonnie Marckoon. She was first elected last November to fill a vacancy created when Kathy Chamberlain moved to another community. Mrs. Marckoon is an assistant manager at the Ellsworth branch of Bangor Savings Bank. She lives with her husband, Stu (the Town Administrative Assistant) and their two daughters on Buttermilk Road.

Town wins Federal Lawsuit

(Lamoine) — Federal judge Morton Brody has granted a judgement favoring the Town in a civil rights case brought by John and Anita Burns of Massachusetts. The ruling effectively ends the complaint, although the Burnses have until April 10th to appeal the ruling to the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

In his ruling, Justice Brody wrote that the claim by the Burnses was barred by the Statute of Limitations. They had six years in which to initiate the suit, but did not file suit until six years and 11 months after a permit to place a septic system on their property was revoked by the town's plumbing inspectors.

The Burnses purchased a piece of land on Catnip Island and were told at the time of purchase that the soils would not support an underground septic system. After several tries to design one, a site evaluator was found that certified a system could be put in. However, review by the Maine Department of Human Services found an error in the soil evaluation on the land, and the State ordered the local plumbing inspectors, John Fink and Sally Bell, to revoke the permit. They did so, and a few years later Mr. & Mrs. Burns pursued an appeal

Selectmen have asked former Castine Town Manager Richard Robinson to moderate this year's town meeting. Mr. Robinson is currently the town manager in Dixfield but still resides in Castine during the weekend. He will get the secret ballot voting started on Friday, while Registrar of Voters Barbara Bartosenski oversees the voting as deputy moderator. Mr. Robinson will then run the open town meeting portion on Saturday at the school. We thank him for agreeing to sacrifice a precious weekend day to serve.

Issues

The hottest issue of the town meeting is likely to be the new Building and Land Use Code which is up for approval by referendum. A further discussion of this matter is outlined on page 2. If approved, this ordinance would replace the current Building and Land Use Ordinance *and* the Subdivision Ordinance, both of which passed initially in March, 1988. The Building and Land Use Code has had several amendments in the past ten years, while the subdivision ordinance has remained unchanged. The call for an update to the ordinances came when the town adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 1996. Since that time, the Planning Board has worked diligently to rewrite and combine these two major ordinances. Special thanks go to Gordon Donaldson, an alternate member of the Planning Board who devoted several hours into setting up the proposed new ordinance. The Planning Board held two public sessions before the required public hearing to make any changes the public felt necessary in the language. They proved very helpful, and the

Seeking a second term as Town Clerk and Tax Collector is Hubene Brodie. She was elected last April to a one year term, replacing long time Clerk/Tax Collector Barbara Bartosenski who retired. Mrs. Brodie says she has learned a lot on the job her first year. She lives on Douglas Highway with her husband Carleton, along with several children and grandchildren who often visit. Mrs. Brodie has served on the Lamoine Budget Committee for two years.

Seeking his first term as a member of the Board of Assessors is Terry Towne. He's seeking the three year seat currently held by Patricia Wallace who decided not to seek re-election due to time considerations. Mr. Towne is the Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Mt. Desert, and serves as Lamoine's Deputy Code Enforcement Officer. He serves on the Board of Appeals, and was one of three members of the committee which wrote the new Mobile Home Park ordinance which passed last year. He lives on Cove Road.

The Ballot

The ballots this year contain the candidates and referendum question on the same page, made possible by the lone question. To write in a candidate, one needs to write their name, and the road they live on, and check the box to indicate a vote for that candidate. The exact street number is not necessary, but since there are some people who live in town with the same name but different addresses, it is important to be able to distinguish who exactly is receiving the vote.

Absentee ballots are available ahead of

through a State process. That process failed, though several more unsuccessful attempts were made to site a septic system on the property.

The Town was defended by attorney Mark Franco of Portland in the federal case in which the plaintiffs sought $500,000 in damages. The Town's public officials liability insurance policy covered all but $1,000 of the legal costs.

Teacher ordered reinstated to job

(Lamoine) — An independent arbitrator has ordered the Lamoine School Committee to reinstate teacher Timothy Barlow to his job at the Lamoine Consolidated School. Mr. Barlow was dismissed from his position last summer by a 3-2 vote of the School Committee. The dismissal came after lengthy discussions about his behavior toward students. The incident which precipitated the dismissal was a claim by a student that Mr. Barlow inappropriately threw him against a wall after the student refused to stop banging his dinner tray in the cafeteria. The student and his mother filed suit against the Town, Mr. Barlow, the principal, the superintendent, and the school. The suit was settled out of court for $20,000 according to press reports. The school's insurance company paid $15,000 of the claim, and Mr. Barlow paid $5,000. A grand jury declined to indict Mr. Barlow for assault charges in the incident.

