

THE STORY OF
OCEAN PARK

BY

ADELBERT M. JAKEMAN

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THE STORY OF OCEAN PARK



The Temple — Dedicated August 2, 1881

THE STORY OF
...Ocean Park...

AN INFORMAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

1881 - 1956

By

ADELBERT M. JAKEMAN



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*Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that build it.*

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PREFACE

Ocean Park is more than a place; it is an experience. It is a way of summer living which is unique in New England. It is a family-style summer campground not entirely unlike Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, or Ocean Grove, New Jersey, with a religious background to make it a desirable vacation resort.

Actually there is no place quite like it, and it is difficult to define or describe. Its difference from commercial areas and its pleasant atmosphere in general are characteristics that strike the new visitor immediately.

This little volume is designed to present a human interest picture of the place from its founding in 1881. The story of Ocean Park, it is hoped, may remind the old-timer and inform the new-comer of the struggles, sacrifices, joys, and prayers that have made possible this community set apart.

It is not always tactful to use names of persons in a chronicle of this type, for fear of omitting deserving ones. Scores of individuals and families have been important here in their own way and in their own period. The test of time, however, brings into perspective certain ones who, in the long run, have done the most to mold Ocean Park into the veritable institution it is today.

This work has been undertaken in time so that even the origin of Ocean Park is only a generation removed from older residents. A handful of present survivors were here at the very start. Many are children of the founders. Particular credit should go to Mrs. Sarah P. Porter, last surviving daughter of the first assembly superintendent, and to Philip R. Webb, son of one of the founders of Ocean Park. Both have been more than generous at all times with notes, records, printed ma-

terials, and first-hand personal accounts. Considerable encouragement over a quarter of a century also has come from Harry W. Rowe, dean of the faculty of Bates College.

Inevitably a project of this kind must be selective. Much has to be left unwritten. The following sources have been searched for information used. For the most part they are available in the Mary Chalmers Turner Historical Room for further study.

Records, minutes, reports, correspondence of the Ocean Park Association;

Records of allied organizations;

Files of: "The Morning Star," "The Missionary Helper," "Biddeford Daily Journal," Ocean Park Assembly Programs;

Papers prepared for various occasions by: Rev. Alfred Williams Anthony, Mrs. Carrie Henry, Clarence B. Mitchell, Rev. Asa M. Parker, Rev. Ferdinand F. Peterson, Mrs. Susan Prescott Porter, Miss Dora A. Scribner, Lewis B. Stillman, Philip R. Webb, Mrs. Ruth (Rowe) Wilson;

"The Story of Winona Lake," by Vincent H. Gladdis, Berne Witness Company, 1949; "The Story of Maine Baptists," by Walter L. Cook, United Baptist Convention of Maine, 1954; "We Called It Culture," by Victoria Case and Robert Ormond Case, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1948; "Universalists at Ferry Beach," by Katherine Augusta Sutton and Robert Francis Needham, Universalist Publishing House, 1948; "Free Baptist Cyclopaedia," by G. A. Burgess and J. T. Ward, Free Baptist Cyclopaedia Co., 1889; "Historical Sketches of Old Orchard and the Shores of Saco Bay," by J. S. Locke, C. H. Woodman & Co., 1884; "Maine, Its History, Resources and Government," by Glenn Wendell Starkey, Silver, Burdett and Company, 1920; "Bates College and Its Background," by Alfred Williams Anthony, The Judson Press, 1936; "Life and Influence of the Rev. Benjamin Ran-

dall," by Frederick L. Wiley, American Baptist Publication Society, 1915; "The Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society," by Lena Fenner Dennett, Frances Stewart Mosher, Clara A. Ricker (committee), Loose Leaf Manufacturing Company, 1922; "Famous Lighthouses of America," by Edward Rowe Snow, Dodd, Mead & Company, 1955; "Atlas of York Co., Maine," by E. F. Sanford, W. P. Everts, F. B. Roe, Sanford, Everts & Co., 1872; "The Story of Ocean Park," by Albert E. Kenyon, Ocean Park Association, 1931; "Ocean Park in Poetry," by Adelbert M. Jakeman (ed.), 1935; "The King's Highway," by Herbert G. Jones, The Longfellow Press, 1953.

—A.M.J.

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Chapter 1

FREE BAPTIST BEGINNINGS

Much of the natural attractiveness of Ocean Park is its location in the State of Maine, vacation land of the northeast. There are historians who believe that this part of the country was visited by explorers as many as five hundred years before Columbus came to the continent. Maine received its name in 1639, probably from the province of Maine in France, an inheritance of the queen of England, and was under the control of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1652. It became a separate state in 1820.

Ocean Park is in York County, southernmost and most historic of the sixteen Maine counties. The county seat is at Alfred, a beautiful colonial town twenty miles inland. Originally the designation of Yorkshire County was applied to the entire Maine territory, but other counties were later derived from it.

Ocean Park was at first part of the city of Saco, as was Old Orchard. When Old Orchard, by a legislative act approved on February 20, 1883, became a town by itself, Ocean Park, too, was detached from Saco to be a portion of Old Orchard. It has remained so ever since, though from its beginning in 1881 Ocean Park has had its own post office, at least in the summer. The word "Beach" was added to Old Orchard by act of the state legislature in 1929, thereby enhancing the advertising value of the name.

Ocean Park faces Saco Bay which extends (like a huge

clam-shell, it has been said) from Prout's Neck on the north out to Fletcher's Neck on the south. On clear nights the twinkling of the remaining one of the Cape Elizabeth twin lights can be seen beyond Prout's Neck, and the regular flashing of the Wood Island light is a beacon in the opposite direction. Picturesque islands dotting the outer border of the bay from north to south include Bluff, Stratton, Eagle, Ram, Basket, Stage, and Wood. Stratton Island, named for John Stratton who was there as early as 1631, can be identified because of the abandoned house on it. Wood Island was once called Isle of Bacchus by Champlain because of the abundance of grapes he found there. A sandy beach seven to eight miles in length lies between the mouth of the Dunstan (or Nonesuch) River at Pine Point (named for John Pine) and the mouth of the Saco River at Camp Ellis. The Saco is one of the four principal Maine rivers. A long granite jetty, or breakwater, runs out from Camp Ellis toward Wood Island. Goose Fare, or Goose "Feeding," Brook, which winds its way through salt marshes down from the hinterland in Saco, forms the southern boundary of Ocean Park.

John Smith dropped anchor offshore here in 1614, and is reported to have told Sir Ferdinando Gorges it was the most beautiful beach he had ever seen. The earliest habitation of white men along the bay occurred when Captain Richard Vines came to the Saco River entrance in September, 1616. Liking the area so well, his expedition built a cabin nearby and spent the winter there, thus giving the spot the name Winter Harbor.

Among the early permanent settlers of the Saco Bay area was Thomas Rogers whose farm near Goose Fare became so important that geographers of the period indicated it on maps as Rogers' Garden. Rogers arrived here in 1638, and the apple trees he planted remained for more than a century. In

fact, they became the old orchard from which the place took its name, though no one knows for certain exactly where any of them grew. The outcropping of rocks fully visible at low tide between Ocean Park and Old Orchard Beach is called Googins Rocks, named in 1737 for Patrick Googins, son-in-law of Thomas Rogers, and to whom the Rogers farm was given. There was once a minor skirmish between the Indians and the white men in the vicinity of the rocks.

There have been shipwrecks along this part of the coast, the most notable being that of the Washington B. Thomas on the night of Friday, June 12, 1903. Captained by William J. Lermond, it was a four-masted vessel carrying 4226 tons of coal on its maiden voyage from Philadelphia to Portland. A wild storm broke up the boat, scattering pieces far and wide. A large section was washed into Goose Fare Brook where it is still to be seen when there is a low run of tide. Another section is on the outer edge of Stratton Island. The captain's bride was drowned aboard ship, thus adding to the tragedy.

Part of the wreckage of the forty-eight foot fishing craft Pemaquid II washed ashore at Ocean Park following a gale on March 3, 1947. Gerald Fossett and Roland Labrie lost their lives at that time. Edward Rowe Snow of Marshfield, Massachusetts, has told both of these stories in considerable detail over the radio and in his books.

The idea of Ocean Park was officially inaugurated in July, 1880, at the Centennial Conference of the Free will Baptists at The Weirs on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire. This denomination was a direct descendant of the first Baptist church in Great Britain, organized in London in 1633, and of the first one in America, started in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1639. It was a liberal branch of the Protestant faith. Its principal differentiating tenet was open communion. The first church was formed in Durham, New Hamp-

shire, in 1780, with Benjamin Randall, formerly of nearby Portsmouth, as pastor. For twenty-five years the denomination increased its membership annually by approximately a thousand persons. They continued to be the liberals of their time, avoiding the extremes of worldliness and emotionalism. "Will" was later dropped from Freewill. Finally in 1911, the Baptists of the North and the Free Baptists united as one body.

Various persons are credited with conceiving the dream that was to materialize as Ocean Park. It may have been that more than one person was thinking along that line at about the same time. The permanent Chautauqua Institution on Chautauqua Lake, New York, had been founded in 1874 under the leadership of Rev. John H. Vincent, a Methodist. The circuit, or traveling, Chautauqua was not to reach the height of popularity until about 1904. Different church groups were organizing summer encampments and other educational self-improvement programs. Many were distinct imitations of the Chautauqua system.

One source states that Professor Benjamin F. Hayes of Bates College, a Free Baptist school at Lewiston, Maine, suggested at the Centennial Conference that an annual New England assembly be conducted. "The City God Built," a pageant written by Clarence M. Gallup and Rev. Albert E. Kenyon for the fiftieth anniversary of Ocean Park in 1931, indicates another and perhaps more romantic origin. According to this version, Rev. Ethnan W. Porter of Lowell, Massachusetts, was preparing a sermon entitled "Faith and Works." While meditating on the subject and idly turning the pages of his Bible, he happened on the passage in Revelation that described "the holy city . . . coming down from God out of heaven." Reflecting upon this ideal city, he said to himself, "Why doesn't one exist?" His mind went excitedly from one

thought to another, until he hit upon the idea of the ever-increasing summer assemblies. In the heat of his enthusiasm, the story relates, he telephoned Rev. Oren B. Cheney, first president of Bates College. He asked the president to gather together fourteen other men to meet with them the next week to discuss the subject. Out of this meeting came the decision to bring the matter before the General Conference at The Weirs.

So the thought was suggested, "Why may we not have a Weirs on the seacoast, where we may spend our vacations with profit both to soul and body, and not be subject to the rowdiness common at seaside resorts, where many of us have spent the summer seasons?" The immediate reaction was the appointment on July 27 of a committee of fifteen ministers and laymen, with instructions to canvass the New England coast from Rhode Island to Maine with this purpose in mind. Specifically they were requested "to examine sites and consult with brethren in different locations and secure in behalf of the convention the best available grounds for a permanent Free-will Baptist encampment." The committee comprised the following: the Revs. E. W. Porter, H. F. Wood, I. D. Stewart, C. F. Penney, B. F. Hayes, A. L. Gerrish, W. L. Noyes, and Messrs. C. H. Latham, B. F. Haley, B. C. Clark, L. W. Stone, and R. Deering. Initials rather than first names of the men were used in naming them.

This committee met the next day with a majority present, and the addition of "Brothers Page and Witcher." The group organized with Mr. Porter as chairman and Mr. Stewart as clerk. They in turn appointed a sub-committee of Porter, Hayes, Wood, Deering, and Obadiah Durgin, with Mr. Porter as chairman and Mr. Wood as secretary. This latter group, before recommending the actual site of Ocean Park, examined seven other locations in Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Apparently the assignment was carried out with efficiency and despatch, for a report was submitted at Dover, New Hampshire, on October 1. This, incidentally, like subsequent reports of committees, officials, and other individuals for years to come, was in legible longhand. The committee recommended favorable consideration of the Guilford property "which is situated at Old Orchard, lying next west of the Googin Farm. It consisted of 45 acres, 29 of which embrace a fine grove, four acres forty rods wide and as good beach territory as can be had at Old Orchard.

"The remaining part consists of a small border of marsh. Its view of the sea is fine. From the grove you can overlook the beach and get a good view of the ocean.

"Old Orchard furnishes a beach ride of seven miles. This lot lies on the Boston & Maine Railroad, on the west, while the Beach Railroad passes through on the eastern end.

"It can be purchased for \$5,000 - \$2,000 to be paid when the deed is given and the balance in five annual installments of \$600 each, with annual interest at 6%."

Mr. Deering of the committee said, "I would suggest that immediate steps be taken to purchase the Guilford property, and that it be surveyed as soon as possible, streets located, etc." The committee as a whole added, "We consider this would best suit our purpose."

Lindley M. Webb of Portland, Maine, who served as legal counsel for the Ocean Park-to-be, in compiling the title notes wrote that "the heirs of William D. Guilford claim to own by virtue of a devise from William Deering to William D. Guilford in a will probated in York County at the May term, 1867. "Two well-informed people who had lived in the neighborhood told Mr. Webb that Mr. Deering and Mr. Guilford "were both high minded men in good circumstances."

Perhaps members of those two committees were inter-

changed, or perhaps other men went along on the exploratory expeditions because of a personal concern about the proposed project. Anyhow, President Cheney later recalled with interest "the day when the committee walked across sand and marsh, up to the beautiful pine grove at the entrance to which the Temple was to be located, and all kneeled with bared heads while Rev. Silas Curtis offered a prayer, dedicating the grounds to holiest service."

This was the significant beginning of Ocean Park.

Chapter 2

PIONEER DEVELOPMENTS

On January 24, 1881, when Harris M. Plaisted of Bangor was governor, the State of Maine approved a charter for the Ocean Park Association as a corporation "to establish a place of summer resort for holding religious, educational, and other meetings at Old Orchard Beach, in Saco, in the County of York." The list of incorporators was as follows: Oren B. Cheney, Silas W. Cook, Charles F. Penney, Benjamin F. Haley, Benjamin F. Hayes,, Payson Tucker, James T. Furber, Ethnan W. Porter, Isaac D. Stewart, Hollis K. Clark, Rufus L. Deering, Harrison F. Wood, Obadiah Durgin, Levi W. Stone, Hiram Knowlton, Abiel M. Jones, Lindley M. Webb, George S. Ricker, Edward P. Prescott, Aura L. Gerish, John Malvern, William M. Dow, William H. Smith, Benjamin C. Jordan, Charles Bridge, Isaac B. Piper, Jesse C. Connor, George E. Smith, Calvin F. Bonney, James Walker, Asa C. Russell, David H. Varnum, Oliver B. Clason. Both ministers and laymen were in the group.

The first meeting of these pioneers was held February 2 of that year at 1:30 P.M. in the directors' room of the Maine Central Railroad in Portland. At this time it was formally voted to purchase the Guilford property which became the nucleus of the present Ocean Park. It comprised in general the land now extending from Randall Avenue to Ancona Avenue,

and from the beach to the Boston & Maine Railroad line. Later Mr. Jordan, one of the incorporators and a lumber operator from Alfred, privately acquired considerable land to the north. In 1920 the New England Baptist Conference purchased a tract of land adjoining Randall Avenue and running from West Grand Avenue back into the wooded section. In 1927 the Ocean Park Development Company secured an area at the southeast corner of Ocean Park, reclaiming the land which until then had changed its contour from year to year by the tidewater meanderings of Goose Fare Brook. In 1929 the Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp bought property abutting the NEBC land and bordering Goose Fare. Other purchases were made by the Association from time to time, including, in 1939, some land in the Weymouth Avenue neighborhood. Ocean Park geographically now is bounded by the south side of Tunis Avenue, the beach, Goose Fare, and the railroad. All property owners within these limits are eligible to become members of the Association subject to specifications in the by-laws.

Rev. John Malvern is generally credited with recommending that the place be called Ocean Park, while the records indicate it was Mr. Porter who suggested the names Randall, Temple, and Colby Avenues for the first streets laid out in the Park.

In order to secure the \$5,000 purchase price asked by the Guilford heirs, the land was bonded to three individuals for sixty days, and the following plan was adopted: a certificate good for \$100 in the purchase of lots was sold for \$75, so those intending to buy might save twenty-five percent by advancing the money. Before the time limit had expired, one hundred twenty such certificates had been sold, totalling

\$9,000. To this amount, largely through the personal interest of James T. Furber, an official of the company, the Boston & Maine Railroad added \$1,000. This gave the Association the \$10,000 which had been thought necessary to start the undertaking.

The first year in the history of Ocean Park was crowded with activity, meetings, and dreams. Land was cleared, marshy spots were filled, street work was petitioned from Saco, building was begun, committees were named, and the community itself became a human beehive. The original charter was amended, as were the by-laws, with more of the latter being added as requirements for them increased. Deacon Obadiah Durgin of Saco was placed in general charge of the development.

At this point it is interesting to observe that in the governing regulations of the new Association there is no mention whatever of race or creed. Though founded under Free Baptist auspices, there is no denominational reference to be found. What is equally important is the foresightedness of the founding fathers in the restrictions they imposed upon acquisition and use of property, both land and buildings. This was all long before municipalities of the twentieth centuries talked about zoning. Yet in the final analysis, that is all that went into the physical planning of Ocean Park. In addition, of course, there was the intense personal interest then, and through the years since, of owners to keep Ocean Park the desirable kind of family place it has always been. It is what prevents it from being crowded and commercialized like so many seaside summer resorts. In fact, other Maine coastal communities including nearby Kinney Shores and Goose Rocks Beach, have conferred with Ocean Park officials and have copied the local plan to a certain extent.

