3-1993


Service Agencies of the Island

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PEAKS ISLAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.I.N.A.'s Steering Committee members held a meeting on February 9th. Norm Proulx was welcomed as our new board member. A study of the By-Laws was voted upon and a committee was selected. Any revisions will be presented to the committee and voted upon.

Norm Proulx will take over Ron Benner's position as chairman of the Public Safety Committee.

On March 2nd officials from the Portland Water District will attend a meeting at St. Christopher's hall. This meeting is intended to be an educational meeting to answer questions and concerns with regard to the sewage treatment plant. Time of meeting is 7:30 and we urge all to attend.

P.I.N.A. has been asked to sponsor a few meetings to educate the public pertaining to major issues of concern if the island were to leave the City of Portland. A committee has been selected to bring both sides together to plan for such meetings.

The public float on the island will be hauled out of the water for repairs as soon as the weather permits. As soon as the exact date is known we will inform the public.

The plans for the wharf and Welch Street are on display at the Senior Center, Library and Casco Bay Lines for anyone wishing to view.

A special district property tax bill has been submitted to the state. This bill is a service oriented bill which would be more beneficial to those islands that have less service, if it is passed.

The Peaks Island Day Care has asked the City for HCD funds to help rehabilitate the proposed building for a new site for Day Care. The Health Center is requesting funds as well for the purchase of an EKG machine. Both these projects will need the support of the islanders by attending council meetings and writing letters.
UNION!
Peaks Community Center
Wednesday, February 3, 1993, 7:30 PM.

Over one hundred Peaks Islanders packed the community room and the hall outside to voice their concerns regarding secession. Spokesperson for the UNION! group, Annie Romanyshyn, gave a brief history of the movement and read the statement which she had made at a press conference the previous Tuesday. John Flynn reviewed the legislative process, explaining that the Peaks secession bill has been filed in name only. Once it has been written in final form, put into legal language by legislative staff and given an LD number, it will be open for public perusal. It will go to the State and Local Government Committee which usually holds two meetings on the bill: a public hearing and a workshop. Last year, for the Long Island bill, there was a public hearing held in Portland; perhaps we can get them to come to Portland again. The meeting was then opened for public comment. Over forty people spoke of their support for the City of Portland, of their concerns regarding separation and of their fears of what this polarizing issue may do to our community. Following is an attempt to condense the many comments:

Support and praise was given for the City assistance we receive in the Human Service area: the Health Center, the Child Development Center, the Senior Center and recreation, Peaks' access to the Barron Center as a part of Portland. The Child Development Center, for example, receives a $25,000 yearly Block Grant from Portland; that and so many other programs and sources of funding would not be available to an independent town. If the Health Center had to buy back the building and if we lost the HCD funding, the Center would be out of business within three years.

The costs involved in running a town were of great concern to many, especially the unexpected ones such as frequent and damaging storms, the possibility of having to revamp the school and hire special teachers for handicapped children, the higher water rates that a town would pay, and especially the yearly bills for those on the sewer which could be as high as $2,366 (Water District figures) rather than the current estimate of $246. It was strongly suggested that the secessionists' budget be carefully analyzed by a professional accountant.

Other services provided by Portland and felt to be in jeopardy under separation are: education (We have good schooling for our kids, why re-invent it?), fire protection (The City maintains our fire apparatus, trains firefighters, provides back-up, replaces equipment...), the fireboat (few want a speedboat or helicopter), trash removal (incredibly expensive), public safety (we have two-man round-the-clock coverage which is also very expensive).

The point was made that we need to focus on what our real complaints and needs are. Several speakers agreed that the accusation that Portland is "unresponsive" is simply not true. People complain when they don't "get their way"; it's impossible for everyone to be satisfied.

Many said that they like the friendliness of the Island and don't want to change from fighting City Hall to fighting their neighbors. There is deep concern for the divisiveness of this issue. Others stressed the need for accurate and documented information and for a series of neutral forums where the implications of secession can be debated.

