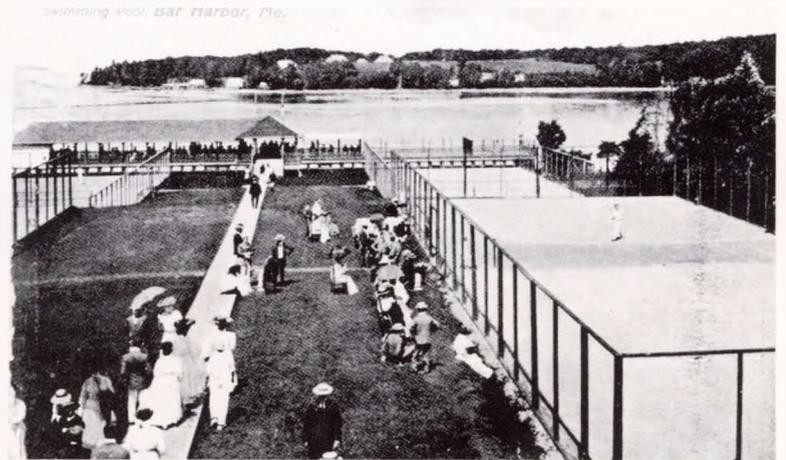




Mount Desert Island



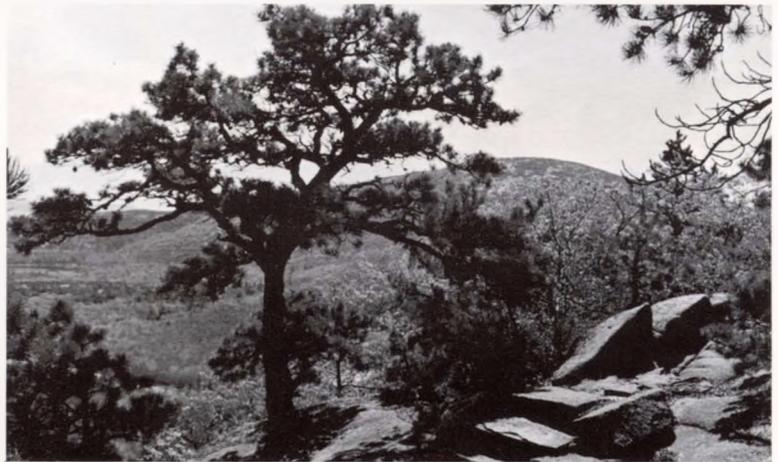
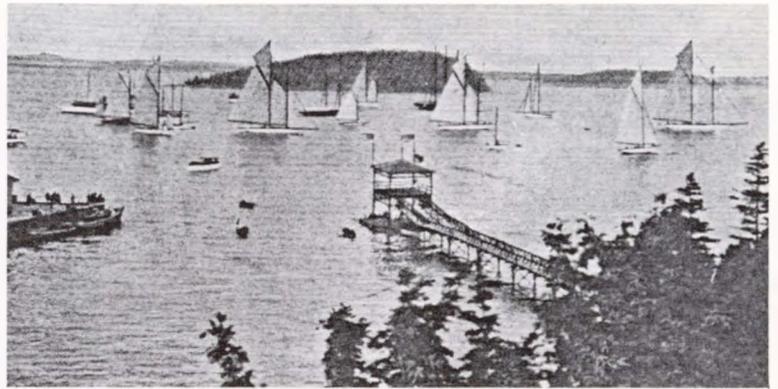
Only forty five miles from Bangor, the coastal resort of Mount Desert Island flourished in summer splendor. In the late nineteenth century, when Bangor lost its grip on stardom and prosperity, the Island, especially Bar Harbor, blazed forth to fame. Mountains, forests, lakes, ocean breezes, and a rocky ocean shore-line created a stunning

landscape for summer pleasure.

Old and new wealth, drawn from many cities, constituted a stunning elite. At first, the newcomers favored large hotels, but a cottage community soon came to dominate both the resort and the local towns. The rich summer visitors created an array of

beautiful churches and exclusive clubs, such as the Tennis Club in Bar Harbor. Palatial gardens and "cottages," as they were quaintly called in the summer vernacular, housed large families for frenzied summer interests and entertainment. Though nationally recognized architects were commissioned to create splendid

structures, one local architect added distinction to this dazzling display. Born in Northeast Harbor, Fred Savage was the Island's most prodigious and one of its most accomplished architects. Savage designed Rosserne, an outstanding shingle style structure on Somes Sound.



#85, top left
 #86, top right
 #87, bottom left
 #88, bottom right

While some of the Island's summer residents showed pained concern for this distant victim of anti-Semitism, patterns of restriction and anti-Semitism which were prevalent in the large eastern urban centers took root in the local summer colonies. Summer resorts became conspicuous social battlefields where hotels managed to excluded Jewish and other non-Protestant guests. A

cartoon from "Puck" in 1881 depicted the sharp reality of rejection. The summer resort was part of a structured pattern of prejudice which extended from clubs, residential areas, professions, businesses and boarding schools. Groton, founded by the Rev. Endicott Peabody, was a favored boarding school for Mt. Desert's summer families. Peabody discouraged the admission of

Jewish students into his school which centered on Christian study and values.

