SUMMER SEASON IN CASCO BAY IN FULL SWING!

All indications are that the summer of 1971 will go into the records as outstanding in both weather conditions and Casco Bay patronage.

Casco Bay Lines reports record influx of both passengers and tourists on the cruise excursions. Interestingly, a number of cancellations have resulted from the lack of hotel accommodations in the area. Portland hotels have been sold out repeatedly and people coming to the area without advance reservations have been left to shift for themselves often sleeping in their cars.

Many believe it would be an opportune time for some enterprising individual or company to develop a few modern hotel facilities on the islands. There is much reminiscing in articles submitted to this publication about "the old days of hotels in the Bay". Perhaps what can be again, in moderation is also worth thinking about.

Central Maine Power Company reports a record high in Casco Bay subscribers. There are currently 1700 accounts, which, multiplied by the usual average of four to a family, means that 6800 persons are currently living among the Casco Bay Islands.

The company noted numerous increases among new property owners, signs of development here and there, with a number of new customers on Cushings Island where a new building program is under way.

Island businesses seem to be prospering and the overall analysis of the health of the islands is "good condition and getting stronger." Welcome!

"HELLO, HALF-WAY ROCK"

There's an interesting number to call in Casco Bay. It's 766-2631 and the answer will say "Half-way Rock Light."

The crew out there guarding our harbor welcomes calls from friends, known and unknown. It helps break the monotony. But best of all they are interesting, friendly people to chat with. There are two on duty at all times, on two-week shifts.

Richard Alexander of 37 Beaufort Street, South Portland, is the officer in charge. He is married and has three children. There is a newly arrived fireman, Timothy R. Bailey whose home is in Connecticut. Engineer 2nd class is Dave Bestwick who has a wife and baby living in Portland.

On the day we called our conversation was with David Gasper, 18, whose home is in Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

Dave says there is always something to do to keep busy and they have colored TV which comes in real good. He used to go home mostly on his two weeks leave, but--there's a pretty girl in South Portland.

Some day when you would like to reach out a bit, why not call up the Rock. They'll welcome a friendly voice.

FAIRS CONTINUE IN AUGUST

Aug. 5 - Ladies Aid Fair, Chebeague
Aug. 7 - Trefethen Evergreen Fair, Peaks
Aug. 7 - VFW Fair, Long Island
Aug. 9-20 Annual Art Exhibit, Chebeague

Theme: People, Pets and Paraphernalia
STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

Nor' By East is a non-profit publication not issued periodically by the Casco Bay Island Development Association. Its purpose is to serve residents and visitors with information and news not otherwise available through the local media. Since publication is irregular, subscriptions are not offered. However, membership in the Association assures receipt of the paper by mail as well as other information from time to time. Membership information may be found elsewhere in this issue.

A DAY CARE CENTER FOR PEAKS ISLAND

For nearly a year now a group of mothers on Peaks Island have been working toward the development of a Day Care Center for those who work or would work if they had adequate care for their children.

Currently the prospects are looking very good. In fact, after much negotiation with sponsors and local and state agencies -- much special help from Sister Anne of the Diocesan Bureau of Human Relations Services and Dr. J. Robert Stafier, St. Elizabeth's Child Development Center -- the Peaks Center is nearing reality. It would be housed in the Parish Hall of St. Christopher's Church. A fund of $38,000 has been allocated for the first year of operation, including initial preparation of the facility and contingent upon $2,000 being raised on the Island. Of this latter amount St. Elizabeth Child Development Center has contributed $1,000.

Plans are in full swing now to bring the Center into being. Mrs. Douglas Norwood is serving as chairman of the mothers' group. She can be reached evenings for further information. During the daytime she is employed as a fully trained staff Homemaker of Holy Innocents' Child-Home Care Center where she has worked for nearly two years.

Assistance will be needed to raise the $1,000 for which there will indeed be such a benefit.

ISLAND SURVEY UNDER WAY

Forms are being distributed by CBIDA to learn opinions about a variety of island services. These include not only transportation but other public services as well as local island conveniences.

CBIDA hopes to gather a cross section of opinion in three areas year round residents, summer residents and casual visitors. Ideas will be summarized at the monthly board meeting and used with the public officials and other agencies as appropriate.

If you have not obtained a questionnaire, and would like one, please send your request to Box 66, Peaks Island.

Health Needs of the Islands to Be Included in County Study

The Southern Maine Comprehensive Health Planning Association will focus attention on the Casco Bay Islands as a part of their current study of Cumberland County Health problems.

