

**SEPTEMBER 2009 UPDATE
FROM
THE WILHELM REICH INFANT TRUST
& THE WILHELM REICH MUSEUM**

Hello. We thank you for your continual interest and support. For all newcomers to this e-mail Update list, none of the names on this list—nor the names of any Museum visitors, conference attendees or bookstore customers—are shared with any other individuals or organizations.

If at any time you wish to be removed from this list, please let us know. All previous Updates, dating from March 2004, can be read at:

www.wilhelmreichmuseum.org/resources.html#updates

SEPTEMBER AT ORGONON

It's officially autumn and the warm, sunny days are slowly cooling. At times it still feels like July and August, a welcome extension of summer but without the vacation crowds and all the attendant activity. At night from our two rental cabins, Bunchberry and Tamarack, we still hear the loons calling to each other on Dodge Pond. And Maine's legendary fall foliage is gradually nearing its peak colors. Perhaps best of all, a friend brought us a pie the other day made from blueberries that she had picked in August from our wild blueberry fields here at Orgonon.

Sunday, September 27th, was the last day this year that the Orgone Energy Observatory was open to the public during our regular seasonal schedule. However, private tours are available off-season by special arrangement, except during the extreme winter months. And our 175-acre property is open to the public every day from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September has always been a time for us to take a deep breath after a busy summer and reflect upon all manner of issues and challenges facing the Trust. And it becomes clearer every day—at the risk of repeating ourselves—that our overarching responsibility now is to craft new strategies and models for counteracting the distorted, widespread public narratives about Wilhelm Reich and orgone energy.

ACCURATE NARRATIVES OF REICH'S LIFE AND WORK

Anyone committed to Reich's legacy needs to constantly ask this question: *“Unless the official, public, widespread narrative of Reich as a medical and scientific fraud is successfully and factually corrected and overcome, what will be the status of Reich's legacy in the next 25 years?”*

Accurate facts and narratives about Reich's life and work need to be disseminated from platforms as formidable as those from which these corrosive distortions are being

endlessly promulgated and replicated. This means creating opportunities with major media providers; academic, medical and scientific institutions, organizations and publications; and responsible Internet platforms. In a discussion about this the other day, a friend described it as a need to “re-paint” Reich’s image. We like that term.

In a practical sense, this is a challenge of “storytelling”: imparting factual, intellectually honest and compelling information about Reich’s life and work to newer, broader audiences. And it is to this challenge that the Trust is focusing most of its efforts in a variety of ways.

ARTICLE ABOUT ORGONON IN *THE BOSTON GLOBE*

In early June we were contacted by a freelance travel writer from *The Boston Globe* interested in writing a piece about Orgonon that would hopefully run in early summer. From the offset, in a phone call to the writer, we explained that we’d cooperated countless times with authors, journalists and artists only to see their finished products riddled with unnecessary and damaging distortions and inaccuracies. We also explained that over the years our requests to writers to fact-check their work for accuracy were routinely refused, with perhaps one or two exceptions.

The Rangeley Lakes Region attracts many people from the Boston area, which is a little over four hours away by car. And *The Boston Globe’s* daily circulation is just under 400,000, while its Sunday readership is well over 500,000. So the idea of a quality article in New England’s largest urban newspaper, running at the beginning of the summer season, was appealing for many reasons. But an article replicating the same distortions and inaccuracies would only perpetuate the damage to Reich’s reputation.

The writer was sympathetic to our concerns, and agreed to our request to fact-check her work. Consequently, we scheduled a private tour with her and her husband, a professional photographer who would be providing the visuals for this travel piece.

The tour last two-and-a half hours, at which time we watched our biographical DVD *Man’s Right to Know*, took them through the Observatory and up to the roof, and walked around the property, all the while answering their questions. We furnished them with printed materials about Reich, the Museum and the Trust, as well as a complimentary copy of *Man’s Right to Know* to take home. We invited the writer to use any content from the DVD script itself (which we e-mailed to her the next day), as well as any information on our website. We also showed her examples of damaging distortions about Reich in various newspaper and magazines articles written by people with whom we had cooperated with the greatest of hopes. Our emphasis, again and again, was the need for factual accuracy about Reich. And our interaction during our time together was positive, encouraging and quite enjoyable.

True to her word, the writer e-mailed us a draft of her article a couple of weeks later for fact checking. To our delight, her draft had none of the usual distortions or snideness to which we’ve become accustomed. And its style and tone were refreshing and upbeat.

