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Casco Bay Island Development Association Newsletter : Fall 1973

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TRANSPORTATION BIG ISSUE IN CASCO BAY

With the longest strike in the history of Casco Bay Lines, the subject of transportation is again the foremost issue on the minds of island residents.

It cannot be known at this writing whether or not there will be relief in sight by the time you receive this Newsletter.

However, to all who have been or are currently affected by the many inconveniences and actual hardships endured, it can be said that many persons in many positions of influence are working in many ways to resolve not only the current situation but the long range issue as well. There must be an end to the continuation of unhappy patrons and periodic uprisings in this field.

Officials of CBIDA are in close touch with state officials, and the local endeavors in the hope of centralizing and documenting matters which need orderly presentation to the Governor's Office and the PUC. Both of these offices have expressed the need for channeling information in a manner which can eliminate the

Cont. on Pg. 2

FOREIGN STUDENTS TO VISIT BAY ISLANDS
A "Bus Stop" for American Field Service Students has been confirmed for early July for the Casco Bay area.

These will be students who have lived one school year in other parts of the Country, and the bus-stop program is designed to give them a wider view of America before they return to their home countries.

In the same manner as already established for hosting journalists and diplomats from the United Nations, CBIDA will sponsor the Casco Bay Bus Stop for some forty students and two counselors.

Homes should be offered as early as possible since the event comes at the beginning of the season. The stay will be for three days over a week-end.

If you are interested in taking part in this interesting new Bay wide program please clip the following and mail to Box 66, Peaks Island. There will be a host coordinator named for each island.

I would like to entertain __ girls ___ boys ___ from APS.
Name________________________________________
Island________________________________________
Winter Address_______________________________

INSIDE NEWS

* Baby born at home on Long Island by intent.
* Fort Levitt on Cushings reborn.
* A Future for Fort Gorges?
* Romances bloom on islands.
* National honor for Battery Steele area.
* 50th Anniversary for St. Christophers and other news.
Transportation continued:

...duplications of calls to various officials. For this reason at the October Steering Committee meeting President James Coolbrith of Long Island appointed a newly reorganized transportation committee to succeed the past one which has not functioned too effectively.

These members, in addition to the president ex-officio are: Rev. John Bachman and Howard Tunstall, Jr. of Peaks Island. Captain Norman Hutchinson of Long Island; Peter T. McLaughlin, essential negotiator especially at the state level, Bea Chapman, whose employment is at the State Capitol.

Rev. Bachman whose telephone number is 766-5013, has offered to serve as expeditor for the committee. He will welcome all help from island residents in reporting to him documented issues or in making any suggestions to be forwarded to those involved in the negotiations.

Until the labor problem is resolved through mediation (now being worked on at both the state and federal levels) there are limits to the kind of intervention which can be taken by either the Governor's Office or the Public Utilities Commission. However, the committee has been assured of the deep concern of these officials and their willingness to act upon matters other than the labor issue within their jurisdiction.

In related developments on transportation CBL has been able to keep essential services operating for the most part with middle management help and the hiring of two new captions not affiliated with the Maritime Union. Service has been expanded from the Emergency Schedule to include the car ferry to Peaks and the 7:45 p.m. passenger boat. The new boat, Island Romance is at the terminal awaiting its service scheduling when the labor dispute is settled.

COMMUTER CLUB FORMED

Meantime, residents of Peaks Island have banded together to form a non profit Residents Association with the aim of sponsoring a commuter club separate enterprise service as a supplement to the limited CBL schedule. More than fifty people are involved in this organization and a chartered boat accommodating 50 persons under shelter has been offered. The group has an application for operation pending before the PUC and has been promised an answer within 30 days.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ISSUES STUDY

In yet another development, the newly created State Department of Transportation has issued a study of island ferry services in the whole state. Incidentally, the state operated service in Penobscot Bay rated nearly as many criticisms as CBL. Hopefully this Newsletter will include the complete text of the CBL related parts of this study.

"Be not afraid of life," wrote William James. "Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact."

New President - Cont. from Pg. 1

Upon the resignation of Rus Edwards, Jr., to accept a State position, Vice President Jim Coolbrith has succeeded to this office.

It is with thanks to Rus (who will still remain on the Steering Committee) and a warm welcome to Jim, that we announce this change in our leadership.