The Universalists, who have a summer encampment at Ferry Beach, near Camp Ellis, were also attracted to the Ocean Park plan. They, too, had previously been meeting at The Weirs. In 1901, under the leadership of Quillen Hamilton Shinn, they founded their colony at Ferry Beach. In the early days until their building program was under way, many of their followers stayed at the Granite State Hotel here at Ocean Park. They are still a flourishing organization.

The administrative birth of Ocean Park occurred at the historic February 2 meeting. Officers and directors elected were: president, Oren B. Cheney; secretary, Levi W. Stone; treasurer, Benjamin F. Haley; directors: Mr. Cheney, Mr. Stone, Mr. Haley, E. W. Porter, H. F. Wood, Rufus L. Deering; H. H. Clark, Charles Bridge, Lindley M. Webb, I. D. Stewart, and George E. Smith.

The president, on motion of Mr. Porter, named a devotional committee to arrange for the public meetings, which included Mr. Porter, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Wood, Charles F. Penney, and J. B. Jordan. This committee was later to become the assembly committee. Mr. Porter, its first chairman and to whom the title of assembly superintendent was to be given, continued in that capacity until his death on January 24, 1899. His term of eighteen years was the longest of any of the eleven superintendents who succeeded him.

Significantly one of the first acts following the organization of the Association was a vote by the directors, at a meeting held at the City Hotel, Biddeford, on February 23, requesting plans be drawn up for a "pavilion." They favored an octagonal design which some had seen in the White Mountains. The style of architecture seems to have been popular then, for many private homes can still be found which were in existence during the period. Mr. Porter suggested the building be called the "Temple," though at various times it was re-

ferred to as the "tabernacle." The firm of Dow and Wheeler was paid \$27.50 for the plans.

The contract for erecting the Temple was awarded to James Bickford of Portland, "one of our own men." Fritz C. Bickford, a grandson, now lives in Flushing, New York. The building was to be eighty feet in diameter and completed by August 1. The same committee was authorized to furnish settees at thirty-one cents per foot. They purchased one hundred eighty-three of them, with "200 chairs thrown in by way of discount." A number of these settees and chairs are still in use. The work began on June 6. By July 20 the structure was "about completed." Legend has it that carpenters labored on the roof by moonlight for a week prior to the dedication in order to be finished by the specified date.

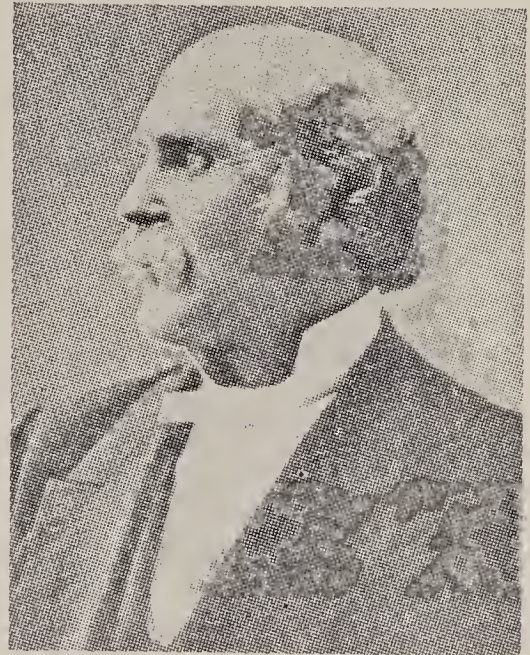
The auditorium was filled to capacity when dedicatory exercises were conducted at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, August 2. They included a dedicatory hymn written for the occasion by Mrs. Porter, a chorus from the Saco and Biddeford churches, and a sermon by Rev. Charles F. Penney for whom the Penney Memorial Baptist Church, Augusta, Maine, is named. In 1954 three surviving persons who attended the dedication were honored at the annual Chautauqua banquet: Miss Myra Cornforth of Saco, Maine, Mrs. Walter A. Chase of Malden, Massachusetts, and Mrs. Sarah P. Porter of Peabody, Massachusetts, a daughter of Rev. Mr. Porter.

On August 8 the sum of \$3550 was paid Mr. Bickford for his work, plus an additional \$42 for making and painting the shutters. For many years an arched sign, bearing the inscription "The Way of Truth," stood at the entrance. This cost \$11.50. The building is still identified in the town records at the Way of Truth Temple. Wooden crosses once adorned the exterior of the temple.

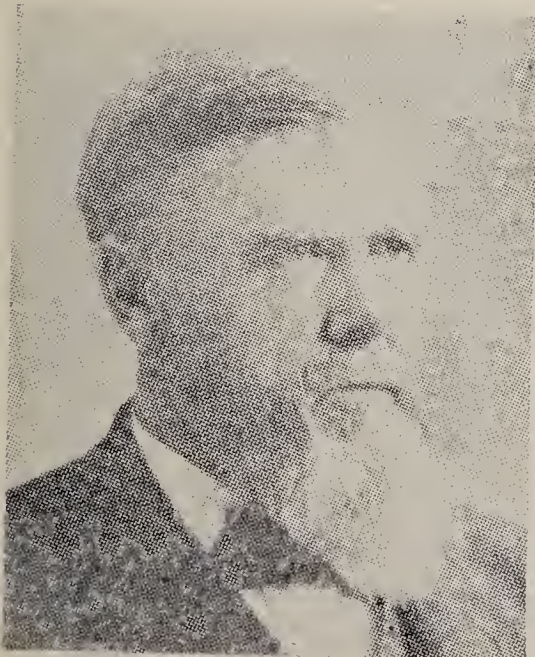
Just forty-five years later, on August 8, 1925, the di-



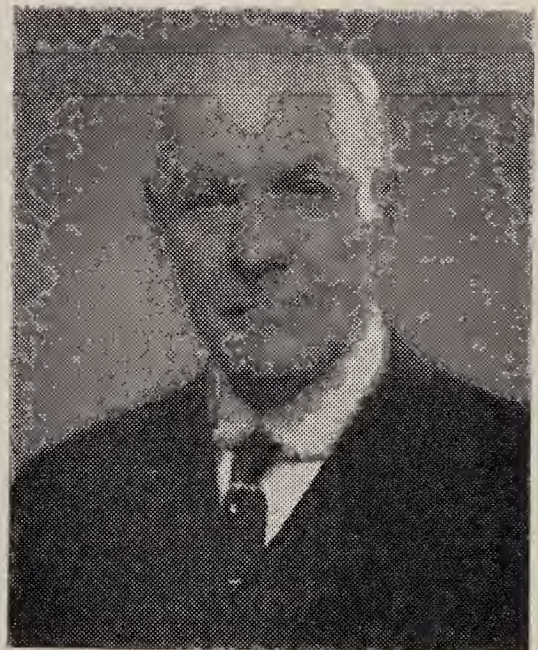
OREN B. CHENEY
Association President
1881 - 1885



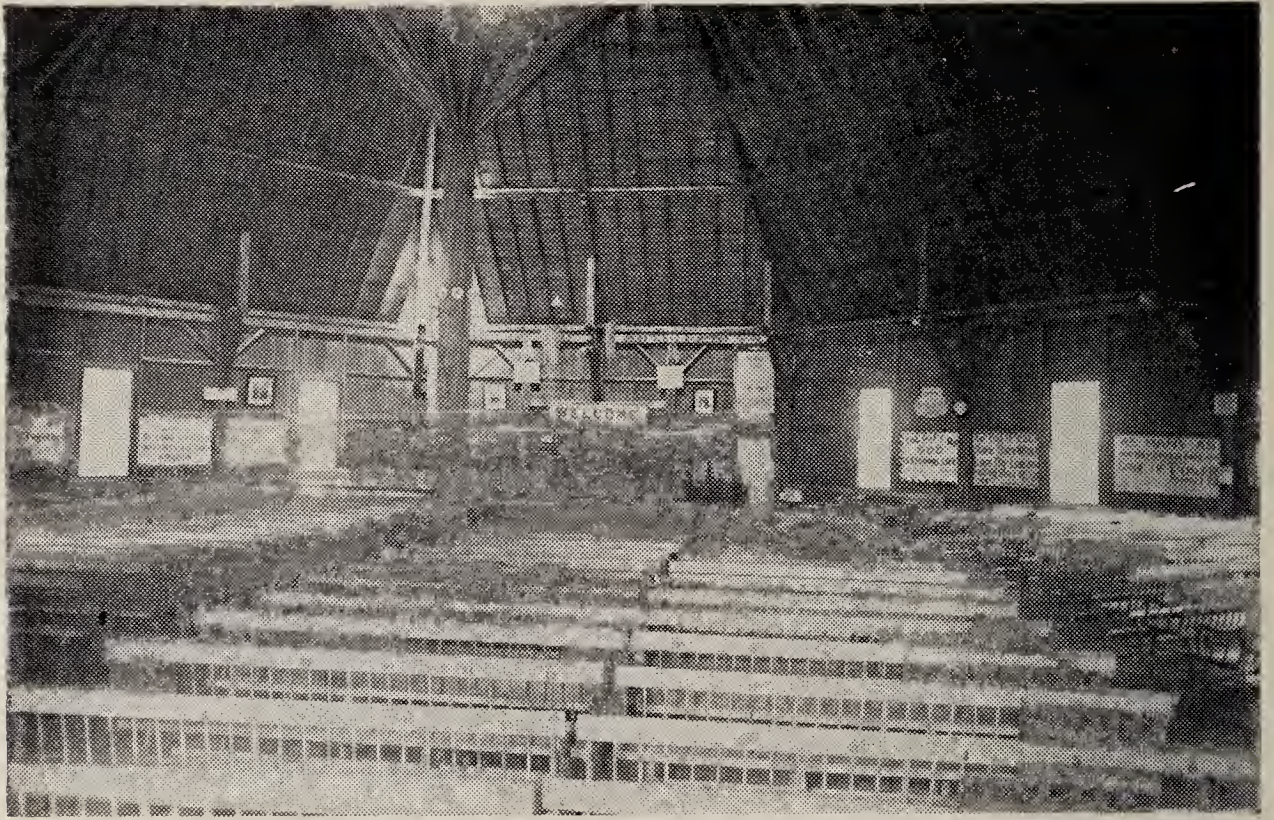
REV. ETHNAN W. PORTER
Assembly Superintendent
1881 - 1899



BENJAMIN C. JORDAN
Association Director
1882 - 1912



LINDLEY M. WEBB
Association President
1893 - 1925



Temple Interior — Prior to 1926



Scene at Temple Dedication — August 2, 1881

rectors voted to name a committee of five "to take into consideration the increasing of the seating capacity of the Temple." In the fall of 1926 part of the center post was removed, chiefly to give clearance for the better showing of motion pictures from a new fireproof projection booth over the front entrance. Before the 1927 season opened, the present enlargement of the Temple was made, together with other changes, and three hundred more seats were installed. The expense of the project was \$6,671. The assembly superintendent at the time was Rev. Albert E. Kenyon who held the office for fifteen years until his death on June 22, 1934. He was a successor to Rev. William J. Twort who served from 1911 to 1919, as well as earlier from 1903 to 1906. The Association president then was Edwin H. Milliken, who had the office from 1928 to 1944. Howard M. Small was treasurer during that period, being that officer from 1932 to 1944. He had charge of much of the work connected with the expansion program. He was an experienced contractor, following in the footsteps of his father, M. A. Small, who also worked around Ocean Park for a long while. Miss Margaret Small of Saco, a daughter of Howard, still owns some of the former extensive holdings of the family here, including the cottage at 2 Ancona Avenue, first owned by Rufus L. Deering, second president of the Association. Philip R. Webb was the third Association officer when the work was done on the Temple, serving as secretary from 1925 to 1944.

Across the street from the Temple in the olden days, in part of what is known as Temple Square and approximately where the pergola and drinking fountain are, was a pump and watering trough. Here the thirsty multitude of both people and horses came for refreshment. There was a Sunday parking problem even in those days. It was a regulation that horses must be tied on Randall Avenue. Near the Temple was the

unique bell tower that still stands as a landmark and contains the bell announcing all important assembly events. On the site of Porter Memorial Hall was a tent "tabernacle" for smaller meetings. Across the way was the first dining hall in the Park, also a tent affair. At a discreet distance from this center of activity were the "walks" for men and women.

The latest Temple expansion occurred in 1953 when thirty-five portable benches were added to the permanent ones already located in the grove between Porter and the Temple. This allows, with the use of an extension of the public address system, facilities for total overflow Sunday congregations in the vicinity of 1450 persons.

The official seal of the Ocean Park Association was approved on June 14, 1881, the design being as follows: ". . . Upon one side of a circular field is represented the sea bearing a ship; on the other, the dry land covered with verdure with a large pine tree near the sea-shore, while in the foreground is seen the open Bible and the cross, the whole being surrounded by the words, 'Ocean Park Association, Incorporated January 24th, 1881, Old Orchard, Maine.' "

For many years before his death Mr. Porter had expressed the need for a "Hall in the Grove." Appropriately, then, in August, 1900, a committee comprising Mrs. R. M. F. Buzzell, Rev. H. Lockhart, and Miss Laura A. DeMeritte was named to promote the project. A circular was issued and funds were raised by popular subscription. By November, 1901, the corner-stone had been laid. It was planned to have pillars on three sides, but the cost eliminated that feature of the architecture. Mrs. Susan Prescott Porter, widow of Mr. Porter, gave the memorial a stained glass window over the front entrance—the only window of its kind in any of the public buildings. Porter Memorial Hall, also known as the Hall in the Grove, was dedicated on August 4, 1902. A special



Old Winter Scene



Bell Tower



"The Way of Truth" — 1898



Porter Memorial Hall — Dedicated August 4, 1902



B. C. Jordan Memorial Hall — Dedicated July 19, 1915

hymn of dedication was written by Mrs. Nellie Wade Whitcomb. An arched sign, similar to the one at the Temple, was placed in front of the new building reading "Onward and Upward."

The only other assembly public meeting building built since the Temple and Porter is B. C. Jordan Memorial Hall, erected by Miss Nellie B. Jordan in memory of her father and dedicated on July 19, 1915. Mr. Jordan, a businessman from Alfred, was the largest land owner in Ocean Park. He died on December 21, 1912, having been an Association director for thirty years. Miss Dora Jordan, another daughter, was also active in Ocean Park affairs, especially the Educational Bureau and the Florida Club. Miss Gladys Jordan of Portland, a niece of the Misses Nellie and Dora Jordan, retains title to some of the former B. C. Jordan land here.

Several descendants of early owners, now only a generation or two removed, are still members of the Association. In some cases they own the property their forbears built or bought. For example, Mrs. Annie M. Russell of 5 Temple Avenue, Reba and Earl Harrington (Lockhart cottage) of 5 Oceana Avenue, Miss Velna M. Wiggin of 4 Winona Avenue, Mrs. Edith (Webb) Marshall of 5 Randall Avenue, Mrs. Elizabeth (Mosher) McDonald of the seawall, Mrs. Bertha (Scribner) Choate of 87 Randall Avenue, Wilbur L. Rollins (Bradbury cottage) of 47 Temple Avenue, and the Misses Alice W. and Edith M. Churchill of 57 Randall Avenue are among those who own some of the earliest family property. Miss Eva McClellan, who now lives in a little Casco Avenue cottage, is a descendant of McClellans who lived in Ocean Park even before the Association came into existence. Dr. George E. Boynton of 1 Tioga Avenue, a retired Waltham, Massachusetts, dentist, has been here in the summer since the beginning. His father claimed to have built one of the first

cottages in Ocean Park, now the Spears cottage at 1 Ancona Avenue, while the Richardson cottage immediately behind it was the barn that went with it. At that time the ocean came up almost to the front steps of the cottage. For that matter, the entire beach has gradually built up during the past three quarters of a century. Old pictures show rocks, like Googins Rocks, at the foot of Colby Avenue. Several feet under the board walk laid each summer at the foot of Temple Avenue is a concrete walk that naturally once lay on top of the sand there. The base of the Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp binocular pedestal at the foot of Randall Avenue is now two feet or so below the level of the surrounding sand.

A large number of the early owners, as now, came from the Greater Boston area. Only a few owners reside outside New England, and there are just two Canadian owners. Canadian visitors flock here in substantial numbers, however, this being the nearest ocean beach to Montreal. A group of them gave a Canadian flag for the Temple in 1950.

So Ocean Park became established and began to grow. Though literally it is built upon sand, it really is built upon foundations firmer than stone.

Chapter 3

EXPANSION PROBLEMS

After the first experimental year of 1881, Ocean Park settled down to a period of development and expansion which actually has never ceased. Perhaps the situation is best pictured by quoting scattered statements from an article in "The Morning Star" for July 12, 1882. This periodical was the official Free Baptist publication from its first issue in Limerick, Maine, in May, 1826, until its merger with "The Watchman" in October, 1911. Clippings from the paper during those years would in themselves form a rather complete chronicle of Ocean Park.

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"At this writing . . . one would suppose himself at the building of a city on the western frontier. The sound of the carpenter's hammer reverberates from the bluff of the sea to the grove from four o'clock in the morning until the light of the sun deserts us at night . . . There is a good number of private rooms to be rented in cottages, and those also who desire tents will find no difficulty in obtaining them. Among other facilities . . . is the abundance of coal, soft water, supplied to nearly all the cottages and public buildings . . . There is ample opportunity for fishing . . . One of our number last season caught two hundred and fifty fine mackerel one morning before breakfast on a single hook, and within speaking distance of the beach.

