

SAMUEL MANSON LIBBY.

There are probably few, if any families in Maine, that so many generations in direct descent from father to son have lived under the same roof as the family of Samuel Libby and his descendants who for nearly two hundred years have occupied the same house which is situated on a rocky knoll nearly surrounded by the salt marshes in the ancient town of Scarborough, a mile from the old stage road and to be seen by the passengers on the electric cars when opposite Scot-tow's Hill.

This place was first settled by Samuel Libby, who was a grandson of John Libby, the immigrant and as an infant was carried to Portsmouth by his father when the settlers all fled at the outbreak of the second Indian war in 1630.

Samuel grew up in Kittery where his father had bought a farm and here Samuel fell in love with his pretty cousin, Mary, who was the oldest daughter and third of the fourteen children of his father's brother, Matthew.

Samuel and Mary were married and after living in Kittery for some years decided to remove to Scarborough where, about 1630, they bought and settled on the farm on which the fifth generation is now living.

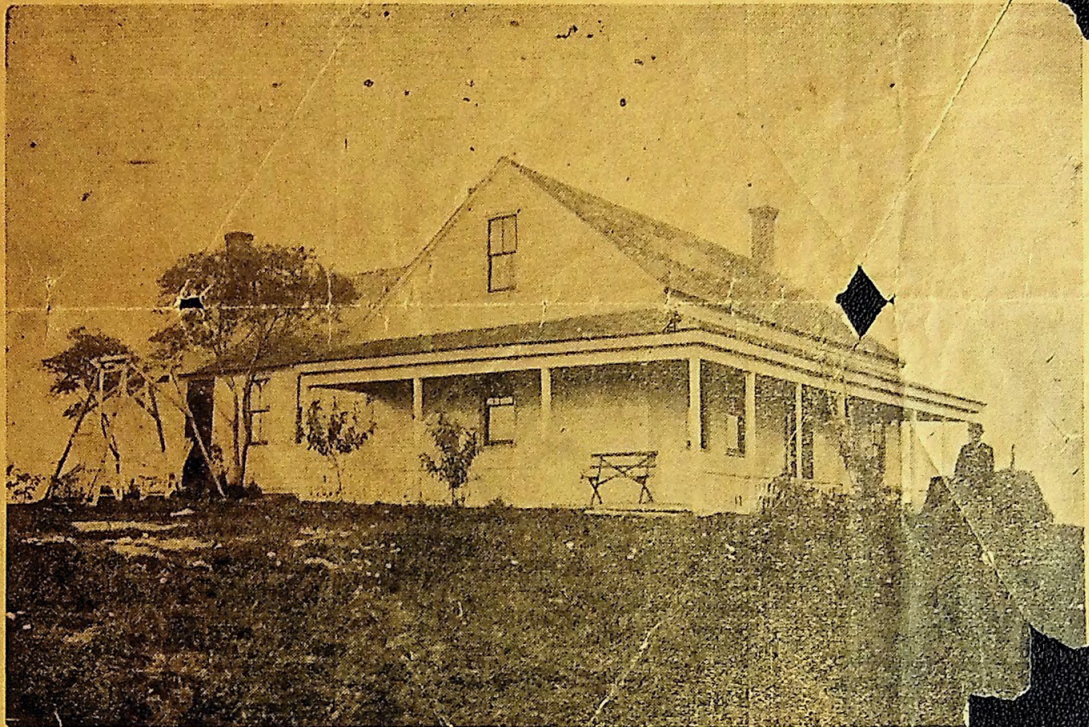
The original house, which was built by the first settler, is yet standing in good condition, being now used as the ell to the larger house, which was built much later.

Samuel, by thrift and good business ability, had accumulated at the time of his death the largest property in town. His will was made on the 6th of April, 1754, and after committing his body "to decent burial by his sons," he then expressed steadfast faith that he should receive it again at the general resurrection by the power of Almighty God.

The settler then proceeded to dispose of his extensive properties, that consisted of the homestead farm, 322 acres besides half a saw-mill, eight oxen, eight cows, four steers, four hieifers, one horse, one bull, 30 sheep, four swine, a clock, (which is yet in the house), one-eighth of a sloop, one-sixth and a sixteenth of a schooner, a pew in the meeting-house, and a black slave named Nimrod.

His "dearly beloved wife Mary" was given "the income of one-third, and one lower room in the house, and 4,000 feet of boards yearly from my saw-mill and three cows, six sheep and a yoke of oxen."

"My black man, Nimrod" was equally divided between his two sons, Samuel and Enoch, a course said to have been rarely followed in disposing of slaves by will.



THE LIBBY HOMESTEAD.

propensity to pass all his spare time in marshes and woods in search of bears, wolves, foxes, beavers and other smaller game, which was abundant in those times.

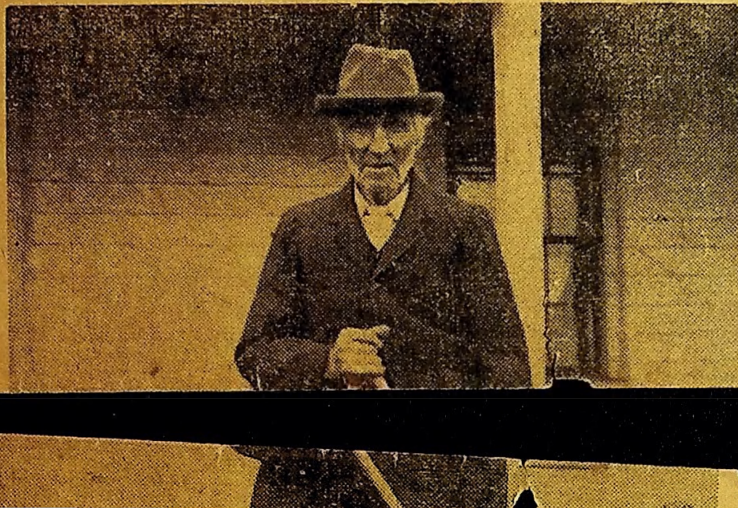
The slave never carried a gun as he could not learn to use one but depended on his trap and a huge axe.

His idea of a gun was like that of some of his ancestors found in Africa, merely to make a noise, and it is told that the last time he used a gun he rushed out of the house one bright moonlight night to shoot a bear that was prowling about the calf-pen, and blazing away brought down the greater part of a well-fattened flock of chickens that were roosting on the ridgepole of the building.

Nimrod's mental gifts were rather limited as will be gathered from the fact that "Mars Sam" always had to send one of the boys with him when he went to the woods after a load of wood because he would seldom think of turning the oxen before loading up. If he was set doing a piece of work he would generally keep on until he was called away.

## THE HOME FOR FIVE GENERATIONS

Samuel Libby's Descendents Have Lived on a  
Scarboro Farm for Almost Two Centuries—  
Stories of the Past.    ♣    ♣    ♣    ♣



considered a Jackson Democrat for when "Old Hickory" was expected to pass through Scarboro while on his New England tour his father took the three boys out to the road for the purpose of presenting them to the idol of the Scarboro Democrats.

All day long the father and the boys waited in vain and the grievous disappointment of the fathers of Scarboro in not being able to feast their eyes upon the features of the old hero is a matter of history, as is the fact that Jackson was said to have wept when informed that for three long days many of the faithful in the Democratic stronghold of Scarboro had been waiting by the roadside to see his face.

Manson and his wife, Hannah Jane, have had six children born to them, of whom William, the oldest son, continues on the farm and if he attains to the years of his fathers, the same family in direct descent from father to son will have been breaking their bread in the same room and under the same roof for over 200 years.

