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Munjoy Observer

Portland Renewal Authority

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Community Relations Committee Formed

Editorially Speaking

Summer and Eastern Promenade

The Munjoy-South Renewal area lies adjacent to the most unique natural facilities. Namely, Portland's Eastern Promenade — with its excellent East End Bathing Beach — boat launching ramp — Fort Allen Park — summer activities.

Just a few steps from any home in Munjoy-South are the recreational facilities that any area in large metropolitan cities would envy.

Renewal of the Hill is in keeping with a Boost Portland campaign. Below are scenes which prove our point.

Enjoying a June day at the Promenade beach are: Mrs. Virginia Dalonzo, and Mrs. Ralph Mastro both of Federal Street; and Mario Rotolo of 192 Congress Street. Tots are Anita, Irene and Diane Mastro, and Gina Dalonzo.

Launching their boat at the Promenade Ramp are: John Derrig of Kenmilton Street; and friends John Redmond and Jackie Jr. Read Street; and John F. Fife, Deering Avenue.

Air view of the Promenade and Fort Allen Park.

Engine Two:

Ninety-nine Years Of Fire Protection

by Daniel Serota

Next year Engine Company No. Two Fire Station will celebrate their centennial anniversary. For nearly one complete century Engine Company No. Two has stood on the summit of Munjoy Hill like a silent sentinel watching lest a dangerous fire burst forth from an unexpected quarter.

Engine Company No. Two has a wealth of personal history and a long record of community service. On January 4, 1864, the old Falmouth Steam Engine Company No. Two was organized officially. It was governed democratically with annual elections and by-laws, designated in modern terminology as a Call Department. This Call Department consisted of eight volunteers on twenty-four hour call and one full time salaried fireman. The elected Director (Captain) of the station was paid a nominal salary for his service.

The Engine Number Two Station House was ready for occupancy in January, 1865. The first fire it attended was on February 16, 1865, where it extinguished in sparkling

Planting and Doorway Contest Opens

An interesting outgrowth of the spring Clean-Up Drive is the development of a Community Relations Committee evolving from the same "eager beavers" who did such a good job with the first project.

Under the stimulating leadership of the Rev. Ralph L. Miller, the Committee has enlarged itself and adopted new projects for the summer.

"The aim of this Committee is to promote improvements around homes and streets, to beautify outward appearance, discourage litter and emphasize clean-up week every week," according to the minutes of the first official meeting.

Attached to this issue of the Munjoy Observer will be found an entry form for joining a Planting and Doorway Contest. This should be an exciting program which will provide ideas for improvements within the reach of many residents on the Hill.

In addition the group plans a Community Bulletin Board which will help provide news and notices supplementing this paper. (The paper will not be published regularly during the summer). People may also

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"Mr. Fixit" Is Man of Many Interests

Stuart Reynold Collins is the PRA's maintenance man who travels hither and yon at the behest of a multitude of problems and chores.

A former longtime resident of Sheridan St. Collins — more usually known as “Stu” — now resides in the Bayside area on Oxford Street.

His is a busy schedule indeed. When he's not on the run for Renewal, he's baking beans for Burnside and Morrill! Weekend housewives might be appalled to be faced with the quantity of beans Stu bakes nearly every night. One and three fourths tons of dry beans! He won't give us the trade secret recipe, but we did learn that he doesn't soak them, as most of us do. He puts a mere 297½ pounds in each big iron pot; he bakes them for seven hours, and “saucers” them every half hour. And “we have the best beans in the United States,” he loyally proclaims. He's one of 27 bean-bakers who work three shifts with nine to a shift.

“Stu's” shift enables him to work a daylight trick with the Portland Renewal Authority starting early afternoon. When he arrives home at seven in the morning he's likely to find a list of calls awaiting him before he goes to morning nap. The real urgent ones will get an immediate response; those that can wait until he catches his shut-eye, will take their turn in the afternoon and early evening schedule.

Chores pertain chiefly to property the PRA has acquired and may run something like this:

There’s a dead rat in the alley. A pipe has burst. A ceiling is falling. The roof leaks. The lights have failed. A fence is needed. A house must be boarded up. A stove must be unhooked for a relocating resident. The PRA site offices must be cleaned. Something needs hauling, painting, carpentering, mending, and tending for people, people, people who are involved in one or more Renewal projects.

Good natured and jovial, Stu absorbs them all with a grin, and somehow finds time between chores and beantime to do such extra things as help put on a variety show now and then — (an amateur master of cere-

CONTEST — Continued from page 1

post ads on the Bulletin Board for one week at a time.

The Committee welcomes suggestions from the neighborhood and volunteers can be very helpful in carrying out the projects.

FREE FLOWER SEEDS FOR JUNIORS ARE PROVIDED BY
THE COMMITTEE AND WILL BE GIVEN OUT BY MRS. ROYAL CALEB FROM HER HOME AT 50 WATER-

VILLE STREET FROM JUNE 15-29.

