Service Agencies of the Island

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One of the most comprehensive overhauls of the Internal Revenue Code was recently enacted: The Tax Reform Act of 1986. The changes which are phased in over a number of years require a total review of your personal and business tax situations, investment holdings, and retirement planning.

The main focus of the bill is a cut in personal individual tax rates. The top tax bracket will be reduced from 50% to 28% over two years. The Act increases personal exemptions for you, your spouse and your dependents. The losers are older taxpayers who will no longer be able to claim extra exemptions for being over age 65, and no longer will there be an exemption for being blind.

Taxpayers who itemize on their returns will continue to deduct charitable contributions, real estate taxes, state and local income and property taxes. Phased in over various years we can no longer deduct: sales tax, consumer interest medical expenses unless they exceed 7 1/2% of adjusted gross income, moving expenses, and several miscellaneous deductions (accounting fees, legal fees with regard to divorce and wills, business publications, uniforms, travel and entertainment).

Another big change is the elimination of the favorable capital gains tax.

Individual Retirement Account deductions will be available only to taxpayers who do not belong to a qualified company sponsored retirement plan. Many major changes were also enacted with regard to retirement plans. More people will have to be covered, be entitled to more benefits when they leave, loans are more restricted, and a penalty is assessed on very large payouts.

Real Estate investments have new depreciation schedules and changes to the so-called risk rules. Tax shelters were hard hit and changes were made in the tax credits for rehabilitation of commercial and industrial properties. Unfortunately, special fast writeoffs for low income housing construction will no longer be allowed after 1986.

There are many other changes to the corporate and individual taxpayer that cannot be listed without having this article be three pages long!
From 1920 until 1942, the membership of the Legion varied in numbers from a little above one million to just below the million mark.

With the creation of the American Legion in Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919, it wasn't until the Spring of 1931 that time and the winds of creation planted the fertile seed of the American Legion on Peaks Island.

A small group of serious, thoughtful civic minded men got together and concluded that they should have their own Legion Post.

Why it took from 1920 until April of 1931 to motivate, or what it took, to motivate the Veterans of Peaks Island to come together and create their own Post will be left to the conjecture of the reader.

Listed in the Roster of Post Officers (1938-1939) is one Frank Chamberlain (many Island folk will remember him as just "Frankie"; purser and ticket collector on such Casco Bay Lines vessels as EMITA, MEQUOIT and AUCOCISCO); Post Historian.

After having read his introduction to the American Legion, it became quite clear that if the Veterans were going to accomplish anything for themselves, they needed votes in order to gain any political clout in efforts to gain passage for bills presented in Congress on their behalf. Thus, a National effort to create new posts and increase membership.

It must not be forgotten, these were the years immediately after the stock market crash of 1929 and into the Depression.

**NEWS FROM ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH**

The Christmas Coffee has a new name. It is now Christmas Notes and needles. They will meet on December 7 with entertainment by Doreen McCann Dancers. Donation $2.50.

December 11 - Parish Ministry Development Program will have graduation for all who have followed the 3 year program.

December 14 - Meeting in Hall at 7:30 p.m. for Catechumans and confirmandi.

December 24 - Christmas Vigil at St. Christopher's 8:00 p.m.

December 31 - Feast Day Mass 4:00 p.m.

January 1 - Feast Day Mass 9:30 a.m.

January 18 - 25 Church Unity Octave

**NEWS FROM THE PEAKS ISLAND DAY CARE CENTER**

Janine, Jon, David, Kristen and Angie went to Washington D.C. on November 12 thru 14, to participate with thousands of other people from throughout the country, in the 1986 Annual Conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The Center is looking for Substitute Workers who have some experience working with groups of children. If you are interested, and have the necessary experience, please contact Janine or Jon at the Child Development Center Monday thru Friday.

**REMEMBER:** Playgroup, Wednesday mornings for parents, infants & toddlers. 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLLING** Join the Island Singers Sunday, December 14 at 6:30 pm at Feeney's for a musical holiday event. Encouraged practices on Sundays November 30 and December 7 at 7:15, 8:30 pm at Tower View on Brackett Avenue. Bring your favorite holiday songs.

For more information, or if you know of someone who would especially enjoy our music, please Call Nancy Hoffman at 766-4496.
STARS OF THE SEA THEATRE NEWS

Happy Holidays to all. We are all excited with our coming show. Sunday December 7 at 2:30 pm sponsored by the St. Christopher's Women's Council. This is the Annual Christmas Coffee, in the Parish Hall.

