The concept of a Transit District for Casco Bay was borne out of frustration than anything else. One night during the strike, while sitting around a fire contemplating alternatives and solutions to the basic problem of transportation in the bay, Susan and Greg Scandlen and Michael Day hatch ed what they thought was an original and ideal solution: to form a quasi-municipal agency, a Transit District comprising the islands of Casco Bay, presently being served by Casco Bay Lines.

As the strike wore on, more and more talk was generated by the people and soon the Island Citizens Association had again decided to try to overcome the monopolistic control of CBL. A meeting was held and many alternatives were considered. Out of the meeting came an invitation for the Portland Legislative Delegation to come to Peaks Island and meet with the people, and also a commitment by the ICA to pursue the Transit District concept as well as an amendment to the present law which gives CBL monopolistic control over specific islands in Casco Bay.

Since these happenings were all very newsworthy, they had tremendous radio and newspaper coverage. It was through a newspaper article that I first came in contact with Mr. Robert Skillings. Mr. Skillings is a member of a long established island family. It seems that back in 1958, Mr. Skillings had a group of others on Peaks Island that formed and tried to have a Transit District formed in Casco Bay. The effort failed but Mr. Skillings had saved all of his documents and research on the subject.

It was like Manna from heaven to meet Mr. Skillings and see that a lot of our investigative work had been done in 1958!! Susan and Greg and myself met with Mr. Skillings and formed a tentative plan of action.

We received a copy of the Charter of the Portland Water District and got right to work to see how it was set up to operate. Next came a meeting with Mr. David MacNichol, Corporate Trust Officer at Maine National Bank, to discuss the financial backing necessary to obtain the assets of CBL. Finally Lawrence Connally, a Portland Representative to the House, agreed to sponsor the bill.

I think a pause is necessary at this point to explain the concept of the Casco Bay Transit District. It was based on the formation of the Portland Water District back in 1902. It would be a non-profit quasi-municipal agency operated solely for the benefit of the islanders being serviced. There will be a seventeen member Board of Directors to elect a five member Executive Board and generally oversee the operation of the District. The Board would be broken down as follows: one director from Cliff Island, two from Long Island, four from Chebeague Island, eight from Peaks, Little, and Great Diamond. No more than two members of the Executive Board could be from Peaks Island, so one was appointed by the Commissioner of the Dept. of Transportation and the other by the Portland City Council.

The election of the Directors will be held at the same time as the election of the Portland Water District Directors, and would serve for a term of five years. The Board would hire a Business Manager to oversee and conduct the day to day operations of the line. The Transit District would for the time being take over CBL as is and then at the discretion of the Board revise certain policies and procedures. The whole operation will still be subject to all Public Utilities Commission regulations and controls.
EDITORIALS

With this initial issue of the Peaks Island - Times we hope to begin winning the confidence of readers and advertisers, that we can build a reputation for usefulness that will enable us to publish this paper for many months ahead.

We plan to operate on democratic principles, allowing space for readers to express their views on topics of interest. We expect to appeal to advertisers who have a message to set forth.

We realize that we must in our field of service, appeal to a great many diversified groups and persons.

In respect to all of them, we entertain one great hope - that we may encourage them to act cooperatively in a spirit of; All-for-one and One-for-all, so that we may all enjoy a better life on Peaks Island.

This paper is your means of communication. We hope you will read it - use it - and give it your support.

TRIBUTE TO AN ISLANDER

On Thursday, April 28, 1977, some two hundred people - resident, relatives and friends attended the services for Marion Sterling who passed away a few days ago.

Marion Sterling was a resident of this island for all or most of her life, and as expected the church service was very appropriate, as the church was also a great part of her life. The flowers and singing were beautiful and the eulogy descriptive, and well said, but it is ironic, when one has passed away after living such a full life time - pretty flowers, kind words and beautiful music seem very insignificant, when it also seems a life comes to a close, at the end of a service that lasts at best, but a few minutes, and it is only here, at this service that many people realized the great loss of this fine person, who contributed so much to this island, for many years, and who was so well liked by all.

As I sat through the service, I could not help but think, why do we have to wait until a day like today, to show how much one is loved, how much one is missed, how much one is appreciated, and how nice it was to have known them as a friend or neighbor.

We should have told her this yesterday, - for today it is too late.

Today - she cannot enjoy the flowers, hear the music, or listen to the kind words.

Too late to even say good - bye, or thank you for being one of us.

Leon Clough, Editor
Peaks Island Times

Obituary

Oct. 27, 1976
Rachel Sells Jabine
We are deeply saddened by the death of Rachel, her many friends who knew her will very much miss her.

Dec. 15, 1976
Margaret Sawyer
Our hearts are darkened by the passing of Margaret, who had many friends she knew and loved.

Life and Death

A breath of joy, an hour of pain,
Dark paths to tread, white heights to gain,
A little love, a little strife,
And this is Life.

A little rest, a swift new birth,
A snapping of the bonds of earth,
A joyous stride, a tingling breath,
And this is Death.