The school board's dismissal was

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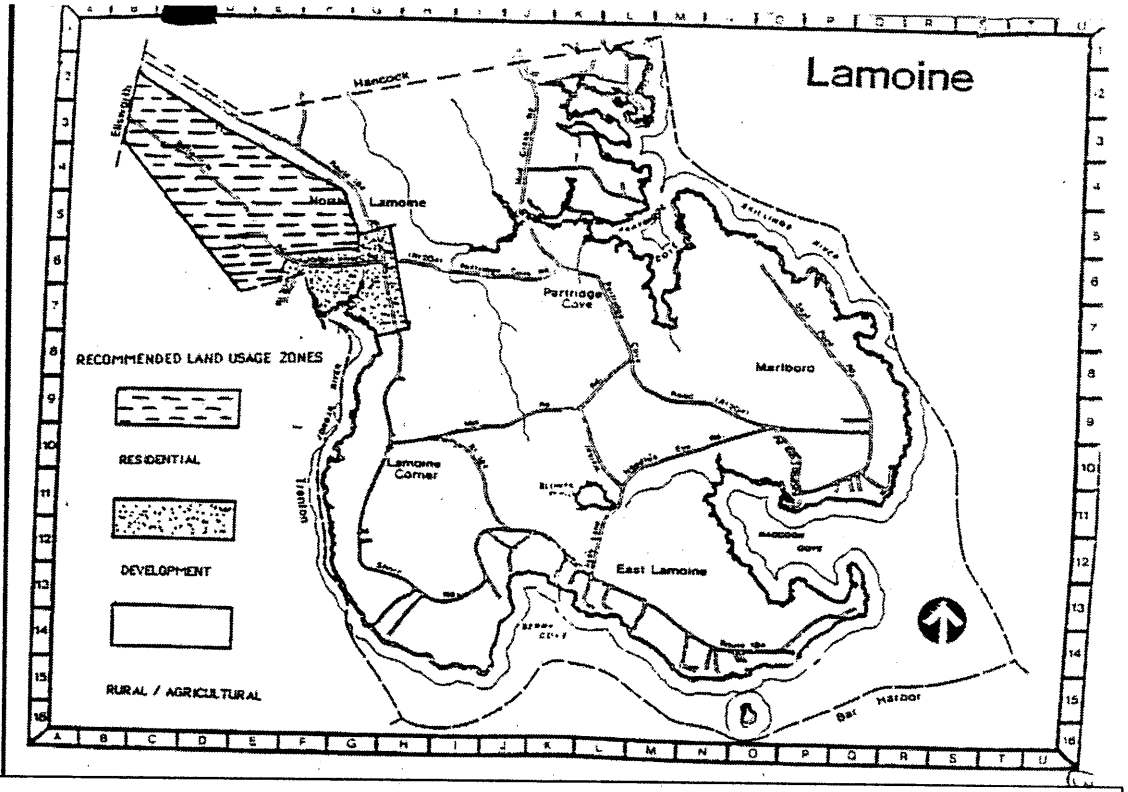
New Building & Land Use Code Developed

(Lamoine) — "We're just a small, Maine town. Why do we need zoning?" That concern was one often heard as the Lamoine Planning Board worked to develop a new Building & Land Use code to conform to the Comprehensive Plan passed at the Town Meeting in March 1996. The answers are numerous.

First, the Comprehensive Plan set up the three zones proposed in the new Building Code. That guiding principle led to the zoning development. Second, while zoning has some bad connotations in some larger communities, it is also a very useful tool to regulate development in small towns. Finally, the town already has adopted a form of zoning in the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, passed in 1993. In that ordinance, four zones with the various uses are laid out.

The proposed Building and Land Use Code (B-LUC) has several major changes from the current ordinance, yet its impact on present property uses is negligible. The biggest change was molding the Subdivision Ordinance into the B-LUC. The entire ordinance has been restructured into three parts. Part One sets up the General Guidelines for uses. It includes the zoning chart and the setbacks, height restrictions, and other items common to both the current B-LUC and Subdivision Ordinance. The 2nd part includes the application process and review criteria either the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board uses to approve or deny a permit request. Part 3 includes the many definitions of terms in the B-LUC. In the past ten years, the Planning Board has found the need for better definitions of the terms in the Code, and this section is greatly expanded.



The proposed zone map (not to scale) is part of the Building & Land Use Code up for a vote on April 16th. The official map is posted in the Lamoine Town Hall for inspection.

New Provisions

There are, as mentioned, significant changes to the B-LUC. The Land Use (Zoning) Requirements are the major addition. They lay out what is allowed in the three zones covered by the B-LUC, and who can approve the applications. The list greatly expands what was permissible and disallowed in the current B-LUC. It also lays out setbacks, minimum lot size, height and maximum lot coverage. The fees for subdivisions will change to a flat $200/lot proposed. A section on cluster housing provisions has been added. For such projects, municipal water and sewer systems must be available.

The other major changes come in the definition section. A number of new definitions are included in the proposed B-LUC which do not appear in the present ordinance.

The proposed B-LUC has undergone legal review by the town attorney and appears

Subdivision Proposed on Route 204

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Planning Board will hold a public hearing on a proposal to create 8 subdivided lots along the Partridge Cove Road (Route 204) on Monday, April 5th. The hearing will start at 7:00 PM during the Planning Board meeting at the Lamoine Town Hall.

The proposal was submitted by Steve Joy on behalf of the property owner, Barton Weilburg of Tennessee. Seven lots between 1.6 and 2.2 acres are proposed, with the remainder of the 22 acres undeveloped. No roads are planned in the subdivision called "Dorothy's Dream". Mr. Weilburg is the son of former Lamoine resident Dorothy Weilburg who passed away in 1998.

A copy of the application is on file at the Town Office for public inspection. During the pre-application discussion, it was pointed out that the current subdivision ordinance promotes creation of many smaller lots, and there is no incentive from a pricing standpoint to encourage larger lots. That prompted the Planning Board to incorporate a change in pricing in the proposed Building and Land Use

Building Permits

The following building permits were issued January through March:

99-01	Shirley James	Garage/Bridal Shop
99-02	T. McIntire	Shed

Census 2000 One year away

(Bangor) — The town has begun preliminary work with the Bureau of Census to make sure they have an accurate list of addresses in Lamoine. On April 1, 2000 a count is due of all the residents of the United States. The Census Bureau has supplied the town with a list of addresses. Under Federal law, the Town must keep this list confidential, using only for address confirmation purposes with the census. The list will be compared with the town's database of addresses compiled from the Enhanced 911 listings.

Cable TV Sold, Again

(Lamoine) — The Cable Television Company which services Lamoine is about to change hands, again. Frontiervision is selling its holdings to Adelphia Corporation of Philadelphia. The town's franchise agreement with the cable company expires in 2003. The Selectmen are currently reviewing the cable TV ordinance and the franchise agreement, and plan to be in touch with a consortium of other towns which do business with Frontiervision. The town must inform the cable company if it doesn't intend to renew 3-years before the renewal time.

