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12-23-05 What store is this and where did all the houses go?



Can you help us identify the business in this photo? We have been unable to find anyone who recognizes the store on the right. It has signs for Coca Cola and "dogs and sandwiches." On the back of the photo, the location is identified as the corner of Bean and Cushing Streets, and the house is identified as belonging to Charles Braun.

If you don't know where Bean and Cushing Streets were, here's a quick primer. The streets were located in the Cushing's Point section of South Portland, on our northeastern waterfront. Around the beginning of World War II, a large number of houses and buildings in

the area were either moved or razed to make room for the construction of the shipyards. The cove was filled in and some of the streets, like Bean, Cushing and Shawmut, disappeared as the area was reconfigured to accommodate warehouses, fabrication buildings, military housing and other shipbuilding structures. Bean Street used to extend from High Street, across Pickett Street (now Breakwater Drive) and on towards the water until it met Cushing Street. Cushing Street ran from Bean Street, across Madison Street, and to the water.

If you don't recognize the business in the photo, maybe you can help us in another way. We would like to identify and record all of the houses that were moved from the Cushing's Point area to other locations in South Portland or in the Greater Portland area. Is there a house on your street that came from the shipyard area? Please take a moment to share the information: its address now, and if you know, what its former address was. You can reach Kathy by email at Kathy@barrenhillbooks.com or call 767-3268.

12-16-05 It's a Wonderful South Portland

During the holiday season, it's hard to resist watching *It's a Wonderful Life* for the 10th (or 20th) time. The delightful movie with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed always puts me in the holiday spirit, and this year, it also brought to mind how life could have been so different if South Portland had indeed headed down a different path 100 years ago.

In a news story from December 16, 1905, the residents of South Portland were anxiously awaiting a vote by their neighbors in Portland. The vote was to take place on December 19th and with a majority vote in favor, Portland would have annexed South Portland; the voters in South Portland had already approved the annexation in 1904.

Portland had already increased its size dramatically in 1899, with the annex of the city of Deering and its 11,000 acres. If Portland were to annex South Portland, it would have added another 8,000 acres to its mass. The voters of Portland were not enthusiastic about consolidating with our city, however. South Portland had only separated from Cape Elizabeth ten years earlier, then adopted the city form of government in 1898, and the growing city was much in need of improvements to its sewer system and other infrastructure. The Portland paper reported that South Portland had “no fire engines, no macadamized streets, few brick or cement sidewalks and only a miniature police department.”

I must digress. It's fun to imagine a South Portland with no paved streets, isn't it? Those were the days when kids would enjoy sliding down Brown's Hill, right down the middle of Broadway. It must have been a fun ride and if it were really icy, I bet the sleds might have made it all the way to Evans Street! Any residents who might have some oral history about sledding on South Portland's streets, let me know...

Back to the proposed annexation, the voters of Portland rejected the idea and we set about to building ourselves a great city on our own. To name some of our highlights, we have beautiful parks, lighthouses, a great police and fire department, an excellent school system, and a Community Center that provides the most wonderful services to residents of all ages. Maybe our biggest asset is the people of this fine city. It certainly is a wonderful life here in South Portland!

12-09-05 Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays! The holiday season is in full swing and I thought it might be a good time for gift suggestions – for the South Portland Historical Society, of course! We are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, dedicated to preserving the history of South Portland, and we rely on support from the community to help us achieve our mission.

- Why not consider becoming a member by making a donation? You would be supporting a great cause and, as a bonus (with a minimum \$10 donation), you would receive our newsletter, keeping you up to date on Society happenings. The South Portland Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit; all donations are tax-deductible.

- Is your old South Portland High School yearbook collecting dust? Take a look at the following yearbooks that we already have. We have yearbooks from 1915, 1927-1944, 1949-1955, 1964, 1967, 1969, and 1981. Do you have a yearbook from a missing year? Why not consider donating it to the Historical Society?

- Portland Directories are very helpful for historical and genealogical research. We have a limited number of them at our museum; we have directories for the years 1926, 1946, 1948, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1991, and 1994. If you have a directory from a different year and would be willing to donate it, we would really appreciate it!

- We are always looking for photographs and artifacts from South Portland. If you have any item that might hold interest to future generations, please let us know. When in doubt, don't throw it out...contact the South Portland Historical Society to see if it might be an item that we could preserve. Of special interest to us at the present time – items related to the South Portland shipyards, as well as items imprinted with the names of old South Portland businesses.

