6-1965

Nor' by East, Summer 1965

Casco Bay Island Development Association

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An interesting proposal which may or may not reach fulfillment has been presented by officials of the Casco Bay Island Development Association for the possible development of the 176-acre "back shore" ocean front island property.

Currently negotiations are under way with the owner of the property, Peter Cioffi, for an option on the land by the CBIDA, which voted at its recent Steering Committee meeting to attempt this major project.

The plan as outlined here by the staff of the Portland Planning Board, envisions this land to be developed for the broadest possible utilization, with full protection for island residents in having access to future recreational facilities.

Foremost parts of the plan are:

1. A central hotel-like building with surrounding family-sized units — to be operated by a non-profit corporation as a Vacation Center, possibly for such distinguished international clientele as represented by UN delegates. (The same type venture could also be beamed to other users if the international angle proves infeasible).

2. Development of a golf course as a membership and tourist attraction.

3. Development of a city-sponsored park with salt water swimming pool at the location of present pond.

4. Country Club, Yacht Basin and Restaurant, as indicated in photo.

5. White lines represent improved thoroughfare roads with adjacent landscaping, proposed by Portland Planning Board landscape architect, Henry Willette, who designed the schematic plan.

6. Areas marked "residential" would be available only through the non-profit organization, and any revenues therefrom would be used for recreation facility development.

If the option agreement is finalized, the CBIDA will move forward in hopes of actually obtaining the land. From there on it will take larger than local moneys to carry out further development. The recently passed legislation for State-backed guarantees for loans designated for recreational development could be a foremost factor in attracting investors.

Strong interest in the proposal has been indicated by representatives of the other islands, from City officials, and from several local business concerns.

Possible benefits of such a development could be of major significance, not only to this island, but to the entire region. As presented the plan could be a dramatic "first" ... relating to promotion of the economy and prestige of Southern Maine.

As soon as further progress is made a public meeting will be held so that island residents may take an active part in the plans and have opportunity to contribute ideas and ask questions.
Roger L. Schilling leaves staff for new position

Midway in the preparation of our Spring issue, Roger L. Schilling resigned from his position as Manager of Public Relations, Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce, to join the staff of Creative Associates, Portland public relations firm. This change automatically brought his resignation from our editorial staff. Mr. Schilling's professional experience was of tremendous value to Nor' by East, particularly in the final lay-out of copy for submission to the printer.

As successor to Mr. Schilling on the Chamber's staff, Alan L. Marden, a native of Worcester, Mass., and graduate of Bates College, was selected. Before coming to Portland he had been serving as legislative reporter for the Associated Press in Augusta.

Mr. Marden joins our staff as liaison man for the Chamber of Commerce, and with this issue there is a realignment of responsibilities with Robert F. Skillings of Peaks and Raymond Hayward of Chebeague taking on as editor and assistant editor, respectively. Mrs. Bea Chapman, our former long-time editor, volunteered to serve as lay-out consultant.

A variety of types of water taxi service?

Water taxi service among islands and mainland has been recently a frequent topic of conversation. Conflicting views have been expressed by those with conflicting interests.

For several years Theodore Rand, owner of the marina on Little Diamond Island, has been providing a boat for utilities and individuals to make special trips when quick service was needed. He started this more as an accommodation than as a money-making sideline. He operates under a certificate from the Public Utilities Commission which enables him to operate a limited type of service. With less investment than in a specially built boat, he can operate at low rates. Since Casco Bay Lines has jurisdiction over any service involving seven State-owned island wharves, Rand must find other suitable landing places. He can use City-owned Cliff Island wharf.

Owners of a few island fishing boats have also furnished taxi service on emergency calls.

A short-run taxi service between Cousins and Chebeague Islands has been operated for a long time by Jasper Smith. Chebeague residents have appreciated this because they can get to the mainland by way of Cousins Island bridge at all hours. Legal action has been started by Gray Lines, which claims to have purchased Cousins Island wharf from Casco Bay Lines, to establish its claim, contrary to the claim of Town of Yarmouth. Thus, this service is threatened with complications.

