

## MAINE CONNECTION

by MarySue Hannan

*MarySue Hannan is a quilt-busy resident of Washington D.C. Another article by Mrs Hannan entitled "Edith Gregor Halpert" appeared in the JOURNAL issue #20.*

*When the quilt made from four map/scarves of early Washington DC appeared in the Summer '82 JOURNAL, I was given quite a start! I had owned one of those scarves for 50 years and had never seen a single article about it. My daughter, a sister-in-law and I had combined forces in 1979 and contracted to have the map redone by a silk screen company in Seattle, Wash, thinking it might be an attractive scarf and/or souvenir of the city.*

*From my research when we decided to manufacture the scarf and the JOURNAL article, I knew that a Mildred Burrage of Keenebunkport, Maine had done the design.*

*Soon after the JOURNAL article appeared I was delighted to find an article in the DOWN EAST magazine (July '82) about Mildred Burrage. She was, according to the article, alive and being honored by the Maine Art Gallery as the instigator in obtaining the old school house as a permanent home for the Maine Art Gallery. The article stated, "The Maine Art Gallery was founded through the efforts of the indefatigable Mildred Burrage, whose ubiquitous activities on behalf of Maine art and culture span more than half a century... the gallery is a monument to her belief in the creativity of Maine people - both the native and adopted varieties... Maine's most eminent state historian, the widely traveled Miss Burrage is an artist in her own right... but it is as an organizer, fund-raiser, hostess and all around patron of the arts that she had left her mark on the Maine cultural scene ...Miss Burrage has been described as a 'one-woman band' in her endless activity in founding cultural organizations, raising funds, securing grants and saving historic buildings..." Here was the artist of my scarf alive! Upon inquiry, I learned she was in a nursing home, but would allow me to interview her and tell me how it all started.*

On the afternoon of Sept 26 '82, having made the proper arrangements, I walked into Mildred Burrage's room with the scarf which had been adapted from her 1933 version. Her greeting was, "Where did you get my scarf?" I tried to ask her a few questions but she preferred to tell the story her own way.

As a young lady Mildred Burrage was sent to a boarding school in Providence RI. One of her

classmates was Louise Delano from Chicago, with whom she became good friends. Miss Delano was a first cousin of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

After graduation, Louise married a missionary to China. Enroute to their station she became very ill and died. Her family, so far away, grieved and always kept in touch with her friends. When FDR became President, he appointed Louise's father, Mr Frederick Delano to head the National Parks and Planning Comm in Washington DC.

About this time Miss Burrage was having an art show in Washington DC and Frederick Delano's wife attended and renewed the friendship.

Soon after, Mr Delano asked Miss Burrage to design a commemorative handkerchief. He wanted a meaningful memento to commemorate the 200th anniversary of our first president and it was hoped that by selling this handkerchief, the debt caused by building the Geo Washington parkway would be erased. The Parkway, which had just opened, connected Mt Vernon with Washington DC. The American Civic Assoc was to sponsor the printing and Miss Burrage was to receive \$500 for the design. (Remember these were depression days and she was thrilled to have this amount of money in one lump sum).

For the theme it was decided to use the first map of Washington DC, made by Charles Pierre L'Enfant in 1791. The original manuscript is in the records of the Office of the Comm of Public Bldgs, Washington DC. The photo on the inside back cover is a copy of the map which was engraved by Samuel Hill of Boston. This linen map is maroon on white. It was done hurriedly in the early 19th century to facilitate the second public sale of lots in the city (Oct 1792). L'Enfant's plan of 1791, not well liked, was an embarrassment to the administration. He acted very high-handedly. If homes were in the way of his proposed wide avenues he had them destroyed. His biggest mistake, apparently, was the destruction of the home of a Carroll that was just south of the new Capitol building. He died in disgrace and was not given a marked grave until 100 years later.

The scarf designed by Miss Burrage is 27" square. It reproduced the original plan, a map of the surrounding country and important landmarks. The border is squares with sketches of buildings in the nation's capital, like the DAR bldg, the White House, the Washington Monument. There is an eagle seal in each corner. A quotation from Daniel Burnham surrounds the map inside the

- cont on pg 20

**The Maine Connection** - cont from pg 6  
border of sketches, "Make no little plans, they have no magic to stir men's blood- Make big plans, aim high in hope and work, Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty."\*

The copyright for the scarf is handwritten in pencil and issued to the American Civic Assoc Inc for the National Capital Planning Comm. The scarves/bandannas were sold for \$1.00. Whether or not the debt was erased or reduced is not known. There is no record in the office of the Capital Planning Comm of the scarf's issue, printing or demise. The bandana came in red, blue, brown, maroon, green and orange printed on antique white. The Smithsonian Institution has examples of them all.

