Special Bar Harbor-Acadia Issue

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Acadia National Park exhibits a blend of struggling wilderness survival in some areas and lush prolific growth in others. [*Brechlin-Bar Harbor Times photo*]

INSIDE:

-A taste of Swan's Island

-the future of Jordan Pond House

-Biking across Mount Desert Island

-The world famous Jackson Laboratory

A trip to Acadia—something for all

by Stephen Olver
Staff writer

Of the many national parks throughout the country, Acadia National Park is perhaps the most unique.

Spanning 33,000 acres on Mount Desert Island, Acadia National Park is the scene where mountains and sea meet in breath-taking splendor.

The oldest national park east of the Mississippi, Acadia's five lakes, ragged headlands, sandy beaches, sheltered bays and 18 mountains over 1,500 feet high are truly a paradise for vacationers.

The wide range of sights and opportunities offered by the Park make it almost impossible to see or do everything.

Many parts of Acadia National Park, however, should not be missed. Ocean Drive, a park loop of about 20 miles, encmpasses many of these sights.

On the eastern coast of the island along Route 2 is beautiful Sand Beach, the most frequented beach on Mount Desert Island. Misnamed Sand Beach, it is actually made up of tiny paritles of shells which tidal currents throughout the years have deposited there. The shells are believed to have come from a vast bed of shells somewhere deep on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.

Approximately one mile down Ocean Drive from the beach is Thunder Hole, a broken fault in the rugged granite which guards the island from the relentless waves of the sea. On a rough, windy day, Thunder Hole is an awesome sight.

Continuing south, you encounter Otter Cliff. From Otter Cliff, the Atlantic bends eastward uninterupted for 3,000 miles toward Europe. Ocean Drive then curls back and weaves through the glacier-formed mountains back to Bar Harbor.

Perhaps the best views in the park come in this area. The tallest of the Park's peaks is Cadillac Mountain at 1,500 feet. From the summit of the mountain you can see a fantastic panorama of inlets and islands stretching toward the horizon.

For the true adventurer, there are more than 50 miles of carriage paths and 142 miles of walking and hiking trails. Acadia National Park also abounds with an abundance of wildlife. Park your car at any one of the many overlooks and venture into the trees. A short walk along the trail will most likely yield the sights of deer, beaver and racoon.

Both wild and cultivated gardens benefit from the moist air provided by the frequent fog and mist. An astonishing range of plants can be seen everywhere on the island.

One final stop-off can be made at the Abbe Museum at Sieur de Monts Spring. This fine museum specializes in the culture pre-discovery Indians and is most fascinating.

This is but a small fraction of the places to go in Acadia National Park; to be realistic one should spend months in the park to take in all there is to see. But, regardless of how much you see, it will be time well spent and well remembered.

Somes Sound provides unique coastal setting

by Ernie Clark
Staff writer

One of the more attractive aspects of Mount Desert Island is the only fjord on the Atlantic Coast, Somes Sound. Carved out of the island by Ice Age glaciers, Somes Sound divides the southern coast of Mount Desert and provides a picturesque locale for sailing and camping.

As with any fjord, Somes Sound is very deep, 156 feet at its deepest point and over 100 feet in other areas of the sound. However, a hugh sandbar, apparently overlooked by the glaciers, lies only 54 feet below the surface.

Sailors also have to be aware of the changing wind currents within the sound. Somes Sound acts as a wind tunnel and variations in wind velocity and direction are very difficult to forecast. If the wind is blowing straight from the north, sailors can find it almost impossible to enter the sound.

Water temperature in Somes Sound is typical of ocean temperatures in that it is very chilly. Temperatures average 56 degrees during the summer season, a little warmer in shallow regions. Currents run at least three to four feet, with tidal changes over ten feet.

Somes Sound is the southern entrance to many of Mount Desert Island's beautiful landmarks. Guarding the entrance are Greening Island, Southwest Harbor, and Northeast Harbor, two of the four towns on the island. Television star Garry Moore's camp, with it's trademark weathervane, also marks the approach to the sound, which spans for five miles to its head at Somes Harbor.

