

S-PROG

[REDACTED]
Lubec, Maine 04652
[REDACTED]

April 15, 1999

TO: National Desk

RE: FYI - *First Light* Millennium Celebration

Enclosed article updates Lubec's progress. US Navy and Coast Guard will take part, as outlined in attached copy of letter sent previously. Please phone if any questions.

(3/12/99 QUODDY TIDES clip enclosed with copy of 1/18/99 letter)

Lubec distilling town history for inclusion in time capsule

What goes into a time capsule? With help from community residents, the Lubec Millennium Committee is preparing one. Vice President Albert Gore and his Canadian counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister Herbert Gray, have been invited to place the capsule in the ground at Sail Rock, easternmost point of the U.S., on January 1, 2000. The ceremony will highlight Lubec's "first light" activities for the January 1-3 weekend.

Lubeckers are asked to suggest and, if possible, donate items for the capsule, which Sheldon Stanley has agreed to construct. Assuming it will have the traditional cylinder shape, the capsule is planned to measure about two feet in diameter and four or so feet in length.

Library aides at the University of Maine at Machias have come up with several tips on content, related to milestones of Lubec's past and present: names of hometown leaders who helped shape the country, founding families, war heroes; memories of the workplace in such fields as lead mining, millwork, shipbuilding, fishing; "insider" anecdotes about Bailey's Mistake or the Great Gold Swindle, or the

many persons of renown who frequented Lubec for long or short periods, such as FDR and his family, Talleyrand, Dr. Spock. Did anyone see Greer Garson or Ralph Bellamy when they filmed *Sunrise at Campobello*? Who else took part in the Lubec "western" that starred Evangeline Morrison as *The Movie Queen* with Jimmy Simmonds as co-star? Who went to the Lubec theater when Houdini performed?

Washington County's Abnaki Council of Girl Scouts has also offered ideas. Long-time scout leader Marcia Bernhardt tells of the capsule prepared for the scouts' 75th anniversary and stored at the Machias library, to be opened soon. She says that, along with new items and historic records of scouting, it holds catalogues, photos and sample cookie boxes. Mementos of Lubec could include old-time photos, as well as label tops of sardine cans, July 4 bumper stickers and T-shirts from special events. Donations of such items will help the millennium committee compile a true sampling of life at the beginning of America as the century ends.

The committee urges everyone to ransack basements and attics for memorabilia that will appropriately reflect Lubec's history, people and purpose, and — equally important — will fit in the time capsule.

Capsule to be opened in 2051

The capsule will be unearthed in June 2011 to coincide with Lubec's bicentennial. It will then be on display, remaining sealed, at a site that will give opportunity for public viewing, such as one of the town museums, Lubec Historical Society, or — to follow the scouts' lead — the new library. Annual contests will be sponsored for visitors and residents to guess what the capsule contains, with prizes to those who come closest. The capsule's secrets will finally be revealed in a ceremony in June 2051, when Lubec celebrates 250 years as a town.

Send ideas to the committee, care of the town office, or check them out by phoning [redacted]

by the Lubec Herald

[REDACTED]
Lubec, Maine 04652

January 23, 1999

Dear Editor:

You're no doubt well underway with millennium coverage plans, but we hope our project will still warrant consideration.

We've invited the present - and presumably still to be - U.S. Vice President Gore to plant our historic time capsule at Sail Rock, Easternmost point of the US, on First Light. That's when the sun will rise first in the US January 1, 2000, at the country's Easternmost town of Lubec on the Canadian border. We have also asked Canada's Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps to take part.

The capsule will contain data now being collected about Lubec's role in U.S. history. For example, Washington appointed a Lubecker the first Commandant of the Coast Guard. Jefferson named a Lubecker his Secretary Of The Treasury. A later Lubecker chaired the Atomic Energy Commission. An even later Lubecker marked out the Appalachian Trail. Talleyrand stayed here, as did Benedict Arnold, who lived on Campobello, our Canadian neighbor across the Lubec Channel. The Lubec Channel was ceded to us by treaty written by Daniel Webster. Campobello, as you know, was FDR's "beloved island".

This and much more history will go into the time capsule. But we are asking the Vice President to take part in our First Light ceremony primarily because of his stated environmental concerns. The Lubec area is not only historic. Despite onslaughts of man and weather, it has retained much of its pristine nature. Although no longer the "sardine capitol of the U.S.", Lubec was so named for its counterpart in Lubeck, Germany, the bellwether town of the medieval Hanseatic League, where herring was also king. A significant population of fish still abound in Lubec waters, which have the world's highest tides and one of its two largest whirlpools. On land, wildlife still roam free throughout the area's woods, forests, bogs, and marshes. One of the bogs is one of the two rarest world-wide.

We have gone into some detail here because your coverage of our First light welcome to the millennium could give our town the major push it needs to restore its economy to health. If you have read this far - which we truly hope - we thank you most sincerely for your time and attention. We will gladly supply documentation for any of the information noted that you would care to request.

Yours truly,
[REDACTED]

Lubec Millennium Committee