Nor' by East, May-Jun 1962

Casco Bay Island Development Association

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GOVERNOR REED WELCOMES BAY ISLANDS' VACATIONERS

"I appreciate this opportunity to extend a warm welcome from the State of Maine to all those who are planning or are contemplating visits to our wonderful Casco Bay Island area this season.

"The Islands have a great potential for the growth and development of the tourist industry and we are proud of the natural beauties and recreational opportunities which they offer our guests and permanent visitors.

"Those who travel to these scenic locations this summer will find brand new, completely modern wharves at the principal islands ready to accommodate them. These facilities have been provided through the action of your State Government and will add immensely to the accessibility and attractiveness of the Casco Bay Islands — one of Maine's foremost areas of pleasant living."

John H. Reed,
Governor.

WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS WILL AID ISLANDS

TOO MILES OF CHALLENGE CITED

By William Dickson
Portland Planning Director

Portland's waterfront is a gateway to the city and to the islands of Casco Bay. These important Portland islands, be it noted, represent ONE FIFTH of the city's land area. Many problems the islands have encountered in recent years can be attributed to waterfront conditions. Improvement of one should favorably affect the other.

Thousands annually visit the Waterfront and, like most people, pass judgement by what they see. A two-mile strip of dilapidated wharves and 70 acres of vitally important businesses struggling for space amidst congestion (Continued on Page 8)

CONTEST OPENS FOR "MISS CASCO BAY"

A Miss Casco Bay contest is in the planning stage by the social activities committee of the Island Development Association. It will be designed in keeping with the Miss Maine contest so that the winner may also compete for Miss Maine. Each island in the Bay is invited to participate by electing their own contestant. Preliminary will be held on July 3, when dances are being planned on various islands. Rules for entering the contest will be announced.

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July 4th will be gay on all islands with picnics and parades in store. Beautification is the theme for May, highlighted on May 12 by a clean-up parade. A poster contest is opening for the seventh and eighth graders in all island schools with prizes for the best. The Garden Club is providing flower boxes for utility poles. Mrs. Charles Ritchie spearheads this program. Property sales are brisk. Latest purchasers are two army officers who bought "sight unseen" on recommendation of an Army Colonel summer resident and island enthusiast. A good omen!
I would like to subscribe in order to receive a mailed copy of each issue at $2.00 annually.

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Please return form to Box 66, Peaks Island.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Sending a newcomer out to help welcome other newcomers and get acquainted with long-timers as well — is the novel switch. Quickly recognizing some vivacious talent in our midst, Nor' by East takes this opportunity to introduce a new correspondent, Mrs. Antoni J. Pikuzinska (henceforth Eunice) whose husband is a former Polish Naval officer, and still follows the sea.

Eunice has worked as assistant research librarian at the Curtis Publishing Company, Boston; won a French medal for scholastic achievement in the Braintree schools; an Essay prize in English at Bradford Junior College; and has published a narrative poem on sinking of the S.S. Portland in the storm of '98. In her words she "retired to contribute to the population explosion!"

FOG HORMS
During the night when the path of sleep wends Through the mind in darkness, much as the sea-water Winds into the empty conch, the first whisper of A sea turn starts the whistle buoy on the ledge. Is it real or just a vague imagining of the dream? It moans louder and the "squeakers" and the "growlers" Chime in the chorus, at first bizarre, until the dream Is broken.

I wake and listen, to be sure one gruff harrumph Is not withheld; to listen for the drill of sleet Or rainy cadence, or just the silence of the fog. The lightship beam is gone and its familiar pattern On the ceiling is now untraceable.

Much as the watchmen of old must have cried, "all's well." To the exquisite comfort of the hearer, this time Sleep comes again, dark, hushed and more dreamless than before.

— T. Pikuzinska
MINISTERS OF THE BAY

A Tribute of Service

It may be new to many that the Rev. John T. Minnihan, pastor of St. Christopher’s Parish, Peaks Island; is also an accomplished band leader! His parish includes missions at Sacred Heart Villa, Little Diamond Island, and Star of the Sea, Long Island.

Because he has never blown his trumpet around his island parish, (he’s been too busy with more pressing activities) the search for biographical material has unearthed this information.

Father Minnihan has been the pastor for these islands, with headquarters at Peaks, since 1956. He is often seen island-hopping between his churches, and during transportation difficulties he was noticed riding on any kind of water-borne conveyance — most picturesquely, the black-gowned prelate is frequently seen alighting from atop a Navy LSM landing craft. When public transportation is not suited to his varying missions, he may arrive in a put-put or a Coast Guard picket boat.

This year Father Minnihan celebrates the 25th anniversary of his ordination which was on May 22, 1937, by Bishop Joseph E. McCarthy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Portland. He has served his church well as a teacher and an administrator.

