

Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society

24 LEDGELAWN AVENUE

BAR HARBOR, MAINE



Maine Sea Coast Mission Rugs

Alice M. Peasley, *Supt.*



MRS. ALICE M. PEASLEY

*With the Mission 1918-46 and helpful after
her retirement.*

For nearly thirty years Mrs. Peasley has labored among the coast people serving in a multitude of ways. She has been associated with every superintendent the Mission has ever had, always sharing the spirit of that which we fondly call "our Mission."

Acquainted with every corner of our vast parish she has performed a multitude of varied services. Today she is missionary pastor to two little churches on the Gouldsboro Peninsula, but the outreach of her ministry touches the lives of hundreds of people scattered over sixty square miles of coast land. Her leadership is constructively felt in the work of many organizations which are parish wide. For part of the year she assists in the Society's expanding program of promotion, and for a month each year superintends the work of selecting and wrapping Christmas gifts.

Through the eventful years she has served as teacher in four of the island schools, and as missionary pastor to a score of places. She has taught the women to make hooked rugs and thousands of dollars have been earned by the coast women through her efforts. She has cruised the coast in four of the Mission's five boats, and everywhere is affectionately called "Ma Peasley." A benediction has attended her as she has held the hand of scores of people old and young as they have slipped into the Great Beyond. The warm confidence of her faith has helped them to conquer death. Hundreds of young people have been pointed toward the Light by her life.

The Old Rag Rug

I.

Into its hands that now are dust,
Wove so much of their tender care
That, in spite of the years of "moth and rust",
Its form is strong, and its colors fair.

II.

How it tells of the long, bright afternoons
When her children romped by the door at play
And, humming one of her sweet old tunes,
She stitched the peaceful hours away.

III.

How it tells of the Winter, loud with storm.
When, close to the hearth fire's ruddy zone,
The family gathered, snug and warm
And the light on her busy fingers shone.

IV.

This soft gray stripe was her wedding gown,
(She told me so with a gentle pride)
And, (here her tears came raining down)
This was made from the coat of her boy that died.

V.

Home and love, peace, joy, and loss,
Here is their sign for us to read!
Courage, and strength for the heavy cross;
What more can we ask of life indeed?

VI.

Yet there is more in the old rug's tale,
She bore life's pains with a patient smile
But now she dwells where no joys can fail
Safe;—with all those she had "lost awhile".

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This shows a credit in materials and rugs to the dep't of \$780, and to this as a part of the harvest from the materials bought, the rugs that will be coming in during the next 3 months. Of these rugs there should be 60 and there may be 100. It is hard to tell for there is no way of forecasting what the hookers will do. They are entirely independent and temperamental. Should at least 50 more come in it should give us a summer stock of over one thousand dollars more in value than we had last year.

We have over 300 pounds of goods on which to begin a new batch of work. We still have material on hand for making quite a few burlaps, but will soon need new plain burlap. If we order in a 200 yd lot we will be able to get this at manufacturers price which will be a great saving.

A part of the coat of pattern making this year went into the permanent duplicate cloth patterns which we are preparing. One set is to be at headquarters and the other in the hands of the pattern maker. This will help to insure us against the loss of original patterns by fire.

Some dyeing should be done under the supervision of the sup't this spring in order to have work ready early in fall, so that hookers will not have to wait. In this way the output can be increased. Again some dyeing could be done early in fall to obviate dyeing in winter. This is not only hard on the one who does the work, but the extreme cold weather is not good for the colors.

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A Maine Seacoast Mission Rug is a rug made by a woman living either on the coast or an island of Maine, within the cruising radius of the Sunbeam.

The characteristics of these rugs is a firm, close, velvety nap, made entirely by hand.

Types of work are the flat, the slightly raised and the low relief. Types of rugs are Primitive florals, elegant florals, tapestries of typical Maine coast scenery. Ship rugs, sea scapes, wild bird rugs. Primitive animal rugs and geometrics. In artistic value they range from the beautiful to the grotesque. In color from the soft harmony to the screaming riot. Yet there is a characteristic "something" which all these rugs have in common. A spiritual quality and individuality that marks them as the work of a homogeneous group, and under the same general influence. Whatever they may be, or whatever they may lack, they are sincere and very genuine.