For life and death walk hand in hand,
With never a span between, And the same path leads to that Other Land Where the sunlit fields are green.
Meanwhile, Jane Tefft, the secretary of the ICA, had begun to organize a petition drive in relation to the amendment to allow boats to carry six or more passengers and their baggage for compensation. She sent petitions to Long and Cliff Islands, canvased Congress St., left petitions in all of the island stores, and generally worked full time trying to get support for this concept. David Brenerman had agreed to sponsor the bill and Merle Nelson co-sponsor.

I sent copies of the legislation and letters to all major organizations in the bay asking for support and comments, also arranging meetings on Cliff and Long Islands to meet with the people and tell them exactly how we felt about the legislation and what it intended to do in Casco Bay. Susan, Greg, Doug MacVane, Leon Clough and myself were the envoys and came away from both islands with a feeling of consistancy and optimism. Obviously, the group that the ICA tried hardest to work closely with was the CBIDA (Casco Bay Island Development Association). Month after month, Susan, Greg and Myself went to their monthly meetings trying to get support. Finally, at their April meeting the legislators themselves came and a formal note was taken: CBIDA supported both concepts and would go to Augusta and support the bills.

The date was set: Wednesday, May 4th, the Legislative Transportation Committee would be hearing testimony on both bills: LD 792 - an act creating a Transit District in Casco Bay; LD 789 - an act relating to transportation to islands in Casco Bay.

The ICA had notice of the hearings published in the Portland paper and made arrangements for eight people to go.

The hearing was long and exhilarating. LD 789 was the first bill up for discussion. Many people spoke in favor of it: Susan, Myself, Dan Hogan, who presented his term paper written for a University of Maine course, entitled, "The Maine Public Utilities Commission and Transportation in Casco Bay"; with Clem Voyer, who cited his need as a Telephone Worker to get to town at odd hours; Doug MacVane, Greg Scandalen, Rev. Carl Hall as Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, and Russ Edwards as Vice-President of the CBIDA. Those speaking against the bill were: Hilda Cushing, owner of House Isl. Robert Hickock, summer resident of Long Island, and Peter T. McLaughlin, part owner of Casco Bay Lines. Mr. McLaughlin testified that the ICA "was formed to give CBL a hard time", and that "the proposed legislation was an attempt to circumvent the present law." He said that the same problems would abound as were present prior to 1963 (the year that the Monopolistic Control Law was passed) and that "gypsy operators" would flourish in Casco Bay. He ended by saying that the passage of the bill would "spell a death knoll for Casco Bay Lines." Amen.

After Larry Connolly introduced the Transit District Bill, Greg gave a more in depth outline of it. He was followed by Sue, Dan, Doug, Russ, and Robert Skillings. The only person speaking against the bill was John Nutter, who said he represented a not-yet formed group called The Casco Bay Lines Employees Corp. The intent of this group is to try to buy Casco Bay Lines because they realize a profit can be made, and that his was a "better idea.

Another aside is proper at this moment: Mr. Nutter did not read the bill, and presumes that it will be a state run operation. This is not the case. The Casco Bay Transit District will be a self-sufficient island operated venture, initially supported by corporate bonds floated through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. There is also a section in the bill that, should CBL enter into negotiations and finalize a private sale, the bill creating the said Transit District would become void. Various ICA members have done a lot of research on this concept.

The ICA has always been very cooperative with other island groups, and we still maintain the ideal that we will do whatever is necessary to upgrade the transportation for the islanders in Casco Bay.

In ending, let me say that your opinions can still be heard and support is always needed. A card or letter to Rep. John Jensen, could help! House of Representatives, Augusta, Maine 04033.

Irene Murray
President ICA

CBIDA

CBIDA representatives testify in support of three bills effecting the islands at hearings recently held by the Legislature Transportation Committee at Augusta.

The CBIDA Steering Committee voted unanimously to support L.D. 1029, an Act to provide new facilities, including a parking area for Casco Bay Lines.

Peaks Island Times
Public Safety Director Meets Island Residents

St. Christophers Parish Hall was the setting for the May 21st meeting of Island residents and Mr. Frank Amoroso, newly appointed Director of the Department of Public Safety of the City of Portland. He was introduced by Rev. Mike Davis and began by outlining the structure of the new department.

Mr. Amoroso explained that there are four divisions to the new department:

The Division of Communications combining the radio communications of Police, Fire, and Parks security into one dispatch station. Each department now has separate radio equipment and dispatchers.

The Division of Public Buildings and Parks Security, responsible for security at the Portland Jetport, the International Ferry Terminal, City Hall, and other city owned public properties.

The Division of Medical Crisis Units (MEDCU) providing ambulance and trained Emergency Medical Technicians to respond to medical emergencies.

The Division of Island Services consisting of officers trained in police and fire work to replace present system of having separate police and fire personnel on the islands, and the fireboat. These officers will be selected from present police and fire personnel who express an interest in serving the islands. Police officers interested will be required to attend Firefighting Training School as if they were becoming firemen. Firefighters will be required to attend the Police Academy in Waterville, a requirement for all police officers in the State of Maine.

Mr. Amoroso continued to explain that the officers appointed would work on a trial basis to test their own competency and their ability. A new proposal for Supervisor of Island Services is proposed to provide visible and accessible supervision for these officers. That person will be the key contact for Island residents and will make decisions regarding specific problems and policies. Mr. Amoroso assured us that these officers will provide twenty four hour coverage. They will be expected to be patrolling during each shift.