Only a few Jews—powerful financial and political German-Jewish leaders such as Jacob H. Schiff and Henry Morgenthau, Sr.—were exceptions to the restrictive social patterns of Mt. Desert Island. Schiff found respect and tolerance for himself and his family on Mt. Desert Island. Starting in 1903, and every other August thereafter, Schiff and his wife

rented one large cottage after another until they finally settled on Farview in Bar Harbor. They brought up their family's yacht to pass the month in Bar Harbor. Schiff and Morgenthau were admired for their philanthropy nationally and on the Island as well. Because of Schiff's donations to the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society, a mountain trail was named for him. The Schiff family continued to vacation in Bar Harbor until his death in 1921.



#89



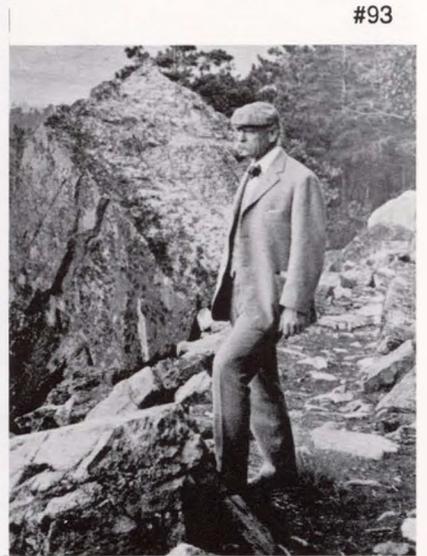
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#93

In 1926, when Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr. and his wife Josephine bought Mizzentop, a handsome three-story granite cottage in Bar Harbor, they entered into Bar Harbor's exclusive summer colony with enthusiasm and ease. He was the first Jew, married to a Jewish woman, to buy his own cottage. He was moving against the stream of social segregation and virulent

populist and patrician anti-Semitism of the 1920s.

The idyllic and isolated summer colony also fought against development and the destruction of the beautiful natural landscape. Charles W. Eliot of Harvard, George B. Dorr, an erudite Boston Brahmin, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., an amateur landscape architect and heir to the Standard Oil fortune,

spearheaded the Island's preservation movement.

Charles W. Eliot built a great university during the many decades that he was President of Harvard. An imposing intellect and figure, Eliot was respected and revered in Washington, Cambridge and Mt. Desert Island. A friend of Schiff's, he was an outspoken supporter of liberal immigration laws and tolerance

towards Jews and other immigrants. He spearheaded the crusade to preserve thousands of acres of Mt. Desert's most beautiful land.

When President Eliot called a meeting in 1901 to organize the Mt. Desert conservation movement, no one's life would be more affected than George B. Dorr's. He was a scholar, a professional horticulturist, an indefatigable



#94



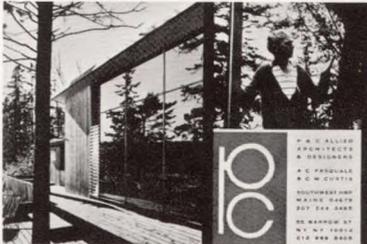
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#97



#98

THE
ALF PASQUALE
HOUSE
ON DARK LEDGE
SOUTHWEST HARBOR
MAINE
BEGUN 1944

#99



trailblazer, the sole heir to a family fortune, an aristocrat and a committed conservationist.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his wife Abby Aldrich Rockefeller committed themselves to the enlightened preservation of Mt. Desert Island, the creation of extraordinary gardens on the Island and the enjoyment of quiet summers for their family in

Seal Harbor.

The collective efforts of Eliot, Rockefeller and Dorr resulted in the establishment in 1919 of Lafayette National Park, which was renamed Acadia National Park in 1929. The first national park east of the Mississippi, the preserve grew in five decades from 5,000 to over 30,000 acres and exerted a continuing pluralistic influence on all of

Mount Desert Island.

In 1947, Bar Harbor and the park were devastated by a fire in which 18,000 acres were burned, including 10,000 within the park itself. The fire irrevocably changed life in Bar Harbor for the wealthy visitors who had established and maintained

the summer community. But the transformation had been evolving over many years. After the Depression and ensuing years of economic distress many summer residents were unable to maintain the large cottages without the support of large staffs and pre-income tax fortunes.



#101



Acadia National Park, however, remained open to all and attracted a multitude of visitors. Jews born in both Europe and America were among those enthralled with the Island, and in the early 1950's many built modest houses there, especially around Long Pond.

Alphonse Pasquale, a European-born architect, designed many camps on

the western part of the Island which tastefully fit into the rustic landscape of lakes and mountains. Pasquale's style differed greatly from the grandiose spirit of cottages such as Rockefeller's Eyrie in Seal Harbor. The orchestral conductor Max Rudolf was one of the first of the European-born summer residents who settled in Somesville.

Pasquale was the architect of Rudolf's home on Long Pond.