Acquisition by the Casco Bay Lines of its sparkling new water taxi gave a big lift in June to the possibilities of expanding this type of service. CBL anticipates being able to take care of all the needs of the Bay, and frowns on the operation of other boats.

Some islanders take the view that the field is big enough for the operation of more than one boat, and that in the interest of quick emergency service it is desirable to have boats centered on both the mainland and islands.

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LEGISLATURE GAVE LANDING PLANNERS REAL PROBLEMS
BUT PROJECT GOES FORWARD

by Edward Langlois
Manager, Maine Port Authority

Construction of a new vehicle facility at the foot of Welch Street, Peaks Island, was conservatively estimated to cost in the vicinity of $120,000.

The new vehicle facility was designed to assure safe and orderly movement of automobiles and trucks. The fact that only $70,000 was made available by this session of the Maine Legislature has created some problems.

The staff and Directors of the Maine Port Authority, along with representatives of Casco Bay Lines and the Casco Bay Island Development Association, Inc., carefully reviewed the preliminary design with the engineers in an effort to determine if any adjustment could be made to reduce the estimated construction cost. The Directors of the Port Authority feel that the facility, as planned, is minimum and, therefore, feel it would not be in the best interest of the State of Maine, or the people on the island, to make any major changes in the preliminary plans.

The engineering firm of Fay, Spofford and Thorndike, Inc. has been instructed to prepare specifications and to draw plans for bids. It is expected these plans will be ready by the 6th of August. The Port Authority realizes there is a matter of urgency involved due to the present condition of the vehicle facility on the island. The Port Authority must follow an orderly program in announcing the bids through newspaper advertising, and once firm bids have been submitted by reliable contractors, a decision will be made as to the next step that will be taken relative to construction.

We can assure the residents of Peaks Island that every effort is being made to expedite the construction of the new dock. We have been working very closely with Mr. Winthrop Deane on matters concerning the dock and will continue to do so during the next stages as the project develops.

PROMOTED FERRY LANDING BILL

State Representative W. Russell Edwards, Jr., of Portland not only sponsored the new Peaks Ferry Landing bill, but nursed it carefully through the 102nd State Legislature. On the final fateful day when the Appropriations Committee was faced with the task of whittling down 5 million of already voted money bills to fit into the 1.6 million available, he was informed that he would have to be satisfied with 50 thousand instead of the $121,000 as voted. "Russ" rushed to the telephone and summoned the aid of officials most informed about the emergency situation. Result: the final figure was raised to 70 thousand — presumably not enough, but a 40% increase over the 50 thousand allotment.

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NEW LIBRARY FOR CHEBEAGUE

Under the sponsorship of the Chebeague Island Council, a lending library has been established and is at present located in one of the larger rooms of the Island Grade School. Town selectmen voted $200 from a special fund for the project.

Hundreds of books have been donated already and steps are being taken to secure additional books, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as sets of reference works.

Mrs. J. Howell Healey has had charge of recruiting volunteer librarians for the summer months. Anyone wishing to contribute books to the Library should contact Mrs. Floyd Hamilton or Mrs. Louis Dennett.

The Town voted to rebuild the East End Point and North Roads.

ELECTRICITY LOAD IS UP

Casco Bay Light & Power Company reports that KWH production at their plant showed a 5% increase first six months over corresponding period 1964. A few new installations were made, and several installations were stepped up from 2-wire to 3-wire service.

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND GOLF CLUB

has scheduled the Hootenanny for Saturday, August 28.

MISS VIRGINIA H. SCHROEDER

of Chebeague is attending a 4-weeks Institute on Elizabethan period literature at University of Vermont.
It was a notable occasion on Saturday afternoon, June 13, after the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce had invited a goodly gathering to Custom House Wharf to attend the commissioning of Casco Bay Lines water taxi, Nor' By East.