We are planning an Open House in our Star of the Sea Boutique on Sunday November 30 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Many new items have been added to the boutique. We have stocking stuffers, pillows, gifts, hand knits, and dancer's leotards. These all make great Christmas gifts. Refreshments will be served.

Musically yours, Doreen McCann

SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who was generous in contributing food for our Bake Sale. It was a big success, WE MET OUR GOAL. Thank you.

The Senior Citizens will be having their Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 10 in the Community Building. The children from the Day Care Center will be attending the Party.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 19.

The American Legion and the Lion's Club with the kind cooperation of the Peaks Island School will be hosting a Christmas Party with Santa Claus in the School Gym on Friday, December 19. Pre-School children are invited at 1:00 p.m. School children are invited after school. Please sign up your child's age and sex at Feeney's Store.

NEWS FROM BRACKETT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School for older children (grades 2 - 6) starts at 9:00 a.m.
Worship, child care and Sunday School for children 3 yrs to grade 1 starts at 10:00 a.m.
Coffee fellowship following Worship.

Special Sunday Services to prepare for Christmas. November 30 Hanging of the Greens December 7 Commitment Sunday December 14 Special Christmas Music December 21 Christmas Pageant with the children December 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

On December 8 at Noon the United Methodist Women will have a Baby Shower for the Child Christ.
On December 19 at 6:15 p.m. at The Church Hall a Pot Luck Supper.
December 13 at 7:00 a.m. in the Community Building there will be a Christmas Fair and a Bake Sale. A chance to do your Christmas Shopping - Children Welcome! Sponsored by the Evening Circle, Brackett Memorial Church.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING Every Sunday 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at St. Christopher's Hall.
A.A. 24-Hour "Help-Line" : 774-4335.

PEAKS ISLAND BULK FOOD COOP will be starting up again. We will be planning a meeting in January to place an order.
Order Forms will be available toward the end of December. Anyone interested in ordering in bulk (over 3 lbs of an item) can leave their name at the Library, 766-5540, and we will see that you receive an order form.

We will be sure to have the time and place of the January meeting in the next issue of the Star.
NEWS FROM THE PEAKS ISLAND LIBRARY

HOURS: TUESDAY 12 - 8
       WEDNESDAY 10 - 4
       THURSDAY 5 - 8 pm
       SATURDAY 10 - 1
       PHONE 766-5540

Mark on your calendar. On December 24,(Christmas Eve ), The Library will be open from 9:00 a.m. and close at 1:00 p.m. It will be for Christmas eve only.

If you enjoy being read to every week day on Public Radio,(WMEA- FM 90.1)at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The book being read this month is Jeffrey Archer's new book, MATTER OF HONOR. It really is nice to sit back or do some work while being read too. I hope you will tune in and start listening.

We would like to thank Sherman Pelton for making us our beautiful record rack. It holds all of our new records and makes browsing much nicer. If you haven't noticed it look the next time you are in. We have many new records to choose from. Folk, Jazz, Classical, Windham Hill recordings and Children's Records. We have had to limit 5 records per card, which making a decision is difficult, but it means you will have more to look forward too.

We would also like to thank ythe Lions Club for their generous donation for us to purchase books. As the titles appear on our shelves we will make note so everyone can enjoy them.

Story hour is every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. for children 3 and up. After School Movies are each Tuesday at 3:15 p.m.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

Donations this month for the printing of the STAR were from: Mardianne Green, Lions Club and Anon 1.
A CRABBIT OLD WOMAN?

What do you see, nurse, what do you see?
What are you thinking when you look at me?
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far away eyes,
who dribbles her food, and makes not reply,
When you say in a loud voice, "I do wish you'd try!"
who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.
Who, unresisting or not, lets you do what you will
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, you're not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I move at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I am a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another.
A young girl at sixteen with wings on her feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
A bride soon at twenty, my heart gives a leap.
At twenty-five now I have young of my own
Who need me to build a secure happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young now grow fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty my young now soon will be gone,
But my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty once more babies play around me knee,
Again we know children, my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,
For my young are all busy rearing young of their own
And I think of the years and the love I have known.
I'm an old lady now and nature is cruel,
"Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body it crumbles, grace and vigor depart,
And now there is a stone where once I had a heart.
But inside this carcass a young girl still dwells,
and now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joy, I remember the pain,
And I am loving and living life over again, I t
I think of the years all too few gone so fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, nurse, look closer, see ME.

(This poem was found with the belongings of an elderly lady who
who died in a nursing home in Ireland.) Copied from the March
1978 issue of SCOOP of the State Council of Older People.

Submitted by the Senior Citizen Center