6-1977

Casco Bay Island Development Association Newsletter: Summer 1977

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The CBIDA Steering Committee, concerned over the up-coming rate hearing, addressed the following to Roger Putnam, GBL lawyer, as a statement of the CBIDA position, dating it June 11:

We acknowledge and thank you for your letter of June 1, 1977.

Because of the adverse effect that repeated rate hikes have had upon the Casco Bay Island communities, we oppose any rate hike at this time unless the PUC in its findings conclude that such a rate increase is justified and necessary.

We do not oppose a subsidy, providing that it would increase the efficiency and/or reduce the cost of the operation. A subsidy on this basis would enable Casco Bay Lines better to serve the public.

Because of the need for more information we suggest that there be a public hearing conducted by the PUC in Portland as soon as possible.

(signed) Stanley R. Williamson

JULY PROGRAM PLANS

CBIDA hopes to provide occasions for members to get together and know one another better through a series of summer events.

We hope that among all the local island activities, some can find their way to Peaks for at least one of the following. Call Harriette Johnson, 766-2562, to check final plans before you come.

Kentucky Fried Chicken Outing
On Sunday July 10 from 1 to 3, Battery Steele will be the site of a KFC dinner, picnic style, with home-made desserts, coffee and lemonade. Reservations, limited to 100, may be made with Harriette Johnson. Rain date will be the following Sunday. Bring pillows, blankets, etc. for your comfort.

Jason Mayes, a Cherokee Indian Executive Director of the Southern Maine Indian Association, will tell of island Indian lore, and what his organization is doing for Indians not living on reservation.

Profile Theater
Tentatively scheduled for July 11 at the Lions Club is Portland's popular resident theater company to present the comedy LUV by Murray Schiegal. We hope this introduction of legitimate theater on Peaks may help revive the historic era when Peaks was the first summer theater in the United States.

Artist-Humorist
Scheduled for July 22 at 8 in the Fifth Maine Community Center is a presentation by Ed Mayo of Kennebunk, widely known founder of the "Kennebunk Dump Association" who makes a lot of fun out of trash. While giving a running commentary he will paint and frame a picture which will be auctioned off for the benefit of the sponsors, the Fifth Maine Association and CBIDA.
The Steering Committee is checking the CBIDA course with compass bearingcharted at its founding twenty years ago.

In 1959, as well as the Civic Associations on the other islands, on Peaks Island there was the Trefethen-Evergreen Improvement Association, a merger of two earlier neighborhood associations initially formed by summer residents, and the Peaks Island Citizens Council which tried to carry on improvement activity in the interests of the whole island, year-round people as well as summer.

The founding meeting of the Casco Bay Island Development Association was held on August 8 in the new auditorium of the Peaks Island Public School.

In the second issue of NOR'by EAST dated July 25, 1959, the main purpose of the then named Island Development Association is declared to be "to reconstruct, maintain and develop the Casco Bay Islands, and in general to promote community development for and by the island residents themselves."

In 1959 the Peaks Island Citizens Council represented the island interests at PUC hearings on Casco Bay Lines rate increases, as well as joining with the newer IDA in sponsoring civic education and a clean-up campaign on Peaks Island.

The Citizens Council eventually succumbed to the political polarizing rampant in the sixties. CBIDA then had to steer a course involving more of a role of representing Peaks Island in City relations than was altogether consistent with its intention of concern for all the Casco Bay Islands.

Even if City Hall learned that only through CBIDA could it effectively address Peaks Island interests, the CBIDA Steering Committee has struggled to hold to its original course of endeavoring to speak for the interests of Casco Bay as a whole to the State, to support Chebeague in its very complicated mainland relations, and represent the City Islands in dealing with City Hall, recognizing that each island must play its own ball game.

Practical guidance for this most difficult juggling act was laid down from the beginning in these words: "In any given endeavor the Islanders must present to the City Officials a concrete, well developed plan of action: factual, to the point, and above all, practical. This means unity of purpose on the part of Islanders. One voice petitioning City Hall can be regarded as a publicity seeker, two voices can be thought of as pests, but many voices heard through the mouth of a carefully chosen representative will be heard, and the utterance weighed and considered."
29 junk cars have been removed from Cliff Island.
A new fire alarm system is in operation.
The roads have fresh gravel.
There is concern lest Portland replace the present fire-boat
by an island emergency boat too small to cope with winter
seas on Lucke Sound.

Cliff Island was more fortunate during the winter than many areas across
the country. Despite the severe cold, there were comparatively few sub-zero
temperature days. There was no diminution of the fuel oil supply, thus
guaranteeing comfort indoors. The roads were kept open and passable at all
times, in great contrast with the situation in many communities.

During the coldest spell, at steamboat wharf, the rocks, as far as the
eye could reach, were covered with cascades of ice. Huge blocks of the ice
crowded about the base of the wharf. Except for the houses along the shore,
the scene was not unlike pictures of the Arctic one might see in the National
Geographic.

At noon, one very cold day, when the Abenaki left for town, the water
was free-flowing. By evening, great blocks of ice filled the bay, making
the water almost invisible. The ferry went crunching along at such a reduced
speed, it seemed at times to be standing still. Each move sent a shudder
through the squat hull. We were expecting at any moment that the coast guard
ice cutter would have to be summoned. However, the pilot handled the boat
with great expertise, and we reached home safely without any untoward incident.

ROSE A. BERNSTEIN
Paul's Food Center has been delivering to the Casco Bay Islands since October. Call 772-3704 for particulars.

CBIDA members are reminded that Steering Committee meetings are open to all Islanders, and particularly to CBIDA members. They are normally held at the Public Safety Building on Middle Street on first Saturdays at 9:30 A.M.

In August, two CBIDA events to be announced later will be the annual fund-raiser and Annual Meeting.

The CBIDA Steering Committee is currently checking the Constitution and By-Laws with current practice, and welcomes suggestions from the general membership. Copies of the C & B-L are available.