"The drives here, both in the country and on the beach, are unexcelled. For eight miles you may drive on the solid

beach at the water's edge without a break. The market-man visits us daily with meat, fish, groceries, vegetables, ice, milk, etc., whose prices are moderate as compared with home charges.

“Financially, this enterprise has been a great success, enabling the directors to expend large sums of money in improvements, not the least among which is the cutting through of three avenues from the sea to the main line of the Boston & Maine Railroad, one of which—Temple Avenue—is graded, making it a good carriage road, with a planked sidewalk its entire length. Each of the other avenues has a plank sidewalk from the sea to the Beach Railroad, and yet we have a good report of the treasury and some three hundred house lots for sale. The liberal policy of the directors is to make all improvements necessary to render the Park healthful, beautiful, and inviting, so far as their funds will allow, but they will contract no debt.

“During the month of August, the religious and reformatory interests will be considered at the Temple, according to the program just issued.

“Some of the ablest speakers of our denomination will be present, together with outside talent, musical, philanthropic, reformatory, and progressive.”

So much was going on here in those busy years that at one time Mr. Porter proposed the publishing of a daily paper of five hundred copies for the period of a month. No action on the idea was carried out. However, in the summer of 1933, J. R. Ayers, a young student, did get out eight issues of a four-page weekly newspaper called the “Ocean Park Echo.”

All of this almost makes Ocean Park appear to be another Beulah Land. No doubt many of the people did regard it as such then, even as appreciative owners and visitors do today. The efforts of present officers and directors and committees,

too, are just as conscientious as were those of yesterday. Naturally, growing pains were plentiful, especially in the first few years. Control of the marsh land between the grove and the beach was a real problem, as was the drinking water supply. These were handled with careful consideration and wise decision.

A major expense involved dike construction to stem the incoming tides at flood time. One difficulty was that the tide formed a bar at the mouth of Goose Fare Brook which prevented the outflow of water. The tidewater often flooded the grounds, and during storms did much damage. After conferences with owners of the adjacent property, an agreement was reached whereby a dike, with tidegate, was built near the mouth of the brook on land owned by a Mr. Gowen. The work at one time was transferred to Randall Avenue. A considerable project was undertaken there, but it was thought best to return to the original location. In September, 1884, the water washed away part of the dike near the railroad and the company rebuilt it, paying part of the cost. Again in February, 1885, thirty-five feet of that section built by the railroad was carried away, the rebuilding expense this time being \$250. Then once more in that same year, in November, the dike was washed out in one of the most severe storms in years. After this the directors felt it unwise to attempt reconstruction there. The other parties who had helped previously refused further financial aid, and the problem was a very disturbing one for the Association.

A civil engineer was called in to investigate conditions. For a while it was hoped that an arrangement might be made with the town by which the dike could be built in connection with the new county road in that area, but these plans failed to go through. Finally, with the same courage displayed in former crises, the directors built a strong, effective dike, costing ap-

proximately \$1400, near Randall Avenue. This proved successful and remains there today, thus solving one of the greatest problems of the Park. The town improved the situation more in 1954 when it installed a swinging tidegate across the brook on New Salt Road. This proves to be an advantage to owners who have settled in that locality in recent years.

Unlike the dike which was all expense, the household water problem, while it cost money, was a source of income for many years. The first water supply came from a brook whose principal source was a spring in the field of Charles Patterson, a half mile or so from the center of Ocean Park. In August, 1884, the directors reported they had cleared the brook, constructed a water tank and windmill, and laid two-inch pipes. A filtering system was also installed. The water was analyzed and pronounced unfit for use in 1888 so a well was dug and bricked up at a cost of \$125. The original pipes were laid on top of the ground. In 1896 these were replaced by four-inch ones, the job amounting to \$4,000.

In 1891 a steam boiler was erected, with water flowing to the cottages by gravity. Next, in 1899, a "handsome new brick pumping station" was built at considerable expense, and an electric pump was placed in it. This building still stands as an interesting landmark across from the covered bridge, and is used for storage purposes. This outlay of money proved to be a good investment as the quality of water obtained was of the very purest. The income was one of the few sources of revenue received by the Association. The water commission deserves much credit for their work during those trying years.

James W. Flanders had charge of the new works until their discontinuance. This change happened abruptly when the huge wooden water tower collapsed on April 8, 1922. For a while thereafter a Morse compressed air system was employed to force water from underground tanks by pressure. Fear of

contamination and lack of supply caused this idea to be abandoned. The entire set-up was sold to the Biddeford and Saco Water Company in 1926. The source of supply now is the never-failing Saco River.

There was constantly the problem of laying out and improving streets and of securing additional services from the town of Old Orchard Beach of which Ocean Park has long been a part. Petitions were presented and meetings were held. One report on the subject says relationships "... have not always been altogether happy nor quite what it was hoped they might be." Secession was even mentioned. Local people objected to taxes—a common complaint. "Taxes were levied for the support of police patrolling, for brilliant lighting displays, for the structure and maintenance of roads and sidewalks, and for other municipal necessities, not to say extravagances, in which Ocean Park at one time seemed to have little share." To bring the situation up to date, it should be said in all fairness that more often than not there was no active representation in town affairs by Ocean Park property owners to carry any influence. Recent years have seen a comparatively happy relationship develop between Ocean Park leaders and the town fathers. One result, Ocean Park has been the recipient of more favorable attention in respect to its many needs.

Then, too, while outwardly reports seemed to indicate that all was prosperity business-wise in the affairs of the Association, in actuality there were many financial struggles. Notes have been signed in the past to finance the Association over difficult periods. It was not too many years ago that the directors contemplated giving up the assembly program because of the expense.

Ocean Park has always had to depend upon limited sources of income. Winona Lake, on the other hand, a Warsaw, Indiana, assembly center founded in 1894 under Presbyterian auspices and later made famous by Billy Sunday and

Homer Rodeheaver, was able to benefit early by H. J. Heinz and Studebaker fortunes. Nevertheless, many things have combined the past several years to dispel much of the financial difficulty. Among them was a vote, in 1951, to invite members to pay annual voluntary dues of only \$5. Since 1946 a year-round superintendent has been on the grounds to represent Association interests.

Through all the struggle of the years the fundamental concern was to manage the affairs of the Association "on strictly business principles." The records of the secretary, of the treasurer, and of committee chairmen and other individuals reflect the ceaseless activity of all persons connected with the responsibility of the place. Even disciplinary measures have been taken on occasion when felt necessary to protect the welfare of Ocean Park.

So there have been problems. But they have been no different from those found in any community. Someone submitting a report to the Association in 1908 wrote, "I wish to remind you of encroachments in the past upon our streets and the violations which have been made of the conditions in our deeds . . ." The person also called attention to the cost of the assembly program to the Association. In these days, such details are generally recognized as something to be expected. The surprising feature is, however, that Ocean Park has not changed to any great extent in seventy-five years. Commercialization and speculation have constantly been discouraged. It has meant eternal vigilance on the part of its administration and cooperation from its members to maintain it. Let it be said, furthermore, it has meant the prayers of dedicated Christians, too.

A member expressed the spirit of the place well when she wrote at Thanksgiving time, 1955, "I was thinking of things to be thankful for, and I thought of Ocean Park."

Chapter 4

ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

The printed assembly booklet published annually since 1881 comprises a running history of Ocean Park in all its phases. Begun modestly as an eight-page prospectus in the first year, it doubled its size in 1882. In 1956 it reached a record size of eighty pages. At present there are only three known complete files of the publication. One of these, bound in eight volumes, is kept in the Mary Chalmers Turner Historical Room at the Memorial Library. Scattered copies for most years can still be found, but the 1886 number is especially rare. All are collector's items.

The booklet has traditionally carried introductory explanatory material, an outline of the activities of the assembly itself and allied organizations, and an advertising directory of guest homes, business places, and other establishments. Needless to say, some advertisements such as for Ayer's Sarsaparilla, "the True Elixer of Life," were dropped by the way-side long ago.

The first program covered merely eleven days, from August 2 to August 12, inclusive. For a long while the program emphasis was in August. While now the more popular month is July, the offerings of the assembly committee and other groups extend from the end of June to Labor Day. The several feature attractions throughout the summer help keep Ocean Park well filled to capacity, often when other primarily commercial resorts are lamenting vacant quarters. It is to be

noted that Ocean park programs have catered to persons of all ages and interests, and usually free of charge or at very nominal charges.

The assembly work has been the most important feature of Ocean Park. It was inaugurated under the direction of Mr. Porter who was both superintendent and chairman of the assembly committee. Mrs. Porter continued as chairman of the committee for three years after her husband's death, until she died on August 11, 1903. The first session was "a most creditable one." It included a Minister's Day, Sunday School Institute, Children's Day, Temperance Day, and a three-day annual convention of the New England Association of Free Baptists. The following year the assembly covered sixteen days, adding a Woman's Convention, Layman's Conference, and a Christian Evangelization Conference. For several subsequent seasons it extended from three to four weeks.

On its "Information" page the 1882 program booklet, as did most of the other early ones, gave an indication of ways in which persons were encouraged to attend Ocean Park events. The following railroads offered reduced rates: Boston & Maine, Lowell & Concord, Maine Central, Grand Trunk, Boston, Concord & Montreal, Portland & Ogdensburg, and Knox & Lincoln. Excursions were common until fairly recently. The same booklets stated that Ocean Park could be reached "seaward by all lines of steamers to Portland." Pleasure craft from Portland used to tie up at the end of the famous long steel pier at Old Orchard Beach.

Board could be secured for seventy-five cents to a dollar a day, with supper being twenty-five cents, breakfast thirty-five, and dinner fifty. The breakfast hour was at seven and dinner was served at twelve-thirty. "Night bells will be rung at 10 P.M.," the page reads. "Bells and Early Prayers" were announced for 6 A.M. Lodgings were twenty-five and fifty cents

a night, while tents could be set up free of charge in specified areas. Tents and trailers have long been prohibited, partly for local zoning reasons and partly for state public health reasons.

The Young People's Social and Literary Guild was organized "for mutual helpfulness" in 1882. Recognizing its value, the Ocean Park Association, in 1887, granted the group fifteen lots of land in the present Guild Park area on upper Temple Avenue. Both social and literary functions were conducted here as long as the Guild was active.

The organization was responsible, in 1891, for building the first foot bridge across the brook at the entrance to the park and also a large rustic, open-sided pavilion within the grove which served as their meeting center. The Guild offered excellent home study literary and scientific courses which merited seals on the official Chautauqua diploma. Five hundred young people were enrolled in this enthusiastic organization in the first five years. Miss Elizabeth B. Aageson of Portland, owner of a cottage at 48 Temple Avenue and still an interested member of the assembly committee, served as secretary of the Guild through most of its period of activity. A soloist in her own right, she directed many musical and dramatic productions. Carl E. Milliken, Republican governor of the State of Maine for two terms, 1917 to 1921, once served as president of the Guild, and later as president of the Maine Free Baptist Association. A portrait of Governor Milliken, done by William Jewell of Boston, was hung in 1956 in the state house foyer at Augusta. He now resides in Larchmont, New York.

By 1888 the Ocean Park assembly incorporated a regular Chautauqua program into its schedule, using courses of study and other materials designated by the present Chautauqua headquarters in New York. From then until the strictly educational phase of Chautauqua no longer flourished, annual

Recognition Day parades and exercises witnessed varying numbers of graduates pass through the Golden Gate between the Temple and Porter Hall.

Still expanding and seeking to offer new attractions, the assembly began in 1889 to conduct a Summer School of Oratory and Physical Culture under the leadership of Miss Sadai Prescott Porter, a graduate of the Emerson School of Oratory. Other conferences came and went in keeping with the demand or support received: a Christian Workers' Convention, a Biblical Institute, a Missionary and Sunday School Conference, and similar religious and secular gatherings.

Though the assembly program was limited in duration for many years, in contrast to the season-long list of activities now, the first superintendents worked sacrificially in behalf of Ocean Park. Professor Herbert R. Purinton of the Department of Religion at Bates College, according to the records, was paid \$50 for his services in 1901. Professor George B. Files, also of Bates and the manager of the college store there from 1901 to 1916, was paid \$75 in 1903.

It has been stated that the Freewill Baptists were liberal. In keeping with the times denominational lines have been crossed and intermingled more and more as the years have passed. Ocean Park has been a leader from the start in the current ecumenical philosophy. One of the first interdenominational movements at Ocean Park came into being in 1910 with the founding of a Young People's Missionary Conference patterned somewhat after the Silver Bay idea. Rev. Asa M. Parker, among the originators of the conference, served as its dean for fifteen years, 1912 to 1927. Mr. Parker, the owner of a waterfront cottage at the corner of Roanoke Avenue where members of his family still vacation, was a member of the assembly committee from 1946 until his death on April 12, 1948.



Beach Scene



Guild Park



Waterfront House Party — 1890's



Improvement Society Project — 1899

Silent "movies" were introduced in 1919 while they were still little more than in the "flickers" stage. Miss Laura A. Demeritte was influential in raising money so the assembly could purchase its own portable projector in 1920. The late Arthur R. Clifton, brother of John C. Clifton of Oceana Avenue used to play the piano for the pictures. That was more than thirty-five years ago. It was with considerable trepidation that the assembly committee first decided to try this new type of entertainment. Nevertheless, motion pictures have continued to be a popular week-night attraction at the Temple, even while languishing in other places. First-run films and low admission prices have combined to draw large audiences. They have also given more extensive use to the Temple as an all-purpose auditorium. Sound pictures were tried for three weeks in 1934, and full seasons of feature shows have prevailed since then. Two professional sound projectors were bought in 1946, the equipment having been rented until then. A wide screen was installed for the 1956 season. A. Victor Skonberg, a Providence, Rhode Island, school teacher, has been the licensed projectionist since 1938, making him the second oldest Association employee in respect to years of service at this writing.

All of these assembly attractions customarily were financed both through single admissions at the door or through the sale of season tickets. Mostly they were scheduled in a ten-day to two-week concentrated Chautauqua period, so called, during August. Now, for instance, approximately twenty-five motion picture shows are presented throughout the entire summer. It was the expected thing to look for the committee member to approach the cottage or guest home with tickets to sell.

Gradually, though, the sale of season tickets diminished and financial support dwindled accordingly. This may have been due largely to the advent of the radio and other distractions made more accessible because of the automobile. Then,

too, in the years up to World War I or so, Ocean Park was more of a place where families came for all summer, arriving by train with trunks and bags packed for the summer. They occupied their own or, in comparatively few instances, rented cottages. Season tickets went out simultaneously with the coming of short-time rental of rooms and cottages, along with these other factors entering the situation. To date the effect of television has been negligible.

Paradoxically, with the discontinuance of admission charges completely, except for motion pictures and the Temple Chautauqua banquets, not only has attendance been most satisfactory at entertainment and lecture events, but financial support has been generous whenever opportunity has been provided on other occasions. This situation reflects the interest that Ocean Parkers apparently have in good family entertainment.

Platform talent has always been the best obtainable, perhaps dating back to the first years of the century when Charles A. Eaton of Boston procured considerable high class entertainment for the place. Soloists, quartets, instrumentalists, lecturers, elocutionists, repertory groups, concert ensembles—all have graced the Temple platform. Booker T. Washington was a speaker on one occasion, crowding the building to the doors, with many standing outside to catch his words. E. Stanley Jones has been a special week-night speaker.

More recently, with the increased availability of popular and higher education through other mediums, official association with Chautauqua, New York, has been discontinued and educational sessions as such have been reduced to a minimum. The State of Maine Writers' Conference, founded in 1941 and one of the first in the country, is an example of the modernization of this aspect of the assembly program. It was started jointly by the assembly superintendent and Loring Eugene Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, a Maine native and well known

editor and poet. Religious conferences are now principally under the sponsorship of the New England Baptist Conference. Week-day programs in the Temple and adjoining buildings are either of a briefer duration or of a more entertaining nature.

Sunday generally has been regarded as the climax of the week at Ocean Park. The greatest preachers the nation has known have delivered their best sermons from the Temple pulpit. Sometimes the assembly has been fortunate to have superintendents who have been able preachers, and who have opened or closed the seasons with their own inspirational messages. Guest preachers have been brought from far and near. Gradually they have come as representatives of different denominations. Baptists, naturally, have predominated. Some of the favorite men have returned year after year. J. Stanley Durkee, one-time president of Howard University, the Washington, D.C., Negro school, was on the list for some time. He would bring his family with him for the summer, even though he may have preached on only one Sunday. Another who came for several years was Herbert S. Johnson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Boston. York A. King, still a regular sojourner here, was a popular guest many years ago. Bernard C. Clausen of Pittsburgh and Cleveland also preached here over a period of many summers. Rufus Jones, distinguished Quaker leader, preached at the Temple during the years when the Quakers had annual sessions here. Victor F. Scalise of Lowell in 1956 completes seventeen years as guest preacher at Ocean Park. His capacity has been chiefly that of Morning Watch leader during July and August Chautauqua weeks. The assembly committee at present has a policy of not repeating Sunday guests two years running, or if so, not in the same month. This gives Ocean Park congregations opportunity to hear more different outstanding men from year to year.

The first broadcast of Temple worship services occurred in 1935 over Portland radio station WCSH. Biddeford radio station WIDE has broadcast the morning services the past several summers.

Beach vespers, conducted at the foot of Temple Avenue at 5 each pleasant Sunday afternoon in July and August, have been a tradition for more than sixty years. Guests with special messages are invited to speak, while congregations up to one or two hundred persons sit informally on the sand in the spirit of other worshipers who sat upon another shore for the same purpose two thousand years ago. A sort of official vesper hymn is "Ocean Park Invitation," written to the tune of "The Church in the Wildwood," by the late Rev. Albert N. Chandler.

