

*The independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history.*

## NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 30, 2009

### PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

**CONTACT:** Joan Desmarais at 603-856-0603

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NEWEST BOBBLEHEAD RECALLS AUTHOR OF AMERICA'S FIRST "BLOCKBUSTER" NOVEL**

CONCORD, NH—The latest addition to the New Hampshire Historical Society's popular series of historical bobbleheads is Grace Metalious, the controversial author of America's first blockbuster novel.

Grace Metalious, née Marie Grace de Repentigny (1924–1964), a Manchester, N.H., native, was best known for her racy novel *Peyton Place* (1956), one of the most widely read novels ever published. Metalious portrayed the dark secrets of a small New England town, apparently basing her story on her experiences in Gilmanton, Laconia, and Alton, N.H. The first lines of the book are as famous as the book itself: "Indian summer is like a woman. Ripe, hotly passionate, but fickle, she comes and goes as she pleases so that one is never sure whether she will come at all, nor for how long she will stay." Reading these lines, one can understand why parents would hide their copy in a drawer or under a pillow to keep their teenager from finding it and sneaking off with friends to read through the "good parts."

The Society's bobblehead is fashioned after a photograph taken by Larry Smith of Metalious at her typewriter dressed in her characteristic blue jeans, flannel shirt, sneakers, and pony tail. The photograph became known as "Pandora in Blue Jeans" and was the public's first image of the controversial new author.

First available in 2006, earlier bobbleheads in the New Hampshire Historical Society's series include Revolutionary War hero General John Stark; statesman and orator Daniel Webster; the Old Man of the Mountain; Sarah Josepha Hale—the "Mother of Thanksgiving;" Neil Tillotson, the New Hampshire inventor and entrepreneur who cast the first vote in every U.S. presidential election from 1960 to 2000; Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States; Chief Passaconaway, sachem of the Penacook tribe and one of the key figures in New Hampshire's colonial history; Hannah Duston, who was captured by Abenaki Indians in 1697 and is said to have escaped by killing her captors; Alan Shepard Jr., the first American to travel into space and the fifth to walk on the moon; and Chinook, the New Hampshire state dog. All of the Society's bobbleheads are available at the New Hampshire Historical Society's museum store, located at 6 Eagle Square, Concord, and online at [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org). The dolls retails for \$15.95 to \$18.95.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is the independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its museum, research library, educational programs, and award-winning publications. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All of its programs and services are made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information visit [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org) or call 603-228-6688.

###