PROJECT OCEANSIDE: A REVIEW

Peaks Island . . . New England's Coney Island . . .
the Gem Theatre . . . lavish hotels . . . excitement, gayety . . . a vacation mecca.

Peaks Island is an island off the coast of Maine that is rich in history, starting with Indian lore and embracing some of the first settlers to our shores. Until the automobile became an integral part of our lives, Peaks Island was for many "the" place to "summer". The advent of the automobile heralded a sharp decline in the summer trade on the island, and finally, World War II sounded the death knell - the government taking much property by right of eminent domain, erecting enormous structures as part of the creation of a Coastal Development Area.

The War was won, but the inhabitants of Peaks Island lost - they were left with the debris that still exists. Eventually, the government saw fit to relinquish its stronghold and offered the property to the City of Portland. The City declined the offer, and thus, in 1956, the property was put up for auction - to be purchased by one Peter Cioffe of Newtonville, Massachusetts.

In 1963, the Casco Bay Island Development Association (CBIDA) floated a bond issue to raise the necessary capital to purchase Mr. Cioffe's holdings. The goal of this purchase was the eventual creation of park facilities and an International Vacation and Conference Center. The bond issue was a success, and the program moved ahead. The Center promptly received support and encouragement from the State Legislature, the City of Portland, and the United Nations.

The firm of William Dickson Associates, in 1969, drew up a proposed design for the Center which includes a lecture hall for 250 persons, a forum with a capacity of 50, 15 conference rooms, library, dining room, lounge, kitchen, staff office, 31 double rooms with bath, 43 two-room suites, sauna, and outside theatre. The proposed facility, for a projected cost of $5.6 million, would have a total capacity of 234 delegates.

The imaginative design of the Center has evoked interest from a broad spectrum of organizations which clearly indicates this would be a year-round facility, serving not only the United Nations, but a wide variety of groups needing these accommodations and eager for a different kind of conference facility - imbued with serenity and beauty. An extravagant plan - for some a dream, for others a nightmare. For progress, even as this is, is always regarded with scepticism by some. For those with foresight, the International Conference Center represents a rebirth for Peaks Island, and a step forward for the entire State towards expansion of non-polluting development of natural resources, creating jobs and tax revenues. For others, this is CHANGE - and no change is acceptable ("Peaks Island is fine the way it is."). Apathy and negativism refuse to acknowledge that the world - or even this small island - is not an unchanging entity. If there is no progress forward, there is inevitable regression.

Peaks Island will never be a "Coney Island" again, but it can be used and developed creatively - for the betterment of its residents, the City of Portland, and the State of Maine.
to the editor:

Intermittently there comes to the front as a conversation topic among islanders the argument of long standing as to whether one should strive "to keep things as they are," or whether they should hope to "move ahead." To recently bringing this issue to attention was the "Maine Sunday Telegram's" editorially expressed preferences for a progressive type of development for Casco Bay Islands. It discarded as "nightmarish" the idea that the oil interests, which have a foothold here, are headed for domination of these waters and the rocky shore areas. It declined to unseat the view that the islands should be preserved as clusters of beauty and peace for the benefit of those now owning property on them, and that owners should fight off their conversion to "suburban" for the municipalities. Not having access to the "Telegram's" crystal ball, we cannot catch the vision of bridges from Little Chebeague to Peaks Island, from Machias to Great Diamond, and from Diamond to Peaks. But, using a bit of ESP, we do get a glimpse: a bridge and a bridge from Littlejohn to Great Chebeague, and some future hovercraft and hydrofoils. The time seems to be ripe for agitation for a bridge, probably subject to tolls from Littlejohn (which already connects with the mainland) to Great Chebeague. The Legislature nullified the attempt of a few years ago, largely because of the determined opposition of the State Highway Department.

In 1969 the Town of Cumberland's total valuation of land and buildings on the mainland was $10,593,848, compared with the valuation in 1960 of $6,146,617. The 9-year increase on the mainland (during this period there was no change in basis of valuation) was 72%. Looking at the valuation on the islands (mostly Chebeague) we find that the total in 1960 was $1,308,688 as against $1,222,417 in 1960 - a 9-year increase of only 7%.

Because of a new re-valuation of real estate now in progress, valuations of island properties may be up in 1971. This may induce owners to put home sites on the market. Clayton Hamilton, broker, specializing in island properties, reports that he has nothing listed at this time. Lewis Ross, contractor and builder, reports no new construction presently on the books.

Cumberland's remarkable growth on the mainland has brought new homes, new homes, new families. The families have brought children, needing schools, teachers, books, supplies. Expansion does not give the town budget the sort of lift it gets from its tax income from non-resident cottage owners, whose children are educated elsewhere. In 1960, 69,68 of the island's real estate valuation was assessed to non-residents. In 1969 the non-residents' portion was 71.1%. In nine years there was a slight decrease, rather than an increase, in non-resident ownership.

For the town's good health, this trend should be reversed. Chebeague may look toward a good future. It will have a bridge and the likelihood that the State will preserve for the future Little Chebeague as a scenic park. It will have a burgeoning of summer cottages as news gets around that land is available and people will bring their talents, ideas, and an assortment of personalities - all of which will embolden the pleasantness of island life.