It took about a year to do the research and get the copy ready. Then it was sent to Schumacher Co in New York, who in turn sent it to a chintz manufacturer in England whose name is forgotten. Two thousand copies were printed and a copy was sent to Maine. To her mortification, L'Enfant's name had been misspelled "L'Enpant". (She was most emphatic in stating that these scarves had been done by copperplate and the error could not be corrected until the second printing.) During the bombing of London

in World War II the plates were destroyed along with the original drawing.

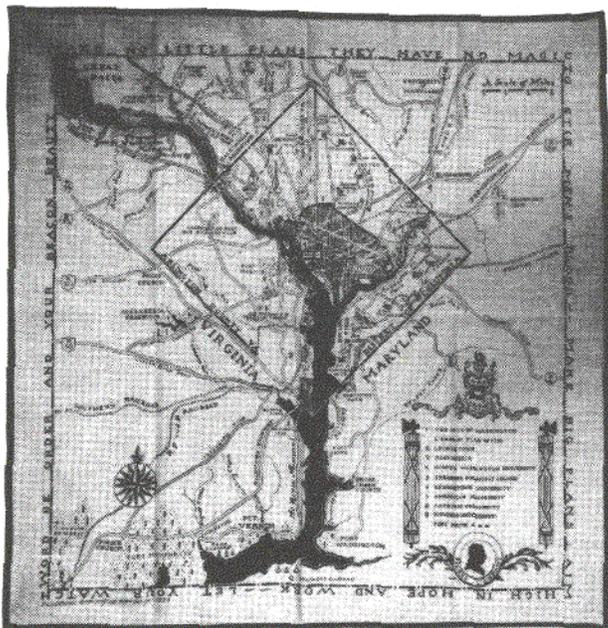
I asked if she received the \$500 and she replied, "No, I received \$250 and Mr Delano asked me if I would like 2 original Audubon prints which his family did not want. He had given part of the set to Harvard. I took the prints as the rest of my payment. Later I gave them to Harvard; now they have a complete set."

As I was preparing to leave, Miss Burrage said, "My house was sold last week and in a bureau drawer I had several uncut, unhemmed scarf maps. (They were printed in blocks of six.) So maybe, someday, somebody will find them and turn them into another quilt."

*\*Mr Burnham was an architect, planner, Chr of the Chicago Exposition, designer of the Washington D.C. Union Station, and had been appointed by the McMillan Comm in 1902 to improve the development of the Federal City \*\*Obviously Ms Hannan's scarf was from this group because the spelling of "L'Enpant" is incorrect.*

*See also THREADS OF HISTORY, Herbert Ridgeway Collins, Smithsonian Institution 1979 pgs 59, 427.*

### Commemorative Handkerchief



A New Commemorative Bandanna issued by MarySue Hannan

"A New Patriotic Quilt" republished in the JOURNAL (Issue #19) from the Mar '34 WOMAN'S WORLD was about a quilt made of four scarves/commemorative bandannas. \*

Soon after the article appeared, the JOURNAL received a letter from MarySue Hannan of Washington D.C. who wrote, "I bought (the scarf) for \$1.00 from my art teacher

while a high school senior. Since I was born and raised in Washinton D.C., I could really relate to all of the places pictured on the scarf. As a student I wore it as a head scarf, a halter or a neckerchief until it became tattered and I had to put it away

"In the mid-70s, as I became immersed in quilts and quilting, I noticed other patriotic scarves had been used in quilts and was encouraged to have mine reproduced. Since the copyright had expired, it was re-issued to us in 1979. Silk screen companies were sought and we finally had two scarves made with a slight update - we left off the Nat'l Planning Comm name and made one scarf of the map and one of the sketches."

The scarves are now on sale at Mt Vernon and other historic site gift shops or they may be ordered from the JOURNAL for \$9.00 postpaid. They are available in red or blue on antique white. There is a short explanatory sheet about the handkerchief written by Ms Hannan included.

\*During the nineteenth century, the terms "handkerchiefs", "kerchiefs" or "bandanna" were used interchangeably. For further information see THREADS OF HISTORY, Herbert Ridgeway Collins, Smithsonian Inst '79 pg 2

