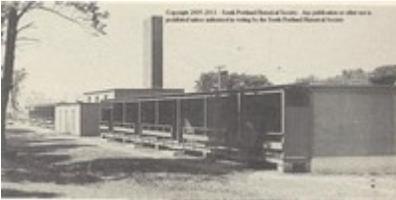


- [06-14-13 Mountain View Park](#)
- [06-07-13 Peary Village](#)
- [05-31-13 Summer in Maine Auction opens on Sunday](#)
- [05-24-13 Long Creek Terrace](#)
- [05-17-13 Historian to lecture on South Portland Tidal Mills](#)
- [05-10-13 Giant Kites Soar Over Bug Light Park next weekend](#)
- [05-03-13 Museum Features the Pleasantdale Neighborhood of South Portland](#)
- [04-19-13 Carve your name in history](#)
- [04-12-13 Hansen Chrysler Plymouth on Waterman Drive](#)
- [04-05-13 Seeking Info: Brydon & How gas station in Mill Creek](#)
- [03-29-13 Then and Now: Johnson's Pharmacy](#)
- [03-22-13 A View of Ocean Street in Mill Creek](#)
- [03-15-03 Then and Now ~ Bagley's Variety Store](#)
- [03-08-13 Then and Now ~ Knightville](#)
- [02-22-13 Development During World War II](#)
- [02-15-13 The VFW hall on Broadway](#)
- [02-01-13 Jetport Plaza in 1981](#)
- [01-25-13 Maine Mall Cinema](#)
- [01-18-13 LaVerdieres Super Drug Store and more](#)
- [01-04-13 The Oxbow Diner](#)

06-14-13 Mountain View Park



In last week's column about Peary Village there was mention of the closing of Mountain View Park and residents relocating to Peary Village. Mountain View Park was a government-funded housing complex, constructed during World War II to house shipyard workers and their families, that was located on the land along Highland Avenue and Evans Street; the site is now covered by South Portland High School, its fields and parking lots, and the South Portland Community Center. The accompanying photographs and text come

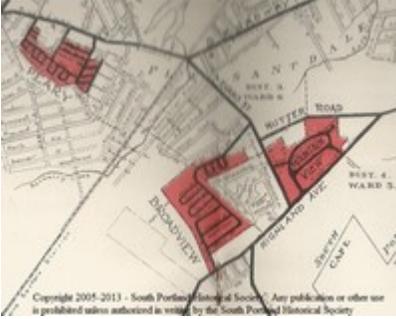
from the 1953 tenth anniversary program of the South Portland Housing Authority:

"Mountain View Apartments was originally intended to contain about 750 living-bedroom

apartments equipped with twin beds, ice box, electric plate and bath with shower. Its Community Building was large and fully equipped for the use of couples, both men and women presumably to be employed at the shipyard. The demand for family units caused a change of plans to include 222 family units and only 160 living-bedroom units. It occupied 32 acres of land from which, on a clear day, Mount Washington could be seen. Eighteen buildings contained hot air heaters and blowers to provide heat for adjacent buildings.

These proved to be inadequate and forced an early closing of this temporary project. The Community Building has 17,931 square feet of floor space and includes a gymnasium and auditorium with





a fully equipped stage, billiard room, three large meeting rooms, lounge and foyer, as well as management space. It was used for two years as a city-wide recreation center, then for a year and a half by the Portland Junior College and is now owned by the City of South Portland and used by the school dept. as a gymnasium.”

If you lived at Mountain View Park, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the South Portland Historical Society at 55 Bug Light Park, South Portland, ME 04106, by phone at 767-7299, by email at sphistoricalociety@maine.rr.com, or on Facebook at South Portland Historical Society.

06-07-13 Peary Village



An aerial view of Peary Village - note the Lincoln School building on the right in the photo.

We continue our look at the World War II shipyard housing complexes, focusing on Peary Village this week. Peary Village was located on the streets behind the old Lincoln School on Broadway (now the Greater Portland Christian School); to reach this area, head west on Broadway and take a left onto Peary Terrace. The accompanying photographs and text come from the 1953 tenth anniversary program of the South Portland Housing Authority:

“Peary Village covers twenty acres of leased land and consists of forty-four temporary buildings, twenty-four buildings each containing five four-room dwelling units, and twenty buildings each containing six five-room dwelling units. This is a total of two hundred and forty units. Although ready for occupancy early in 1944, it was not occupied until August when Mountain View Apartments [on the site

where

South Portland High School is now located] was terminated and tenants transferred to this project. It remained fully occupied until ordered terminated by June 30, 1954. It is still more than one-third occupied. Its Community Building, with 5,283 square feet of floor area, provides management office and maintenance space, two assembly rooms now being used for public school classes, lounge, kitchen and clinic. A center area provides adequately for playground, athletic field and an ice skating rink.”



