Munjoy Observer

Portland Renewal Authority

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**MSA At Your Service**

Under the Urban Renewal Program being carried out in the Munjoy South area there are several beneficial aspects of which the residents should be aware and of which they should take maximum advantage. For those who own homes in the total clearance section there is the house moving plan. In many cases it is more feasible from an economic standpoint to move a sound structure than it is to buy or to build a new one. The reason for this is quite simple. Although you will receive fair market value for your home, in many instances this will not cover the cost of a new one. Reliable authorities testify to the ease of housemoving.

For those who own homes in the rehabilitation area assistance is available for financing, for remodeling, for rehabilitating, for almost any homeowner problem. For tenants who must move there is available a plan for payment of moving costs and assistance in finding suitable homes. In all cases a careful inquiry costs nothing.

It should be remembered, however, that haste in making decisions — no matter what they may be — could result in a leisurely repentance. The importance of checking into all phases of the programs offered cannot be stressed enough. It is wise also to seek competent, unbiased advice before you take any action. Investigate; know what you are doing; be aware of all of the advantages available to you; then — and only then — act.

The members of the Munjoy South Association are able, willing, and anxious to be of assistance, but often we do not know where our help is needed. Only when we are aware of problems, can we seek a desirable solution. The Association is yours — use it.

Board of Directors
Munjoy South Association

**Planned: A Rehabilitated Home**

Top: Mr. and Mrs. Traynor outline rehabilitation plans for home at 40 Kellogg Street. Below: A family scene — the Traynors with their five children take time out for music.

The Traynors at 40 Kellogg Street are farsighted planners!

Last June their home was on the “market” for sale. But in looking for a new home for themselves and family of five children they made some comparisons. Whereupon they took a new look at the possibility of rehabilitation of their present home which is owned by Mrs. Traynor's father.

(Continued on Page 4)
Helpful Hints For Homeowners

Doors and windows that stick can be eased by rubbing the jamb and slideways with paraffin wax.

Inspect all metal flashings at least once a year. When exposed metal shows signs of rusting, clean it with a wire brush and paint it with a good metal primer followed by a suitable topcoat.

Flashing cement or similar compounds will seal cracks around flashings. Keep the gutters free of leaves, trash, and other material.

Be sure plaster walls are dry before you paint them.

Association Meeting Held

Nearly 100 residents of the Munjoy South area attended a general meeting in the Marada Adams School on November 8.

A moving picture “Rebirth of a Nation” was shown and received favorable comment.

A review of progress was given by Howard U. Heller, executive director of the PRA, including a report of property acquisitions and the current status of demolition plans.

First Block Meeting

On December 10 at 7:30 in the Marada Adams School, the residents of Morning Street and the property owners on both sides of the street from Vesper to Congress held a Block Meeting.

This provided an opportunity to meet with housing inspectors and with PRA officials to discuss rehabilitation plans and public improvements.

In the 26 structures in this section there are nearly 100 families. It is hoped that this initial Block Meeting in the Munjoy South area will set the pattern for many others to follow. The agenda of the meeting was planned particularly for this group of residents.

Found: A Home in the Country

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Anania, formerly of Adams Street, with their children Donna and Joanne in their new home, 3 Eastern Avenue, West Falmouth.

Anna Anania, who grew up on the Hill, had always dreamed of a home in the country, and now her dream has come true.

On October 15th Joseph and Anna, Donna and Joanne moved to West Falmouth from 56 Adams Street. Their home was discovered in June, but they did not purchase it until they were sure their property on Adams Street would be acquired by the PRA. Not that the money for their old home paid for the new one by any means, but they were satisfied with the settlement which helped them off with the purchase and to finish off the basement family room complete with pine paneling and kitchen.

Anna is a talented one with needles and thread and many are the homey touches made possible by her skill. She is now about to make a canopy for little Jonie's delightfully appointed bedroom which has a truly authentic canopy bed in white.

The house boasts two kitchens — the original one, and the installation in the family room where they truly live — evenings, holidays and weekends.

There is a master bedroom and Donna's teenage room on the main floor, and a living room yet to be completed, and which looks out on a gentle flowing stream and a hill of trees where they have already spotted deer cavorting.

Donna adjusted quickly to her new school, Falmouth Junior High, and within a month brought home a coveted Leadership Badge.

Joseph continues to work on the Hill where he is part owner of the Newbury Street Market.

