



Down The Lane



SKYLINE FARM

95 The Lane
North Yarmouth, Maine
(207) 829-9203

www.skylinefarm.org

WINTER 2009

There are 3 geocaches hidden on the Skyline Farm's premises. One is located near the Boy Scout bridge. Geocaching is a relatively new sport called a high-tech hide-and-see game. Photo by Karen Pelton of Denmark, Maine

10th Annual "Sleigh Day" - February 7 and "Winter Time in the City" Exhibit

10th annual "Sleigh Day" - Feb. 7 (storm date Feb. 8)

On Saturday, February 7 from 12-3 p.m., Skyline Farm will host its 10th Annual Sleigh Day, and the carriage and sleigh museum will feature a new exhibit, "Winter Time in the City," depicting a wintry city street scene from the late 1800s. Dress warmly and come to this double-header where horse-drawn vehicles are displayed in the museum and also being driven outdoors in the surrounding fields.

The \$8 admission fee per spectator includes one sleigh ride given by Luther Gray of New Gloucester, Maine and his pair of Percheron horses; admission is free for participating sleigh drivers, Skyline Farm members, and kids under 6.

All types of sleighs, all equine breeds, and all drivers are welcome. Although no fancy turnout is required, some of the drivers will be dressed in the style of "Currier & Ives" from this bygone era. They will demonstrate their talent in the outdoor arena, navigate their horses and sleighs around obstacles, and parade their sleighs by an appreciative audience.

This sleigh driving demonstration is a virtual step back in time; a unique opportunity to get a firsthand glimpse of the glorious days of the horse-drawn transportation era. If snow conditions permit, there will be a cross country pleasure drive through the fields, providing many photo opportunities for spectators. If you'd like to truly feel what it was like to drive along the quiet snow in a horse-drawn sleigh, hop on board for a sleigh ride through the field. It's the perfect opportunity to get out of the house and celebrate winter.

The Maine Junior Driving Club will sell hot food and drinks inside the heated Visitor Center. This fledgling group of nine young people comprises our future drivers, so let's support them!

For more information about Sleigh Day, call organizers Lynn Young at (207) 829-5838 or Donna Thurston at (207) 829-6570, or e-mail: info@skylinefarm.org.

"Winter Time in the City" Museum Exhibit

Come to the festive Opening Night Gala to view the Skyline Farm Carriage and Sleigh Museum's newest exhibit "Winter Time in the City", on Friday, February 6th from 5 to 7 pm. The museum will also be open on Saturday, February 7 running concurrently with Sleigh Day from 12-3 p.m. Exhibit hours will continue to run from 12-3 p.m. on Sundays during February and March through March 22nd.

The wintry city street scene will feature sleighs including: single & double seat sleighs, Oakhurst delivery sleigh, Bob sleigh, Albany sleigh and Canadian sleigh. Also winter wheeled vehicles are included: a Victoria, Rockaway and Hearse. Skyline Farm's "core" collection will also be on display.

Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted. For more information about the museum exhibit, call Greg Cuffey (207) 793-8569.

In case of a storm, Sleigh Day and the exhibit opening will be held on Sunday, February 8. For directions to Skyline Farm, 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth, Maine, please check our web site www.skylinefarm.org.

A New Way to Help Skyline Farm

A financial endowment is a transfer of money or property donated to an institution, usually with the stipulation that it be invested, and the principal remain intact in perpetuity or for a defined time period. This allows for the donation to have a much greater impact over a long period of time than if it were spent all at once.

First, we at the farm want to thank everyone for all of their support in the past. Without your giving of time, memberships and donations, the farm would not be available for everyone to enjoy.

Second, we need to secure the farm's future by investing for the future. Our new Endowment Fund will al-

low you to help secure the farm for future generations. We know that the current financial climate is difficult for everyone, but the farm still needs your help.

Usually when people think of an Endowment Fund they think that only big dollars count. We urge you to think differently. A donation of any size is welcome and would be greatly appreciated. Simply write a check and include a short note that explains that your wishes are that the funds go into the new Endowment Fund.