The music department has always been an especially strong part of the Ocean Park total program. Probably the first music director was Hollis K. Clark, who was a music and young people's leader in the Roger Williams Baptist Church, Providence. He came first in 1882. The following summer, in response to a call from him for volunteers, Lewis B. Stillman, later of Saco, accompanied him to Ocean Park to serve as organist and leader of the congregational singing. In the course of time, Mr. Stillman married Ida L. Durgin, daughter of Deacon Durgin, whom he had met at Ocean Park—where countless similar romances have had their beginning. Mr. Stillman had charge of the music for several seasons, but even after he gave up that responsibility, he continued as at least a part-time summer visitor for more than sixty years until his death on April 25, 1943.

Albert P. Briggs, a photograph of whom hangs in the Temple, was the official assembly music director from 1891, with the exception of four years, until his death on June 29, 1937. He served under every superintendent through Mr.

Kenyon. An able composer and also proprietor of a music store in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he first came to Ocean Park in 1890 as a member of a quartet. Mrs. Briggs was of considerable help to him. During their span of leadership, cantatas, choruses, and many musical features were happily anticipated events. His cottage at 13 Oceana Avenue, now owned by Professor Kenneth C. Randall of Michigan State University, was the unofficial music headquarters of Ocean Park.

In the next few years there was a succession of music leaders here, among them being C. Robert Fraser, a former Northfield song leader, and Dr. Cecil W. Pride, a Winchester, Massachusetts, church soloist, both of whom own Winona Avenue cottages. Miss Berneice F. Libby of Lowell has been a member of the music staff, in the capacity of piano accompanist and recitalist, for thirty-five years. She has been employed longer than any other person on the Association staff.

In 1946 a Hammond electric organ was installed in the Temple, made possible through subscriptions from more than three hundred Ocean Park friends. Maas cathedral chimes were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Percy C. Hicks of Lynn, Massachusetts, and tower amplification was given by Walter F. Lorman of Lowell, in memory of Beatrice E. Lorman. In that year, Theodore W. Wells, a young musician from Melrose, Massachusetts, was elected head of the music department and organist. Mr. Wells held the position through the 1953 season, with Miss Libby and Dr. Pride being the three members of the department. Mr. Wells also worked with Ocean Park young people, particularly in the presentation of their annual Temple entertainment, and was active in presenting or in arranging for piano and organ recitals.

Don G. Mason of Brandon, Vermont, a student at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey, became organ-

ist and choirmaster in 1954, following extensive music experience both in Vermont and in the armed services. His broad musical background has made him helpful in all phases of the program.

All of the assembly work is under the direction of the assembly committee, originally called the committee of arrangements or committee on public meetings. The first woman member of the committee was Mrs. M. A. Davis, whose name appears on the cover of the 1890 booklet. There were only five members in all then, including the superintendent. Now there are seven members, and the superintendency is a separate office. Two of the seven are women. The 1893 program also carries the names of an auxiliary group entitled "assembly counselors."

The assembly program can rightly be called the very heart of Ocean Park.

Chapter 5

BUSINESS PLACES AND BUSINESS PEOPLE

Business places and business people have had a substantial influence upon Ocean Park through the years, many times not only assisting in the development of the place but giving it a sort of personality all its own. Though essentially non-commercial, there have been businesses enough to help make Ocean Park practically self-subsisting for summer purposes.

Fred Ward Demeritt for almost exactly fifty years until his death on January 20, 1943, was perhaps the leading business man. In 1892, Fred's father, James Y. Demeritt, proprietor of the Dover Grocery Company, 113 Washington Street, Dover, New Hampshire, came to Ocean Park to manage the combined store and lunch room in the old Blake Industrial building, located where the Ocean Park Restaurant now stands. Fred succeeded James the following year, though the father came to Ocean Park afterward, turning his interest more toward real estate.

This was only the second year the grocery store had been in existence. Prior to that, J. C. White, a Lewiston grocer had built and operated a store in what later became the Ricker cottage and what is now the new post office, at the corner of Seaside and Colby Avenues. By 1901 Mr. Demeritt advertised a public long-distance telephone, the first such instrument in the Park. In 1903 he moved the store quarters to the former Ocean Park House, built in 1883 and run by Moses Wyman. There it has continued to the present day.

Demeritt Square, really the business center of the Park, was named for Mr. Demeritt in 1931, having been called Railroad Square until then.

Mr. Demeritt was civic minded, and served from time to time on the local committee. Other members of the family were prominent here for years. Martha Ward Demeritt, his mother, was a descendant of the Revolutionary Wards. She was an intellectually brilliant woman, taking a most active part in the educational work of Ocean Park. Miss Laura A. DeMeritte, a sister of James (who preferred to revert to an earlier spelling of the name), and already mentioned, lived a long while at Ocean Park both summer and winter. For forty years, from 1873 to 1913, she served as treasurer of the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society. Ethel E. Demeritt, Fred's first wife, was active, too. Among other interests, she was chairman of the special committee in charge of building the Memorial Library in 1924. A brass plate on the beach stone fireplace commemorates her efforts in this respect.

Blanche L. Demeritt, his second wife, continued the grocery and real estate business for two seasons after her husband's death. Then she relinquished the store part and transferred the real estate office to her home, "Sea Haven," at 30 Temple Avenue. Following her death on November 15, 1945, she was succeeded by the present owner who had been employed earlier by the Demeritts for twenty summers. A married daughter by the second marriage now lives in Saco.

In 1944 George E. Dutton of Vermont leased the store building from the Association, and placed Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Edwards there as managers. This was the arrangement until 1946 when Mr. and Mrs. Edwards assumed full control. Since Mr. Edwards' death on May 13, 1954, Mrs. Edwards and her son, Clarence, Jr., have run the business.

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Edwards and Miss Berneice F. Libby of the assembly music department are daughters of one of the first members of the Ocean Park Association, and are joint owners, with two other sisters, of the family cottage at 5 Colby Avenue.

Members of the Thurston family have been owners of the Ocean Park Hotel, a Temple Avenue landmark, for forty-eight years. The original part of the structure was built in time for the 1882 season by Mrs. I. C. Estes who the previous year had operated the Association dining hall across from the Temple. Though merely called a Dining Hall and Lodging-House in the assembly program that year, by 1884 it had been enlarged to accommodate a hundred guests and was named the Granite State. According to the advertisement for 1888, the establishment had a number of changes, "making it the largest and most desirable hotel at the Park." It added that there was "a good livery connected with the house." Estes and Crapo were listed as proprietors then. The name Crapo occurs only the one time, but by 1903 Estes and Kendrie were co-proprietors. Mr. Estes provided baggage service for the Park. In 1903 for the first time the Granite State Hotel advertised "Electric lighting, principally." In 1909 E. A. Kendrie became the sole owner. Mr. Kendrie was a professional photographer, and advertised an "art studio" at the hotel.

Finally in 1910 a change of management was announced, and the following year Frank H. Thurston's name was first indicated as the new owner of the hotel. A Lewiston high school teacher, beginning in 1907 and for a year following his acquisition of the hotel property, he also managed the old Blake Industrial where the Demeritts had once been. Mrs. Nellie McLaughlin of Pittsfield, Maine, was his immediate successor at the Blake. She later owned for many years the

cottage at 45 Colby Avenue which Mr. Thurston had built.

Again the hotel was enlarged by ten rooms for the 1912 season, and by then the dining room and kitchen occupied two-thirds of the first floor. The name was listed as Ocean Park House in 1922, and in 1923 as the present Ocean Park Hotel. For many years Mr. Thurston took pride in entertaining assembly guests at his hotel, and numerous group photographs are in existence showing these people gathered on the spacious porch and steps. As early as 1891 the summer post office, following its removal from the Variety Store quarters where it had been from the beginning, was located on the ground floor adjoining a soda fountain, cooked food counter, and restaurant. When the post office was put into the Cheney Community Cottage in 1946, the restaurant was enlarged. In the meantime the upstairs dining room was abandoned. Various other changes have taken place, with expansion and also the raising of the entire structure. Mr. Thurston died on January 27, 1941, but Mrs. Alice H. Thurston, his widow, assisted by their adult children, has kept the place under family ownership and management.

The Billow House is the only business institution that has been a consistent advertiser in the annual assembly program since 1881. Miss L. S. Knight and Miss M. A. Foss, the co-owners, had it open for that first historic season. They gave board and room for \$1.50 per day, and also were equipped to furnish milk and butter to "outside parties." In 1883 it was enlarged with the addition of a dining room and "sleeping apartments." In that year, as well as for some time thereafter, it was able to advertise in itself as being the only hotel in Ocean Park facing the ocean. Miss Lizzie S. Knight was the single owner in 1888. Beginning in 1911 Ralph E. Gilman, a relative of the previous owners, appears as owner. He now lives in Saco. The longest period of individual

ownership began when Charles E. Torrey of Bangor, Maine, opened it under his management in 1914, holding the property until his death on June 22, 1945. Since then, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene E. Puffer of 4 Colby Avenue have been owners of the place. They operate it along with "Silversands," next door on the waterfront, which began as a family guest house sixty years ago by Mrs. Puffer's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Willis M. Davis.

Another older rooming place is The Curtis, facing Furber Park and owned by the Educational Bureau. Known originally as Lowell House, it was first advertised in 1883 with Mrs. E. Clark and Mrs. M. Pengilly as proprietors. The Bureau purchased the property in 1888, furnishing it in a home-like artistic manner "as a restful retreat for those not desiring hotel or cottage life." It also gave the Bureau two well-appointed classrooms for its educational program. The building was named in honor of Mrs. Patience Curtis, wife of Rev. Silas Curtis who gave generously toward the purchase price. A portrait of him hangs in the office of the building. Most of the rooms are named in memory of various friends, by the persons who donated funds for their furnishings. The Wyman Reception Room is named for Miss Susan Wyman of Boston who made the first gift, thus encouraging the Bureau to proceed with the project.

A smaller guest house that is deserving of mention both because of the name associated with it and the number of years it has been operating is The Does' at 6 Ancona Avenue. This place has been owned and operated by members of the Doe family since the beginning. The first owners were Mr. and Mrs. John Wesley Doe, ardent Free Baptists and among the first Ocean Park settlers. Mrs. Florence Merrill Doe, widow of Willis H. Doe, a son of the first Mr. and Mrs. Doe, is the present owner. Chester W. Doe, a brother of

Willis, owns a cottage at 12 Hampton Avenue. It is worth mentioning, too, that Ocean Park has always been a family place. Therefore, it is interesting to note that members of the Doe family include fourth generation children who are regular visitors here in the summer, while some are year round residents. There are only a few other families that can equal this record.

At least two more guest houses stand on historic ground. The Nautilus at 1 Colby Avenue has expanded from what was originally the summer home of Professor Benjamin F. Hayes of Bates College, one of the incorporators of the Association. The property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gooch. Next to it at 3 Colby Avenue is the old Porter cottage, owned by the superintendent's family until sold in 1954 to Mr. and Mrs. Leon A. Cole of Old Orchard Beach. The Roberta at 1 Randall Avenue, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Johnson, is on the site of the summer home of Professor Alfred Williams Anthony of Cobb Divinity School, a former department of Bates College. Professor Anthony was a Free Baptist and Ocean Park leader. Charles A. Anthony, a son, now owns a later home of the family at Bay View, a mile south of Ocean Park.

The Ocean Park Garage on Oceana Avenue dates back to 1911 when it was a real adventure to drive one of the new-fangled cars down the winding sand-rutted road from "Half Way" to the Boston & Maine Railroad line, and then to enter Ocean Park beneath the overhanging cathedral pines bordering Guild Park on upper Temple Avenue. The business was established by W. H. Staples who first opened it as a wood yard and small automobile livery and repair place. He also ran Staples' Baggage Transfer "which meets all trains." Succeeding him as owners were Carl H. Davis, brother of Mrs. Puffer, from 1921 to 1925; William H. Morse from

1926 to 1946; and Clement F. Hahn, Jr., from 1946 to 1950. Percy A. Frizzle has owned the business since 1950. In recent years he has operated all year.

Next door beyond the garage is the plumbing business carried on by Robert C. Stevenson. This was founded by Victor E. Roy, who was brought down here from Dover by Mr. Demeritt when modern facilities began to replace the more primitive ones first in use. Mr. Roy was an active citizen of the community, especially in the Florida Club. He died on December 25, 1948, and John M. Stevenson then purchased the business. Robert, his son, assumed it in 1954.

George R. Skillin, a former Lynn high school teacher, has leased the Variety Store building and managed the store there since 1928. The structure was built by the Association in the first year of 1881, and was designed to serve as a variety store, reading room, office of the "Morning Star," the Free Baptist official organ, and it also housed a small chapel. Another feature was an imposing "observatory" that rose from one corner. The building has been renovated and enlarged many times, so that not much of the original part is discernable. The most recent expansion came in 1954 with the extension of the ice cream parlor. The post office was first in this building, and the place in general served as a business headquarters for the Association.

Prior to Mr. Skillin, the store had a succession of more or less short-time lessees. Arthur Dexter was an early manager directly for the Association. Alfred M. Caswell, who later served as custodian of the assembly buildings from 1934 until 1953, was in charge of the "Morning Star" book and supply room for a few years at the beginning of the century. Mr. and Mrs. Irving A. Caswell, his parents, managed the Variety Store for a while, also owning, until both passed away, the

“Restashore” cottage at 40 Temple Avenue. Mrs. Mary Chalmers Turner of Pittsfield, Maine, is indicated as manager of the store in 1914, 1915, and 1916. She died on September 20, 1929, and it is in her memory that the Historical Room, dedicated July 4, 1956, at the rear of the Memorial Library, is named. Dr. Clair E. Turner, her son, made the initial substantial gift toward the addition. Mrs. Turner’s picture hangs in the room. Asa M. Craig, also from Pittsfield, had the store for a few years.

As stated previously, the Blake Industrial, owned by the Educational Bureau, was first run as a combination grocery and lunch room. After the Demeritts moved to their later store quarters in 1903, different managers were employed by the Bureau until Mr. Thurston took the business in 1907. The following year, 1908, the place changed its name to Ocean Park Restaurant, by which it is known today. The Bureau had bought what was first the Ryerson cottage in 1893, giving it the name Blake Industrial in memory of Mrs. Mehitable Blake, wife of Deacon Jesse Blake of Lowell. Mr. Blake had helped generously toward the buying of the Ryerson cottage. It was appropriately named, too, because a warm friendship existed between the Curtis family and the Blakes, thus sort of unifying the two Bureau properties.

Mrs. McLaughlin had the restaurant through 1917. Mrs. J. M. Brown took the place for the 1918 season. Then in 1919 and continuing through 1942, the business had its first professional manager. Percy C. Hicks, well known caterer, had it for those twenty-three years. Mr. Hicks has been closely identified with Ocean Park in many official capacities. He has served two terms as president of the Association, 1944 to 1948 and again 1952 to 1956. He has been a Temple usher for thirty-five years. Fifty years a caterer, he has served the Chautauqua banquets every year since they were inaugurated

in 1931 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Ocean Park.

Harold A. Osgood, a Medford, Massachusetts, high school teacher, leased the Ocean Park Restaurant from 1942 to 1950, when he was succeeded by William L. Sillicher, the present manager, who had been employed by Mr. Osgood. Previously, Mr. Osgood had managed a bakery and restaurant at the Ocean Park Hotel since 1923, apart from the hotel management itself. Part of the time he and his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Chapin H. Osgood, were associated in the business.

The studio and photography shop at the corner of Temple and Seaside Avenues has long been a part of the business life of Ocean Park. Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Armstrong were the proprietors of the place at first, owning the building but leasing the land, as is done at present, from the Association. Armstrong Photographic and Art Studio advertisements appear in the assembly programs as far back as 1912. Both Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were artists beyond the realm of photography. He was well known in this country and in England as a lecturer on literary and related subjects. Many of his Ocean Park and other photographs, some in color, are regarded as minor masterpieces. He was active in official Ocean Park life, serving on committees, and helping to put Furber Park into its present attractive condition. He served at one time as town moderator.

The Armstrongs' home adjoined Wade Park at 75 Temple Avenue, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Peckham, Jr. He died on November 1, 1935, his wife having died on June 25 the year before. The next year, 1936, Miss Ethel M. Wight, who is both a photographer and an artist in oils and water colors, became owner of the business, and has continued to the present.

These have been the principal Ocean Park business enterprises. Individual contractors, painters, and day workers have been numerous. Also, guest houses, large and small, have sprung into being in increasing numbers in recent years. Other businesses of various kinds, such as home laundries, have come and gone. All have been important at Ocean Park.

Chapter 6

ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

Ocean Park is a closely-knit community. It is unofficially a cooperative enterprise. While the Association itself is the parent of them all, it has been assisted in many ways in its development by allied organizations, so called. Each has its purposes or programs of its own, but fundamentally all are anxious to keep Ocean Park a pleasant family resort with a strong undertone of religious faith and ideals in keeping with the dreams of the founding fathers.

All of this is accomplished by the integration of work and spirit of everyone involved. Appropriately, therefore, the three major corporations—Ocean Park Association, New England Baptist Conference, and Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp—have interlocking directorates. Officers of the smaller clubs and societies are often officers or committee members of the larger bodies. Thus a unity is achieved that cannot be found in most other areas.

Some groups, like the Ocean Park Improvement Society, have come and gone, but the following are those which have lasted through the years to the present and whose influence has been most significant to the welfare of Ocean Park. None can rightfully be called most important. Each has had a contribution of its own to make to itself and to the community at large. Those which have been able to do so frequently have been generous with financial assistance and with gifts of needed equipment and other items throughout the Park.