However, there were a number of factual inaccuracies and a few spots where we felt the nuances of Reich's work required some rewording. We submitted our factual corrections and rewording suggestions, for which the writer was appreciative and completely receptive.

The article ended up running in September, instead of July, an editorial decision beyond the control of any writer. But we couldn't have been happier with the results. This has been one of the most intellectually honest experiences we've had with any writer. And the response from readers has been uniformly positive: the writer received numerous letters—which she kindly passed on to us—applauding her for the accuracy of her work. And in her responses to these letters, the writer has generously credited us for our cooperation.

Below is the link to the article, which appeared in a Sunday edition that reached over half a million people. We think you'll enjoy it as much as we did.

LINK: *THE BOSTON GLOBE* ARTICLE ON ORGONON

http://www.boston.com/travel/explorene/maine/articles/2009/09/06/idyllic_grounds_belie_tussle_over_founders_research/

NEW WEBSITE-IN-PROGRESS

We are currently in the process of revamping our website which receives hundreds of hits every day. Because this website is our arm out into the world and, for some people, their first point-of-contact with Reich's work, we need to constantly anticipate and respond to the changing needs of our web visitors.

Our new site will be under the umbrella of THE WILHELM REICH INFANT TRUST, which was conceived by Wilhelm Reich, M.D. in his Last Will and Testament in March of 1957. We have developed a Trust banner or "brand" for the new website, under which the principal responsibilities and activities of the Trust will be organized and accessed.

COMING: PRIMARY MATERIALS ON OUR NEW WEBSITE

Our current website contains no content from Reich's published books, research journals or bulletins. The reason for this is because the Trust relies on the sales of these materials for much-needed income. But there is now considerable evidence and literature from authors and publishers that posting excerpts from published books on the Internet can actually generate increased book sales. It's something we'd like to try.

Consequently, our new website will include:

- From Reich's books – Reich's Introductions or Prefaces, plus Chapter One

- From Reich's books – other chapters from select books
- From Reich's research journals and bulletins – selected articles

We have no intention in the future of posting entire books on our website, despite the occasional clamor from certain circles that all of Reich's published materials and everything in his Archives should be posted on the Internet for free. (E-mails to this effect to us usually have a breathless hysterical quality, a lot of misspellings, and poor punctuation. Draw your own conclusions.)

We are reminded of a quote from Thomas Paine: "*That which we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only which gives everything its value.*"

We hope that by offering substantial content of Reich's writings—introductions, prefaces, opening chapters and selected articles—that a significant amount of our hundreds of daily website visitors will read these excerpts and will be inspired to purchase these books, journals and bulletins.

THE NEXT STEP FOR OUR NEW MANUSCRIPT

The first stage of the Trust's new manuscript, *Letters and Journals: 1948 – 1957* (the sequel to *American Odyssey*), is complete. It exists now as a compilation of hundreds of Xeroxed pages of selections from Reich's letters, personal journals and work journals. Which means that a large percentage of these pages are in Reich's handwriting. There is also a small collection of pages, from 1948, that are written in German. (After 1948, Reich wrote almost exclusively in English in his diaries and journals.)

The task before us now is to type all of these pages into a readable manuscript and submit this manuscript to our editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux in New York City. This is an arduous undertaking which will consume much of our time over the next month or so, as our goal is to submit the manuscript by the end of November.

NEW FROM REICH'S ARCHIVES – NOW FOR SALE:

**“A LABORATORY MANUAL
FOR BION EXPERIMENTS”**
Notes by Laboratory Worker – Norway, February 1938
(Handwritten & Typed Pages in German only – 105 pages)
\$20.00 + postage

In his 2009 Summer Conference lecture, "*Reich's Unpublished Laboratory Notebooks and Correspondence*," Professor James Strick—author and academic historian of science—showed excerpts from this 1938 laboratory manual which he discovered during a visit to Reich's Archives at the Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard University.

Professor Strick strongly suggested that the Trust quickly make this manual available in our bookstore for those seriously interested in bion research, despite the fact that we currently have neither the time nor resources to translate this document into English and issue it as a regular book. We agreed immediately, realizing that this primary resource has tremendous value for the serious scientific researcher.

We want to caution everyone that this document will have limited interest and accessibility to the average reader. It is a bound-Xerox edition of the manual's original pages: all of the content is in German, some of it is typed and some of it is handwritten. It also has an Introduction in English by Professor Strick, which was included in our August 2008 Update (http://www.wilhelmreichmuseum.org/09_08_update.pdf)

This publication is not yet listed in our Bookstore on our website—to order a copy, e-mail us at wreich@rangeley.org or call us at (207) 864-3443.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK: September 26 – October 3

Every year the American Library Association (ALA) designates the last week in September as Banned Books Week which “highlights the benefits of free and open access to information while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted bannings of books across the United States.”