Following brief speeches by Walter Spallholz, greeting the assembled group associated with this publication, for which invited a goodly gathering to Custom House Wharf on behalf of the Chamber, and by W. Russell Edwards, Jr., State Representative, who had worked devotedly in promoting the new ferry landing bill, bouquets of roses were presented to Mrs. Peter T. McLaughlin, wife of the CBL manager, and to Mrs. John W. Chapman, who had long been associated with this publication, for which the new boat had been graciously named. They were led down the ramp where the boat had been nosed in, to attend to its official commissioning and its dedication to the service of the Bay.

Mrs. McLaughlin, holding her christening bottle tightly, made two swings at the prow of the boat to no avail. But a third swing at an iron cleat let loose a foamy champagne spray and a back-lash which gave her a bubbly foot bath.

In the party which was invited aboard the Abenaki for a sail were State representatives, representatives of the Propeller Club, Water Front Task Force, Casco Bay Island Development Association, the press, other groups with a prime interest in the water front, and family members of many of these.

Refreshments were served on the lower deck. On the upper deck those familiar with the Bay designated points of interest to those less familiar with the area.

All in all it was a perfect June day — weatherwise and otherwise.
Down the Bay — these words bring many things to mind. They can spell adventure on the high seas for those taking their first voyage, romance for any age when taken under a full moon, an indelible memory in a child’s mind, a golden chance to escape-from-it-all for the city resident, and for the thousands of year-round and summer residents on the islands just the normal road to home.

Who and what goes along this highway, and why, were the questions we sought to answer on a trip from Portland to Chebeague, with stops on the way. It was a real “tourist day,” with cloudless sky, hot sun, and sweater-demanding breeze.

There was standing room only on top deck, and the what going down included porch and dining room furniture, TVs, stoves, refrigerator, groceries, lumber, lunch baskets, bedrolls, mops, pails, and Maine peatmoss.

(Numbers correspond with accompanying numbered photographs by Mrs. Sargent.)

1. The Diamond Island shore scene fascinates man and dog.
2. Miss Elinor Davis and Mrs. Kathleen Werner of Portland ride in style on the needlepoint-covered dining chairs destined for the Malia home on Long Island.
3. Forty-five fourth graders and a dozen mothers from Falmouth trooped off at Long for a picnic with their teacher, Mrs. Frances Barrett, a native of the island. Though on the mainland winters, she always returns summers to enjoy her island home with her husband, Charles Barrett.

Continued On Page 7
Continued From Page 6

4. Lieut. Davis H. Olney of Washington, D. C., Dr. Horace Lascaulo of Salem, N. J. and Mr. Richard Olney were returning to Cliff, complete with golf bags, from an early morning round on the nine holes of neighboring Chebeague Island.

5. Peatmoss and U. S. Mail are travel companions.

6. Dr. and Mrs. Henning Pontoppidan and their three daughters were on the way to open their cottage at Cliff. The doctor is an anesthetist in a Boston hospital, Mrs. Pontoppidan has known Cliff Island since age 3.

7. Mrs. H. H. Potter of Buffalo, N. Y. meets Mrs. Norman Black on the way from the Post Office at Cliff.

8. Madeline and Sally Cushing, daughters of Mrs. Elinor Cushing, postmaster, are ready to bring your mail to you.

9. and 10. To add a touch of internationalism we found Roberto Bedatou taking movies as he and his grandmother, Mrs. Maria G. Bedatou of Bolivar, Buenos Aires, Argentina, had a first hand look at the Maine coast. He is an exchange student under the Rotary Club program and studying in Binghamton, N. Y. They visit the West Coast next.