Frontiervision has also informed the town that 2 more channels, HGTV and Fox News will be added May 1st, and rates will increase at that time.

to meet the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Board held two public work sessions in March. At the required public hearing in March, only members of the Planning Board testified. They confirmed that lot size requirements will stay the same, despite a call for 60,000 square foot lots in the Comprehensive Plan. Board members felt that issue would jeopardize passage of an ordinance, which would scuttle efforts to make other hugely important changes. The issue of larger lot sizes will be re-visited in the future. There was no testimony against

Gravel Removal Plans Halted

(Lamoine) — Trees will have to be planted in the ground before a newly permitted gravel pit can extract gravel. Owner Reginald McDevitt and Operator Patrick Jordan asked the Planning Board for Permission to remove gravel in January, stating they have a contract to purchase trees for a buffer between the excavation area and Lamoine Beach Road. Because of the winter weather, the owner and operator felt it would not make sense to plant trees, as most of them would die before Spring. Mr. McDevitt told the board he has invested many thousands of dollars to comply with the Gravel Extraction Ordinance already, and he felt holding up operations until planting was an unnecessary cost.

The Planning Board also received testimony from neighbors who objected to the request. A 3-to-2 vote by the Planning Board rejected the request to harvest prior to

Condemned Building Remains Razed

(Lamoine) — A move to obtain a court order to remove the burned remains of a building on Urann Creek Lane in the Partridge Cove Subdivision prompted the property's owner to remove the condemned building. The town had asked the Saloma family to remove the building starting in the Autumn of 1997. The request came after a complaint from a neighbor, and an inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer which found the remains to be dangerous. Of particular concern was a heating fuel tank. Mr. Saloma had sent the town a $500 payment toward the removal. But when the town solicited bids, only one was received, and the town did not obtain Mr. Saloma's permission to proceed with that bid. The matter foundered until the Town Attorney contacted Mr. Saloma, and the building was satisfactorily removed.

During the removal, it was discovered that some fuel was still in the fuel tank. The other metal pieces were removed to the transfer station by Richard King, Inc., but the fuel tank left behind to burn with the rest of the material left after the fire.

The building was the last of three condemned buildings that were successfully removed after a request by the town beginning in 1997. The building was destroyed by fire in July, 1990. Three people who rented the log home were not home at the time. The State Fire Marshal's office investigated the cause but apparently was never able to positively identify a cause of the blaze. It was the last major structure fire

The excavator from Richard King, Inc. stands by while the remains of a condemned building in Partridge Cove are burned.

Guard Rail Possible

Recycling Rates Released

(Augusta) — The State Agency which oversees solid waste says Lamoine recycled at a 23-percent rate during 1998. The figure was derived from statistics sent to the state as part of the annual solid waste report by the Town.

It's likely the town does better than that, but it's difficult to quantify. While recycled material including glass, newspaper, tin, and plastics are weighed before disposal,

Transfer Station Cleanup Expensive

(Lamoine) — The cleanup of contaminated dirt at the Lamoine Transfer Station turned out to be an expensive proposition. It's believed the contamination emanated from an illegally disposed of heating fuel tank placed on the metals pile while the transfer station was closed. However, for the landfill to accept the material, the dirt had to undergo rigorous testing first. The process took a couple of months, and cost approximately $1,600. Once the tests were complete, a contractor was hired to dig up the stained soil and remove it to the Sawyer landfill in Hampden. When the digging was complete, 21 tons of stained gravel was removed. The contractor charged $500 for the removal and replacement with clean gravel, and the landfill charged approximately $1,400 for the disposal. When it was added up, the disposal cost about $3,500. The fence to enclose the transfer station cost about half that amount, and should prevent incidents like that from happening in the future.

The Department of Environmental Protection ordered the dirt removed when the stains were spotted during their annual inspection. Karen Knuuti of the DEP said the only other option was to have a hazardous materials company come directly to the scene and remove the material, but she was not sure how expensive that might be.

Thanks to lower than expected disposal costs at the PERC plant, the cleanup could be funded in the current year budget.

(Lamoine) — Requests from several Shore Road residents may result in a guard rail installed at a sharp drop on that road. It will be the first guardrail maintained on a town road, and the Selectmen will weigh the safety need with the cost before making a final decision.

The rail is proposed for a section of road which flooded in November, 1996 during a severe rainstorm. A banking above the gully washed away during the flood, closing the road for less than a day. Rocks were placed beside the road shoulder, but those tumbled into the stream during the next round of erosion on the banking. Those were replaced last year, and have stayed put. Those requesting the guard rail were concerned that the town is unsure whether the cardboard is now being weighed separately. The recycling figures are provided to the town by Sawyer Environmental. It was difficult to discern from the report supplied for 1998 whether the cardboard was weighed.

Can things improve? Definitely, but voluntary recycling still seems to be working. Witness Christmas time. The volume of cardboard in the recycling room was overflowing, even with four bins present. Folks who wonder exactly what can be recycled can obtain a flyer from transfer station attendant Allen Sternfield or the Town Office. Each ton that is recycled means a savings to the town of over $55 in costs to burn it at PERC.

Water tests near old landfill inconclusive

(Lamoine) — The second round of state ordered water testing at private residential wells near the former Lamoine Landfill have yet to conclude if ground water in the area is contaminated by the old dump. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection conducted a 3rd round of testing in February to see if it could conclude whether high levels of some materials may be coming from the capped landfill.

Bob Birk with the DEP explained to the town that some high levels of suspicious material showed up in one residential well, however the level is not high enough to warrant major concern over drinking water standards. The home in question is equipped with a water filter system, so the new round of testing by Birk included tests both before and after the filtering. The DEP has promised to supply the town and homeowners with the testing results when they become known. At this time, Birk says he is not terribly concerned about the safety of the drinking water, but they wanted to do more testing because of some of the chemicals which showed up in the water.

In all, four homes were tested. Two showed no water problems at all.

The DEP, meanwhile, has requested costs to place monitoring wells along the perimeter of the old landfill. Those may be installed this summer, and tested periodically.

If it does turn out that the landfill is indeed polluting the groundwater, the town could find alternate water sources for the home, and the state pays the bulk of the costs.