To introduce Jim to those among our readers who have not met him, he is postmaster on Long Island and has enough other community interests to make him honorary mayor. He is a native of Kennebunk and a twenty year retired Navy veteran. While in the service he was a Hospital Corpsmen, and during the active phase of the Long Island Naval Refueling Base he was assigned as pharmacist and has been there ever since. With this kind of medical experience he is of course called on for many emergencies - to the extent of over extending his energies. He is active in the Long Island Civic Association, the VFW, and the Long Island Volunteer Fire Company. He is a charter member of CBIDA.
Rus Edwards only recently became a summer resident of Peaks Island, but previously he has worked extensively for island interest. Most notable was his leadership while a state Representative in the 103rd Legislature in piloting the appropriations bill through the legislature which resulted in the new car ferry landing for Peaks.

Rus' new position is as Cumberland County representative for the State Department of Commerce and Industry. He has our thanks and our best wishes.

POLICE BOAT REQUESTED BY CBIDA BOARD

At the October meeting of the Steering Committee at Maine State Pier, a detailed police report was presented by Captain William F. Kearns, Jr. supervisor of the Casco Bay police officers.

A healthy discussion of the pros and cons of effectiveness of the newly assigned police detail on Peaks this summer was held. Captain Kearns was most receptive of island observations and also was helpful in explaining some of the special problems the police encountered.

Bob Laughlin of Great Diamond said that a petition relative to police service on the diamonds had been sent to City Hall months ago and no response. (Captain Kearns will check into it.) He pointed out the need for a Police Boat and CBIDA concurred.

The conclusion of the meeting was an expression of appreciation to Captain Kearns, and the young policemen assigned to Peaks; and a forward thrust in considering problems of Bay-wide importance in this age of vandalism. On this note it was decided to communicate this concern to City Hall. A vote was taken, and seconded for the secretary to convey the discussion by letter to the appropriate officials.

- PLEASE NOTE -

Paper for this newsletter has been donated by EASTERN FINE PAPER, INC. of Brewer, Courtesy of Howard Tunstall.

PROJECT DOWN TO EARTH RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

During the summer five youths were employed under the sponsorship of the Executive Youth Coordinator's Office and paid by the Department of Labor, to work on clearing the land in the vicinity of Battery Steele on Peaks. Their coordinator was John Paris, and they did well in changing the appearance of the southern end of the gun site to a parklike setting. In consequence when informed of the project and its long range goals, officials from America the Beautiful Fund in Washington and New York visited the area and became interested in taking part in the plans.

In September a check was received matching funds which had been earned by the newly formed Peaks Island Conference Center Inc. in the amount of $725. In awarding the grant it was indicated that this was only the beginning of their interest and they wish to stay in touch and be more helpful in the future.

Paul Bruce Dowling, Executive Director of the Fund "Everyone wants to come to a Maine island, but most people don't know how to get the chance....We want to stay
in contact with you in order to help where we can in finding the national recognition and support your project deserves.

ELIMINATE "DEVELOPMENT?"

At the October Steering Committee a vote was taken to explore the feasibility of dropping the word "Development" from our title.

This came up in the context of whether or not we represent a majority of the people on the islands. It was generally agreed that we do not, and that the word development may be a deterrent at this point in time for some people. When CBIDA was formed development for Maine was the "in"thing. Now it is more often suspect and may actually misrepresent the basic purposes of our association.

We would like therefore to give our members a chance to participate in this decision by returning the enclosed form.

CHANGE OF NAME

I prefer that the word development be dropped from the CBIDA title.

Yes  No

Comment: ________________________________

Member  Yes  No

If no would you be more inclined to join a Casco Bay Islands Association?

Yes  No

Name (optional) ________________________________

Island of interest ________________________________

Please clip and return to Box 66, Peaks Island 04108

*   *   *

Photos by Leon Clough - Cushings Island Feature, Litchfield Wedding on Rocks, Graves Couple, Golden Jubilee, America the Beautiful.

ISLAND ROMANCES BLOOM

A flurry of island weddings during the past summer has helped to emphasize that romancing of Casco Bay Islands is flourishing for both year round and summer residents. Notable weddings which have come to our attention are:

Litchfield - Newcomb wedding by the sea

Philip Lee and Barbara Mathisell on Little Diamond Island at the Casino, Sept. 2. He is doing research at Mass. General Hospital, and she is from Chestnut Hill.

Nancy Ellen Johnson and John S. Norton were married on Long Island on Sept. 22 at Star of the Sea Chapel; both from Long Island families.

"Chet" and Isabella on Peaks.

