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Nor' by East, Oct 1962

Casco Bay Island Development Association

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ADM. MacMILLAN TO VISIT BAY

Rear Admiral Donald B. MacMillan, the only living member of Peary's North Pole Expedition, famed explorer and lecturer, will visit Casco Bay on November 7 and 8. Neari ng his 88th birthday, the veteran arctic expert is still lecturing in his always crisp and colorful style. His life story, Arctic Odyssey, published in September, written by Everett Allen of New Bedford is fast becoming a best-seller. Copies of the book will be available to island residents, and the MacMillans have offered proceeds of the book for benefit of island development.

An Open Assembly will be held in the Peaks Island School on Nov. 7 at 1:30 p.m. The student body will attend and residents are welcome. It is expected that the Auditorium will be filled. Principal Leroy H. Ahlquist will preside.

ISLAND TOWN MEETING SLATED

A Town Meeting for all the Portland owned islands will be held in the school auditorium on Peaks Island October 29 at 7:30 p.m. City Manager Graham H. Watt and the City Council will be on hand to establish a person-to-person-contact with island residents in an unprecedented step to aid island maintenance and planning programs.

An inter-island boat trip will be arranged by CBL for a minimum guarantee of fifteen persons from each island. The fare is ninety cents round trip. Paul MacVane on Cliff and Lawrence Stevens on Long will be in charge of arrangements for attendance from these islands.

This is an excellent opportunity to take part in island affairs in a constructive and helpful manner. By this move the City Council is showing an active desire to help the islands in the many ways necessary to growth and development.

Questions are welcomed in advance so that the meeting can be effectively organized. The form in this paper may be mailed directly to Portland City Hall, Attention, City Manager.

Out-of-state property owners will receive mailed replies to their questions if they will indicate that they cannot be present for the meeting, and enclose their winter address. Improvement suggestions are also welcome.

Such matters as fire and police protection, street improvements, health affairs, parks and recreation, schools, sewers, and planning programs are subjects expected to arise.

In 1950 a series of Town Hall meetings were held in Portland but none at that time were conducted on the islands. Therefore this meeting is a trial of ways and means, to test the effectiveness of this type of direct citizen participation in city affairs. Much depends on the success of this meeting. All property owners and residents are cordially invited to attend.

Says Manager Watt, "The island Town Meeting offers much opportunity for each of the islands to meet the officials responsible for the conduct of city affairs and to learn more of its operations, accomplishments and plans for the future. The Town Meeting offers promise in that it is another step forward in the consideration of the future development of the islands. If, at the close of the meeting we have a clearer understanding of each of our roles in the building of a better island community, then a major purpose of the meeting will have been achieved."

Admiral and Mrs. MacMillan will be the house guests of the John Chapmans who will hold an open house reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 7. MacMillan will be presented by the PTA at a public illustrated lecture at 8:00 p.m. Proceeds will help the PTA youth recreational activities.

Telstar or no, Telephone service man Richard Hooper still shoulder-totes equipment to the Islands!
"Nor' By East"

Box 66, Peaks Island, Maine

Published by Island Development Association for residents and visitors of Casco Bay Islands.

Taking as his theme "The Jewels in Portland's Crown" City Manager Graham W. Watt, has established an atmosphere of helpful appreciation for the Casco Bay Islands. His keynote address at the dedication ceremonies on Long Island, August 19 contained many highlights worthy of repetition. The following are directly quoted:

NEW YORK COUPLE WINS TREASURE CHEST

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ruppe of Elmhurst, New York were the lucky winners of the Retail Trade Board's treasure chest featured during Open House Day. The custom made chest containing over $100 worth of gifts from Portland merchants was delivered in New York. In a letter of response Ruppe said: "Actually this is the first time we ever won anything. We wish again to thank all the kind people of Peaks Island who made our visit so very pleasant. We find ourselves looking forward to our vacation next year, when we will once again visit your lovely State of Maine."