You will then know that you are part of preserving Skyline Farm for future generations so that they can enjoy the museum, events, hills, trails and camaraderie that make the community what it is today.

We are especially grateful for our Annual Business Sponsors' contributions toward our general operating support. Please consider contacting them for your business needs.

\$500 LEVEL

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of Conway, New Hampshire

\$250 LEVEL

Ames Farm Center
Averill Insurance
Bath Savings Institution
Blue Seal Feeds
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Pet Connection, Dog Training
Plainview Farm, Fine Perennials
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Toddy Brook Golf Course & Café

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Spring issue (covers May and June events): April 12 deadline for April 23 mailing

Sledding Party - March 7

Cabin Fever? No way! Grab your sleds, pack a snack and bring your family to Skyline Farm for the 3rd Annual Sledding Party on Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. until noon. Warm up with hot chocolate in the Visitor's Center and then head into the Museum to check out this year's winter exhibit.

The sledding party will only be held if favorable snow conditions exist. The first year was warm and sunny and last year we had a snowstorm... what will it be this year? FMI: www.skylinefarm.org or Jennifer Kimball (207) 829-6278

Park in the parking lot and use the hills for sledding any day- you don't have to wait until this event!

Answer to trivia question on back cover:

Answer—The weather vane is perched high atop a spiral above the Portland Water District headquarters on Douglass Street. The vehicle was used to water dusty city streets.

HenryFest 2009 - August 29 by Anne Coleman

HenryFest 2009: A Music Festival

317 Main Street is delighted to be invited by Skyline Farm to bring HenryFest back to the Farm for 2009. 2008 was a time to test the compatibility of HenryFest and Skyline Farm. The event was enjoyed by many last year. We have received and are incorporating several suggestions for improvements to HenryFest 2009. We are lining up fabulous musicians and orchestrating HenryFest as an event

to celebrate community, the great outdoors, music, food, and family. Be sure not to miss out this year, so save the date Saturday, Aug. 29! Please also help us build enthusiasm for HenryFest by promoting the event. Stop by 317 Main Street in Yarmouth to lend your support or contact Anne Coleman at 317 Main Street for more information or to volunteer. E-mail: anne@317mainst.org, tel.: (207) 846-9559, web site: www.317mainst.org



*HenryFest 2008 at Skyline Farm
Eliza Williams photo*

Pumpkin Fest 2008 by Jennifer Kimball

Pumpkin Fest 2008

Once again, the weather cooperated with us for the 9th Annual Pumpkin Fest celebration on Saturday, Oct. 18! Approximately 50 families enjoyed a beautiful, sunny afternoon at the farm. Luther Gray and his wonderful team of horses were there to provide wagon rides up and down The Lane.

Children enjoyed decorating cookies, searching for goodies in a haystack, trying to eat a donut hanging from a string and several other activities. There was a pumpkin patch being overseen by a scarecrow, "the leaf man", as well as face painting, coloring, bobbing for apples and a bean-bag toss. The museum was open for

the afternoon and most of the families took in the art exhibit and looked over the carriage collection.

A hearty thank you goes out to our sponsors for the event: Estabrooks, Skillins and Springbrook Farm for donating pumpkins; Hansel's Orchard for providing apples and cider; BJ's for the candy and Hannaford for a gift card so that we could purchase cookie decorating supplies; and to our wonderful volunteers, who made Pumpkin Fest the fun event that it always is. Thank you, also, to the community members who participate in the events, like Pumpkin Fest, at Skyline Farm. Your support is very much appreciated!



*Katy and Stephany Dresnok enjoying themselves at last year's Pumpkin Fest.
Jennifer Weissner photo*

Self-propelled Excitement

By Barbara Merrill Fox

Seal Cove Auto Museum, Seal Harbor, ME

Imagine it's the early 1900s and you just learned you can travel in a vehicle that propels itself! Maybe fly at the neck-breaking speed of 8mph! That thrill led to the many attempts to build or buy automobiles in New England. Maine men were quick to join the excitement.