The Educational Bureau is the oldest of the allied organizations to be intimately identified with the total Ocean Park program. It was first called the Woman's Bureau of the Ocean Park Association. Mrs. Clara Dexter became the first president in 1885, with Mrs. Susan Prescott Porter significantly being the first to have that office after the Bureau incorporated in 1888. Its purpose is "to promote and encourage the physical, mental, and spiritual culture of the Ocean Park community."

Through the years it has sponsored activities and classes for children, young people, and adults. In 1886, for example, it conducted a normal class on the Bible for children. Succeeding years found classes in missions, physical culture, cooking, and nature. Always interested in educational projects, the Bureau housed a collection of books that served as a small circulating library between the time of the Variety Store reading room and the building of the Memorial Library. It has been a generous supporter of the library. Like other local groups, it has been helpful in financing assembly programs at the Temple.

The Bureau has been an extensive property owner at Ocean Park. In addition to The Curtis, the Ocean Park Restaurant, and The Blake, mentioned elsewhere in this account, it bought, at different times, the Sunshine Cottage, the Home Cottage, and the McClellan Cottage, all adjoining The Curtis grounds. These three buildings were eventually sold and removed by their new owners in three different directions in the Park. The Sunshine was moved to 108 Randall Avenue and later razed, the McClellan is now on West Grand Avenue near the corner of Casco Avenue, and the Home stands at 7 Tunis Avenue. The Blake, which first was the Ryerson cottage and formerly the top of the Blake Industrial on the site of the restaurant building, is at the corner of Colby and West

Grand Avenues. (Other cottages and buildings in Ocean Park are on different sites from where they were originally.)

The latest ambitious project of the Bureau was the construction of the Agnes L. Park Recreation Building, built on land donated by the Association on Colby Avenue at the rear of the tennis courts, and dedicated on July 8, 1949. This is named for Mrs. Park, Bureau president from 1937 until her death on July 2, 1951, who was influential in planning the building.

The records of the organization reveal a list of active women workers down to the present, comparable in impressiveness, through their work in behalf of their own affairs, to the men who founded and developed the Ocean Park Association.

The first business meeting of the Ocean Park Religious Society was held at the Billow House the afternoon of Sunday, September 24, 1899, following the worship service. At that time it was voted "that a regular Sabbath service be held at Ocean Park." Rev. J. B. Davis was elected president.

All through the first winter weekly meetings were conducted in the various homes, with the last three in June being in "the chapel," presumably a special room at the rear of the Temple. The society for some years sponsored the Temple services during July, and then resumed the neighborhood ones under their own auspices in September after the assembly events closed.

Most of the out-of-season services were conducted by local people as leaders, and with visiting speakers in the summer. On July 14, 1901, for instance, Professor Herbert R. Purinton of the department of religion of Bates was the preacher. He was given the entire offering of \$9.24. By July 13, 1902, "Rev. Dr. W. A. Bartlett of Chicago preached a

good sermon to a large audience in the Temple. The contribution was \$13. At 4:30 P.M. he conducted an out-of-door service on the beach, which was well attended and interesting." Dr. Bartlett later owned the present property known as the Archibald cottage on the waterfront at the foot of Oceana Avenue. The next Sunday Rev. T. L. Angell (Professor Angell of Bates) preached "an excellent practical sermon," though the offering dropped to \$9.82. On Sunday, February 1, 1903, "It was cold and only nine were present." However, on July 12 in the Temple, "It was a fine day and about four hundred were present."

Services now are conducted regularly each Sunday morning in Porter Memorial Hall, except for the twelve or so assembly Sundays, beginning the middle of May and ending on the Sunday following Columbus Day in October. The first reference in the records to a service in Porter, which opened in 1902, is for Sunday, April 20, of that spring. This was even prior to the dedication. The records mention that the "exercises were suitable for the opening, not the dedication, of the rooms." They add that it was "A very good meeting."

With transportation more readily available, winter services are no longer held in Ocean Park. Those who wish to attend church go, for the most part, to nearby churches where they maintain their regular membership. The Porter meetings are still inspirational community gatherings, and are largely attended by early and late cottagers as well as by local residents.

The Acquaintance Club, another informal organization for Ocean Park women, was formed in the summer of 1911 with the primary object of extending hospitality to newcomers here. Its Tuesday afternoon meetings were first re-

ferred to as sewing circles. It soon developed, however, into a valuable auxiliary to the whole Ocean Park picture. Its most important project was the leadership it took in helping to sponsor the Memorial Library on Furber Park on the site of the pavilion which had been dedicated there on August 15, 1898. The club conceived the idea of a library building, named a committee to work with a similar Bureau committee, secured permission from the Association to lease the land, helped raise the money, and had much to do with its maintenance until the Association was given the deed to it in 1952. Being a corporation the Bureau had held legal title to the property rather than the Acquaintance Club.

Karl M. Pattee designed the building, and was retained for the same purpose when the addition of the Mary Chalmers Turner Historical Room was planned. A bust of Longfellow is in the library as a memorial to Mrs. Linda V. Jordan, a member of the committee who worked long and faithfully on that project. Mrs. Florence L. Eldridge was librarian for more than twenty-five years.

The club has raised and given more than \$17,000 outside its own work since its inception, much of the money coming from the annual fair held usually the first Wednesday afternoon in August in the Porter grove, with a benefit Temple entertainment following in the evening. Flags have been a common and appreciated gift from this group, including the American flag that hangs within the Temple, the Christian flag used at beach vesper services, and flags that have flown from time to time both outside the Temple and on Furber Park.

It has financed many other useful gifts, particularly at the Temple. The most generous one probably was the Mason & Hamlin grand piano, costing \$1,000, presented to the assembly in 1920 and still in use. It is considered by

professional artists as an excellent instrument. The club used to give and care for benches on the beach until the project was taken over and enlarged upon by the Association. It paid for building one of the bridges that have spanned the brook into Guild Park. At one time, even, the club paid for having Temple Avenue oiled during the dusty summer months. The club now provides for the upkeep of Wade Park with its "Squirrel Inn" and inspirational signs at the corner of Temple Avenue and Ninth Street.

The club has no dues and no membership requirements. Any person who attends the Porter Memorial Hall meetings is automatically considered a member of this hospitable organization. Mrs. Carrie Henry of Saco has been a member for thirty-five years, and served as president for a quarter of a century.

The Ocean Park Bates Alumni Association was started in July, 1915, but the histories of Ocean Park and the Lewiston college were intertwined from the beginning of this place. Bates was incorporated in 1864. Not only was the first president of both the college and the Park the same, but for years their leaders served in dual capacities—in Lewiston in the winter and here in the summer.

Professors owned cottages in Ocean Park, served as instructors for special courses, preached in the Temple, worked on committees, and, in several instances, became assembly superintendents. Cobb Divinity School, while a part of the college, sent many men to Ocean Park. Numerous are the students who have at least partly financed their Bates educations through summer work at Ocean Park.

President Cheney's summer home, now the Cheney Community Cottage, has always been a center of Ocean Park activity and interest, save for a short time when the



Agnes L. Park Recreation Building — Dedicated July 8, 1949



Post Office — Dedicated July 4, 1955



Cheney Community Cottage — Dedicated July 1, 1930



Memorial Library — Dedicated August 11, 1924

Connecticut Baptist Convention owned it. A framed photograph of President Cheney now hangs in the living room of the cottage, given a few years ago by Miss Myra Cornforth of Saco. She attended the Temple dedication in 1881 and was an ardent admirer of the Bates president. He presented her with his picture when she was still a young girl. For a while President Cheney also owned a portion of what is now Furber Park. One of his dreams was to establish a summer extension of the college here and to have that land as a part of the campus. A national depression in the last century caused abandonment of that idea.

The Cheney Community Cottage was dedicated by the Association for its present purpose on July 1, 1930.

Dr. Horace C. Swan of Hartford, Connecticut, owner of a large cottage at 15 Oceana Avenue, is a grandson of President Cheney, and spent many summers, together with other relatives, at the old Cheney cottage. It was a duplex affair during one period. Rather interestingly, the cottage across the street from Dr. Swan's Oceana Avenue place was purchased at one time by Clifton D. Gray, third president of Bates. Malcolm J. Gray, a son, now occupies the property.

The alumni association that meets at Ocean Park the first Monday evening in August each year is believed to be the only such college organization in the country. It is recognized as an official part of the general alumni association. The first meeting was held at the former Granite State Hotel at the invitation of Frank H. Thurston, the proprietor, who was graduated from Bates in 1906. Carl E. Milliken, class of 1898, and later governor of the state, was toastmaster. There were about thirty-five Bates "enthusiasts" present, a report of the affair states. William E. C. Rich, class of 1870, was elected first president. He entertained the

gathering with a group of "magnificent" selections on his Victrola.

Except for the time element, the beginnings of the New England Baptist Conference sound like a parallel to the origin of Ocean Park itself. In 1915 Baptist leaders in Massachusetts conferred in Boston about the idea of starting a school of methods at Ocean Park to follow the regular Chautauqua period. Rev. Hugh A. Heath, executive secretary of the State Convention, and Rev. Ferdinand F. Peterson, then minister of the First Baptist Church, Medford, set up the original plan. With an enrollment of sixty-four persons the first year, the peak was reached in 1924, 1925, and 1926 when the average attendance exceeded a thousand.

Expansion of facilities became necessary by 1920, so in that year the conference was incorporated and Albert H. Armstrong was named president on May 18. Soon the new organization purchased forty-four acres of land adjoining the Ocean Park Association on the south. The price was \$8,000. Purchase was made possible through personal notes signed by Mr. Peterson and Fred W. Demeritt.

With the growth of the movement it also became necessary to divide the responsibilities. Mr. Peterson continued as dean of the school of methods and the related educational phases. Clarence B. Mitchell of Haverhill, Massachusetts, was named business manager.

Dean Peterson, now living on Cape Cod, was succeeded after sixteen years by Rev. William G. Towart of Bennington, Vermont, who served a similar number of years. Next Rev. Otis R. Heath, son of Rev. Hugh A. Heath, was dean from 1947 to 1949. Following him were Rev. Albert W. Scheckells and Rev. Kenneth S. Dannenhauer. Rev. Ellis J. Holt of Auburn, Maine, has been dean since 1954.

Mr. Mitchell, or "C. B." as he was familiarly known to

hundreds of New England Baptists, was business manager for twenty-five years through 1946. Then Leland W. Kingman served both the conference and the Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp in that capacity in 1947 and 1948. Mr. Mitchell returned for an additional year in 1949. He died on June 12, 1952. Rev. Merrick L. Streeter, a retired Burma missionary, was business manager from 1950 to 1953, being succeeded by T. Chubb Condict, a layman son of E. Carroll Condict, another retired Burma missionary. Mr. Condict is now the first year-round employee of the conference.

"Tanglewood" on Randall Avenue is the permanent headquarters of the conference. Camp Ataloa for girls is operated for three two-week periods during the summer. Then their campus becomes Camp Hasseltine and a nearby area is Camp Judson for the delegates now attending the youth conference which eventually replaced the larger school of methods.

John M. English Hall and Clarence B. Mitchell Hall, along with "Tanglewood," are used as dormitories and guest houses. Both English and "Tanglewood" have dining halls, while the latter also has a bookstore operated by the Whittemore Associates, Inc., of Boston. Lawton Lodge and Judson Lodge are small auditoriums. The Swezey Clinic was a gift of A. B. Swezey of Malden, Massachusetts. The Stransberry House at 43 Maine Avenue was purchased in 1954 as a permanent residence for the business manager.

The Florida Club, perhaps more than any other of the local organizations, has a truly recreational or vacation-time purpose. In fact, it has a sort of dual idea in that its principal appeal is to persons who have vacationed both in Florida and in Ocean Park. Its weekly meetings on Monday evening at Porter Memorial Hall usually feature the sing-

ing of their official song written by Mrs. Elizabeth Kendrick Hott. The entertainment programs do not necessarily emphasize Florida, but winter reminiscences of the southland naturally are a common subject of conversation.

The first meeting was held on June 16, 1924, at the Bassett House on Temple Avenue at the invitation of Miss Nellie G. Bassett, then proprietor of the guest house that still bears her name. Charles A. Eaton of Boston, for many years a property owner and active Ocean Parker, and also a long-time winter resident of Daytona Beach, Florida, was named as first president.

Picnics, banquets, Temple entertainments, and other good times have always been a part of the annual program. At one early meeting, however, the subject of having programs "of a more literary nature" was discussed. The by-laws have been liberalized to allow any interested persons to join as associate members, while programs are open to the public at a nominal fee. As a result, it has been necessary for the club in recent years to use the larger facilities of Porter Memorial Hall, though places like the Cheney Community Cottage or other guest houses were large enough in earlier years. Like the Acquaintance Club and the Educational Bureau, the club sponsors an August Chautauqua assembly program. It also has been generous to the Association on numerous occasions.

The Florida Club is justifiably best known for the seven public shuffleboards it maintains for the benefit of summer visitors. These are on land leased from the Association on the grounds of the Cheney Community Cottage. The popular Florida game was introduced here by the club. The project had been under discussion in the early days of the organization and different sites had been considered, including the area between the present Agnes L. Park Recreation Building and the Sawyer house on Colby Avenue, and also the

easterly end of Furber Park. A report of a special committee headed by Dr. Irving I. Slack on August 4, 1930, recommending location of the boards on the present site and stating Association permission had been granted, was approved by the club membership. Begun modestly, the number of boards has been increased as finances and space permitted. At the July 21, 1930, meeting six members had pledged \$5 each to start construction of the first board, Dr. Slack being one of the board. Thus did one of the favorite Ocean Park pastimes begin.

The Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp, comprising some one hundred sixty acres of land adjoining the New England Baptist Conference area, represents, with its buildings, an investment in boys of more than \$125,000. The Ocean Park camp was founded in 1927 "for the moral, religious, charitable, educational, physical, social, and literary advancement of New England boys." It began as part of the Royal Ambassador movement established by Rev. Floyd L. Carr under the general auspices of the Northern (now American) Baptist Convention through its Department of Missionary Education. Mr. Carr was responsible for starting thirty of these camps across the country, of which the one here was the largest. The present official connection with the American Baptist Convention is more or less tenuous. The convention holds the original deed.

Mr. Carr was assisted in the beginning by Rev. Willard L. Pratt, for whom the horseshoe-shaped tide-water swimming pool, dedicated on July 14, 1929, is named. Mr. Carr himself continued as executive dean until his death on May 23, 1948. He was a familiar figure as he hurried about the Park, and indeed throughout New England and beyond, in behalf of the Ocean Park camp.

Through many of the years of building the camp, Mr. Carr was ably assisted by Leland W. Kingman of Reading, Massachusetts. He was named business manager in October, 1930, and served the camp almost continuously until his death on February 3, 1951. Rev. Frank T. Littorin, who has been on the camp staff nearly all of the summers since 1932, was then named to the position. Since 1955 he has been employed full time. He and Mr. Condict of the New England Baptist Conference are the only local official full time organizational employees. Rev. L. G. Van Leeuwen, who has served the camp in various capacities including that of business manager for a while in the early days, has been associated with it since the very beginning and still is one of the active personnel. Philip R. Webb has been secretary-treasurer for more than a quarter of a century.

The most imposing of the camp buildings is the Memorial Dining Hall, built through public subscription and also containing other memorial gifts. Several of the lesser buildings and campers' huts have been given as memorials. Still expanding, the camp now hopes that there may be a Floyd L. Carr Memorial Chapel. There are two campuses, Livingstone and Grenfell.

The camp usually operates on a schedule of three two-week periods, though occasional one-week camps, including a "dads and lads" camp as an experiment for 1956, have been introduced into the program.