GEMS FROM MANAGER WATT

"Island residents, representing many of the United States, are bound together by their love of this unspoiled, relatively undeveloped part of southern Maine which comprises one-fifth of the land area of the City of Portland."

"This broad geographic representation provides us with a great opportunity for Portland to maintain a vital relationship with a large part of our country."

"We are challenged to unearth our rich resources and to make of them other resources for the benefit of all."

"Together, in cooperative effort, you and your City government can do more than merely talk about the "great potential" of the Casco Bay Islands. It is time now that we roll up our sleeves and work together to develop those talents which will bring about a gradual improvement in the economic health and residential attractiveness of the islands. We must be willing to consider and experiment with new and progressive ideas."

"If the islands are to progress, they must attract the attention and the investment of more people. People need to know more about the islands in order to be attracted. Given the proper atmosphere it is my opinion that private enterprise will accomplish the most improvement and do it faster, bringing about the realization of our dreams."

"A single major new development on any one of the Casco Bay Islands, whether it be a new hotel, a modern marina, an airport for helicopter travel, a cottage development, a summer camp for children, or construction of new, perhaps prefabricated houses, would give the Casco Bay Islands a much needed shot in the arm. Such investments must be actively solicited both by island citizens and by our cities and State government."

"The City has a recognized responsibility to help as much as possible to improve the standards of maintenance of public facilities and to upgrade existing structures thereby helping to encourage private investment. The policy if the City of Portland points in that direction."

APPRECIATION CORNER

The Island Development Association is deeply grateful to the Department of Economic Development, the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Trade Board, and the City of Portland, for all-out cooperation and concrete assistance in the first annual Open House Day on the Casco Bay Islands.

Our thanks also to the Portland News.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

If you would like to receive a mailed copy of each issue of "Nor' By East" throughout the year, at the yearly subscription price of $2.00, please fill out the form printed below and return to Box 66, Peaks Island, Maine.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________

UN-BALANCE SHEET

Expenses of printing and postage for the last three issues of Nor' By East were $831.03.

Income from ads and subscriptions was $483.28.

Deficit paid from IDA treasury (chiefly membership dues) was $347.75.

Obviously: More financing needed.

Join IDA and help the cause. $3.00 initial dues. $6.00 a year.

The Island Development Association is a non-profit publication supported by advertisers and members of the Association. All work except printing donated by members.

This issue edited by Mrs. Julia W. Chapman. Guest editor for January will be John Mulhern von Munjoy Hill — and Little Diamond Island.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

"This is just a short note to let you know how much we really enjoyed our visit to the Island. This was my first trip to the Islands in about 20 years but I will assure you that it will not be twenty years before I visit it again. My wife also wants to thank you and the lovely people who were so nice to the "strangers" who visited your homes.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. King
and family
104 Capisic Street
Portland, Maine

Nor' by East

"We have thoroughly enjoyed the issues you have sent gratis and it is only fair that if enjoyed we should share in the cost.

"The Islands need something to hold them together. You can be a big help.

Good luck to you."

Mrs. Leslie M. Parker
Belmont, Mass.
AROUND THE BAY
by Eunice Pikuzinski

Like the unknown wag, who remarked to the tourist, "Oh yes, in these parts we have two seasons, winter and the tourist season," this reporter has taken advantage of the fine weather and the availability of private transportation to visit around the bay, more in keeping with the heading of this column.

It gives one a peculiar feeling to go back and visit people and places one knew as a child. The strongest impression that has not changed with advancing age is put very simply, "how beautiful" are the islands of the bay and the ocean upon which they rest.

With much pleasure I look back to my first visit to Cliff Island and the hospitalitly accorded me. To use the vernacular of the Space Age, it may be "way out," but that fact only serves to enhance its charm. The lobster dinner put on by the Mother's Club and the Cliff Island Association has been unequaled and it was a further pleasure to meet Nor' By East's Cliff Island correspondent, Mrs. Priscilla O'Reilly.