The persistent rumor that there are plans to replace the fireboat was contradicted by the new Director. He stated that "the city has taken a hard look at the fireboat and questions whether or not there needs to be something faster for emergencies purposes...". One island resident who currently works on the fireboat explained the need for a boat of its size for rough weather docking. Mr. Amoroso explained that this concern has been raised by Fire Department officials and that the overall discussion has resulted in the city "putting the brakes on any changes" until the new Department of Public Safety is underway and all of these considerations have been weighed.

Mr. Amoroso described a proposal for a smaller and faster Public Safety Patrol Boat to patrol the waterfronts of the city and islands, smaller boats docked and moored, and provide transportation for "back up" officers in particular emergencies when and where they arise. He emphasized that this boat would not replace the fireboat. He also indicated (in response to a citizen's question) that there will always be help available from the Police and Fire Departments when needed.

Citizen discussion and debate followed Mr. Amoroso's presentation. Many concerns were raised about the new system. One citizen voiced reservations about an officer being both police and fire personnel at one time. Can a person emotionally handle it? One former Public Safety officer (fireman) stated that it worked well for a number of years.

Another citizen described the new department as "an experiment" and voiced concern that the city may be "cutting coats at the ex-
Our Steering Committee also voted to support L.D. 937, which would allow other boats to operate while carrying less than six passengers, subject to the following amendments which were added to the final bill. 
1. The bill be enacted as a sunset Law.
2. That the owners of the boats provide financial responsibility so that the public would be protected in the event of an accident.

L.D. 1015, an Act to create a Transit District, was discussed during several of our Steering Committee meetings. We were in agreement with the concept of this bill, subject to the following changes:
1. Provide for a method of arbitration in reaching an agreement on the fair market value of the existing boat line.
2. Change in the selection system of the Board of Directors so that they should be elected by the voters of Portland similar to the election of the Trustees of the Portland Water District.
3. A take-over by the Transit District of the existing boat line would be effective only if the existing boat line failed or ceased to operate for other reasons.

We will also support another bill to be heard at a later date, which would allow existing Transit Districts to take over Waterborne Transportation if necessary.

We welcome with interest the proposal of Casco Bay Lines' employees, whereby they hope to purchase and operate Casco Bay Lines. Leaders of the CBL employees have been invited to our next meeting on June 4, 1977, at the Portland Public Safety Building to further inform us of the details of their proposals.

Stanley Williamson
CBIDA

THE ALTERNATIVE

Before the state legislature, there is a bill under consideration to make Casco Bay Lines a state-owned ferry service. We, a group of full time employees of CBL, feel that we have a better alternative -- for the line and the residents of the islands it serves.

We want to buy CBL and run it under an employee stock ownership plan -- a corporate system based on private enterprise, but which has the feature of the employees owning the stock of the company and thus having a proprietary interest in its success or failure.

We believe CBL is a fundamentally healthy line. Why should the state take over a profit making concern? That proposal flies in the face of our free enterprise system. We would like to keep the line outside of state control.

The employees hope to better the service in several ways -- and a better service will generate better business. One major problem with the line now is poor sanitation. The benefits of improvements in this area are obvious.

Of course, if the employees own a business, they will not strike themselves, an important consideration in the light of last winter's strike of two months. Communication and cooperation will be increased due to the fact that management will be elected by and responsible to employees. A state-run venture would be constantly held back by bureaucratic red tape.

We want to practice "Norwegian Seafanship" -- running dependable, clean, ship-shape boats -- to make the daily passage for residents more comfortable and also to draw more tourist trade.

We hope to be more responsive to the needs and concerns of our passengers. We hope to be more open to ideas and suggestions. We want to live up to our promises, but here are a few changes we would like to make:
- To institute a 1:00 am boat on Friday and Saturday nights to Peaks and Long Isl.
- To push for improved terminals on the islands, ie. heated and enclosed shelters and improved loading and unloading facilities.
- To improve temporarily the vehicle transfer bridges to accommodate up to 20 tons until new terminals can be built
- To accept senior citizen/low income pass tickets as in most other transport systems.
- To create definite smoking/non-smoking areas on the lower deck of the boats.

In order to institute our plan, we will have to overcome our problems of lack of financial backing. There are a lot of financial mountains ahead of us, but they haven't yet been a mountain that hasn't been climbed.

John Nutter

Judy McDermott
DRESSMAKING - ALTERATIONS
766-2293

Typing Service
RUTH SARGENT
ISLAND AVENUE 766-2956
cont. from pp. 5

pense of the island services
again! Several questions
were raised regarding the
failure to enforce the "leash
laws". Several specific in-
cidents of persons and prop-
erties threatened by the "in-
ordinate number of loose
dogs" were related.

Speeding violations as a
threat to life and property
were also mentioned several
times.

Marge Erico and Rosemary
Pyne both raised concerns
about the training of off-
cers in Emergency Medical
care. Mr. Amoroso re-
plied by expressing his agree-
ment and hope for the
idea
or
train-
ing these new officers
as Emergency Medical Tech-
icians.