Mud Creek closed by pollution

(Lamoine) — The Department of Marine Resources posted the tidal area of Mud Creek off limits to shellfish harvesting because of a high pollution level which showed up in routine water testing. The closure was posted in December.

The source of the pollution is unclear, though both the Town's Plumbing Inspector and the DMR have investigated the area. The most likely culprit is an old outhouse located near the bridge which crosses the creek on Mud Creek Road. The town has been in touch with the homeowner, and is in the process of working with the Department of Environmental Protection in the Small Community Grant program to replace the outhouse with a more modern tank situation to prevent spillage into Mud Creek. An application for the grant was submitted in January, and reportedly has been approved.

The town installed two other septic disposal systems under this program in the past year to replace failing septic systems at income eligible households. The funding for both systems was received from the State in January, but the town still awaits payment from one of the homeowners for their portion of the project.

The DMR is also exploring other possible sources for the pollution at Mud Creek. The pollution was a fecal Coliform bacteria which appeared at the test station near the Mud Creek Bridge, which would indicate human

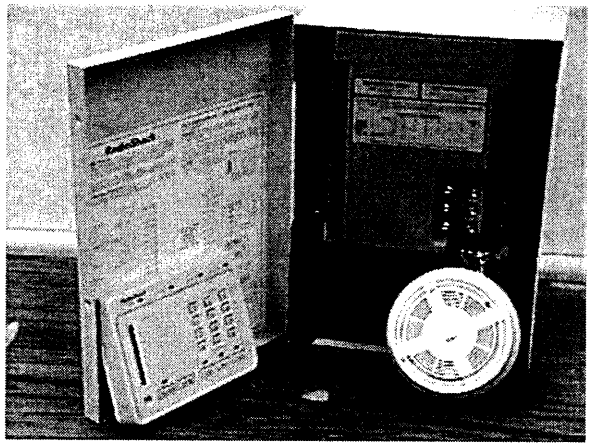
Fire Alarm purchased for Town Hall

(Lamoine) — In recent years, fires have done serious damage to town halls in Maine. This past winter, the Liberty Town Hall was destroyed in a fire, taking all the original town records with it. A few years ago, in an alleged effort to conceal embezzlement, a fire was set at the Etna Town Hall. If fire were to break out in the middle of the night at our town hall, chances are no one would see it for several hours. By then, the town hall and its contents could sit in ruins. No longer.

The Selectmen have purchased a fire alarm system. Smoke detectors are hooked into a central panel, and if they go off, the fire department will be automatically called, thanks to an automatic dialing unit. The fire alarm works on the same principle as the burglar alarm, which was installed following a theft several years ago.

The smoke detectors are placed in the basement where the furnace is located, and on the main floor of the town hall. The top floor is inaccessible and has no electricity, and the likelihood of fire starting there is highly remote.

The town has applied for a grant with its insurance carrier, Maine Municipal Association, to cover 2-thirds of the cost of the purchase, which was about $300. We will learn in May if the grant was awarded. First Selectmen Glenn Crawford said of the alarm idea, "it's one of those things you hope you never have to use, and it could be a waste of money, but if it's needed, it's invaluable.



The components of the new fire alarm system at the Town Hall, which will automatically call the fire dept. if the smoke detectors

Early morning calls for firefighters.

(Lamoine) — The calls during the winter months were much less numerous for the Lamoine Fire Department this year, thanks to the lack of an ice storm. In January, the fire department was called at 12:30 in the morning to a house owned by Dr. Robert Madrell on Asa's Lane. The tenants reported a chimney fire. Later in the month, another 12:30 AM chimney fire was reported at the Edward & Diane Bonney residence on Shore Road. Neither home received any damage other than a little smoke in the basement.

At about 2:00 the same morning as the Bonney fire, approximately 10 minutes after everyone had returned home, a motor vehicle accident was reported on Buttermilk Road.

Emergency Plan Drafted

(Lamoine) — Since 1993, Lamoine has applied for disaster relief on three occasions, and has been granted funds twice. One was for a severe snow storm in 1993 which washed out some roads. The other grant came from the Ice Storm in 1998.

In both cases, the town followed an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) of sorts. The 1993 incident merely consisted of calling a contractor to fix the roads. The Ice Storm required more extensive planning for disaster response. The plan followed for the ice storm worked well, and in hindsight is pretty much the plan that will be in place if a draft is adopted by the Selectmen.

The proposed plan is based on a state model supplied by the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency. It outlines the various threats which face the town. Flooding is a high threat, nuclear explosions are relatively low. It outlines the response of key officials, namely the Local Emergency Management Director, the Selectmen, the Fire Chief, the police agencies which cover Lamoine, the Harbor Master, the Health Officer and the School.

The key players were given copies of the draft with a request to respond with any changes by mid-April. Once any comments are received and necessary changes made, the Selectmen can adopt the plan. The last official EOP was passed in 1980. It is seriously outdated, referring many of the potential jobs to the town

March Blizzard cripples travel

(Lamoine) — A late winter snowstorm that dropped up to 22 inches of snow in some parts of Maine unleashed its fury on Lamoine as well. It started on March 15th, and snowed heavily for approximately 28 hours straight. Drifts of up to five feet accumulated on open areas, especially in the Pinkham's Flats and Mud Creek Road areas.

Police agencies advised motorists to stay put until road crews had a chance to open up the roadways on the morning of the 16th. Plow contractor Richard King, Inc.'s crews had trouble keeping up with the accumulating snow, and especially the drifts. By the afternoon of the 16th, one of the large trucks was off the road on Mud Creek Road, and another was being serviced, which left the crew with only smaller trucks to move the heavy snow. Numerous inquiries were received at the town office as to when the side roads would be fully opened.

By the end of the day on the 16th, the roads were opened two lanes wide, but a layer of snow was still on the local roads. Crews worked through the night scraping them down as much as possible, then putting a layer of sand on top.