11. and 12. The old Post Office building near the wharf is now the dream house of Donald MacVane. Shiny new and in excellent decor, the mantel holds a fine collection of shells, and the walls are covered by originals from his artist friends. The white wooden boat bailer hanging on the wall and holding artificial flowers covers — guess what? The electric fuse box. How's that for camouflage?
CITY HALL REPORTS
by Charles Ranlett

The busy summer work program of City departments includes a number of projects and activities involving Portland's Casco Bay Islands, such as the following.

Portland Pier Improved

The painting and redecking of the transfer bridge at Portland Pier. The overhead structure at the entrance of the pier has been removed by its private owner. This gives equipment of extra height access to the ferry.

Curtis on Youth Program

Portland's Neighborhood Youth Corps program, an important segment of the Economic Opportunity Act (or War on Poverty) is under way. It is designed to furnish a meaningful work experience for Portland youth, ages 16 to 21, who are out of work and out of school (either as a graduate or as a drop-out). Appointed as one of the staff members for this pioneering program is a Peaks Island resident, Thomas L. Curtis.

“Alumni” Have Bake

Of general interest. The first Council Recognition Day was held on July 13 on House Island with a Down East Clam Bake. Honoring former members of the City Council for their services to the City, Recognition Day was attended by “alumni” whose service dated back as far as 40 years ago. The festivities were preceded by a tour of the harbor and bay.

A Lift for Cliff

The ordering of a tractor with cutter bar for roadside weed-cutting at Cliff. The rebuilding of the “traffic island” around the flagpole at Cliff.

Work at Long and Peaks

The biannual seal-coating program embracing most of the roads on Long and Peaks.

The construction of a new 20 foot long stairway to the bathing beach near Peaks Island’s Torrington Point. Replacing the former stairs, battered to pieces by the winter storms, the base of these sturdy stairs have been bolted to the ledge. One of the island’s best swimming spots during the summer, the beach and point are exposed to the full force of the winter storms.

Concerning Shade Trees

The cleaning up of the playground and the Long Point picnic area together with work on many of the older street shade trees at Peaks. (In connection with the young trees planted last year, the Parks Department requests the cooperation of abutting landowners in watering them. Their suggestion and request: Please shape, or hollow, the earth around the tree very slightly, so that water soaks in rather than running off; and then water from time to time.)

LIONS CLUB SHOW WINS
PLAUDITS APLENTY

John Coyne
Ruby Boyne
Robert Burton

Clough Photo
Ruby Boyne’s "Wife"
Pretty Elaine’s "Dad"

Thanks to the enlistment of a cast of quasi-professionals, each of whom was accorded kudos galore for his or her performance, the Lions Club scored a three-nights triumph in their presentation of Kesserling’s popular drama, “Arsenic and Old Lace,” at their Green-wood Garden Play House. Honor was won by Leon S. Clough, director, and Bruce Acker, coach. A total attendance of 550 was tallied.

Participating in the rapid-fire production of thrills, chills, and belly-shaking laughs, were: Ruby Boyne, Rev. Robert Burton, John Coyne, Leatrice Hasson, David Hoar, Fern Parker, Nancy Montgomery, Richard Hasson, Fred Dinamore, Murray Roberts, Beverly Foss, Richard Bemis, David Parker, and Ansel Sterling.

Other off-stage workers in the business were Lillian Clough, properties; Betty Brown, set design; Douglas Clough, lighting; and Jo Ann Hutchinson, prompter.

2 TUNAS IN 2 DAYS

Gene Letourneau reports in his Sportsmen Say column of the Press Herald: “The blue fin tunas were back in early July. Daryl Lamb of Brunswick boated the first of season July 1 while giving his new boat a trial run. Hoisted on the dock scales, it weighed 680 pounds. Next day he tied into another tuna, this one a mere 544 pounds.

The blue fins follow the herring and other small fish into coastal waters. When they hit bait, such as a mackerel or whiting under water, it is with abandon.”

Tuna Tournament from Merrill’s Wharf, Bailey’s was scheduled for July 28-31.