The UNION! group opposes secession; if the referendum bill gets through the Legislature, we will do everything we can to vote it down.
PORTLAND RECREATION ON PEAKS ISLAND
MARCH ACTIVITIES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE THE COMMUNITY ROOM, YOU MUST CONTACT DENISE (766-2970) AT LEAST TWO WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE. DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE MACHINE. IF DENISE IS NOT THERE, PLEASE CALL 874-8793 DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

ADULT ACTIVITIES: OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

**March 10 - Wednesday**
Instructor: Mike Barter
CPR Recertification 6:00 - 10:00 pm
Public Safety Building
Approximate cost: $15.00
Pre-registration required. Please leave a message at 2970 prior to March 9.

**March 16 - Tuesday**
Irish Travelogue 2:30 pm Community Ctr
Guest Speakers: Kathleen McCarthy & Sharon McKenna
Free!

Men's basketball continues on Tuesday evenings until March 23. Coed volleyball continues on Wednesday evenings until March 31. Drop-in fee is $2.00 per night.

**OFF-ISLAND ACTIVITIES**

Pre-registration required for all off-island activities. Senior adults are given top priority. Non-seniors may register on a space available basis. Sign-up sheets are at the Sr. Center (open M-F, 10:00-11:00 am; call ahead if coming in the afternoon: 2545). Registrations left on the answering machine CANNOT be guaranteed. Space is limited. A minimum of 8 people is required. If you have any questions, please call Denise at 2970.

**March 10 - Wednesday**
Portland Museum of Art/Lunch 11:15 am boat/return 4:30
Enjoy lunch at The Village Cafe and see the special exhibit at the Museum: "On the Edge" - 40 Years of Maine painting. Cost: Approximately $3.00 plus lunch.

**March 18 - Thursday**
Maine Flower Show/Lunch 8:15 am boat/return 2:00
Cost: TBA

**March 24 - Wednesday**
SMTC Luncheon 11:15 am boat/no later than 3:15 return
Cost: $4.50-6.50

**March 30 - Tuesday**
Freeport Shopping Trip 8:15 am boat/return 2:30

**ATTENTION SENIOR CITIZENS:**
There will be a volunteer tax person on the island on Friday, March 26 to help out with tax forms. This will be done by appointment only. To set up an appointment, please leave a message for Denise at 766-2970.

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**After School Program: Grades 1-5 and Special K Programs**
See The Link for details about Gr. 1-5 as well as special Kindergarten drop-in sessions.
Book Discussion Group
Tuesday, March 2, 7 pm Mating by Norman Rush

Tuesday, April 6, 7 pm A River Runs Through It by Norman McLean

Join us the first Tuesday of each month. Open to any adult.

From the New Book List

Fiction
Robert Boswell Mystery Ride
Anita Brookner Fraud
Bernard Cornwell Rebel
Catherine Coulter Heiress Bride
W.E.B. Griffin Close Combat
Hamilton JFK, Reckless Youth
Victoria Holt Seven for a Secret
Robert Jordan Shadow Rising
Dean Koontz Dragon Tears
Alan Lightman Einstein's Dreams
Eric Lustbader Black Blade

Julian Symons Something Like a Love Affair

Nonfiction
Bill Bacon How to Buy a Used Car Successfully
Clarissa Estes Women Who Run With the Wolves
John McPhee Assembling California
Bill Moyers Healing and the Mind

AND: Four new cookbooks arrived in February: Mrs. Field's Cookie Book; More Vegetables, Please; Delicious Vegetable Side Dishes for Everyday Meals; Pierre Franey's Cooking in America; and New Home Cooking; Feeding Family, Feasting Friends. Bon Appetit!

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - a great time to try a biography of someone you know nothing about.

NEW DRY-CLEANING SERVICE FOR PEAKS ISLAND!

I will PICK-UP and DELIVER dry cleaning on Peaks Island. Local Dry Cleaner gives me a discount and I pass the savings on to my fellow Islanders. Very competitive prices and no trudging back & forth on the ferry with dry cleaning! (Ferry price included!) Prices end up costing an extra 10 to 20 cents per piece!

Call Bob Johnson at 766-2143. If I am not there, please leave message on machine with your name, address & telephone number.

SERVICE TWICE A WEEK!

** ** NOTICE DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE OF THE STAR IS MARCH 26, 1993** **
We'd like to welcome Joshua Alverson to our Preschool Program. We'd also like to urge anyone who anticipates a child care need in the coming year to contact us for an application. This helps us in our planning to meet community needs. We offer Child Care Programs to children 3-10 years old.