Of the few fortunate ones who have been able to plan a new home and whose dreams have been spurred on by the Renewal Program, the Annias are a choice example. Their many friends on the Hill have showered them with good wishes.
Christmas Will
Be Merry At
Marada Adams School

The mood is already a gay one at the beautiful Marada Adams School where the lucky youngsters attend school in light and airy comfort.

The school is a city contribution to the Munjoy-South Renewal Project.

Santa Claus is making plans to visit the subprimary and first graders shortly before Christmas.

A party is in store for the other grades.

Mrs. Katherine Folan who presides charmingly over the faculty of the school gave the MUNJOY OBSERVER a special tour the other day. It was indeed a privilege to compare this gracious structure to the schools of yesteryear and to reflect upon the good fortune of these children.

The added homey touches of plants in beautiful array in indoor garden style; the aquarium of fish; and the bird cages of living parakeets—all add so much to the modern version of a school.

You know what, children? Wouldn't it be fun to name those birds? If you win the Name-the-Birds suggestion at your school MUNJOY OBSERVER will take your picture. Happy Holidays to all.

New Officers For MSA

At the annual meeting on November 29th the officers for the coming year were elected by the Munjoy South Association:

President, Paul Folan; vice president, William Compston; secretary, Mary Corcoran; and treasurer, Samuel Cavallaro.

YOUGEST RUG HOOKER follows mother's footsteps. Joanne Yarnold, who began her interest from babyhood (insert) has been a serious "hooker" for the past three years. At the age of 10 she is often called upon for demonstrations. Mrs. Smith has specialized in rug hooking for the past twelve years. The Louis Smiths reside at 76 Monument Street.

PTA President Is Hobbyist

Mrs. Louis A. Smith of 76 Monument St. is the busy and creative president of the Munjoy Hill Parent Teacher's Association which takes in three schools—Shailer, Emerson and Marada Adams.

Mrs. Smith has just succeeded Mrs. Millicent Stryker who effectively led the group the past year.

If the Hill has a hobby show as was suggested in last month's MUNJOY OBSERVER—one thing is sure. Mrs. Smith can be counted upon to start the hobby ball rolling. She and her family have been hobbyists for many years including little Joanne who took an interest in rug hooking when hardly more than an infant.

Hooked rugs galore abound in the Smith home and are gifts to favored friends. The one in process right now is Four Dozen Roses and it will go to little Joanie Anania (the Smith's godchild, and vice versa) of West Falmouth who has received a rose from Mrs. Smith for each year on each birthday. Her rug will assure her of a lifetime of roses.

A recent accomplishment is the creation of the "Home for Thanksgiving" Currier and Ives scene which Mrs. Smith has just completed. Her teacher is proudly exhibiting it on WBZ-TV in Boston in the near future. Instructor is Mrs. Helen Hardy Jones, a former Portland Evening School teacher, who comes from Wakefield, Mass., weekly to carry on these classes.

In addition to this hobby, the Smith family, which includes Rita, 14, and Richard, 7, specializes in stamp collecting. Richard in the 2nd grade at Marada Adams School spearheads this activity.

Rita is a cheerleader at Jack Junior High School where she is also a member of the Future Teachers of America.

PTA Events Planned

The Munjoy Hill PTA is one of the oldest in the city having grown up from a former Mother's Club. There are many plans underway as the group proceeds into its winter program.

A Sunshine Committee remembers teachers who are hospitalized. The PTA sponsors the newly formed Volunteer Baby Sitting Service described on page three. A group of mothers led by Mrs. Leon Israelson serves as a Safety Committee carrying out patrol duties at the schools where needed to supplement the city's paid patrolwomen.

At the December meeting held on Wednesday the fifth, a program of Christmas carols, and a presentation of the Hanukah Festival of Lights by Mrs. Israelson was the holiday theme.

On January 2 Father's Night will be observed and the speaker will be Sergeant Leroy Mullin of the Portland Police staff.

A Spring Fair is the group's largest project and work will begin on this after the holidays.
Ten Organizations In Methodist Church

The Rev. Ralph L. Miller, minister of the Congress Street Methodist Church, has submitted information on the groups there active in various community services. They are as follows:

Methodist Men, Ashley Clewley, president.
Women's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. Ashley Clewley, president.
Hill Toppers, Mrs. Grace Strout, president.
Holden Class, Miss Doris Goddard, president.
Methodist Youth Fellowship, Miss Grace Young, advisor.
Cub Scout Pack 12, Fred Britting, committeeman.
Girl Scout Troop, Mrs. Betty Hodgdon, leader.
Brownie Troop, Mrs. Grace Strout, leader.
Church School, Terence Smith, superintendent.
Couples Club, George J. Catir, president.