In an extended tour of the island "by foot and by jeep" in order to photograph the telephone crew at work and various new houses recently built, there was the opportunity to talk with many people. The new home built by Mr. and Mrs. James Seymour has a kitchen to make any woman envious.

A visit to Fisherman's Wharf marina and a description of services from Mr. R. Mason Spring was very interesting. To rescue one of New England's well-known weather forecasters whose pleasure boat ran out of gas, may be all in a day's work, but is certainly not run-of-the-mill. Hope it means a light winter, what with all the new-fangled weather-machines in the making.

From there we went to visit the new house being built by Mr. Robert Belknap on the outmost point of Cliff Island. Mr. Belknap is a Prof. of Russian at Columbia University and doing a wonderful job of construction in an unsurpassed spot. The modern gas lighting fixtures are certainly an inspiration for those camp and cottage owners living at a distance from power supplies.

The one thing that particularly impressed me coming to live in Casco Bay after living in several other places in New England is the fact that most people seem genuinely interested in what is loosely termed "progress" but with a unique and individual touch; maybe the "modern Yankee touch"; economic services, we hope will continue to grow, especially the essential water-borne transportation so necessary in the future without the exploitation of the individual or group and in its essence to preserve the natural beauty and pleasant manner of living minus the disenchantment of over-commercialization that has blighted many beautiful spots in New England. There is a great deal of merit in the suggestion that perhaps what is called the Yankee personality and occasionally the "New England conscience" is particularly suited to do just this.

HALF-WAY ROCK LIGHT
Far off the rocky coast of Maine,
A mighty lighthouse from the sea,
And on it stands a tower white,
A beacon light for you and me.

At dusk when day gives way to night,
It guards the stately ships at sea,
And starlike shines that faithful light,
A light of hope for you and me.

Steadfast, immovable, serene,
It sends its greeting far,
By all who watch and wait it's seen,
That little guiding star.

When fogs descend, or storms obscure
The siren booms its mighty roar,
Calling a message safe and sure,
"I am on watch forever more."

Sounding a warning note
To many a listening ear,
"Take heed, oh Mariner, take heed,
Beware, the rocks are near."

By night or day, in storm or clear,
That guardian light shines bravely forth,
Or bears its message of good cheer,
"All's well, fear not, for I am here."

(In Memoriam)

Herma Rupe Smith

Cumberland Savings and Loan Association

"Where Thousands Save Millions"
561 Congress Street — Portland, Maine
As Island Art Came To City Hall

Paintings in photo at top, left, include entries by Roy Randall, seascape; Mildred Trueworthy, (center, old ladies); Chester Pittingill, flowers; and Betty Callan, water color. Also shown are paintings of the Old Swamscott and the Steamer Portland, Center, left, Chinese Junk by Eli Ross; lower, rocky coast by Roy Randall. Top, right, carved birds by Shirley Burgess; boat and lighthouse by Barbara Ritchie, shown by her mother Mrs. Charles M. Ritchie, exhibit chairman; Fisherman, by Roy Randall; and hostesses, Karen M. Cushing, Miss House Island; Jan A. Sullivan, Miss Peaks Island and Grace A. Kraul, Miss Long Island. (The exhibit was sponsored by IDA at the invitation of City Manager Watt, in advance of Open House Day).

Photos by Harry Ward from original paintings.
Aiding Development In Casco Bay

Leaders in Casco Bay Development activities are Robert Elliott, top left, director of recreation promotion, Department of Economic Development (changing his film at Chebeague Island) and, lower, left, City Manager Graham H. Watt at Peaks Island. Top right, Winthrop K. Deane, president of IDA, presenting an appreciation scroll to Senator Robert L. Porteous, Jr., who represented Governor Reed on Open House Day. (2) Manager Watt cuts ribbon at Long Island for symbolic dedication of new state-owned wharves. Looking on are Lester M. Willis, vice-president, Chamber of Commerce, Miss Long Island and Senator Porteous. (3) Eugene Wilkins, manager of Station WGAN caught by cameraman Dewey Dow as he visited the historic 5th Maine Regiment Center at Peaks, greeted by Mrs. Charles M. Ritchie. (4) Mrs. Albert Balcom, proprietor of Fisher Lodge, on Peaks Island, as she prepared to greet 75 visiting Grangers in her newly enlarged harbor view dining room — this season’s development progress. (5) Genial and informative commentator on Casco Bay cruises is captain of the newly remodeled Nellie G. III, Walter Swett. Open House Day program was on August 19th by City Proclamation.