HISTORY

In 1923 Mrs Peasley was sent to South Gouldsboro. She found the church in debt, and the people low in resources. Courage and a willingness to work were their assets. In canvassing the situation to discover some way of raising money that might be a genuine business venture, and not draw on the slender financial means of the community Mrs Peasley, was impressed with the hook rug work. A few women could hook—that is, they had remembered from their mothers the mechanics of a hook rug. The designs were few and colors awful. Hooked rugs had begun to appear in some of the shops and there was promise that they might develop into a fad. In talking with friends of the Mission we received definite encouragement from Mrs Leonard Kellogg who urged the venture. Mr MacDonald did not consider it as a serious development, but gave his consent to its development in a small way as a means of local relief. The first idea being that the rugs so made and marketed should be sold for the benefit of the local church. That first summer, nine rugs were so offered by the South Gouldsboro ladies. These were bought at Bar Harbor and at Hancock Point during the August fund raising campaign. The joy of the women reduced some of them to tears when the money came in that fall. The church debt was paid, new repairs were made and the women went to work with renewed zeal to have an offering the following summer that should be more adequate. Many of the Mission supporters were delighted with the rugs and urged a continuance of the work. Again Mrs Kellogg was our most definite inspiration. She copied some of her oldest rugs to furnish us with good burlaps, and all thru that year showered rug catalogs, descriptions and designs upon us.

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The year 1924 saw a group of women working up in the shed chamber of the S Gouldsboro parsonage. They put in long hours and agonized humbly over the quality of their work. One of their number who had lost her home by fire was trying to pay for the new home. She asked if we would be willing to sell a few rugs for her, to go toward these payments. Her request was granted, and Mrs Peasley lengthened her own working day to assist this new sister, with designs and color. We both felt that to take time from the regular day was not exactly honorable- so under great difficulties the work went on.

Mr Turner, then Missionary Pastor was enthusiastic about the rugs and forwarded the work in every way that he could. The circle at Frenchboro were eager to begin to hook and the fall of 1924 Mrs Peasley was sent out there to start them. The simplest designs were used, and the first fabrics were terrible. Rugs were turned out that were so uneven that their topography might well be taken for a study of the rugged coast that produced them. Material was scarce. The old clothes were inadequate, even that second summer and we had nothing with which to buy. Mrs Peasley did all the dyeing, all the marking and much of the rag cutting even, for this year.

One spring day at Frenchboro work was being finished. Mrs Peasley was with the women in the little parsonage on the hill. A tulip was unfinished and there was not a rag in the house that would do. One of the women suggested that Mrs Peasley's stockings would be a good color. The stockings were at once removed, washed and dried on the oven door. In a few minutes the tulip was coming into being. This was not the only instance where clothing was sacrificed to meet an emergency- In fact one very unwise missionary went home that spring quite light of personal luggage. When these rugs were taken out of the frames, some of them refused to lie flat. Others showed humps and hollows. A nervous sister burst into tears over their obvious defects. But Mrs Peasley took them all, and friends found some thing to desire in them for by fall not one remained in our possession.

At S Gouldsboro the women had worked feverishly to get a good roll of rugs done by July. One long floral, larger than any other yet attempted had so vexed the women with its ability to hang on and not get finished that it had been named "Methuselah". It was a torrid day the first of July when the women met early in the forenoon for an all day session to finish that rug. Afternoon found them still at work with much to do. The sky was overcast and they day breathless. The women gasped and sweated at their work but would not give up. At three o'clock it was almost too dark to see in the little loft and a terrible tempest burst over the town. Lightning seemed to dart thro the room and thunder to be tearing the roof over their heads, but still they worked. A hand lamp was finally lighted, and two of the more courageous sisters continued to ply the steel hooks, while others looked on gasping at such temerity. The rug was finished in almost total darkness. A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his mercies in guiding them in this new work and protecting them in the tempest, closed the hooking season of 1924.