Street view of one of the Peary Village buildings

If you lived in Peary Village, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the South Portland Historical Society at 55 Bug Light Park, South Portland, ME 04106, by phone at 767-7299, by email at sphistoricalociety@maine.rr.com, or on Facebook at South Portland Historical Society.

05-31-13 Summer in Maine Auction opens on Sunday



One of the many items for bid in the Summer in Maine Auction is a cruise for two people on

Monhegan Boat Lines – your choice of a sunset cruise, a lighthouse cruise, or come see puffins and more on a puffin/nature cruise

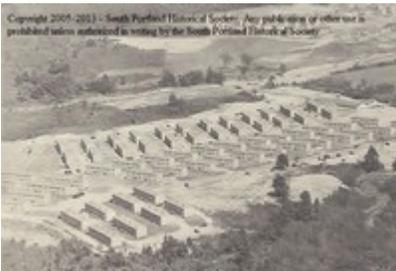
Whether you're enjoying a relaxing lakeside vacation, ocean breezes on a windjammer sail, or dining out in one of Maine's terrific restaurants – that's what summer in Maine is all about. The South Portland Historical Society is very excited that its signature

fundraiser is here again. The Summer in Maine Auction has become the premier online auction featuring all the best that Maine has to offer. All items up for bid have been donated by the service providers, allowing all auction proceeds to go directly to benefit the historical society and its museum at Bug Light Park.

Bid for yourself or for someone special - the auction will close in plenty of time for you to pick up a great gift for Father's Day. Please bookmark the auction website, which can be found at <http://www.summerinmaineauction.com/>. On Sunday, June 2nd, the auction will go live and will run through June 8th. Auction-goers will be able to simply click the bid button to place a bid. Anyone spending time here in Maine in the summertime will be able to find great places to stay, excellent restaurants, cruises all along Maine's coast, museums, outdoor activities and more. You can bid on a five day vacation stay in a lakeside home, a gift certificate for a boat rental from Port Harbor Marine, or a getaway at the Sebasco Harbor Resort with plenty of golfing. A sampling of other donors include the Downeast Duck, Amtrak Downeaster, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Portland Discovery Land & Sea Tours, Victoria Mansion, Maine State Music Theater, Village by the Sea, Courtyard by Marriott, and Scratch Bakery. There are auction items in all price ranges up for bid.

Now that the donors have generously given these great vacation items, the fundraiser is now in the hands of auction goers. Bid early ~ and bid high! FMI on the auction, visit the website or call us with questions at 767-7299. If you need help bidding on items, please call us and we will help you place your bids. Our thanks to the community for your continuing support of our historical society.

05-24-13 Long Creek Terrace



Aerial view of Long Creek Terrace. The Community Building can be seen at right center; Redbank is at top right.

We recently received a copy of the 10th anniversary report of the South Portland Housing Authority – our thanks to Stev Parker for finding the report and getting it to our historical society. The report outlines all of the wartime housing complexes in South Portland with many details and photographs. One of those housing complexes was Long Creek Terrace, a 27 acre area that is now the site of Home Depot and Home Goods. Here is some of the information from the report:

“Just a quarter of a mile from Redbank Village, Long Creek Terrace provided 500 homes for families in 74 dwelling buildings of six to eight families each. These were two-story buildings with flat roofs.

There were three, four and five bedroom units, some of them furnished. Long Creek Terrace housed the families of war workers from May of 1943 until it closed in April, 1946. The Community Building contained 3,496 square feet of floor space, was constructed of cement blocks and was arranged so that rooms could be divided or combined for various activities. During its short period of use, it was a very busy place. The Administration Building adjoined the Community Building by a breezeway.”

After the war ended, in 1945, the shipyards closed and families began to move out of South Portland. At the same time, though, veterans were returning from the war to overcrowded communities and colleges, so a new use was found for the wartime housing in South Portland by moving it under the Title V program to other communities to provide housing for veterans and their families. The buildings from Long Creek Terrace were moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the University of Maine, and also some to Colby College.

05-17-13 Historian to lecture on South Portland Tidal Mills



The mouth of Mill Creek was the site of a dam and tidal mill in earlier times. Even today, remnants of the dam can still be seen

On Wednesday, May 22, maritime historian Bud Warren will present a lecture at the annual meeting of the South Portland Historical Society. The Society will hold a brief business meeting at 6:30pm at the South Portland Community Center, 21 Nelson Road, directly followed by the lecture, "Tide Mills in and around South Portland". Mr. Warren is one of the founding members of the Tide Mill Institute. He will detail the history of tidal mills – what they were, how they worked, and he will discuss the tidal mills around this area, such as were found at Mill Creek, Barberry Creek and Long Creek.