This is the first time in recent years that an active and responsible agency has included the islands in a program of this kind.

Dr. John Truslow, health planner for the agency, will work with island residents in finding out the particular areas where improved health service are needed.

In the full a health committee will be organized by the Casco Bay Island Development Association at the request of the health agency, so that an orderly approach to the needs may be established. Anyone wishing to describe health needs is invited to write to the Association at Box 66, Peaks Island. Also anyone wishing to volunteer for the health committee will be welcomed.

International Guests to Visit Fifteen Homes in the Bay

Chebeague Island, Long Island, Great Diamond Island and Peaks, will be the scene of the sixth annual International weekend, August 12-16, when some twenty families from the United Nations will visit in island homes.

Sponsored by the Casco Bay Island Development Association, the event this year is spearheaded by the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York. Arrangements on the New York end are being handled by John MacVane, Portland and Long Island native, and brother of Portland Mayor William MacVane, Jr.

Local arrangements are being chaired by Russell Edwards of Peaks; and housing arrangements by Robert Laughlin of Great Diamond.

A feature of the weekend will be a joint picnic on Little Chebeague Island on Saturday, August 14, with transportation provided by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Mrs. Hilda Dudley's boat, the 'Buckaneer'.

Governor's Committee to Meet

The Governor's national committee for promotion of the proposed International Center on Peaks Island, sponsored by the Casco Bay Island Development Association, will meet on Sunday, August 15, at Peaks Island.

They will start their day with a site inspection of the area reserved for the center; will be received at the home of Mrs. John W. Chapman, for a social hour along with the international guests who are on Peaks Island; will lunch at Fisher Lodge, and spend the afternoon in a business meeting.

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772-8908
Summer on Chebeague - it is truly amazing how often this phrase pops up worldwide. After reading the historical term paper written by Donna Miller, a student at UMP, it's not surprising. We have room but for one paragraph in this issue, and since this is the 100th anniversary of Hamilton Villa built in 1871, here is what Donna has to say on it.

"Capt. Alfred E. Hamilton was a pioneer in the boarding business on Chebeague. In an old newspaper clipping written by Robert G. Albion in 1915, it was stated that summer visitors were first accommodated on the island at a farmhouse in 1872. Thus, it would seem logical to assume that this was the Hamilton Villa as Capt. Hamilton's house was known. The Hamilton Villa was a large colonial house with green blinds. It was surrounded by pointed firs and tall pines, overlooking Casco Bay. In 1903, the Villa could accommodate 30 guests. The average rate was $7 to $9 per week.

"1903 brought even more people to the Villa because of better boat service. At this time it was necessary to add a complete pumping system. A steel windmill was erected, and a 3000 gal. tank, which provided both hot and cold water was added. In 1906 Capt. Hamilton found business so good that he added a new cottage annex to his boarding house. The Hamilton Villa continued to prosper throughout the hotel period on Chebeague Island. It still stands today and is now owned by Capt. Robert Wheldon (of United Air Lines) and is used as a private residence. Capt. Wheldon is a great grandson of Capt. Hamilton."

Due to the illness of Fran's daughter now eight, she returned to Chebeague Island in 1969 where her parents and grandparents were born. Fran recalls being a summer "complaint" all her childhood, and was drawn to the serenity of the island where she became the wife of John Hamilton Calder last year. He is a fisherman, and the couple own a nine-room house.

Fran is interested in writing stems from studying journalism under the U.S. Air Force Institute, plus a two year professional writing course in Westport, Connecticut.

Active in Chebeague community affairs, Fran is superintendent of the Chebeague United Methodist Sunday School, is an active member of the Grange and will lead the Girl Scouts in the Fall.
GREATER PORTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

What is it?? What can it do??
by William O. Rogers, Executive Director

January 1, 1970 was not only the beginning of a new year but also the beginning of the Greater Portland Council of Governments.

GPCOG is the only COG in Maine and in fact in all of Northern New England. The underlying theory of a COG holds that no community in a metropolitan area has problems which are totally unrelated to those of neighboring communities.

The GPCOG was formed from the Greater Portland Regional Planning Commission in order that an organization at the regional level existed that could not only study a problem and "plan" for the best solution but could also implement the plan.

