



Maine Public Broadcasting to Contribute Content to Initial Collection of Public Media's American Archive

(Bangor/Lewiston/Portland) — The Maine Public Broadcasting Network is announcing that it will contribute a portion of its archival television and radio footage to the initial collection of public media's American Archive. MPBN's contribution will be digitized and included as part of the Archive's first 40,000 hours of content.

The American Archive, a Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) initiative, is a comprehensive effort to inventory, digitize and preserve local and national public media content produced over the last six decades. The Archive will ensure that the public investment in non-commercial media, totaling billions of dollars over the years, is fully protected for, and accessible to, generations to come.

"The American Archive is one of the most important responsibilities facing our public media system," said Patricia Harrison, President and CEO of CPB. "Taxpayers have funded more than half a century of local, regional and national television and radio programming, and the American Archive will serve as a return on that investment."

Maine Public Broadcasting was able to locate 3,100 audio cassette recordings of their weekday half-hour radio news program, Maine Things Considered. These records span from May 1999 to the present, and each episode includes three to four reports on various issues, people, and events throughout the state and region. MPBN also came across a reel of old film that appears to be of a 1929 hike on Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest peak. Another important find is a collection of photographs taken by MPBN photographers over the course of 30 years. This includes three decades of Maine scenes, people, events and "behind-the-scenes" photos of MPBN productions, depicting sets, old equipment and people at work.

"We are proud to have a role in creating the American Archive," said MPBN President and CEO Mark Vogelzang. "As part of this initiative, public radio and television stations across the country are not only contributing to a historical record of public media in the 20th century, they are also re-connecting audiences, present and future, to the media that holds the memory of the events, people, and landscapes of their communities."

Since the project launched two years ago, public television and radio stations across the country have identified nearly 2.5 million records, including completed local and national programs, raw footage, unedited interviews, recorded speeches, scripts and photos. This totals more than one million hours of video, film, and audio recordings from more than 100 stations.

Public radio and television stations participating in the initiative have completed the initial phases of the project, including inventorying their archives and selecting the content to be preserved. As a next step, CPB is preparing to transition the American Archive to a new permanent home that will sustain and expand the work of the Archive moving forward.

About the Maine Public Broadcasting Network

The Maine Public Broadcasting Network operates five television transmitters (WCBB-TV - Augusta - 10, WMEA-TV - Biddeford - 26, WMED-TV - Calais - 13, WMEB-TV - Orono - 12, WMEM-TV - Presque Isle - 10), and seven radio

transmitters (WMEH-FM - Bangor - 90.9, WMED-FM - Calais - 89.7, WMEP-FM - Camden - 90.5, WMEF-FM - Fort Kent - 106.5, WMEA-FM - Portland - 90.1, WMEM-FM - Presque Isle - 106.1, WMEW-FM - Waterville - 91.3) reaching households in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Atlantic Canada. MPBN also delivers content to a worldwide audience via its website, www.mpbn.net.

About CPB

The [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#) (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,300 locally-owned and -operated public television and radio stations nationwide, and is the largest single source of funding for research, technology, and program development for public radio, television and related online services.

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