- Memoirs. We would love to have residents write about their memories of living in South Portland.

If you can help us with any of these items, you may reach me at 767-3268 or email Kathy@barrenhillbooks.com.

Note to the person who had an interest in an old South Portland bowling alley: we do not have your phone number and have been unable to contact you. Please give us a call.

12-02-05 Grand View Cottage



Grandview Cottage

The Grand View Cottage was a summer hotel, located at 551 Preble Street. Originally a private home owned by the Woodbury family in the 1800s, Charles Woodbury sold the family home in 1898 to George Libby, who converted it to a summer boarding house. In 1901, Libby sold the house to Bessie Hearn, who enlarged the original building and built on an annex, creating a 54 room hotel, known as the Grand View Cottage.

From roughly 1920 to 1945, the hotel was run by Flora Johnson, first with her husband, Charles, and then on her own after Charles died.

The Johnsons created a brochure touting the amenities of the hotel:

The house contains 54 well lighted and ventilated rooms, recently newly furnished throughout with all modern conveniences, including new bath rooms and steam heat. All rooms are pleasant and desirable – hot and cold water on each floor, electric lights, attractive dining room accommodating 100 people, large screened porch 12x55 feet and tennis court...a fine bathing beach is convenient to the house. Turning away from the ocean one may wander through open fields and wooded crests, while a picturesque orchard, with seats under the shading trees, affords an ideal place to while away a lazy summer's day.



Spacious dining room, Grand View Cottage

The brochure advertised its season as running from June 15 to September 10. Under a description of how to reach the hotel: *take electric car from boat or railroad station to Monument Square, getting transfer check to Meeting House Hill car, leave car at Woodbury Street, South Portland.*

Later operators of the hotel included Herbert Cook from the late 1940s to early 1960s, and Barbara Lucey in the hotel's later days. The Grand View burned in 1968.

11-25-05 The Maine Mall



On the day after Thanksgiving, thousands of shoppers will descend upon the Maine Mall, but few will give any thought to the history of the area. The western end of South Portland was home to many farms, blueberry fields, and even a swamp known as the "Pollywonk." My good friend, Robert Dyke, says that he used to have to go into the Pollywonk looking for cows that escaped their pasture at his family's farm.

The actual site where the Maine Mall stands today was originally a pig farm. It was Bernal Allen, then City Manager of South Portland, who had a vision for retail development of the area. In 1965, South

Portland owned about 40 acres of land and Allen convinced the Board of Industry to purchase another 150 acres in the area. By December 1967, a Massachusetts developer had started to purchase the land upon which the Mall would be built. First to open was Jordan Marsh, in August 1969. In 1971, the Maine Mall officially opened with almost 50 stores, anchored by Jordan Marsh and Sears. What a long way the area has come...

May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

11-18-05 Judge Edward C. Reynolds



Once a very prominent member of our community in South Portland, Edward C. Reynolds seems to be known by few today. While some remember that there used to be a Reynolds School in South Portland, and participants in the annual SPHS Senior Final Assembly might pick up on "...and the Edward C. Reynolds Award goes to...", much of his memory seems to have faded from the general populace.

Let me reintroduce this man who was a significant person in South Portland's history. Born Edward Clayton Reynolds in 1856 in Braintree, MA, Mr. Reynolds attended schools in (what was then) Cape Elizabeth. Indeed, when the town of Cape Elizabeth established its first high school, Reynolds was one of the four members to graduate in the Class of 1877, the first graduating class in Cape Elizabeth. Reynolds later attended Georgetown University, where he earned an L.L.M. degree in 1886.

Among his many accomplishments and affiliations, Reynolds was the author of *The Maine Scholars Manual*, a textbook that was used by school children throughout the state, which was first published in 1880 and was revised and republished numerous times, as well as *Cape Elizabeth High School*, a history of the school, in 1892. Reynolds served as the Cumberland County Register of Probate, 1889-97, Maine state senator, 1897-99, and mayor of South Portland, 1899-1900. He also served on the South Portland School Board, was president of the Portland Country Club, and Director of the Cumberland and Federal Loan and Building Associations of Portland. He was a member of the Freemasons, Knights Templar, and Knights of Pythias.