Mark Litchfield and Shirley Newcomb were married on the beautiful rocky shore of Peaks by the Rev. John Bachman on Aug. 19 and are living in Florence, Montana. Mark has summered on Peaks many years.
Layng - Crapser wedding on Chebeague

Sally Lyon Layng of Chebeague and Richard Bryce Crapser of Springfield, on Sept. 8 at the Chebeague Island Church, by the bride's cousin, an Episcopal clergyman in New Jersey. Wedding party members came from Pennsylvania, Springfield, Hartford, Atlanta, Miami, Minneapolis, San Francisco and the grandparents of the bride from Bermuda. The couple left for their honeymoon by seaplane.

Chester and Isabella, our golden age marriage was reported in last Newsletter, but photographed in this issue.

Another noteworthy wedding on Peaks was that of John Childs and Susan Tunstall. John is a student at UMPG and the couple will reside on Peaks this winter.

"FERDY"S FORTRESS

By Bill O'Connell

Editor's Note: (This lively commentary was written in connection with a recent letter sent to the "City Father" on vote of CBIDA Steering Committee suggesting the City undertake a Bicentennial Project in restoration of Fort Gorges as a tourist attraction...and offering the cooperation of interested island residents. To date no reply has been received.

If the Father of the Maine Seacoast, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, could extricate himself from the yellowing pages of 17th century history long enough to attend the next CBIDA meeting, he just might ask what in tarnation we are going to do toward helping preserve the abandoned old harbor fort named in his honor. We could slip off the hook easily enough by informing him that the Parks Department in Portland has already blown a bundle on a partial restoration program and hasn't caught its second wind yet. On the other hand, maybe there is something CBIDA could do to revitalize this worthwhile project. If an idea has merit, the money usually can be found.

First of all, most people love to go places that they have to get to. Fort Gorges fills the bill. Blow out a small chunk of ledge and - presto! - a short, pleasant boat ride gets them there.

Secondly, and most important, any project considered should be self-supporting. This would seem to suggest historical pageantry appropriate to the setting, symphony concerts, in fact, almost any legitimate activity people would care to see. Then too, some of us who feel vaguely embarrassed when bastions are mentioned and still think that a para-pet is a sky-fiver's girl friend might well benefit from an educational tour of the fort.

If some thought is given, the day may come when islanders can sail with pride past old Fort Gorges and Ferdy won't have to attend any meetings.

"Hoof in mouth disease is something orators get."
Little Diamond Island -- Paul Stevens was reelected president of the Little Diamond Island Association at the annual meeting August 25 attended by 80 residents. Among the decisions made at that time was an increase in dues; initiating a sewer study; replacing the float; and improving the roads.

Winter reunion for the 39 cottage island will be held on Washington's birthday in view of last years first and successful event.

Great Diamond Island -- Sale of the history book is "over the top" financially with all costs met. A reprinting is scheduled. The City Parks and Recreation Department has offered to provide playground equipment for next year and numerous other improvements are in the offing.

Long Island -- The truest, newest native of Long Island is the midnight arrival of an infant son, Ebban to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Eliot. This is the first baby born on the island in the memory of present residents, and the parents planned it that way. With good prenatal care and no expected complications the mother preferred her child be born at home, even on an island. Furthermore, she surprised everyone by walking to the store the next day to have it weighed! We hear it was a bouncer at that. Mrs. Eliot is the daughter of Prof. Carl Hess a summer resident of many years. We missed the date, but it was early this fall.

The Civic Association of Long Island has elected Mark Greene as president; and Summer Starbird, vice president. Mrs. Carmen Camden, corresponding secretary; Bruce Tournquist, recording secretary; and Frances Barrett membership chairman.

THE SPAR, restaurant, has had a successful season under new management of Benjamin Cushing and Charles Doughty.

Mrs. Earl MacVane has 11 pupils in the school and is assisted by Mrs. Gerard Felton as teachers aide. John Billings is the new custodian. Eight students are commuting to junior and senior high in Portland.

Chebeague Island -- The Chebeague United Methodist Church is presently having a $16,000 addition built onto the existing Parish House. This will provide toilet facilities, and a new efficient kitchen. When the construction is completed the Council on Ministries of the church will begin to offer new programs in the facility. Construction is being done by Lewis Ross, Builder, Chebeague.