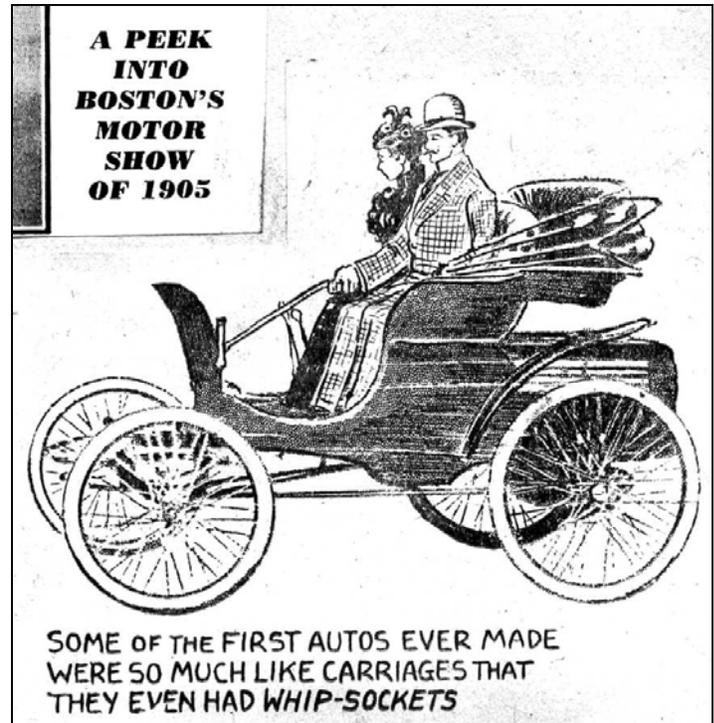
As early as 1896, Lewiston manufacturers L.W. Skene and Edwin F. Field put their heads together and decided to branch away from the bicycle making business. They wanted to make an automobile. Using what they had on hand, they put a motor onto Mr. Skene's Stanhope Buggy, and soon they were in the auto business. They produced one and two-seated carriages with a two-cylinder, upright motor that developed five horsepower and only weighed 40 pounds. Their Skene Automobile Company eventually built 20 autos, most resembling the finely finished Stanhope-type body. The cost of operation? One-fifth of a cent per mile.

By 1904, Maine had about 450 cars, but the car had not outgrown the name 'horseless carriage' because most Americans had still never seen an automobile. When they did, it retained its livery stable look—or else reminded people of the auto's origin in the bicycle shops of Lewiston or Portland. Car frames were often tubular-like bike frames, and cops on bicycles could easily catch and stop the cars.

Early car ads compared cars to horses rather than other car models. They bragged how they were cleaner, faster, safer and cheaper to maintain. Early pictures of Gilbert Waters, North Carolina's answer to Henry Ford, show his vehicle with a bicycle bell and a whip in the socket. The 1903 Ford even offered a basket for parasols as an option.

In 1902 Henry Holsman, of Chicago, introduced 'high-wheeler' cars whose large wheels found great favor with everyone who had to travel on rocky, muddy, rut-filled roads. Just to be doubly prepared, he designed his cars with hooks on the front so they could be pulled by horses if necessary.

But the debate of gas versus electric or steam cars was ongoing. Which, if either, would the public choose? Steam cars were not ready to go until the steam built



The clipping is believed to have come from a Portland, Maine newspaper. The accompanying text reads as follows:

Autos With Whip Sockets

When early auto builders started making cars, they made the bodies look like carriages. In fact, earliest models were rebuilt from horse-drawn vehicles by substituting an engine for the horse and hooking the engine to the wheels with a few gears and a loop of chain. Frequently, in the newer models, the builders provided whip sockets—although it may be that due to the frequent breakdowns necessitating the use of real horse power to get home, the whip socket was more handy than in the way. A few early autos with whip sockets are still in existence in old auto collections.

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up; gas autos were referred to as "skunkmobiles"—for obvious reasons. The thrifty French were not about to discard a good horseless carriage. They would remove the front wheels from the frame and substitute an engine-driven fore-carriage. Unfortunately, this conversion cost almost as much as a complete new auto.