Edward Reynolds lived with his wife, Sophie, and their two daughters, Lina and Sophie, in their home at 1024 Broadway (now the location of Conroy-Tully Funeral Home). He died in 1938 and was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. The former Summer Street School on Broadway (near the present-day Amato's at Broadway and Evans Street), was renamed the Edward C. Reynolds School in his honor. The Reynolds School was later closed and the building was replaced by apartments (the Old Schoolhouse Apartments at 1080 Broadway).

If you know of any additional information about Judge Reynolds, or if you are one of his descendents, I would love to hear from you. Please call me at 767-3268 or email Kathy@barrenhillbooks.com

11-11-05 Veterans' Day



Courtesy of Marjorie Jordan Werner. This 1941 photo was taken at the Colonial Theater in Boston. Seated in front are the police commissioner on the left and Jimmy Durante on the right; performer Ina Rae Hutton is standing behind. Three servicemen were selected from the audience to appear in the picture, one representative each from the Marines, Army, and Navy. Shown standing at right is John Werner, who was born and raised in Portland and served in the U.S. Navy. Werner later married South Portland native, Marjorie Jordan, and they settled in South Portland. Click on the picture to

enlarge.

For some of our younger readers, I thought it would be appropriate to recognize Veterans' Day with a little history lesson. Veterans' Day was originally known as Armistice Day. The holiday originated when President Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919 to be the one year anniversary of Armistice Day, referring to the armistice (the temporary suspension of hostilities) between the Allied nations and Germany. The armistice, that went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, proved to be the end of World War I (the war officially ended upon the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919).

Armistice Day was first recognized as a day to honor the veterans of World War I; however, after World War II and the Korean War, the United States Congress changed the name to Veterans Day in 1954. The holiday has continued to evolve. Veterans' Day is still celebrated on November 11th each year, but is now widely recognized as a day to honor all living veterans, whether they served America in a time of war or peace.

11-04-05 Mrs. Crane's School of Elocution and other memories



June 1945 photo of the cast members of The Little Princess. The photo was taken in front of Mrs. Crane's house/school on Haven Road. Click on the picture to enlarge.

We recently received some delightful photographs from Marsha Miller Boggs, who lived on Clinton Street in South Portland in the 1940's. She wrote of her memories of growing up on Meeting House Hill and Mrs. E'Lora Crane's School of Elocution. If you are like me, you might already be turning to your dictionary; here is how the Webster's Dictionary defines elocution: "the art of effective public speaking".

According to Marsha, "Mrs. Crane had a stage in the basement [of her house on Haven Road in SP]. We gave plays and had to learn poetry to recite. She had us perform in the State Theater and in the Eastland Hotel." In June of 1945, the school put on a performance of "The Little Princess".

Marsha also included other fond memories of growing up here. She referred to her group of friends from Clinton Street as "the Clinton Street Gang" and remembers "we all played together, swapped comic books, and spent our Saturday afternoons at the Cape Theatre. In the 1940's, we could go for 9



Mr. Jones taking the "Clinton Street Gang" for a ride in 1946. Click on the picture to enlarge.

cents!" The Cape Theatre was a 500-seat movie theater, built in the mid-1930's. The building was purchased by the Portland Players in the mid-1960's and renamed the Phyllis Thaxter Theatre.

If you have fond memories of living in South Portland, I would love to hear from you. You can reach me by email at Kathy@barrenhillbooks.com or write to me at 646 Highland Avenue, SP. Your "memoirs" may be put on file at the South Portland Historical Society so that future generations will be able to see first hand accounts of life in our great city!

10-28-05 Thank you, Pleasantdale Hose Co. 3!



Pleasantdale Hose Co. 3 photo of the Robinson Street station, circa 1921-1922. Click on picture to enlarge

On Sunday, October 30th, the Pleasantdale Hose Co. 3 will be closing its hose house, located at 26 Robinson Street, at 11:59am and will subsequently be located in the rear bay of the Cash Corner Fire Station, starting at 12:01pm. The public is welcome to come to either location. At Robinson Street, there will be a closing service and historic photos on display, from 11am to noon. After the fire truck makes its last ride out of the hose house, the firefighters will drive to the Cash Corner station where refreshments will be served.