Photos by D.E.D.; Chamber of Commerce; and Sargent.
OUR VERSATILE FIREBOAT!
by Louise Dunham

Come wind and rain, hail and flood, sudden severe illness, and, of course, fire, and the Portland fireboat — you'll find it right on the job at any hour of the day or night. A very versatile craft — this fireboat.

In the past fifteen years I recall three occasions of fires on Peaks Island — fires just too big for the island firemen (mostly volunteers) to cope with.

One fire started near Greenwood Garden in the early spring from a rubbish fire. It was a windy day, and the fire spread rapidly. Roofs caught on fire from blazing sparks. Although frightening at times, it was finally brought under control by the fireboat.

Another was a fire on the Military Base after the war. This fire got a big start because no one lived there. It was noticed from Cape Elizabeth and reported to the Portland Fire Department. A few houses burned, but mostly it was woodland, and the few buildings left on the Base. You could see this fire from the high buildings in Portland. I just couldn't look. The fireboat finally got it under control.

The third fire was in the summer and close to our cottage — just two houses beyond. The Oceanic House — a small hotel, was on fire.

My sister awakened me about three o'clock in the morning. The fire looked terrific — a great mass of flame that might easily spread in several directions. There were houses on every side.

The Peaks Island Fire Department was trying to cope with it. I thought our cottage was going; the fire seemed so close. Two women couldn't save much. I suggested that we put a few things in a small trunk and wheel it away to safety in our wheelchair.

Well, the fireboat came. The tide turned, but it was six o'clock — three hours later before we were sure we would be saved.

My sister suggested that I make some coffee and sandwiches for the tired firemen. I did as did several others. The men were grateful.

Now the unusual function of the fireboat is to take severely ill people to Portland to the hospital. A jeep is maintained which will take ill people to the boat. Quite a service on our island where there is no resident doctor! It has often been reported that we can get to the hospital quicker than we can get a doctor on the mainland!

The fireboat may not have the artistic appeal of the huge oil tankers and destroyers which visit our port or have the agility of the tugs or the beauty of some of the yachts that visit us during the summer, but we just could not do without her. She gives us security for all kinds of emergencies.
TREFETHEN-EVERGREEN IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION’S 50TH: 1912-1962
by Robert F. Skillings

The August 4 Annual Fair of the Trefethen-Evergreen Improvement Association at Peaks was used as a springboard for observance of its Golden Fiftieth Anniversary.

Among the “Golden Peaks Islanders” specially honored at the Fair supper were three charter members: Miss Jessie B. Trefethen (who cut the birthday cake), Miss Florence Alexander, and Arthur W. Libby. Others were Mrs. Norman Black, Mrs. Herman C. Littlejohn, Miss Kitty Grant, Mrs. Pauline Fielding Stevens, Miss Blanche Randall, Walter S. Winfield, and Alonso Foss.

Miss Peaks Island of 1962 (Jan Sullivan) served as junior hostess at the guest table, and Robert F. Skillings introduced the guests.

On Sept. 17, 1912, the Misses Mary and Mabel Davies entertained 19 islanders at their ocean-front home and proposed forming “an improvement association for the promotion of the welfare of all sections of Peaks Island.” Among the officers elected at this meeting were Simeon A. Skillings, president, Miss Mary G. Davies, vice president, and F. N. Calderwood, chairman of finance committee.