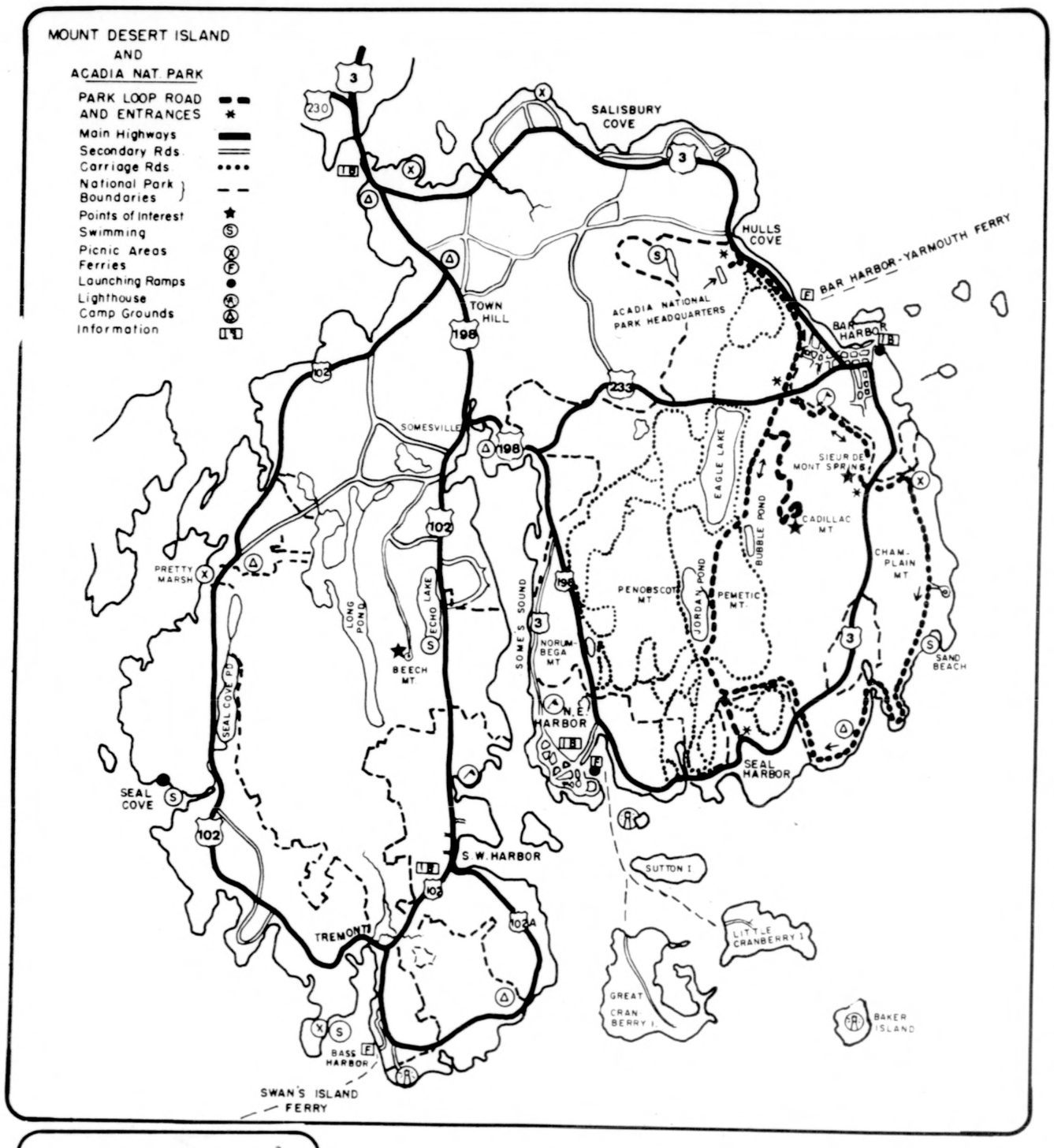
As the sailor proceeds north up the sound, there are several panoramic points at which anchorage is worthwhile. Fernald Point offers a picturesque view of the sound, and a little further north, Echo Cove and Echo Lake offers a campers paradise.

At Echo Cove, also known as Valley Cove, the camper can hear his voice bounce off perpendicular cliffs. These cliffs and the surrounding area contain many hiking trails joining this area and Acadia Mountain, Valley Peak and Flying Mountain. Echo Lake, within the limits of these cliffs, is as relaxing as it is beautiful.

Another choice attraction is located at the northeastern head of the sound, just a short sail away from the harbor. This area has a smattering of beautiful coves, lobster

see Somes, page 8

Mount Desert Island--Maine paradise



Acadia Events

JULY

3 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

4 Various Adult and Children's Activities. Schedule to be announced
4 Square Dancing and Breakfast and Sunrise dance top of Cadillac Mountain
4 Street Parade, 10:00 a.m.
4 Seafood Festival, Athletic Field, 11:00 a.m. thru afternoon
4 Band Concert

7 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

8 Free Art Lessons, 10:00 a.m.—12:30, Holy Redeemer Parish Hall

10 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

14 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

15 Free Art Lessons, 10:00 a.m.—12:30, Holy Redeemer Parish Hall

17 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

19 Down East Church Fair & Auction, Church of Our Father, Hulls Cove

21 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

22 Free Art Lessons, 10:00 a.m.—12:30, Holy Redeemer Parish Hall
24 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

25 & 26 Art Show, 10:00a.m.—5:00 p.m., Village Green

26 Church Fair & Luncheaon, St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, Mt. Desert St.

26 & 27 Craft Show, Mount Desert Island High School. Sponsored by Penobscot Valley Craft Association

28 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

29 Free Art Lessons, 10:00 a.m.—12:30. Holy Redeemer Parish Hall.

31 Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Village Green

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Jackson Laboratory world leader in research

by Ernie Clark
Staff writer

Located on U. S. Route 3 just outside of Bar Harbor lies one of the world's largest genetics research centers, the Jackson Laboratory.

Named in memory of Roscoe B. Jackson, the Jackson Lab has been a major source of genetically defined mice and in-house research since its inception as a one house lab in 1929. Founded by Clarence Cook Little, a former president of the University of Michigan, the center became respected nationally for its mice development and medicinal research. In 1938, the lab received the first research grants awarded by the National Cancer Institute and became a leader in such research.