But to our knowledge, the banning and burning of Wilhelm Reich's books in the 1950s, and again in 1960, is never mentioned in any of the week's publicity materials or library events. The censorship of more well-known titles such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Lolita*, *Ulysses*, and countless other books are always given considerable attention, and deservedly so.

It's probably too late to do anything about it this year. But a long-time supporter contacted us a few days ago to suggest that perhaps a concerted and coordinated effort is made for next year's Banned Books Week to bring attention to the banning and burning of Reich's literature. This can be done by contacting local, college and university libraries with information about this infamous, but little-known, example of censorship in the United States.

LECTURE AT THE RANGELEY LAKES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On July 20th a phone call came into our office from a local friend and historian. The caller told our office manager Mary Henderson that the scheduled speaker at the July 22nd meeting of the Rangeley Lakes Historical Society had to cancel due to illness. And he wondered if Mary, who also serves as president of the Dead River Historical Society in the town of Stratton, knew of anyone who could deliver a presentation about some aspect of local history. Mary immediately volunteered Kevin Hinchey, Associate Director of The Wilhelm Reich Museum and Board Member of The Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust. The following is the text of Mr. Hinchey's presentation two days later.

LECTURE - “WILHELM REICH IN RANGELEY”

July 22, 2009 – Rangeley Lakes Historical Society

In July 1940, a renowned Austrian psychoanalyst, research physician and scientist named Wilhelm Reich arrived completely by accident in the Rangeley Lakes Region for the first time. He and his wife Ilse Ollendorff drove into Oquossoc during a rainstorm that had essentially drowned out their camping trip in the White Mountains of New Hampshire where they had traveled several days earlier from Reich’s home and laboratory in New York City.

Seeking shelter from the storm, they found a small cabin for rent far down on the Bald Mountain Road on the shoreline of Mooselookmeguntic Lake. The rains ended a short time later. And there, over the next few days, in the dry and unhumid atmosphere of the area Dr. Reich made several significant observations regarding his particular field of research. These observations convinced him that the Rangeley Lakes Region would be an ideal location for his research during the summer months, as opposed to the heat and humidity of his home and laboratory in New York City.

Reich’s unintended arrival here in the summer of 1940 was the beginning of what would be a nearly seventeen-year presence in this community, first as one of the summer folks, and later—starting in 1950—as a year-round resident. Seventeen years marked by pioneering discoveries in medicine and science, great personal drama, and ultimately profound tragedy.

In 1956, Wilhelm Reich’s published books, research journals and bulletins—comprising thousands of pages—were banned and burned by order of a United States Federal Court, with the burning of this literature taking place both here in Rangeley and in New York City. This destruction of several tons of Reich’s publications about psychiatry, medicine, biophysics and sociology constitutes one of the most heinous examples of censorship in this country.

And all of this is a part of Rangeley history.

Unfortunately, although perhaps understandably, this is not a part of Rangeley history that many people are comfortable with, or aware of, or even interested in. The story of Wilhelm Reich as a part of local lore is plagued by widespread misunderstandings, blatant distortions, sheer indifference and outright gossip. And at first glance Reich’s life and legacy certainly doesn’t seem to be a natural fit with the more commonplace traditions of Rangeley history that are preserved and celebrated by all of you in the Historical Society, and by the Logging Museum, the public library and other community organizations.

And it’s certainly not my goal this evening to belabor these points. But rather I will try to illustrate what I believe is a commonality between Reich’s reasons for being in Rangeley and *our* reasons for being here. And our reasons, after all, are what inspire each of us to preserve and honor and celebrate the diverse history of the Rangeley Lakes Region.

I've been coming to Rangeley since I was an infant in the 1950s. My family used to stay at Rangeley Manor when Curt and Alice Mercer owned it, prior to Paul and Phyllis Johnson's purchase in late 1972. And later, I owned my own small camp for thirteen years. And like all of you, I was always fascinated by everything about Rangeley history: its two railroads, its old hotels and sporting camps, its legacy of trout fishing, its logging heritage and all of the colorful personalities who have been a part of this rich past.