On the 17th, the weather turned warm, and the roads turned slushy, prompting a new round of inquiries. By mid-afternoon the roads were bare, and things back to normal for travelers.

George Lee of Birchlawn Drive received head injuries when the pickup truck he was driving veered off the road, and hit mailboxes and trees. He was taken to the hospital by County Ambulance, whom the fire department assisted by lighting the scene and helping remove Mr. Lee from the truck.

Mr. Lee stopped by the town office in mid-March to report he is feeling better, but doesn't remember the accident. Police theorize he may have fallen asleep at the wheel.

A call on March 5th of heavy black smoke on Mud Creek Road turned out to be a permit burn in the Town of Hancock. No suppression efforts were needed.

In late March, Firefighters were called to Ellsworth to assist in an apartment house fire on Long Lane. One tenant was rescued from the burning home. Lamoine's firefighters assisted in putting the blaze out and overhaul of the building owned by George

Ambulance Contract Renewed

(Lamoine) — The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to renew a contract with County Ambulance to provide 24 hour emergency coverage for Lamoine. The three year contract will increase in price from $4/per person in town the first year to $5/per person in the final year. With the Census coming in 2000, and an expected population increase, that may raise the cost greater than the anticipated 20 percent in the contract.

Lamoine Man in Police Standoff

(Gray) — State Police had to use a spike mat to stop a speeding van driven by 55 year old Bruce Sommer of Lamoine. Several motorists on the Maine Turnpike in Auburn reported the speeding van, and police clocked it in excess of 120 miles per hour. When the van stopped with its flattened tires, Mr. Sommer did not come out of the vehicle. Officers fired two rounds of tear gas into the van, then stormed the vehicle and took Mr. Sommer into custody. He was treated at a Lewiston hospital for minor injuries and faces several charges. Mr. Sommer resides on Douglas Highway.

Fire Department adopts By-laws

(Lamoine) — Members of the Lamoine Volunteer fire department adopted a new set of by-laws at their annual meeting in February. The by-laws set out the method for the organization to function, how issues are decided, and the various officers and membership levels, as well as its relationship with the Town of Lamoine. The Volunteer Fire Department is a separately incorporated organization so that it can perform various organizational activities without town meeting approval. Members re-elected Skip Smith as Chief, Joe Reynolds and Stu Marckoon as Assistant Chiefs, Mo Oliver as Chief

Town Reports Printed for 1998

(Lamoine) — The annual town report for 1998 has been printed, and will be distributed door to door in early April by the Downeast Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

The cover of this year's town report is a compilation of the newest version of the town road map and shots of the public buildings of Lamoine. It was designed to give a snapshot of how the town was situated as we near the end of the 20th century. It will be the final town report printed in the 1900's, as the 1999 report will come out in 2000.

The report was dedicated to former Selectman and Road Commissioner Carlton Pinkham. He passed away as the town report last year was going to print. We thank his widow, Erva, for supplying information about his life.

Some interesting changes in this year's format. In addition to the spending lines in the budget for the fiscal year which ended last June 30th, the spending is also listed by vendors. This will give a good idea of to whom the town pays its bills.

Also included this year are some interesting historical notes. Jo Cooper and Marion McFarland put together some interesting tidbits, and they were combined with Mandy Hegg's hand drawing of the East Lamoine Church. It's a good idea to bring your town report to town meeting to follow the articles and have access to the budgets.

Tax increase if budget passes

(Lamoine) — After two years of slight property tax decreases, Lamoine residents may see their tax bill increase slightly for 1999. A grand total budget of $1,810,835.42 is proposed for the annual town meeting on April 17th. This represents an increase of $9,423.51 from last year's grand total. But, the amount of revenues to offset that budget is down, in some cases, significantly, and that's why the tax rate is likely to increase.

Spending Outlined

Since last October, the six person budget committee has studied the spending proposals submitted by the various departments. The total administration budget is up 1.13%, or roughly $1,200. The total increase is less than the proposed salary increases for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector ($1,500) and the Administrative Assistant ($900). The Budget Committee also proposes a major change in the way the members of the Board of Assessors are paid. The warrant would set a base salary of $400 for the chairman, and $200 for each non-chair, plus $8/hour up to a maximum of $1,250 and $950 respectively. It was felt that this would more fairly compensate those assessors who work many hours while other members have been unable to. The Road Commissioner's pay is similarly structured.

The biggest decrease in administration comes in insurance savings. Thanks to an improved fire insurance rating and general savings in the insurance industry, the insurance

Education

The education spending budget is down, as proposed, by $9,649.85. Lower teacher salaries and a significant drop in high school tuition were offset by various capital projects proposed by the school board. However, the budget committee recommended a lower amount of spending on several fronts. One of the reasons are legal fees which have accumulated this year in connection with the Barlow case. There are two articles to alter the current year budget up by $35,000 to cover those costs. The money from that would come from the education fund carried forward at the end of last June. That means the amount of carry-forward to be used for the 1999/2000 budget would be $35,000 less, and that will have to be made up by property taxes. By funding the extra legal bills this way, the current year's surplus and property taxes will remain intact. Cuts to offset that loss of carry forward are recommended by the budget committee and the school board is expected to go along with some of those recommendations on the floor of town meeting.

Fewer Revenues

To offset budget increases in education last year, the town utilized its surplus account for $90,000. This year, the surplus will be tapped for $6,250 to keep it at the desired $300,000 level. That level is used for cash flow in the summer months when revenues are down, and also represent a certain amount of unpaid tax liens and other accounts receivable. It also

New Policy for Bad Checks Approved

(Lamoine) — It'll cost you more if you bounce a check made out to the town, and the town is not able to re-deposit and make it good. The Board of Selectmen approved a new check policy which will impose a $25 charge on those checks which are returned. The town treasurer will first attempt to contact the bank the check is drawn upon, and if it's a local bank from which a cashier's check can be obtained, that will be done, and the cashier's check deposited with no extra charge. If, however, there are not sufficient funds in the account to cover the bad check, the check maker will be contacted and the $25 fee imposed.

