1974


Island Citizens Association

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If your group is looking for a place to hold meetings, fund raising programs, or special activities — consider the Fifth Main Building on Seashore Avenue. It belongs to the community and is there for useful purposes by responsible groups.

Rich in history, it was erected soon after the Civil War ended by members of the Fifth Maine Regiment. As the years passed and the men married they began bringing their families there for vacations. At that time sleeping quarters were provided on the second floor and kitchen spaces were assigned. Time passed and their descendants were eligible to stay there in the elegant structure looking out to open ocean with the profile of Whitehead on Cushing Island directly across and crashing surf at their feet. But that was a long time ago and the descendants are very few now. It was deeded to the Island several years ago for its use and at present it needs life, activity, and members to keep it going.

At one time it contained items brought home by the Regiment members. Flags, weapons, saddles, letters, even a bill of sale for a slave, along with medals and other memorabilia. But without winter supervision it was deemed wise to send these things to the Archives in Augusta where they have become part of a permanent collection. People find the building interesting; with its commemorative windows bearing the names and ranks of the original members.

continued
Compiled By Dorothy Wright.

Sunday, June 9, is students day at Brackett Memorial Church. All Sunday School students will be participating in the Sunday morning worship service at 10 o'clock. Parents are especially invited to this service.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Monday through Friday of the weeks of August 5 thru 16.

The Jr. Methodist Youth Fellowship plans to spend the week of July 14 through 20 at the Methodist Camp (Camp Meahuwana) in Winthrop, Maine. Another breakfast and supper are planned to raise funds to help members meet expenses.

MAY 28 - The Brackett Memorial Mother's Club will hold their monthly meeting and there will be the installation of new officers. Any other meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of every month.

JUNE 8 - Saturday at Greenwood Gardens there will be an all-Western Show titled "Legend of Peaks Island Currents." and put on by Doreen McCann's Dancing School. The ages of the dancers will be from 4 to 18 years old and there will be 50 dancers participating.

The Senior Citizen's will hold their monthly meeting the third Wednesday of every month. They will hold a White Elephant Fair and Food Sale on Saturday, June 29. Volunteers are welcome. They are trying to raise enough money to install an electrical 220 outlet system.

MAY 25 - At 11 am, the United Methodist Women of Brackett Memorial Church will hold a Mini-Fair. There will be food and gift tables. Luncheon will be served.

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It was the first home of many Island organizations until they could raise funds for their own meeting place. It was also the site for many impressive events over the years -- the annual summer Miss Peaks Island Contest, hobby and art shows, musical evenings, bean suppers, Penny Auctions, and a reception for Governor Reed when the new ferry wharf was commissioned. Currently, the Peaks Island Music Association holds its annual Summer Concert in its acoustically fine hall.

It may be used for programs, teas, fairs, sales, displays, shows, bazaars, and suppers. Membership is extremely nominal ($2.00/year), so if you are interested in the preservation of one of our historical island landmarks, contact Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Peggy Harmon (766-2634) and ask about joining or renting the premises for your group's summer activities.

Remodeling Renovating

MAZZA-ROCKWOOD, BUILDERS
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Mark Rockwood Photo.
A MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE
Remember our boys in our prayers who fought and died for our country. Lest we forget.
... Dorothy Wright

On June 2, as the Christian world celebrates the feast of Pentecost which is the birthday of the church, the parish of St. Christopher held a birthday celebration. The Pentecost morning liturgy found the church decorated in the birthday motif of balloons and streamers all in red, the traditional color of the Holy Spirit. Young members of the parish had handed out invitations a week before to all parishioners to attend the "party" and had helped with the decorations. The girls had baked a huge birthday cake in Fr. Burns' kitchen and this was presented during the Mass.

The ceremony was conducted in ten languages to commemorate the gift of tongues conferred on Pentecost. Parishioners and other residents of the island read the lessons and gave greetings in French, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Welsh, Finnish, Polish, Russian, German, Gaelic, and Greek. After the Mass, all were invited to a birthday party in the parish hall to finish off the celebration.