Amidst the beautiful homes, gardens, churches and libraries, the democratic mission of Acadia National Park prevails to this day. The park, George B. Dorr wrote, will never be "given up to private ownership again. The men in control will change, the Government itself will change, but its possession by the people will remain whatever new policies or developments may come.... For the park the main thing is to open it as widely as may be to the people

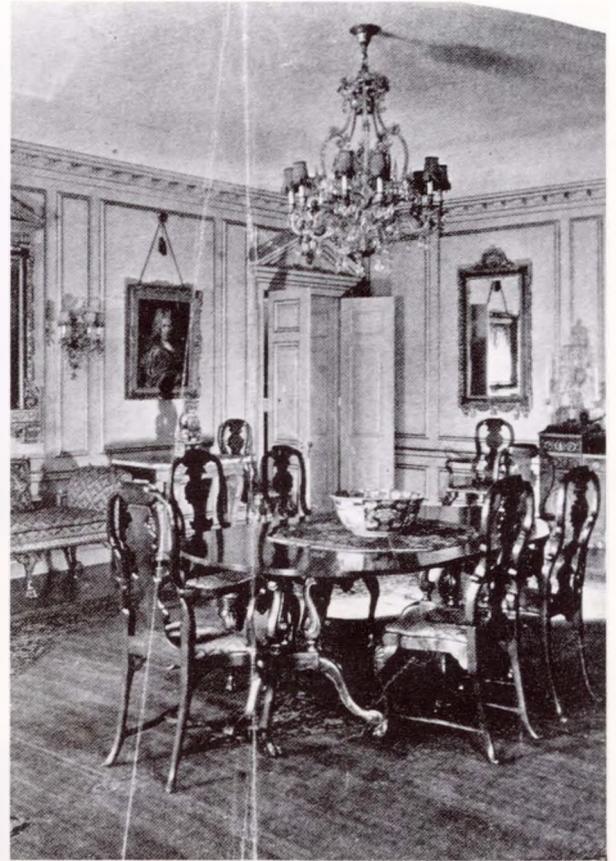
while yet keeping it from being a mere playground; to make it a source of real re-creation and save it from vulgarization. To make it something that will uplift and inspire its visitors, while giving them new health and vigor."

Landscape and art

Before summer folk arrived, Mt. Desert Island had been a place of peace and tranquility in the stunning



#102



#103



#104



#105

landscape of mountains, seas, lakes, cliffs and forests. Such beauty attracted some of America's greatest artists, including Thomas Cole and Frederick Church. This artistic tradition has been maintained by countless successor artists who have painted and drawn Mt. Desert scenes over many years, such as Xanthus Smith and John Helliker.

The rise and decline of sumptuous living in Bar Harbor.

For many decades, spectacular homes and gardens embellished Bar Harbor and spread its fame. As a resort, it ranked second only to Newport. In the years after the Civil War, amidst escalating fortunes, legions of newly rich families joined the more well-established families in Bar Harbor. Not all of them stayed: The George

Stotesburys lived and entertained lavishly. After his death in the mid 1940s 1,500 items from the house were featured in an auction catalogue. They were sold and the house torn down.

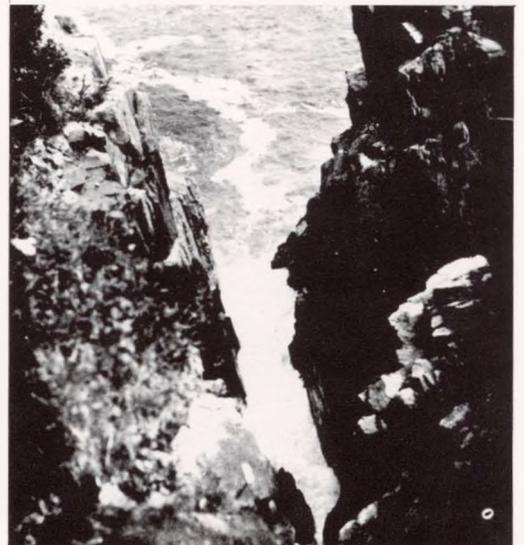
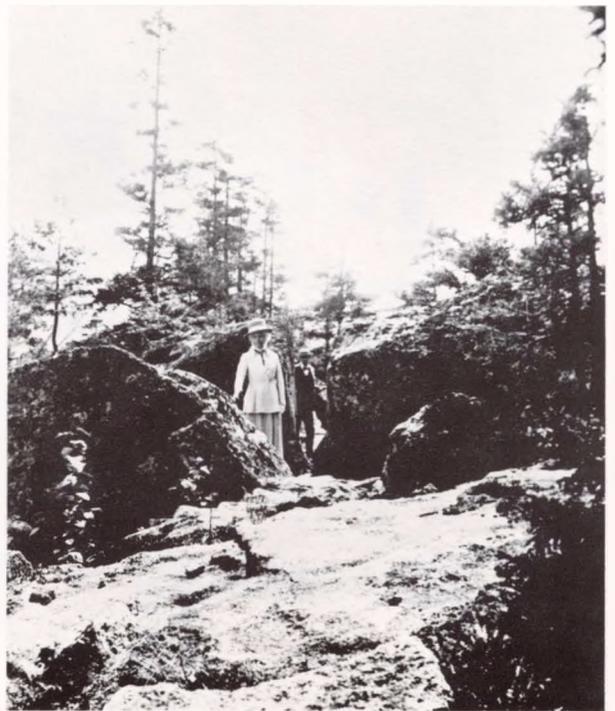
Architects designed in a versatile array of imitative and innovative idioms: Italian, French, English, Swiss, Tudor, Queen Anne, Medieval, Renaissance and Shingle styles. Some of them

have been preserved, but many fine homes, including Old Farm, the home of George B. Dorr, have been lost. Fortunately, the Turrets designed by Bruce Price for John J. Emery in 1895 survives as the administrative center for the College of the Atlantic.



