HILLTOPPER APPOINTED TO PRA POST

“To place one’s trust in a proven friend.” These words said in different ways by different people, but always meaning the same thing, seem to summarize the expressions gleaned from recent appointment of Paul M. Folan to the Board of Commissioners of the Portland Renewal Authority.

The confidence vested in this citizen of the Hill by officialdom speaks for itself in his appointment. But even more important is the reception by the man on the street and the woman in the house — up and down, round about the hill.

The MUNJOY OBSERVER tested this reaction in conversations with numerous residents; and officers of the Munjoy-South Association with which Paul Folan has been strongly identified since it was organized in December of 1960.

We went even further and talked with one of Paul’s teachers who “knew him when” — when he was only a tiny tot, that is. From the vantage-point of one who has seen Paul grow up and mature in his chosen profession as an educator, and in his volunteer profession as a community leader, we quote from Gertrude Prim, widely known supervisor of reading in the Portland School Department:

“It is a real satisfaction to see a responsible school citizen become a scholar full-grown, mature, full of vigor for honest and truth-loving leadership.

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OPEN HOUSE AT MUNJOY-SOUTH SITE OFFICE: Residents and officials were welcomed on January 23 to initiate the new Site Office at 200 Congress Street. Coffee pourers were Mary Corcoran, Mrs. Katherine Folan, and Mrs. Louis A. Smith.

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Munjoy-South’s Baby of the Month

Harold Gregory Loring, son of City Councilor and Mrs. Harold G. Loring. Born January 24. Happily relocated from Mercy Hospital to 74 Vesper Street, Munjoy Hill.

Editorially Speaking

A Sense of Community

Demolition of dilapidated structures —
Renovated homes —
New housing —
New school —
New sidewalks —
Well paved and lighted streets —
Residents, some new, some old —
Will this bring renewal?

Man is a social animal. It is in his relationships with others that his finest aspirations and values are developed and brought to fulfillment. When men associate together in a common goal, their united efforts strengthen one another and make possible the accomplishment of a task which would be impossible for an individual to do on his own initiative. There comes from such efforts a sense of satisfaction and pride in furthering the common good.

Munjoy Hill has a past tradition of being a community in the sense of a feeling of belonging. People shared together in many activities, recognized one another on the street, and felt a responsibility for the general well-being of “The Hill”. The blight of the Hill is easily identified in the sub-standard housing, deteriorated streets and sidewalks; however the blight of the social structure of the community is equally disconcerting. Group consciousness in the churches, social organizations, and youth groups is at a low ebb. Many of our most capable and productive citizens have moved out — literally or in concern for the area.

I submit that renewal can and will come to the Hill only with the return of a sense of community upon the part of the majority of its residents.

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FOLAN (Continued from Page One)

"Only one thing impresses former teachers more than his learning, great as that may be, and that is his character, permeated by a profound sense of justice.

"In all circumstances, he is diligent, prudent, and fair. We wish him well."

Paul Folan attended Monument and Emerson elementary schools, Jack Junior High School, Chevers High School and Holy Cross College. He is head of the English Department at Windham High School. He is an Army veteran and is active in the reserve unit.

His service on the PRA board brings to this important body a background of practical experience from the viewpoint of one of the most important areas in the city to be chosen as a Renewal Project area. One other Commissioner who resides in the same general area, James Burke, was recently elected as vice chairman of the board.

The Rev. Frederick H. Thompson, another new member of the board, brings a background of community-wide interest in Greater Portland's development.

She is on the boards of the Southern Maine Mental Health Association and the Portland League of Women Voters.

COMMUNITY (Continued from Page One)

It will mean that our most able citizens will lead in forming groups for community betterment and the stimulation of neighborhood friendships. Present institutions, religious and secular, cannot remain ingrown and self-centered but must be outgoing and communicative with the community. It was Emerson in his essay on Friendship who said, "the only way to have a friend is to be one." To create a community one has to be friends with his neighbors. The only way to have a community is to be friends joined together by ties of mutual affection and common concern.

I'm sure the Munjoy Observer is one attempt to develop a sense of community. It is my feeling that we can only come to grips with community blight as we share together in some organized groups created to lift community pride and culture through a homes and garden club, political groups, youth activities, and religious organizations as well as greater participation in existing organizations like the Munjoy South Association.

It is up to us who live on the Hill to bring renewal to our area by a sense of community through our united action in activities which will brighten the Hill and give us the satisfaction of working together for the common good of our friends and neighbors — our community.

RALPH L. MILLER, Minister, Congress St. Methodist Church

FAMILY FINDS NEW HOME
WITH SAME NUMBER

Mrs. Alvida J. Fogg, son Richard, a student at Portland High School; and daughter Susan, a student at King Junior High School — comprise a well relocated family.