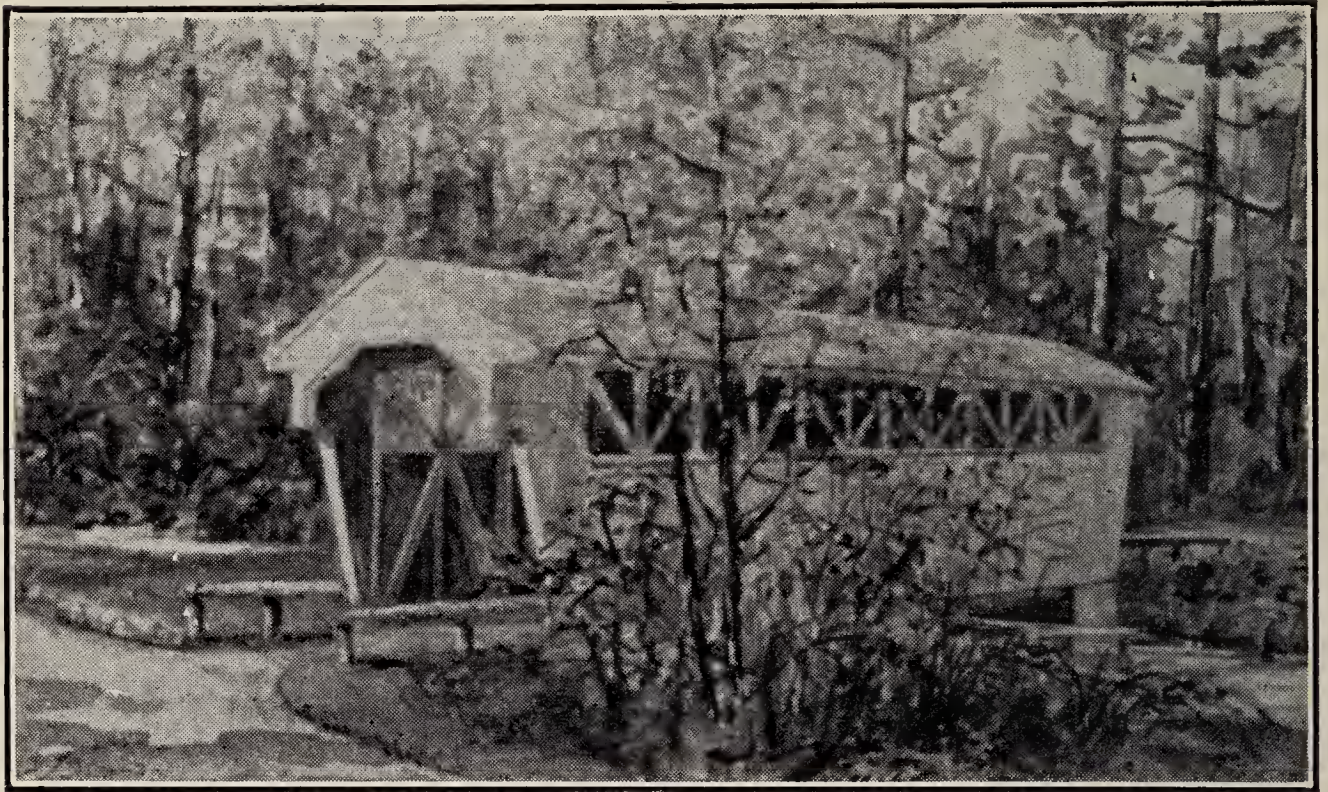
Founded as a Christian camp, much emphasis has been placed upon courses of study with missionary heroes as a background. "Building boys is better than mending men" is the appropriate motto of the Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp that through the years has served hundreds of growing youngsters,



Camp Ataloe Campus



Willard L. Pratt Swimming Pool — Dedicated July 14, 1929



Guild Park War Memorial Covered Bridge — Dedicated August 13, 1944



Old View of Temple Avenue

The Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society was founded long before Ocean Park, and had other names before adopting the present inclusive title. Since Ocean Park is a sort of final Free Baptist outpost, annual meetings of the society, open to the public, are a major day in the season's assembly program. This is usually the third Thursday in July.

The society had its origin at the New Hampshire Yearly Meeting in Lisbon in June, 1847, when the "uninvited sisters," while the "brethren" were attending to their own business, organized the New Hampshire Yearly Benevolent Association. The next October 13 when meeting at Sutton, Vermont, they extended their field throughout the denomination under the name of the Freewill Baptist Female Missionary Society. In 1863 the name was changed again to Freewill Baptist Female Systematic Beneficence Society, making it the first national woman's missionary movement in the country.

By 1873, though, the "Morning Star" reported that the society "has now been several years dead." Out of a challenge which this article implied came the present society which was organized on June 12 of that year. It was granted a charter by the State of Maine on January 2, 1883. Again, as with other organizations here, the same persons' names appear over and over, though in this case they are often the wives of men active in Association affairs. For instance, Mrs. Emeline (Burlingame) Cheney was the first president. Professor Benjamin F. Hayes helped Mrs. Hayes by writing the constitution. Mrs. Lena Fenner Dennett of Providence, still a regular and interested Ocean Park visitor, has been corresponding secretary since 1910.

The chief missionary concerns of the society have been

Storer College at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and the Bengal-Orissa mission station in India.

The official publication of the society was for many years an attractive and informative magazine entitled the "Missionary Helper," begun in January, 1878. Every word of that first number "from cover to cover was read with overflowing hearts." Ocean Park had many connections with the periodical, principally through Mrs. Nellie Wade Whitcomb who was its beloved editor from 1895 until her death on June 13, 1918. Her "sanctum" was "The Hermitage" at 83 Temple Avenue. Wade Park is named for her family. Mrs. Mary A. W. Batchelder, a sister, deeded the Temple Avenue lot across the corner from her home to the Association on August 13, 1919. This was in keeping with Mrs. Whitcomb's wish. By vote of the directors on August 27, 1921, the Colby Avenue lot behind it was reserved from sale also, to make it a part of the park.

"Faith and Works" is the inspiring motto of the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society, and "Enlisted for Life" is the "watchword." Its colors are sapphire blue and gold.

The Toilers-by-the-Sea, though a strictly local missionary society, is an auxiliary to the Maine Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society. It was founded on April 19, 1902, by essentially the same persons who started the Ocean Park Religious Society. It is a winter organization, meeting from October to May in the homes of members. Membership comprises any Ocean Parkers who wish to attend. The number of attendants has grown through the years, approaching twenty-five persons in recent years at the eight meetings held the first Tuesday afternoon of the eight months.

The romantic and intriguing name of the earnest little band of women is doubly appropriate. More often than not the meeting place is within sound and sight of the ocean. The program is one of worthwhile projects. Study courses prescribed by the denomination are followed closely, and there is always a devotional period. A member or invited guest is the speaker each time. White Cross work is a regular part of the yearly schedule. Like the larger organization, the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society, Storer College and Bengal-Orissa have received both material and prayerful attention, as have other missionary enterprises. Interest has covered both home and foreign mission fields.

Since Ocean Park has become the year round home of more people, including a large number of children of school age, the Toilers have been generous in supporting, with finances and leadership, troops of Brownies and Girl Scouts. It also assists in paying the cost of the Hallowe'en and Christmas community parties in Porter Memorial Hall.

Perhaps the climax of the year for the Toilers is the traditional Thank Offering service conducted in Porter by members of the group the first Sunday in June. This was previously sponsored by the Religious Society. Reports of the year's activities are read. The offering is counted before the meeting is over, and the results are announced. It is divided between the home and foreign fields. The guest speaker is usually one with a definite missionary message.

The annual harvest supper in October, prepared and served by Ocean Park men under the auspices of the assembly committee of the Association as an official part of the

It is to the credit of Ocean Park people in the past that the very first records of the Association and of every allied

season's program, is put on for the benefit of the Toilers-by-the-Sea.

organization are still in tact from the start. If and when the time comes for a more studied pen to make a detailed record of Ocean Park, all materials will be readily accessible.

Chapter 7

HAPPY YESTERDAYS

There are grown men today of middle age or over who look back with nostalgia to the Ocean Park they knew so well twenty-five or fifty years ago. They recall it, through the mist of time, as a sort of idyllic Tom Sawyer episode in their lives. That, to place the period approximately, was when the "dummy" railroad station in Demeritt Square was the principal center of interest other than the assembly buildings or the beach. The Orchard Beach Railroad had started its line on June 2, 1880, the Boston & Maine taking over the franchise the following year. The first train to run through Old Orchard Beach on the main line between Boston and Portland was in 1842. The railroad built a station at Ocean Park for the shore line in 1882. Next, at the insistence of the Association, a new one was built in 1898.

Here the puffing steam engine with its baggage car and one or two passenger cars would coast to a stop while John C. Webb, the popular station master, stood in the Temple Avenue roadway waving his warning flag. Perhaps the train had stopped first at Baty or Oceana Avenue on its way from Old Orchard Beach by way of what is now Seaside Avenue. Then there would be the people pouring from it who had come down on the Boston train for the weekend. Uniformed bellboys from the Billow House or the old Granite State Hotel would solicit patrons or meet anticipated guests. "Bill" Staples or one or two of his young helpers no doubt would be standing

by as trunks were dropped to the covered platform, shouting, "Smash your baggage, smash your baggage!" Frequently there would be express business with the familiar horse and wagon performing the service, with a payment of twenty-five or fifty cents for delivery to some guest house.

The "dummy" would proceed toward the Camp Ellis station and the end of the run along the shore, crossing the slim trestle over Goose Fare. There at the pier vacationists could take small steamers up the river to Saco or in the other direction to Biddeford Pool. Later the train would return, back-end-to, ringing its bell and tooting its plaintive whistle on the way. Friendly engineers and conductors waved to cottagers as their train passed along. Sometimes it would be carrying fishermen back from the Camp Ellis pier, laden with strings of haddock or cod caught on deep sea fishing expeditions and hung from the outside platform on the run back through the Park.

It was from the station that one or two boys would start out early each morning with bundles of newspapers, striding up and down the streets of the community, chanting, "Boston Morning papers!" One of the boys' cherished customers was Governor Milliken who may have been at "Tanglewood," his family summer home for several years. Interestingly, while he was in office he caused all amusements such as roller coasters and the merry-go-round at Old Orchard Beach to be closed Sundays, for, if you will notice, you can hear the sounds from that section on an otherwise quiet afternoon. Bette Davis, the Hollywood motion picture star, was a girl playing about Ocean Park in those days, like any other growing child. She stayed either at 4 Randall Avenue or at 83 Randall Avenue.

But the last train ran through here on September 5, 1923, changing much of the old familiar atmosphere. The automo-

bile and buses reduced railroad income, finally forcing the line into discontinuance. For thirty-five years now, Miles S. York has operated a bus line between Old Orchard Beach and Ocean Park during the summer months. He began the run with a picturesque Model T Ford six-wheel "jitney."

Another institution was the steep gabled bandstand or pavilion in the center of Furber Park. The area was developed by the Ocean Park Improvement Society which was founded in 1894 to keep Temple Square and other open areas clean and attractive. Rev. C. K. Flanders was the energetic head of the organization for some time. It was responsible for building the first tennis courts owned by the Association. It developed Furber Park which was named for James T. Furber, general superintendent of the Boston & Maine. Dues were fifty cents a year. The big event of the year was a "grand rally" in August, starting with a procession of members armed with shovels, spades, picks, hoes, and wheelbarrows. With this equipment, the motley crew would descend upon the work spots and make them spic and span. The pavilion was built in 1898. Concerts were sometimes heard there, presented by Salvation Army bands from Old Orchard Beach. An auxiliary fire hose on a pair of wheels used to be stored underneath. The spot served as a haven for young people on rainy days, as well as a meeting place at other times. The benches, sills, and center post were well marked with the "jackknife's carved initial." It remained until its removal to make way for the Memorial Library in 1924.

It was from the bandstand that boys would set out, on hot summer afternoons, for the iron "horse bridge" over Goose Fare, stripping as they went. By the time of their arrival, they were usually ready to jump into the cool, refreshing water below. More than one youngster learned to swim at the old bridge, sometimes leaping from the top girder on a bright moonlit night. The structure finally collapsed and was

replaced by the modern concrete span. Little or no swimming is done there now, partly because, as traffic and the general population increased, conservative "outsiders" frowned upon the time-honored custom, partly because of the proximity of the Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp swimming pool, and partly, some old-timers would like to think, because boys are not quite the same as they used to be. In addition to swimming, some of the boys had home-made rafts or an occasional row-boat to use in the brook at high tide.

Another place where initials could be found enclosed in the tell-tale heart crossed with an arrow was in the Guild Park pavilion, not far from the present War Memorial covered bridge. One way to reach it was over the rough Guild foot bridge or one of those that succeeded it until the covered span was dedicated on August 13, 1944. A more romantic way of getting to the spot was to walk up the winding, shady lovers' lane from Ninth Street, emerging first into the open grove with its benches attached to the cathedral pines. But this experience, too, is largely only a dream, with the mysterious burning of the building one night in the summer of 1926, and with the loss of many of the sheltering pines by recent hurricanes.

The covered bridge was designed from a painting by Samuel J. Stammers.

There were interesting leisure-time pursuits in which a restless boy could indulge. Baseball games were common, either on the marsh behind Randall Avenue, bordering West Grand Avenue, or on the site of the Agnes L. Park Recreation Building. Younger boys often tried fishing for minnows in the little drainage brook flowing through the Park, or for flounders from the horse bridge on the incoming tide—and not infrequently with surprising success. The "flounder bed" at the second bend above the bridge over Goose Fare was considered good fishing. Clams, either for fishing or for eating could be

dug in the flats lying at low tide between the horse bridge and the "dummy" bridge. This, though, like many other clam beds in this part of Maine, has been closed in recent years.

Summer people, both young and old, always had their favorite blueberry patches. One of the more productive spots was beyond the White Athletic Field of the boys' camp, though then, as now, berries were plentiful in certain years along both sides of the railroad tracks. Some people cut sweet-grass in the marsh across the brook where gypsies used to go for the same purpose, braiding long, fragrant festoons of it. Out-of-season visitors know, but like to keep secret, cranberry bogs that yield a generous crop.

Mid-summer forest fires have sometimes claimed the attention of visitors, and young men have been able to earn extra spending money fighting the blazes. Ocean Park has been fortunate in the comparatively small number of cottage fires. Only occasional ones have caused the complete loss of property. The most damaging conflagration Ocean Parkers ever witnessed was the disastrous Old Orchard Beach fire of 1907, when three persons perished and all the large hotels save the Old Orchard House burned to the ground. Among the places lost was the plush Hotel Velvet near the beginning of the pier.

Fourth of July celebrations approached the spectacular in those halcyon days. They were likely to begin the night before with a torch-light nightshirt parade, accompanied by a tin-pan band. The participants wore Ku-Klux-Klan-type paper bag masks over their heads. They were harmless affairs, yet persons who left potted trees or plants, benches, chairs, and similar moveable items outside their cottages or places of business were destined to find them displayed on top of the railroad station the next morning. Clandestine ringing of the Temple bell often announced the beginning of the festivities.

A night-before-the-Fourth bonfire on the beach was practically a tradition, with materials gathered from far and near for days before—unless some over-anxious member of the group touched off the pyre ahead of schedule.

Several of the boys would tent out on the beach over night, some of their more affluent members having not only good-sized tents but even dories or other boats. These were located south of the foot of Randall Avenue. The tents served as a means, at other times, for boys to keep their own hours. When parental permission was granted to “camp out,” they could return from Old Orchard Beach or elsewhere when they were “good and ready.” The holiday itself resounded all day to reports of cannon salutes, accentuated with railroad cap signals which, when laid on the track for the “dummy” to run over, were detonated with a blast.

Even the beach a generation ago held more than routine attractions. For several seasons there were famous automobile races there, not unlike those now held at Daytona Beach, Florida. The turning point on this end was Googins Rocks. Pleasure cars were allowed to drive up and down the sand at low tide, entering at Old Orchard Beach where the sand base is harder than here. A pastime of the period was to sit by the shore and watch the cars approaching the softer sand of Ocean Park, and wonder if they would turn in time to avoid being caught in the wet sand near the outlet of Goose Fare Brook. Frequently they did become stuck. If the situation became serious, the solution lay in calling either “Bill” Staples and his horse or one of W. J. C. Milliken’s ice teams that may have been in the neighborhood. More than once, though, this assistance did not arrive in time or was otherwise unsuccessful. Cars were completely washed over by the in-coming tide. It is interesting to note in passing that in 1956, for the first time, daily ice deliveries to cottages have been eliminated.



The Old "Dummy"



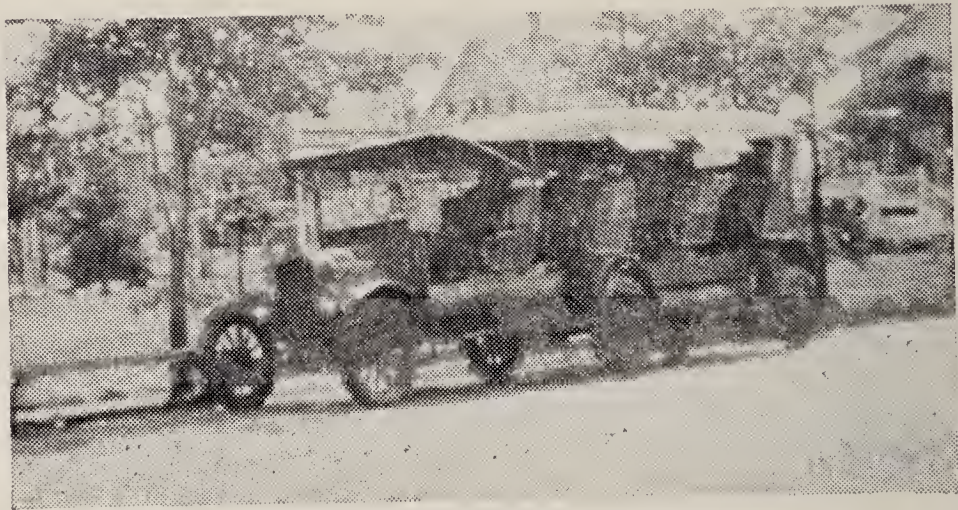
Demeritt Square — Prior to 1923



Boston & Maine Railroad Station



“Happy Yesterdays”



Miles S. York’s Six-Wheel “Jitney”



Early Bathing Scene

Back then there were not only board walks leading to the beach, but others bordering the principal streets. Since it was before electricity, kerosene lamps were the means of cottage illumination. Ocean Park had its own lamp-lighters, a desirable job for some ambitious summer boy. A finance committee entry in 1903 reads, "A. M. Caswell—to street—lighters—July 1 - Aug. 31, 60 days at 25c, \$15."

Young people supported Temple programs, often participating in them. Recognition Day, a highlight of the season, brought hosts of people, old and young, to the Temple grove for graduation exercises. Smaller children liked to play in the swings in the grove across the street. The late J. Burton Stride, who gave the State of Maine flag to the Temple in 1955, was the last to see to it personally that strong swings were provided in the area. However, a traffic hazard in the area has prevented replacing them lately.