GPCOG is organized under the Maine Statutes authorizing creation of such a body and establishing certain guidelines. Member communities join by governing body resolution and appoint representatives to the General Assembly on a basis proportional to population. One of these representatives is, in turn designated as a member of the Executive Committee. At least half of the General Assembly and all of the Executive Committee must consist of elected officials. The Assembly which meets twice a year, establishes broad policy, adopts a budget, and makes necessary by laws changes. The Executive Committee, meeting monthly, is the primary governing body for the agency and is responsible for employment and supervision of staff.

Funds for the necessary staff, consultants, and overhead costs involved in operating the agency come from Federal and State Agencies, and from each member municipality.

Under a common banner of cooperative effort for better local government GPCOG has become involved in mass transit, public health, zoning, public works, solid waste disposal, recreation facilities, housing, data processing, law enforcement, highway planning, and air pollution.

GPCOG is also, under Federal & State law, responsible for reviewing applications for Federal grants-in-aid programs for the region and reviewing development applications under the new site location law.

Whether GPCOG will continue at its present level, grow and expand, or evolve into another type of structure cannot be foreseen at this time. However, given genuine community support, regional cooperation can lead to better government for all of our citizens.

SOLID WASTE -- and the ISLANDS

The principal program that GPCOG is now trying to implement is the Solid Waste Disposal program. For a region this size (the ten towns in the GPCOG area combined generate one ton of solid waste every three minutes). The Solid Waste Disposal program does have many problems that must be solved before a regional final disposal site and/or program can be implemented.

The islands of the Casco Bay area present a special problem for our Solid Waste Disposal plan since none of the islands have suitable soils on which to dispose the solid waste and therefore it will all have to be transported to the mainland for final disposal.

The present plan calls for the location of a transfer station somewhere along the waterfront which would handle by barge a "Green Box" program for the islands.

The "Green Box" is exactly what the name implies -- a metal box with approximate dimensions of 8' long 8' wide and 4' to 6' high and painted green.

These boxes would be placed at proper location(s) on the island (full green boxes easily transferred to the barge and empty green boxes transferred from the barge) and the residents of the island would be required to dispose of all rubbish, refuse, and riff-raff in these "Green Boxes".

The Boxes would be picked up at least weekly for transfer to the mainland.

While we do not have final cost figures for this program as yet it is safe to assume that this proper and adequate program to handle solid waste will cost more than what is now being expended on the present "dump" and that it will cost the islanders slightly more than the mainland because of the additional hauling charge of barge transportation.

Hopefully, the operation of the GPCOG sanitary landfill site will be implemented later this fall or early next spring.
INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

SUMMERTIME - AND THE LIVING IS EASY.

GREAT CHEBEAGUE

General - Largest in Southern part of the Bay, 5 miles long by 2 miles wide. Stretches of rocky shoreline and smooth sandy beaches. Sea and land birds; a myriad of plant life; stands of white birch, spruce and pine.

Transportation -
Casco Bay Lines 1 hour trip from Portland; water taxi from Cousins Island, Yarmouth; taxi and freight service on island.

Public Services -
Elementary school, fire department manned by volunteers, visiting nurse, 25 miles of road.

Other services -
Electricity, telephone, grocery stores, church, library, boatyard and landings for small boats.

Recreation -
Sporty 9 hole golf course, yacht club, sailing, boating, fishing, swimming and instruction.

Community Center -
Island Hall, operated by active Island Council for promotion of a wide variety of social events for all ages - Chebeague Island Grange and Grange Hall.

Public Services -
Sebago Lake water, electricity and telephone. Garbage and rubbish collection. City provides all hydrants and rubbish collection. City hires contractor to care for roads.

Religious services -
Sunday Catholic mass at Elwell Hall - occasional Protestant services.

Community Center -
Elwell Hall for weekly movies, social gatherings, supper and recreational activities for children.

Store -
Cooperative community store in Hall basement, 6 days a week.

Recreational Facilities -
Small boat landing, tennis court and supervised children's games.

GREAT DIAMOND

General -
Small population with 80 houses. Winter population one family; summer 350 acres. 1 1/2 miles by 3/4, mainly controlled by Diamond Island Association which started summer colony in 1882. 2 3/4 of island privately owned; 1/3 (formerly Fort McKinley) owned by KingResources.

Island Association -
Most of the residents are on Association land, and are subject to Association by-laws. Moderate dues for use of facilities, maintenance of sewer, recreational facilities and tennis court.