A PROFILE OF DONNA McINTYRE

Donna is like everyone else in all the ways that are important. She laughs and suffers and understands. She sees and hears and thinks the way we all do. Her difference from others is a superficial one. Due to an accident at birth, Donna has cerebral palsy.

It was a difficult breech birth and during the struggle to be born, part of the afterbirth came out ahead of the baby. This resulted in a shortage of oxygen for the baby during its passage through the birth canal, and convulsions immediately following delivery. After that, the newborn flourished and became to all appearances a healthy infant, like Betty's two previous children, Dickie and Jeanie. However, when Donna was nine months old and still not sitting up, Betty took her to Dr. Sweeney on the Island. After examining this healthy baby's reflexes, he turned to Betty and said quietly, "I'm afraid she has cerebral palsy."

Many young mothers would have crumbled on hearing such final news. Betty, who already knew that life can deal you some rough hands, took the verdict standing up. Certainly, discovering that their baby had cerebral palsy didn't cheer her parents up, but they could hardly love her more than they already did and it never occurred to them to "put her away" in a home somewhere. Besides, with a three year old and a two year old to look after as well, Betty couldn't baby Donna. She would just have to go on being one of the gang.

This accepting attitude may have been largely responsible for Donna's triumph over her handicap. That and Donna's own conquering spirit. Betty would arrange two rows of chairs in the kitchen and place Donna in the alleyway between them, and Donna, moved by instinct like any other baby but forced by circumstances to work a lot harder, taught herself to walk by holding onto the chairs. Later on, Betty became a charter member of the Cerebral Palsy Center in Portland and Donna attended classes there where you get to use parallel bars instead of chairs.

Compiled by Anne Paris from interviews with Donna, her mother, Betty, and her aunt, Theresa.

My ten year-old came up to me as I was writing this article: "What are you writing about?" "Donna McIntyre. For the newspaper." "What are you writing about her for? She's just an ordinary person like everyone else."
FUND RAISING DRIVE
BIG SUCCESS

A warm thanks to everyone who has contributed to the ICA Legal Fund. The response has exceeded our hopes and we have nearly met our original goal of $500 already. Most exciting of all is the fact that most of the contributions have been in $5 and $10 amounts. That means that the people of Peaks Island are speaking up and doing what they can to fight the monopolistic greed of Casco Bay Lines. At this writing 47 people have contributed $393.67.

If you haven't sent in your contribution yet please do so now. We are still $106.33 short of our goal. If you have been following the hearings you know that you are getting your money's worth. Enough has been revealed already to justify a thorough study of Casco Bay Line's books and several possible violations of PUC rules have come to light. Of course, this means that our legal fees may be higher than originally expected. Every contribution is still pledged to fight this rate increase, but in addition this hearing may result in a substantial improvement of our ferry service.

Once again thanks to all of you who have contributed already:

Joe Hall
Florence N. Felton
Ernold & Eleanor Goodwin
Phyllis P. Howard
William & Barbara Leeman
Albert May
Ralph E. Murray

Bruce & Jackie Lincoln
Bud Perry
Sandy & Julie Zimmerman
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Wm. W. J. Nutter
Greg & Sue Scandlen
Brian & Jane Teftt
David K. Salvini

Please vote YES on June 11

One item on the ballot in the June primary will be a four million dollar bond issue to enable the state to acquire more land for wildlife management. The essential question this bond issue will answer is whether the people of Maine will continue their commitment to preservation of wildlife areas and the life chain we are all dependent upon.

In recent years, Maine has held the national spotlight for its enlightened policies of thoughtful development combined with responsible conservation. This year, with increasing pressures from inflation, joblessness and demand for land as a safe investment, will determine if concern for ecology is a passing fad which evaporates when the hard times come or if the people of Maine are really far-sighted enough to realize that every endangered species threatens us all.

The four million dollars will go towards a balanced program of land acquisition, 40-50% will go into upland areas; salt marshes and inland wetlands will each get 20-25% and eider nesting islands will get 5-10%. These figures are based on the need for the state to fill vacuums left by the efforts of private conservation groups, the pressure of development on certain types of habitats and the importance of the habitat in the life chain.