Bad roads, and Maine suffered some of the worst roads in New England, were hard on electric cars. The vibrations easily injured the electric car's storage battery. Charging stations were few and far between, and the length of time a charge would hold was so variable that the driver might find himself miles from help when he needed a charge. A complete discharge meant expensive repairs. *(continued on next page)*

One market that electric cars dominated for a time was young women. They became known as "Lady's cars" because they were cleaner, had more attractive carriages, and were quieter.

Sound devices were optional in the late 1800s. Motorists actually had their choice of several signaling devices including whistles, horns, and bells. The most popular - maybe because of their familiarity to the sound of sleighs - were bells. Despite the noise they made, they were considered a quieter alternative to the clatter of horse hooves and the clank of metal carriage wheels on cobblestone.

Thomas Edison was also convinced that electric propulsion was clearly the best method of powering cars and worked for years to develop an alkaline battery. It proved to be Edison's most difficult project, taking ten years to develop. By that time, the gasoline-powered car was so improved that electric vehicles were relegated as delivery vehicles in urban areas where the distances traveled were less and the roads were better.

Today, the question of what energy source is best to power automobiles is being revisited. The idea of using steam or electricity is not new.

Among the Seal Cove Auto Museum display of pre-WWI cars you will find examples such as a 1908 Rauch & Lang Electric and a 1913 Kimball Electric alongside

4 steam cars built by Maine's own Stanley brothers and a rare, 1909 White Steam Car.

That exhibit from "The Brass Era" (1895-1917) is a fascinating and educational example of the evolution that followed the carriage era. For more information on the unique collection at this museum located near Bar Harbor, Maine, visit www.sealcoveautomuseum.org.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Seal Cove Auto Museum, a growing museum that holds a highly recognized collection of brass era cars, seeks its first Executive Director to lead it into a new era and to shape the museum's future.

This unique individual will exercise overall management and leadership responsibilities for the Museum. Specific activities will include development of collections, exhibitions, and programs; community outreach; fundraising; staff recruitment and management; and oversight of facilities.

The Museum is located in the beautiful community of Seal Cove, near Bar Harbor, just an hour from Bangor. For more information, please visit www.sealcoveautomuseum.org. Interested parties should forward resume and cover letter (to include salary requirements) to: georgem@bonneystaffing.com.

BONNEY STAFFING CENTER
www.bonneystaffing.com

Dog Day 2 Draws Hundreds of Paws by Diana Logan

There's nothing else quite like it: a venue for you and your dog to celebrate being together, learn great stuff and have fun in a gorgeous setting. Dog Day is about celebration and education and they were both plentiful at Dog Day 2 last September.

From dog racing and retrieve contests to agility, training clinics, demos and great stuff to buy, just to name a few, there was not a lack of things to do to keep the pups and their people busy and entertained. To top it off, there were free consultations with professional trainers and a veterinarian. It was a veritable 4-ring circus all about dog! Skyline Farm was thrilled to attract a whole new four-footed crowd in such large numbers.

Dog Day 3 is scheduled for Sept. 19, 2009 (rain date Sept. 20) and plans are beginning to come together.

Contact Diana Logan, organizer and professional dog trainer, if you'd like to be involved! (207) 252-9352.



Four-month-old Golden Retriever Jenny Linn is polishing off a frozen treat at Skyline Farm's second annual Dog Day. She was adopted from Stonehill Kennels in Kodak, Tennessee by Barbara Winkler of Old Town, Maine.



*Some examples from Skyline Farm's wheel wrench collection.
Sheila Libby Alexander photos*

*Skyline Farm's
Wheel Wrench Collection
Photos by Sheila Libby Alexander
Text by Ursula Baier and
Sheila Libby Alexander*

Early vehicles had handmade square threaded nuts tightened on the end of the axle to hold the wheel on. Later vehicles often had hexagonal or octagonal nuts. The wheel wrench was designed specifically to remove these nuts. They had to be removed frequently to grease the wheel or to take the wheel off when in need of repair. Before the nut went back on after the grease was applied to the axle, a leather washer was inserted to help hold the grease in place and to reduce friction. The hub nut went on "backwards" so that it would not unwind and fall off when going down the lane.