Jackson Laboratory suffered a temporary setback during the late 1940's as the great Bar Harbor fire of 1947 leveled the structure. However, Dr. Little, still operator of the facility, received large donations of both capital, scientific apparatus, and, of course, mice.

After the structure was rebuilt, expansion continued at a rapid pace, so that the lab was now handling over 100,000 mice at a time. Finally, new buildings were constructed to handle the increasing number of mice, and the Morrell Park Laboratory was opened in 1962.

This development continued under Dr. Earl L. Green, who had replaced Little in 1956. Jackson Lab became the largest producer of laboratory mice in the world and the largest center of mammalian research in the world as well.

Another building, the Mammalian Genetics Laboratory, was built in 1972 to handle the ever-increasing amount of research at the center. Another building project, designed to double the lab space at the center, eas undertaken in 1978 and is well on the way to completion.

Today, Jackson Laboratory breeds over 3 million mice per year, with over 2 million distributed to other laboratories around the world. Six hundred thousand mice are kept at Jackson Lab for in-house research. over 35 scientists and 100 laboratory assistants are working at the lab.

With an 11 million dollar budget, the Jackson Lab and its operator since 1976, Dr. Richard Prehn, is presently experiencing the monetary difficulties of any other enterprise. Despite this, the research center maintains its position as a world leader in genetic research and a boon to both the bar Harbor region and science.

A geological phenomenon draws thousands of visitors each year to Thunder Hole in Acadia National Park. [Photo by Mitch Tarr]

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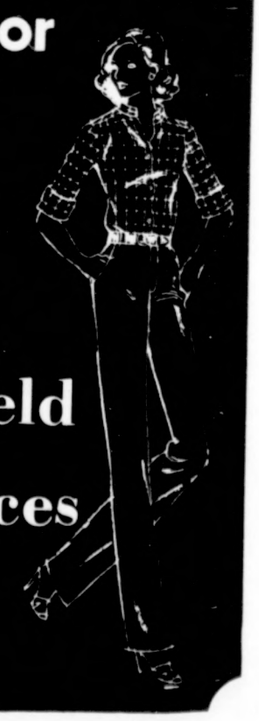

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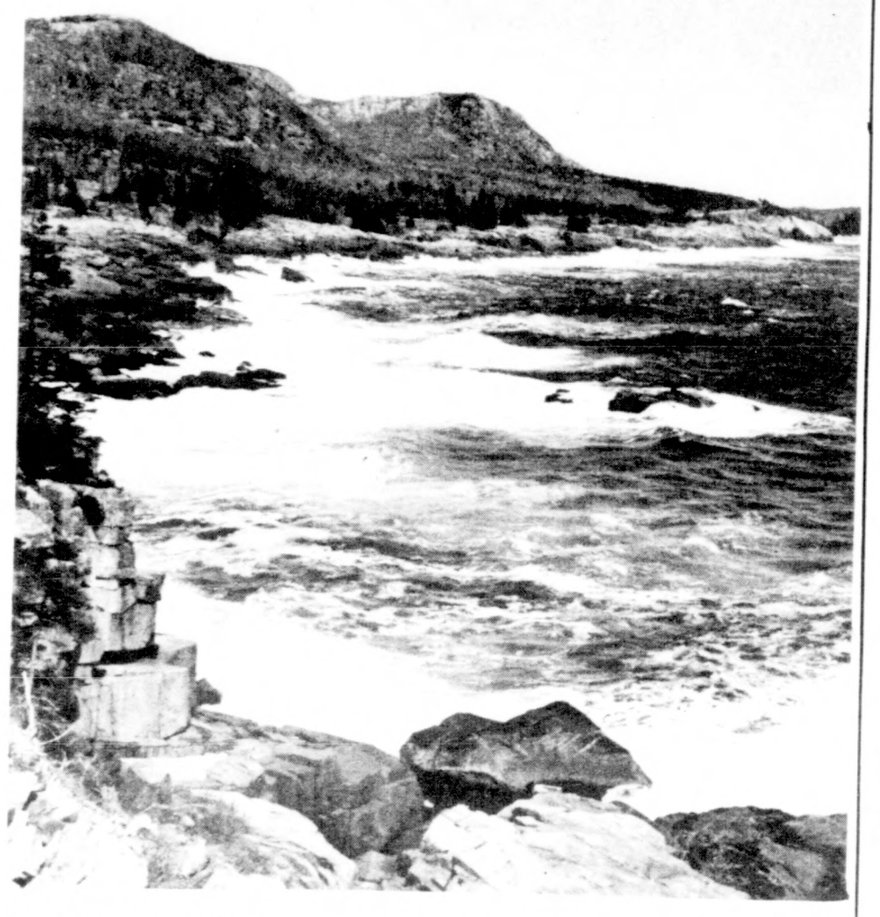

The rocky coast of Mount Desert Island often reminds one of the coastlines of Scandinavian countries. [Brechlin-Bar Harbor Times photo]

Acadia National Park land rich in historical resources

by Dawn Good
Staff writer

Acadia National Park, the only national park on the Atlantic coast, formerly known as Lafayette National Park, holds many historical secrets of past civilizations. These add, along with it's beauty, to the park's popularity.