All readers are encouraged to vote YES on this bond issue.
POTENTIAL MAINE SEA URCHIN FISHERY ON ROCKS

A conference sponsored by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (Portland, March 21) to bring together Japanese fishery entrepreneurs, Maine firms, and individuals interested in the green sea urchin (Strongylocentrus drobachiensis) resulted in a major setback for the potential fishery. Although previous tests conducted by American Japanese food experts had described the flavor of the roe (eggs) from the Maine sea urchin as being of excellent quality, the Japanese representatives failed to find it comparable to their native product. It seems the previous samplers had become accustomed to the West Coast sea urchin roe to which most agree the Maine product is superior.

This potential fishery had developed much excitement along the coast as of late. The season for harvesting the roe-bearing urchins is early November to early April, the slackest time for most other Maine fisheries and in Japan the roe sold last year at prices as high as $21. per pound at the wholesale fish auctions. A small sea urchin fishery has been operating for years on the Maine coast, harvesting about 60,000 lbs. (total animal weight) and worth only from $3,500 to $4,000. to the harvesters.

Most of this present catch is shipped to markets in Boston and New York.

While Japanese interest in the Maine sea urchin has diminished there is some possibility that a market could be developed in Southern European areas—especially the Mediterranean—where sea urchin roe is also considered a delicacy.

TUNA—Fishermen from Glouscester are looking toward a productive tuna season with many of their number scouring the Maine coast for longline gear. Portland fish buyers are still uncertain whether or not they will be processing the fish for the Japanese market (little U.S. retail market exists for Bluefin Tuna the Americanspreferring Albacore), however, processors say they will know what market exists in the near future. What seems certain is that the Japanese will not repeat their efforts of last summer in sending one of their specially equipped vessels to Portland to oversee handling of the fish due to the disappointingly low catch from Maine waters last year. Most tuna handled through Portland last summer were caught by Canadians or Massachusetts vessels.

A new firm, Anguilla Fisheries, Inc., has expressed an interest in handling tuna for export along with their main product of elvers (eel larvae) if a sufficient number of vessels interested in the fishery can be located. Interested vessel operators might contact their fisheries manager, Dan Bonville, who had discussed their interest with me. His address is P O Box 202, Scarborough, Me 04074.

PEAKS ISLAND TAXI
BUD PERRY
766-2777
THE FIRST SALTY SATURDAY IN SPRING

Last week one was certain that winter was a forever thing. And that summer was just an assortment of leftover dreams and memories. But now... with this first thawing, blowiness and warming sunshine, it reassures the islanders that there WILL, indeed, be yet another busy summer with hot, luscious days for fairs, teas, boat rides and beaching.

The passenger boat from the mainland toots its approach to the landing and as passengers debark the air is staccatoed by surprise reunions with summer cottagers who 'just couldn't resist coming over for a first look since fall' --- 'drove all the way from Massachusetts for just one big breath of good salt air, even if it did take all my gas' --- 'can't wait to get settled in again and see everyone' Fortunately, there's a church supper on for tonight. Everyone can gather and talk over plans for the soon-to-be-here season, as well as comparative discussions of the past Christmas holidays, storms endured and approaching graduations and weddings.

The whine of chain saws felling and pruning trees hums along with the whiz and purr of outboard motors being overhauled and tuned. Men are scraping down their boats while radios contribute to the 'symphony-by-the-sea' with soprano chain saws, bass motors and tenor rock music blending in together.

After the afternoon's raking, walking, cleaning up and gathering sea moss to enrich garden soil, the church doors gather in its 'larger' family. After that a bright driftwood fire at home with hot drinks and an extra piece of apple pie is just right relaxing. It's good to neighbor again and smug to know you have outlasted Old Man Winter one more time.

-RUTH SARGENT

On Saturday, May 18, St. Christopher's Church on Peaks Island dedicated a replica of Michelangelo's famous sculpture, the Pieta, Rev. T. Lee Burns, pastor of St. Christopher's, has accepted the statue as a gift of the Charles Franco family on the occasion of the parish's 50th anniversary year celebration. It represents a favorite devotion of the parish. Further donations from other interested parishioners and other island residents have prepared and appointed a suitable alcove to enshrine the statue in a richly finished Florentine marble setting. The shrine will also provide the locus of the efferatory procession during celebration of the liturgy.