W. H. McLAUGHLIN.

001655

# ON THE ROAD TO SACO

## Stories of the Ancient Highway over Which the Electric Cars Will Run—The Turnpike across the Scarborough "Ma'sh"—Some Historic Houses—Bits of History Gray and Gay.

(Written for the Times by W. H. McLaughlin.)

The construction of the electric road through Scarborough over the old stage coach route, that run through from Boston to Portland naturally recalls some of the historical associations and old houses that has been the home of well known people in the past.

The road management has an undecided problem on its hands as to how they will lay their rails across the old turnpike which crosses the marshes just before Dunstan is reached. A roadbed that is constructed over a marsh is constantly sinking and the present level of the roadbed along much of the way is considerably lower, than the level of the marsh. It is understood that the company will drive piles and run their rails over them, a course that would involve considerable immediate expense but would probably be cheaper in the end.

The turnpike was built in 1798 by an association of proprietors comprising some of the richest and most active and influential citizens of Scarborough one hundred years ago and included Judge Southgate, William King our first governor, and his brother Richard, Joseph Emerson for many years a trader at Dunstan, Capt. Moses Libby, who lived on Oak Hill, where his grandson Alonzo Libby now lives, Seth Libby, who also lived on Oak Hill and was the father of Richard Libby, the present auditor and town agent of the town, Seth Storer, who was a lawyer and had his office on the stage road nearly opposite where Jacob Derry lives.

The greater part of the work was done by the Southgates who lived near and kept a large team and when completed it was considered a great enterprise in road building by our fathers. The Toll-House stood on the present land of Geo. S. Scamman about half way up the hill on the left side of the road, or nearly half way from the Southgate house to the marsh. The toll was two cents for a foot traveller, six and a quarter cents or a "fo-pencs-ha-penny" for a single team, double that for a two horse or ox team, and twenty-five cents for a coach of the stage line. The majority of the farmers in those days were not overburdened with even "fo-pence ha-pennies," and it is stated that many of them would go by the old route and climb Scottow's hill rather than pay the price.

It is related that one old farmer when "held up" by the gate-keeper for his fare wheeled his horse about, and started back to the old way with the remark "durn your short-cut, my old mare has been used to the old way for twenty years and she is good for a few more trips." But these penny saving tillers of the soil did not belong in Scarborough as no toll was charged in going from one part of Scarborough to another. The tolls paid good dividends to the original proprietors and their heirs for many years, though the continual settling of the road-bed required frequent raising, but gravel was cheap in those days and a gravel bed was not valued as high in Scarborough, as it sometimes is now.

Noah Pillsbury now living at Dunstan landing was the last toll gatherer, and collected the last fare from a belated traveller just as he was on the point of taking his books under his arm and closing up in the month of October, 1866, the franchises of the proprietors having been purchased by the town, and the road made a public way.

The old toll house was afterwards hauled to Dunstan and is yet standing as a part of the buildings of Chas. W. Roberts, the blacksmith, on the corner of the main road and the Old Orchard road.

There are a number of houses along the line of the old stage road that are sort of connecting links between the present and the past generations of the prominent families of Scarborough, for it is the characteristic of the habitations of man that if well cared for and barring lightning and fire, they endure long after the hand that built them have crumbled in the dust.

The most widely known is the Southgate house, that was built by Dr. Robert Southgate in 1803 from bricks made on his farm. The house was a number of years in being built, dating from the beginning of the making of the bricks to its entire completion, and one of the letters of Eliza Southgate, one of the daughters of the doctor, (who was in Boston at school at the time), expressed the hope, "that her father was getting along well with the new house."

The house was for many years the largest and most imposing private residence in town, and has entertained many of the leading citizens of the State, both during the Southgate occupancy and when it was afterwards the home of the late Seth Scammon. The writer well remembers when as a boy he was marching about in Republican torchlight processions, how grand the old house looked when it was illuminated from top to ground floor, the evening that the first election of Grant was celebrated at Dunstan by a torchlight parade and a clam stew and speeches at the old corn factory by the late Israel Washburn, and Newell A. Foster, then publisher of the Portland Daily Press.

The house where E. L. Waterhouse now lives is one of the oldest in town, and is remarkable for the number of physicians, who have lived under its broad roof. The house was commenced by Dr. Rice, who died before its completion, and has been occupied in turn by Drs. Bacon, Herriek, Horace and Alvin Bacon, Seth Larabee, Hewitt Fessenden, a brother of William Pitt Fessenden and others of a more recent date.

When Lafayette passed through Dunstan, 76 years ago last June, he stopped

in front of the house to shake hands with the solid citizens of Scarborough, after which he alighted from his "golden chariot," and accepted the invitation of Dr. Bacon to step into the house and bathe his face, as the hearty grips of the assembled patriots, who pressed about him "chariot" had raised the perspiration of the brow of the "friend of Washington." It is a tradition of the event that the doctor and his illustrious guest tarried longer than the waiting patriots thought necessary for so simple a matter as bathing his face, and when they appeared to wag in the crowd suggested, that possibly the old doctor had insisted on his guests having "suthin'" to rinse the sweat out of his throat.

The house that is now the residence of that genial citizen of Scarborough, Bartlett Pillsbury, has been built so many years that the memory of man runneth not back to the time. Here lived in the '40's the last man who sold liquor in Dunstan and who was mobbed by a delegation of the members of the order of "Temperance Watchmen" one of the first temperance organizations in the state. This man, Williams by name, kept the "Milliken Tavern" which has been recently fitted up and opened by Marshall E. Moulton as a summer hotel. The mob took Williams out of the hotel and hustled him about considerably and he left town shortly afterwards, but times have changed since then, for Marshall is a leading light in the "Good Templars," and the old

tavern, where so much liquor has been disposed is now a temperance hotel.

The first house before coming to the Dunstan school house when going toward Saco is known, as the Chadwick house, and is now occupied by farmer Laughton, who with his wife appear in the cut. Dunstan was incorporated as the 2d parish of Scarborough in 1758, and Parson Chadwick, who built the house, married the step-daughter of his predecessor, Parson Elvins, who was the first ordained minister of the parish.

It was of Parson Elvin's faithful mare that Richard King wrote the following touching lines, which are supposed to be the only poetry ever composed by a Scarborough bard, as the soil of the town never was fruitful of poets:

### PARSON ELVIN'S OLD MARE.

I.  
For twenty years the faithful steed,  
On which the gospel circuit rid,  
Three hundred miles from Peor to Salem,  
Yet ne'er complained like Ass of Baalam,

