



Old Fort Western

Old Fort Western Fund
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News from Old Fort Western

For immediate release

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Author with Local Roots to Host Book-Signing on October 17

Cony High School graduate turned historian and author, Michele Wehrwein Albion, will talk about and sign copies of her new book, *The Florida Life of Thomas Edison*, at Barnes & Noble in Augusta on Friday, October 17, 2008, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The event is sponsored by Old Fort Western and the Kennebec Historical Society.

October 17th is also Educators Appreciation Night at Barnes & Noble. PreK-12 educators will save up to 25% on classroom and personal purchases, 10% on CDs and DVDs. *Certain restrictions apply.* Educators may also ENTER to WIN a \$500.00 Barnes and Noble Gift Card as well as enjoy the night's activities. Call 207-621-1187 for more details.

Ms. Albion worked at Fort Western while in high school and, after college, went on to become assistant curator and registrar at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. From 1992 to 1997 she was curator at the Edison and (Henry) Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers, Florida. Now a full-time writer, she resides in Dover, New Hampshire, with her husband and four children.

Thomas A. Edison, America's most famous inventor, is most closely associated in the public's mind with Menlo Park, New Jersey, where he maintained a workshop and laboratory for many years. Few know, however, that Edison regularly wintered in Fort Myers, which before his arrival was a sleepy cattle town but afterwards transformed itself into a tourist destination and winter home for other giants of America's industrial age such as Henry Ford (Edison's Fort Myers neighbor) and tire pioneer, Harvey Firestone. It was a combination of Fort Myers' warm climate and long growing season and Edison's friendships with Ford and Firestone that caused Edison to spend so much of his later creative years in the search for plants such as milkweed or goldenrod that would serve as native replacement sources for imported plantation rubber.



*Protecting, Preserving and Interpreting the National Historic Landmark Fort, Store and House
on the Kennebec River in Augusta, Maine's Capital City*

Old Fort Western participates in the Time Travelers and Collette Vacations World Connect membership benefit programs

“We are very pleased to be able join with the historical society to co-sponsor this event for Michele,” said Fort Western director, Jay Adams. “*The Florida Life of Thomas Edison* brings a popular American figure, a Florida we can barely imagine, and a transitional period in U.S. history to life in a detailed yet very readable and engaging way. We hope teachers and members of the general public will take advantage of the special opportunity to learn more about Thomas Edison and congratulate one of Augusta’s own.”

Please phone 626-2385 for more information about Ms. Albion’s appearance. Phone Andrea Keeler at Barnes & Noble, 621-1187, for more about Educators Appreciation Night.