John Mazza, Captian of the
Call Firefighters who sup-
plement the full time fire-
fighters, expressed his con-
cern that the Call Co. be
equipped with adequate fire-
fighting clothing and head
protection. The concern
about the communications
system for "call men" was
raised. Mr. Amoroso will
meet with the call men at
their regular meeting in
June to discuss these mat-
ters in detail.

The meeting was well att-
tended, debate and discus-
sion were lively, and many spe-
cific concerns were raised.
Mr. Amoroso assured us that
immediate concerns special-
ly regarding the dogs and
the traffic violations,
would be discussed with
Chief McClure on Monday,
June 23. He expressed his
intention and defined his
work as providing better
services to the islands.
Several citizens expressed
doubts and concerns while
others showed a "wait and
see" attitude. One citizen
exclaimed,"If people will
open their minds, it might
be the best thing for Peaks
Island...".

You may contact Mr. Amor-
oso at his office (775-6361
ext. 270) or write to him at
the Public Safety Building,
Greetings From The Casco Bay Health Center

As you know, health is our "thing". Since we opened our doors last summer approximately 425 different people have come to us for health care. Our patient caseload is increasing each month as more and more families decide to come here for their primary health needs.

There are many aspects to good health -- education being the major one to come to mind. Our pilot health class was well attended this spring by 18 women who readily joined in the question and answer periods, open discussions, C.P.R. class, dental and dietary instruction, and other interesting sessions with guest speakers. Where were you men? We need you too!!!

We plan to continue these types of programs during the coming year to enable more islanders to participate in and learn to care for minor illnesses and injuries in the home. So often a trip to the doctor could be avoided if the correct knowledge were available. And all of us CAN learn to become more confident in being responsible for good health care for ourselves and our families.

Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R.) is of extreme importance in everyone's life -- for it is life saving. We would like to see as many islanders as possible versed in this procedure as well as the Heimlich Maneuver for choking emergencies. The Red Cross offers this program to all, in two or three-hour sessions. If you are interested in taking this class, please contact the Health Center (781-2901) because we are scheduling a class in the latter part of June, and we will have to limit the size of the class.

Because we are interested in health education, future issues of this newspaper will list valuable tips for good health. If you have something special you would like to read about please let us know. And in any case, we welcome your interest in the Health Center. If you have any questions about services, please call us, and if you have not seen the Center please call and we will be happy to arrange a little tour for you.

TIPS FOR THE MONTH

1. Insect bites or stings.
   a. Remove the stinger if possible.
   b. Apply ice, cold packs, or mud for 20-30 min. or longer if necessary to reduce swelling and the spread of venom.
   c. Apply baking soda paste or Caladryl lotion to area to relieve itching. (Use Caution Around Eyes.)
   d. If swelling reoccurs, or wheezing or difficulty in breathing develops, contact the nearest medical facility for immediate emergency treatment.

2. Tetanus Shots
   If you had all your shots as a child or as an adult, a Tetanus booster is good for 10 years for a clean minor wound. However a contaminated wound would require a Tetanus booster if your last shot was five years ago or longer. An animal or human bite is considered a contaminated wound.
   Are you and your children up to date??
   Although we do not hear about lockjaw today, it is still present and a life threatening disease!

Bette Gaman
Marge Erioff

A private Veterinarian is willing to come to Peaks Island on a regular basis monthly, four times a year, or whatever the need. Prerequisite is an enclosed garage or room, preferably with water availability. If someone is willing to lend such a facility for a few hours, and if enough people are interested in this service, I can make the arrangements. Contact Bette Gaman at the Health Center, 871-2901

Don Schei
Carpentry
766-5070
A FIRST AT ST. CHRISTOPHER CHURCH

After an instruction period of over a year, seven first communicants achieved the honor of being the FIRST CLASS TO RECEIVE THEIR LORD POR THE FIRST TIME AT AN EVENING MASS AT ST. CHRISTOPHER CHURCH. The study was climax on Friday evening May 13 with a beautiful service attended by relatives and friends. This service involved a time for consideration - a time for reconciliation.

On Saturday Evening May 14 the first communicants were led in procession by the cross bearer, Rene Watson, followed by two acolytes, Chris Alves and John Gorham.

Chantors chanted the responsorial psalm during the mass. They were joined by a new member, Cindy Daigle.

The gift bearers on this occasion were the honored ones themselves: Francine Alves, Brenda Briggs, Carol Gorham, Norman O'Brien, Paul Gorham, Robert Smith, James Watson

After the ceremony all gathered in the parish hall where a reception was given to the class, their relatives and friends. This event was brought to a happy ending by the presentation of certificates and a beautiful scapular medal and chain, Father Nee's gifts to the greatful youngsters.

EVENTS To CLOSE THE SEASON

The CCD classes at St. Christopher Church terminated for the season on Sunday May 22nd with the crowning of Our Lady by May Queen Regina Alves.

Thirty-five youngsters attended classes this year and twenty-three were perfect in attendance. A picnic took place at St. Joseph by the Sea for those faithful ones who enjoyed cool sticks, hot dogs, chips, punch and all sorts of games.

Some of those attending were: From L.to R., Joe Falconeri, Joe Alves, Bobby Smith, Billy Mack, and Franky Smith.

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church

Keep an eye out for our thrift shop (next to the Art Gallery). We will be opening in June. If you have any small saleable items to help the cause give them to Mary Dennison.