I was an eighteen year-old college student camping out at the old Cold Spring Campground north of town when I first visited the Wilhelm Reich Museum at Orgonon in the early 1970s. I knew absolutely nothing about Wilhelm Reich, his name meant nothing to me. The only reason I visited Orgonon was because it was a museum located in Rangeley and so it was obviously some part of the community's history. And since I've always been an avid student of all kinds of history, at the Museum I quickly became intrigued by the chronology and the muscular storyline of Wilhelm Reich's life:

- Born in 1897, he was raised on a farm in the easternmost reaches of the Austro-Hungarian Empire—now the Ukraine—where he grew up hunting, fishing, hiking and becoming familiar with the rhythms of the natural world around him.
- He served as a lieutenant in the Austrian Army during World War I, where he saw action on the Italian Front.
- After the war, he graduated from medical school at the University of Vienna, studied psychoanalysis under Sigmund Freud and quickly became one of Freud's most promising students.
- As with any psychoanalyst, the study of human neuroses and sexuality became a focal point of his clinical work. And it's precisely the misunderstandings and distortions of some of his work and theories in this area that would form the basis of later rumors, slanders and inaccuracies, many of which we still hear to this day.
- First in Vienna, and later in Berlin, Reich was a renowned and widely published physician, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst...and a very controversial one. Much of the controversy surrounding him was due to his pioneering theories about neuroses, health and human sexuality. Equally controversial was his political activism which openly challenged the repressive authoritarian regimes of Austria and Germany in the 1920s and 30s.
- When Hitler came to power in February 1933, Reich had to immediately flee from Germany to avoid arrest by the Gestapo.
- Reich relocated to Norway and taught at the University of Oslo. There he set up a scientific laboratory for the study of energy functions in the human body *and* in other living substances, such as protozoa, blood, foodstuffs, soil and sand, and living cancer cells. In fact, Reich was one of the early proponents of the use of

time-lapse filming of microscopic cultures to capture the development of biological processes in living substances over long periods of time.

- It was during these laboratory experiments in the 1930s that Reich discovered a powerful, new biological energy in specific micro-organisms, a biological energy that exhibited visible radiation phenomena, that immobilized and destroyed cancer cells, and invigorated blood and tissue. Reich called this biological energy “orgone energy,” and he would devote the next two decades of his life to the investigation of its laws, properties and uses, starting with experimental medical research and later moving into other applications.
- In August 1939, Reich emigrated to America, disembarking from a ship in New York City on August 26th, five days before the outbreak of World War II. Had he remained in Norway, it is unlikely that Reich would have survived the imminent Nazi occupation of that country.

Now from an intellectual standpoint—as an eighteen year-old college student touring the Museum—I found all of this quite compelling, especially Reich’s laboratory research and his discovery of a physical, biological energy in microscopic cultures with all kinds of medical and scientific applications. But I kept asking myself—as I’m sure all of you are doing now—“What does a man’s discovery of an energy radiation in a test-tube culture have to do with Rangeley, Maine?” And the answer was not long in coming—nor will it be for you this evening.

Reich settled down in the Forest Hills section of New York City, and for three semesters he taught at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan. The New School faculty at the time included many intellectual and political refugees from foreign countries. Reich also set up his own private press to publish his numerous European books in English. He trained physicians in his innovative psychiatric techniques. And perhaps most important, he re-established his laboratory in his home to continue his orgone energy research

In early 1940, in order to contain, observe and study orgone radiation from test-tube cultures, Reich constructed small containers of alternating layers of metallic and organic material which would hold in this energy. These were the first orgone energy accumulators. Initially they were used to observe visual manifestations of orgone emanating from test-tube cultures within the enclosure, and to test the effects of orgone radiation on cancer mice...results that, in fact, were very promising in terms of dissolving tumors.

Which brings us up to July 1940, with Wilhelm Reich in that rental cabin down on the Bald Mountain Road. Reich’s observations of the clear, dry atmosphere over Mooselookmeguntic revealed similar visual phenomena to that which he was observing in those small orgone energy accumulators, leading him to conclude that the same energy he had discovered in specific micro-organisms also exists in the atmosphere all around us, *everywhere*. And that, in fact, the orgone energy that exists in living matter—

including the human body—originates in the atmosphere as a primordial cosmic energy. Furthermore, these small orgone accumulators—built of alternating layers of metallic and organic materials—could attract, accumulate and contain atmospheric orgone energy for a variety of applications.

Now to anyone unfamiliar with Reich's scientific and medical publications, all of this obviously sounds fantastical. But in his published research journals, bulletins and books, Reich and his co-workers would painstakingly document all of their medical and scientific findings.