Long-time residents of Adams Street, this family found their own new home at 56A Sherman Street. Oddly enough, their former address was 56 Adams.

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former jonesport couple happy in relocation move

harold and mary merritt, and their six-months-old wayne, were living in a munjoy-south apartment which posed a heating problem.

they had four rooms on a third floor heated by two oil-burning space heaters. the consumption of oil cost them more than twice the amount of their rent and even then they were not comfortable.

since the structure is in the total clearance area and thus scheduled for demolition, relocation was necessary. they were shown around and helpfully advised by pra's relocation worker, mrs. ann armstrong.

through a relative the merritts heard about an apartment on congress street which proved to be just what they needed. pra arranged for reinspection to assure the couple they were making a good choice in a standard unit. now they have four pleasant rooms and bath, with hot water and excellent heat, and recently redecorated. although they are paying more rent than they were, the fact that heat is included actually results in less expense than the former arrangement. they received a relocation payment from pra which covered moving expenses.

the merritts came to portland from their former home town of jonesport where they grew up together as schoolmates. harold now works as a filling station attendant and chose to come to portland to be near his parents who had moved here some time ago.

the merritts find portland much to their liking as a residential city and they enjoy the convenience of shopping as compared to traveling 80 miles to bangor as they were accustomed to do while living in jonesport.
Library Branch
In Munjoy Has
Active Use —

The benefits of a conveniently located library are being felt by both children and adults in the Munjoy Hill area.

Officially a part of the Portland Public Library, the branch which is located in the Marada F. Adams School, contains more than 8,000 volumes — about half of which are for adults.

An average day sees some 200 books checked out.

The librarians assigned to this branch are Miss Mildred A. Perkins, Miss Mildred S. Smith and Mrs. Elizabeth Nieuwland. Miss Perkins came to the Munjoy Branch from the main library where she had served for more than 14 years. Miss Smith previously had served at the main library, then at the Woodfords Branch before coming to Munjoy, Mrs. Nieuwland rotates between both branches and the main library serving each on a part-time basis. (She was with the Marine Corps at Pearl Harbor during the Korean War.) All three librarians are under the direction of Miss Grace Trappan, Librarian for the Portland system.

An innovation which has proved most helpful in increasing book interest among the children is a monthly story hour for each class. This gives the librarians a chance to describe books suitable for each age group and to arouse interest in book contents.

From the classroom teachers' point of view it is good for the children to "hear a different voice" during this story hour helping them to return to classes with refreshed interest.

Parents find that children who could not go alone to the main Library have a much better opportunity to become book conscious because of the easy accessibility.

For the convenience of adults the Munjoy Branch is open three evenings a week — Monday, Wednesday and Friday — until 9 p.m. There is the opportunity for development of growing interest among adults to make greater use of this facility.

A special summer feature is a weekly story telling hour volunteered by Miss Eleanor Johnson, teacher of English at Westbrook Junior College and the author of several children's books.

The Library can justly be called a major public improvement credited to the City and the Renewal Program.

Before and After Views Wanted

You can share your accomplishments with others when you improve your home.

The Portland Renewal Authority is interested in picture stories showing improvements. These can be most effective if we can know well enough in advance of work being done in order to take the "before" pictures. Then when work is completed we will return and take "after" pictures.

This will make a good record for your own use, and at the same time will serve as a matter of interest to the neighborhood.

When you are planning major alterations, or even just a painting project, please let us know at the Munjoy Site Office, 200 Congress Street. Tel. 4-6278.

Come To The
— Sing-A-Long —

The Portland Community Sing-Along meets every Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Lee Recreation Center. Aided by the Parks and Recreation Department, the group now includes 40 singers and more are wanted — especially men!

Mrs. Arthur Wakefield of Boyd St., Bayside Park area, is one of the enthusiastic promoters; and leaders from the Munjoy area include Emery Bennett, director and Florence McInnis, co-director and pianist. No auditions are required!

Brief Observations

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Corcoran of 25 Morning Street, on their recent 50th Anniversary observance.

Best Wishes for continued recovery from her recent illness are extended to Mrs. Mary Jennings, 69 Mountfort Street.

Garden Book Corner

The Munjoy-South Site Office will soon have a Spring Garden Book collection for loan to Munjoy residents. A reading corner in the office will provide space for neighbors who would like to meet and discuss garden or window box plans.

If sufficient interest is shown we will sponsor a Window Box Contest for the area.

Please let us know if this would be a desired project by calling SP 4-6278. Ask for Mrs. Chapman.