We invite all to join us. We have worship Sundays at 10:00 following Church School at 9:00 a.m. Our United Methodist Women are very active, and our Evening Circle is small and fun. Our youth groups are large, noisy, and a "blast". We have a Coffee Fellowship Hour following worship on Sundays. Get to know us and be part of our "caring community"! We were the white church on the hill.

We sent two youths to a four day youth rally in Greenville last February. Richard Brown and Rick Callow enjoyed skiing, swimming, fellowship and learning. The theme for the week was "Self Awareness" using the film and book - "Why am I afraid to tell you who I am," for group discussions. The guys were in self expression groups: Rick in music and Richard in crafts. Rev. Mike and Val Davis were group leaders along with couples from around the State. This event was sponsored by the United Methodist Youth Ministry of Maine.

We regret the loss of Ray and Grace Morrill who were key people in our church. They decided to stay near their family out west. They have a grandchild on the way. We mourn their leaving, but rejoice with them in their "new life" with their family again.
4th Annual Old Port Festival

This year on June 18th and 19th the Old Port Association is holding its 4th Annual Street Festival. This year both days will be used for local craftspersons to display their arts, and also for local musicians, dancers, puppeteers, etc. to attract attention to their skills.

The festivities will begin on Saturday with puppet shows. There will also be paint and paper available throughout the morning for collective murals, along with other events especially for the young people. Participation is wholly encouraged. There will also be a parade.

Throughout the afternoon the streets will be lined with tables and displays where many local craftspersons will be selling their wares. Scheduled in the afternoon are surprises of all sorts, including a short mine performance, a frisbee contest, and boat rides—mention only a few.

Later in the afternoon to round out the day there will be a home-style fried chicken and fish dinner with potatoes, salad and roll. Tickets are being sold in advance. For information, contact the Old Port Association.

Sunday will be a day full of music. All types of music will be featured, with local favorites playing, as well as some not so well-known talent.

Sunday is Saturday's rain date, so if it rains on Saturday, all events for Sunday will be cancelled.

H. Heller

Our Peaks Island house may look as though it grew like 'Little Topsy' but a lot of thought and planning has gone into it. We first thought of moving to Peaks Island in 1960 when we came to Portland, but the then city manager did not think it was a suitable place to live and persuaded us to seek housing elsewhere. A few years later we bought a home for summer use on Peaks and each year the Island has captured us a little more.
Our ocean side home was designed by Zane Yost with our special requirements in mind—spectacular ocean views, sheltered decks and a third floor living room that would take advantage of the views in all directions—the pond behind us, the ocean in front as well as the woods to the south. We have tried to use natural materials, cedar shakes and the natural planting of the area so that eventually it will settle in and look as though it belongs on the site. It's a little raw and awkward now but we hope it will be less obstructive when the landscaping is completed.

There is a studio for pottery and a sort of greenhouse area at the end of the family room. The building really looks a lot larger than it is. There are only 6 or 7 rooms in the house, and we are looking forward to moving in this summer.

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That Never To Be Forgotten Winter

Some seasons are remembered as a time of great excitement, the beginnings of a new adventure, the first-ever in a new locale, or the start of an academic year. These happy seasons are packed away carefully but brought out often for re-examination, total recall and reliving the precious moments they entailed.

The winter of 76-77 will certainly not be overlooked in anyone's memory chest. It will always be remembered by Peaks Islanders as the 'worst of 'em all'--the severest in years with the deepest, most continuous snows, the icy-est, and a protracted period of overwhelming frustration.

For we had not only the record-breaking cold, zero temps and prohibitive highway conditions to contend with--just as the 'outside world' of mainlanders did--BUT we were hit a double blow and forced to suffer through a 10 week imprisoning boat strike at the same time! With a skeleton schedule at the beginning of December the hardships quickly piled up.

Regular 6:15 a.m. commuters were left stranded without transportation to their 7 o'clock work-start times. At first a few sympathetic boat owners came to their rescue but it was a jolting way to begin a day--tearing through the snow, sleet, piling seas and bitter cold in pre-sunrise darkness. Soon this travel was too precarious to continue so each worker was forced to face 3 choices--lose an hour's pay 5 times a week (if the employer was agreeable to this), take a room in town and become a 'weekend commuter' OR look for other work.....

The 'night people' working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift went up on the 4:50 seeking a place to nap several hours in the home of a friend or relative. Other workers had to return to town each Saturday to complete their holiday shopping since the final boat of the day was the 5:30. This was an overwhelmingly bleak experience with stern-to-how standees, foul air, and only a wispy of light from the meagerest of bulbs. It was a depressing trip as we huddled together trying to think of something humorous to buoy up the spirits of our traveling companions. Those who had lined up sales jobs at the stores during the month were forced to cancel out. Of course the Christmas parties, concerts, programs, dances and festivities in town were all wiped off the social calendar.

Came January and new hurdles appeared to block us. Enrollees in night schools and courses had to postpone their plans for that semester and wait till fall. It was difficult for the elderly to keep appointments in town, but having to make a long day of it between boats was a bit much--too much! It had been a long time between car ferry runs and many were stranded with cars on the island or in town waiting to be transferred over.