As far back as thousands of years ago, the immense beauty of the Acadian region attracted summer visitors. The first tribe of Indians known to use Acadia as a summer resort was the skillful Red Paint Indian tribe. Then 800 B.C. brought the Oyster Shell Indians to Acadia. They left great piles of shells along Maine's coast. The largest and most famous of these can be found at Damariscotta. The Abenaki Indians of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes also enjoyed relaxing summer months in the Acadian region. It was the Abenaki Indian whom the first Europeans encountered on their explorations of the New World.

Although the Vikings were the very first Europeans to explore the Atlantic coast, they left no claims.

Samuel de Champlain of France, one of the earliest European explorers to sail through the Acadian region, was the founder of Mount Desert Island; calling it "L'Isle des Mont-deserts" because of the vast mountain area of bare rock. He claimed it for France. Nine years after Champlain claimed the Island of Mountains for France, French Jesuits attempted to settle permanently on the mouth of Somes Sound, but their efforts were in vain. The British destroyed the small community and captured the people. This began a 150-year conflict over the posession of Mount Desert Island between France and Great Britain. During this conflict, the Canadian governor in 1688 gave Mount Desert Island to a Frenchman, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who founded the city of Detroit and later became the governor of French Louisiana. It is after this man that Mt. Cadillac, the island's highest mountain, is named.

In 1759, with the defeat of the French military at Quebec, the British turned their attention towards developing the Maine coastal region. Appointed in 1761 by the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Abraham Somes founded the island's first permanent community on the head of Somes Sound. It was first known as "Betwixt the Hills," now called Somesville. Many more settlements developed throughout the region of harbors; becoming fishing and boating centers.

With America's declaration of independence there came the territorial disputes at the international boundary between the United States and Canada. Two of the boundary treaties would have given Mount Desert Island and part of Eastern Maine to Canada, but to the benefit of the U.S., a boundary line along the St. Croix River was accepted in 1783.

It wasn't until the early 1840's that artists, writers, and scientists began discovering the wonders of Mount Desert Island. Through them, people realized the incomparable natural beauty of the Island of Mountains. This accelerated the rapid development of America's most beautiful summer resort.

In 1901, concern grew over the widespread destruction by commercial developers of the region's beauty. The task of establishing a nature reserve for future generations began. The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations was created as a tax-exempt, land acquiring organization accepting gifts of land from private individuals. By 1913 the trustees held title to 5,000 acres, which included the summit of Mt. Cadillac, Sieur de Monts Spring, and the Beehive and Bull.

The trustees in 1916 presented these lands to President Woodrow Wilson, who proclaimed the establishment of Sieur de Monts National Monument, honoring the Frenchman who led Champlain's famous expedition to the Island of Mountains. This monument was then redesignated three years later to the establishment of Lafayette National Park when later in 1929 was named Acadia National Park; the purpose being the name "Acadia" was better descriptive of such a beautiful region.

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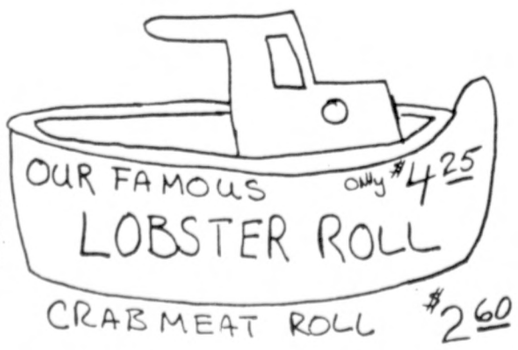

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Swan's Island- life at a slower pace

by Larry Wardwell
special to the
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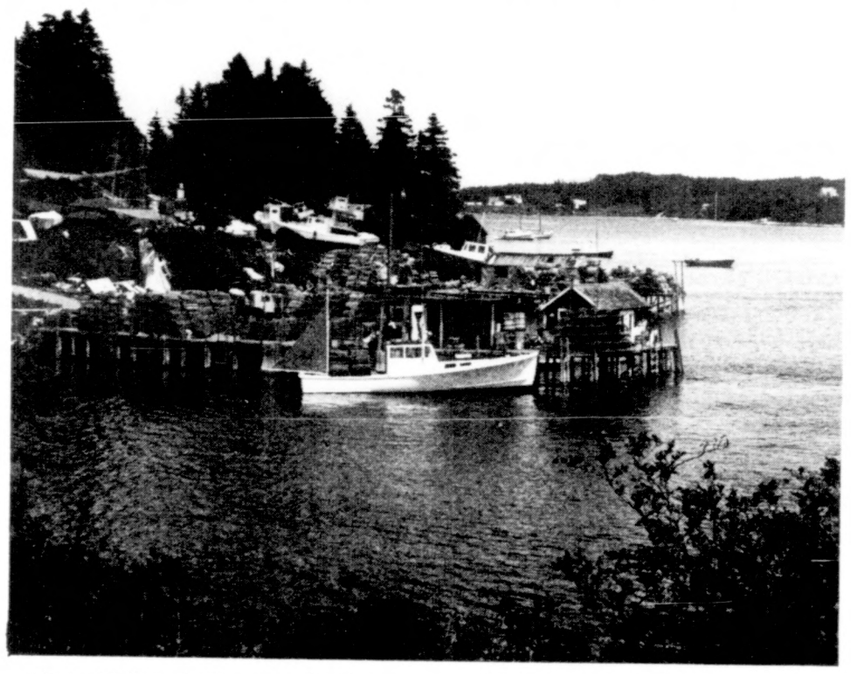
There's not much to do on Swan's Island—no movie theaters, nightclubs, golf courses, tennis courts, or shuffle boards. There's not even a shopping center, MacDonald's, or Dexter Shoe outlet.