"PARTICULARLY GOOD COPY"

Maine Printing Company received a letter in June from Maine Department of Economic Development which read as follows:

"Congratulations on the nice job being done on NOR’ BY EAST. The latest copy is particularly good."

(Signed)
Robert Elliot, Director,
Vacation Travel Promotion
THE HOW, WHAT, AND WHY OF CBL's NEW WATER TAXI
by Peter T. McLaughlin

The "NOR' BY EAST" was built by the Rockland Boat Shop and was outfitted as a water taxi by Lehtinen Boat Yard at Tenant's Harbor. She is documented by the Commissioner of Customs, Washington, D.C., inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard, and equipped with a new type General Electric Transistorized Radio Telephone in accordance with the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. Her water taxi service and rates have been approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission. She has a 100 h.p. Oseo Ford Marine Diesel Engine, enclosed cabin with toilet facilities, and open cockpit space at the stern, with total capacity of 17 passengers.

Similar water taxi services are available in many places. Eleven of these operations were studied by CBL management in establishment of the new Casco Bay service.

A new styrofoam float has been built and attached to a new gangway at Custom House Wharf. Service is available 24 hours a day with some advance notice required during late evening and early morning hours.

An idea for a short lunch-time sail, picked up in Boston, has been under consideration. People appreciating a mid-day change of scenery buy a lunch on board and get a harbor sail while eating it.

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MISS PEAKS ISLAND
AND JUNIOR MISS TOO

Bonnie Jean Mrs. Ritchie
Sargent Photo

A new twist was given the fourth annual Miss Peaks Island Pageant, sponsored by the CBIDA under direction of Mrs. Charles M. Ritchie, when a Jr. Miss was selected from the younger entries. Bonnie MacVane, who graces the office of Casco Bay Lines, and Jean McIntyre, who greets customers with a smile at the Seaside Shop, were chosen Miss Peaks Island and Junior Miss, respectively. Alice Roberts as flower girl and Gregory Roberts, as cup-bearer, added much to the charm of the occasion.

Mrs. Ritchie puts many hours of time into preparation of this event. She helps the girls much by coaching them in posture, walking, and poise.

NEW FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS AT BAILEY'S

Bailey's Islanders have vigorously stepped up facilities for the attraction of tourists. At Steamboat Wharf Carl Skillings has built a new 80-seat restaurant which is air-conditioned and heated. Tourists are even privileged to bring their lunch, sit down, and order drinks if they desire. Rest rooms and showers are in a separate building. Boatsmen are privileged to land and take a shower.

The old restaurant has been converted into a gift shop. Here is displayed intriguing items from many parts of the world, also a minor assortment of marine stores and groceries.

Maurice Merrill is benefitting from an addition he made last year of a 24 by 36 foot dining room for 50 on the west shore of Mackerel Cove. This has a sun deck for diners, also.

Motels and tourist cabins have expanded, and Mackerel Cove boating accommodations are improved.

KEEP MAINE SCENIC

The Governor's Committee to Keep Maine Scenic warns that litter is a health menace! It creates a breeding ground for disease-carrying insects and rodents. Littered waters make it dangerous for swimming, fishing, and boating in some places.
PEAKS PICKINGS

Nearly a dozen homes on Peaks have "turned" color almost overnight. The color chart includes light green, deep tan, dark red, bright yellow, with various shades of charcoal in the lead.

Fisher Lodge, Albert and Caro Balcom, proprietors, blossomed in a new yellow coat of paint, and added interior decorating also. It has been further enhanced by an enclosed front porch with picture windows, a new picture window in the dining room, an expanded kitchen area, and new aluminum gutters. Among special parties dining at the Lodge were the Women's Hospitality Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, a party of 18, and 50 Nurse Educators as an incident of their Bay cruise.