We began to feel sorry for ourselves at being forced to endure so many useless deprivations for a few, indifferent-to-our-needs boatmen. We were compelled to make sacrifices that would have been bitterly demanding enough, to benefit our own family--but for strangers--Well!!!

But more stringent than ours was the limitations for Cliff Islanders. After riding 90 minutes to town they had equal time (90 minutes) in which to shop, see a doctor or dentist, pay a visit or conduct needed business. Then they had to hurry back to the wharf for the 90 minute return trip. Talk about having your life regulated!

The no-school whistle sounded day after day and it took a lot of inventiveness to keep children happily occupied and entertained. Those with snow shovels and customers did well ($$) but skating and coasting were hampered by the day after day storms. Living in a few rooms to save heat, with continuous cancellations, it was difficult to fight off a touch of 'cabin fever'. TV, telephones, radios, and books seemed precious but tiring. Would there EVER be a spring?

But through it all we could not validly complain too loudly for we did escape weather disasters that pummeled the rest of the nation. We had no power failures, no fuel shortages, no factory shutdowns, no empty gas pumps, no unheated schools.

But during this period there was never a hope of release extended to us. Just endless waiting. Negotiations regarding the boatline ran in an off again-on again pattern. When word came in late February that agreements were completed and a full schedule was back in operation we felt like children let out of the closet after being punished for so long. BUT--for what reason? We still wonder.

The boat rides were gay as the suppressed islanders went to town for a movie, a lingering dinner, a day with friends, an out of town trip or a social 'ball'.

However, despite all the hardships entailed, the made over plans and disappointments, we STILL would not consider swapping our island life and homes for any other place. Now that life is smooth once again--we are still--here to stay.

RUTH SARGENT
WINTER
OF
1977
Photos Leon Clough
Reflections on Three Years

"MAN HATH STILL EITHER TOYS OR CARE;
HE HATH NO ROOT, NOR TO ONE PLACE IS TIED..."

Henry Vaughn's words are quite appropriate for an article reflecting three years of life on Peaks Island. When I was asked by the "Times" editor to write it, I did not know that before I finished writing, it would become a farewell. We will be accepting a new assignment to the Presque Isle United Methodist Church at the end of June.

It is true we are never tied to one place yet we sink roots and "get involved" wherever we are, (ever promising ourselves that "this time we won't get so close...") We then proceed to get close again. In three years Peaks Island has been our home and we are glad, in spite of the pain of leaving, that we "get involved". Peaks will always be a home in our hearts.

One can never help having hopes and dreams for the people and places we live in. Our hopes and dreams for the island began when we were warmly welcomed three years ago. It was my first parish and I was excited about the people I had met and the beautiful setting. It was not long before I began to learn my way around in spite of the streets with no signs and the houses with no numbers. It was summer and like all parishes I expected the attendance in worship to be small, perhaps twenty people. When I walked into the church sanctuary crowded with people I thought maybe I was in the wrong church. It proved not to be so and I enjoyed the sense of community that exists between "year round" and "summer" folks. I would expect this to be rare among coastal communities in Maine.

During my second year I worked with several folks from the Island doing a "Church and Community Analysis". This was a study designed to look at a community from political, economic, social, historical, and spiritual perspectives. We then asked ourselves, "How has the church been involved?" The result within the church was to recognize our need to be more involved in community concerns. One concrete result of our conclusions new openness in the use of the Memorial Hall for community functions such as the YMCA, Scouts, civic activities, etc. Several of our people also developed a heightened sense of the need for more political organization and a deepening of the spirit of community on Peaks Island. It became apparent that the Island has gone through several stages in its history; from farming to fishing, to summer resort, to a suburban neighborhood, these stages have resulted in separate neighborhoods and a certain amount of division between different groups of people. It was interesting to note that a hurricane was responsible for a stronger sense of community by making it necessary for everyone; whether from Evergreen, Torrington Point, or City Point, to cross paths daily at one remaining landing.

Another key question was; what is the major media of communication?? At the time, one former newspaper was publishing on an erratic schedule, while the other seemed to express particular political opinions with little "people news". Those of us discussing the study realized that poor communications be-

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Peaks Island Times
Continued

between the island residents was a major cause of the apparent inability to get together on the issues. We hope the "Times" will meet that need.

We remembered and discussed the old Peaks Island Council and memories of the days when islanders elected a City councilor and felt more like "second cousins" to the City of Portland. Our conclusions then and now are that Peaks Island needs to get together as a community and present a unified voice on issues concerning it's life and future.

I think if I were asked to share one personal dream for the island it would be that we have some sort of "island council" again. It would be an open organization with no dues and regular meeting times. Perhaps we could elect representatives from neighborhoods who could form listening posts for community concerns to be discussed at a council meeting. It would not represent any one political or economic prejudice, but could provide a forum for all. An island council might give increased credibility to spokespersons from the island to the City and State by voting on stated positions and presenting a unified voice. It could provide a place for us to get to know each other and work together to deepen our sense of community and insure the quality of life on the island.