For those folks who are bored easily, Swan's Island is one of the most boring places in the world.

However, if you enjoy bicycling and hiking on uncrowded roads and trails, bracing salt air and silence, then a trip to Swan's Island makes a wonderful day excursion.

The State of Maine Ferry Service makes about five trips a day from Bass Harbor on Mt. Desert Island to Swan's Island. The round trip boat ride is $2.40 and offers spectacular views of the mountains and coastal islands along with glimpses of dolphins, seals and waterfowl.

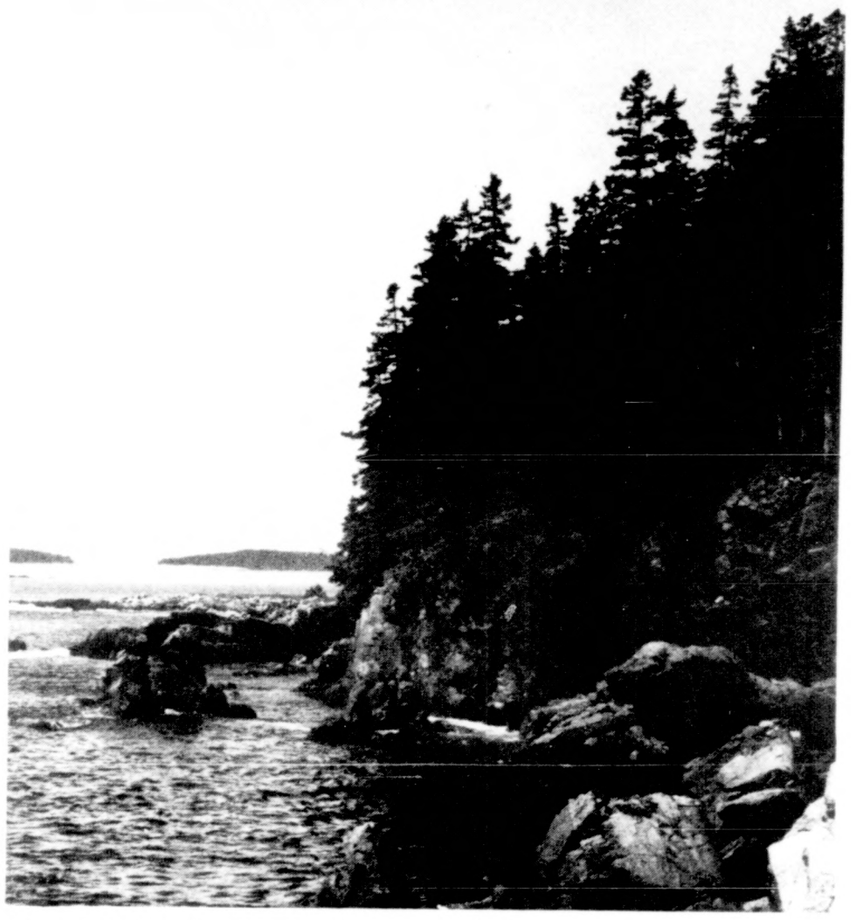


Most visitors are a little bewildered when they arrive at Swan's Island for the first time. There are no signs telling you where to go or what to do. So most people just start walking. About 1/2 mile down the road is the Smiling Swan Soup & Salad, where bicycle rentals are available along with homemade soup, salads, sandwiches and deserts.

From here there are a number of posssible excursions one can take. Probably the most popular is a visit to Hockamock Head Lighthouse and Burnt Coat Harbor. The harbor is about three miles from the Smiling Swan. The road is a bit hilly, but worth the effort for the views. Also located here is Hindman's Harborside Store (the only store on the island). The lighthouse is almost another mile from the store along the same road. It was built in the 1800's and marks the entrance to Burnt Coat Harbor, which is the hub of the lobster and fishing industry on Swan's Island. The combination of the crashing surf on the rocks below with the sweeping views makes this a delightful spot for picnicing or just relaxing.

There are a number of lovely beaches on Swan's Island. The jewel of them all is Sand Beach. This is about four miles from the Smiling Swan, but it is not easy to find. It's a good idea to ask specific directions. The beach is at its best during low tide, when the full expanse of the white sand is exposed. The glistening white sand and clear turquoise water give one the impression of a Carribean beach. A dip in the surf, however, quickly brings one back to the cold realities of Maine coastal water.

The Carrying Place is another good beach. The Indians (Chief Orono was supposed to have summered here) used to carry their canoes across this narrow strip of land which connects the two parts of Swan's Island. There are magnificent views of Mt. Desert Island in one direction and Marshall Island with Isle au Haut in the distance form the other direction. The Carrying Place is about three miles from the Smiling Swan and can be reached by taking a right immediately after the large white Oddfellows hall on the road from the Smiling Swan to Burnt Coat Harbor.