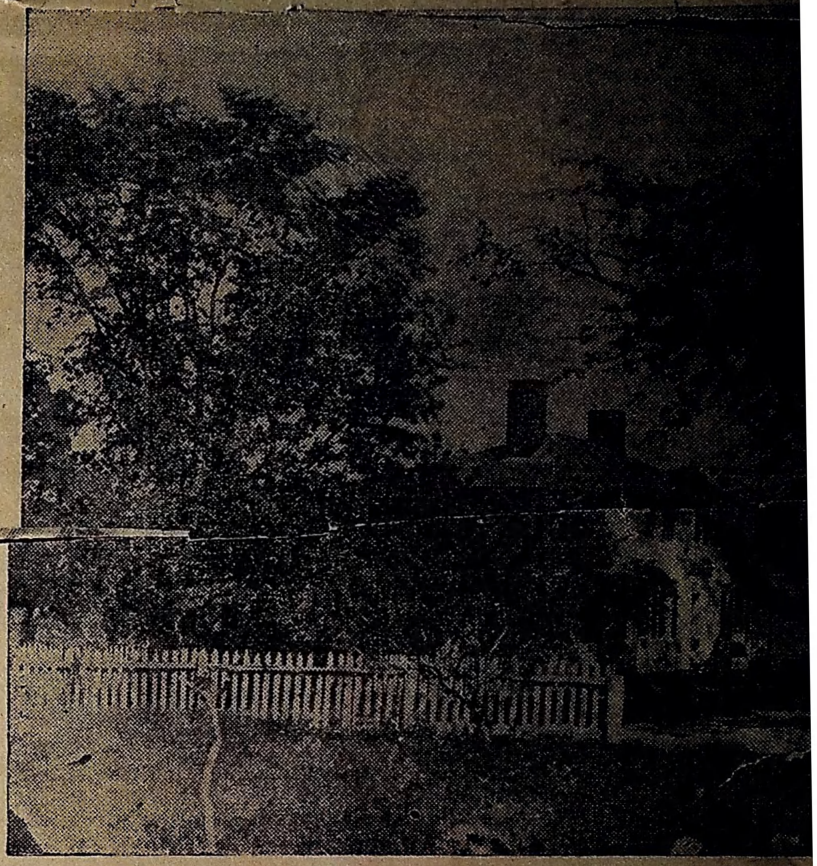
II.  
This annual circuit too beside,  
I came and went like constant tide,  
Where'er the call to pray or chide,  
Or Gossips did his time divide.

III.  
Till nature failed my lord and me,  
He could not ride, I could not see,  
His people gathered at his tent,  
He had no use for me now spent.

IV.  
For shoeing me in former day,  
The smith my body had in pay,  
Who destitute of grass or hay,  
Left me to perish in my way.

V.  
Thus thrown aside my skin was made,  
A scourge for every lazy jade,  
I do not mean the cloth to sulky,  
Although I died in Janup's Gully.

\* James Gully, Blue Point.  
Parson Chadwick was ordained and settled over the parish on the 15th of December, 1776, and continued to preach for eighteen years or until failing eyesight compelled him to resign, and to



RESIDENCE OF E. L. WATERHOUSE, ONE OF THE HISTORIC



THE SOUTHGATE MANSION.



THE PARSON CHADWICK HOUSE.

no ever saw any of his written poems, a number of which are in existence, they would furnish proof why his light failed him, for they are written so that it is almost impossible to read them without a magnifying glass though his orthography is uncommonly even and regular. If not now known in what place he built the house, but it is supposed to have been erected shortly after his

settlement. The oldest house in town and probably in the state, if it would be proper to speak of the Old Vaughan Garrison as a house, as the old garrison was entirely made over though much of the heavy oak timber and planks were used in the construction of the present house, is now occupied by Benjamin Kimball and stands some distance, from the old stage road where it is reached by a which leads from the main road one mile beyond Oak Hill.

The garrison house was built at the time of the breaking out of the Indian war in 1745 and his history of Scarborough describes the manner of its construction. There were four flanking but timbers, about sixteen feet

# LEWISTON JOURNAL

## MAGAZINE SECTION

LEWISTON, AUBURN, MAINE, Saturday, Dec. 3, 1955

12 PAGES

# Dorothy S. Libbey, Scarborough, Wrote Excellent Town History

By FAUNCE PENDEXTER

Books generally are written by individuals who feel compelled to write. Either they believe they have a story worth telling or have a desire to bring a phase of history into more accurate focus. So it is unusual to find a book published which was not the result of any intent on the author's part, but rather the outcome of what had amounted to a hobby.

Furthermore, in the case of this particular book it is all the more remarkable in view of the fact the volume deals with history, a subject which the writer of the volume disliked during her high school days. The book in question is "Scarborough Becomes a Town", and it was written by Dorothy Shaw Libbey.

As we sat in Mrs. Libbey's pleasant living room overlooking the not too distant waters of the Atlantic, she commented that she always had gone by the name of Mrs. Clark Libbey and still found it difficult to get used to having mail come to her as "Mrs. Dorothy Shaw Libbey". She said the publishers of the volume, Bond Wheelwright Co. of Freeport, considered it advisable for the book to be accredited to her as Dorothy Shaw Libbey.

### Native Of Biddeford

Mrs. Libbey was born in Biddeford and lived in that city until she was ten, when her family moved to Portland. Later the family moved again to Scarborough, and she graduated from Scarborough High School. She was married in 1926 to Clarke Libbey, who currently is serving as electrical foreman at the construction site of the new medical center for the Maine General Hospital in Portland.

The Libbys have three living children, Donald C. Libbey, their oldest son, died some six years ago. John, 25, is in the United States Air Force. He is stationed currently at Presque Isle and plans to make this branch of the service his lifetime career.

Nancy, 19 is working at the Maine General Hospital, while Karen, 15, entered Scarborough High School as a freshman this year.

From conversation about her family, we switched to talking about what led up to writing "Scarborough Becomes a Town." Mrs. Libbey frankly declares she didn't care for history while in school. She said this dislike prob-

able stemmed from her failure to apply herself to the subject and also to the tendency of old type history books to be dry and uninteresting.

### Not Enough Time

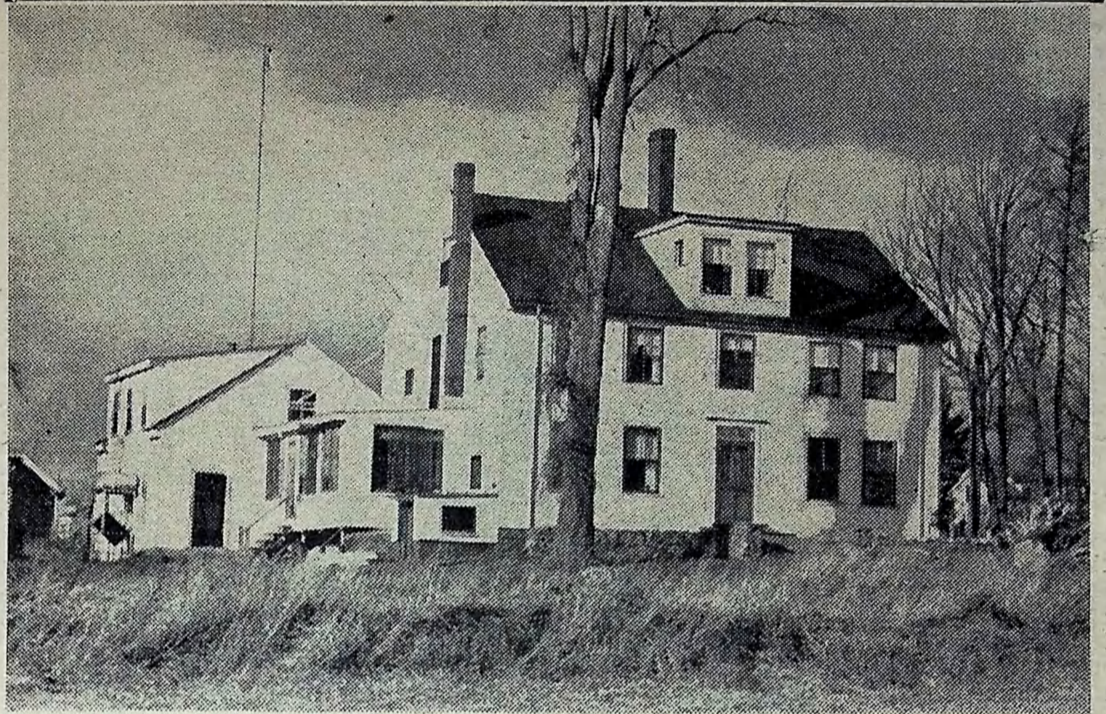
"I can see now that I didn't spend enough time in the study of history to become interested in it," she commented.