Reflecting on three years I realize that I have come to know many people from different groups on the island. In many of those conversations I have heard the wish for unity and the reality of alienation. I believe that getting involved in the "politics" of our community is essential to being fully human. We need to feel that we have some say in the issues that shape our lives. Unity on Peaks Island could mean sharing our own future and holding some power over our own lives. Dis-unity will

We have proven on several occasions that it is possible for us to get together. We built a Health Center, a Child Care Center, and the community participated in the building of the Brackett Memorial Church Parsonage. There are several groups on the island that work efficiently and accomplish set goals. It will take communication like the Peaks Island Times, and cooperation as shown in the groups to form a viable and effective political organization, and give the island some control over its life and destiny. It wouldn't be easy but is possible.

Peaks Island has been our home for three years, and I expect to call it home for years to come. I suppose leaving gives a special sense of urgency in speaking what might be forever unsaid. I regret that I cannot be here to work for deeper community on Peaks Island with others who have expressed caring for our place. Wherever we are in years ahead please know that Peaks Island will always be in our hearts and our prayers.

MICHAEL E. DAVIS

P.I. Music Ass.

Last summer's program of three musical evenings worked out so well that we are planning a similar set-up for the 1977 season.

The first meeting, July 6, at 8:00, will be a planning meeting, with anyone considering membership invited. Mary Jacquith will be happy to receive dues. In addition to the business, Gretchen Hall will present a paper published in The Hymn, entitled "Ignoring Fences in Hymn Singing".

The July 20th musical will be a Stephen Foster festival. Lee Belban, Elizabeth Harmon of the Portland Choral Arts Society, and Gretchen Hall are planning this. Lee Belban would like to hear from anyone interested in soft shoe or Foster tune, or in being part of a group to present Stephen Foster vocal harmony.

Save August 3rd and 17th for the other musicals of the summer. They will be at 8:00 in the evening at the Fifth Maine Regiment build, and are for the enjoyment of everyone who is lucky enough to be on the island when these musicals come around.

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Peaks Island Times
I recall, as if it were yesterday, my first voyage to Peaks Island, on July 4, 1918. I was among the crowd in the photograph, which estimated around thirty thousand people, all watching a hot air balloon go up from the top of Gem Hill. It landed behind Little Diamond Island. Those were the days when Peaks was similar to Old Orchard Beach in the 1930 period -- times that people of my age never forget.

Harry W. Files

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Congratulations To......

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Orno (Sharon), for the birth of their baby girl, born March 11th, Patricia Ann. Grandparents are Patricia Willard and Willard of Peaks Island. Mrs. Gerald Orno of Portland.

Mrs. and Mr. Laurence Vail for the birth of their baby boy, Jamie Beecher Vail.

Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Flash (Wendy), for the birth of their baby girl, Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Adamson of Peaks Isl.

Mr. and Mrs. Ogane (Bonnie), for the birth of their baby boy, Laurence Joseph Ogane, on March 30th, Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Hasen and Mrs. Jackie.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Roberts (Vicki), for the birth of their son, Christopher Russell Roberts, on April 12th.

Susan Scandlen was honored at a surprise baby shower, May 24th, at Brackett Mem. Church. The following people attended plus a large assortment of children...

Loretta Voyer Bonnie O'Gain
Martha Callo Terry Latham
Phyllis Daigle Ann Paris
Jeanne Dinsmore Anita Huizing
Fat Keane Carol Day

We, the people of The Times would like to give special congratulations to Bill and Mary Catlin on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 23.

Rev. and Mrs. Michael E. Davis Honored with a Baby Shower

On Saturday evening, May 21, Brackett Memorial Hall was the festive scene of a baby shower for Rev. and Mrs. Davis, preceded by a Pot Luck Supper with about one hundred guests in attendance.

Along with the usual gifts, there was a lovely baby's crib with accessories, a purse with which to purchase a highchair or a carriage and gifts for the proud parents-to-be. This was a fine tribute to a dedicated couple whom the church has been fortunate to have in their midst for three years.

Underneath the festivities and laughter, there was a feeling of sadness, as Val and Mike will be going to another parish in June. They will be greatly missed for they have contributed much to their parish and the island community. Their many friends wish them success and the joy of fulfillment in their new assignment.

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Marina Launches New Craft

On April 20, 1977, at noon, the Peaks Island Marina was bustling with excitement and anxious anticipation. "AMANDA PLANTE" was to make her debut, and did so most obligingly with a graceful splash. She was as sleek as any debutante, with her slender frame softly sliding into the icy waters of Casco Bay.

Christened with champagne only moments before by Cathy Plante, the "AMANDA" was now officially heralded as the new workboat for the Plant family.

Designed and built on the premises, by the owner, Lionel Plante, with the aid of Lewis Reed, certified welder, and Terry and Coley Mulkern, the craft reflected the combined efforts of all the Plante Associates. The vessel similar in style to a landing craft with it's bow ramps and shallow draft design, will be used for inter-island travel and light marine construction. The craft is 40 feet in length with a 12 foot beam. The hull is 3/8" steel plate, and diamond plate decking, and will carry approximately 20 tons. It will draw about 3 1/2 feet of water, thus facilitating beach landings on the islands which have little or no access points other than gravel beaches. The vessel is powered by a 120 H.P. 6 cyl. diesel, with a commercial stern drive. This combination, decided upon for its maneuverability and versatility in shallow water, will swing a 20 foot wheel through a 2:1 reduction gear. It will travel at approximately eight knots when loaded, and twelve knots when empty. Hydraulic steering and an elevated wheel house assure controlled handling and good visibility when transporting materials and the owner's equipment.

