TED RAND RUNNING

Casco Bay's own Ted Rand of Little Diamond Island is running for Portland City Council, hoping to take the vacancy of the retiring Harold Loring. Loring, always a staunch friend of the islands has served fifteen years and is currently Mayor. If Rand is elected, the Islands would happily have "our own man" in City government. Ted has served for five years on the Portland Planning Board and is past president of CBIDA.

CBIDA STEERING COMMITTEE
Stanley Williamson, President
E. Russell Edwards, Vice President
Stuart Laughlin, Recording Secretary
Mary Deane, Corresponding Secretary
Winthrop Deane, Treasurer

Cliff Island Roger Berle, Johanna von Tilting, Herbert Vortisch
Chebeague Mrs. Henry A. Dyer
Cushing Peter Murray, Sidney Thaxter
Great Diamond Robert Laughlin
House Island Hilda Cushing Dudley
Little Diamond Theodore Rand
Long Island I. James Coolbrith, Robert Hickok, Norman Hutchinson
Off Island Dr. David Fink, Peter McLaughlin
Peaks Island Robert Carrier, Carl Hall, Howard Heller, Harriette & John Johnson

Carl Hall, David Fink and Winthrop Deane were appointed transportation committee.

Oil slicks and black smoke from tankers anchored in Casco Bay should be reported to Portland Pipe Line (767-3231) or to the office of the State Environmental Protection Department. For air pollution call 775-6587; for water pollution call 773-6491.

UNITED NATIONS BALL

An overflow crowd of more than 500 attended the United Nations Ball on Oct. 18. The event will be chaired next year by Olga Proudian, wife of the Honorary French Consul in Portland. This year's committee of fifteen, headed by Ms. Eva Horton, president of Kristia Associates (importers of Norwegian stoves through the port of Portland) can take the kudos for success.

CBIDA GOALS FOR 1975-1976

A recent formulation of the CBIDA purpose is as follows:

"Working for the common good and general community welfare of the Casco Bay Islands with special emphasis on the residential and environmental protection of this unique area of Maine."

Aims for the next year include:
1. Broaden community services and offer support of the community efforts of each island.
2. Get out of the land business and work towards a tax exempt status.
3. Plan a Fourth of July bicentennial event which would relate to all the islands. A suggestion is to work with the state Indian Commissioner to invite Maine Indians for a bay wide festival."
FOR A DISH OF POTTAGE?

Twenty years ago, Hilda Dudley saw possibilities of making a living on abandoned House Island. Recently she entertained the Sierra Club with her unique combination of wilderness and primitive facilities.

She still has a daughter attending Portland High School. Mrs. Dudley herself provides transportation to the mainland. Through the years there have been emergencies on House Island. The Coast Guard rather than the fire boat has sometimes responded.

Through the years Mrs. Dudley has barely been able to pay her taxes out of the hard-earned income won from her historic island in Casco Bay. Now this island is valued at more than $100,000, with taxes designed to force sale to anyone better able to pay a four figure annual tax.

The widest part of House Island, where Fort Scammel is, measures not more than 450 feet. With the state law that there be no buildings erected closer than 200 feet from presently wild water frontage, of what use to the City of Portland is House Island, other than that by year it brings people from far and wide for a few precious hours on a Casco Bay island?

Herbert Vortisch's ancestors were among the first to settle on Cliff Island. Since his father died twenty years ago, the living for himself and his mother, now 82, has come from lobstering. Like so many whose living is from sea or soil, he and his mother meet as many of their own needs as they can by their own efforts.

The $356 tax on her 30 acres was the largest single cash outlay he had to plan for in 1973, when lobstering was already giving a diminishing return.

The 1974 assessment was $2304. Would it be for the benefit of Casco Bay and the City of Portland for him to take his mother off the island her ancestors settled? Cliff Island residents think not. The fewer year-round residents, the sooner the break-down of the mutual-aid system that protects Cliff Island from vandalism.