Yes, those were happy days. People drove to assembly events with horse and carriage. One or two year-round residents kept chickens, notably J. W. Libby at the big house at 31 Randall Avenue where Miss Winnifred Libby, long-time postmistress, maintained winter quarters for the office. One Nashua, New Hampshire, farmer used to drive his cow down over the road each spring in order to sell milk to "summer people." He kept the animal in a barn at the rear of his cottage, now the Freeman J. Steeves property on West Grand Avenue. Professor Thomas L. Angell of Bates College usually drove down from Lewiston, tying the horse in his stable that is now the Weston Morrill cottage at the corner of Tioga and West Grand Avenues. Mr. Demeritt, who delivered groceries from his store, for a while kept his two horses in a barn that stood until the fall of 1955 behind the cottage at 2 Randall Avenue, then owned by his aunt, Miss Demeritte.

Later he transferred them to the barn he had built at 30 Temple Avenue in 1909.

World War II made a decided contrast on the beach. Cottages were blacked out, dug-out emplacements dotted the waterfront, armed soldiers from Saco barracks patrolled the shore, and mysterious sounds and lights were often reported or imagined.

“Memories are made like this.”

Chapter 8

OCEAN PARK IN WINTER

“What do you do in the winter?” is a question that should be considered strictly in a rhetorical sense. It is the most common query adressed to “natives” by “summer people.” The lives of Ocean Park winter people are just as normal as those of their city visitors, and perhaps enviably quieter. True, Ocean Park is somewhat of a rural community during the off-season months. Nevertheless, there are still two mails a day (more than some metropolitan areas have), street lights, and other services. Roadways are plowed out usually before the snow stops falling. Even sidewalks are cleared by the town. School buses pick up and deliver school children at convenient corners. The weather actually is not as cold as inland, because the ocean tempers the atmosphere. Snow disappears more quickly. People come and go with a freedom that is much more restricted during the height of the summer season.

There was a time, however, when it was a real experience to live in Ocean Park in the winter. Once there was only one town meeting attendant eligible to cast a ballot. By 1902 there were fourteen permanent families settled here. It gave an outsider a pioneering spirit to visit the place in the late fall or early spring. Philip R. Webb recalls with enthusiasm when, as a high school lad, he would come out of season from his Portland home by trolley car to Old Orchard Beach. There would be a distinct sense of exhilaration as he crossed the

Scarboro marshes and approached the beach. Mrs. Daisy Dexter Shaw's family remembers, also, the excitement she had in coming down from Lowell in the winter to check on Educational Bureau affairs. Dexters were among the first summer settlers. Once in a while loyal members of the board of directors would venture down in early March to attend town meetings.

On the whole, Ocean Park has remained a quiet and peaceful place in the winter. Every year there are veteran teachers and ministers who express themselves as hopeful of retiring here some day. There were occasional winter homes here, even before Ocean Park was incorporated. Finished plastered houses can be counted on the fingers of one's two hands. The oldest year-round resident now, in respect to years spent in Ocean Park, is Elmer A. Tasker. A life-long carpenter by trade, he came here with his father John in 1898 to work with his Uncle George Tasker. For many years he lived in the house now called "The Beekman" at the corner of Winona and West Grand Avenues. He remembers when electricity was run through Ocean Park in 1900, and when the first telephone was installed at the store in 1901. He recalls that Temple Avenue did not go through its present way, but followed part of the historic Old Salt Road on the way to Saco. He states he himself has built sixty cottages in Ocean Park through the years. He built the bungalow he occupies at 37 Randall Avenue. He also built "Sea Haven" at 30 Temple Avenue in 1910, the year after he erected the barn on the premises. The house burned one Saturday night in August, 1939, but was re-built along the same lines immediately.

Second oldest winter residents are Mr. and Mrs. George Mainville of 12 Oceana Avenue. They started year-round living in 1926, having bought their property the preceding October.

Next came the Philip R. Webbs of 17 Goose Fare Road. They lived the winter of 1928-1929 at 33 Oceana Avenue in a smaller house than the one now standing there. The winter of 1929-1930 they stayed at 4 Oceana Avenue. Then, having built their new home, "Goose Fare," they moved into it in the spring of 1930. Mr. Webb commutes daily to his Portland law office, continuing in the footsteps of his father, Lindley M. Webb, one of the founders of Ocean Park and its third president, 1893-1925. John C. Webb, the station master, was a brother. Mrs. Marshall, in the family cottage at 5 Randall Avenue, is a sister, while Mrs. Josephine Kennedy, another sister, spends the summer at 2 Millikin Road. Thus an important part of the Ocean Park constituency is only a generation removed from the very beginning of the place.

Other people lived here before these families, but have long since passed away or otherwise disappeared. Among the older houses is the Severance home on Old Salt Road. It was abandoned once for a while and was regarded by young folks as "haunted." William E. C. Rich, a retired Boston schoolmaster, built and lived in the present Rowell house at 89 Temple Avenue until his death on December 15, 1929. It is the only stucco house in town. Nellie Wade Whitcomb, who often wrote lovely poetry under the pseudonym of Hopestill Farnham, lived in the Wilson house at 83 Temple Avenue.

Back when the "dummy" railroad ran through Ocean Park, freight cars were often parked for the winter on a siding in Demeritt Square. The roadway there still has a washboard appearance where the old ties corrugate the surface. World War II gave impetus to winter living here. Hundreds of workers immigrated from Aroostook County and elsewhere to work in Portland shipyards. The Federal government demanded that all possible housing be made available. Consequently, summer cottages were converted for cold

weather use. Many, naturally, remained downright uncomfortable. But soon improved methods of insulating and heating buildings tempted people to come. Some families remained after the war was over and became substantial members of the community.

The permanent population of Ocean Park is a fluctuating one. In recent years there have been approximately fifty to sixty families. Many of the people are retired or semi-retired. Some go to work each day in Saco, Biddeford, or Portland. A few may go South one year and remain here another. Those who do not own their own homes go on to other accommodations nearer employment opportunities.

Of course the post office is open during regular hours in its comfortable quarters. In other winters it has been in homes at 42 and 83 Temple Avenue or at 31 Randall Avenue. For younger children there are Girl Scout and Brownie troops under local leadership. Porter Hall has been winterized by the Association, so that Hallowe'en and Christmas parties there are annual events. Spring and fall Sunday worship services are conducted in the building. There are occasional suppers served by different groups. Sometimes these are served by the Toilers-by-the-Sea, the local missionary society that meets monthly in the members' homes. The men also meet from time to time. Each spring, for instance, they entertain the men of the Saco United Baptist Church for a supper meeting. Several men are members of the Old Orchard Beach Kiwanis Club. Ocean Park people are loyal church members in Saco, Biddeford, or Old Orchard Beach. It should be emphasized here that Ocean Park has always enjoyed the appreciative support and encouragement of the surrounding cities and towns.

A resident committee is one of the official committees of the Association. Its duties, according to the by-laws, is to "care for the local needs and interests of permanent residents dur-

ing the out-of-season months." When there is sickness the Ocean Park Religious Society and the Toilers send cards, flowers, or other remembrances. When death visits the community, a collection is received at the post office for flowers. Once in a while some resident has an "open house." When the population was much smaller, community Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners were served in someone's larger home.

While many of the people are active in church or club work, others participate in town affairs. Ocean Park has frequent representation in Old Orchard Beach official capacities. Town meeting in March is one of the important appointments of the year.

Ocean Park is a lovely place outside the summer season. A walk along the beach on a cool crisp day can reveal not another person in sight the entire length of Saco Bay. At such a time, in fall, winter, or spring, the air seems clearer and the ocean appears bluer than in the summer. Shells, sand dollars, and other treasures are common discoveries. Bird watchers are ever busy, Ocean Park being an official State of Maine bird sanctuary. Woodland flowers grow in abundance, the bunchberry being the unofficial flower of Ocean Park.

The grove, "God's first temple," is beautiful, especially after a clinging snow that bends the pine boughs low over Temple Avenue. If the snow is particularly deep, snowshoes can show a person hidden beauties he has never seen before. Young people go skating when the ice is right, having a choice of behind the Ocean Park Garage, on the tennis courts, or at the swimming pool. Boys have baseball and football games, sometimes using Furber Park. There is not much opportunity to coast, though even the slightest incline is sought out and used.

And always, naturally, there is just the joy of living in the State of Maine. Here, as one poet has written, is "just a

rugged, homespun state, perched on the nation's edge." New-comers are likely to be discouraged waiting for summer, for some veteran of many years' residence may state facetiously that Maine has only two seasons, winter and the Fourth of July. Spring seems interminably slow about arriving, but when it does break forth in all its beauty, one decides it has been worth waiting for. Robins come to the trees and mayflowers bloom in the woods, and all is well again.

Ocean Park, more than one person has found, is "home enough for all the years."

APPENDIX

DEDICATORY HYMN

For the Temple Dedication, August 2, 1881

Tune—"Solid Rock"

Thy temple, Lord, doth well comprise
The sea and land, the earth and skies.
All bear the impress of thy hand,
From granite arches, huge and grand,
To tinting of the smallest flower
That voices a Creator's power.

Its pavement, the green earth we tread;
Its spacious canopy o'erhead,
The vault of azure, bright and clear;
The moon and stars its chandelier;
Its pillars, mountains heaven high,
Whose lofty turrets pierce the sky;

Its organ, the tremendous sea,
Whose notes of praise arise to thee,
With song of wind and trill of bird,
And rustling of all Nature stirred,
As if it with itself would vie
In eulogies to thee, Most High.

And yet thy puny creature, man,
Hath dared to imitate thy plan,

And raise in unpretentious way
The place we tender thee to-day;
Though small the gift, to thee we bring,
With grateful hearts, our offering.

This temple, Lord, we dedicate,
This glebe around we consecrate
To hallowed purpose, sacred use;
Let not the hand of man abuse
Its pleasant precinct, but make here
A dwelling-place to thyself dear.

The forest spreads, invitingly,
Its broad arms to the neighb'ring sea,
Whose rippling waves, in snowy dress,
Creep hither, as if with caress
'Twould fain the friendly sign return.
Help us that we its lessons learn,

Wherein it symbols friendship sweet;
For Christian love, our heart makes meet.
As it obeys divine behest,
Teach us that he is truly blest
Who makes his own thy holy will,
And, trusting, fears no loss or ill.

And when the seasons cease to roll,
When Time hath found eternal goal,
When garnered sheaves from every land
Shall grace thy heaven's golden strand,
Not least, we pray thee, may appear
The fruit from humble seed sown here.

—*Mrs. Susan A. Porter*

Dedication Hymn

For the dedication of Porter Memorial Hall, August 4, 1902

Tune—"Nearer, My God, to Thee"

This house we dedicate
To Thee today;
Be Thou within its walls,
Father, we pray.
Guide those who speak to us,
Bless us the while we hear;
In speech and prayer and song,
Be ever near.

Oh, let Thy peace descend,
Fill every heart;
Be of each word and act
Always a part;
Sweep out all bitterness,
All of our thoughts entwine
With perfect love and trust,—
Human, divine.

Here may the weary one
Have hour of rest;
Here may the broken heart
Gain what is best;
Here may the wanderer,
Restless, and fain to roam,
Have his soul satisfied
With peace and home.

We say, "Thy will be done."
In each request;

Humbly we ask it all,
Thou knowest best.
Life, love, we consecrate,
Fully, eternally,
With this last song of praise
Upborne to Thee!

—*Nellie Wade Whitcomb*
(*Hopestill Farnham*)

Welcome To Cheney

*For the dedication of Cheney Community Cottage,
July 1, 1930*

Tune—"Oh Zion, Haste"

This is the day, awaited many seasons,
When are fulfilled the dreams of long ago,
Dreams of the founder, looking toward the future,
That this same building all might come to know.

Chorus

Welcome to Cheney,
Welcome today;
Wide-open portals
Invite you always.

Look, how the years have added strength and beauty
To our unique, beloved Ocean Park;
Each year we look up, like our lofty pine trees,
Each year we strive to reach a higher mark.

Here, by the sea, with roar of waves resounding,
And on the site that each of us holds dear,
Today we meet, a group of friends together,
To dedicate this central house of cheer.

Long may this building stand for uses noble,
Greeting with kindness the whole community;
So shall it prosper, filling thus its mission,
So shall we hail thee, friendly C. C. C.

—*Dora Jordan*

Ocean Park Invitation

Official Ocean Park Hymn

Tune—"The Church in the Wildwood"

There's a place by the billows of the ocean,
That calls from afar to my heart;
Ocean Park, place of rest and devotion,
Blessed spot in my life taking part.

Chorus

Oh, come, come, come, come,
Come to the grove and the seashore,
Oh, come to the pines and the sands.
Ocean Park, you are calling me ever,
To meet with my Christ serving Bands.

There's a Temple in the forest of the pine trees.
A place thronged with mem'ries of cheer;
Of worship and glad recreation,
Growing deeper and higher each year.

By the sea as the sun sank to westward,
And the Sabbaths have drawn to their close.
Blending clear with the music of ocean,
The songs of the gospel arose.
Morning watch in the Temple or the Jordan,
For our worshiping hearts makes a home.
Porter's Hall speaks of Christian instruction,
And we joy in thy peace, *"Bethshalom".

—*Albert N. Chandler*

**Now called Tanglewood.*

OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS
AND ASSEMBLY SUPERINTENDENTS
1881 - 1956

Presidents

Oren B. Cheney	1881 - 1885
Rufus L. Deering	1885 - 1893
Lindley M. Webb	1893 - 1825
George H. Hamlen	1925 - 1928
Edwin H. Milliken	1928 - 1944
Percy C. Hicks	1944 - 1948
Edward R. Schwarz	1948 - 1952
Percy C. Hicks	1952 - 1956

Treasurers

Benjamin F. Haley	1881 - 1902
Cyrus Jordan	1902 - 1904
James F. Boothby	1904 - 1918
F. D. Folsom	1918 - 1922
George H. Hamlen	1922 - 1925
Edwin H. Milliken	1925 - 1928
Willis M. Davis	1928 - 1932
Howard M. Small	1932 - 1944
Edward R. Schwarz	1944 - 1948
Rufus L. Doe	1948 -

Secretaries

Levi W. Stone	1881 - 1882
J. J. Hall	1882 - 1886
Orange T. Moulton	1886 - 1888
Edward E. Davis	1888 - 1900
Lyman G. Jordan	1900 - 1921
William E. C. Rich	1921 - 1922
Miss Elizabeth B. Ageson	1922 - 1925
Philip R. Webb	1952 - 1944
Charles D. Peckham, Jr.	1944 - 1948
Hary Brook	1948 - 1950
Chares W. Hatch	1950 - 1955
Harod A. Osgood	1955 -

Assembly Superintendents

Ethan W. Porter	1881 - 1899
H. B. Davis	1899 - 1900
Herbert R. Purinton	1900 - 1902
George B. Files	1902 - 1903
William J. Twort	1903 - 1906
Herbert R. Purinton	1906 - 1907
Frank S. Hartley	1907 - 1908
Austin R. Paul	1908 - 1911
William J. Twort	1911 - 1919
Albert E. Kenyon	1919 - 1934
Charles E. Hamlen	1934 - 1940
Adelbert M. Jakeman	1940 -

OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

1955-1956

OFFICERS

Secretary

President

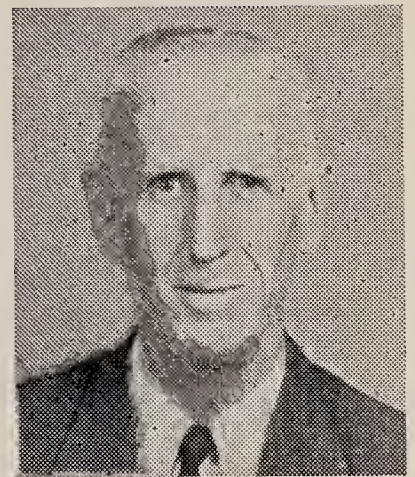
Treasurer



Harold A. Osgood
Ocean Park, Maine



Percy C. Hicks
Lynn, Massachusetts



Rufus L. Doe
Saco, Maine

DIRECTORS

Rufus H. Bond
Rev. Thomas R. Burns
Leon A. Cole
Rufus L. Doe
Rev. Hartley T. Grandin

Percy C. Hicks
George W. McCoy
Harold A. Osgood
Harry B. Tabor
Mrs. Leonard Van Hoogenstyn
Donald S. Wilson

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Ocean Park Association

Percy C. Hicks

Edward R. Schwarz

New England Baptist Conference

Rufus H. Bond

T. Chubb Condict

Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp

Adelbert M. Jakeman

Rev. Frank T. Littorin

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

1955-1956

Assembly

Edward R. Schwarz
 Miss Elizabeth B. Aageson
 C. Robert Fraser
 Rev. Hartley T. Grandin
 Robert B. Harvey
 Rev. Frank H. Snell
 Mrs. Mary R. Thompson

**Local, and Relations with
Old Orchard Beach**

Leon A. Cole
 Percy A. Frizzle
 Ralph L. Kendall

Association Buildings

Rufus H. Bond
 Mrs. Percy A. Frizzle
 Wilbur L. Rollins

Membership

Mrs. Leonard Van Hoogenstyn
 William L. Oldroyd
 Harold A. Osgood

Building Regulations

George W. McCoy
 Rev. Thomas R. Burns
 Harry B. Tabor

**Agents to Consent to Sale of
Real Estate, and Sale of
Property**

Percy C. Hicks
 Rufus L. Doe
 Harold A. Osgood

Necrology

John H. Clark
 Adelbert M. Jakeman

Legal

Philip R. Webb
 Clarence N. Pierce
 Norman M. Winch

Tennis

Donald S. Wilson
 Walter R. Mitchell
 Robert T. Utman, Jr.