The "AMANDA PLANTE", named for the owners six year old daughter, is electronically equipped with a standard VHF radio, Sonar depth recorder, C.B. radio, and will be outfitted with an Onan 3KW generator.

At present, Plante owns and operates a light construction business, fuel oil and bottled gas company, laundramat, and a marina on Peaks Island. As a small business, the goal has been to satisfy the needs of the surrounding island communities. In order to meet the numerous demands of the island residents, Plant had to expand his operating facilities.

Now, he and his associates, wife Cathy(yours truly), brothers - in - law Terry and Coley, and sister - in - law Bridget, the company's secretary - bookkeeper, feel that they can adequately fulfill the rising demands, not only on Peaks, but on other islands in the bay.

Catherine Plante

P I. Senior Citizens Center

The Senior Citizens Center of Peaks Island holds a regular monthly buffet luncheon and business meeting with very good attendance. Of course the special holidays are duly honored with appropriate decorations and the spirits are light and gay. The Christmas party was very special because of the heavy snow and cold temperatures. There was even a warmer feeling of fellowship among those who could get there.

The greatest contribution of the Center is the handling of the Meals-on-Wheels program which go out five days a week to 12 and eventually 16 recipients. Their praises for the variety and quantity are music to the ears of those volunteers who either help serve, provide homemade goodies or deliver the meals.

Each Thursday Dorothea Kennedy arrives on the 8:15 boat to teach and encourage art to two classes of aspiring Seasoned Citizens. The quality of the art produced is amazing since the pupils are not striving for professionalism--just a sense of achievement.

On each Friday afternoon a large group gathers to play Bingo. In March they treated themselves to a matinee at the Ice Follies when they appeared at the new Civic Center.

On March 17th the Seniors enjoyed a spaghetti dinner at the Brackett Memorial Hall. This was sponsored by the Prince Spaghetti Co. After the dinner the Salvation Army rhythm band entertained. There is one fact about Seniors--they do enjoy gathering for fellowship and the conversation heard takes surprising turns and twists. One fact is sure--there is nothing dull about our Seniors. The next big event in the life of the center is the fair on July 2. Our small quarters will be filled with homecooked food, gift ideas and white elephants. See you there!

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WITH CHEESE OF ICE CREAM
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DINNER

APPETIZERS
SHRIMP COCKTAIL
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On Saturday, April 30, the road by the dump was clear and the dump itself bulldozed after the weeks rubbish collection. The wind blown trash in the woods across the road showed fresh increment since the winter snow had settled the old. That spoiled only one stretch of the road along which perceptive eyes might be looking for new spring green and wild flowers. The scattered dumps of rusting cans left by insensitive people whose only thought is to put trash out of their own sight is even more of an offense to those who know how to nourish the spirit in wild places without spoiling them for the next to go that way.

None of us can be sure when the waste will be collected, a particular problem for those here only on weekends. Some of us carry waste to the dump ourselves rather than risk the litter when the dogs tip over the cans and break open the bags. That's all right if everyone will carry his own trash well within the area of the dump. But it only takes one or two in too much of a hurry, to block the way for those trying to do it the sensible way.

Gretchen Hall

Do you want to become more computerized, numerically categorized and thereby less individualized? A plan has been taking shape to place numbers on all island homes. Purportedly to facilitate firemen and police in locating complainants' locations - but beneath this design of efficiency lies a lessening of our unique individuality. Most of us 'like it as it is' and deplore adding any more digits to our classification.

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Blanket provisions and benefits for the island should first be aired and explained so that ALL of us may have our say in the decision. City monies spent on the island should be open for discussion-not delegated by a few here, to supposedly benefit us, without first obtaining opinions from everyone.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT?
The council will have a display table at the Cumberland County Convention Center, July 1 - 3.

Holtenhoff announced that there's going to be an Oct. 15-16 cruise aboard the Caribe with Artie Barsamian making a record album aboard the vessel titled "All Aboard With Artie". There'll also be an Arabic band aboard.

Mrs. Olga Proudian, Mrs. Martha Whidden and Mrs. Riley were named to the fund raising committee. A movie party will be held near Thanksgiving.

Committee for that event and for educational projects in general will be: Mrs. Horton, Mrs. Heller, Rick Barton, Joseph Grey and Frank Sleeper.

Mrs. Proudian announced that the Alliance Francaise will hold an international bazaar at St. Mary's Church in Falmouth on July 16. It will start with an auction, follow with an international dinner and a fashion show.

Wednesday, April 20, 1977, was a joyous occasion at the Senior Citizens Center, for Mr. and Mrs. William J. Coyne were happily married for seventy one years!!

Mrs. Coyne, formerly Lucy Winter, was born in Charlestown, Mass. and worked for thirty one years as a telephone operator.

Mr. Coyne is a native of Portland and worked for Geo. C. Shaw Co. for 29 years and 15 years as a Portland bridge tender.

They have four children, four grand-children, and seven great grand-children, and are both members of the Senior Citizens Club.
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