Admission to the lecture is free for current members of the South Portland Historical Society; non-members may attend with a \$10 donation. FMI, call the Society at 767-7299, go to <http://www.sphistory.org/> or visit the South Portland Historical

Society on Facebook.

Note to readers: Don't forget the Bug Light Kite Festival this Saturday, May 18th! The festival at Bug Light Park will run from 11am to 4pm and will include a great display of show kites, a fundraiser barbecue, free ice cream, tours of Bug Light, and more. Hope to see you there! Rain date: May 25. To reach the park, take Broadway east to the ocean, turn left onto Breakwater Drive, then turn right onto Madison Street that leads down into the park. GPS users: enter 1 Madison Street to find the closest location.

05-10-13 Giant Kites Soar Over Bug Light Park next weekend



The Bug Light Kite Festival is coming to South Portland next Saturday, May 18th from 11am to 4pm at Bug Light Park. If you've ever enjoyed the fun and fanciful kites flown on a nice weekend in the park, you'll want to be sure to mark your calendar and come out to see this grand display of magnificent kites. Brought to you by the South Portland Historical Society and members of two kite clubs, the NorEasters Kite Club and Kites Over New England (KONE), the Bug Light Kite Festival is a free, family-friendly event.

The museum at the park opens at 10am, and the festival officially kicks off at 11am. A fundraiser barbecue will start at 11am, serving hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage sandwiches, veggie burgers, and more – with proceeds to benefit the museum. The kite club members will be flying kites throughout the day and are available to help newcomers learn how to get their own kites into the air and to help with kite assembly and fixes, as needed. A wide variety of quality kites is available for sale in the museum gift shop – arrive early for the best selection.

Portland Breakwater Lighthouse (aka "Bug Light") will be open to the public from 11am to 3pm during the festival, thanks to the volunteers from the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club.

To reach the park, take Broadway east to the ocean, turn left onto Breakwater Drive, and then turn right onto Madison Street that leads directly into the park. For more information, call 767-7299, visit <http://www.sphistory.org/> or go to the South Portland Historical Society page on Facebook.

05-03-13 Museum Features the Pleasantdale Neighborhood of South Portland



“Knightville, ME.”

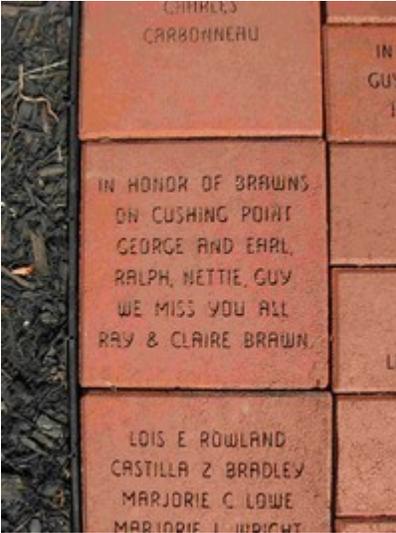
One of the really cool things that make South Portland special is the strong identity of each of its neighborhoods. There is a clear historic reason for these strong identities and that is due to the early “villages” that existed throughout our community. If you had lived in South Portland in the late 1800s, there was no “South Portland Post Office.” Instead, you would have found a post office substation located in your own neighborhood – probably run by your neighborhood grocer or pharmacist. The post office name would be the name of the neighborhood, so although you may have lived in Cape Elizabeth or South Portland (depending on the year), you would have a mailing address of a place like “Willard, ME” or

The Pleasantdale neighborhood covers the area between Anthoine Street and Evans Street, and from Highland Avenue on the south end to Turner’s Island in the north. Because of the railroad running across Broadway at Evans Street, our community’s first post office was located in the railroad depot building there and the neighborhood was first known as “Cape Elizabeth Depot.” By the end of the 1800s, the Cape Elizabeth Depot and Turner’s Island areas had merged and become known as Pleasantdale, and the Pleasantdale, Maine, post office was located right at the intersection of Broadway and Evans.

In the accompanying aerial photograph provided to the Society courtesy of Portland Pipe Line, we see a view of the Pleasantdale area in 1941. The large field in the middle was just being developed into the tank farm. Some of the important pieces that I see are Nutter Road running left to right at the bottom of the photo with Evans Street running bottom to top on the left side – on Evans Street, the old Evans Street School can clearly be seen, and following up to where Evans meets Broadway, you can see the large brick Reynolds School about two blocks to the right. Continuing on to the right of Reynolds School, you can see the greenhouses of Minott’s Florist between Hill Street and Broadway. Beyond Pleasantdale is the large expanse of Forest City Cemetery.