Finance, and Ways and Means

Rufus L. Doe
 Mrs. Ernest R. Hager
 Adelbert M. Jakeman

Resident

Mrs. Joseph W. Barth
 Mrs. Jerome F. Daly
 George R. Skillin

Library

Ernest R. Hager
 Mrs. Rufus L. Doe
 Mrs. Philip R. Webb

Nominating

Mrs. Leonard Van Hoogenstyn
 Leon A. Cole
 Percy C. Hicks

Auditor

Ralph L. Kendall

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Robert B. Harvey, General Chairman

Representing:

Ocean Park Association—Miss Elizabeth B. Aageson, Rufus L. Doe,
 Philip R. Webb, Mrs. Donald S. Wilson.
 Acquaintance Club—Miss Mildred M. Thomas
 Educational Bureau—Mrs. Blanche L. Edwards.
 Florida Club—Ralph L. Kendall.
 Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society—Mrs. Ernest R. Hager.
 New England Baptist Conference—T. Chubb Condict.
 Religious Society—Mrs. James A. Hutchinson.
 Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp—Rev. Frank T. Littorin
 Toilers-by-the-Sea—Mrs. Philip R. Webb.

CHARTER

STATE OF MAINE

Approved January 24, 1881

Amendment to Charter approved March 12, 1881

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

An Act to incorporate the Ocean Park Association.

Be it enacted by the State and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1. Oren B. Cheney, Silas W. Cook, Charles F. Penney, Benjamin F. Haley, Benjamin F. Hayes, Payson Tucker, James T. Furber, Ethnan W. Porter, Isaac D. Stewart, Hollis K. Clark, Rufus Deering, Harrison F. Wood, Obadiah Durgin, Levi W. Stone, Hiram Knowlton, Abial M. Jones, Lindley M. Webb, George S. Ricker, Edward P. Prescott, Aura L. Gerrish, John Malvern, William M. Dow, William H. Smith, Benjamin C. Jordan, Charles Bridge, Isaac B. Piper, Jesse C. Connor, George E. Smith, Calvin F. Bonney, James Walker, Asa C. Russell, David H. Varnum, Oliver B. Clason, their associates, and successors are hereby created a corporation under the name of the Ocean Park Association.

SECTION 2. Said corporation may take and hold, for the objects of their association, by purchase, bequest, gift

or otherwise, real and personal estate, the annual income of which shall not exceed five thousand dollars, with power to sell and convey the same. Such estate shall be held for benevolent purposes, the primary object being to establish a place of summer resort for holding religious, educational and other meetings at Old Orchard Beach, in Saco, in the County of York.

SECTION 3. The members of said corporation, in addition to the persons named in section one of this act, shall be such as the Directors hereinafter provided for may recommend, and the Corporators by a two-thirds vote, at a regular meeting, may elect, fifteen of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The corporation may provide in its By-Laws for filling vacancies, electing additional members and declaring membership forfeited for failure to attend the meetings of the corporation.

SECTION 4. The officers of the corporation shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Directors of eleven members, of which the President, Secretary and Treasurer shall *ex officio* be three, to be elected annually, but to hold office until others are elected in their stead. The officers shall perform such duties as may be prescribed in the By-Laws. The directors shall exercise the powers of the corporation, except as otherwise provided in the laws of the State, this Charter or the By-Laws.

SECTION 5. The first three persons named in this act, or any two of them may call the first meeting by mailing to each corporator a notice of the time and place thereof, at least seven days before the time of holding said meeting.

SECTION 6. This Charter is granted because the objects of the corporation cannot otherwise be attained.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect when approved.

BY-LAWS

As amended August 6, 1955

MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 1. Additional members may be elected by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any legal meeting of the Association, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, provided that no person shall be elected a member who does not own real property within the geographical limits of Ocean Park, worth at least two hundred dollars (\$200).

In case two or more persons own real property in common within the geographical limits of Ocean Park, worth at least two hundred dollars (\$200), two of such persons may, upon written request, be elected members in the manner above provided, but in no case shall more than two joint owners be members of the Association.

In case a religious corporation owns land within the geographical limits of Ocean Park to the value of at least two hundred dollars (\$200), any two officers of said corporation, or duly appointed representatives elected by said corporation, may, at their written request, be elected members of the Association in the manner provided above, and hold membership until change is made by said corporation.

In all cases when ownership ceases, the membership is forfeited.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ARTICLE 2. The officers and Directors of the Association shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting. Any vacancy occurring between the annual meetings may be filled by the Board of Directors by ballot.

In addition to the officers provided for in the Charter, there shall be a Vice-President who shall *ex officio* be a member of the Board of Directors.

A Director shall not serve for more than four consecutive years and shall be ineligible for reelection until after the lapse of one year. The conditions of this section may not apply to the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

ARTICLE 3. The President, when present, shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors. In his absence, the meeting shall be called to order by the Vice-President, or in the latter's absence by the Secretary, and a President pro tem chosen by ballot. The President (or if not available, the Vice-President), Treasurer, and one other Director shall approve in writing and sign all conveyances of privately and Association owned property, said written approvals to be filed by the Secretary for future reference.

ARTICLE 4. The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors. He shall keep a correct list of the members of the Association, and shall call meetings of the Association and of the Directors to order in the absence of the President and Vice-President, and preside until a President

pro tem is elected. He shall call all meetings of the Association and of the Directors in accordance with these By-Laws, and perform all other duties which are usually performed by a Secretary. In the absence of the Secretary, a Secretary pro tem shall be chosen. If the President, Vice-President, and Secretary are all absent, any member may call the meeting of the Association or of the Directors to order, when a President and Secretary pro tem may be chosen.

ARTICLE 5. The Treasurer shall have charge of the seal of the Association, shall receive all money due the Association and pay all bills approved by the Finance Committee. He shall keep correct books of account showing the receipts and disbursements, the number of lots sold and transferred, and make a full and detailed report at the annual meeting of the Association. He shall, together with the President, sign all deeds of the Association. He shall give bonds for the faithful discharge of his duties, such as shall be approved by the Directors.

ARTICLE 6. The Directors shall have full charge of all the property of the Association, and shall exercise all the powers of the Association, except as otherwise provided by the Charter or these By-Laws. Seven shall constitute a quorum. They may fill all vacancies in the Board of Directors from members of the Association. They shall annually appoint a finance committee, auditor, and such other committees as are necessary to conduct the work of the Association, and shall make an annual report to the Association.

MEETINGS

ARTICLE 7. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held at any of the Association buildings at Ocean

Park at such time in the month of July or August as the Directors may determine. Notice of the time and place of holding the same shall be given at least fourteen days previous by publication in some paper published in Maine, and a written notice sent to all members of the Association by mail at the same time.

All business, except amendment of the By-Laws, shall be in order at the annual meeting without notice.

ARTICLE 8. Special meetings of the Association may be called at any time by the Directors. Notice of special meetings shall state specifically the object of the meeting, and shall be given as provided for the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 9. Directors' meetings shall be called by order of the President or by the Secretary on application made to him by any three Directors. Notice shall be sent to all the Directors at least seven days previous to the time for holding the meetings, stating time and place where meeting will be held.

DEEDS

ARTICLE 10. The deeds given by the Association to those purchasing real property shall be as fixed by vote of the Directors unless changed by two-thirds vote by the Association.

RENTALS

In compliance with the restrictions imposed upon property owners in Ocean Park, great care should be exercised in renting cottages or rooms, in order that only persons who are interested in the religious and recreational life of the com-

munity and are willing to conform to its ideals be permitted to share in its life. The proper forms for purchases or rentals may be obtained from the officers of the Association.

AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 11. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Association at any meeting when notice thereof is given in the call for said meeting.

COMMITTEES

All permanent committees shall consist of not more than three members except the Assembly Committee of seven. All committee members must be members of the Ocean Park Association.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

The Finance Committee shall examine all bills presented against the Association and approve all that are correct, and perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Association or Board of Directors.

The Assembly Committee shall arrange the schedule of all public meetings and other gatherings held in the buildings or on the grounds of the Association, allotting time and place to other persons and organizations at their discretion. They shall have full charge of all meetings and other gatherings held under the auspices of the Association, preparing and publishing an annual program therefor, and provide for the expense of the same in such ways as they may deem for the best interests of the Association.

The Local Committee shall have charge of all the work done on the grounds except as provided for under the duties

of the Tennis Committee, but not the buildings of the Association. They shall purchase all materials needed and see that the same are taken care of, and shall have control of the grounds, dike and tide gate, and shall include an itemized account of expenses in their annual report. They shall see that the sanitary conditions provided for in the deeds and By-Laws of the Association are observed. They shall have the oversight of designated camping and parking places, and collect and account for any fees for the use of such privileges.

The Committee on Association Buildings shall have charge of all the buildings owned or held by the Association. They shall have power to rent any except the public buildings to parties or societies who, in their judgment, are proper persons to occupy the same, the rental not to extend beyond one year without permission from the Directors, and to be at a sum to be fixed by the Committee. They shall include an itemized account of receipts and expenses in their annual report.

The Committee on Necrology shall report at each annual meeting the names of members and friends deceased during the year.

The Committee on Sale of Real Property shall consist of an agent and two Directors, with the usual duties of such a committee.

The Committee on Legal Affairs shall look after the rights and privileges of the Association, and report to the Directors when action may seem necessary.

The Committee on Ways and Means shall study the financial condition of the Association, and recommend ways and means of conserving and increasing its income so that adequate provision may be made for the continuance and expansion of its work.

The Committee on Membership shall survey property owners in the interests of membership and report to the Directors their findings before the next annual meeting.

The Committee on Building Regulations shall see that the provisions in the deeds given by the Association relating to the erection of buildings are observed. They are authorized to issue permits for the erection or alteration of buildings, cooperating with Old Orchard officials as far as possible.

The Committee on Relations with Old Orchard shall take into consideration the relations of the Association with the town of Old Orchard, shall be the medium of securing appropriations from the town for public works, and as far as possible shall have supervision of the expenditure of the same.

The Tennis Committee shall have charge of the tennis courts, provide for their upkeep, fix the charges for use and arrange for the collection of the same, and is empowered to use the income in keeping the courts in condition.

The Resident Committee shall care for the local needs and interests of permanent residents during the out-of-season months.

The Co-ordinating Committee shall consist of representatives of the Association, together with representatives of the New England Baptist Conference and the Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp, to co-ordinate the activities and schedules of the three organizations, and to promote the welfare of the entire Ocean Park community.

The Library Committee shall have charge of operating the Memorial Library.

The Nominating Committee shall have the usual duties of such a committee.

The Chairman of each committee shall make a detailed report to the Directors immediately before the annual meeting each year, and also to the Association at its annual meeting.

CONDITIONS IN THE DEEDS OF LOTS GIVEN BY THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

First. That the said lot shall not be used for any other purpose than to build a dwelling-house or cottage upon, without the consent of the Directors, and no house, cottage or other buildings shall be used for the sale or storage of intoxicating liquors, nor for any immoral or illegal purpose, and no kind of business shall be performed or carried on upon said lot, and no trees within the lot shall be cut down or destroyed, without the consent of the Directors of said corporation.

Second. That the said lot shall not be sold to any person by the owner thereof, except by the consent of the Directors of said corporation, or their agent.

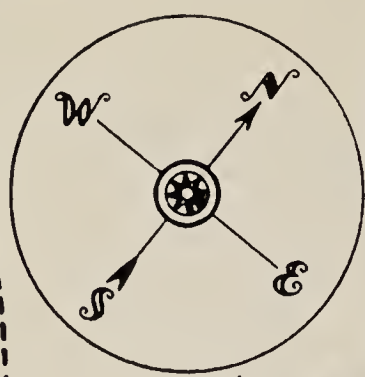
Third. That no building, or part of a building, shall be erected upon said lot within five feet of said street or avenue, and no house or building shall be erected thereon without the approval of the Directors of said corporation. Each dwelling house shall be provided with a suitable covered well for the purpose of drainage, and with a suitable vault or privy dug in the ground, the form and construction of both of which shall be approved by the Directors of said corporation, and if not provided by the owner, the same may be supplied by the said Directors and the expense thereof charged to the owner of said lot and constitute a lien on the lot.

Fourth. That the said Directors may make and enforce such other sanitary rules and regulations as they deem proper

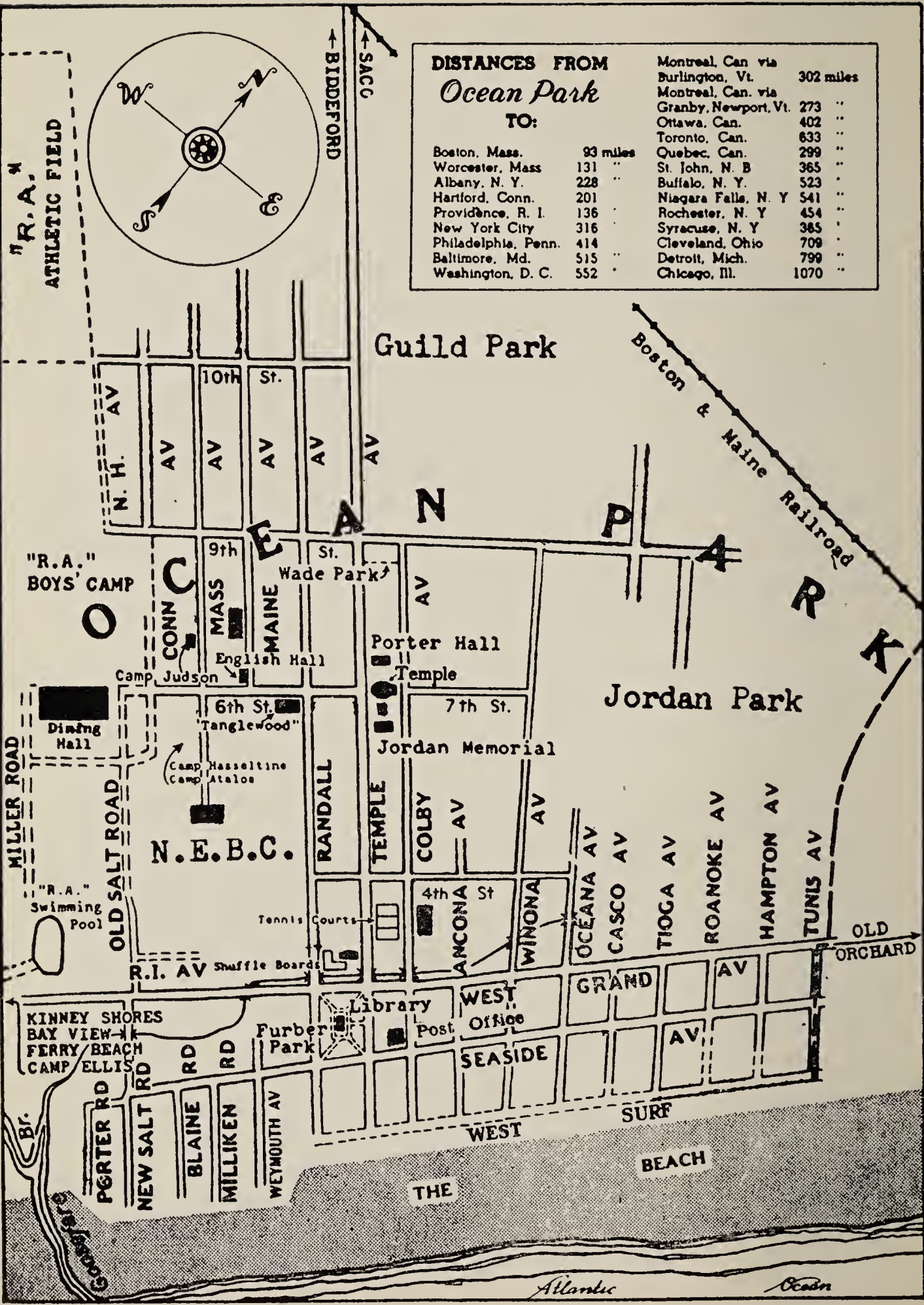
and necessary for the prevention of sickness and disease, and to promote order and cleanliness.

Fifth. That if this lot shall not be built upon for three years from this date, then after three months from mailing notice to the owner, at the option of the Directors of said corporation, this deed shall be void and said land shall revert to said corporation, in which event the money originally paid for the same to the corporation shall be refunded to the owner without interest.

Sixth. That the said lot shall be holden subject to the provisions contained in an Act of the Legislature of Maine, approved January 24, 1881, and entitled "An act to incorporate the Ocean Park Association," and any acts in amendment of, or in addition thereto.



DISTANCES FROM <i>Ocean Park</i> TO:		
Boston, Mass.	93 miles	
Worcester, Mass	131 "	
Albany, N. Y.	228 "	
Hartford, Conn.	201 "	
Providence, R. I.	136 "	
New York City	316 "	
Philadelphia, Penn.	414 "	
Baltimore, Md.	515 "	
Washington, D. C.	552 "	
Montreal, Can via Burlington, Vt.	302 miles	
Montreal, Can. via Granby, Newport, Vt.	273 "	
Ottawa, Can.	402 "	
Toronto, Can.	633 "	
Quebec, Can.	299 "	
St. John, N. B	365 "	
Buffalo, N. Y.	523 "	
Niagara Falls, N. Y	541 "	
Rochester, N. Y	454 "	
Syracuse, N. Y	365 "	
Cleveland, Ohio	709 "	
Detroit, Mich.	799 "	
Chicago, Ill.	1070 "	



STREET PLAN OF OCEAN PARK — 1956