The Scarborough lady credited her keen interest in old houses with having started her on her career as a collector of historical data and eventually as a writer of a book centering upon the early history of a Maine town.

She said, "I always was fascinated by old houses. Somehow these old homes are history in a way."

When the Libbey family outgrew their small home, they looked around for a larger one. Finally they found the one in which they are living today. This large, old home is located on what generally is known as the Portland Farms Road. It is one of the oldest homes in the area, dating back somewhere around 1800. The actual date of construction is not known.

Mrs. Libbey has searched diligently for information which would peg the date, but despite intensive re-



**THE LIBBEY HOME**—This large dwelling is one of the oldest homes in Scarborough, having been built around 1800. Interest in those who owned this house prior to its purchase by the Libbey's led Mrs. Libbey to delve into historical data which eventually resulted in the writing of her book, "Scarborough Becomes a Town".

search has been unable to unearth anything definite about it.

Looking up old deeds concerning their own property, however, produced results of another kind. She said this caused her to become interested in the families which had owned the building.

### Exhaustive Study

She explained, "I found myself eagerly seeking to find out all I could about those families. How many members there were in the family, how many animals they owned, what they did and so on."

The property upon which the Libbey home is situated has much history connected with it. The original deed of land totaled 2,000 acres and it was given to Rev. Robert Jordan back in 1645. The land went to the pastor upon the death of his father-in-law, John Winter.

Mrs. Libbey said she commenced gathering material some 25 years ago. She said, "I had no idea at that time of utilizing this material in a book. It was farthest from my thoughts. I simply was engaged in doing something which interested me."

Asked how the idea of developing the material into a format suitable for a book came about, she credited her husband, her mother and friends with having inspired the successful attempt.

"They kept asking me why I didn't tie in all the data I had at hand and write a history of the town, so finally I decided to attempt it," she said. Mrs. Libbey said she worked on the book for about a year before taking the manuscript to Bond Wheelwright.

### No Writing Experience

On this point she concluded, "Frankly I cannot get over it. I never thought I could write and never had the urge to write. It amazes me how well the project went, for I never had done any writing, nor did I have any knowledge regarding the proper method of doing research."

Those who have read Mrs. Libbey's book wouldn't guess that she lacked background knowledge of research methods. Her history of Scarborough, which covers the period from 1658 to the mid-1800's, carries the feeling of absolute authenticity. Furthermore, she has been able to get away from the old time manner of writing town histories. Here is no dry as dust material, but a document accounting for the way people lived in the old days, with many of the early settlers brought back to flesh and blood existence. Perhaps the answer to the en-

thusiastic response given her book is to be found in the fact that Mrs. Libbey dealt with the universals which would apply with only the slightest variance to any Maine towns back in pre-Revolutionary War days and the first half of the 19th century.

### The Content

She writes of old houses, early customs, the way housewives did things, the problems imposed by inclement weather conditions, fires and the like. All of this is within the experience of Maine towns generally, so the reader of "Scarborough Becomes a Town" realizes immediately that excepting for the difference in the names of pioneers and the actual time of certain events the book is as applicable to their own community as it is to Scarborough.

Actually Mrs. Libbey has achieved more than the writing of a town history. She has reproduced for her readers the actual way life was lived in the Pine Tree State from the earliest days to the advent of the Victorian era.

Proof of the success of her approach to history is given by the fact she has received many letters commending her book.

Mrs. Libbey admitted she is an enthusiastic collector of historical data and has, through her research, much material which didn't appear in her book. For example, she has much information on the Indians which inhabited the Scarborough sector at the time of first settlement. She said the Indian data was left out of the book because much had been written on this subject by other writers.

The Scarborough lady has all sorts of early records. It was her practice to copy various types of records wherever she went. She has a complete set of cemetery records pertaining to Scarborough. This material she obtained by visiting the different cemeteries and copying down the inscriptions on tombstones. She has given sets of cemetery books both to the Maine Historical Society in Portland and to the Scarborough public library.

### Other Towns

She commented, "I found out one thing, you cannot do research on one town without finding yourself involved with data concerning other towns. Why, just marriages alone occasion this interplay of events between communities."

During the course of her research she has uncovered much unusual data. It is difficult to believe in this day and age, but Mrs. Libbey noted that one of the major dangers in the early days of

settlement was represented by hungry wolf packs roaming the seacoast area.

Her material of course included exhaustive facts concerning Scarborough schools, churches and town meetings. She also found much of interest concerning Maine's first governor, William King, who was a native of the town. Among her prized possessions is a set of keys from the King mansion on the Landing Road at Dunstan.

She also has a piece of the wedding dress of King's half sister Mary, who married Dr. Robert Smithgate in Dunstan. The dress was woven from flax grown in the area.

Mrs. Libbey has a round stone which was used by the Indians to pulverize things. With this she and her family succeeded in grinding hemlock bark and making a form of baby powder used by the red men. She said the Indians regarded this hemlock powder as exceptionally healing.

### Came from Maine

She commented that probably few people realize that many of the fine old oaks associated with England actually had a Maine parentage. She explained that bushels of acorns were shipped across the Atlantic for planting in England.

While the Scarborough lady has collections of buttons and stamps, she is most interested in a small collection of dolls. There are only nine of them, but each is dressed in a fashion 100 per cent authentic for given periods. Her mother, Mrs. Louise Gibbs Shaw, who lived in Turner for a number of years but who has made her home with the Libbys for the past, does all the sewing for the dolls.

Her interest in dolls began only a year and a half ago. An elderly woman gave her an antique doll and this was the start of her col-

Continued on Page Seven-A, Col 3



**WITH TWO OF HER DOLLS**—Dorothy Shaw Libbey of Scarborough is pictured here with two of the dolls in her collection which are tied in with individuals who actually lived in the town many years ago. The doll on the right is the one Miss Pauline Huston of Scarborough gave her and which she had named Hannah, after Hannah Pritchard, who had come to Scarborough on horseback as a bride. The black mammy doll Mrs. Libbey had made to represent Hannah's colored maid.

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her work that she cannot find the time to make "extra" dolls. Each year, about this time, Mrs. Rich makes a solemn promise to her husband, THIS year she will not work herself into a last minute rush. When the work becomes so piled up she will simply tell people she can do just so much and no more. She will make sure that she will not be exhausted when Christmas Day arrives.

Some year she is going to keep that promise, but it won't be THIS year. Mrs. Rich, like Mrs. Santa, works right up to the very last minute getting dolls ready for the Christmas Eve trip.

And she is repaid each year by knowing, on Christmas morning, she has done her very best to make sure that every little girl in these two cities who asked for and dreamed of a doll for Christmas is going to wake up and find that Santa Claus came by and left a doll just for her.

## Dorothy S. Libbey

Continued from Page 1A

lection. Since then she has had some dolls made especially for her by a California firm. These dolls represent some of the people mentioned in her book and are attired in clothing representative of their day.

She is particularly fond of a doll named Hannah. This was given her by Miss Pauline Huston of Scarborough, and was a doll Miss Huston had as a child and had named after one of her ancestors.

Hannah Pritchard, a member of the famous Whittier family of Massachusetts. Hannah Pritchard came to Scarborough on horseback as a bride. With her came a colored mammy, and Mrs. Libbey has a doll representing her.