Before coming to the island Father Minnihan was a teacher at Athanasius School, Rumford, and it was here that he organized a 72-piece band which won a Maine state championship award and a number of international awards.

"We’ve loved it. As a first-church experience, I couldn’t do better."

Presented here, in the order of length of service, are the ministers of the Bay whose friendship and service enrich the lives of Bay residents. Two will graduate from college and also from their first parishes this June. We find among their talents a bandleader, a carpenter, an artist and a teacher!

So said the Rev. Thomas R. Merrill, pastor of the Chebeague Island Church, founded in 1802.

Mr. Merrill, 27, and married to the former Beverly Cummings of Portland, came to Chebeague in June of 1957 as an unordained approved supply pastor, continuing through the following year on this basis while attending Gorham State Teachers’ College. At the annual Methodist conference in May of ’59, he was ordained a deacon of the Church.

Mr. Merrill is attending Boston University School of Theology and will be graduated in June with a degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology. Then he will be assigned elsewhere.

The people of Chebeague have treated us very nicely and we will move with considerable regrets. This has been our first home as well as first parish, and our first child, Martha Elizabeth, was born in ’59," says Tom Merrill warmly extolling the island life. "And the boat ride has never lost its romance," he added.

Residents of the island speak warmly of the community leadership given by the Merrills whose activities have greatly benefited the community.

A cozy and well run community church on Long Island is the first parish for the Rev. Frank M. Brown, Jr., who has served there the past two years, while continuing his studies for the ministry.

"An island parish is a fine place to start a ministry," says Mr. Brown who entered the profession following the sudden death of a daughter, Shirley Grace, at the age of twelve. "The close relationship of the island community brings a rewarding satisfaction for one who chooses to minister to these fine people."

Mr. and Mrs. Brown reside in Cumberland, but spend as much of their week-ends and vacation time as possible in the island parsonage. During the week Mr. Brown is employed as carpenter at Burnham and Morrill Company where he has been associated for nine years. His carpentry indeed comes in handy in many ways, for he built his own ranch-style home in Cumberland from lumber he cut himself from his father’s woodlot; then he is often seen helping with the maintenance of the Long Island Church where the pastor and the parishioners combine forces with paint brushes and tools.

Serving as another first church for a new minister, the century-old Brackett Memorial Church is a frequent student workshop — and happily so on each of three recent pastorates.

Currently the Rev. Patrick Wolfe is rounding out his second year, dividing his time between the church and Boston University School of Theology where he will receive his Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree in June.

A talented artist, Mr. Wolfe has done a delightful pen and ink sketch of the church he serves, and no doubt hidden away somewhere is a portrait of the antique Packard he drives on the island.

"I like the way the people are here. I appreciate the basic, honest, ‘no frills’ friendliness and people of Peaks Island have showed for me since I have been here.

"I would not have missed this chance to experience island-life for anything. Whatever else the future may hold for me, I would be pleased if it included a cottage here, with a view of the sea, and the sound of the foghorn at night."

The many who have been comforted and cheered by Pat Wolfe’s friendly and helpful ministry will hope that he remains a part of Peaks Island wherever his calling may take him.
PLACES AND

SEASIDE SHOP

DARI-WHIP GOING UP, PEAKS

COMPLETELY REMODELED HOME OF MRS. JAMES DENNISON, PEAKS

RECENTLY PURCHASED HOME OF THE RAY LADDS, LONG ISLAND, BEING COMPLETELY MODERNIZED.

BEFORE AND AFTER REMODELED 100-YEAR-OLD INN ON PEAKS FOR SALE.

V.F.W. POST, LONG ISLAND, CATERING TO PUBLIC PARTIES.

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ROLAND HOAR
Carpenter - Builder - Electrician
Chebeague Island
PO 6-2864

CARL E. THOREN
Carpenter - Builder
Remodelling
Peaks Island
PO 6-2854

CONTRACTING AND BUILDING
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND

Lewis Ross — VI 6-4080

Leroy Hill
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND
CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER
VI 6-4025

Olan F. Wood
CARPENTER - BUILDER
Long Island
PO 6-2261
LONG ISLAND'S V.F.W.
A Profile of Perseverance

By Samuel H. Connors

Long Island Memorial Post, 9605, Veterans of Foreign Wars was formed in 1947 through the efforts of two World War I veterans, Bert Russell, and Ira Fondia, called together the older and the youthful veterans to consider the social and patriotic benefits to be gained by association with a veteran's organization of national stature, with community betterment as a primary goal.

A charter was granted the Post in 1947 and James F. Pierce was its first commander with 29 charter members. There soon followed a Ladies Auxiliary with Mrs. Florence Cushing as president and 50 charter members.