We hope you’ll come and explore some of the history of the Pleasantdale neighborhood at the museum this year. Even those who haven’t lived there will enjoy photos of the old train depot, Kaler School, and Ward’s Drug Store, among others. Our thanks to the businesses who have sponsored the Pleasantdale exhibit: Flynn & Company Real Estate, Town & Country Federal Credit Union, Noyes Hall & Allen Insurance, and Duval’s Service Center. The museum is now open every day from 10am to 4pm ~ and there is no charge for admission thanks to the many generous people and businesses in our community who support our historical society, and the wonderful volunteers who you will find at the museum. FMI, call 767-7299 or visit <http://www.sphistory.org/>.

04-19-13 Carve your name in history



South Portland Historical Society's ongoing fundraiser, the Engraved Brick Program, has helped the Society raise important funding for its preservation activities and museum operations. Brick orders can be made at any time of year, but you'll need to order by April 30 if you would like to make sure to have your brick installed this summer.

The engraved brick walkway and patio were initially installed in 2010 and they have been an attractive and meaningful addition to the museum grounds. A walk along the path reveals many names of current generous families who have supported the museum effort, as well as the names of many wonderful people who have come before us and who have been honored with a memorial brick.

Bricks are still available for engraving and installation in the walkway and patio, with funds continuing to support the efforts of the historical society and its museum. You can purchase a brick to have your own name included in this South Portland walkway of history, or you can have a brick engraved in memory of a loved one. Bricks may also be

purchased and engraved in honor of someone special.

A standard sized 4x8 brick is only \$150 and includes

three lines of engraving with 18 characters per line, including spaces. A larger 8x8 paver is also available with six lines of engraving for \$250. To purchase a brick, you can mail or drop off a check to the South Portland Historical Society at 55 Bug Light Park, South Portland, ME 04106, or to use a credit card, either call us at 767-7299 or go online to <http://www.sphistory.org/> and use the "donate now" button. A brick engraving form is available at the museum or may be downloaded from the website.



Note to readers: The historical society's Cushing's Point Museum will open for the season on May 1st. There is no charge for admission, thanks to our individual and business members and sponsors. The museum will be open every day, from 10am to 4pm, from May 1st through the end of October.

Upcoming event: The annual Bug Light Kite Festival will be held on Saturday, May 18th, from 11am to 4pm at Bug Light Park. To reach the park, take Broadway east to the ocean, turn left onto Breakwater Drive, then turn right onto Madison Street that leads into the park.

04-12-13 Hansen Chrysler Plymouth on Waterman Drive



The Hansen Chrysler Plymouth dealership that many of us remember at 207 Waterman Drive (now the site of Norway Savings Bank) was actually established many years prior to its arrival in South Portland. According to Henrietta Larou, after her husband Phil Larou had served in World War II, he came back home and found a job working in the office of the Hansen dealership that was located at 300 Forest Avenue in Portland. Donald Allen and Henry Dingley owned the business back then – the location on Forest Avenue was

a Studebaker dealership and another location on Winslow Street was the site of their DeSoto dealership. After about 20 years of working with Allen and Dingley, Phil Larou eventually bought the dealership and moved the business to South Portland.

According to Mrs. Larou, the move was needed due to the construction of Interstate 295 and its on- and off-ramps on Forest Ave. Phil Larou obtained financing through Chrysler and the construction of the new

dealership on Waterman Drive took place in 1968. In the accompanying photo from the Society's Phil and Henrietta Larou collection, we see the foundation taking shape. The photo also gives an interesting look at the surrounding area. On the right, we see the car wash building that later became home to AAMCO Transmission.

Just beyond that, we see two billboards – the one on the right is a treasure to see – it says “Please vote for our Dad – John E. Gill” (that would be referring to Ted Gill who owned and operated Gill's Pharmacy on Main Street in Thornton Heights). Shaw's Supermarket was located across the street in the Mill Creek Shopping Plaza, in the space now occupied by Shoppers Hardware and Pet Life.