### Capt. Small

An example of this was a doll representing Capt. John Small, who was first surveyor with the Benedict Arnold expedition. It was a fatal trip for Small, who was shot when mistaken for a bear as a result of his wearing fur head gear. She also has a doll replica of Mrs. Small, who was noted for her beauty.

She has nine dolls, and all of them are what she terms "character" dolls. Mrs. Libbey seeks to keep the dolls around 16 inches in height. She is interested in historical replicas rather than number.

Other items collected by Mrs. Libbey include old wallpaper, a bit of the paint used by the famous Red Paint people who once inhabited these shores, and two silver spoons that belonged to the first baby girl born in the town of Gray, one Ruth Stevens who was born in 1764 and who was a direct ancestor of Mrs. Libbey's.

Mrs. Libbey said she still is interested in old houses and is continuing to gather information about them. She also is looking into such things as how the early settlers secured their materials for painting. Among other things she discovered that some of the paint was made from clam shells, actual-

ly not so much a paint as a form of whitewash. The settlers also used clay to obtain different colors, with skim milk utilized as a mixing agent.

### Other Work

When one looks at the many notebooks filled with painstakingly copied records and notations, it is hard to conceive how Mrs. Libbey has found time to do anything else. Yet she has as proved by the many lovely hooked and braided rugs which grace her home and all sorts of fancy work, knitting and crocheting.

With respect to her book, Mrs. Libbey said she wanted to give much credit to Miss Emeline K. Paige who handled the work of editing it. Miss Paige now is editor of the weekly New York City newspaper, "The Villager."

Does she plan to write another book? Mrs. Libbey replied that she has no such plans at the moment. She declared, "As a matter of fact I haven't given that idea any thought. I'm still collecting items of historical interest and probably always shall do this."

At any rate, the Scarborough lady has succeeded through "Scarborough Becomes a Town" in bringing back other decades, and this in itself is no small achievement.

Best individual effort in Ivy League football was the game Reds Bagnell of Penn played against Dartmouth in 1950. The halfback made 450 yards.

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# Tearful Painter Smiles After Rebirth Of Scarborough House

PAINT DEALERS don't recommend it—but Mrs. Romeo Clark didn't use turpentine to thin her housepaint.

### She used tears.

Back in the fall of '56, when the Clarks had just bought the century-old Daniel Merrill house on the Pine Point Rd., Scarborough, and they were trying to make the ancient and badly beaten house liveable, she was pretty discouraged.

BUT SHE had an incentive. Daughter Carolyn Clark, 17, wanted to have a New Year's party for fellow Scarborough highschoolers.

Let's tear down that partition between the kitchen and dining room, and make a big family room out of it," suggested Carolyn.

"Hmmm, it would make a nice big kitchen," mused her mother.

But Carolyn, and younger brother, Roger, 13, had a better use planned for the room.

Dancing!  
So Mr. and Mrs. Clark, with no previous experience in carpentry, painting or papering, ordered lumber, nails, paint and sandpaper.

"WE MUST have used tons of sandpaper," estimates Mrs. Clark, now justifiably proud of the completed family room.

With the help and advice of her father, Clyde Carter, Scarborough carpenter, the old house was reborn.

Clapboards hanging dismally askew on outside walls were nailed down, then painted charcoal gray, by Clark. The neat white trim was accented by cheery red doors.

"Kitchen decor reflects the farmers in us," chuckles Mrs. Clark, adding that the family formerly lived in Aroostook County.

BUT THE color scheme in Carolyn's and Roger's bedrooms definitely reflects the youngsters, since each selected his own colors.

Carolyn has yellow ceiling and walls, with accents of gray in the painted floor and drapes. Her maple desk matches the bedroom set. And there's plenty

of room for her drums, too, in the spacious room.

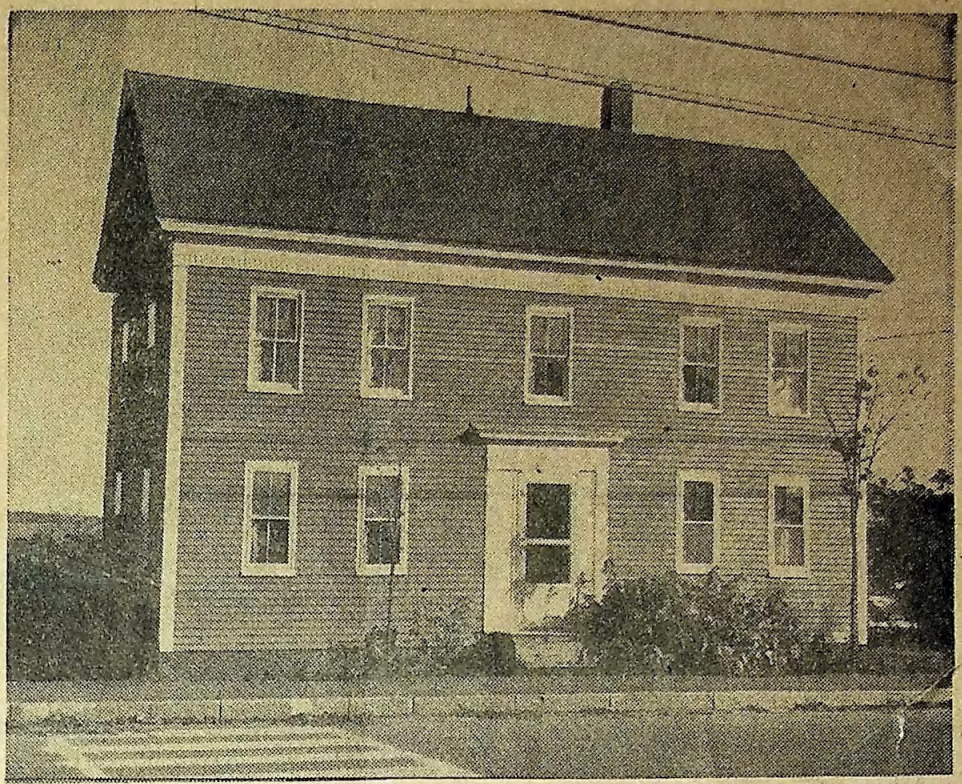
Roger selected maroon and pink as his color scheme. Pink walls and ceiling, and a maroon chenille bedspread are a subtle foil for the school banners, papers and weird beach-excursion momentos—he has mounted on the walls. His bedroom overlooks the Dunstan River—and the wild ducks get a treat when Roger practices on his trumpet.