From the beginning the venture was marked with success. Blessed by a happy association of mature counsel and youthful energy, the ladies and men of the Post commenced a program of activities open to all of the island community, including social functions, an annual fair, patriotic observances and youth activities — all of which have become traditions at Long Island.

The first Post home, a loan from the U.S. Navy, was the barracks building of the first, tenth and twenty-ninth Maine Regiment, GAR, located within the U.S. Naval Fuel Depot. This was destroyed by fire on April 19, 1948. Despite the loss of all their equipment and regalia, the membership started over again by renting from the City of Portland a former one-room school house. As time progressed and activities became larger, a building committee was named, with Thomas F. Wood as chairman. Cushing's Pavilion, located at Ponce Landing, was purchased and a program of modernization started. But again destiny entered the scene and this building was almost completely destroyed by the hurricane of 1951.

Discouraged but determined, the membership started once again to build a completely new building. Inspired by the devotion and determination of Mr. Wood and assisted by many friends, who gave both time and money, the new building came into being in August of 1957. It was then valued at $18,000 by the insurance underwriters and had a mortgage of only $2500, paid within three years.

Complete Catering Service Offered

Ever progressing, the Post and Auxiliary have established a catering service for parties of any size, offering a complete clam bake, lobster dinner or any menu requested.

This service is available all through the summer months and the Post welcomes inquiries from any group interested in planning an island outing — either with their own picnics, or with food provided by the Post.

AROUND THE BAY
WITH EUNICE

The Welcome Corner

Among newcomers to Peaks Island, and also those summer residents who have come to stay for all seasons, we find particularly interesting the comments on a Maine winter island style. Miss Helen H. Pease of Island Ave., a familiar summer resident, found her first winter, "Most comfortable."

Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Plante, owners of the Laundromat who moved from Westbrook during the coldest weeks, greatly enjoy the quiet and relative change in pace. Many friends were delighted with their "shrimp repasts" only, please divulge that recipe for cocktail sauce.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Sullivan and their son and family Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sullivan living on Pleasant Avenue declared their first winter "tremendous" if we do not mention the boat service. Mr. Jeremiah Sullivan is a former shipbuilder and previous Maine resident although moving here recently from Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglass Larrabee, Jr., of Island Avenue came to Peaks Island from Portland. Mr. Larrabee is employed by the Portland Pilots Association on the pilot boat. They find the island a delightful place to live and many residents have stopped to admire their beautiful Alsatian.

Among past summer residents to come permanently to the island are Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Town and their friend Miss Irene Lathrop rounding out their second year.

Their charming home on Torrington Point commands a superlative view of the harbor and well out to sea. Moving from Berlin, New Hampshire they find the island quiet and comfortable and we certainly admire Mr. Town's daily walks around the island in the most severe weather.

Compliments of
LONG ISLAND

Volunteer Fire Company

For a safe summer and a happy one.

THESE LONG ISLAND RESIDENTS told correspondent Lawrence Stevens their reasons for living on the island as follows:

John H. Reidy, "Just because I like it and it is a fine place for a retired person." James Coolbrith, "After twenty years of Naval Service all over the world this island has become home to me."

Mrs. Zoeth Rich, "It is just the only place to live." George E. Johnson, Jr., "My work is here, and what better place could there be to raise a family."

Mrs. Bernard J. McCarthy, "It is just like living at a resort the year round."
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ISLAND AVENUE
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When you return to the Island there will be many surprises for you.
New Merchandise — New Departments
Apparel — Beachwears — Gifts — Souvenirs — Costume Jewelry
Sundries — Hardware — Housewares — Toys — Plastics
Accessories — Cosmetics
MAKE YOUR TELEPHONE PAYMENTS HERE

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FRIED CLAMS TO GO
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For Rent — Peaks Island
OFF SEASHORE AVENUE
6 room cottage, 3 large bedrooms. Available for season, $55 per week. Write or call MRS. ABNER HASKELL
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ISLAND VIEW HOUSE, Chebeague
Season, May 30 to September 30
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IN mAN DAYS IN CASCO BAY
By Louise S. Dunham

For many years the Indians were an almost constant menace for the few Casco Bay residents.

Between 1675 and 1760 there were six Indian wars; thirty-five years of war. The fighting was part of the French and Indian wars which the English were waging with the French.

Peaks Island was a favorite resort of the Indians. Here they gathered before an attack on Portland.

One of the worst tragedies occurred in the summer of 1676. George Felt, a very active Indian fighter — a resident of Peaks Island and six other men were killed by Indians. Felt and his companions had taken their families to Cushing's Island for safety. They did not have adequate provisions for a long siege. So Felt and six other men returned to Peaks for some sheep they had left. The Indians saw them approaching but let them land. The men sought refuge in the "Stone House" on Torrington Point. Here the Indians attacked them — slaughtering them when their powder gave out.