The significance, then, of Reich's first visit to the Rangeley region in July 1940 is this: With Reich's discovery of atmospheric orgone energy, he realized he could no longer confine his research to the study of this energy in micro-organisms in his New York laboratory. To observe and study and harness atmospheric orgone energy in its most natural and pristine state required a clean, dry, unhumid atmosphere, together with an unspoiled natural landscape that could provide large and uninterrupted vistas of mountains, lakes and big skies.

And so, like all of us drawn to the natural beauty of the Rangeley region, like all of us who are continually nourished and inspired by these unspoiled natural surroundings, so too was Reich drawn to Rangeley's natural environment, and deeply inspired by it for the profound opportunities it afforded him to scientifically investigate orgone energy in the atmosphere and in living matter.

As Gary Priest documents in his wonderful new book, *The Gilded Age of Rangeley, Maine*, in the fall of 1940 Reich purchased a nearby cabin on the Bald Mountain Road built by Herman Templeton who became Reich's friend and his first caretaker. And during the next few summers, Reich spent several weeks at this cabin, combining family vacation time with his scientific research.

Back in New York, his research was taking him into new areas of experimental medicine involving newer applications of the orgone energy accumulator. Because his results using small accumulators on cancer mice were so promising, in 1941 Reich began using large accumulators for the experimental treatment of terminal cancer patients. In many cases the patient's pain was alleviated and cancer tumors dissolved, yet the patients still died, leading Reich to conclude that the tumor itself was not the cancer, but merely a local manifestation of a deeper systemic disorder in one's body.

And contrary to widespread rumors that persist to this day, Wilhelm Reich never promoted the orgone accumulator as a cancer cure. In patient affidavits and in his publications Reich clearly states that despite many promising results, orgone radiation via the accumulator is not a cure. The other common misconception about the orgone accumulator is that it is some sort of sexual device for enhancing one's performance, a salacious allegation first printed by a journalist in 1947 and repeated ad nauseum ever since. Similarly, Reich clearly refutes this in print, emphasizing that the orgone accumulator is an experimental scientific and medical tool.

In November 1942, Reich purchased a 160-acre farm on Dodge Pond Road from a Mrs. Love for what he felt was the inflated price of \$4000. This was Reich's first step toward fulfilling his dream of establishing a permanent home for his work: a laboratory and research center devoted to scientific and medical applications of orgone energy. And on a personal note, Reich had grown up on a farm in eastern Europe and always said he wanted to return to a farm some day. Now he was a step closer to realizing that dream as well.

In his diary, he wrote this about the property on the Dodge Pond Road:

“A hundred and sixty acres of soft land on a soft incline facing south and east, six hundred meters above sea level, covered with a young pine forest, a lake in front, and mountains on the horizon. Here truth shall be sought and protected from the plague, here sickness and misery shall be understood and ways discovered for conquering them. The name of the home of life research shall be Orgonon.”

The design and location of the buildings at Orgonon are one of the most visible manifestations of the integration of Reich's research with the surrounding natural environment. For example, in 1945 the Student Laboratory was built, using original timbers from the barn that stood on the property when Reich purchased it. Today this is our Conference & Office Building, and is clearly visible from Dodge Pond Road.

It was purposely built with oversized windows—one after the other—facing east, southeast and south to take advantage of the panorama of open skies, open fields, distant mountains and what was then an unobstructed view of Dodge Pond. Here in this laboratory Reich's students and co-workers conducted orgone energy research using microscopes, telescopes, orgone accumulators of varying sizes and strengths, electroscopes, Geiger counters, oscilloscopes and other equipment. This building was the venue of numerous seminars, classes and conferences. In 1949, the first course in orgone biophysics—with an emphasis on cancer research—was given to a group of physicians.

The other major building on the property is the Orgone Energy Observatory, high on a hill and not visible from the road. This building now houses the The Wilhelm Reich Museum. It's listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and some say its architecture resembles a design by Frank Lloyd Wright. In one of his research bulletins in 1950, Reich wrote this about the building:

“The layout for the Orgone Energy Observatory was planned in March 1948. In the beginning of May 1948, plans had been finished by architect James. J. Bell of New York City. In the beginning of June 1948, S.A. Collins & Sons of Rangeley, Maine began the construction.