The Pleasantdale Hose Co. 3 has a long history in South Portland. Starting back in 1893, locals joined together to form this volunteer fire company to protect the homes in the Pleasantdale area of the city. The company bought its first hose wagon in May 1893. In those early years, when a fire broke out, the firefighters would enlist the aid of the closest available horse, hitch him to the hose wagon, and off they went to save the day. In 1906, the hose company leased the stable under the old schoolhouse at Broadway & Elm (where Cheryl Greeley dance studio and Big Red Q Quickprint are now located). In 1920, Pleasantdale residents joined together to form the Pleasantdale Improvement Society, sold stock at \$10/share, and

used the proceeds to build the Robinson Street station. The hose house was built in 1921 and the first meeting of the company in the new station was held on Jan. 2, 1922.

The South Portland Historical Society hopes that you will also visit us on Saturday, October 29th at our museum (on Braeburn Avenue, off Westbrook Street, in the old Sawyer School annex building), from 1pm to 4pm. October 29th will be our museum's last day open for the 2005 season. Our museum is open to the public each year from May to October. Admission is free. This also marks the end of our 2005 exhibit: Call Box 4215, A History of South Portland's Fire Department. We thank the South Portland Fire Department and all of the other individuals who put some wonderful photographs and artifacts on exhibit with us for the season. Our video "Disappearing History: A History of the Pleasantdale Hose Co. 3" will be available for viewing on Saturday. We hope you will join us!

10-21-05 T-Ledge Stables – Follow Up



Click on picture to enlarge

What a wonderful response to our column on T-Ledge Stables! So many people rode horses, took lessons, or just enjoyed having the stables in their neighborhood. Here are a few residents' memories:

Janice Lynch remembers Saturday morning meetings in the tack room, lunches in the house, and the fee of \$3 per hour for riding. "Winter riding in the snow was fun," she says. She also remembers Harold "Sarge" Sargent who was the stablehand and blacksmith. Some of the horses she remembers were Riyadh, Jakarta, Skipper, Pee Wee, Canberra, Ankara, Yangtse, Bucky and Dakar.

Karen Harvey remembers growing up on Arbutus Avenue and seeing horses who would now and then escape from T-Ledge and come walking down her street, sometimes leaving some manure on the street for good measure.

Gloria Watson remembers taking riding lessons there in the late 1930's – 50 cents per lesson. "The outdoor ring was at the left of the house and the barn on the right," she says. "We held riding meets outdoors that included games on horses...when accomplished as riders, we took trail rides down the roads off Highland Ave. to Sawyer St. as far as the rock quarry." Gloria's favorite horse was Bucyrus.

Clinton Gross had the only photos that we have seen. The photo shown here was taken behind T-Ledge, Clinton is the 3rd rider from the left, atop Bucyrus. Clinton remembered that horse as having a mind of his own. He rode Bucyrus in the Armistice Day Parade in Portland in 1938 and remembers that on the way back across the bridge, Bucyrus decided that he wanted to take a look over the railing, down at the water

below...quite an experience for Clinton!

An exciting piece of history was revealed by Edward Richardson, Jr., who lived on Hamilton Street from 1925-1933. He remembers the history of the site before it was T-Ledge. It was previously a dairy farm belonging to F.W. and A.H. Pillsbury, where Edward's family would purchase their milk.

10-14-05 Open House on Saturday



Click on the picture to enlarge

On Saturday, October 15th, the South Portland Historical Society will be celebrating its summer exhibit "Call Box 4215: A History of South Portland's Fire Department" with an Open House at our museum on Braeburn Avenue, from 1 to 4pm. We welcome you to bring yourself, bring your kids and grandkids, and join us! There will be some antique fire engines on site and light refreshments will be served.

March 1941, South Portland Fire Department photo of the fire at the State Reform School (now Brickhill).

10-07-05 T-Ledge Stables on Highland Avenue

We have had some great responses to our columns here in the Sentry thus far. It's time for our residents to put on their thinking caps once again, rummage through old photo albums, and see if we can dig up information on another topic: T-Ledge Stables. Although little evidence remains today, where T-Ledge Condominiums now stands on Highland Avenue, the area was once home to T-Ledge Stables.

For the not-so-distant past, it is amazing how little has been documented of its existence. We have no photographs at the South Portland Historical Society, nor have photos been found in the archives of other repositories such as Maine Historical, Greater Portland Landmarks, etc. Looking through various local histories, little-to-no mention has been made of it.