In 1688 about 100 French and Indians gathered at Peaks Island prior to an attack on Portland. The Indians left Peaks before daylight on October 20th. They sailed around Munjoy Hill to Back Cove where they landed. The fighting took place in Deering's Woods. This time help arrived from Boston and Portland was saved. The next year, however, the town was completely destroyed by Indians.

In one of the Indian attacks on Peaks Island, Mrs. Lee, Major Waldron's daughter, was captured by the Indians. After a few months she was ransomed to the captain of a Dutch privateer.

According to Mrs. Lee, in explaining her capture, the Indians came to Peaks Island in 80 canoes, about 700 in all. They were preparing to attack Portland. They were armed with guns as well as with bows and arrows and were excellent marksmen. They were also given arms by the Canadian French, and each carried a scalping knife and a tomahawk.

For protection Portland had a fort on what is now Eastern Promenade and a watcher on Fore Street. Residents on the Cape Shore could see signals from the islands, including a signal station on Jewel's Island. Thus endured the rugged early settlers who founded the residential life on the Casco Bay Islands.

WHY LIVE ON CHEBEAGUE?

"It was in 1940 that I came to Chebeague Island to spend the summer working for my uncle, who owned the Hillcrest Hotel on the Island. At an Island dance that summer, I met Frances Ross, and we were married the following year," mused Harold Todd, Island representative for the Cushman Bakery Company. "It didn't take long for my charming wife to convince me that Chebeague Island is the finest place in the world to live in and to bring up our family."

"Well," said James Craven, a recently retired United States Army officer, "I have been spending vacations at Chebeague since 1925. With my wife, Madelyn, I have traveled all over the world during my years of active service. Upon retiring, although the Upper Columbia River country in the State of Washington, appealed strongly to us both, we chose to come to Chebeague to live, where we knew the people and felt at home. We have found it a perfect environment for the kind of life we like to live."

"My sister and I are both retired teachers," said Miss Bertha Hayward, who purchased a year-round home on Chebeague last May, after selling her home in Lexington, Massachusetts. "The peace and quiet, the beautiful sunrises, the view of the sea, and the many fascinating wild birds that daily visit our bird-feeding station just outside our diningroom window all combine to make us glad that we have come to Chebeague Island to live."

"I have worked in thirty-eight different States and have visited many foreign countries," said Earl Doughty as he leaned on the counter of the Island grocery store which he owns and operates. "For scenic beauty and for contentment, there is no place in the world to compare with Chebeague Island. There are any number of places where I could make ten times the money that I make from this little store, but I was born and raised on Chebeague, and I wouldn't live anywhere else."

— Interviews by Ray Hayward

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CLIFF ISLAND

WHO'S WHO IN CASCO BAY

INDIAN DAYS IN CASCO BAY
By Louise S. Dunham

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WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS
(Continued from Page 1)
and obsolete buildings does not present a true picture of Portland’s potential.
For these reasons it is pertinent that during the mid-part of 1961, a group of Commercial Street businessmen approached the City Council with a request for municipal action to improve the Waterfront. Specifically the request drew attention to the need for improved lighting, wharf signing and street surfaces.
While in no way minimizing the many other problems known to exist in this vital area of the City, it was argued that the suggested improvements would at least be a first step and would focus attention in an area which to all eyes was neglected and falling into decay.
Installation of new street lighting on Commercial Street has since begun.
Projects to provide an improved street surface for Commercial Street between India and Beech Streets have been included among capital improvements scheduled for 1963 and 1964 totalling $144,000.
Concern on the part of the business community and the resultant actions by the City were significant inasmuch as they gave birth to a broad program of improvements similar to the City’s Downtown area.
A series of local meetings quickly produced some basic conclusions:
1) The waterfront area was blanketed with deep seated physical and economic problems.
2) There was no quick and easy solution.
3) Before any solutions could be devised, the problems and their origins must be fully understood.
For this purpose the committee designed a series of questionnaires containing some 280 questions. Last fall and winter volunteers representing many of the Waterfront concerns gave generously of their time conducting interviews.
This survey will soon be completed and the information will be tabulated through the courtesy of International Business Machines for easy documentation and analysis. Then there will be the major task of using this information to plan a sound improvement program.

ISLAND BUSINESS WELCOMED
A business note which may help influence off-island concerns who often feel that the islands are somewhat out of bounds, is reported by the Richard P. Waltz Plumbing Company. This concern happily welcomes island business and through systematic planning has provided special, fast and efficient service to islanders — resulting in a gross patronage of some $40,000 during the summer months of 1961.
Unhampered by transportation problems, the company brings its supplies and equipment in a company-owned 42-foot boat. Workmen are all factory-trained specialists.

RICHARD P. WALTZ
PLUMBING AND HEATING COMPANY
All jobs from minor repairs to complete kitchen and bathroom remodeling.
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