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The summer of 1924 we started out in the first Sunbeam, with what seemed to us quite a roll of rugs. They were quickly disposed of in Bar Harbor, S W Harber, Hancock Point and Brookline. Thirty rugs were disposed of and orders taken from them for over one hundred more. The money was turned over to the women, who were delighted. We were all overwhelmed with importance at such an enormous increase of business. Fall brought the problem, where was burlap, new rug material and postage to come from? No body had assumed the slightest responsibility. The women were pleased with the price of the rugs, but disinclined to cooperate in regard to expenses. They seemed to feel that a benificent Mission or the poule nt missionary herself should produce the needed material from "somewhere". The S Gouldsboro group and individual hookers were appealed to. They generously bought burlap and \$24 worth of new material. That year the work went forward as usual. Mrs Peasley again did the marking, dyeing and sometimes the cutting. Facility was gained, and the rugs began to be less of a labor and more of a joy. When dye was needed Mrs Peasley bought it and when a rug had to be mailed she mailed it. Thus unwisely long hours of labor and dribbles of money were given, where a more complete cooperation on the part of the women would have been the desirable thing. However, the exciting thing was that rugs were being produced that really were desirable. The workers prospered and many friends of the Mission were glad to be able to get genuine hand done rugs. That following summer two rolls of rugs were sold and a considerable order placed for more.

Came fall, and Mr Guptill. The rugs did not appeal to him at first, as rugs, but as a means of advertising and of releif they did. He further saw the need of either dropping the work or of recognizing it and putting it on a more organized basis. It became a department. The rugs took a distinctive name and purchasers made checks out to this name. There was a check book and the hookers were all paid by the "Maine Seacoast Mission Rugs". Addresses, sales, and all accounts were kept in a precious little loose leaf note book. There was really quite a bit to record.

It was at this time that a number of individuals asked for work, to better their own economic condition. Their entrance into the field caused some discussion, not all of it good natured, among the other hookers. These workers took the position that if the new worker did not join the circle, or independently work for the local church, she should be allowed no work by the Mission.

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It was the feeling of the Missionary Pastor and the Sup't that if there were to be financial gain from the rugs that it should go either to the hooker or to the Mission. If the local circles cared to work at stated intervals for the benefit of local work this was another matter. The independent hooker came into being, but the question still rankles in some breasts. This is an inevitable consequence of the way in which we started. To the coast mind, if a thing once was, it ever should be.

This year produced more rugs than ever, and by winter there were nearly \$800 worth on hand, with prospect of many more by summer. We began to wonder how we would market so many. True, the popularity of the hook rug was still growing, but we had a feeling that overnight the wind might change. That winter Mrs Leonard Kellogg again came to our rescue. Sup't and rugs were invited to be guests of hers in New York for fifteen days. We went and found the time marvellously organized. There was an engagement each day, to meet some representative group. The way was made to show the work to dealers, and finally at a reception and exhibition in her home over \$500 worth of the rugs were sold. Some dealers were interested, notably Mr Hall, buyer for Altman. He pronounced the rugs the most beautiful moderns that he had seen. He will take rugs from us at any time. The reason that we have never released to him is that the firm pay for rugs only a fraction of the selling price, which does not seem to us to be fair to the hooker.

The Needle and Bobbin club were also willing to give our rugs space, but the expense of releasing in their shop was prohibitive. It was reassuring, however, to have them pronounce our work superior to any other they had seen. A few decorators saw and discussed the rugs. It was interesting to note that the discussion centered in the very oldest reproductions that we offered, or in the patterns that the sup't herself had put together. On the whole the trip was very reassuring.

The summer of 1927 was a most prosperous one. Nearly every rug offered was sold, and generous orders taken. Two groups and twenty individual hookers were working and the sup't was gaining skill in colors and design. She still did practically all the dyeing and made all the color schemes that went out to be done. This work was carried on in her own kitchen, with ordinary kitchen paraphenalia. For days and weeks at a time the air of the house was humid and acrid with dye and mordents. Water trickled on the floor and rags were everywhere. Rooms that should have been restful and placid were heaped with colors and old clothing. The odor of burlap became the atmosphere in which we all lived. At one time four rooms were given up to stock, hooking, and dyeing. It was impossible to achieve order or cleanliness. Still, there was great compensation. Women were being helped, and occasionally a rug would come forth that was rewarding.

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The following winter an unwise and over tired Sup't started for her vacation, armed with books, correspondence and records, planning to catch up with her work and have things in perfect order when she returned in the spring. Fate willed otherwise. While she was on a short trip to Portland a fire wiped out the building and all her precious belongings. Not until she arrived back at Bar Harbor and reached out to take in her hand, that little book, her other self, did she realize that it was gone. The shock of this loss was decidedly upsetting. It wiped out all tangible record of our beginnings.