In 1913 the hall over Webber’s Store was hired, and committees set to work on such projects as street sprinkling, control of browntail moths, obtaining the Post Office sub-station (Trefethen), fire alarm, and, of course, boat service. Sunday vespers services were begun, and have continued to date.

Some of the highlights in the Association’s useful career have been bringing Sebago Lake water to Peaks in 1920, purchase of the Dayburn Casino in 1922, remodelling it for a club house and acquisition of a handsome fireplace in the lounge as a gift of the Misses Davies in memory of their father, E. H. Davies, president of Portland Gas Light Co., 1860 to 1906. This spacious club house has been the locale of a wide range of community activities every year during a ten-week season.

A boat raft was built and attached to Trefethen landing. A tennis court, built in the 30’s was greatly improved in the 50’s. Under the two-year term of Charles A. Holden as president, 1935-36, a campaign for a fire engine was successful. Mr. Holden stepped into the treasurer’s office and has held it for a record-breaking 25 years. In 1944 a library was established in the lounge in memory of Mrs. Walter B. Elwell.

Admiral Robert C. Huston, elected 1963 president, on retirement from his career in the Navy, led froces in refurbishing the Lounge, constructing a wharf and boat, and acquiring live Turnabout sailboats for the teaching of sailing, and for racing, especially for Junior Club members. A shore lot with 80 feet beach frontage was added in 1961.

SUMMER THEATRE — WANTED!
Perhaps Peaks Island can again take its place as a locale of summer theater along with Ogunquit, Kennebunk, Lake-wood, Brunswick, and Boothbay Harbor.

Portlanders and summer residents of Peaks Island would welcome the return of a summer theater. We have a building in Greenwood Garden. We have a big summer audience who would enjoy seeing plays. Can’t we interest somebody?

HATS OFF TO KATHERINE STEWART
A lot of work and a bright piece of accomplishment is represented in the attractively produced story of “Peaks Island As It Was” — a memory tour of this island in its heyday. Mrs. Stewart, who grew up here, speaks from experience and the authenticity of her talk-along is impressive. Almost sold out on its first publication, a few copies are still available at $1.50. Address her directly if you wish one.

Meanwhile she’s busy compiling a history of the Fifth Maine Regiment to be on hand for visitors at the historic Fifth Maine Community Center. Mrs. Stewart does our island good.

Tennis court leadership and instruction has been furnished for years by Perrine G. Rockafellow, member of a former National Doubles Championship team, and now professor of Physical Education at Colgate University. Paul S. Yarrington, tennis captain at Deering High School, and president of the Association’s Junior Club, was coached by him.

Other leadership is provided by Mrs. Joseph H. Callan of Pelham Manor, N. Y., an officer of the American Water Color Society, as recent president, and the Rev. Nathanael M. Gupll of New York City, director of the Council for Church and Ministry of the United Church of Christ, on the committee on religious services.

Analysis of the Association’s membership last year showed that 70% had winter residences in many states other than Maine. This may be a typical illustration of how droves of out-of-staters flock to our islands to add to the pleasantness of life and to give substantial boosts to our economy.

The Association, in its 50th year, with over 450 senior and junior members, plans a second tennis court and dreams of a swimming pool. It keeps its feet on the ground and its treasury out of debt, and continually reminds its members of the original objectives incorporated in its by-laws, “the improvement of Peaks Island — and the advancement of its religious, intellectual and social life —.”
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND BRIDGE KEY TO BUILDING BOOM

During a recent and interesting interview with a prominent Chebeague Island real estate broker, three highly significant factors in the future potential of the Island as a desirable location for real estate development in both year-round and summer homes were brought into sharp focus.

First, any appreciable development in real estate transactions and home building is definitely dependent upon a successful conclusion of the seven-year-long campaign for State authorization of a toll bridge connecting Chebeague Island with the mainland. Construction of the Bridge will unquestionably stimulate a building boom on Chebeague, with its 2000 acres of shore property within a twenty-minute ride by car to Portland, once the Bridge is built.