MRS. CLARK, who serves as president of the Scarborough

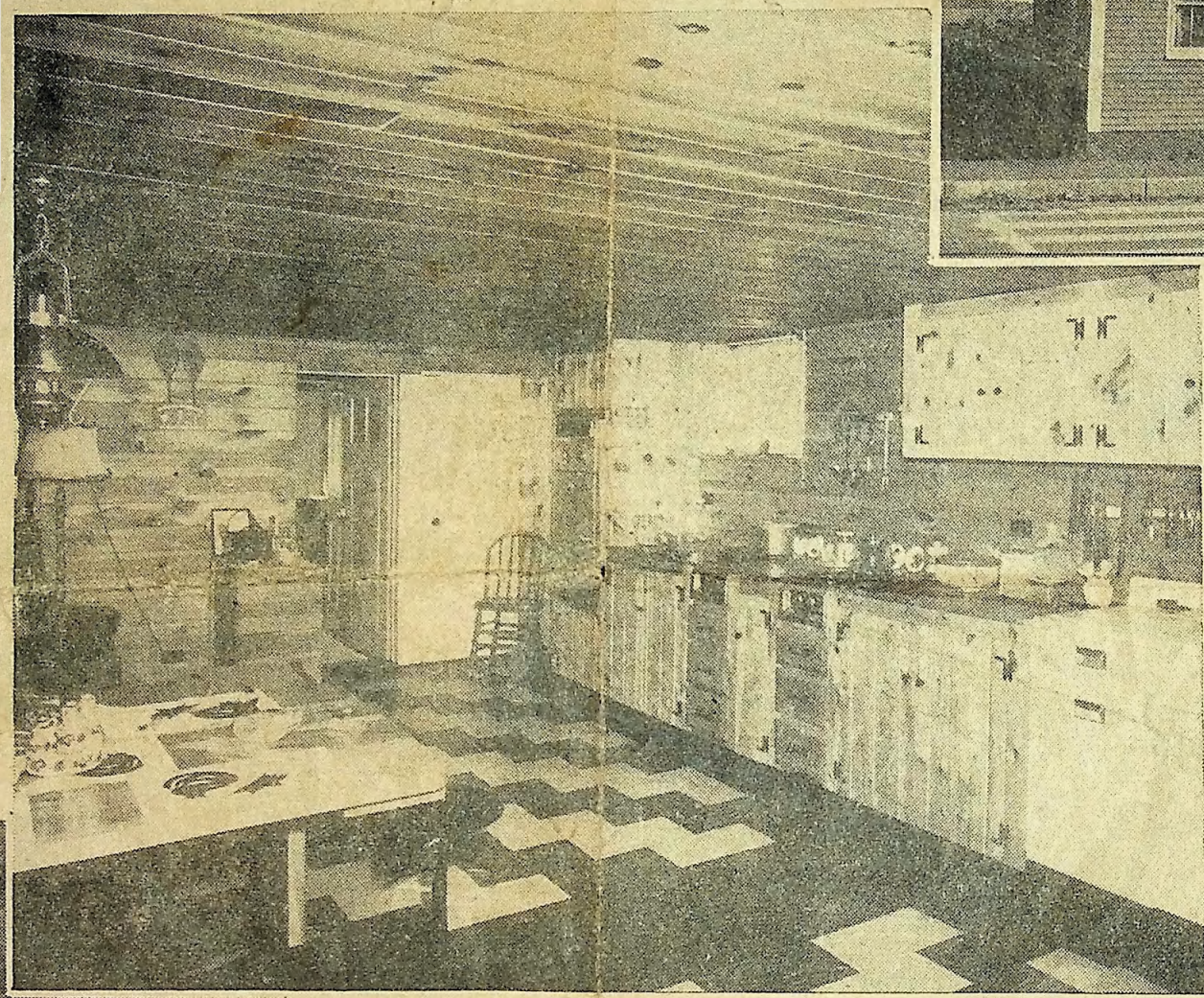
Music Club and the PTA-sponsored Youth Canteen, is active in other community civic projects as well.

But now that the kitchen-party room redecoration is past history, (she did get it done in time for that New Year's party, too) Mrs. Clark is planning to tackle yet another renovating project with the help of her husband who is now working out of state and only gets home on weekends.

ONLY THIS time, she'll use turpentine!



The century-old Romeo Clark home on the Pine Point Rd., Scarborough, is painted charcoal gray with white trim and bright red doors. The windows in the back of the house overlook the Dunstan River and Scarborough marshes.



The mellow tones of the knotty pine walls, ceiling, cabinets and counter tops in the Clark kitchen are enlivened with touches of brass, wrought iron and stainless steel. The hanging lamp over the table is brass, the wrought iron H and L hinges on the cabinets provide a black accent, and the built-in oven and broiler (center, rear) and counter-top cooking area are of glistening stainless steel. The matchstick cafe curtains reflect the natural decor, and a comfortable day bed, upholstered in bright red, (against the wall, to the left of the picture) is just the place to relax with a good book while dinner is baking. A refrigerator and a freezer are at the other end of the spacious kitchen.



The sturdy pine planks of this dining table in the cheery kitchen of the Clark home need only an occasional sanding to enhance their natural beauty. The hay rake seats, with discs from an Aroostook disc harrow for a base, were constructed so they will swivel, and are cushioned with foam rubber pillows in varied colors. (Photos by Staff Photographer Morrison)

# Scarborough Beach House, Once A Retreat, Became Year-Round Home

Mr. and Mrs. Roderick B. Littlefield, Kirkwood Rd., had their home built three years ago by two men who constructed it in their spare time. Originally planned as a cabin; it turned out so beautifully that the Littlefields decided to make it their permanent home, and so left their former South Portland location.

BEAUTIFULLY situated on a rise above the sea; it commands a spectacular view both to the north and south. The land slopes gently from the road and the Littlefields have developed a sweeping lawn and flower beds.

One of the most popular rooms in the house is the basement recreation room. (Mrs. Littlefield is shown relaxing in it, at right). This is done in oak with flooring of beige and brown. The rugs and several chairs pick up these tones; while the drapes and divan covering are aqua, green and white.

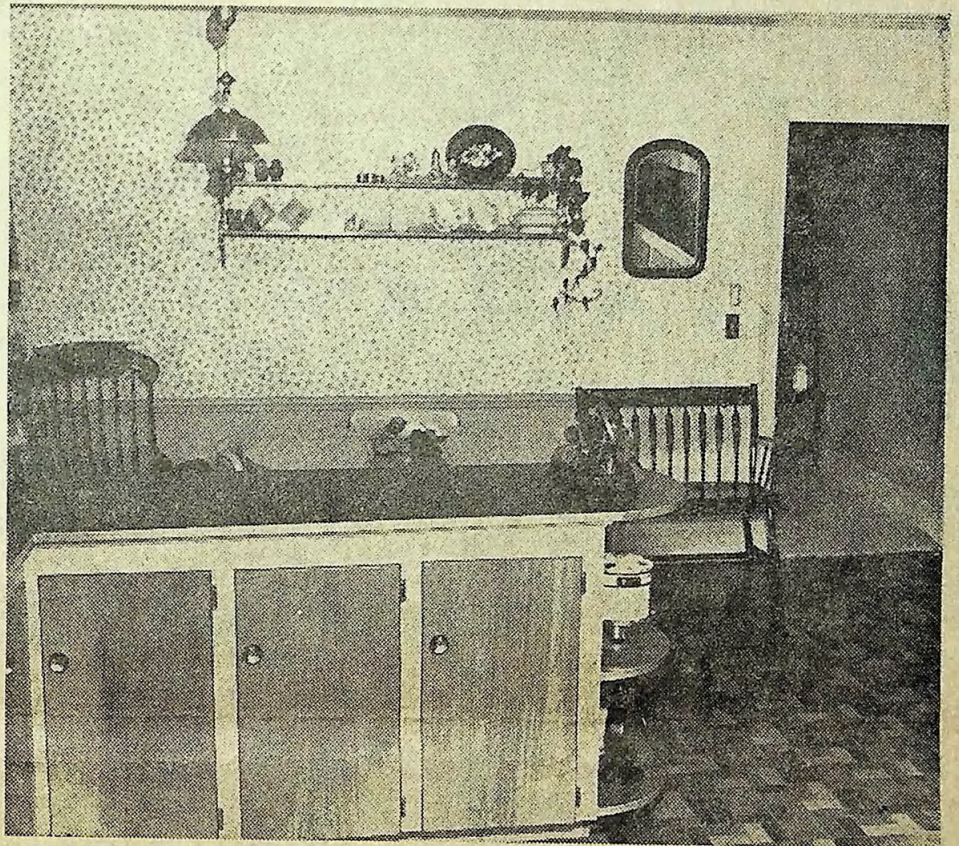
THE LITTLEFIELDS are joined by the families of Dr. Louis A. Asali and Dr. Daniel M. Rowe



in their year round stay. There are three other houses in the area occupied only in summer.