Each vehicle had a wrench designed to fit the hub nut and all the other nuts on the undercarriage of the vehicle. This shows in the photos. The wrench is at the top end and the various other sizes and shapes needed for the undercarriage nuts are at the bottom end. A wrench made for one vehicle might not fit the hardware on any other vehicle. It was important that each carriage actually carried the wrench made specifically for that carriage.

An adjustable wheel jack or jack stand was used to lift the vehicle and hold it while the wheel was removed for greasing or repair.

Next issue

Coming soon: an exciting new Community Supported Agriculture model operated by organic farmer Justin Deri who will be farming the southwest acreage of Skyline Farm. www.derifarm.com

Collection Corner: Collection Care by Greg Cuffey

The Collection Committee at Skyline has been busy of late. We continue to create educational and interesting exhibits, but we also are making time to focus on finding the best ways to preserve and conserve the valuable artifacts in our collection. Recently we visited the Maine State Museum in Augusta to study their storage facilities. Curator of Historic Collections, Katherine McBrien enlightened us on such topics as acid free storage materials, security, conservation processes, record keeping and new grant prospects.

Preservation and conservation generally happen behind the scenes. Positive conservation results ensure that artifacts, large and small, are not lost to decay or slow corrosion. We realize that the objects in our care are part of local history and have historic significance to future generations. Educators can use these real artifacts as teaching tools and in other ways to instill community pride.

We have been producing results, even with minimal volunteer help and financial resources. The Adopt-a-Wheel program allowed us to send away eight carriage

wheels for repair. We treated the Camp Ossipee Resort Wagons wooden canopy top supports for powder-post beetle, restored a pony wicker Village Cart, installed a dehumidifier in an area where we store many of the museums smaller objects, bought temperature controlled fans to lower the summer temperature in the three carriage storage sheds, contacted a conservation expert to assess which vehicles need the most attention. Finally, finishing a multi-year project, we took high resolution photographs of the ninety vehicles in our collection. Shortly the collection of photos will be available online to researchers.

Much is left to be done to better store and care for documents, fabrics, photographs, carriages/ sleighs, and to improve the three storage sheds. Two of these sheds need new roofs and one needs a new exterior support wall.

Please get involved in an area of your expertise or with a tax deductible donation to an area of your interest. The experience and results can be very rewarding. Thank you in advance for your support.

Name _____ Street _____
 Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Support level: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other (please specify amount) _____

If you have a specific bequest, e.g. Endowment Fund, please indicate it in the check's memo field.

Please make check payable to Skyline Farm and send to: Skyline Farm, P.O. Box 144, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

Skyline Farm is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your gift.

Will Snow by Greg Cuffey

What do Will Snow, Snowville, NH and sleighs have in common with one another? Yes, each word begins with the letter S and sends a chill down your spine, but that is not the answer I am looking for. Several decades ago, my parents visited a small museum/antique shop in Snowville, (incorporated into the township of Eaton), NH. They told the proprietors, Don & Edith Dashnau, their son has an interest in restoration & driving horses. The Dashnaus proceeded to show them around the former 1879 carriage & sleigh factory of Will Snow and my parents left with a brochure.

Will Snow was born in 1863 and started the business at age 16 with his brother. He had a tireless, mechanical, inventive nature from the start. Will designed and built the building which housed their business, from used lumber and custom built the machinery which was powered by a diesel engine attached to multiple belts. What set Will's sleighs apart from his competition was his 1893 patented flexible coil spring/equalizing rod.

Before this invention, manufacturers used the typical sleigh elliptical spring of the day which did not produce a sleigh that smoothed out the rocking motion created by a horse.

Soon the Snow factory had 20 employees producing 75 sleighs a year along with carriages and other related repairs. Prestigious firms like Boston's: French & Co., Portland's: Bailey Carriage Co. and others from as far away Chicago, New York, and St. Paul sold Snow vehicles.