For fresh water swimming with beautiful ocean views, go left at the crossroads about 1 1/2 miles from the Smiling Swan on the road to Burnt Coat Harbor. This road wanders along the other side of the harbor through the village of Minturn to the Quarry Pond. This is the favorite swimming spot on the island, offering clean—fairly warm water. Also in Minturn is the Sea-Breeze Take Out where one can enjoy traditional hot dogs, hamburgers and home-cooked seafood dinners.

In addition to these "Main attractions" there are many secluded silent trails and scenic overlooks that provide weeks of delightful hiking and exploring—how boring!

Larry Wardwell is the owner of the Smiling Swan restaurant on Swan's Island.

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Jordan Pond House-- Will it ever be again?

by Stephen Olver
Staff writer

Part of Acadia National Park, the Jordan Pond House has been a renowned teahouse and scenic gathering place for over a century.

However, since the tragic fire last summer which totally destroyed the pond house, the possibility of it being rebuilt has become more and more of a questionmark.

Over the last year, island residents and visitors have urged for its replacement and the Island Foundation, a private local corporation, has raised $675,000 to assist in the project.

The majority of the $2 million needed to refurbish the house, however, hasn't come through from the federal government.

According to Deputy Chief of Park Planning Dwight Rettie, the project is caught in the federal budget squeeze.

"Because of the president's budget constraints, the funding request could not be submitted this year," Rettie said.

He said the next opportunity to apply for supplemental financing would be sometime next year and therefore it couldn't be included in the regular park budgeting process until 1982.

Plans for new construction have been completed and approved by both the Park Service and the Island Foundation, but the estimated cost will have risen greatly by the time construction can begin. The funds raised by the Island Foundation were scheduled to pay for initial planning and design, new fire places and also part of the actual building costs.

Donations for the rebuilding of the Jordan Pond House, although numerous at first, have dwindled considerably in recent months.

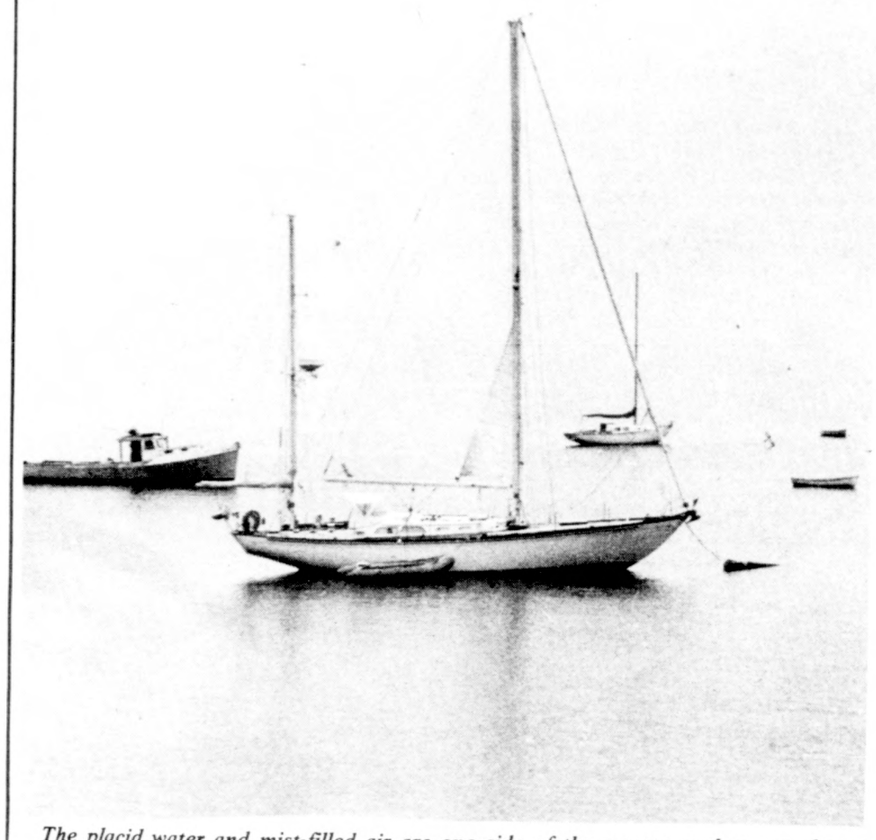
Groundbreaking for the new project was at first expected to begin early next year, but now it seems to be more than two years away.

In the meantime, the ruins of the Jordan Pond House sit quietly.

Attempts by the Acadia Corporation to serve tea and popovers on the lawn as an interim measure have never got off the ground. The Acadia Corporation, a private Bar Harbor-based business, had operated the house as a park concession for many years.

There was also speculation that a temporary building could be built adjacent to the site, to be used on different occasions. This plan was half-hearted from the begining because the structure would have to be built well enough to pass state and federal standards, just to be torn down sometime in the future for the new Jordan Pond House.

However, as the one-year aniversary of the fire passed last week, the historic Jordan Pond House seemed no closer to a second life than it did the day it burned.