The construction went on from June 10th until October 15, 1948. And from May 12th until September 19, 1949, altogether approximately eight months. The outer walls were constructed of fieldstones, 24 inches at the foundation and 20 inches at the walls proper. The fieldstones were gathered from the property of the Institute at Orgonon. The Observatory includes a hall on the first floor, approximately 54 x 34 feet, mainly for physical experimentation. A library and conference room on the second floor with an observation deck. An observatory tower on the third floor with a cement base arranged for the future installment of an eight or ten-inch refractor telescope. It will serve mainly for the observation of the rotating orgone envelope of the earth.

The western wing has a flat roof suitable as a deck for observation of the western sky. The roof of the main building is flat and also usable for observation. The deck overlooks the whole region above the surrounding hills. The White Mountains 100 miles away to the south, Saddleback Mountain to the east, and Mount Bigelow to the northeast form important points of observation. Two lakes, Dodge Pond to the east and Rangeley Lake to the south, provide excellent areas for observations of the pulsatory movement of the atmospheric orgone energy.”

Reich also planned to build a hospital at Orgonon, going so far as to explore the State of Maine’s legal and licensing requirements, and having an architect draw up a rendition of the building. Over the years Reich’s research center at Orgonon became the site for numerous pioneering experiments including:

- Applications of the Reich Blood Test, as a diagnostic tool for the early detection of diseases
- Testing the effects of orgone energy on radium needles in 1951, in search of a possible antidote to nuclear radiation sickness
- Using an invention called a “cloudbuster” to alter orgone energy movements in the atmosphere for weather experimentation
- Successfully operating a small motor propelled by atmospheric orgone energy

Regrettably, Reich’s medical and scientific research was disrupted because of the Food and Drug Administration’s determination to put an end to his work. The FDA’s seven year campaign against Reich was ignited by an inaccurate article about him in New Republic magazine in 1947, claiming that the orgone accumulators were being rented and sold as sexual devices and cure-alls, and casting aspersions on Reich’s cancer research and other aspects of his work.

In fact, in the mid-1940s, Reich *had* begun to rent and sell orgone accumulators to those who wanted to use them experimentally at home. Reich's reason for this was to allow more people to experience and experiment with the potential benefits of orgone energy and to provide Reich and his co-workers with more feedback and more data regarding the effects of orgone radiation on the human organism. Herman Templeton's daughter, Clista, down on the Bald Mountain Road, was in charge of building and shipping these accumulators. Later, S.A. Collins & Sons in Rangeley would assume these responsibilities.

The FDA was convinced, despite Reich's extensive published research, that orgone energy does not exist and consequently that the orgone accumulators were fraudulent devices. This opinion was shared by the American Medical, Psychiatric, and Psychoanalytic Associations, all of whom supported and cooperated with the FDA's efforts. The complexities of this legal case would require an entirely separate presentation. Suffice it to say that in 1954, a Federal court issued an Injunction forbidding the interstate shipment of orgone accumulators as well as Reich's books, research journals and bulletins, which the FDA considered labeling for fraudulent devices.

The Injunction also ordered the destruction of these accumulators and much of Reich's literature. These orders were carried out both here in Rangeley and in New York City. Reich was eventually convicted of contempt of court and he died in the Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania on November 3, 1957. He was 60 years old.

Several days prior to his incarceration, Reich created a Trust in his name—called the Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust—to protect his legacy from distortion and falsification, to preserve his property at Orgonon, and to safeguard his Archives. Today, The Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust—of which I am one of the Directors—operates The Wilhelm Reich Museum. The Museum itself and our annual conferences attract visitors from across the country and across the world to the Rangeley region.

The Trust also manages Reich's Archives which are located at the Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard University, one of the world's premier medical libraries. And since 1959, the Trust has worked with New York publisher Farrar Straus and Giroux to bring all of Reich's books back into print, in addition to publishing eight new titles, for a total of twenty-one books.

My background is in film and writing, and we now have two film projects in various stages of development: a completed screenplay about Reich that I've written which covers 25 years of his life from 1933 to 1957, and a documentary film project. These two projects, like everything we do, are consistent with the Trust's mission to preserve and protect Reich's scientific legacy from distortion and falsification.

And so if anything I've said this evening has piqued your curiosity, we hope you'll come visit us at Orgonon as just another way of deepening your appreciation of the richness and diversity of Rangeley history. Thank you for listening, and thank you for this opportunity to be here.”

UNTIL NEXT MONTH

Please share this Update with colleagues, friends and family who may be interested in the life and legacy of Wilhelm Reich and the good works of The Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust and The Wilhelm Reich Museum. Thank you again for your friendship and support.