Nor' by East, Summer 1980

Casco Bay Island Development Association

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FIRE AT FORT Mc KINLEY, GREAT DIAMOND, June 28, 1980

Island people help firemen move hose across the island to scene of fire which destroyed two buildings and damaged two more. With no active hydrants available at the Fort, hose had to be laid across the island. Island people have long been concerned that campers or wanderers in the Fort might start a fire.

Photo by Eric Soederberg.
WHOSE JOB IS THIS?

Residents of Great Diamond Island, with the aid of their new Jeep fire truck, were able to contain the fire at the Fort McKinley theatre until the water gave out! The Fort's city water supply has been shut off since the army left, so at that point hose had to be passed from the beach to the site through woods and brush. A 'hose brigade' took a hand - literally - with this project. Unfortunately, back at the fort the adjacent building caught fire and sparks got into the wooden drains and woodwork of buildings across the Parade Ground - a distance of 100 feet - with the inevitable result.

The fireboat could not be dispatched until the fire had been verified by one of the official 'fire verifiers'.

HERE AND THERE ON THE FOURTH

A male beauty contest was a feature of the Long Island Fourth of July festivities. Red T shirts with the date and title were awarded to Mr. Long Island (Bob Jordan); Mr. Cool (Bill Sieg); Mr. Congeniality (Mark Green). Mr. Grace was awarded to Wayne Bruns for "originality in bribing the judges."

Blue shirts went to Marathion winners Chuck Nadeau, Joe Ruminiski and Dan Parker while Float winners received watermelons and certificates. They were - Best Bike over 16, Richard Jordan; Best Bike 16 and under, Mark Gaydet, Funniest, Sieg Card Risbara float; Most Patriotic, Hall Ferguson; Most Beautiful, Richard Davis; whose Fiddler on the Roof also won the Grand Prize.

Great Diamond sent its traditional Parade of Horribles to the wharf to meet the morning boat. The cookout followed ($1 a head and cook your own). Another Great Diamond tradition is the July 4th egg toss in which eggs are tossed back and forth until the last one meets the usual fate of a tossed egg. There are strict rules against boiling the egg first! A whiffle ball game ended in a tie.

Chebeague has a yearly theme for the parade. This year's Year of the Coast produced a Viking Ship with helmeted Vikings (first prize winner) and a mermaid seated by a lighthouse (grandprize winner). The Mechanical Clam Digger bore a close resemblance to the old road scraper. The picnic at the schoolyard featured beans and ham, hot dogs, sodas and desserts. The Council, the Boy Scouts, the Firemen, and the Grange each have full charge of one part of the feast. Road races, games and plenty of 'visiting' provided entertainment.

This city policy, which was designed to prevent the fireboat from chasing false alarms, has now been changed. The fireboat will start at once and can be called back if the alarm proved to be false.

Fort McKinley is owned by Texas International, and a question might be raised as to the owner's responsibility in case of fire. Fighting a fire next door is self-protection as well as neighborly kindness. It is standard procedure - particularly on islands which stand alone and isolated in dealing with fire.

A large and somewhat isolated tract of land - buildings, open and abandoned - an absentee corporate owner - and a handful of seasonal residents whose summer homes mean a great deal to them. They strove valiently. They fought successfully. Their luck held. They may be wondering - what next?
RATE CASE - CBIDA VIEW

"Ferry Hike Denied" was the heading in the Press Herald and members of CBIDA's Transportation Committee could feel that the hot, sunny days of summer spent at hearings and pre-hearing meetings in Portland and Augusta had been worthwhile. Prepared to meet the original rate increase request with positive alternatives so a smaller increase might be possible, CBIDA wondered why nothing seemed to happen and was stunned when the news broke that Casco Bay Lines had not only sought the protection of the bankruptcy court, but had requested a temporary rate increase. A temporary rate increase may be granted without a public hearing if no one from the public objects. CBIDA objected. Stuart Laughlin, CBIDA president, and Johanna von Tiling, chairman of the Transportation Committee traveled to Augusta, met Peter Murray who had filed as an intervenor on behalf of CBIDA, and presented CBIDA's request for a public hearing.

On two days of the hearing at the U. of M. Law School, the lawyers on the PUC staff saw a good representation of CBIDA Committee members and others. Anyone who wished to speak had an opportunity and CBIDA's position was expressed completely as several Committee members gave their sworn testimony along with other concerned islanders and Representative Edie Beaulieu. Our position was that no valid emergency existed. The proceedings were long, but too bizarre to be boring. At one point, the PUC threatened to stop the hearings until and unless their independent auditors were allowed to examine the CBL books.

The hearing had to be continued for a third day - in Augusta. Once again, Pres. Laughlin and Chairwoman von Tiling joined Peter Murray to represent CBIDA. At the end of the hearing Examiner Cushing Pagon gave interested parties an opportunity to file motions for stay or dismissal of the request for a temporary increase. On behalf of CBIDA Peter Murray filed a motion for dismissal that restated most clearly the CBIDA position - and filed it on time.