As many of you know, we've been working on plans and funding for a new home for our Center. A model is on display at the Library(on top of the video case). A proposal for Housing and Community Development Funds (HCD) has been submitted to the Portland City Council...they will make funding decisions on March 8...we urge all who support this project to please call or write our City Councilors and urge their support of this project. You are also welcome to attend the Public Hearing on March 8, 7:30PM, at City Hall to voice your support.

Dine and Dance away your cabin fever!

SATURDAY MARCH 27
7th Annual
SPAGHETTI DINNER/CONTRA DANCE

A joint community event/fundraiser sponsored by the Center and Elementary School PTO. Mark your calendars...it's an event NOT TO BE MISSED!

Our Infant/Toddler Community Playgroup continues each Wednesday morning from 10-11:15AM. Please come and enjoy our playspace.

Thanks to all who have been participating in our ongoing Bottle Drive at Feeney's Market...we've been averaging about $20/month credit to our account!

Janine Blatt, our Program Director, has received a scholarship to attend the 20th Annual Children's Defense Fund Conference in Washington, D.C. whose theme is to "Mobilize Families and Communities for America's Children." We're excited about this opportunity to participate at a national level.

REMEMBER...MARCH 27..put on your dancing shoes!
SENIOR CITIZENS

The end of February finds the Senior Citizens pretty much frozen in. The February business meeting with luncheon was called off because of storm. At the end of the month the approach to the Senior Center is so icy as to be out-of-bounds for senior Citizens, and a real hazard for Fern Parker and the others involved with her in getting meals-on-wheels to the house-bound.

Knowing all this, we still announce a covered dish luncheon for Monday, March 15, with the first business meeting since October. We need to have everyone fifty five or older, who can be on the island at noon on that date, with us to have a voice in deciding the fate of this independent organization now more than a quarter of a century old.

The Senior Citizens have had responsibility for the maintenance of the Senior Center since 1967. Until the last few years, Ruth Woodbury, and then Phylis LaClaire have kept our Center open and available for drop-in and over the telephone at least six hours, five days a week.

By ourselves, and on a volunteer basis, we have not been able to continue this service of the Senior Center. All honor to those who have done their best to try!

With changing times, we have found ourselves with a new responsibility. We are approaching our capacity as host to groups — committees or whatever — of less than a dozen looking for a place to come in out of the cold for an hour or so. (If your committee or whatever is looking for a place to meet, call 766-3381 to find an unoccupied time slot. The key will be available to you from between the doors at 20 Lower A street. Turn the heat up and back to 50 when you are through, by using the thermostat only.

Financially, we assume responsibility for such things as paper towels, toilet paper, and insurance. Knowing this, the Lions Club and the Cemetery Association contribute to our finances. Along with getting out the meals, Fern Parker does what she can to keep the room attractive for the rest of us.

The Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging furnishes our Meals-on-Wheels, with volunteer island people who are on Peaks Island during the middle of the day carrying them to the homes of house-bound island people five days a week. Available at the Senior Center is a table full of SMAA pamphlets, most of which detail other services available to Senior citizens. Once I had read several of the pamphlets carefully, I found real occasion to call 775-6503 myself, and have been able better to maintain peace of mind since.

Ever since Carl and I came to live on Peaks Island, Senior Citizens has been kept going from year to year by more or less the same half dozen people, with Ruth Woodbury or Phylis LaClair being ex officio treasurer. During any particular period, the other offices circulated among the same three or four people, unless we found a man who would preside at our meetings.

The routine has been that a nominating committee appointed at our May meeting would bring in a slate of officers to be elected at our June meeting. We always hoped for a nominating committee with someone new on it, who might find someone new for our slate of officers. Until the last few years, Ruth, and then Phylis really kept us going. Now, with Blanche leaving for Hawaii, and the rest of us not getting any younger, the time really has come for us to find a new slate of officers — or else!

Gretchen Hall, vice-president

Denise would like us to have this announcement:

There will be a volunteer tax person on the island on Friday, March 26, to help any senior citizen with their taxes. You must have an appointment to see the man. Call Denise (2970) for an appointment.
The Right to Vote: Who's Wearing Those Buttons?

As most are aware, the Peaks Island Research Committee has been working for over a year and a half. Questions that have been raised about that study invite sincere and thoughtful response.