#106, left
#107, right

#108, below left
#109, below right



From 1918 through the early 1930s, George B. Dorr, as the administrative head and superintendent of the Park, commissioned photographs of his beloved island landscape. He orchestrated the views and poses of important people on the Island—summer residents and visitors alike. His gallery of notables included Dorr's boss, Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane; a patron

and donor to the Park, Mrs. John Innes Kane; Maine's prominent Republican Governor F.H. Parkhurst; Dorr's mentor, former President of Harvard Charles W. Eliot; and a leader of the summer society, Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer. II.

At George Dorr's invitation, Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane and his wife visited Oldfarm during the

summer of 1917, shortly after the administration of President Woodrow Wilson had accepted approximately 5,000 acres on Mt. Desert Island as a national monument. Lane described Dorr as a "noble, unselfish, high-spirited, broad-minded gentleman." To Dorr, Lane wrote about the visit to the Island:

“ You do not know what good you did my tired politics-soaked soul by showing me, under such happy conditions, the beauties and the possibilities of your island....



#110



#111

#112



#113



You know a man in politics is always looking out for some place to which he can retire when the whirligig brings in another group of more popular patriots. Now I can frankly say that if I could have

an extended term of exile on your island with you and your friends, I would feel reconciled to banishment from politics for life, provided however (I must say this for conscience's sake) that we

had time and money to make the Park what it should be - a demonstration school for the American to show how much he can add to the beauty of nature....

May the Gods be with you, the God of Mammon immediately, that your dreams may come true, and that you may give to others the pleasure that you gave to yours sincerely."



#114, above left
 #115, above right
 #116, below left
 #117, below right



The Bar Harbor “season” throbbled to the invigorating beat of rigorous sports and entertainment. Society gathered in their cottages and exclusive clubs. It danced to the finest music provided by orchestras and bands such as that of Meyer Davis.

Davis found “society” and his future wife in Bar Harbor. Davis, the son of

a Russian Jewish immigrant, married Hilda Hodgkins who was born in Bar Harbor. When they met she was playing the piano in a movie theater. In her memoirs, she wrote: “From a small town, pretty blond girl of Bar Harbor, Maine at age 17, I was overwhelmed by this city-slicker who had already made good--at nineteen--as a society orchestra leader. From a three-piece band

which paid Meyer Davis twenty-five dollars in 1912 for an evening to an empire of ninety bands in 1960--one thousand musicians and a yearly payroll of a few million--this self-made impresario symbolized a fabulous ear of American development.”

The Davis marriage united two talented people — the Bar Harbor native and the son

of a Jewish immigrant. Hilda Davis became a composer and outstanding collector of the works of Lord Byron.

The *New Yorker* wrote: “Davis has been supplying the nation’s gentry with his product since 1913. His presence at coming-out parties and weddings has become as inevitable as the potted palms. If English customs prevailed here, he



#118



#119



#120

could append to his name 'By Appointment to the President....' Mr. Davis's business forces him to stick more closely to the rich than the income-tax collector."



#121



#122



#123

Hilda's sister Doris married the great French conductor Pierre Monteux. The Davises bought a home in Sorrento, Maine. The Monteux family bought a home in Hancock. Pierre Monteux established the Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians which remains a prominent musical institution. With music at the center of their lives, the Davis and Monteux families continue to live in Hancock County.

David Madison, Samuel Mayes, and Saul Gusikof of the Philadelphia Orchestra rehearse in a string ensemble with Pierre Monteux and Meyer Davis at the right.

#124



#125





#126



#127

Calais, a small city of 5,000 people on the Canadian border, prospered in the mid and late 19th century from its lumber trade. For several decades, lumber was gold in Calais, just as it was in Bangor. The trade spawned a generation of aggressive, shrewd men who owned and controlled vast tracts of land, mills, wharves, ships, stores, railroads and banks. Timber

barons, such as the Murchies, Etons and Todds, dominated the city and the economy of the area. The industry in Calais peaked in the 1860s, enriched by trade with the West Indies, South America, Cuba and England.