People have summered on Cliff Island for generations not only because they have only to take the telephone off the hook to escape the last urban pressure. People still come because they appreciate the style of life that Herbert Vortisch and his mother represent. Once they and others who carry Cliff Island in their blood are driven from the island, the vacuum will attract the despoilers who leave only trash when they move on.

Who would pay $79,640 for the 30 acres? Cliff Island is all shore-front acreage, with the 200 foot restriction. The present owners have seen that the most recently bored wells have lowered the water level in all the wells. Cliff Island has reached the population level the water will support.

The overvaluation of Casco Bay Island property is more than the personal tragedies of people who cannot afford either to pay the taxes or to take the City of Portland to court. It is Portland's destruction of a precious heritage in order to meet a present need for cash.

The date of the 1976 Fair is tentatively set for August 21. CBIDA is still looking for a chairman.

JUNK CARS

The junk cars from Peaks Island have gone to recycling in Everett, Mass. Long Island will be next. The junk cars there are already collected at the dump.

Vote for TED RAND

December 1

for City Council
The Peaks Island Conference Center Corp. plans to sponsor a Swedish language training program next summer for students throughout the United States who have been chosen to spend their senior high school year in Sweden. The program is scheduled for the last two weeks in July and the first week of August. Teachers and counsellors will be provided by the Students International Service of Europe. The classes would also be open to island residents.

DOE ON PEAKS
A doe --- or perhaps two of them --- was seen on Peaks Island in August. She was first spotted near the woods on the northeast of the island on August 13. Later, one was seen early one morning, emerging from apple trees behind the house across Island Avenue from the Dairy Bar.

THE VIEW FROM CHEBEAGUE
On October 17, just before the rains that put an end to the peak fall foliage on the Casco Bay islands, the roving reporters enjoyed a day on Chebeague Island. We visited at a cottage from which we looked towards Bustins Island and South Freeport, as well as at the Stone Pier from which the boat leaves for the Cousins Island connection with Greeley High.

Chebeague Island, the one CBIDA island not a part of Portland, is a reminder to the rest of us that the CBIDA focus is on no more than half of the Casco Bay Region.

While the rest of us are interested in the Portland water front serving us better, Chebeague Island also dreams of a Cumberland Foreside deep water town landing that will serve Chebeague Island more directly than the present island-hopping connection with the rest of the town of Cumberland. The cost to Cumberland of acquiring the property and building the landing is estimated at a million dollars.

"An island is a body of land completely surrounded by water," so stated the old school geography. A body of land, Peaks Island in Casco Bay, has meant much to me through many summers.

Held as a small child, I was delighted to view a strangely beautiful world thru colored window-panes of the Chapman House. The hotel, in a wooded region, not far from the shore, is now almost legendary. It was destroyed by one of several big island fires.

In my youth, Peaks' easterly section was primitive. A woods road, scarcely more than a trail, led to a mile distant grocery store.

No vandalism occurred. From unlocked doors, we went forth to pick raspberries, fish for cummers from the rocks, dig gum from spruce trees, frolic in the cove water, or paddle about in an old punt, "The Yacht Minnie".

We brought drinking water from a nearby spring. Driftwood stumps and woodland slash yielded fuel for stove and fireplace.

At Forest City Landing the Gem Theatre evolved with a fine stock company. I remember accompanying my family over the woods road to the theatre. We hid our oil lanterns in the underbrush before entering the settlement.

July Fourth was a gala day. The Casco Bay steamer PILGRIM brought crowds from Portland. There were street shows, a dog race, a balloon ascension, and, in Greenwood Gardens, a merry-go-round, also some small caged animals. I was refreshed at Bracketts Ice Cream Parlor. At night cottages were illuminated by colorful Japanese lanterns --- a pretty sight.

Following the quiet life of the Back Shore, the day was quite thrilling.