Transportation -
Casco Bay Lines - 20 to 30 minute trip from Portland. Transportation and trucking on island by Daniel Carr - Newspapers, mail, range oil delivered.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Casco Bay Lines - 8:50 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 3:45 p.m. From Peaks Island - 11:15 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 3:45 p.m. From Great Diamond - 9:20 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 3:45 p.m. From Little Diamond - 10:00 a.m.; 12:05 p.m.; 2:10 p.m.; 4:25 p.m.; 6:40 p.m. From Peaks Island - 11:15 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 3:45 p.m. From Great Diamond - 9:30 a.m.; 1:35 p.m.; 3:50 p.m. From Little Diamond - 10:05 a.m.; 12:10 p.m.; 2:15 p.m.; 4:30 p.m.; 6:45 p.m.

REFERENCES:
(5) Except Saturday, (TF) Tuesday and Friday only. (50) Saturday only. Special Notice: Starting June 19, 1962, 11:45 a.m. will replace 1:45 p.m. week days.

CLIFF

General -
The Farthest Out inhabited island of the Bay. Originally called Crotch Island - 9 miles from Portland. Population in 118 houses and 30 families in winter and 475 persons in summer, 4 1/2 miles long and from 1/4 to 1 mile wide.

Transportation -
Casco Bay Lines 1 1/2 hour boat trip from Portland. Taxi service and trucking on island.

Public Services -
Port of office, electricity, telephones, fire truck, and jeep - small boat landing.

School -
One room for elementary grades upper grades commute to Portland.

Community Center -
Island Hall with stage-active Cliff Island Association. Church where services are held by visiting clergy.
A number of new winter residents found snug harbor at Peaks Island and plan to stay on indefinitely.

YOUR VACATION DAYS IN CASCO BAY
By Robert Skillings

Our islands are blessed with an abundance of CLEAN AIR. It is breeze­
ed in from New Hampshire’s White Mountains on the west and from the great Atlantic Ocean on the east. The whole bay is ideal for boating families, fishing enthusiasts, artists, writers, and all who wish to savor a choice, un­
crowded coastal area with the pleasant detachment of island atmosphere.

Your vacation can be arranged on a modest budget - but take heed! Once you have sampled island living, you may be like many before you in searching for that, too. There’s no "keeping up with the Joneses".

For information on boat schedules apply to Casco Bay Lines, Custom House Wharf, Portland, Maine. Telephone 207-773-8105.

For other information, contact Casco Bay Island Development Association, Box 66, Peaks Island, Maine or Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce, 142 Free Street, Portland, Maine Telephone 207-773-8121.

When the temperature reaches 80 in the shade - year rounders can think back to last winter with its 150th plus of snow.

These island scenes by Ethel Dudley show how it was after the BIG STORM.

Peaks Island
General - The most populous island, with 61 houses. Population in winter, nearly 1,000 - in summer several thousand. Two miles by 1/2 miles with 770 acres. Inner shore good anchorage - outer shore Atlantic Ocean.

Transportation - Casco Bay Lines passenger boats and vehicle ferry - frequent schedule, year round.

Public Services - Same good water supply as in City - with Sebago Lake water piped under the Harbor. Electricity from Central Maine Power Company with stand-by auxillary generator on island. Telephone service. Fire station, combined fire and police services; rubbish and garbage collections. Public small boat landing. Public picnic areas.

Scenic shore road drive now open for 1966.

Your Vacation can be arranged on a modest budget - but take heed! Once you have sampled island living, you may be like many before you in searching for that, too. There’s no "keeping up with the Joneses".

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FLASHBACK:

When the temperature reaches 80 in the shade - year rounders can think back to last winter with its 150th plus of snow.

These island scenes by Ethel Dudley show how it was after the BIG STORM.

NISSEN’S BAKERY
JAMES BROWN
Distributor
Peaks Island
Three New Hom sites on Long Island

The first "building boom" for many years is being seen on scenic Long Island.

Mr. and Mrs. William Malia of Portland are replacing their home destroyed by fire on Dec. 9/69. Their new home is on the same site on the West End point of the island and is considerably larger with 3 picture windows facing Hussey Sound.

Mrs. Leonard Thompson of Westfield, Mass., are building at Jerrys Point on the site of the former 7th Maine Regiment Association building which was destroyed by fire during the 30s. They are the grandchildren (great) of the last treasurer of the 7th Maine Regiment.

Oldfield

Mr. Linwood Card of Portland and his brother Andrew of Billricker, Mass., are building at Jerrys Point on the site of the former 7th Maine Regiment Association building which was destroyed by fire during the 30s. They are the grandchildren (great) of the last treasurer of the 7th Maine Regiment.