The placid water and mist-filled air are one side of these waters; they can change personalities quickly. [Brechlin-Bar Harbor Times photo]

These students discover link with theirenvironment

by Laura Proud
staff writer

How many schools do you know of where you can get a bachelor of arts degree in Human Ecology?

The College of the Atlantic, located within walking distance of Acadia National Park, focuses its cirriculum on the relationships between people and their natural and social environments.

The school opened in 1972, with about 30 students. Today, the school has 200 students, 11 full-time faculty, and 14 part-time faculty members. As of this year's graduation, there are 106 graduates of the College of the Atlantic.

At the college, there is no distinction between different disciplines or departments. This is because, "Many of our courses interrelate," said Ann Outzen, who is in charge of public relations.

Courses are team taught. For example, Outzen said, a course in evolution has been taught by an anthropoligist, a philosopher and a biologist together. The classes are small—an average of 10. The teachers have no rank or tenure, and there is no pressure on them to publish or do research, although a good number of them do so.

Students at the college are required to complete 32 credits for graduation. This includes a workshop, an internship, and a senior project. In his or her second year, a student must write a human ecology essay, which is a personal statement on the relationship between man and his environment, and is also used as a writing profiency sample. Each student must also do something in service to the community.

Outzen said the number of applicants has increased steadily every year. She said that for those who are really interested in what College of the Atlantic has to offer, admission isn't that difficult.

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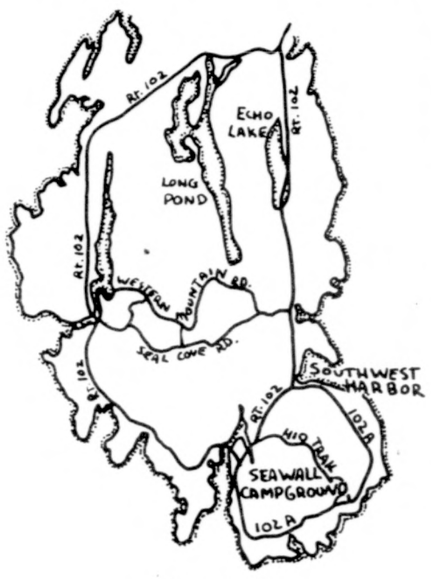
Two-wheeled fun on Mount Desert

by Glen Chase
Staff writer

Bicycling in Acadia National Park and Mt. Desert Island provides a person with the chance to enjoy a leisurely ride while taking in the scenery from a very close and personal perspective.

A rider has the choice of either using



Bicycle Routes
Acadia National Park
West District

paved roads or of riding on gravel paths. There are even some paths that are closed to automobiles.

This system of carriage paths in the park now being used as bike routes was first developed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in 1915. The paths were built with the idea in mind of keeping the noise and presence of automobiles to a minimum while Rockefeller and other enjoyed a quiet ride in a horse-drawn carriage.

Sixteen miles of the original 51-mile system are still maintained for the use of cyclists. The paths available for biking have had ground stone pressed into the surface to provide traction for narrow width tires. Also, the trails are all well marked with wooden signs.

To limit entry onto the paths, there are only three places that allow for access to them. One is located by the park headquarters, one on Route 233 just below the Eagle Lake bridge and the third is by way of an extension of the carriage path that connects with the Park Loop Road at the Bubble Pond parking lot.

As mentioned before, the carriage paths aren't the only places to bike on Mt. Desert. The roads used by automobiles can also be utilized by bikers for pleasant rides.

Aside from the carriage paths, there are four rides that can be done by bikers on the island. Perhaps the most beautiful is the 19-mile Park Loop Road. Here it is important to remember that bicyclists must obey the one-way road laws the same as any motor vehicle. The Loop also provides access to the Cadillac Mountain Road. This winding road has an 8 percent grade so it can be a very tiring ride.

The second trail is on the New Eagle Lake Road. This is a short ride that starts almost in Bar Harbor at a junction with the West Street Extension and winds for two miles where it connects with Route 233. This route can give you a chance to see beavers at work in Duck Brook in the evening.

A third route, called the Hio trail, begins at Loop C in Seawall Campground in the West District of the park. This trail winds for 2.5 miles through a forest of hardwood and evergreens before reconnecting with Route 102. Bicyclists must either return by

Bicycle Routes
Acadia National Park
East District

the trail or ride on Route 102 and Route 102A back to the campground.

The final bike route is through Seal Cove and the Western Mountain roads. These two gravel surfaced roads form an eight-mile long loop. Some car traffic can be encountered and the roads are sometimes used by horseback riders. This ride will take you through a spruce-dominated forest.

Of course, if any of these four rides don't suit you, there is always any of the other roads regularly used by autos, just remember to obey the traffic laws.