The Chebeague Island Library omitted art and sculpture this year to concentrate on Island history. With the help of volunteer residents and encouragement of the Greater Portland Landmarks, a house history project was initiated. This is a great Bicentennial Project and Landmarks will help. "Don't wait too long, for valuable information is slipping away from us all every day."

Women are overwhelmingly represented on the Executive Committee of the Chebeague Island Council, Inc. for this current year. There are eight members three of whom are officers: Virginia S. Schroeder, president; Barton Curit, vice president; Elizabeth Weiss, secretary; Natalie Ingalls, treasurer; and Ernest Abrahamson, Hartley Brewer, Conna Colbeth, Khaki Habig, Lois Reynolds, Pam Rich, Bruce Riddle, Beth Smith and Bill Swan - Executive committee.

The Chebeague Island Council was founded in 1945 for the purpose of promoting and assisting in "the development of activities and projects designed to improve conditions important to the inhabitants of Great Chebeague Island."
YOUNG FAMILIES TAKE OVER FORT AREA ON CUSHINGS ISLAND
By Peter Murray

Ed. Note: (Peter Murray, a Portland attorney, is also president of Greater Portland Landmarks.)

"The Fort Christopher Leavitt Project on Cushings Island is the story of how a group of young men and their wives, largely from the Portland area, took an old abandoned army fort built around the turn of the century and converted it into a charming summer colony for themselves and their families.

Fort Christopher Leavitt on Cushings Island covers about one half of the island surface in all about 120 acres. It was abandoned in 1948 and the buildings were left to decay in rack and ruin.

In 1970 a group of young men, largely from Portland, purchased the Fort and commenced restoring the old buildings there and converting them into summer cottages. Not only have the officers dwellings and other residential buildings been restored and used as modern summer homes, but also there are such buildings as a jail, hospital, headquarters building, px warehouse and a library have all been converted into fine summer residences by their young owners. There are plans underway to build two tennis courts and to install our own sewage treatment system so families could live on the Eastern end of the Island. In addition the old barracks building has been demolished and the old overgrown parade ground is in the process of being cleared up. The average age of the dwellers of the Fort Christopher Leavitt Island is about 30 years of age and there are around thirty children of pre-school age.

Fort Christopher Leavitt Island dwellers are most optimistic and enthusiastic about the potential of the Casco Bay Islands as a recreational summer residential area. We are hopeful that other islands will continue the progress toward rejuvenation and rebirth as fine recreational areas as they started out to be in the later half of the 19th century.

There are a great number of unexploited opportunities for recreational development on the Casco Bay Islands that would bring these islands back to life as fine places for people to live in and enjoy. We are also most excited about the Casco Bay Island Development Association and its progress on Peaks and its various activities around the Bay and hope we will be able to be more and more a part of this in years to come."
Solid brick row houses with distinguished interiors are now private homes. A former hospital, jail, and staff headquarters, all now are renovated homes.

Peaks visitors are received by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Murray and their children in a “look-see” of the current development spearheaded by attorney Murray. Rev. and Mrs. John Bachman who piloted the Peaks visitors in their cruiser are shown in center.

The year round caretaker, Herman Burgess, shown by his home, the “Kum - Of - X” (come often).

One of the long established family residences on the more senior side of the island – where good relations flourish for the newcomers who have doubled the island’s inhabitants.

The usual approach to Cushings – “Private Island – Keep Out”.
GOLDEN JUBILEE

A spectacular event was staged on Peaks Island Sept. 23 when St. Christopher's Parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Residents of all faiths turned out to share in the community mass and the reception. Shown here are: Rev. Harold Moreshead, Rev. James H. Sullivan, Bishop Peter L. Gerety, D.D., Rev. J. Lee Burns, and Rev. John Crozier, past and present leaders of the parish.

PUBLIC POWER, PRO AND CON

The hottest issue in Maine politics at the moment is the energetic discussion relative the merits of L.D. No. 1760 -- An act creating the Power Authority of Maine. Especially for the benefit of out of state property owners, the Newsletter had planned to include equal space articles pro and con the issue. However, we will not be in distribution before the referendum date - so the best we can do is to report the results in our next issue.

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the bill may request it from CBIDA or the Legislative Documents, State House, Augusta.

"You were brought in here for drinking," scolded the police officer.
"That's great. Simply great," said the prisoner.
"When do we get started?"

NEW CORPORATION

The Battery Steele including some 15 acres has been leased by the CBIDA to a newly formed corporation for six years. Building must start within that period or the lease expires. If construction is underway the lease can be renewed for up to 45 years.