The Hansen Chrysler Plymouth dealership was in operation for about 25 years, from 1968 to 1993. When we ran some of the dealership photos on Facebook, we heard from several people who remembered it fondly. Lynda Dearborn Pietroforte said, “My father was surely there buying the latest and greatest Chrysler. The beginning of a long relationship with Hansen Chrysler Plymouth.” Katie Ford commented, “My dad Joe Prout was the District Manager for them.” Shawn Mountain remembered, “I worked there 1986-1989, good memories!” Several people remembered the cars they bought there: Robert Wildhage bought his first car, a 1979 Dodge, from Hansen; Dana Michaud bought his 1972 Dodge from them (“What a car!!” he said); and Jeanine Swanson said, “Gene and I bought our first new car there – 1970 Fury 3.”

04-05-13 Seeking Info: Brydon & How gas station in Mill Creek



Thanks to a visit and donation by Patty Donahue this week, we learned something new about our Mill Creek development. Patty brought in the accompanying photograph and information on her grandfather Kenneth “Roy” Brydon's gas station at 205 Ocean Street. I personally had never heard of a gas station at 205 Ocean Street. The Angelone's Pizza building that started out as a gas station, is at 225 Ocean Street. The Hodges Furniture building that now houses a military recruitment center is at 185 Ocean Street, on

the corner of Market Street. So Roy Brydon's gas station was located roughly on the area now covered by the parking lot on the Ocean Street side of Mr. Bagel. All aerial photos of Mill Creek at the historical society were either taken after this business was gone, or if taken early enough, don't quite pick up that site in Mill Creek.

With further research into Patty's grandfather and his employment history, it does appear that this photograph was taken of Charles Prout's gas station. Roy apparently learned the business by working at Prout's South Portland Filling Station – first on the corner of Broadway and Ocean Street, and then for a year at 161 Ocean Street when Prout moved his gas station down there. Starting around 1932, however, it appears that Brydon went into business with Alfred Taylor at their new gas station, Brydon & Taylor, at 205 Ocean Street. According to the Portland Directories, they ran the gas station for about 10 years, until 1942 or so when the site was taken over as the business address for Donald Fogg's excavating business. The site at 205 Ocean Street would have been cleared by 1950 when Geo. C. Shaw's Supermarket began construction of their first grocery store in South Portland (the building now occupied by Mr. Bagel and several other businesses).

We still have many questions, however, as Patty Donahue had evidence of her grandfather's business being known as “Brydon & How” and we can find no evidence of such a business. Of course, George How did also work for Charles Prout, but we couldn't find any evidence of a partnership with Roy Brydon. We're hoping that putting this photograph and information out to the public will help us to find someone who remembers these businesses and can help us to learn more about them. If you have any information on the Prout or Brydon gas stations, please contact the South Portland Historical Society at 767-7299 or at sphistoricalsociety@maine.rr.com. Thank you!

03-29-13 Then and Now: Johnson's Pharmacy



The entire Knightville and Mill Creek area has undergone enormous change over the years, but in this week's then-and-now view, we see that the Johnson's Pharmacy building at 145 Ocean Street hasn't changed all that much on the outside in all these years.

Thomas Johnson started the pharmacy back in the 1920s and his son, George, later took over the operation. Dick Gorman remembers, "Mr. Johnson had a pin-ball machine in the store on the opposite wall from the soda fountain. Competition was 'fierce' but friendly." The business was in operation for nearly 45 years; the pharmacy closed

in August 1965 after George Johnson died. One of the later long-running businesses in that building was Glenice's Hair Fashions.

One big change in these two images is the Maine Paint Service building. That building was erected on the site of the parking lot of the former First National Store grocery. The First National building is now home to the On the Move zumba studio.



Another difference in the two images is the smokestack that can be seen off in the distance, down Ocean Street. That was one of the two large smokestacks at the Cape Power Plant that was located just beside the Million Dollar Bridge.

03-22-13 A View of Ocean Street in Mill Creek



Anyone who lived in South Portland in the 1950s and '60s will find this to be a very familiar photograph. The image shows Ocean Street in Mill Creek, looking south toward the intersection of Ocean and Broadway. On the left in the distance, the landmark Mahoney building can be seen; undoubtedly at the time this photo was taken, that building was still housing South Portland High School. Also on the left top corner of the photo, we see the sign for the A & P (formally known as the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.). The A & P was first located in a smaller building with an address of 47 Thomas

Street, but when a new larger store was built next to it in the early 1960s, the address changed to 170 Ocean Street. Becky Higgins-Charles shared this memory, "We'd stop at this A & P every Saturday morning for the mid-week grocery shop, 1962-67." The building was later renovated by Blake, Hall & Sprague; it is now home to a branch of Town & Country FCU and Noyes, Hall & Allen Insurance, among others.