Fast forward, I had always hoped to visit Snowville and still have the brochure my parents gave me so many years ago. My journey was rekindled last fall in Lebanon, PA when I was at a Martin's horse-drawn vehicle auction and noticed a well worn sleigh with unusual coil springs!

The maker's tag was missing but, with the coil springs I knew it could only be a Snow sleigh. To my delight I was the highest bidder. Yes, this prompted me to visit Snowville and Don Dashnau's Sleigh Mill Antiques shop which specializes in rare & antique lighting.

Not much has changed in Snowville over the past 100 plus years. Among the antiques, Will's vehicle patterns, molds, misc. parts adorn the walls and a fancier "Snow's" sleigh hangs from the ceiling. I had a wonderful, informative visit with Don and left the proud owner of an original makers tag for my Snow sleigh!



Will Snow's 1893 patented flexible coil spring/equalizing rod. Greg Cuffey photo



Polar Express by Greg Cuffey
Skyline Farm loaned a Cooper Brothers, Searsmont, Maine sleigh to the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Company. The Narrow Gauge hosted a month long Christmas event based on the movie "The Polar Express." Pajama-attired children boarded a train headed for the North Pole (Portland's Ocean Gate terminal). Once at the Pole, Santa greeted the children while he sat next to the sleigh laden with goodies. Pamela Ames photo



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What Portland, Maine business sports this unusual weathervane?

Answer on page 3.

Greg Cuffey photo

2009 SKYLINE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS - All are open to the public.

All event proceeds benefit Skyline Farm, a nonprofit organization, which owns an historic farmstead, including a carriage and sleigh museum, and offers trails through its woods and fields for public use. FMI: Call event chair, go to www.skylinefarm.org, info@skylinefarm.org, or (207) 829-9203 (leave message).

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| Feb. 6 | Sleigh Exhibit Opening Night Gala 5-7 pm Dress warmly - the exhibit hall is not heated. Info: Greg Cuffey (207) 793-8569 (see page 1) | May 16 * "Celebrate Horses & Carriage Driving" |
| Feb. 7 thru Mar. 22 | "Winter Time in the City" Sleigh Exhibit Sundays, 12-3 pm or by appt. The museum depicts a wintry city street scene from the late 1800s. Free admission, donations welcome. Info: Greg Cuffey (207) 793-8569 (see page 1) | May 17 "The Age of Innocence" Carriage Exhibit Opening May 24 "The Age of Innocence" Carriage Exhibit thru 8/23 May 31 "The Age of Innocence" Book Discussion |
| Feb. 7 | Sleigh Day & Sleigh Rides 10th annual Saturday, 12-3 pm (Storm date: Feb. 8). This sleigh driving demonstration is a unique opportunity to get a first-hand glimpse of the glorious days of horse-drawn transportation. \$8 fee per spectator (free for Skyline Farm members and children under 6) includes one sleigh ride. Refreshments will be for sale. Info: Lynn Young (207) 829-5838, or Donna Thurston (207) 829-6570 (see page 1) | July 11 Carriage, Sleigh and Antiques Auction July 11 Al Fresco Dinner, Concert & Silent Auction Aug. 29 "HenryFest 2009" Music Festival (see page 3) Sept. 18 Opening of Art Exhibit and Sale w/Silent Auction Sept. 19 Art Exhibit and Sale w/Silent Auction through 10/25 Sept. 19 Dog Day 3 (Sept. 20 rain date) (see page 5) Sept. 26 * Antiques Appraisal Day Oct. 3 Maine Carriage Day (Oct. 4 rain date) Oct. 24 Pumpkin Fest Nov. 8 Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive in Woolwich, Maine |
| Mar. 7 | Sledding Party Saturday 10 am-12 noon A great opportunity for families with young children to get together for a morning of sliding down the gentle, snow-covered rolling hills of Skyline Farm. Warm up with hot chocolate and goodies. Free. Info: Jennifer Kimball (207) 829-6278 (see page 3) | Carriage driving clinics in Spring/Summer - TBA Trail work days in the spring and fall - TBA * indicates a tentative date |