On warm summer evenings, I would look up at the stars, listen to the whip-poor-will, and sometimes fall asleep in the porch hammock.

Years have brought progress and conveniences, but I sometimes like to think of the old days.

Cora Caroline Clifford

What this country needs is a small car that can run on the fumes of the big cars — thus creating only a little smell from a big stink.
ANNUAL MEETING

The sky was no more than threatening at noon on August 24 when the Buccaneer arrived at Peaks Island with the Portland contingent for the annual meeting already aboard. After the rest of us had scrambled down the slip of the CBL wharf, with due ceremony our guest of honor, 85 year old charter member Cora Clifford was carried aboard on the arms of willing men.

The Buccaneer took us on a cruise of Casco Bay as contingents were picked up from the other islands. The return to House Island was outside Long and Peaks Islands and through the fishermen's passage between Peaks and Cushing. We hadn't gone far on this part of the voyage when rain drove those of us on the open deck to seek shelter with those who already crowded the roofed over space.

By the time we reached our meeting place we were ready for the hot coffee our hostess, the owner of House Island, Hilda Dudley, made available for us. Only a few brave souls went through with the exploration of Fort Scammell that was one of the attractions promised us.

The feature of the meeting was Miss Kendra Erico's presentation of her Portland High School class of '75 valedictory on Democracy. She gives us reason to be proud of our Casco Bay Island young people.

With this meeting we welcome House Island to the roster of CBIDA islands, and Hilda Dudley as a valuable addition to the steering committee.

CBIDA FINANCES

By the time of the annual meeting the net proceeds from the Fair and Auction held two weeks previously was $902.42. For the second year the Fair was held at the Fifth Maine Community Center. Occasion was made to introduce the Fifth Maine Drum and Bugle Corps to the historic building, a real contribution to Peaks Island summer activities.

The other major source of CBIDA income during the 1974-75 season was $1,018.00 in dues. Broader membership support on the part of island people who have a real stake in the activities of the association will contribute even more effectively to the thrust of CBIDA, and be even more representative of the great variety of viewpoints on the part of people who enjoy life on Casco Bay.

CBL RATE INCREASE LIMITED

Through the efforts of Attorney Peter Murray the Public Utilities Commission granted Casco Bay Lines a rate increase of 4.9% instead of the 12.6% requested. CBL has now been denied a reconsideration of the rate increase decision, but is exploring further avenues. CBIDA is watching with interest.

Thanks to help from the Associations of Cliff, Long and the Diamonds, and from the 5th Maine Regiment Community Center, the Lions Club and the Veterans Post on Peaks Island, the cost of Peter Murray's efforts on our behalf has been fully met.

OCTOBER STEERING COMMITTEE

At its October meeting the CBIDA Steering Committee heard Rafael De Pezz tell of plans the City Council has OKed to improve the waterfront and the Commercial Street area. Projects still in the tentatively planned stage include a new Casco Bay Lines facility at Pocahontas Wharf and a more adequate public landing at Portland Pier.

There will be additions to public parking, though the land available is not enough for the estimated 3000 daily spaces needed. Commercial and Fore Streets are to be re-designed to give greater consideration to people on foot, as well as to add a bit of green space to the area.

CASCO BAY HEALTH COUNCIL

The Casco Bay Health Council is ready to accept contributions and pledges towards the establishment of the Health Center on Peaks Island. The Maine Medical Center is providing the professional furnishings at the Elizabeth Street site, as well as the salary of the Nurse Practitioner. (Eventually, the Maine Medical Center will be reimbursed through fees.)

The cost of the building, its upkeep, and the furnishings primarily for the comfort and convenience of people are the responsibility of island folk through the Casco Bay Health Council. The Health Council is watching carefully to see that the physical setting of our Health Center is appropriate to the island life style and in line with island pocket books. John Feeney, the treasurer, is glad to hear from anyone with a contribution.