Purpose of the corporation is to establish a nonprofit base of operation making it eligible for tax free public and private funds. Members of the Corporation are Stanley R. Tupper, (Former Maine Congressman) of Boothbay, Corporation Counsel and Chairman; William B. Graham, Vice President, Portland Savings Bank; Beatrice Chapman, President; Howard U. Heller, John Johnson, Peter Cioffi and past CBIDA president Rus Edwards.

BUYS KENNEBUNK INN

CBIDA past president and former owner of the oceanside of Peaks Island, has purchased and restored the historic Inn at Kennebunk. Its a family enterprise with Peter and Diana Cioffi and their two daughters, Fran and Cynthia, all involved full time.

An Open Door was held on Oct. 6 with cocktails and a buffet for guests.

The Inn will cater to banquets and wedding receptions, private dining and conference facilities, and also offers office space for local business.

Address - 45 Main Street, Kennebunk, Tel. 985-3351

WHAT DO WE DO AND HOW DO WE USE OUR MONEY?

These common questions by those not close to CBIDA operations can be easily answered in the current annual report and financial statement prepared for the Annual Meeting in August by officers of the 14 year old inter-island organization. Copies of these may be obtained by contacting Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop K. Deane, treasurer and corresponding secretary, respectively. Tel. 766-4428.
THIS NEWSLETTER IS SUPPORTED ENTIRELY FROM MEMBERSHIP DUES IN THE CASCO BAY ISLAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. IT IS THE ONLY INTER-ISLAND COMMUNICATION AND IS PROVIDED NOT ONLY TO MEMBERS BUT TO THE COMMUNITIES IN GENERAL THROUGH THE STORES.

If you enjoy the Newsletter, you can help it to continue and to grow by becoming a member of CBIDA.

Name ......................................................
Address ....................................................
Island affiliation ........................................

Dues: $3 single $5 couple. Mailing address Box 66, Peaks Island 04108.

EXCERPTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF CASCO BAY ISLAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 1973

Of Bay-wide significance has been the CBIDA's research, directed by Paul Stevens of Little Diamond, in providing information to members or any other island residents, relative to the new state regulations on pollution control, and methods of installing sanitary equipment. There has been a noticeable amount of activity throughout the Bay to meet the new regulations - but a few are still lagging. Strict enforcement is apt to descend any time and raw sewage dumped into the bay is forbidden on the part of any property owner. True, Portland is the greatest offender. But plans are under way via the Portland Water District to install treatment systems, thus the municipality received an extension based on corrective plans. The same extensions are available to local property owners if they can show proof of corrective plans under way.

Project Oceanside

The following accomplishments relative to Project Oceanside can be recorded in this fiscal year:

1. Complete discharge of the $50,000 bond issue with which the 167 acre tract of land was acquired.

2. Repair of old Army deep water lines, required for the last sub-division as fire protection, but also enabling lot owners to have access to winter water - an asset not originally expected at a cost $4500 from Project funds.

3. Formation of a Homeowners Association to serve as a consumer group to deal jointly with CBIDA on water line repairs, and entrance fees.

4. The shore road deeded to the City three years ago has now been restored by the City at a cost of $64,000.

5. Central Maine Power Company is currently installing the electric power for the Oceanside area.

6. Four homes are either nearly completed or under construction and a number of others planned for Spring.

7. The Battery Steele area reserved for the proposed conference center has been leased for six years to a separate corporation.

8. A bill for $20,000 planning money for the Conference center passed the legislature but was defeated during the final days by the leadership.

9. The summer program this year was called Down-to-Earth, and was assisted by five youth employed by the Labor Department to help clean up and clear the Battery Steele area. The Portland City Parks and Recreation Department also helped.

Forecasts For The Coming Year:

1. More intensive work on the Bay transportation and radar problem.
2. Plans for a hospitality week-end for a group of American Field Service Students from the West Coast in early July.
3. Plans for the Historic Tour postponed this year.
4. Plans for an all Bay information folder, very much needed.
5. More inter-island action and reaction.
6. Increase membership and establish working committees that really function. (a chronic problem with most organizations)

NOTE: A SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY SCHEDULE WAS ISSUED BY CBL ON OCT. 23 RESTORING SEVERAL TRIPS INCLUDING THE EARLY MORNING BOAT, CAR FERRY IS ON FOUR DAYS A WEEK, WITH FOUR TRIPS PER DAY. However, the Strike continues.