The Pieta is a well-known expression of Christian faith and art - the dead savior lying in the embrace of his mother's arms. Michelangelo sculpted his original from Carrara marble at the age of 22; it is probably his best beloved work. Enshrined in St. Peter's basilica in Rome, it was sent to this country by Pope John XXIII in 1964 on the 400 anniversary of the death of the artist; for two years it graced the Vatican Pavilion of the New York World's Fair. The statue being dedicated has been faithfully copied in 2/3 scale by one of the foremost Italian houses - Pall of Pietrasanta, situated on the same site where Michelangelo created his masterpiece.

Bishop Edward C. O'Leary celebrated the liturgy of dedication. Monsignor John G. 'Damny of Columbia University, a former summer resident of this island parish, preached the homily. Members of Brackett Memorial and the public were invited to attend.
At last came the day when Donna took her first independent step. Betty's sister, Theresa, recalls that it took place when Betty was in the hospital having her fourth child, Wendy. "Here, Donna. Come on. It'll be all right," Theresa consoled, thinking your mother shouldn't have to carry around a big girl like you when she gets home with the new baby. "Come on. You can do it. Come on, it's over."

And Donna took that first hesitant step. She was two years and two months old. For a C.P., this was a decided triumph. Donna's parents had taught her will to do things in every area and her family was always there saying, "You can do it. Just try once more." Sometimes it was agonizing to watch Donna's struggles to do a simple thing like buttoning up her sweater, but Betty sat on her hands and let Donna learn. She never overprotected her or held her back because of her own maternal fears for her child's safety. Donna has a pre-school memory of pulling two kids down a hill in a wagon, when she fell. She got up, of course, and went on. Edie Low recalls seeing Donna on her way to kindergarten, taking four or five steps, falling, getting up, taking four or five steps, falling, getting up, taking...Gary Roberts and her cousin, Eddie Latham were her reliable buddies in those days. Once the kids got used to her, Donna was teased like everyone else at the Peaks Island School. She had her nickname, too. Her father always called her "Lightening". One day the kids overheard him and from then on it was, "Hey, Lightening...!"

The difference between Donna and all the other kids was that she always put a lot more effort and enthusiasm into everything she did. Marge Erico says that Donna had to work a lot harder for her badges than the other Girl Scouts did, but she wound up earning more of them than girls who had no obstacles to overcome. Although muscle spasms made her voice sound a bit shaky, Donna sang in the Brackett Memorial Choir every Sunday. Every year she received a pin for perfect attendance at Sunday School. The year she graduated from Peaks Island School, the Best All-around Student Awards went to Donna McIntyre and Terry McCann.

When she got to Portland High School, she found herself limited in the courses she would be allowed to take. She was forbidden to take a business course because her writing wasn't small enough for bookkeeping. Had she taken the college course, she probably would have mastered it, but thinking that it would be too difficult, she took Home Economics instead. She started off getting C's. The next year she moved up to B's. From B's she progressed to A's, and finally to A's and the Outstanding Homemaker Award of silverware worth one hundred dollars.

When she was sixteen, she entered the Miss Peaks Island contest with six others. The whole island was encouraged to cast their ballot for the girl with the most charm, poise, and the best personality going for her. On the night of the crowning, as the contestants were lined up in their evening gowns to go onto the stage, Mrs. Fellows, the director of the event urged, "Now girls, be sure that you all congratulate the winner. Go up and give her a little kiss."

Donna thought to herself, I must have won and she thinks they wouldn't want to get near me, let alone kiss me, so she has to tell them. In fact, Donna did win. As Miss Peaks, she was seated in a clack chair on the back stage for foreign correspondents and diplomats. She was a leader in a Keep Our Island Beautiful anti-litter campaign. In the newspaper she was said to be "determined to find someone to keep up with her occupation within her capacity." The following January during C.P. month she received a standing ovation in the House of Representatives when she made a presentation to Gov. Curtis. House Speaker David J. Kennedy, commended her for her courage and perseverance.