The spring work was hard. Addresses were lost. Orders hard to place and record of the individual hookers had to be made up from memory, or from their own word. That summer, in the midst of our most happy and successful campaign, a germ, more unkind than fire laid the Sup't low. Everything stopped, and after recovering from the first phase of the malady, she had to creep home defeated, only to suffer relapse and complete nervous disorganization. --- The first work done was to sit up in bed, with perspiration pouring in streams down the face and a heart pounding at 130, and sort colors for a new rug. At this time a beautiful fruit design that my daughter and I had worked on for weeks, was completed and its hooking begun. Hookers came silently in thru the door of the room and hung new rugs upon the wall for refreshment of the struggling spirit. Their love and devotion was a wonderful factor in recovery-The work too, was a blessing, something materially definite and physically tiring to return to. But that next summer showed the work still much at loose ends. The following year work was again supervised and sent out- But it was a great effort, there was always a mountain ahead that

could not quite be climbed. Records were poorly kept.

In 1929 we all began to find ourselves and do much better in every way. There were about thirty women at work. Some of the older hookers had dropped out and younger ones were beginning. This made more labor to instruct them, but kept us appreciative of the growth of the first hookers who remained to us. This summer we sold nearly every rug and found several dealers who would be glad to handle our rugs. This fall we found the work much less confusing, though still arduous and an insatiable time eater. One of the S Gullsboro group, Mrs Hilda Hammond became our pattern maker. She works carefully and methodically, and will also receive and acknowledge rugs while the Sup't is away. A few of the women can be trusted with dyeing, and many have become not only proficient mechanically, but are developing vision and imagination. We hope that the summer of 1930 will see us with the largest and most beautiful collection of rugs ever yet offered to our friends.

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Record of Hookers

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South Gouldsboro Circle of ten members.

South Gouldsboro,

Lucy Cook
Mary R Bunker
Hilda Hammond
Belle Norris
Etoile Earnst
Florence Hammond
Nettie Bunker
Annie Bunker
Christine Cook

Frenchboro Circle Circle of six members .

Lyda Higgins
Tony Teel
Vera VanNoorden
Mrs Elizabeth Rodd
Vera Dalzell
Lydia Dalzell
Sadie Lunt
Annie Lunt
Ella Lunt
Sabra Rice
Flora Rice
Mrs Perkins
Mrs Charles Wallace

McKinley

Mrs Lizzie Thurlow and youngest daughter who work together
Mrs Violet Davis

Loudville

Mrs Willard Carter

Little Deer Isle

Mrs Hattie Sawyer
Mrs William Haskell
Mrs Elsie Hendrick

The amount of work produced by these people is at all times uncertain. If the mood is upon them and they are well they produce a reasonable amount. Should another mood overtake them, the fact that work has been prepared for them, that it is perhaps an order which they took knowing that it should be delivered at a given time, weighs not an ounce with them. They are as calm as the sea and the tides, and as easy to impress.

A few have from the first been loyal to the department, and would not think of disposing of work elsewhere. Others have had to acquire loyalty, while still others are forced to be loyal by the fact that no other market pays them as well. Many of the newer hookers are extremely grateful for the work and are free to acknowledge that their work is only a part of the effort needed to produce the rug. Others imply to those who examine their work that it is wholly the child of their own artistic gifts.

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Future of industry

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From present indications it would seem that the industry is on a firmer foundation than when it was started and that its commercial future is more or less assured.

One thing that is a source of anxiety is the fact the fewer bags of old material come to us than at first. So many are saving used material and making a rug or two for themselves. Then, too the business as it increases calls for more material. This makes it imperative that we should buy material in larger quantities and the season previous to their being needed. The state of business has led some manufacturers to decide to sell no material. Others will sell only in quantities larger than we can handle. We are thus driven to buy thor brokers and at rapidly advancing prices. This adds materially to the cost of producing the rugs.