Household Items for Sale:

Large bureau with mirror and glass top, sectional bookcase with desk, and 3 section bookcase. Mrs. Charles H. Thomas, SP 3-1422.

Ed. Note: - Items such as this will be welcome on the new Community Bulletin Board which will soon be erected by the Community Relations Committee adjacent to the Congress St. Methodist Church.

THESE REHOUSED CHILDREN — with their mother — were ably assisted by Relocation worker Anne Armstrong. Their home on Anderson Street was made comfortable through maintenance assistance by Stuart Collins. They were relocated from the clearance area of Munjoy South into a home of their own. Left to right are: Rhonda Lynn, Donna Lee, Lawrie Anne, Cheryle Ann, Betty Jean and Edwin Charles.

Information Requested

There may be many more rehabilitation projects going on in Munjoy-South than the PRA knows about. Not all have occasion to consult the PRA if they are managing their own improvements independently.

Whatever your arrangements we are interested in hearing about your projects. They all contribute to the improvement of the neighborhood and we would like to make as complete a record as possible of such activity.

Please call SP 4-6278 and ask for Mr. Pleat, if you have information of this nature.
FALMOUTH ENGINE 2 — One of the old steam engines, usually hand drawn, which was used at Engine 2.

MODERN FIRE TRUCK — On guard for the Hill. (driver, Pvt. Frank Herbert).

ENGINE TWO — Continued from Page 1

fashion a flaming Smoke House on Silver Street. In its second year of operation Engine No. Two served at sixteen fires. Their mode of transportation and fire-fighting apparatus consisted entirely of one horse-drawn steam Engine — primitive by modern standards but incredibly effective then.

Today, Engine No. Two Company has one fire engine supplemented by a Civil Defense Jeep and tank. Engine No. Two Company achieved undying immortality in the hearts of Portland's citizens for their valor exemplified during the Great Fire of 1860.

This company heroically stood its ground in the path of onrushing flames for seventeen hours constantly at work sometimes without water or help but never without courage or devotion to duty.

When comparing the old Call Department of the Nineteenth Century to our modern fire-fighting team, one sees more efficiency, greater speed, and better equipment for combating man's ancient enemy — uncontrolled flames. At present Fire Engine Company No. Two stations twelve salaried firemen subdivided into three shifts each containing four men. Personnel includes one Captain, one Lieutenant and ten Privates. Today's typical Private must be versatile in his duties alternating as a hoseman, hydrant man or driver. Over one hundred and twelve hours of fire-fighting was accounted for in 1962 alone.

The boundary limits Engine Company No. Two is expected to service depends upon the fire alarm system; one alarm — the Munjoy Hill District, two alarms — the Peninsula area, three alarms — nearly the entire city, and four alarms — the entire city. After each and every fire the strong and weak aspects are studied carefully so that the strong points are strengthened and the weak points are concentrated upon to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

The Company fulfills its more routine chores during leisure hours. The men are required to spend a little time each day cleaning the station and equipment. The men have fire inspection duties on a rotating schedule. Approximately two thousand fire inspections are completed each year. The average work week consumes sixty three hours of their time.

In the final analysis the public is often unaware of the work of these community servants. The “Munjoy Observer” takes great pride in recommending the Engine Company No. Two for a century of dedicated service to Portland and particularly to Munjoy Hill.


Taxes And Maintenance?

There is no increase in real estate taxes for maintenance or repair of your property. There is no decrease in real estate taxes if you permit your property to become run-down or dilapidated.

Listed below are some of the things which will add to the appearance and resale value of your property without increasing your taxes:

Paint — Lawns — Blacktop or concrete surfacing (residential) — Re-decoration — Shrubbery.

The following items may be replaced with similar types:

Heating systems — Roofing — Doors — Baths — Stairs — Window frames.

When something new and of value, not just a repair or replacement but permanent in nature, is added to your property you add tax, but in most instances the increase is negligible.

Architectural Advice Now Available

Through a contract with architect John Calvin Stevens and the PRA the availability of architectural advice is now in operation.

First to use the service was MSA President Dan Haley who reports complete satisfaction with this new service. He has obtained the information he needed in order to carry out some remodeling in the fall.

Anyone wishing to make use of the service may make arrangements by contacting the PRA Munjoy-South office — SP 4-6278.

Prize Committee At Work

Mrs. Leon Israelson and Miss Jean Pitts are in charge of lining up the eighteen prizes to be offered for the Planting and Doorway Contest. It is rumored that they are going out after some real worthwhile prizes and that the lucky winners will be well rewarded for their efforts. All the more reason why it is hoped many entries will be received. Watch the Bulletin Board for continuing news of the Contest.