Demolition Action Near

On November 28 the PRA received wage and hour determinations from the New York Office of the Urban Renewal Administration relative to demolition contracts.

This means that the contracts can be let out for bid and the returns will be opened on December 14 at 1 P.M. in room 213, City Hall.

Following the awarding of the contract the work will proceed and thus another aspect of the Munjoy South Project will be underway.

Appropriate recognition of the forward steps announced in this newsletter will be given "spot" coverage at the time of action. All such activity will be an encouraging influence for property owners and residents alike in realizing that progress is being made toward the objective of a renewed Munjoy-South neighborhood.

Volunteer Baby Sitters

A unique free service designed to aid parents in attending PTA monthly meetings is a Volunteer Baby Sitting Service offered by Munjoy teenagers.

Those who have signed up to serve on call are the following: Rita Yarnold, Charlene Murphy, Joanne Russo, Loretta Quatran, Joyce Risbara, Candy Pio, Vera Alley, Marie DePaulo, Sheila Geary and Jo Adamo.

The Opening Wedge

A Man
Who
Does a
Little More
Work than
He's asked to—
Who takes a little
More care than he's
Expected to—who puts
The small details with the
More important ones—he's
The man who is going to make
A Success of his job. Each little
Thing done better is the thin end of
The Wedge into something bigger.

Inspector's Notebook

A list of typical defects found in the housing inspection program shows some of the repairs requested of homeowners.

Such as:
Repair weak treads in porch steps.
Replace broken gutter.
Replace broken windowpane.
Tighten loose window sashes.
Replace missing sash cords.
Repair loose or missing ceiling plaster.

Electrical:
Replace defective loose wall fixture.
Repair all defective wiring.

Planned: A Rehabilitated Home

(Continued from Page 1)

Consulting with James Pleat, renewal specialist with the PRA, a series of negotiations was entered into, based on estimates of work needing to be done, and conferences with banking officials regarding a loan.

Arrangements were worked out with an FHA home improvement loan becoming available and now the Traynors are happily planning the renovations. Since they have lived here for over five years and have enjoyed the location and the schools — this family is delighted to embark upon a rehabilitation program which will enable them to stay where they are.

Among the improvements being planned are modernizing the bath and kitchen of the seven-room house, paneling the downstairs rooms and removing a wall to provide a large family room, tiling the floors, painting the exterior in two-toned brown and beige, installing combination windows.

Mr. Traynor is employed at the American Can Company, and in addition plays in his own band four nights a week. He is a guitar player.

Mrs. Traynor has a busy time of it keeping up with such a large and busy family and seeing to all their comforts.

"I'm not sure I thanked Mr. Pleat enough" says Mrs. Traynor. But the PRA is more than grateful for the fine example set by this family and shared with our readers.

Install convenience outlets when there is dangerous use of extension cords.
Determine reason and remedy condition causing foundation to sag forward.
Replace and paint outside trim boards.
Clean up yard.

200 Congress Street
To Be Site Office

A long awaited decision has at last been reached in the search for a Site Office for the Munjoy-South Renewal Project.

It was not easy to find a suitable structure centrally located with adequate facilities to serve the variety of needs anticipated for a site office. Only recently the first floor at 200 Congress Street became available. The space and location seem to satisfy the major requirements. The structure is one of those acquired by the Portland Renewal Authority.

Occupancy will not be realized until shortly after the first of the year since there will be a need for painting, lighting and equipping the rooms.

It is hoped that this location will soon become the friendly and helpful headquarters for which many have waited. A part of the PRA staff will be assigned as fulltime personnel and each one will be available for specialized services to the residents and property owners in the Project area. This will also serve as a community center for organizing activities not necessarily directly a part of renewal planning, but helpful in building neighborhood pride and enjoyment in group planning and exchange of ideas.

The PRA looks forward to serving the Munjoy-South residents at this new location.

Volunteer Baby Sitters for the PTA — left to right, Jo Adamo, Rita Yarnold and Joyce Risbara.