Burlaps and their marking

It is hard to get a burlap with a close, even weave and a strong thread. The life of the rug depends absolutely upon the quality of the foundation used. We have bought in small quantities from year to year, getting the best we could find, but seldom finding the ideal foundation. This year we found that R H Burnham of Ipswich has both domestic and imported burlap in desirable grades. He generously offered to give us goods from whatever he has in stock at factory prices. We would have to buy in 200 yd lots, but the reduction in price would be at least 15¢ on the yard. We should have this amount on hand anyway if we are to continue our work, so that is no drawback. The only obstacle is to get money enough at one time to pay for the goods.

Most of our rugs are original or reproductions from very old rugs, therefore we cannot use commercial burlaps. Some very bold or large patterns may be stenciled, but we have found that

the average pattern gains in delicacy and beauty if done by hand. The process is very hard and very wearing, but if persisted in a rug of greater beauty is the result. We think it wise to continue this practice for a time at least adding, perhaps a few stencils to relieve the tedium of the rug marking.

Last winter a 45 ft rug was ordered by a customer. It was to be a floral, tied in by a scroll. Both the Sup't and Mrs Hammond, worked 4 days making the pattern, transferring it to cloth, for a permanent record, and finally to the burlap to be hooked. The result was a rug of remarkable beauty and diversity of design. Not all burlaps take this amount of time, but all of them take enough time. It is not a process to be hurried.

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Dyeing the rags

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Aniline dyes have been used with the simple mordents, salt and vinegar. A few vegetable colors are used, like the clear yellow obtained from onion skin. Vegetable dyes, while permanent are more sharp and crude than the other. Their use is not to be recommended.

A great part of the coloring is still done by the sup't. This is desirable for many reasons. Where dyeing is done by individuals full instructions are always sent out. The worker is asked to let the goods boil at least 30 minutes and in some colors a full hour. To let the goods cool in the dye bath before removing to the first rinse. We can never be sure that these instructions are carried out. If they are not the colors will soften too much and the rug will lose in value. On the other hand if more hookers were doing their dyeing we might get a desirable range of colors from the experiments of several people.

We are hampered in this work by lack of place and equipment. If the work is to continue we would feel more satisfied if we could buy our dyes in commercial blocks of pure color and use chemical mordents for permanency. This would necessitate the buying of a copper boiler and allowing time for initial experiments to get formulas with the new mordents. The integrity of our color is a source of anxiety at present.

Rug headquarters

The finished rugs are first inspected and listed by the Sup't then sent to 24 Ledglawn Ave to be kept until sale time. Old garments and some new stock is sent there and collected from time to time for the work. Burlap, patterns, and some stock is at the Hammond Farm, South Gouldsboro, since they needs must be somewhere, and Mrs Hammond assists in pattern making. Some stock is stored in a room loaned by Mrs Nettie Bunker. Some stock has at times been left at outer stations where there were a number of hookers but this is not wise.

The little room at Mrs Hammonds is needed for other purposes, and after a lot of work has been put up, the things have to be packed and stored until next time. This causes a great deal of futile labor and confusion as well. It is almost impossible to visualize future work without a place in which the stock is spread where one may see. The nervous strain and unhappiness caused by this disarrangement is considerable. It is doubtful if there can be much expansion of the business without a central place for keeping the property of the department. There has been this advantage in mobility. Much of the heavy work and tedious preparation has been done in all parts of the coast while the sup't made social and spiritual contact with the group in that place. But the getting ready to go and the getting ready to come are like moving and re-moving mountains- mountains of rags. It becomes after a time, almost an impossibility.

Maine Seacoast Mission Rugs

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What the supervisor does.

In the general work of the Mission she has always tried to give a full year's work, aside from the rug work. In a sense this cannot be done. In another it can- the rugs have ever been the introduction to "pastoral work- the material interpretation of spiritual things- a ministry in the name of the Master.

As general preparation for the work she remains at all times "rug minded". Sunset and sunrise alike yield their colors to study. Sea and sky as the ever change but always complement each other are fascinating in the range of exquisite color that they present. The Bar Harbor Hills, whether seen from Gouldsboro or from the far off, lonely little parsonage at Frenchboro are at times the abiding place of all that is witting in nature. At other times they show forth a majesty that tells of the presence of God. Still again, especially in spring fairies and leprecons inhabit them. While in the fall the satyrs clothe them and then dance in their mysterious hollows. They challenge and baffle, but inspire. Evenings are given to poring over magazines, books and art gallery catalogs, wherever description or plates of rugs are found. Not only hook rugs but orientals and Chinese rugs are studies. The leading plumbing firms in this country have kindly sent us glorious cedar plates of their latest offerings, and good wall paper people have done the same. Wherever a rug is found it is studied. A large album, bristling with clippings shows hundreds of interiors and rugs. A drawer in the stock room is full of bits of choice color and scraps of lovely cretonne.