Then came the Press Herald headlines "P.U.C. staff says 'No' to ferry hike," and "Ferry hike denied!"

FROM THE EDITOR: Nor by East says 'thank you' to attorneys Kenway and Fybur for their kind attention to the public at the recent hearing; to Representative Edie Beaulieu for losing so much sleep on behalf of the islanders she represents and those she does not; to Peter Murray for legal presentation that read like poetry; to Stephen Murray for filling in for Peter and stiffening our spines; to the numerous Public Utilities Commissioners for agreeing with their staff; to Frank Sleeper for his superb coverage of "The Continuing Saga of Casco Bay Lines"; and to Examiner Cushing Pagon for her excellent handling of objections and for being one gracious lady!

WELCOME NEW LOOK

"The Public Utilities Commission should be more public and less utility." "Why attend the hearing? The PUC will give its usual rubber stamp approval." Did you ever say that? Or feel like saying it? Or did you ever attend and then hear, "Are you a transportation expert? We want testimony from transportation experts?"

TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

Examiner Chsing Pagon started the CBL rate increase hearings by passing around a sheet of paper. Anyone who wanted to give testimony could sign up. She then called the names in turn. Her manner was gracious and pleasant, but when she overruled an objection, it was overruled! The PUC attorneys, Kimball Kenway and William Fybur were sincerely attentive and made it clear that it was the intention of the PUC to grant a wide latitude in the public testimony. They were obviously deeply interested in the opinions and impressions of the island people.

These three were the young people whom the Commissioners had put in charge of the rate case. When the Commissioners themselves were present, the same attitude prevailed - concern for the public and a recognition that a certain expertise in transportation goes with being the ones transported.
The S.T.A.R. Foundation is a Maine non-profit corporation whose members are dedicated to research and application of alternative energy resource technologies. The name S.T.A.R. stands for Solar Technologies and Applied Research. The group is comprised of a board of directors and a small volunteer staff with expertise in the fields of architecture, construction, solar technologies, and education.

We look forward to using Battery Steele’s approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of space as a focal point for the new STAR Center. We have been working for months with CBIDA and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust to put together a series of restrictions and covenants which will allow parts of the Battery to remain accessible to the public and guarantee that the appearance of the project be in keeping with the tenor of the Back Shore. Our development will be limited to educational, small scale residential, and research oriented structures.

A summer program has already begun which encompasses all initial efforts to prepare the battery for future use. In cooperation with Cumberland CETA, we are working to provide an educational employment opportunity for local teenagers. This program focuses on site renovation and the rehabilitation of the battery. (We are presently in the process of clearing the used-to-be grassy knoll...
Ann Compton

over the east gun port, clearing trails and steps paths up the sides of the battery, and mapping the site.

Other key activities for the summer include: preparation for and installation of an electricity generating wind machine and a multi-channel weather recording station; detailed site planning for additional structures; and further definition of program plans.

In the future, research and development will be ongoing in small scale wind electric conversion, energy conservation, passive solar heating and cooling, solar water heating, wood combustion and waste heat recovery, water/waste management/

biomass conversion, greenhouse food production, and aquaculture. These activities will be coupled with educational seminars and programs on these technologies.

We feel this is a timely project in this world of depleted resources and changing lifestyles. Our idea is to create a practical model of renewable resource self-sufficiency in a community setting. We appreciate the support of CBIDA and its vote of confidence in this project.

Picnickers and other visitors are welcome. We would like you to share your ideas with us. If you don't find Steve McAllister or Ann Compton working at the Battery, come by Central Ave, Peaks Island, or call 766-2311.
ANNUAL MEETING: An exhibit of
island photographs by Andy
Ford will be a feature of the
CBIDA Annual Meeting at Cliff
Island, August 24. A buffet
luncheon will precede the
meeting. Special arrange-
mements with Casco Bay Lines
will make it possible for
Peaks Island members to join
those from other islands on
the 10 A.M. trip down the bay.

EXHIBITS:
Sculpture - Edith Tucker
Collage - Sandra Green

*You may meet the artists at
an Open House on August 10 at
3 P.M.

EVENTS:
Poetry Aloud
Tues. Aug. 12, 7 P.M.

Five Finger Exercise
Portland Play Readers
Thurs., Aug. 21, 7 P.M.

"A dream enterprise" - that's
how Barbara King, proprietor,
describes The Open Book & Arts
Forum, located on the Portland
waterfront in the recently re-
novated Thomas Block. Her cozy,
browse-y little shop is decorated
by the living and ever-
changing mural of activity in
the dock by Portland Pier, as
well as by exhibits by local
and yet unknown artists. It is
a convenient place to spend
those extra few minutes be-
fore boat time. The shop's
Sunday hours (1-5:30 p.m.) and
evening hours (Mon-Fri. 10:30-
8:30 p.m.) provide an especi-
ally pleasant answer to "What
shall we do until - " On Satu-
rdays the hours are 10:30 -
5:30 p.m.