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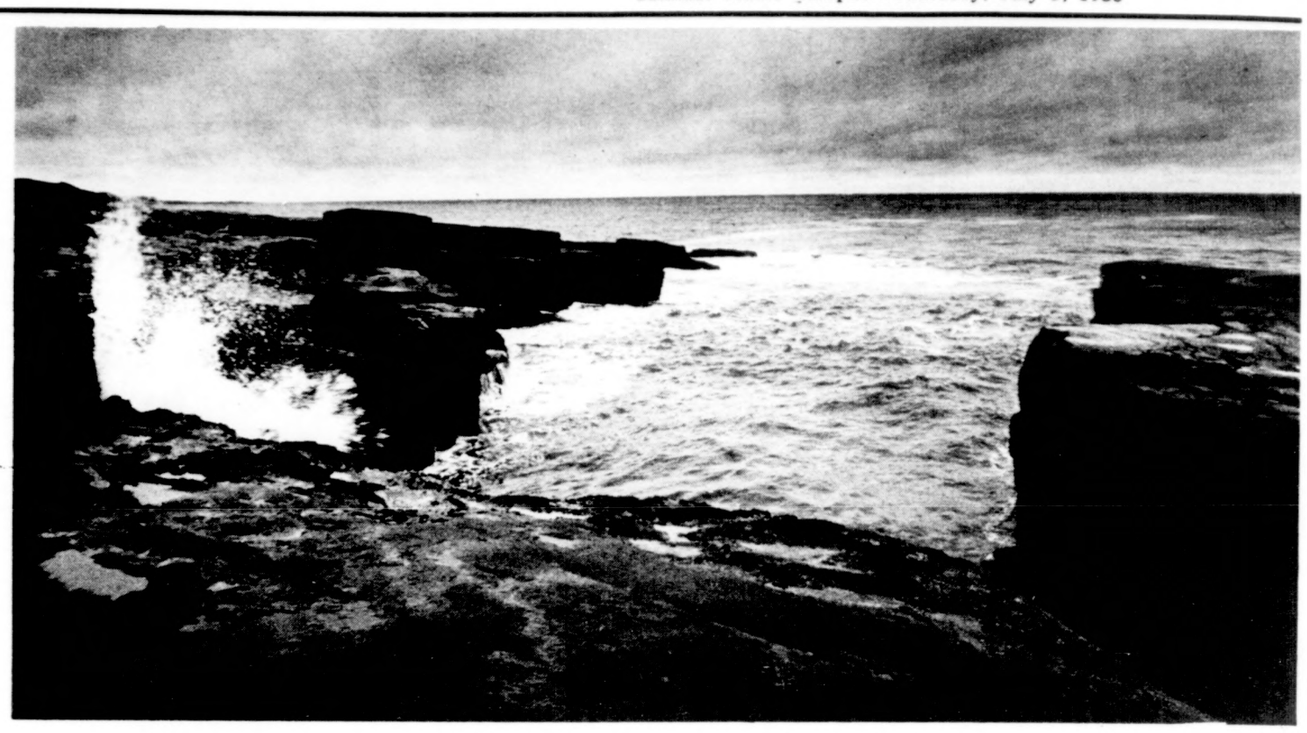
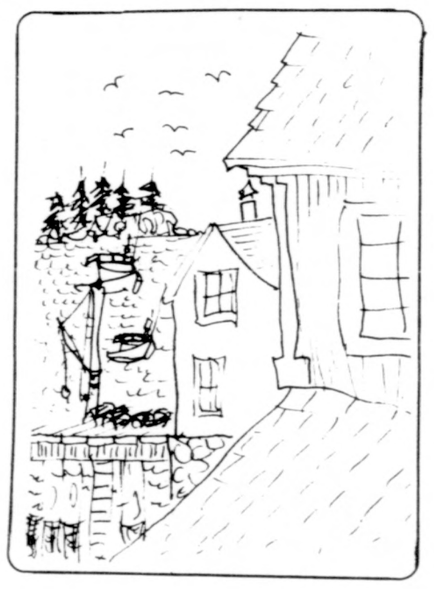


● Seasons *Because if its nearness to the ocean, Bar Harbor enjoys a more temperate climate than the inland. It's cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.*



● Somes

continued from page 1

pounds, and the Mount Desert Yacht Yard, where luxurious boats abound.

The sound is equally attainable by boat, car or bicycle. From Somesville, at the northern tip of the fjord, travellers may go directly south to the sound via Route 102 to Southwest Harbor, or may go to the other side of the sound by driving along Route 198 to Sargent Drive, and then southbound to Northeast Harbor. From both of these access roads, scenic camping areas and trails are only a few minutes away, as is Somes Sound.

A natural fjord that is unique to the Atlantic Coast, Somes Sound offers visitors a little of the downeast flavor and a lot of the outdoors spirit that is Mount Desert Island.

Comedy in Maine

The Acadia Reperatory Theater will use "Comedy in Maine" as its theme this summer season.

The theater, which was started in 1973 by director George Vafiadis and his partner, will feature four plays:

July 8-13 "Same Time Next Year" by Bernard Slade

July 15-27 "A Shot in the Dark" Achard adapted by Harry Kurnitz

July 29-Aug. 10 "The Good Doctor" Chekhov adapted by Neil Simon

Aug. 12-24 "The Miser" Moliere adapted by Miles Malleson

August 26-31 is Reperatory Week, and one of the above plays will be repeated.

Tickets are available at the door, and from Tuesday through Sunday, all seats for the 8:40 p.m. show will be $6.

There will be a performance of "Same Time Next Year" at the Bar Harbor Club, where tickets for the 8:40 show, Tuesday through Sunday, will be $5 and $6.

The Acadia Reperatory Theater is located in Somesville, eight miles from Bar Harbor on Route 102.

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