Summer 1963

Munjoy Observer

Portland Renewal Authority

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/citydocs_pra_newsletters

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/citydocs_pra_newsletters/6

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the City of Portland Documents at Portland Public Library Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Portland Renewal Authority Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Portland Public Library Digital Commons. For more information, please contact campbell@portland.lib.me.us.
Editorially Speaking

What Does Urban Renewal Mean To Munjoy South?

The American Government is attempting to improve the economic status of its citizens and urban areas. One aid is the federally financed Urban Renewal Programs. The American ideal symbolizes to all peoples both native and foreign a country of unlimited opportunity and abundance. However, sometimes this proud ideal becomes tarnished. Today nearly every large city in the United States and Europe has some form of urban renewal.

Portland’s Urban Renewal Program is concentrated in removing and rebuilding its more dilapidated sections. Munjoy South is Portland’s largest urban renewal project undertaken to date. Results have been slower than many Portlanders anticipated. One of the major reasons is inadequate community interest.

Three ingredients must be available before renewal in Munjoy South can be accomplished. These are a competent Urban Renewal Staff, active residential participation, and municipal cooperation. Renewal could founder indefinitely if the necessary coordination is lacking.

The City Departments and Portland Renewal are presently making an intensive effort to speed up the Munjoy South Project.

Individuals residing in Munjoy South now may wonder how they might help to accelerate the pace of the project. The Portland Renewal Authority welcomes all suggestions and complaints. Information furnished to our agency will be given careful consideration and thought. The more residents who actively participate, the quicker the project can be accomplished. Let us all lend a hand toward a worthy goal . . . restoring the former status of Munjoy South as one of the major showpieces of Portland.

85 Beckett Street is a number to remember. Here, we found Mrs. Lawrence Spera: a lover of the beautiful and spiritual.

As you approach 85 Beckett Street you are immediately taken by the two massive stone “Kings of the Jungle” that adorn the front entrance to Mrs. Spera’s home. The “Jungle Cats” are of white stone, and with appropriate shrubbery present a striking view to the passerby.

Then there is a garden: and what a garden! Here is where Mrs. Spera’s talents really shine: flowers and plants of every variety and color are on hand: with the colors and odors delighting eyes and nose.

In the center of the garden is a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. There is warmth and peace in the garden at 85 Beckett Street. One to be proud of. Congratulations, Mrs. Spera, we were happy to spend the time in a Munjoy garden as nice as yours.

85 Beckett Street represents a fine example of the new trend to better gardening in Munjoy South.

The Sea By The Hill

Every day the color of the sea changes —
To a different tone.
Shifting its waters
Warming momentarily by the hot sun
of the high noon shore
Depositing black-shelled mussels on the sand
To die there
Leaving scores of pearly interiors
To mark the tide of yesterday
Swept away again by tomorrow’s tidal waves.
The ocean itself being apart from death
Moving, growing, acquiring new
waters, new inhabitants
Enriched with the decay proteins
Of short-lived fish and vegetation —
Whose beauty and complexity are as difficult
To encompass
As creation, the origin of life —
Itself believed to have been the sun
and sea.

Written by Monica.
Sidewalk Survey

For something unusual your editor went for a walk along the promenade armed with camera, pencil and paper: looking for interviews with out-of-staters. We met some interesting people who were cooperative and photogenic as the pictures show (below).

Our first interview was with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Morris from Danvers, Mass. The Morris family had been to Dexter to view the eclipse, and were stopping by on their return home to get some views of Portland harbor. They told us that when they asked where the best view was they were told to visit along the Eastern Promenade. They love Maine and found the harbor beautiful.

An unusual tourist was Mr. Min Hara, an American-born Japanese from New York City, who originally hailed from Los Angeles. Mr. Min Hara’s plan is to visit all of the fifty states. Maine was one of the first on his list, and he found the city of Portland excellent for sightseeing.

It is always a pleasure to see so many of our French-Canadian friends in Portland during the summer months. It was our good fortune to talk to two of them. Actually, we talked to only one: Lucien Lapointe from Montreal. His friend was the shy type and didn’t want to reveal his name. This was their first trip to Maine. Mr. Lapointe told me in French. Fortunately my two years of high school French helped me to understand him. When asked on his views on Portland Mr. Lapointe replied, “Tres bien.”

Another Canadian couple from farther West were Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Lawrence of Toronto, Ontario. They liked the city with its harbor and surrounding islands. Mr. Lawrence thought that there was a need for more tourist information booths. Perhaps he has a point. What about the Eastern Promenade?

We saw many other visitors admiring the beautiful view of the harbor, and we often heard someone say how lucky people were who lived nearby in having such a view and to have swimming and boating at their front door.

Baby Of The Month

This month’s baby is two-month-old Michael Xavier Balzano of 52 Monument St. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Balzano, Sr. are the proud parents of this, their sixth child. Mike is very robust and laughs out loud when fully fed. Best of luck, folks.

Many Thanks!

Yes, many thanks from the staff at PRA to Maureen Mulkern who wrote and did the photographs for the summer issue of the Munjoy Observer. Thank you Maureen, and thank you to the Munjoy Community Relations Committee for making this issue possible.

Howard U. Heller, Director