On the right side of the photo, we see the sign for Uncle Andy's Bakery at 171 Ocean Street. John and Helen Palanza ran that bakery for over 40 years before it was sold in the early 1990s to one of their employees. Bruce Larrabee remembers the bakery well. "Uncle Andy's honey glazed doughnuts – now that is a childhood memory everyone should have!" Patt Murphy commented, "I remember Uncle Andy's Bakery, they made my wedding cake in 1970."

Some people viewing this photo have drawn attention to the three-story building just beyond Uncle Andy's. Mary McDonough ran her "Ma's Pinball Parlor" from that building at 173 Ocean Street, serving hot dogs, hamburgers and other snacks right from the kitchen. Our historical society is still looking for photos related to Ma's Pinball Parlor. If you have photos or anything else related to it, please contact the historical society at 767-7299 or sphistoricalsociety@maine.rr.com.

03-15-03 Then and Now ~ Bagley's Variety Store



This week, we are featuring a photo that shows the tiny candy store that was operated by Harold Bagley. As you can see in the today photo, the building is still there across the street from Mahoney Middle School. The store was in operation for nearly three decades – from the late-1940s to the mid-1970s. Our thanks to the many Facebook contributors for helping us to document the history of this shop and its beloved shopkeeper. In their words:

Deb Dagnan – “My neighborhood friends and I (Scamman Street kids) used to bring our returnable bottles down and exchange them for candy! He was a very nice man, and we were always amazed that he knew right where every kind of candy was in his display case despite being blind!”

Maureen Mehlhorn – “Mr. Bagley was a great guy. Went there all through high school. When we were kids he would show us how he could know a ten from a twenty, etc. Penny candy. Those were the days! I remember the mint julips and banana splits were two for a penny and I loved the Squirrel nuts!!!”

Michael Killinger – “I used to skip school and hang out with Harry at the store. We would talk about everything, but while talking, Harry would

get me to sweep his floor and take out his trash. He was a real great guy.”

Dick Gorman – “It always amazed me how many of us he knew and remembered "by voice"!”

Dan Clancy – “Harry's was always packed. And the smoke could be too much. But in the end there was candy and that trumped everything. Well, that plus Harry was a good man.”



Pinky McArdle – “Harry would trust you on paper money, but if you knew him, as I did growing up next door, he would always put the five's, ten's, etc., in his side pocket and ask someone he knew later. Amazingly he put a block foundation under the store himself.”

Linda Levesque – “I remember him well and our hang out after school. Penny candy. He was so nice and patient with all us kids.”

David Ivers – “Harry Bagley was an icon in the late '50s. A blind store keeper across from the high school, he was loved by SPHS. I remember once a Deering high student, at an SPHS home football game, shoplifted some minor thing from the store. Some large and angry SPHS guys tracked him down. It was the worst day of his life, and probably still is. I doubt he ever shoplifted again.”

03-08-13 Then and Now ~ Knightville



In the accompanying two photographs, we see a glimpse of Knightville around 1967 and again today. The buildings themselves haven't changed that much in the five decades that separate the photos, but the occupants sure have. In the circa 1967 photograph, we see the old Chevron station that used to operate in Legion Square, on the corner of Ocean and E Street. Of course, that Chevron station was fairly new in the 1967 photo; that corner was previously home to Thomas Devine's pharmacy, an old-fashioned drug store with a soda fountain in an attractive, stately building. Like many of the old homes that used to exist on Ocean Street, the pharmacy was torn down to make way for new development.

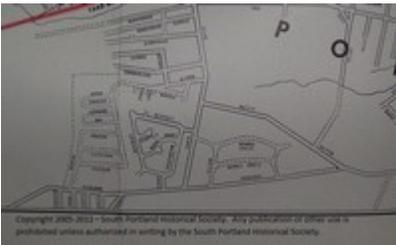
Another interesting piece of this old photo is the large billboard seen above the gas station,

advertising the “new bordered ScotTowels.” One of the hot topics of today is the recent introduction of a bill in the Maine legislature which has many Maine residents concerned; if that bill were to pass, the fear is that it would open the door to billboards once again. The law banning billboards was passed in 1977 and they were gradually removed over the following few years. South Portland had many billboards in this time period – many on Main Street and Broadway, as well as in Mill Creek and Knightville.



On the left side of the photo, Smaha’s Legion Square Market was there in the 1960s and it is still there today. Although it is now under new ownership, the store remains one of the few locally-owned shops that is still going strong after all these years.

02-22-13 Development During World War II



We recently posted a photograph on Facebook showing a class at the Marion Street School. The Marion Street School was the school that was later renamed Dyer School; it was built in the 1940s to handle the large influx of children moving with their families to the shipyard housing complexes of Broadview Park and Mountain View Park, as well as the new Stanwood Park. We still have a street next to South Portland High School, Mountain View Road, which serves as a small reminder of the Mountain View Park housing complex that used to cover that area during WWII. Broadview Park is an area that

is still remembered by some who used to live in the area, but most residents of today have little or no knowledge of how these neighborhoods developed.