The new policy also allows the treasurer to "sell" bad checks. The situation arose where a check for a tax lien was returned after the foreclosure date on the lien. A mortgage holder was contacted and offered to purchase the check for face value. In that case, no check fee was imposed.

If the check is for payment of a car registration, the town has, from time to time, had the registration of the vehicle and the check writer suspended until the check is made good. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has been helpful in that regard. If, after all efforts are exhausted, the Town will take the person who passed the bad check to small claims court in an effort to collect. That happened in the summer of 1998, and though a settlement was reached, the maker has yet to re-pay the budget was able to fall by $1,500. Workers Compensation and unemployment insurance costs have come down significantly.

The biggest non-education budget increase will come in major road maintenance. Paving projects are planned for Buttermilk Road and Shore Road in 1999. Only Asa's Lane and the transfer station were paved in 1998. Propping up the revaluation reserve by $2,500 is included in the budget in anticipation a revaluation will be needed in 2003.

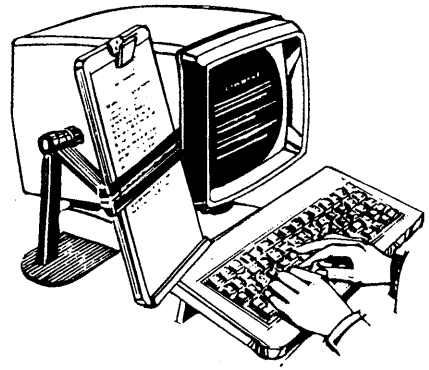
Town Office Computers Upgraded

(Lamoine) — A technology upgrade at the Town Office will come this Spring. One computer has run out of storage space, and the other computer is antiquated by modern standards.

The computer in the Administrative Assistant's office was purchased 3 years ago. New and updated programs along with large files have used up most of the 1 Gigabytes of hard drive space. The upgrade will include an 8 Gigabyte hard drive, a speed increase to 233 MHz, and addition of a CD-Rewriter. The latter piece of equipment should allow for unlimited storage of large files for years to come in the town office.

The town recently purchased an inexpensive scanner for this computer. One of the projects planned in the coming years is to provides an emergency buffer for the town if cash is needed.

That loss of funding is slightly offset by use of the Buttermilk Road Reserve at $44,000 which will help pay for the major paving projects on Buttermilk and Shore Roads. Overall, the non-education revenue used to offset property taxes is down by $34,140. Still, the non-education revenue provides enough funding to fund non-education and non-county budgets, with $61,322.03 left to lower those property tax uses. In other words, without the school budget and the county tax, the town could run



scan the vital and historic records at the town office onto computer disks to be stored off-site. This will provide a nice backup in case of a catastrophe.

The Town Clerk's computer will be retired, and replaced with a newer 66 MHz computer with a 500 megabyte hard drive, donated by Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon. This will have 25 times more storage space, and run approximately four times faster than the present unit

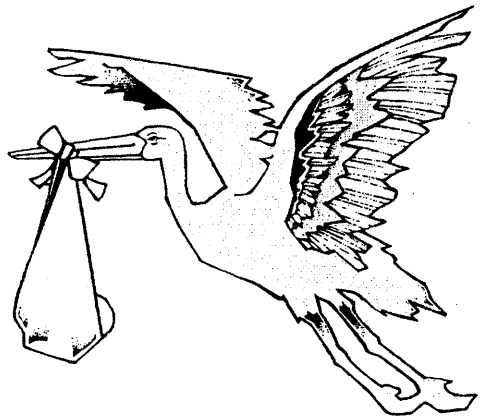
Lamoine Couple celebrates 70th wedding anniversary

(Lamoine) — Galen and Margaret Crowley have spent the last 10-years of their married life in Lamoine. That's not very long, considering they were married in 1929! On March 17th, the couple marked their 70th anniversary at their Douglas Highway home.

Mr. & Mrs. Crowley were married in Winter Harbor, and spent most of their working life there. Mr. Crowley was a self employed fisherman, and Mrs. Crowley kept the books and helped make the traps and mend the nets.

Today they're both retired and stay pretty close to home, but are still fairly active. Mr. Crowley will celebrate his 90th birthday this year, and Mrs. Crowley will turn 89.

The Selectmen honored the couple with a special certificate for their anniversary, which they celebrated with family at the



Slow season for Weddings

(Lamoine) — Just one wedding in Lamoine in the past quarter, as Valentine's Day was the backdrop. **Dwight A. Brown** of Ellsworth and **Julie A. Derrah** of South Portland were married by the Reverend David Henry at the Lamoine Baptist Church. The ceremony took place on February 13th. The couple resides in the Portland area.

Trash company to sell operations

(Ellsworth) — The company which hauls Lamoine's trash from the transfer station to the PERC plant in Orrington has been sold to the Sawyer Company, based in Hampden. RF Jordan and Sons announced its sale in late March.

In the five year contract the Town has with Jordan, any assignment of the contract must be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Discussion of that approval will come in April.

Ellsworth City Hall moves back

(Ellsworth) — After over a year in a temporary home on Main Street, the offices of Ellsworth City Hall are back in place, and Lamoine assisted slightly in the transition. During the move, books which help determine vehicle values in order to properly collect excise tax were misplaced. The Lamoine Town Hall had some spare books in the years which Ellsworth needed, and loaned them to Ellsworth to help

MDI Tourist Bus to start in summer

(Bar Harbor) — A fleet of buses which will be called "Island Explorer" was unveiled to members of the MDI League of towns at the February meeting held in Lamoine. The bus system is a partnership between the towns on Mount Desert Island, Acadia National Park, the Federal Transportation Department, the Maine Department of Transportation, and several private groups, including the Friends of Acadia.

The new buses will be operated by Downeast Transportation and will offer free rides to major park attractions from various pick up sites on MDI and in Trenton.

The bus plan has been in the works for several years and was sped along with a major federal grant. It's hoped the buses will cut down on traffic and pollution within Acadia Ntl. Park.