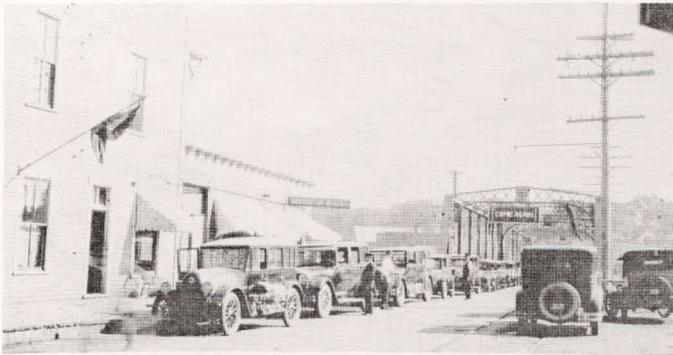
Unexpectedly, the depression of 1873 marked the beginning of the down-swing in the city's economic life. Severe

unemployment, poor wages and the migration of population followed. In fact, by the mid-70s, the best timber in the area had already been cut and the shipbuilding industry was in terminal decline, making Calais totally dependent on railroads that were part of the Canadian or New England networks. The Calais-Bangor connection, completed in 1898 along the

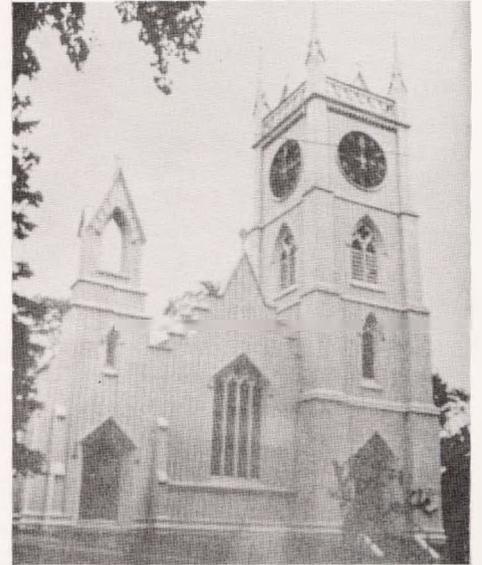
shore route, was one of the last links in Maine's railroad system. The connection notwithstanding, without any strong industries, the city's population, which had reached 6,000 in the 1870s, stopped growing and then declined to 5,000 people in the 1920s.



#128



#129



#130

Calais enjoyed a thriving relationship with nearby Canadian cities. Main Street was the commercial center of Calais and of St. Stephen, its twin city across the St. Croix River. The open border, spanned by a bridge, fostered

a more cosmopolitan society than was usually the case in Maine.

Churches and religious life dominated the small city. St. Anne's Episcopal Church was one of many striking edifices.

Starting with the Congregational Church in 1826, Calais erected thirteen churches for nine different denominations. They were handsome, large structures that loomed impressively over the city that lay on hilly land. Aspiring to

excellence and distinction, several congregations employed renowned architects such as James Renwick and John Stevens from New York and Boston.

#131



#132



#133

Life in the small city revolved around the activities of business, family, school and clubs. H.G. Trimble was admirably and poetically described as a fine businessman. Keziah Bridge lived in Penbroke, near

Calais. Ruth Ross, a granddaughter of Keziah Bridge, was a talented cellist who grew up and lived in Calais. Bill Unobskey was a member of the Eton Rifle Cadets, a source of much pride for the family and city.



The religious spirit was not confined to the quiet, tree-lined streets within the city proper. Revival meetings in the country also attracted families who traveled to them in crowded stage coaches.

Calais, whose history seemed to parallel that of Bangor, developed a dynamic spirit that was unique. Notwithstanding the declining

economy and severe climate, many educated and well-to-do men and women lived contentedly in the community. Residents enjoyed the security of traditional bonds among families and friends, the quiet pace of life, the handsome homes, beautiful trees and peaceful river, and the easy access to and from Bangor, Portland, Boston and New York on the two daily trains.

Although the most restless and ambitious sons and daughters moved to larger cities, those who stayed at home formed a tight community of extended families and common memories of a prosperous lumber trade. Parents, cousins, aunts, uncles and unmarried sisters and brothers, all partook of the social life of the city and were cared for by their families through old age.

What was true for the native born, however, did not pertain to the Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. The small city attracted a few Russian Jewish immigrant families, such as Joseph and Sarah Unobskey. The Jewish community in and around Calais began in the late 19th century when immigrants from Russia looked to a future shaped by hard work, ideal-

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#139, bottom



ism and Jewish observance. It was not until 1927, however, that the Jews in the area, led by the Unobskeys, were able to establish Congregation Chaim Yosef as their own synagogue.

Both the comfortable native-born and the ambitious immigrants enjoyed the rituals of community life. Together they joined in pageants, parades, and sports. In this intimate city, immigrants adapted fast to American ways. The Jewish families enjoyed the easy exchanges of life in a tolerant small town.

The Unobskeys led the way. Driven by shrewdness, tenacity and a paucity of money, Sarah Unobskey directed her husband Joseph and the family to Calais. In 1911, a few years after arriving in the United States, they settled in Calais and opened a small store



selling inexpensive clothes. Typical of the many competitive retail establishments throughout the state, Unobskey's Store steadily worked its way up to offering better quality and higher priced goods.

Its success depended on hard work, ambition, traffic over the international bridge—and real estate. In the 1920s, Calais enjoyed nearly a decade of unparalleled consumer spending. The Unobskeys

expanded their store, bought new properties and developed buildings with stores and a movie theatre. The hard-driving Unobskeys were not the only clothing merchants in the city, but from the time they settled in Calais, they acted as if they were. They dismissed their competition from other successful stores such as Levy's, and they never gave up the hot pursuit of customers and the possibilities of expansion.



