Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991): News Article 32

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_36

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_36/57

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.
RESISTANCE TO LOBSTER

Competing Images over Time and Social Class, the University of the Pacific professor declares in a recent issue of the journal Food and Foodways. "Historically, the lobster represented cheap food for the poor and was nearly as likely to be used as fish bait and fertilizer along the coast. Inland, the lobster had little relevance to the life-styles of Mainers. The lobster has now been elevated by outsiders from a symbol of neutral or negative status into a symbol of good living and taste—but one that is economically beyond the reach of many local citizens. Add to this the widespread distaste for ingesting strange, shelled sea creatures and the ambivalence locals feel about outsiders and the tourist trade, and we have a potentially volatile and negative image of the lobster for many long-term residents of Maine. It came as no surprise to local lobster-growers when some locals have taken to whitewashing the offending crustacean on new Maine license plates—a phenomenon soberly and perhaps definitively analyzed in "The Maine Lobster as Regional Icon.""

Lewis concludes: "But all true cultural icons, however amorally constructed, are never ignored."

Linguistic Arts

University of the Pacific professor declares in a recent issue of the journal Food and Foodways. "Historically, the lobster represented cheap food for the poor and was nearly as likely to be used as fish bait and fertilizer along the coast. Inland, the lobster had little relevance to the life-styles of Mainers. The lobster has now been elevated by outsiders from a symbol of neutral or negative status into a symbol of good living and taste—but one that is economically beyond the reach of many local citizens. Add to this the widespread distaste for ingesting strange, shelled sea creatures and the ambivalence locals feel about outsiders and the tourist trade, and we have a potentially volatile and negative image of the lobster for many long-term residents of Maine. It came as no surprise to local lobster-growers when some locals have taken to whitewashing the offending crustacean on new Maine license plates—a phenomenon soberly and perhaps definitively analyzed in "The Maine Lobster as Regional Icon.""

Lewis concludes: "But all true cultural icons, however amorally constructed, are never ignored."