Whenever opportunity has offered we have visited other rug makers and rug menders, to see them at work. Beside the offerings of the Anderson gallery in New York we keep in quite close touch with the stock of Altman, Wanamaker and Sloane in New York. In Boston, Paines, Jordan Marsh and H H White, At Ipswich Mr Burnham's interesting menage. In Maine the Fuller-Cobb-Davis stock, Warren Weston Creamer of Waldoboro and the Southern Mountain work wherever we find it. Mrs Chilcott of Bangor is at all times in touch with the New York market and thro her kindness we learn much.

New patterns or material for assembling new patterns are worked up in spare time and so become rugs. She assists in the burlap marking and staining, Does the major part of all the coloring. Decides on the color scheme or range for nearly every rug and puts material together, doing it up and getting it shipped. Instructs new workers, guides experienced workers and inspects every rug. Measures the rug and makes its record. Has it marked, priced and tagged and sent to Headquarters ready for disposal. Supervises the selling, attends to the correspondence and finally, weeps over a few tragedies and rejoices with great joy when a beautiful rug comes home.

To accomplish this decisions must be instant and almost the speed of a machine maintained to get such a bulk of work out in the time given to the work.

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Methods of release.

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Our output is small. If the industry continues it will probably remain comparatively small for the reason that it is a cottage industry. Much time is needed for instructing new hookers. The new hooker requires from three to six years to gain freedom and develop imagination, and the work ~~is~~ done entirely by hand. To radically change these methods might endanger the characteristic charm of the product, which is not desirable. The world is full of stock pattern rugs and rugs made by machine, enough for all who want this type of rug. For the few who want the individual rug, produced by hand and as it were under special inspiration, the Maine Seacoast Mission Rug will continue to appeal. These methods will never be able to produce a cheap rug, in price, for they are time and energy consuming. To be fair to the hooker and to the Mission the price must be the maximum or nearly the maximum in the rug market. Our price is seldom questioned except by those who are uninformed about hook rugs. Some of our best customers think the price very reasonable for the type of work offered.

Given a small stock the release had better remain very exclusive. Up to the present time the only realy important release has been at our summer meetings and from the Sunbeam in August. A few sales are made from the Mission House. Sales were made last year from the following places.

Bar Harbor, Annual meeting

S W Harbor at the Hotels Claremont and Dirigo

Sunset,

Castine

Sargentville

Herrick's

Haven

New Harbor

Christmas Cove (Holly Inn)

Heron Island

Seal Harbor

Islesford.

Hancock Point

Boothbay Harbor

To these a few other places might profitably be added provided the sales could be under the patronage of some well known club or individual.

It might be well to leave a small, representative collection at Islesford for the summer and at Hancock Point, providing the use of the library could be obtained for this purpose.

The Labie Shop at Boothbay Harbor and the Loomcraft of Bar Harbor have asked to handle our rugs and we would recommend that they be allowed to do so.

The Loomcraft is handling them at Longmeadow, Mass during the year. Here they are in good surroundings and are slowly gaining ground. I doubt the advisability of allowing more than one dealer in a state handling the rugs, except on the coast of Maine in summer. Even then we will probably continue to dispose of the larger portion of the stock ourselves.