"It is never lonesome here, though," declares Mrs. Littlefield, "there's so much going on. We have all kinds of birds; beautiful walks; in fact, I walk on the beach all winter long."

The kitchen of the Littlefields (at right) has light-cabinets; the flooring done in rust, brown and beige. The dining wall has bright aqua, white and silver; the table top matching. Through the doorway may be seen the fine old what-not in the hall.



The recreation room also houses part of the gun col-

Allen Sr. of Bridgton are

lection of Mr. Littlefield mounted in a recessed section of the wall. An ardent hunter and fisherman, he snowshoes if necessary to hunt rabbits all winter long.





June - 28 - 1965



### Prout's Neck House Destroyed

Top photo shows the inferno which today razed the luxurious summer home of Gerald C. Holbrook at Prout's Neck, Scarborough. Chimney on the right toppled seconds after the picture was taken.

That's the estate swimming pool at lower right. At bottom firemen cool down the bottled gas tank truck which exploded to touch off the spectacular blaze. (By Staff Photographer Morrison)

# Fire Levels \$100,000 Prout's Neck Cottage

SCARBOROUGH — A luxury 12-room cottage at Prout's Neck, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald R. Holbrook of Hobe Sound, Fla., was destroyed by fire today after a propane gas truck exploded while making a delivery. Loss was estimated at least \$100,000.

Dwight E. Smith, 44 Edgeworth Ave., Portland, driver of the truck owned by Suburban Propane Gas Corp., was taken to the Maine Medical Center by the Scarborough Rescue Unit. He suffered burns about the face and arms.

Firemen from South Portland and Scarborough were hampered in fighting the blaze by lack of water pressure. The area is serviced by two-inch water mains.

The Holbrook estate, one of the more luxurious in the exclusive Prout's Neck summer colony, is connected to the main highway by two narrow dirt roads.

NEARBY RESIDENTS said they heard three explosions similar to sonic booms.

Personnel at the emergency room at the Maine Medical Center said Smith told them

he smelled gas as he was making a delivery to a tank on the Holbrook property. He said he moved to the truck to shut off the gas when the first explosion came.

Flames immediately spread to the house. It was a roaring inferno when Scarborough firemen arrived.

A second alarm was sounded and apparatus from South Portland was called to the scene. Other apparatus from Cape Elizabeth helped cover at the Oak Hill and Central Stations in Scarborough.

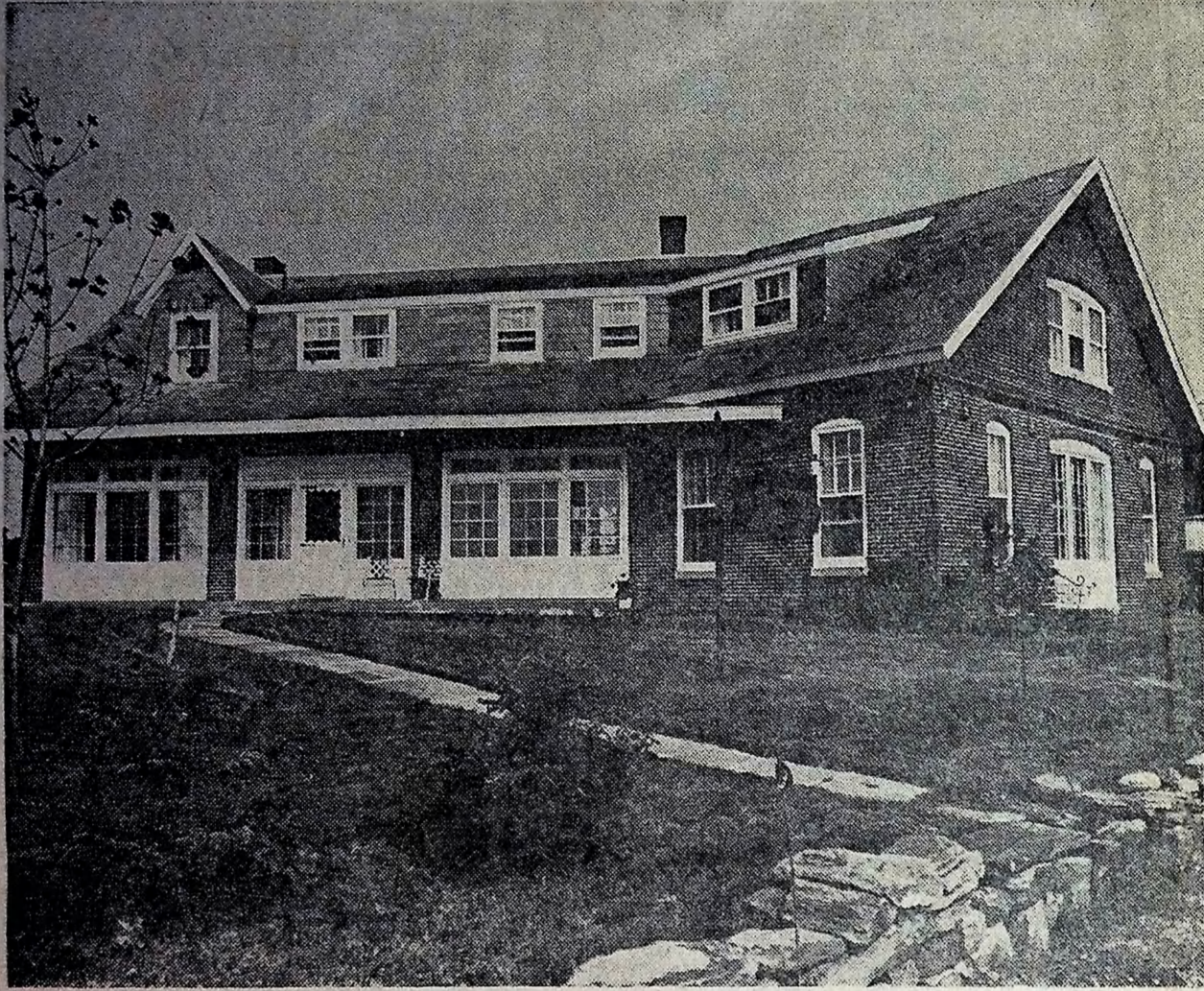
THERE WAS NO immediate indication whether anyone was

at home at the time. The estate is located on the oceanside, some distance behind Black Point Inn.

The Holbrooks have been summer residents of Prout's Neck for many years. They had begun living in the place for the season and are now staying with Raymond W. Lapham, a neighbor.

Although the column of smoke was observable for more than a mile, it was insignificant compared to the fire. The roaring inferno made the heat almost unbearable 50 yards upwind and vegetation at that distance shriveled. The central column of flame crackled upward to a height of about 75 feet.

The frame building itself was valued by the Town of Scarborough at \$42,000 for tax purposes and was richly furnished. Nothing was salvaged. Firemen kept adjoining cottages from catching fire, aided by the wind, which blew the flames away from surrounding property.