Dr. and Mrs. Russell G. Davis of Newton Highlands, Mass., have purchased the cottage of Miss Hester Harris on Prince Avenue. Dr. Davis is an instructor at Harvard College and advisor to Latin America for the Ford Foundation. He is currently in Guatemala, and is expected to spend some time on the island in August. His mother, Mrs. Edward Davis, also of Newton Highlands, is occupying the cottage, and is a new member of CBIDA. Dr. Davis' sister is Mrs. Henry Baker, whose son, Richard, former president of the Junior Club, is assisting in care of the Trefethen-Evengreen Club House.

Mr. George Spafford of Derry, N. H., has purchased the Trefethen property on Prince Avenue, composed of 22 adjoining lots. He is the first new owner of this property since the island was settled by the Trefethens and other first families. Spafford is a wholesale stationer and travels extensively. He has renovated the former Toothy property and landscaped the surrounding land and banking.

Mrs. Frances Randall found it necessary to undergo surgery June 14 at Maine Medical Center for removal of a second leg, the first having been removed last year. Community groups rallied to her aid by seeing to it that she was provided with a wheelchair and a special ramp at her home for convenient access.

Katherine Sullivan, Miss Peaks Island of 1963, was one of five Portland High seniors to win a University of Maine scholarship. She was also one of the two girls who received a Bonnie Award silver cup for her portrayal of the mysterious gun moll in the class play, "Ghost Train."

Stephen Burkus, sophomore, and Albert M. McCann, junior, at Cheverus High, both received Merit Awards in Latin.

SPECIAL JUNE BULLETIN

Free distribution of NOR' BY EAST'S Special June Bulletin, listing island summer-time events and Casco Bay Lines week-day schedule of boats leaving Portland, was made possible by support of advertisers and subscribers.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE NOW

by Capt. Thomas L. Curtis

Young people who are 16 to 21 years old, out of school and out of work, may report to the new Youth Opportunity Center at 92 Oak St., Portland, for interview and testing if they wish to get into the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Applicants are referred to the Corps headquarters for actual job placement, after this interview.

Teen-agers are being trained in basic work attitudes and habits, and to assume responsibility. At the end of six months they are expected to be able to enter the open labor market as partially experienced workers.

During training they work with Depts. of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Center Day Camp, Child and Family Services, and Housing Authority. Job openings include hospital work, heavy equipment operating, maintenance work, kitchen helpers and clerical assistants.

All workers report on Fridays for further guidance — and, with a smile, to accept a pay check for their week's work!

THE SPAR, LONG IS.,
ADDs MANY FEATURES

In the fall of last year, with a change of ownership, Rogers Sp, became known as the SPAR. The new owners, I. James Goodrich and Lawrence L. Stevens, have brought several improvements. A complete line of groceries and sundries is now available, and the dinner menu features a daily special. The porch facing the Bay has been redesigned with a fiber glass roof so that patrons may enjoy the view while dining.

A new feature is a unique Gift Galley with a fine selection of nautical souvenirs, and a variety of items from the world over. The Spar is the stopping place for the CBL's new Supper Cruise.

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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TUTORING: Senior and Junior high school English, L. S. Dunham, 766-2840, Peaks.

GEMS FROM THE DIAMONDS
Mrs. George J. Johnston of Little Diamond, when talking with her old-time classmate at Portland High, John Ford, famed motion picture director, mentioned his "How Green Was My Valley" as one of her great favorites. He graciously loaned to her the only 16-millimeter edition of the film in existence. It was scheduled for showing at the Club House Saturday evening, July 31, as a fund-raising project, replacing the usual auction sale.

A special social event of the season will be the wedding Saturday afternoon, August 14, of Miss Linda Atherton and Mr. Hal Hackett in the chapel of Sacred Heart Villa, Little Diamond, followed by a reception at the Club House. The Rev. Father John F. Crozier will officiate.

Gems from the Diamonds

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The Association will be given a credit slip for the slides it may furnish. If you have a good slide or two you would donate to the pool in the cause of free publicity, mail to Box 66, Peaks Island.

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