#140

#141

#142

Calais Advertiser, January 11, 1936

SWEEP CLEAN CLEARANCE SALE

Out They Go During This Greatest Of All
Clearance Sale Events. Bargains Galore
For The Entire Family - SAVE - SAVE

UNOBSKEY'S

Sensational!
200 Suits and Coats

Reg. \$40.00 to \$60.00 Values
Reduced 40 to 50%
This sale is a life time offer means BIG SAVINGS for you.
Featuring Hart, Schaffner & Marx, and Carles Clothes. In dozens of colors, and Fabrics. GET HERE EARLY!

LOOK!

ALL WINTER WOOD DRESSES
Bottoms Up To 30% off

BARGAINS

Men's Specials

200 All Wool Waxed Pants
All Sizes and Colors
Reg. \$12.00 to \$14.00 Values
Now \$7.50
No Alterations

Heavy All Wool Waxed Pants
Reg. \$8.00 Now \$6.98

Famous Woolrich Hunting Jackets
Reg. \$20.00 Now \$13.00

All Wool Woolrich Fitted Shirts
Reg. \$7.50 Now \$5.00

Boy's Specials

Special Lot Of Heavy Winter Jackets
Quilted Lined
Values to \$10.00 Now \$3.98

Special Lot of Corduroy Sport Coats
Reg. \$8.00 Now \$4.00

Special Lot Of Boys All wool Britches
Reg. \$6.00 Now \$3.50

Special Lot Of SILK DRESSES
Values to \$15.00
Now 2.98

Special Lot Of SILK DRESSES
Values to \$25.00
Now 5.98

BARGAINS

Compare These Outstanding White Sale Values

Pepperell White Sheets	Pepperell Colored Sheets
81 x 99 \$1.69	81 x 99 \$2.10
81 x 108 \$1.95	81 x 99 \$2.00
Pepperell Pillow Cases	White 3pc Colored 4pc
Now Pepperell White Contour Sheets	Double Bed \$1.95
Cannon Hand Towels	Single Bed \$1.79
	White \$1.98
	Blue \$1.98

See These Values Too !!

Guthrie Goldtrape Hosiery Reg. \$1.59 Now 79c
Guthrie's Nylon One Piece Straw Socks Reg. \$1.98 Now \$5.00
Guthrie's and Plastic Socks Values to \$1.88 Now \$1.98

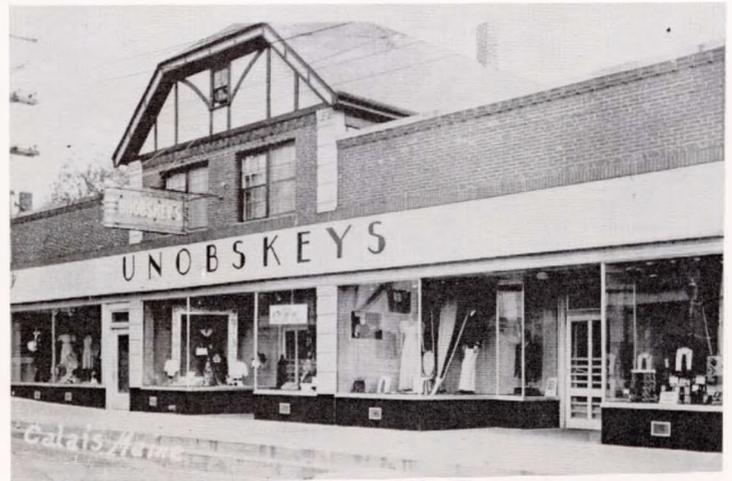
Terrific Value!

Rock Bottom Prices On ALL COATS
Reductions up to 50% off
Still many styles and colors to choose from.

Never Before!

Such Values on Such Fine Merino Best Sewing Machines
A Wide Range of Styles, Colors, Fabrics at Tremendous Savings

Reductions up to 50% off



The local teams ranked with patriotism and especially at Unobskey's on Main Street, were popular as well.

The Unobskeys and the other Jewish families discovered that Calais harbored few

suspicious about foreigners and no overt signs of anti-Semitism. The Unobskeys and the other Jewish families such as the Levys and Gordons -- too few to form even a minority -- easily joined in Calais' civic and educational life. They maintained a strong Jewish identity



#143



#144

#145



even when the kids—such as Martha and Joe Unobskey—dressed up for the St. Patrick's day parade.

and ambitious. Charlie, a long-time Mayor of the city, was genial and sweet. Uncle Morris was soft-spoken and unprepossessing.

After Sarah Unobskey's death from a heart attack in 1935, three relatives ran Unobskey's store. Arthur was entrepreneurial, imaginative



#146, above

#147, right

#148, below



Arthur, the dominant, dynamic leader of the family, was not content to function within Sarah's limited arena of family, business and Jewish concerns. He became one of the leaders of Calais, heading many of its business and philanthropic organizations and campaigns. On the regional and state levels, he promoted a multitude of economic development ideas—all to benefit Calais, Washington County and the state. Above all else, the Passamaquoddy power project, or Quoddy, was the focus of Arthur's energies and efforts from the late 1940s until 1956. In 1951 several prominent Washington County figures went to the White House to lobby President Truman on behalf of the Quoddy Power Project. When Senator



Margaret Chase Smith came to Calais, she was escorted around town by Arthur and Lillian Unobskey. All three were fervent Republicans.