Card

Other Long Island News

The 23rd Annual Fair of the VFW will be held August 7 at the Long Island Memorial Post Home. Robert Elder, Commander, and Mrs. Olan F. Wood, President of the Auxiliary are co-chairmen. Mrs. John Billings is general assistant. Mrs. Isobel Johnson and Mrs. John Gomez will be in charge of the Snack Bar; Mrs. I. James Coolbrith and Mrs. Clarence Ross, the White Elephant table. Others serving at booths and games are Olan F. Wood, Earl A. Johnson, Arnold V. Perkins, Harland Brooks, Charles E. Doughty, Harry Clarke and James Coolbrith. This fair is the highlight of the season.

New Prospects for Birch Island -- Its Past and Present

by Ray Hayward

Birch Island is located about halfway between Mere Point Neck and Harpswell Neck -- about seven miles from Brunswick, as the crow flies.

It was originally settled by Walter Merrian, an Irishman who was captured (kidnapped, really) in Dublin, and indentured to a man in Cape Elizabeth. When he had served his indenture, he settled on Harpswell. He soon chose Birch Island as his permanent home, however, and was followed by several other families.

In the early 1800's, there were enough salt-water farmers on the island to justify the construction of a school for the more than 50 children.

In 1849, however, the discovery of gold in the West exerted an irresistible appeal to the adventurous spirit of the islanders, and the island was practically deserted.

My first acquaintance with Birch Island occurred in 1907, when my father bought a small point at the southwestern end of the island. At that time, about 15 summer cottages lined the western end of the island, which is opposite Here Point.

The Casco Bay Lines steamer "Maquoit", a fine commodious vessel, painted all white, made two trips daily from Portland, which was a sixteen mile trip.

In all probability, Frank Thompson, who was the superintendent of schools in Boston at that time, did more than anyone else toward making Birch Island a popular summer resort for many members of the teaching profession in and around Boston. It was his practice to invite his friends to join him in his big motor launch once a week for a deep sea fishing trip down the bay.

This group was instrumental in sponsoring the construction of a clay tennis court and a large casino for dancing and other social activities.

At this time, tho, only one family lived on the island all the year round. They were Fred Johnson, his wife and a son named Charles, Fred farmed, kept a small herd of cows, and was the island postmaster. After the death of his parents, Charles and his wife, Marguerite, kept the farm going, ran the post office, and looked after the summer cottages until a few years ago, when they moved to Sunganuc.

Now, at the age of eighty, Charles still lobsters and keeps an eye on the island property.

In the early 1900's, both a boys and a girls camp were conducted on the island with considerable success. The island supported a baseball team which competed with teams on Chebeague, Littlejohns, Orrs, South Harpswell and South Freeport.

Within the past twenty years, several new cottages have been built on the west shore, but there is still an abundance of room for further development, for Birch Island is well wooded with rocky shores and a few pebbly beaches.

At the present time, a niece of Frank Thompson, Mrs. Milton Brown, is writing a book on the history of Birch Island. Having spent most of her summers on the island, she is eminently qualified to tell the story of Birch Island with accuracy and color.

E. E. Clarke
Groceries
Long Island

766-2512
PROJECT OCEANSIDE PROGRESSES

Gradual improvement of Seashore Avenue on Peaks Island, and the first new house under construction are visible signs of progress in the long road of negotiations between the CHDA, city and state officials.

The answer to "WHY DON'T THEY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ROAD?" was quietly undertaken a number of years ago. Getting the road into public ownership was the first long step. Then gentle pressure on public officials to get the dips and dives smoothed out. Far from a class A road, but its better. And there's reason to believe it will be continually improved.

Professor Charles Wright has helped answer the other frequent question: "DO YOU REALLY THINK ANYONE WILL EVER BUILD OVER THERE?" Charles is building (work by Roland Hoar) the first section of a long planned dream house near Whaleback. Completion will take several years, but the studio room a large porch are already in use by artist friends.

Three more houses are currently being planned in the project area - all to be designed for year round use. At the maximum no crowding can ever spoil the natural beauty of the back shore. At last - Project Oceanside is a reality.

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Responsibilities of Publisher:
Business management of paper, including selling and collection for advertising. Page make-up and editorial policy guidance. Arrangement for printing and distribution. It would be possible to expand this paper into a business enterprise.

Inquiries should be addressed to CBIDA - Box 66 - Peaks Island.

HARBOR FISH MARKET
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