Our tremendous thanks goes out to Society member Ron Jenkins for sharing the accompanying image of a map of the area around the intersection of Evans Street and Highland Avenue. The streets closest to the northwest corner of Highland and Evans - the streets with the presidential names, like McKinley and Buchanan - make up the neighborhood that is now called Stanwood Park. Stanwood Park was developed during WWII; a whole neighborhood of affordable single-family homes for which there was an endless demand during those shipyard years.

Through this map, we can also see how Marion Street ran parallel to Alfred at the start of the street near Evans, and we also see how the Alfred Street of today actually evolved as an extension of Marion Street. Broadview Park was made up of mostly barracks-style housing – the housing ran along Alfred and Marion Street and then curved around the Stanwood Park development to arrive at Highland Avenue.

If you have any maps, photographs or other historic pieces to share, please call the South Portland Historical Society at 767-7299, or you can contact us on Facebook or at sphistoricalsociety@maine.rr.com.

02-15-13 The VFW hall on Broadway



When I grew up in South Portland’s Pleasantdale neighborhood, the Moose Lodge was a fixture on the corner of Broadway and Elm Street. I would walk by the building every day on my way to and from Kaler School. I wish that I had had a chance to go inside and see what it looked like, as the building was fairly old and had seen some interesting use over the years.

The building was first built and utilized as the Elm Street School, and the Pleasantdale Hose Company stored their hose wagon in the bottom of the building, accessed from the rear side. When there was a fire, they would bring horses to pull the hose wagon wherever it

was needed.

From 1944 until 1957, the VFW Post 832 used the building as its meeting space, and from 1961 to 1988 the Loyal Order of Moose held their meetings here. We have run this photograph on our Facebook page and most responses were from those who remember the Moose Lodge. Donna Dyro Wilkinson remembered, "I used to go there to watch Saturday morning cowboy movies around 1953-54." Larry Albert also commented, "I was in there when it was the Moose Lodge...my dad was a member...my uncle Billy Malia was an officer."

Steven Tracy remembers the building well. He wrote, "My parents were regulars. I actually had my wedding reception in that building back in 1975 and remember well those long stairs leading to the door. Have a picture of myself and wife standing on them. The inside had a large hall, which was used for beano and a kitchen to the right. The Moose Club itself was later located in the basement. Spent a lot of time in this building as a kid. Lived over Bill's Barber Shop for years."

If you remember the VFW Post when it was in this building, or the Moose Lodge, we encourage you to visit us on Facebook and share your memories. More South Portland history can be found on our website at <http://www.sphistory.org/>. The South Portland Historical Society can also be reached at 767-7299.

02-01-13 Jetport Plaza in 1981

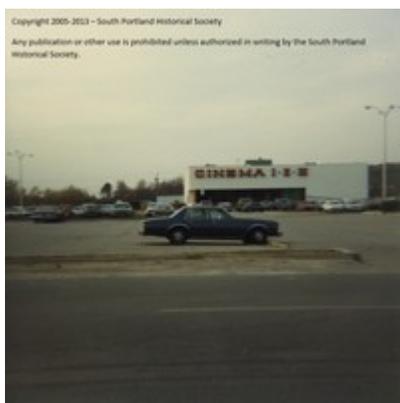


In this photo from the Peter and Paul Jeffery collection at South Portland Historical Society, we get a glimpse of the Jetport Plaza and its tenants, Marshall's and Heartland Food Warehouse in 1981. While I remember these stores on Western Avenue near the airport (where Staples and Burlington Coat Factory are now located), I couldn't come close to remembering the details that some of our Facebook followers did. The only thing that I remembered was that you had to bag your own groceries at Heartland and, as a kid, I thought that was pretty great. Christina Page Hobbs commented, "Heartland was the original wholesale club/bulk grocer. My mother was a manager for Maine Savings; she would come to Portland once a month from Waterville and, after her managers meeting, would go to Heartland with a cooler and stock us up."

We also heard from Kerry Ouellett who remembered "wandering through that store really late at night, and also that their food just said, for instance, BEANS. Now we're used to what we'd call store brand items, but back then it was just BEANS and it seemed weird to me." Danny Page followed up on that memory with, "No name brands – white can – black label – barcode. Simple and cheap. I think they even had no name BEER."

Thank you to Christina, Kerry, Danny, and everyone else who have shared their memories with us. If you have photographs of people or places of South Portland's past, please contact the South Portland Historical Society at 55 Bug Light Park, South Portland, ME 04106, or at 767-7299.