The small city developed a group of strong leaders such as Francis Brown, who became a trustee of the University of Maine, and Judge Harold Murchie, the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

Arthur devised master plans for his city, family and Jewish community. For his children, Joe, Sidney and Martha there were boarding schools, colleges, graduate schools and professions that would guarantee continued success for the family—and the assurance of its place in Calais. Before his death in 1955, Arthur saw many of his hopes fulfilled. In its obituary, the "Calais Advertiser" wrote



#149

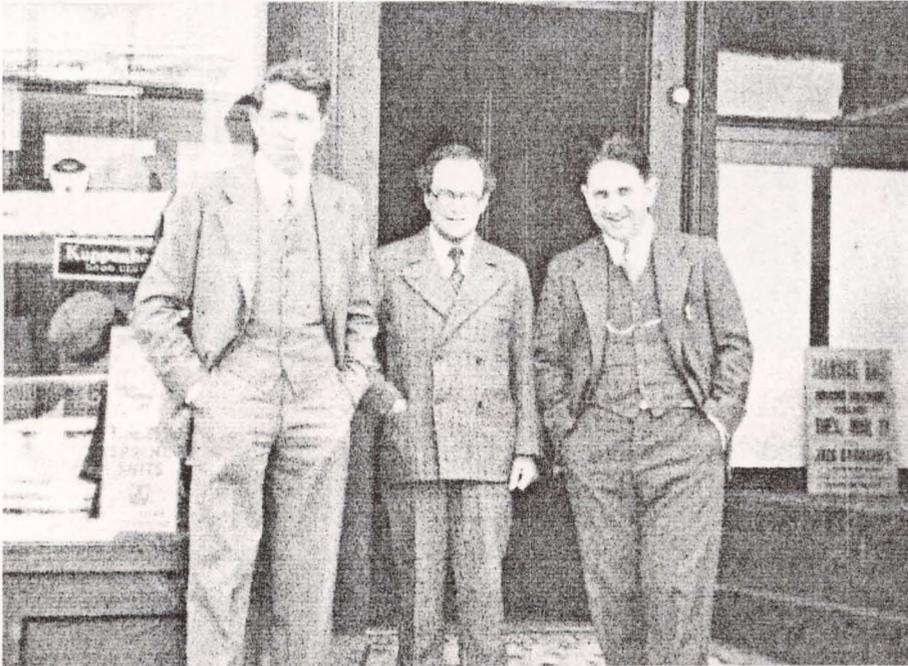
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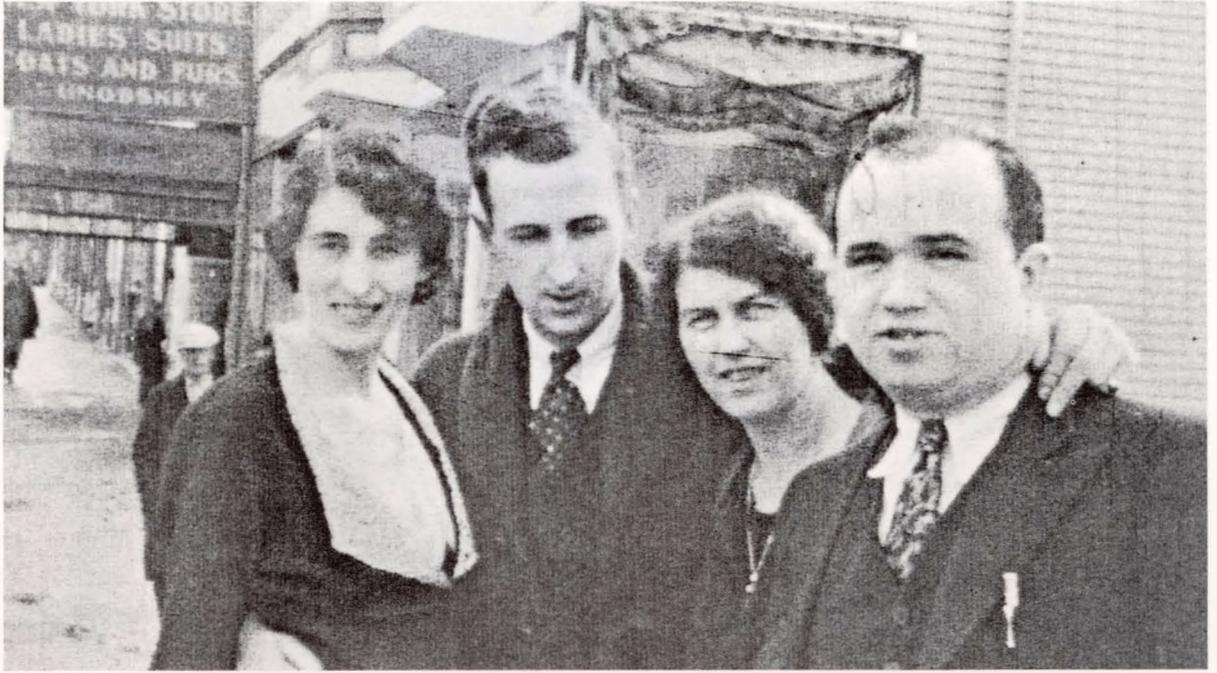
about Arthur: "To Calais he rendered services perhaps unmatched by any other of its citizens present or past. He spared no effort to increase its prosperity and attractiveness as a place in which to live, work and trade."