Islanders may well take to heart the words of the Texan, who sent to his editor here: "Your shoreline is your greatest in-state asset by far. It draws more 2,500 million acres of mine states every summer, because I deeply appreciate what your state has to offer me and my family. In the future, with the rest of the country continuing to deteriorate, there will be more and more like me."
Curtis Announces Committee

Governor Kenneth M. Curtis has announced that twelve distinguished citizens have accepted invitations to serve on a National Advisory Committee for the development of an International Vacation and Conference Center on Peaks Island.

Governor Curtis, who is serving as honorary chairman of the Committee, indicated his pleasure with the acceptances: "I am sure that with the effort and ideas of these members, the plan which has been worked on so diligently since 1966 will move closer to reality. Those who have accepted my invitation have done so with enthusiasm and genuine commitment. Maine is very much in need of additional conference facilities, and the concept of the year-round Center on Peaks Island is both imaginative and practical. I have every reason to believe it will be accomplished."

The National Advisory Committee will be convened at the United Nations early this fall to consider ways of raising some $5.6 million for construction and to plan the type of management under which it will be operated.

The twelve individuals accepting invitations are: Edmund S. Muskie, U.S. Senate; Erwin D. Canham, editor-in-chief of the Christian Science Monitor; John MacVane, American Broadcasting Company, United Nations; Gary Merrill, actor; Svenn Refshale, permanent mission from Norway to the United Nations; Former Governor John H. Reed, Department of Transportation; Donald V. Taverner, President, National Cable Television Association; Stanley R. Tupper, Boyall, Koegel & Wells, Washington, D.C., former Maine Congressman and Ambassador to Canada; Wilbur Ziehl, Deputy Comptroller, United Nations; William Graham, Vice President, Portland Savings Bank; Jussi Himanka, Finish Broadcasting Company, New York; and Alan A. Himan, President, Partners of the Americas, Washington, D.C.

One of the acceptances for the National Advisory Committee for the International Center on Peaks Island came from W. H. Ziehl, deputy comptroller of the United Nations, who sought and received official sanction to serve on the Committee. Having been to Peaks Island in 1967, he is an enthusiastic supporter of the objectives of establishing the Maine island retreat for United Nations personnel.

Ziehl has an outstanding background in government service. Before joining the United Nations, he was Senior Advisor, Legal and International Organization Affairs to the United States Mission under former Ambassador Goldberg's administration.

Prior to that he was in service with the United States government for 34 years, including the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Treasury, and the Executive Office of the President, Bureau of the Budget. His experience includes financial management of appropriations and revenues totaling billions of dollars.

Officers of the Casco Bay Island Development Association are encouraged with the calibre of the Governor's National Committee and the expressed commitment to bring about the creation of the center.

Before the 16th gun was removed.

If you want to help future planning for the Casco Bay area, why not join CBIDA today? We love our beautiful bay.

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NOR'BY EAST will be sent to you as a part of your membership.
The Great Chebeague Golf Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year with a "Chip Putt and Punch Party" on August 22, and a Dance at the Hillcrest Hotel in the evening. The 1970 Men's Championship was won by Dr. Garland Gray and the Women's Championship by Mrs. Harper Brown. The Ladies Committee was active under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Jones and wound up the season with refreshments for the Annual Labor Day Swatfest. Next year's chairman will be Mrs. Eldon C. Mayer.

Chebeague United Methodist Church organizations have enjoyed a good season. The Ladies Aid Fair grossed over $1,600 in three hours on Aug. 6; the Rummage Sale over $150; the Winter Theatre Production turned in $100, and the Sunday School netted over $50 in candy sales. The Youth program has been interesting and varied under the direction of Mike and Ann Brocke.

The Chebeague Island Council elected a new slate of officers at the Annual Meeting in August as follows: Martin Avery, President; Robert L. Whelton, Vice President, Lois Ward, Secretary-Treasurer.

Former Girl Scouts, leaders, and mothers enjoyed a theatre party to the Brunswick Music Theatre to see "Kiss Me Kate". Mrs. Eddie Doughty and son, Edmund, have returned from a month's trip to Mrs. Doughty's family in Atlanta, Georgia, and Huntsville, Alabama. While in the south, they toured many interesting areas including Stone Mountain and Six Flags over Georgia. In Huntsville, they visited the Alabama Space Museum and Rocket Center.

Mrs. Floyd C. Hamilton 846-4078

I REMEMBER WHEN

As one of this great state's eldest citizens at the ripe young age of 89 years this August 19th, I recall a great many events of my childhood, and formative years on my father's farm on the Roar Road in Saco. His name was John M. Deering, the son of William Harper Deering and he has been referred to in many a Chronicle as "the grand old man of Saco". His father, always called Harper or Harp, was a pioneer in this rich farm valley in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Children in those days did not have close neighbors, but helped out doing farm chores. The life was hard, but we enjoyed a spiritual life of happiness rather than the mere material one that children enjoy today. Our school life began in due time when my father erected what we fondly called, "the little red schoolhouse". We came to the ringing of the big hand bell which my Aunt Myra rang - the school always opened with a prayer - and after lunch studied until four o'clock. Later, the Little school was closed, and we went downtown to school. This was quite hazardous in winter due to the bad roads and runy little old buckboards, as well as slow or frisky horses, whichever one could be spared, and many was the spell we all took into the snowball.