First Quarter brings new faces to town

(Lamoine) — The Kindergarten class of 2005 has started to take shape as the stork has visited at least three Lamoine households in the past quarter.

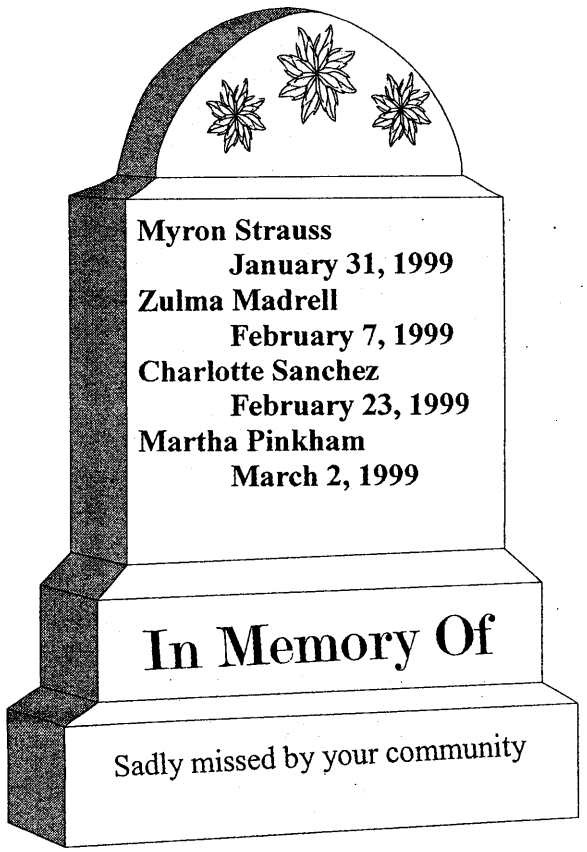
The first baby of 1999 to arrive was **Erin Arlene White** who was born on January 20, 1999 at MDI Hospital in Bar Harbor. Her mom & dad are **Cynthia and Lonnie White** and they live on Douglas Highway in North Lamoine.

In February, **Ceileigh Mae Weaver** was born at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth. She's the daughter of **Tina and Peter Weaver** who also live on Douglas Highway in North Lamoine. (Water tests have turned up no traces of anything unusually fertile at this time in North Lamoine.)

Our final Lamoine baby of the winter is **Douglas Matthew Morren** who arrived at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital on St. Patrick's Day. Mom & Dad are **Jonathan & Karen Morren** who live on Quail Lane in the Partridge Cove subdivision. They are both physical therapists at the hospital, and Dad is a member of the Fire Department.

Honorable mention goes to **Haden Sattler**, born on February 3rd at MDI Hospital. His Mom & Dad, **Julie & Jason Sattler** both grew up in Lamoine, but live just over the line in Hancock on Douglas Highway. Grammy is none other than our Town Clerk, **Hubene Brodie.**

There is some concern about that assignment. The Sawyer Company is owned by Casella Waste, a huge corporation with extensive holdings in Maine. Casella has also announced it plans to by the KTI Corporation, the owners of the PERC Plant in Orrington. If that sale is approved, it would mean that in many communities, including Lamoine, one company is responsible for the entire waste stream from the time it leaves the private home to the time it is incinerated. Several communities have expressed concern about the apparent lack of competition should that



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Teacher Reinstated (continued)

appealed by Mr. Barlow, and an arbitrator was assigned to the case. His decision came in February. While the bulk of the report is confidential as part of Mr. Barlow's personnel file, the arbitrator essentially said that a 10-day suspension for the incident would have been an appropriate reaction from the School Committee. It ordered that Mr. Barlow be reinstated to his job at the school as a middle-level grade teacher with back pay.

In late March, the School Board voted to appeal the arbitrator's decision to Maine Superior Court. It's now known when the court will hear arguments and decide on the appeal. In the meantime, legal costs associated with the case are mounting. The School Board, anticipating large bills in the current fiscal year, will ask town meeting to appropriate some of the money left over at the end of last fiscal year to be used to cover $35,000 in current year legal costs.

Road Name Changes Proposed

(Lamoine) — Two small side roads will change their names, provided the town meeting gives approval in April.

The first name change was requested on a petition signed by the people who live on Lawlor Lane. The road was originally named for the developer of the subdivision in which

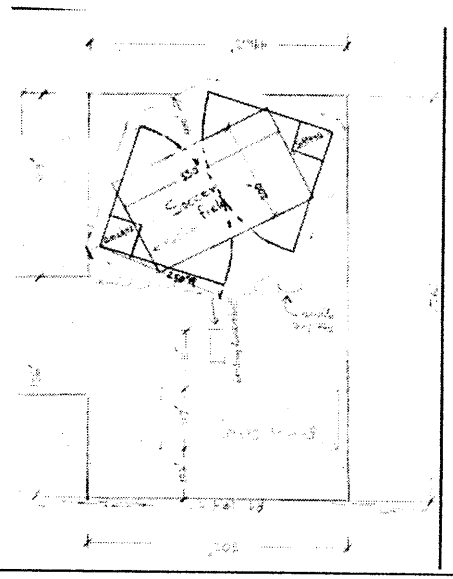
New Sports Fields Proposed behind School

(Lamoine) — Organizers of a volunteer effort hope to construct a new baseball, softball, and soccer field, with a cross-country route around the perimeter. School Board member Lori Boynton and fellow ballfield subcommittee members Steve Fellis and Tom Spruce outlined their plans before the Board of Selectmen in March.

Mrs. Boynton explained that the present softball field behind the school is very small, and the field used to play school baseball games (Coyne Field) is owned by a private citizen. The future of that facility may be in question, and she said that busing students from the school to Coyne Field can get expensive.

The proposal would use land purchased several years ago behind the school to build the baseball and softball field, with the soccer field sharing the outfield area of both. Mr. Fellis's sister, who is a forester and soil scientist, has offered her services in mapping out the area and analyzing the needs. Mrs. Boynton said many of the contractors in town have already volunteered materials for the project.