The stock, varied and of a
wide price range, is so art-
fully and temptingly displayed
that it comes as no surprise to
learn that Barbara is a retire-
ed librarian. "I wanted to com-
bine my knowledge as a libra-
rian with the challenge of run-
nning my own establishment
- with an emphasis on cultural
activity as well as selling," she
explains.

In addition to the art ex-
hibits, giving focus to un-
known local artists, there are
Friday Forums which sometimes
leak into other days. These
evening Forums are devoted to

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OPEN BOOK & ARTS FORUM
during August

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Our Advertisers
The survivors of the Maine volunteer regiments of the Civil War had common memories to draw them together again and again. The Eighth Maine and the Fifth Maine each built themselves a place on the Whitehead End of Peaks Island where they could hold their reunions and come with their families for summer relaxation. The Eighth Maine, still owned by descendants of the original regiment, is available for semi-cooperative summer living at reasonable expense. The time came when the few descendants of the original regiment could no longer maintain the Fifth Maine property. Their desire was that it become available to Peaks Island for community activities. The Fifth Maine Regiment Community Center was formed to accept the building and maintain it for that purpose.

Until its eventual demise the Grange met in the Fifth Maine building. Religious gatherings came and went. It continues to be available for bridge clubs, meetings, classes and special events such as the Golden Wedding celebration of Chris and Buelma Pedersen. Fifth Maine also made history in 1976 as the setting for the successful Peaks Island protest of plans for a sewage treatment plant on the island.

The Peaks Island Music Association has been at home at Fifth Maine, maintaining the piano. The acoustics, as well as the period decor of the hall make an ideal setting for the presentation of island summer talent as well as for the mainland groups who enjoy bringing their music to the island on a summer evening. This summer's programs include the third visit of Portland's Co-Opera, a visit from the Choral Arts Society Madrigal Singers, and early presentation of young talent.

Stained glass windows bearing the names of fallen comrades and leaders are distinctive features of this building. There are also period photographs, mostly of survivors at the time the building was erected. Mementos have been moved to Augusta for safekeeping except for the battleflag, too fragile to remove from its place behind the glass of its case.

Maintaining the building has become difficult for the organization but the recognition of the building as an historic structure resulted in help. In 1978 Civil War buffs from around the country held an encampment on Peaks Island with a celebration at Fifth Maine. This made this community center a focus for the gathering of names to add to the lists of those from Maine who served in the Civil War in any regiment.

As a result of the new interest, the roof has been made tight, underpinnings replaced, a septic system installed, making possible some modern plumbing. Work has begun to make the second story into living quarters. This summer Maureen Cullen serves as curator while staying there with her 'commuting husband'. She reports that her first visitor was from Mississippi!

The Gulf of Maine Aquarium, at Long Wharf in Portland, offers visitors a peek at Who's Who at the bottom of the sea. Four eye-level tanks recreate the habitat of numerous finny friends of all descriptions. There are also horseshoe crabs. Did you know they were here in the days of the dinosaurs?

A little gift area sells items suitable as souvenirs and sticker books and packages of shells which can provide children with a pleasant follow-up of what they have learned. The Aquarium will remain open in the fall (so long as its income can balance the fuel bill), giving the residents of Maine a chance to see what goes on in our sea.
NEEV A COOLER? The steel water taxi, "BIG SQUAW" uses time between calls to cut ice off Stone Pier, Chebeague.
Feb. 1980

Nor by East is published by Casco Bay Island Development Association, Box 66, Peaks Island, ME, 04108, Editor, Jean Dyer, Chebeague Island, ME. 04017, telephone 846-4188.
Publications Committee: Robert Laughlin, chairman; Jean Dyer, Gretchen Hall, editor Newsletter; Bea Chapman, Stuart Laughlin. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

COME JOIN US

"Just how many people belong to Casco Bay Island Development Association?" That was the question raised by a lawyer for Casco Bay Lines to CBIDA President Stuart Laughlin as he presented to the PUC staff in Augusta, CBIDA's urgent request for a public hearing on the CBL temporary emergency rate increase. The next question was, "What is the population of the islands in the bay?" This attempt at playing the numbers game to discredit the only baywide organization added up to a fat zero as the hearings were held and the final decision on the emergency increase was a dismissal.

The questions, however, are ones that the members of the CBIDA Steering Committee often ask themselves. Our purpose is the protection and betterment of island living. The purpose of our paper, NOR-by-EAST is the sharing of ideas from island to island as well as keeping our members informed of what goes on in the Bay area.

Membership is reasonably priced. Our Annual Meeting provides a pleasant outing on one of the islands. Members are eligible to serve on the Steering Committee.

The whole is no greater than the sum of its parts. CBIDA needs your membership to increase its whole. To quote President Stuart Laughlin, "Divided and alone, the islands might be left in confusion. United, there may be nothing that we might not be able to accomplish."

Officers of CBIDA: President Stuart Laughlin, 68 Prospect St., Portland 04103, Great Diamond Island. Vice President, Jean Dyer, Chebeague Island. Recording Secretary: Gretchen Hall, Peaks Island, 04108. Business Secretary, Mary Dean, Peaks Island, 04108. Treasurer, Winthrop Dean, Peaks Island.


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