There were nine children in the family, and my mother cooked and cared for all of us. She fed the man of the family as well as the hired hands.

Father drilled for wells to supply the water for us and the stock, and he erected his first barn, 90 feet by 50 feet, which had a big brass horse on top of the cupola for a weather vane. There was a barn "nailing" one day when all the folks around came. The women helped mother prepare a huge supper for all. These were happy times, and only a few of many which I remember in the days when I grew up. My time was peace time, and people didn't have to worry about wars. It was a hard life in some ways, but rewarding to us who lived then in spiritual values, and enjoyment of simple things. All of us children had good educations, and grew to be find, upright citizens of this great State of Maine. I am the last living person of this large pioneer family, "God Bless America".

Lucy M. Deering
Saco, Maine

Editor's Note: Many fine letters were received by the Sesquicentennial Committee, and more will be published in future issues.

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WHITE HEAD FROM PEAKS ISLAND, PORTLAND, ME.
Considerable space was used in the last issue of NOR'by EAST in reporting a meeting between C.B.I.D.A. and P.U.C. officials concerning Casco Bay Lines. The following letter was the immediate response from the P.U.C. and indicates the current status of that situation:

Mr. Theodore T. Rand
President, CBIDA, Inc.
Box 66
Peaks Island, Maine

Dear Mr. Rand:

This will acknowledge your letter of August 24, 1970, summarizing requests of the CBIDA discussed at a meeting on August 17, 1970.

The matters of guard rail, signs and police surveillance at Peaks Island are covered in the attached letters to the Maine Port Authority and City of Portland. As you know, the wharves used by Casco Bay Lines come within the jurisdiction of this Commission for matters of safety. The Commission has interpreted this to mean that the wharves must be safe for the operation of CBL vessels and the handling of passengers, vehicles, and freight thereon. It is believed that the guard rail and fog bell clearly fall within this interpretation. However, there is some doubt that diving from the ferry landing is within our jurisdiction. In any event, this problem has been brought to the attention of the Maine Port Authority and Portland Police Dept. with the request that they investigate and take appropriate action.

Very truly yours,

William F. Fernald
Director of Transportation
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TREFETHEN-EVERGREEN NOTES
The Tuesday Bridge luncheon group finished up the season with the following winners: Mrs. Rachael Jabine and Mrs. Pearl Davis for bridge; Mrs. Edith Stites and Mrs. Fern Stein for Canasta. Winners at the last meeting for Military Whist were: Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Stein, Mr. & Mrs. Whitney Nulte, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Herrick, Mr. & Mrs. Brod Minott, Misses Martha, Knights, Dorothy Caschell, Gladys Vickery, and Louise Dunham. Louise Dunham

Ask us for anything!

Say the boat's running a little late today?
The Prince of Fundy and other interests including tight money cost the Peaks Island Lions a few lobster bakes this summer, but the season was a success nonetheless, and revenues will be used in community projects.

The yearly auction, with Past President Dick Bemis as auctioneer, was almost a sell-out. Several bakes were held in August and the 28th & 29th of August featured the Twenty-first Annual Variety Show.

Local Lions are now in their dens - not hibernating, but preparing for the Halloween Party to be held at Greenwood Gardens (all island children are urged to attend), and making the necessary arrangements for Santa Claus' visit in December.

Charlie Franco, the only remaining Charter Member of the club was honored for his twenty years of dedication to the promotion of the organization and the betterment of the island.

Chester W. (Chet) Graves

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CRYSTAL INTAGLIOS

For many hundreds of years glass has been known to and been used by man. In common with other materials, glass has been used for purely utilitarian and for decorative purposes.

As in other arts, the extent and form of the decoration used in and on glass has been regulated by fashion. Cut-glass has been in fashion for countless years, and it is likely to be so for countless years more. Glass decorated in other ways, such as by diamond- or steel-point engravings, or by copper-wheel engravings, is, however, enjoying a renaissance.

My interest in engraving on crystal began about seven years ago when I first began to realize that there was a great similarity between copper engraving for prints and glass engraving to carve out images with the light of the crystal. Only this past year has it been possible to concentrate on this technique.

While it would take an entire book to discuss all the trials and errors made to learn this technique, I can say that it is one of the most exciting techniques with which I have yet worked. These photographs of a few of the most recent pieces I have done are all about 12 inches wide and 6 inches high, except for the circles, which are 12 inches in diameter.

They represent to me the most important aspect of art—an aptitude developed by hard training and much practice to acquire the practical craft skills. These skills then are combined with training in the appreciation and understanding of the many natures of the material to produce decorated crystal.

Charles James Wright
Stonehouse
Peaks Island, Maine

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