The sub-committee said it is their plan to build the ballfields without taxpayer money. They asked the Selectmen for their blessing on the project, and reported the School Board has already given the go ahead to proceed with the



A rough sketch of the proposed ballfield setup behind the Lamoine Consolidated

volunteer effort.

Mrs. Boynton said they would like to be able to construct the fields this summer, if they can get the volunteer labor and donations in place by then. The Selectmen reserved judgement on the proposal until more specific plans are available. They did advise the committee to keep neighbors and the town involved in the plans.

The land was purchased in anticipation that additional space would be needed for recreation if the school were to expand.

Lamoine OM Teams Place Well - States Next

the road was constructed, Francis Lawlor. The residents felt a better name would be Fox Run, and the Selectmen agreed. The road is located off Shore Road, where Bear Point Way, Deer Run, and Wolf Run are already located.

The other road name proposed to change is Urann Creek Lane. The new name will become Mallard Lane, if approved by Town Meeting. The only homeowner on this road asked for the change, as some people have confused the spelling of Urann in a rather embarrassing way. Another reason is to make all the roads in the Partridge Cove Subdivision come under the same theme, namely birds which are common in Lamoine. The subdivision already has Woodcock Lane, Heron Lane, Pheasant Lane, Eider Lane, Quail Lane, and Cormorant Lane. It is felt that Mallard Lane would fit the scheme a little better.

The road naming ordinance requires town meeting approval for name changes. If approved, the Town will erect new signs at a

Girls are Champs!

(Ellsworth) — The Lamoine Consolidated School girls basketball team won the Union 92 championship, finishing the season undefeated. The team beat last year's champs, Trenton, in a thrilling 32-28 game played at Ellsworth High School. It's the first time the Lamoine girls have won the championship for Union 92. The team looks to be very strong for next season as well, as many of the standout players this season are 7th graders.

(Lamoine) — Lamoine School was well represented at the Downeast Region Odyssey of the Mind Competition on March 13. The five competing teams placed either first or second in their problem divisions. The OM program challenges kids to apply imagination and ingenuity to solve problems.

The third grade team presented their solution to Saving Our IncOMe. Rebecca Anderson, John Cooper, Alex Emeigh, Amelia Gillette, Nick Pappas, Jason Patten, Molly Vaux, and Clayton Walker humorously demonstrated the value of wise budgeting and saving for the future.

The school's Division I team for EnvirOMental Challenge team took 2nd place. During their performance they had to collect samples and determine if various habitats were suitable for an Earth species. Team members were Jeremy Curran, Emily Frederick, Elan

Principal agrees to long term deal

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine School Committee and principal Val Perkins have agreed on a three year contract. Mr. Perkins was hired in the summer of 1998 after 25 years at the Tremont Consolidated School.

Both sides seem pleased by the new contract. The school committee believes it will guarantee some stability at the school which experienced several teacher resignations and retirements this year. Mr. Perkins says he really enjoys the people and the students in Lamoine and looks forward to the next three

Gabel-Richards, Joshua Jones, Kaitlyn Vaux, and Gena Walker.

"Shrews in Space" or "The Taming of the Shrewstranauts" was the 2nd place entry in OMy Faire Shakespeare Division II. Emily Christie, Joshua Duym, Derek Murphy, Emma Stanley, Andrew Stocking, and Richard Veysey replaced Neil Armstrong on the historical moonwalk.

Dylan Brann, Kirstien Dickey, Cassandra Engstrom, Alexandra Raynor, Cody Spruce, Kim Tupper, and Charles Weber placed first in CustOMer Service Division I. A Doggie Spot Keeper dispenser full of spot-saving treats was advertised with song and dance.

A musical comedy set in medieval times placed second in CustOMer Service Division II. Matt Becker, Brandon Bonney, Willy Fellis, Avi Gabel-Richards, Richard McMullen, and Mario Moretto sold Armour Shine to returning Crusaders.

Placing first in CustOMer Service Division II was a team who created a new lobster product sold at the Lamoine Lobster Lick Stick Cafe.Bryan Duffy, Miranda Engstrom, Mary Jones, Lauren Linscott, Melissa King, and Jennifer Reynolds also were presented with a Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award.

The two first place teams in CustOMer service will compete at the State OM Tournament on Saturday, April 10.

Margaret Boshko is the school coordinator for the OM teams. Volunteer coaches included Kathleen Rybarz, Ted Duffy, Andrea Gabel-Richards, Peter Vaux, Darlene Fellis, Diane Bonney,Robin Veysey, Anne Stocking, Barbara Engstrom, and Carol Duffy.

APRIL 1999 - TOWN OF LAMOINE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1- 7:00 Fire Department	2	3
4-Easter Sunday	5- 6:30 School Board 7:00 Planning Board	6-Office Closed, Motor Vehicles Classes	7-Office opens at 10:30 AM	8-6:15 Selectmen 7:00 Fire Department	9	10
11	12	13-Office closed in morning (Meeting)	14	15- 7:00 Fire Dept.	16-2pm to 8pm Town Mtg. Vote	17-9AM Open Town Meeting
18	19	20	21	22-6:00 Selectmen sign expenditure warrant* 7:00 Fire Dept.	23	24
		Town office closed - Adm. Asst. on vacation				
25	26-10AM Postal Quality of Worklife Meeting	27	28	29-7:00 Fire Dept.	30	*no formal meeting planned.

MAY 1999 - TOWN OF LAMOINE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3-6:30 School Board 7:00 Planning Board	4 Board of Assessors conduct spring field work & quarter review with RCI Appraisal	5	6-6:15 Selectmen 7:00 Fire Department	7	8

JUNE 1999 - TOWN OF LAMOINE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3-6:15 Selectmen 7:00 Fire Department	4	5
6	7-6:30 School Board 7:00 Planning Board	8	9	10-7:00 Fire Dept.	11	12

Other meetings may be scheduled during these months. Consult the town office for details.