Aid For Flower Gardeners and Lawn Planters

Through arrangements of the PRA a special price on loam can be obtained providing several residents chip together to make a group purchase, or if one purchaser requires enough to be worth while transporting. Information about loam can be obtained by contacting James Pleat at the Munjoy-South office.

Garden books are also available at the office. Anyone needing any special advice on their garden and window box needs should also consult with the Community Relations Committee which will try to track down the kind of assistance requested.

CAPT. SAMUEL GERBER points to the "birth certificate" which tops the First Alarm Response and Location schedule. The plaque reads: Engine Co. No. 2, Organized Feb. 6, 1864.
26 Monument St. Has Charm

A pretty little home owned by Mrs. Dorothy Shaw at 26 Monument Street has a new side. Reason was the recent demolition of the corner house next door which had been too close to allow Mrs. Shaw's house to be completely recovered. Now the new side and the more open space around the house adds to the comfort and attractiveness of her home. (Photo 3)

Little House Saved From Demolition

If a house could talk this one would say "Thank you." Two years ago it was a dilapidated structure with a black line around its location on the area map. This meant that on first inspection it was considered beyond redemption and thus slated for demolition.

Since the early classification was before the action stage of the Munjoy-South program, some new owners bought the quaint little structure with dreams of their own in mind, and not aware that the house had already received a death sentence.

The new owners — appropriately named Percy and Charity Penney — put more than a penny's worth of time and money in action. Today the house has a new steam heating system, asphalt roof, new kitchen, exterior paint, and decorative flower plantings. The Pennys plan to renovate the garage for a tool shed.

The home is one that anyone can well be proud of and, oh, yes, don't worry! It has been removed from the demolition listing! (Photo 2)

A Fourth Of July New Program

Special events coming along in Munjoy-South's front "dooryard" include the Soap Box Derby to be sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce late in June; and the Fourth of July program sponsored by the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce.

A new feature this year will be a Northern New England water skiing contest arranged by County Commissioner Arthur Charles.

There will be a teenage dance on the Tennis Court, and a band concert and fireworks in the evening.

A Salute To The Corner Store

At the beginning of the planning stage for the Munjoy-South Renewal Project, professional planners felt that it made good economic sense to combine the miscellaneous corner stores, barber shops and other facilities such as launder-mats and shoe shine shops — into one small but all-inclusive Shopping Center.

But the friends of the Corner Store resisted vehemently. So much so that the plan was altered and wherever possible — without obstructing the clearance and redevelopment program — the corner stores have been left alone. Of course there are a few exceptions where sub-standard structures or the total clearance area were involved.

However, by and large, the neighborhood store holds the heart of the community close to its existence and its friends are legion.

We stepped into one the other day and no doubt it is symbolic of most such neighborhood centers. A tidy, well-equipped store it had the usual non-edible specialties which most stores carry nowadays, a few toys, and household supplies, as well as drugs and sundries.

But most important of all was the friendly manner of the storekeeper. An elderly man with cane was buying a paper — but along with his small purchase came an inquiry from the storekeeper about his wife's health and a bit of casual chit-chat which might have been the brightest spot in his day.

Commenting on the attractiveness of the store we heard this remark from the owner: "You know our customers are not just customers, they're our friends. Once when we were out of lights during a storm an elderly lady nearby came all the way over to bring us a lamp. See what we mean?"
PLANTING AND DOORWAY CONTEST

Entry Blank

I wish to enter the planting and doorway contest.

Name.......................... Address..........................

Category: One................. Two.........................

Window Box Garden Plot Entrance____

Please return to CONTEST HEADQUARTERS, Munjoy South Site Office, 200 Congress Street.

Tear off here and mail or deliver.

The MUNJOY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE offers a planting contest for residents of the South area during the summer.

Category One: Adults

Window Boxes --- First, second, third prizes.
Lawn and Flower Garden Plots --- First, second, third prizes.
Entrance beautification --- First, second, third prizes.

Category Two: Juniors up to Grade Six.

Window Boxes --- First, second, third prizes.
Lawn and Flower Garden Plots --- First, second, third prizes.
Entrance beautification (such as painting mailboxes, doors, steps, and planting shrubbery or flower pots.)

Judging will be based on originality, beauty and improvement in property appearance. Contest will open during the last two weeks in June and close on August 19. Judging will take place August 19-24. Eighteen prizes to be offered...the first of which will be a hand-painted water color of the winner's home by artist Jean Pitts. Free flower seeds for Juniors will be given out by Mrs. Royal Caleb, 50 Waterville Street, along with entries in the contest.


Committee members:

The Rev. Ralph L. Miller, chairman
Mrs. Royal Caleb, secretary; Mrs. Leon Israelson, Jean Pitts, Maureen Mulkern. James Pleat, PRA, advisor and Mrs. Beatrice Chapman, consultant.