I have recently received some correspondence from Marsha Boggs of Indiana, who lived in South Portland as a child. She writes: "The [T-Ledge] stables, and a summer camp on Orrs Island, were run and owned by Nell Barnes Knorr until the 1960's...the horses were all named for places and Bible prophets. My favorites were a big roan named Yangtze and a lovely black named Malichi. The house was an old Cape Cod with an ell and the stables were new with an indoor riding ring and there was a large ring outside."

We need your help! Do you remember the stables? Surely someone must have taken riding lessons there and had a parent or someone snap a shot atop a horse, or of the stables. Perhaps you have memories of the people there. Why not write down what you remember, or find that photo, and help us to document this part of South Portland history? Please contact me at Kathy@barrenhillbooks.com or mail to me at 646 Highland Avenue, SP.

You could also drop by to share your information with us at the museum. We are only open a few more weeks, so don't wait. The museum is located on Braeburn Avenue, off Westbrook Street, in the old Sawyer School annex building. Admission is free and we are open Saturdays from 1 to 4pm, through the end of October. On Saturday, October 15th, we will also be holding a special Open House at the museum, with some special events planned. More information to come next week!

09-30-05 South Portland High School and Daniel F. Mahoney



Click on the picture to enlarge

When South Portland separated from Cape Elizabeth in 1895, the high school had been operating successfully from the second story of the Town Hall, located at the intersection of Ocean Street and Sawyer Road. After the Town Hall building was destroyed by fire in 1921, high school students were moved to Broadway Grammar School (later named Henley School) where classes were conducted until 1924, when construction was completed on a new high school building on the corner of Broadway and Ocean Street.

The above photo was taken around 1936-1937, when the construction of the annex to South Portland High School was underway. The high school moved to its current Highland Avenue location in 1960, swapping buildings with South Portland Junior High School. The Junior High School was later renamed Mahoney, in honor of Daniel F. Mahoney, and has since become Mahoney Middle School.

Daniel F. Mahoney was born in 1898 in Portland, graduated from Bowdoin College and served South Portland High School in many capacities over the years, including being a math teacher and an administrator. He became principal of our high school in 1940, a position which he retained for 25 years. Mr. Mahoney died in August 1966 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

09-23-05 An Early Tavern

There are many early scrapbooks at the South Portland Historical Society. Here is an interesting excerpt from a story that was originally run in 1901:

“At the foot of Meeting House Hill stood quite a large house, which was used as a sort of tavern, and here the residents of the Cape would often put up their horses and pass an hour or two before driving out.

There was a bar room connected with the house where ‘the boys’ could get liquid refreshments. Connected with the tavern was a hall which was located in the second story of quite a large annex or addition to the building and dances were held there, parties coming from all over the Cape to attend them.

The old tavern was torn down many years ago, but the hall still remains [1901] and has for the past 50 years been used as a dwelling house, at the present time being occupied by a Mr. Arey. This house stands at the junction of Cottage street and the Brewery road and still retains the title of hall.”

Of course, Brewery Road is now Highland Avenue (the stretch between Cottage and Ocean), and so this early-mentioned tavern would have been located somewhere at the intersection of Cottage and Highland. In 1901, William Arey was listed in the city directory as a fish peddler living on “Cottage Road, opposite Broadway”. The following year, the directory lists his house as 23 Highland Avenue, which would be just behind where the Getty gas station is situated.

I would love to hear from anyone who has any further information on this early tavern.

09-16-05 The Dyke Farm and Country Gardens



Click on the picture to enlarge

Many residents of Country Gardens may not realize that their houses were built on farmland. The Dyke Farm was a dairy farm located on Westbrook Street. The long white farmhouse is still there, but the barn and many out buildings were all removed to make way for construction of the new Country Gardens development.

The photo above was taken from the field behind the house; the white building in the center of the photo is the rear side of the farmhouse. Charles Dyke bought the land in the early 1900's and was a very large market gardener in his time. In the 1920's, Charles' son, Ernest "Ted" Dyke, purchased the cows, milking equipment and customers of the Crosby Farm and went on to run this large dairy

operation into the 1950's. The farm was sold in 1956.