Second, many out-of-state owners of summer homes on Chebeague have indicated an interest in the possibility of winterizing their homes for year-round living, when and if the Bridge is built.

Third, an increasing number of inquiries come in from people who have retired from active business or professional life and who are seeking desirable home sites within their means and away from congested areas. Accessibility by car seems to be a first consideration of most of those seeking information concerning Chebeague Island property.

LONG ISLAND IMPROVEMENT

Through the action of City Manager Graham H. Watt, the unsightly car dump at Long Island has been vanquished. This long problem, now resolved, will remove a barrier to development and values in this scenic area.

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND BRIDGE

Auto license plates from 29 states, the District of Columbia, Ontario and Quebec Provinces, Canada, and Bermuda, were noted in August by Chris and Sam Pedersen on a check-list they maintained at their Peaks Island Garage. Visitors from the 29 states outside of New England represented Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

PEAKS TOWERS 'EM FROM ALL OVER

The fame of Maine and of Casco Bay is spreading.

FOR SALE

Three bedroom home — Year round
Island Ave., Peaks Island
Excellent condition — Extra land
Garage — Fenced Lot — Only $15,000.

Thomas R. Lynch — PO 6-2065

ROLAND HOAR

Carpenter — Builder — Electrician
Peaks Island

FOR SALE

4 bedroom cottage near boats. Also attractive year-round 3 bedroom house, furnished.
Miss Murphy, Real Estate Broker
Peaks Island — PO 6-2066

PHILIP A. SEABURY

Real Estate Broker
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND, MAINE

CHUCKLES

Dinner guest: Will you pass the nuts, professor?
Professor: I suppose so, but I should flunk most of them.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

VACANT STORE
Peaks Island
Proven year-round retail location. New boat landing on Welch Street. Ideal for general merchandise, snack bar, or service shop. Rent only $60 monthly.

A. V. COMFORT
PO 6-2057

O. P. PETERSON CO.
New and Used Propeller Exchange
Silver Plating, Household Items
Chrome Plating, Marine Hardware
SPECIAL BRASS GIFTS
Visit Factory Showroom
60 Union Street, Portland
SP 2-5334

CONTRACTING
AND BUILDING
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND
Lewis Ross — VI 6-4080

HAROLD J. TODD
General Contractor and Builder
HOME APPLIANCES
Chebeague Island
VI 6-4090

TWENTY-TWO PROPERTIES PURCHASED ON PEAKS ISLAND IN '62

Five states and one foreign country are represented in new residents of Peaks Island. A resume of 1962 property transfers reveals the following:

Name Location Where From
M. Brewer
A. J. Pierce
M. Matthews
G. Sargent
J. Mitchell
M. Burton
Maj. C. Walters
Col. F. Kroschel
A. B. Sterling
W. Hughes
G. Kline
N. Sullan
K. Stover
Miss N. Grimm
Rev. E. F. Croy
J. Walsh
K. Coth
L. Kaine
R. McGlone
W. Green

LOCATION
Bay Rd.
Beach Rd.
Tolman Hs.
Tolman Hs.
Tolman Hs.
Tolman Hs.
Tolman Hs.
South Ave.
Church Ave.
Whitehead St.
Eaton St.

FOR CONTRACTOR

Home Federal Savings and Loan Association
480 Congress Street, Portland
SP 2-8376

FROM THE BRUNSWICK RECORD

BAILEY ISLAND — A Tourist Promotion Committee for Orr’s and Bailey Island is being organized by the businessmen in the area in order to better the islands’ facilities for both visitors and the islanders.

Cheers . . . and Best Wishes to our Neighbor Islands

CHILTON PAINT CO.
232 Middle Street
Portland
Maine

Let us save you money on your paint requirements.

Direct factory branch.

WALL PAPER, PAINTS and LADDERS.

SP 2-5671

Paint - Glass - Electric Supplies
Sulkowitch Hdw. & Paint Co.
Plumbing Supplies
363 Fore St., Portland
SP 2-1406