MISSION'S RUG INDUSTRY INTERESTING DEPARTMENT

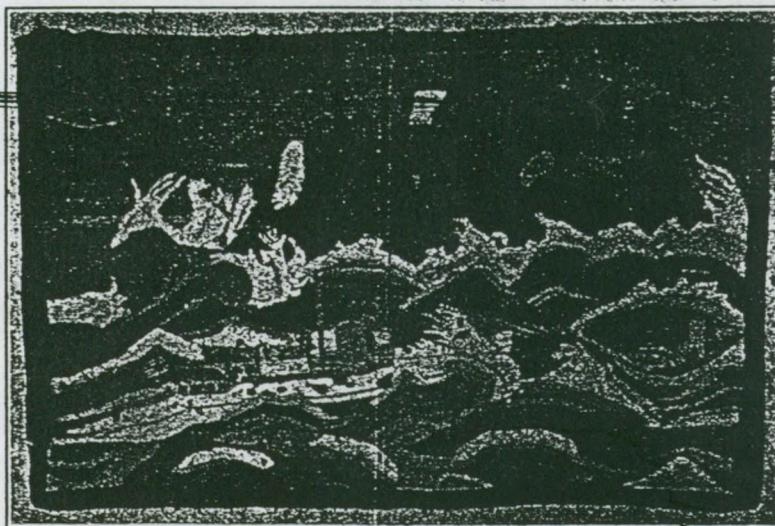
Mrs. Alice M. Peasley, Superintendent "SUNBEAM" Industry that Enriches Lives of People Along Coast

In spite of the fact that from its inception the Maine Sea Coast Mission has been a Bar Harbor institution many are unaware of the variety and the scope of the service rendered by the Mission. Besides the conduct of religious services, and educational department that renders

picture to a burlap showing no little ability.

What is Bar Harbor Going to do For the New Sunbeam?

Last week the news broke that the new Sunbeam was begun and all of us were enthusiastic in our appreciation. Over



A "SUNBEAM" RUG

great service to ambitious boys and girls of the coast is maintained, emergencies are anticipated and relief of all sorts afforded the people of the islands and isolated neighborhoods on shore and other temporary and permanent efforts are organized and operated. The Mission Rug Industry is the latest and most intriguing.

The industry is organized under the direction of a committee appointed by the directors, and Mrs. Alice M. Peasley, one of the staff, is superintending the work. The project is helpful to the coast not only as a means of material gain, but also as a method of self-expression, brightening lives that are distinctly limited in opportunity. Financially, it has helped to pay for homes, added comforts and luxuries not otherwise obtainable, and aided in meeting emergencies that to folks of limited income become crisis.

Perhaps more important than any material values that may be estimated in dollars and cents, has been the enrichment of the lives of those who have found opportunity for self-expression here. From the first, the rugs, while they might be crude in design and color, showed skill in hooking and fidelity of purpose. Encouragement has developed freedom. Color is truer and original designs reflect the spirit of the life that

Through the kindness of Mrs. F. Leonard Kellogg and our New York trustees, the superintendent spent a number of days in New York in February and was able to reach a large number of discriminating people. At a display of the rugs at Mrs. Kellogg's home about five hundred dollars was realized. New York rug buyers and members of the Needle and Bobbins Club expressed themselves enthusiastically about the collection, finding them to be original and a very sincere contribution to our native industries.

Beginning four years ago, with four rugs sold to help the wife of a fisherman to pay the overdue interest on a mortgage, the present scope of the rug industry could not have been anticipated. \$200.00 worth were sold that first summer. Last summer over \$200.00 were realized the first day of our sale.

There are today twenty-five women employed and an epitome of recent operations shows the following:

Christmas Sales,	\$439.65
New York Sale,	494.00
Office Sales,	718.00
Stock on Hand,	1,485.00
Total,	\$3,136.65

This showing is not as large as it could have been because of the fact that many orders which were to have been filled at Christmas could not be taken care of be-

The picture which accompanies this story has especial interest since it is copied from an illustration printed in the Boston Transcript. One of the boys on one of the islands frequently visited by the Sunbeam transferred the

15% of the money needed for the completion of the enterprise is in hand. The summer people have given with generosity. The islands are doing their part.

Bar Harbor, from which the Mission radiates in its life of service does not want to be behind.

The friends from outside are asking if Bar Harbor cannot make her contribution \$1,000.00 and already with no organized campaign nearly \$300.00 has been subscribed. Several of the citizens have either given or subscribed fifty dollars each while others have indicated or given a smaller sum.

One class of boys from one of the Sunday schools shows the way by pledging themselves each to earn a dollar for the new boat. For an enterprise so deserving, it would not seem that any special drive would be necessary and it is hoped that our citizens will respond with such enthusiasm that our thousand will be forthcoming before the first of June.