People have questioned our authority to act on the behalf of themselves and others on the island. It was self-appointed authority, as is most grassroots activism. Our work style has always been inclusive; all meetings are regular and pre-announced. Suggestions from non-supporters are always entertained and have occasionally provided clarification of problem issues.

Is this purely tax revolt? There's an element of that in the current movement, but secession is far from a recent notion. It's last go-round was in 1986, before the current burdensome rates were imposed. It was not new then, nor is it likely to go away now unless we continue along formal channels to put it to community vote once and for all. The tax problem is more aptly a part of the incompatible relationship between a small community and big city government. As for the tax impact, while it may not affect all, there are many for whom it represents the loss of their homes, as over 100 current property sale listings might suggest. These are the cottages and year round residences of ourselves and our neighbors, many of whom are retirees or young families. Their choice to leave has been no choice at all.

Some residents feel and fear that those people working for a referendum is a group of new arrivals who just want to change things. The truth is that this is an effort to preserve the unique community that Peaks island has always been.

There are claims that there is no one here who truly understands how to run things and that our schools, health center, roads, public safety, etc. are all in jeopardy. The continuing research, begun over a year ago, by thoughtful skillful people just doesn't support that. While some questions do and will remain unanswered for a while, much information provides sensible, sensitive and cost-effected alternatives to the decisions of Portland City Council.

Many have asked, "If we could run a town, who would do it and what would it look like?" The response is that we all will. In a town meeting form of government, the citizen votership is the body of decision-makers who say "yay" or "nay" to the budget and many other policy issues. The residents of most all other American towns are as clever as we, and they have a long track record of doing business this way. If we chose, we could and perhaps should hire a professional administrator to do the actual "running" on a daily basis, but the decisions would be directly our own. We'll do it together, as neighbors, with community needs and goals as our guide.

Our first community goal should be to keep an open mind, to be fully informed and support the right to vote on this issue next November.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF ACTIVITY GOING ON THESE TWO MONTHS OF FEB. AND MARCH. A BENEFIT SUPPER FOR THE CHILDREN'S DRAMA CLASS. SAT. FEB. 27th, CHOP-SUEY, SALAD, COFFEE, BREAD (PORT BAKE HOUSE) AND DESSERT. ADULTS, $3.50-CHILD, $2.00. OUR SINCERE THANKS TO SARAH MANZO, KENNY BROWN, PARENTS AND FRIENDS.

COMING ON SUNDAY MARCH 21st. "FAIRY TEA" PRESENTED BY OUR STAR OF THE SEA PLAYERS AND DANCERS. A TRUE STORY OF FORMER MEMBERS OF PEAKS ISL. MR. AND MRS. W. GREEN. (DOREEN'S PARENTS). A FAIRY TALE OF CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF ANNIE ULRICH, THE AUTHOR. (DOREEN'S NEICE) GROWING UP IN ENGLAND. PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ST. CHRISTOPHERS AND BRACKETT MEMORIAL CHURCH'S. SHOW TIME 2.30PM. REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW, ST. CHRISTOPHERS PARISH HALL, CENTRAL AVE. DONATION, ADULTS $3.00-CHILDREN $1.50.

THE SAME PROGRAM, "FAIRY TEA" WILL BE PRESENTED ON SATURDAY MARCH 27th AT THE RIVERTON COMMUNITY CENTER, 1600 FOREST AVE. IN PORTLAND. PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE MAINE CHILDREN'S CANCER PROGRAM, PORTLAND.

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS.

MUSICALLY YOURS

DOREEN AND CO.

AL-ANON MEETING STARTING IN MARCH FOR PEAKS

Families and friends of Alcoholics/Drug Addicts or any other 12 Step Disorder are welcome. We will start meetings on Wednesday, March 10, 1993, at the SENIOR CENTER from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please come and get help for yourself. If you have any questions, please call Carol J. at 766-2143.