#155

Through three generations, the small Jewish community thrived in Calais, enriched by an era of small town confidence, security and patriotism. Throughout Maine—from Portland to Bangor, from Bar Harbor to Presque Isle—Jewish immigrants had successfully established themselves on Main Street. But few, if any, had achieved the Unobskeys' intense mixture of family closeness and pride, commercial flair, civic leadership and Jewish commitment. Inexorably, by the time of Arthur Unobskey's death in 1955, that special time - which benefitted and distinguished Calais's Gentiles and Jews alike - was drawing to an end. In 1974 the synagogue closed its doors.

#156



#157



#158





#159



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- 13 No number 13
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- 15 Chason's Market
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- 69 Viner Brothers factory
- 70 Mercantile Building
- 71 John Prescott Webber and family
- 72 Charles J. Webber and family
- 73 Webber house on West Broadway
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- 75 Edwin Cutler and son Lawrence
- 76 Lawrence and his brothers and sister
- 77 Dr. Lawrence Cutler
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- 90 Eliot at site of Jesuit mission
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- 96 Max Rudolf and grandson Paul Rudolf
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- 116 Bertha Hodgkins with three daughters
- 117 Meyer Davis with his brothers and sister
- 118 Meyer Davis (center) with family
- 119 Meyer Davis, Jr., in navy uniform
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- 130 St. Anne's Episcopal Church
- 131 Going to a revival meeting
- 132 Residential Calais
- 133 Congregation Chaim Yosef
- 134 H.G. Trimble, shoe merchant
- 135 Keziah Wilbur Bridges
- 136 Ruth Ross
- 137 Bill Unobskey and the Henry Eaton Cadets
- 138 St. Patrick's Day celebration at the State Theatre
- 139 A parade on Main Street
- 140 A Calais baseball team
- 141 An advertisement for Unobskey's
- 142 Unobskeys Store
- 143 Morris Holland
- 144 Charlie Unobskey
- 145 Martha and Sidney Unobskey
- 146 Calais leaders in Washington, D.C.
- 147 Arthur and Lillian Unobskey
- 148 Arthur escorting Sen. Margaret Chase Smith in Calais
- 149 The annual dinner for the owners and staff of Unobskey's
- 150 Arthur Unobskey
- 151 Calais wedding of Martha Unobskey and Dr. Fred Goldner
- 152 Francis Brown, Trustee of the University of Maine
- 153 Judge Harold Murchie, State Supreme Court Chief Justice
- 154 Morris Holland in front of Unobskey's mens store
- 155 Arthur Unobskey, friends and family on picnic
- 156 Charlie Unobskey and some of Unobskey's staff
- 157 Sarah Unobskey at Meddybemps Beach outing
- 158 Mary Unobskey, Rae Holland, Bert Unobskey and Mrs. Levy
- 159 Morris Holland at the beach
- 160 Sarah Unobskey at the beach
- 161 Children parading on Main Street
- 162 A Calais parade

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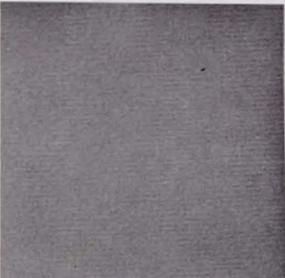
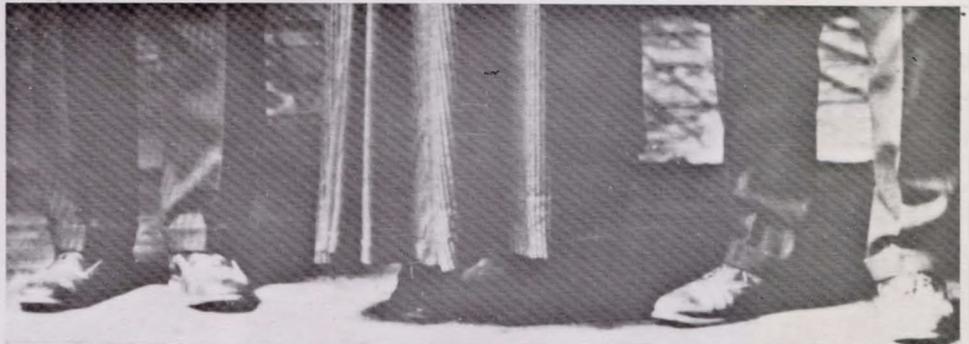
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SEPTEMBER OCTOBER 1992



THE UNOBSKEYS



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