All through high school, Donna worked as no one else did here. She was always required to do her share of household chores, without assistance. Her proud parents saw her graduate from MS in June, 1970, in a dress she had made herself. She received the Sandy Mininger medal for someone who has overcome a handicap and a watch from Day's.

DONNA'S GREATEST INFLUENCE

One of the people who had the greatest influence on Donna was Nannabelle, her grandmother, who was blind for many years. Donna used to say that she was Nannabelle's eyes and Nannabelle was her crutch. Watching her grandmother struggle to overcome her handicap, inspired Donna to overcome her own. Witnessing Nannabelle's unwavering faith, inspired Donna to develop a strong faith of her own. The turning point came when Donna was a Sophomore. That is the year when you go out in search of proof that you are loved and important. At this critical period, she discovered and read a book, KAREN, the story of a girl with cerebral palsy, who had found in Jesus, a friend who could share her worst suffering and her greatest joy. Donna cried that night, feeling that she needed someone like that in her life, too. Right then, she reached out to God and found that He was there. Since that night, she has known that she doesn't have to cope with life all by herself.

There have been plenty of opportunities for that faith to be tested. For two years following her graduation, Donna held a Job at Goodwill as an assistant supervisor over many handicapped people. Donna was one of three assistant supervisors. The other two were not handicapped. Although she never received a raise or a promotion during that time, although she was working on the dingy third floor of the old Goodwill on Free Street, she enjoyed the work. The young people with whom she continued on page 8
expected a handicapped person to be working at Goodwill. Like the typical teenager she was, proud and restless, she quit Goodwill to do more glamorous things. Since then, however, with exception of a summer job on the island, Donna has been searching constantly and unsuccessfully for an employer who will give her a chance to show that she can make good in a challenging job. First she tried three convents: Blessed Sacrament, Precious Blood, and Jesus of the Crucifix. All of them refused to accept her as a novice because of her handicap. She then applied to the hospitals and the day care centers, but was turned down for the same reason. Next she went to the department stores and finally to the factories. Time after time she received the heart-breaking putdown, "Sorry, we don't hire the handicapped." When she tried to get her job back at Goodwill, there were no openings.

Although she has an excellent disposition and an indomitable spirit, the sound of all those doors closing in the job hunt was a set back. How many times can you be rejected before you start to feel that people just don't want you around? Before you begin to doubt that you really earned all those awards? Maybe people were only feeling sorry for you? Sure they're willing to give you their little prizes but when it comes to something really meaningful, like personally going out on a limb to let you prove yourself in their company, then, "I'm sorry, we don't hire the handicaps."

One day, feeling very discouraged, she paid one last visit to Jobs. However there she was told, "I've looked everywhere for you, and I know you're not ready for this, but I think the only place you'll find work will be at something like Goodwill."

Donna was furious! After all, she was Miss Peaks. She had gone to the same schools as everyone else. Why couldn't she have a job like everyone else? Why couldn't she have a job like everyone else where you go up for promotions every six months? Why couldn't she be given a chance to prove that she could do it? It wasn't because she was incapable—she had proved herself at school—but because society places limitations on her. Society would rather pay her to sit around and waste her talents than have her lead a full and useful life. Then people complain about how taxes are rising. Donna is back in school now, taking courses that will prepare her for college. Sometimes, however, she is afraid that after four long years of hard work, her final report card, the college degree, she will still be told, "I'm sorry, we don't hire the handicapped."

Meanwhile, she is busy thinking of ways to help out her fellow C.P's. She is writing a letter to the editors of various newspapers suggesting that they change the way they use the term "mentally handicapped" to "Cerebral Palsied." She is writing a letter to the editor of the local newspaper suggesting that they change the way they use the term "mentally handicapped" to "Cerebral Palsied."

In John 9, Jesus is walking along when he sees a man who was blind from his birth. The disciples ask Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" Jesus says, "Neither one, but in order that God may be glorified through him." Then He heals the man.

Donna feels that God is glorified through her acceptance of her handicap and that some day in the Lord's time, she will be healed.