Deadline for the April PEAKS ISLAND STAR is Friday, March 26.
St. Christopher's Catholic Church  Central Ave.  766-2585
Rev. Normand Carrier, Pastor

Masses: Weekend - Sat. 4 pm, Sunday, 9 am in the Parish Hall
Weekday - St. Joseph-By-The-Sea, 7:30 am

Activities: Sundays - Coffee and cake in the Parish Hall after Mass
            Wednesdays - Bible Study, 9am, Senior Center
            Beano - NO BEANO UNTIL APRIL
            Thursdays - Prayer Group 9:45 am at Marge Erico's. For prayers
                      call 6-2844, 2502, 2641 or St. Joseph's 2284

50/50 Club - $5 a month or $50 per year, win half of the pot. Call Joyce
            O'Brien 6-2001 for more information.

PARISH CONCERNS: Contact Paul Johnson 2910, Sr. Rosina 2284, Rectory 2585
** Donations for Food Pantry may be left in appropriate box or basket in the
Parish Hall. Your donations may help many.

RENEW PROGRAM - Are you interested in renewing your Renew Program. Open to
all. FMI call Father Carrier 2585. This could be a great Lenten series.

PARISH COUNCIL - Next Parish Council meeting TBA in the church bulletin.

FOR FURTHER NOTICES REGARDING OTHER EVENTS PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

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BRACKETT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Street - Telephone 766-5013
Pastor - Rev. Charles Hale

Worship and Sunday School - 10:00 A.M. Sundays
Thursdays - 9:00 A.M. - Bible Study at Senior Center
Thursdays - Regular Boy Scout meetings
March 4 - Boy Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet in Fellowship Hall
March 9 - Noon - Regular monthly meeting of the UMW at the home
          of Mary Dennison. Keep in our heart that this is
          Lenten season.
March 11 and 25 - Noon - Let's try again! Weather and circum-
            stances, please note: We are planning to meet at
            the home of Virginia Paton, Avenue House, to settle
            down for more work and fun as we continue on items
            for our Fair. After recent postponements, you must
            be spilling over with ideas that have been breeding
            in your brain. Come spill them here. Bring a sand-
            wich and a friend.
March 13 - Saturday - 5:30 P.M. - Advisory Board putting on a
            pot-luck supper. Bring and share your favorite
            casserole, vegetable, salad, or whatever.
March 24 - Wednesday - (Off Island). The Preble Chapel Child
            Care Center has invited our pastor to conduct an
            AIDS Conference for their staff.

Every Sunday - 7:00 P.M. - Bible Study at the Parsonage.
March 27 - Saturday - 5 to 7 P.M. - Day Care spaghetti supper
            in Fellowship Hall in conjunction with contra-
            dance at the school.

Well, now! That's a happy/busy March schedule! See you.
The Island Health Center Hours for medical care are:

Wednesdays 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

The Island Health Center Hours for calling in are:

Mondays 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Thursdays 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

We have been sprucing up the Health Center while Dr. Rudenberg is on Maternity leave! The Health Center interior was painted by the following volunteers: Kay Taylor, Jay Brown, Jane Banquer, Larry and Joan Blake, and Karen Friedman. New curtains are being made by Judy Piawlock. A new carpet --donated through the efforts of Monica Domnique-- will be installed in March. Thank You! to all these People who have given their time and talents. The office will be bright and clean when Dr. Rudenberg returns at the beginning of April.

In the case of any medical emergency, dial 911 first.

Call 766-2929 for an appointment. Please leave a message on our answering machine. Thank you for your continuing support of the Peaks Island Health Center.

HEALTH CENTER NEWS

In grateful appreciation, we recognize the generosity of over 200 Peaks Island families, year-round and summer, who donated a total of $55,000 between 1990 and 1992 to assure continued professional medical care on the Island. Leadership gifts were received from:

Estate of Gertrude E. Beal
William A. Bonn
Gary Brookman & Tanya Seredin
Geneva M. & William H. Bunton
George & Gloria Cotton
Frances L. Curry
Avner Eisenberg & Julie Goell
John & Lorraine Feeney
John & Ellen Horton
Kathleen McCarthy,
   in memory of Ethel Cook and
   Gertrude Beal

In memory of Kerry Erico MacDonald
Doug MacVane
Gwelma Pedersen
Frank & Peggie Peretti
Chuck & Sandi Radis
Margaret Randall
Elizabeth C. Rodick
Kay & Gene Taylor
Lucille Goss Taylor
   in memory of Emma Foye

Board of Directors
Casco Bay Health Center

A plaque has been inscribed as shown above and is currently in the Health Center.