09-09-05 Fort Preble



Click on picture to enlarge

Originally built in 1808, Fort Preble was one of several military installations guarding the approach to Portland Harbor. Named for Commodore Edward Preble, the fort was last in use during World War II and was deactivated in 1950. The State of Maine acquired the fort in 1952 and established Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute (SMVTI) on the site. The college has been renamed twice; it is now known as the Southern Maine Community College.

If you have any additional information, photographs or artifacts from Fort Preble, please call Kathy at the South Portland Historical Society, 767-3268.

09-02-05 The Advent Chapel

During a recent phone conversation with long-time South Portland resident, Waverly Hammond, Mr. Hammond stated to me that he remembered a church that used to be on Main Street, opposite Rosetti Avenue near Cash Corner. He said the new Cash Corner Fire Station was built on that site. He remembered peeking through the windows as a child, watching the congregants "shaking" during the service, and he believes it might have been a Pentecostal Church.

After consulting various written histories of South Portland, I've found no written reference to a church at that location. However, the Portland City Directories did record the "Advent Chapel" at that location (370 Main Street) from 1920 to 1936. The Directories do not indicate what denomination the chapel was.

Do you remember this church or know of any oral history about it? Have you ever seen any artifacts/photographs of the church? Please contact me at the SP Historical Society, or call me at 767-3268 if you have any information at all. Even if all you remember is "Oh, I remember a church there," I would appreciate a call so that a record can be made of anyone who has memory of it.

08-26-05 South Portland 50th Anniversary



South Portland's oldest natives, Flora Gardner Jewett and Benjamin Pickett Jordan, both 90 years old, rode in the parade on August 28, 1948. Click on picture to enlarge

On the weekend of August 28-29, 1948, South Portland held a community-wide celebration to commemorate its 50-year anniversary of becoming a city. According to the 50th Anniversary Program, the celebration included a parade, a four-mile race, baseball and softball games, a "Mardi Gras" with a "Parade of Horribles", street dancing, sailboat races, a historical exhibit, and fireworks. The United States Navy also sent two ships, the U.S.S. Palau and the U.S.S. Providence, in recognition of our anniversary.

08-19-05 The Family Contribute

One of the many treasures at the South Portland Historical Society's museum is a copy of *The Family Contribute*, a handwritten newsletter published in the late 1800's from Point Village (now the Willard Square area). The price for one copy at that time was five cents, or \$2.50 for an annual subscription. Our copy is dated Saturday, March 11, 1882. Following is a sample of some news items of the day, exactly as they appeared in *The Family Contribute*:

- It is said that Geo. Willard intends to have a new pair of stockings knit, and that Mrs. Hartman will knit them.
- We are glad to report that Sam. Angel, who sprained his ankle last week, is getting better.
- Herbert Loveitt cut his foot, Wednesday, while chopping wood on Geo. Loveitt's lot.

- Mr. Daniel Cobb injured his hand, while at work on his new boat.

- Wednesday evening an outhouse of Mr. Greenstreet's burned, killing seven pigs and a sow.

- Cholera is often caused by eating indigestible food, or by stopping the perspiration, but most frequently, by certain conditions of the atmosphere...if there is pain, apply to the abdomen, flannels, wring out of hot water. If medicine is needed, give equal parts of Rhubarb, Spirits of Camphor, and Laudinum, usually about 6 drops, but in severe cases, 10 drops of each...if much thirst exist, give small pieces of ice, or cold tea, or toast water.

08-04-05 Introduction - E.W. Brown Sardine Factory



DID YOU KNOW? In the early 1900's, there were sardine factories on South Portland's waterfront in Ferry Village. When the boats came in, the factory whistle would blow to let the workers know it was time to come to work. Click on picture to enlarge

Welcome to "***A Window on the Past***", a new bi-weekly column, exclusive to the Sentry, from the South Portland Historical Society. We would like this column to be interactive; we will share interesting tidbits of history with you, and we would appreciate your help in identifying photographs, sharing your oral history, etc., to help us identify, collect, and preserve the history of South Portland. As our column gets underway, we welcome your feedback.

A little about our organization: the South Portland Historical Society originated in 1964 and continues today as an all-volunteer organization. Our museum is open on Saturdays from May to October, from 1pm to 4pm; admission is free. We hope that you will come and enjoy our featured exhibit this season: "Call Box 4215: A History of South Portland's Fire Department." In addition to this exhibit, the Society keeps other historical items on display, and also maintains historical records, photographs, books, postcards and other items in its archives, available to the public.