01-25-13 Maine Mall Cinema



Last week, we ran a photograph of LaVerdiere's Super Drug Store; that photo has continued to generate a lot of interest among our Facebook followers. Our photograph this week is another popular image with Facebookers. It comes from the Peter and Paul Jeffery collection at the Society, showing an image of the Maine Mall Cinema that was located at 391 Maine Mall Road across from Sears. The footprint of the old cinema has long been vacant, but the grassy lot was once covered by this cinema toward the back. At the front of the lot, just to the left out of the photo, there was a Pizza Hut ~ and just to the right of the photo stood the old IHOP restaurant.

We've received some terrific memories from people of this old movie theater. Peter Wildes wrote, "Rode my bike down the highway to see the first showing of Star Wars there, 1977." As younger people of

today might not realize, the giant multiplex theaters weren't around much before our theater was built. Earlier generations in South Portland would go to watch a movie at a one-screen theater, like the Cape Theater. Holly Lynn remembers "when three movies in the same place was awesome!"

Some of the Maine Mall Cinema's former employees also saw and commented on the photo. Kathy Amoroso wrote, "My first real job was there, working the concessions. I got paid student minimum wage of \$2.85/hour. It was fun and I made some good friends and got to see all the free movies I wanted."

When there were popular movies at Maine Mall Cinema, you used to have to make sure to arrive early. Nicole Swiger King captured this memory, "I remember standing in line for Star Wars!! The line was wrapped all the way around the building!!"

If you enjoy looking at nostalgic photographs, we hope you will resolve to become a member of the South Portland Historical Society for 2013! Our local historical society is supported by the voluntary donations of residents and businesses in our community. An individual membership is just \$15 – please make your check out to South Portland Historical Society and mail to 55 Bug Light Park, South Portland, ME 04106. If you'd like to donate by credit card, call us at 767-7299 or go to our website at <http://www.sphistory.org/> and use the "donate now" button. Thanks for your support!

01-18-13 LaVerdieres Super Drug Store and more



We've been having a lot of fun with our Facebook account over the past few weeks. Several historic photographs that we posted received a lot of activity, so I thought we'd share one of those with our Sentry readers. The accompanying photograph shows LaVerdiere's Super Drug Store at 525 Main Street in the Thornton Heights neighborhood of South Portland. LaVerdiere's was a great local pharmacy, in operation here in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s, but the warm thoughts about this photo also extend back to when Gill's Drug Store operated from this building in the early 1970s, as well as the IGA grocery that was here in the 1950s and 1960s.

Over 200 people have commented on the photo on Facebook. About LaVerdiere's, Deena Abbott remembered, "I bought many treasures there when I was a teen or pre-teen with my allowance money." Some people remembered buying Christmas gifts at the store, or having their ears pierced. Kenneth Fox wrote, "I worked at Gill's, Millie was one of the kindest persons I've ever known...so was Alice [Pratt Smith]...memorable times at Gill's." For a number of years, Flynn's Hardware was located in the back of the store. John Gill remembered, "In the mid-'70s, the rear of the store was renovated and some of the old stockroom was converted into the location of Richie and Sally Flynn's first hardware store." According to Jeff Flynn, his family later moved the hardware store to its location near Cash Corner in 1977.

There were even some people who remembered the Ezy-Way IGA Foodliner that was run there by Joseph and Gerald Smaha. Pamela Quinn Greaney wrote, "Used to be an IGA and I could run up the back alley for anything my mother needed for supper."

If you're on Facebook, I hope you'll look up the South Portland Historical Society and join in the conversation. You can also find photos at our online museum at <http://www.sphistory.org/>.

01-04-13 The Oxbow Diner



Our Window on the Past this week again comes from a collection of photographs brought to us by John Plunkett and Lou Maguire. This image is believed to be circa 1954 showing the building once occupied by the Oxbow Diner at 174 Main Street.

Conrad and Hazel Feroci started a business around 1949 in this building. The business was at first known as the Oxbow Snack Bar and the name was changed about a year later to the Oxbow Diner. Not much else is known about the diner and we would love to hear from anyone who remembers it. We would also

like some confirmation that this photograph does actually show the Oxbow. In the photo taken last week, we can see that the building is gone and has been replaced by the businesses and parking lots located at 172 Main Street and 176 Main Street.

If you have any memories or other information about the Oxbow Snack Bar or Diner, we hope that you will contact the South Portland Historical Society at 767-7299, sphistoricalsociety@maine.rr.com, or on Facebook at South Portland Historical Society.