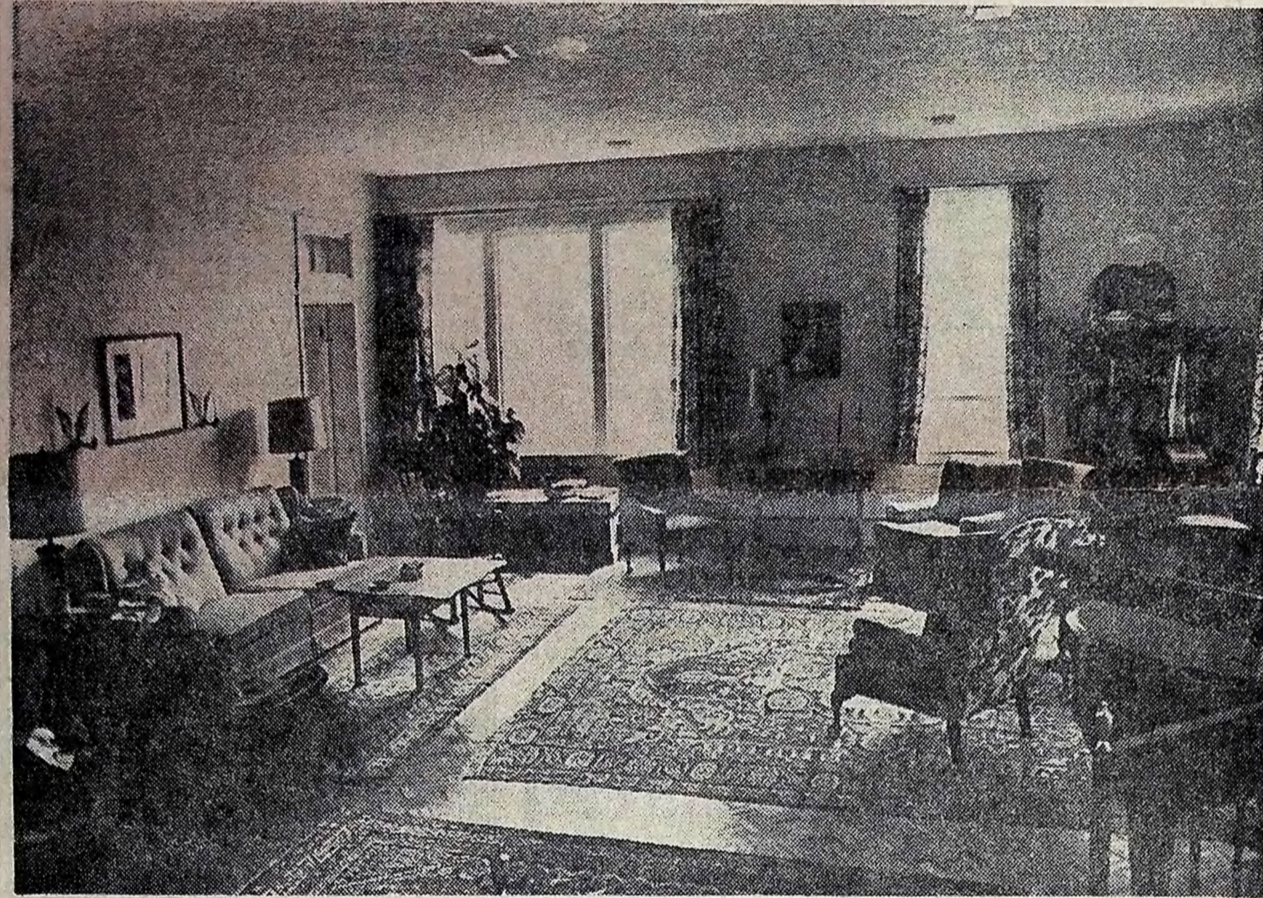
AT PROUT'S NECK, Scarborough, with the sea only a few feet away from the fieldstone wall in the foreground, is the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Cluney. It was built in 1909 and used until recent years as a barn and garage with rooms overhead to house 11, usually occupied in the summer by chauffeurs employed by local families. Large garage doors on the front and side were replaced with

banks of windows and the front door, but the other windows are original. Upstairs bedrooms were enlarged and the room with the raised dormer at left, which extends the width of the house is used as a private sitting room by Mrs. Cluney's mother, Mrs. George O. Flaws, who makes her home with them. Cluney is in charge of advertising and public relations for the Bangor Daily News in southern Maine.

Beautiful Home:

*First, You Take An Old Barn, And Then.....*

SPACIOUS FOYER, where Mrs. Cluney is pictured at the foot of the gracefully curved staircase, is carpeted in off white to match mortar used in the brick wall which extends to the second floor. This wall and stairway and a chimney and fireplace were the only major structural changes made during the renovation project, which took a year to complete. Original steel beams were left in place, and because there is no cellar, a utility room for an oil-fired furnace was made on the second floor. The arched doorway leads to a hall between the dining room and den. The wall hanging is a silk prayer rug.



ORIENTAL RUGS used in the formal living room add a colorful touch to the large area which has white brick walls except for the sofa wall of white plaster which is backed by a powder room, laundry and rear hall and entrance. This room, which is large enough to dwarf the baby grand piano at

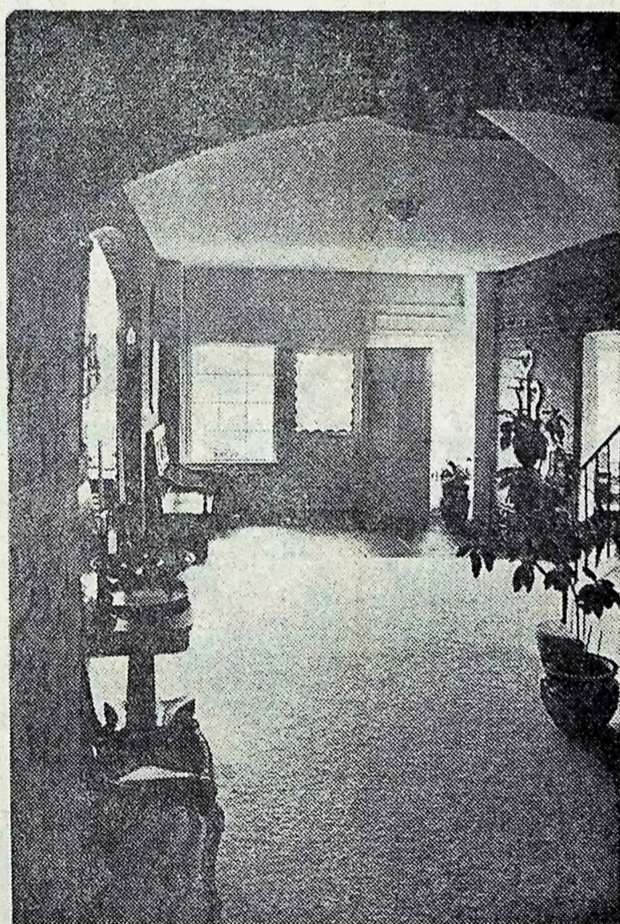
right, is sunken, but actually at the original floor level — floors in other rooms surrounding it have been raised. Oak parquet flooring is used here and in other formal rooms throughout the house, which also feature Oriental rugs. Drapes are of a floral linen in shades of brown and tan.



ANTIQUES used in the dining room provide a dramatic contrast to stark white brick walls. A storage area for silver flatware and linens is only a step away in the kitchen, and modeled after a butler's pantry. The area rug in this room is a rose pink and a deeper tone of the color is used in the draw drapes.



THE LIBRARY, with its fireplace and comfortable chairs, is where the Cluneys serve after dinner coffee. Draw drapes are of tan silk with a formal pattern in green. Note the intricate parquet floor bordering the Oriental rugs.

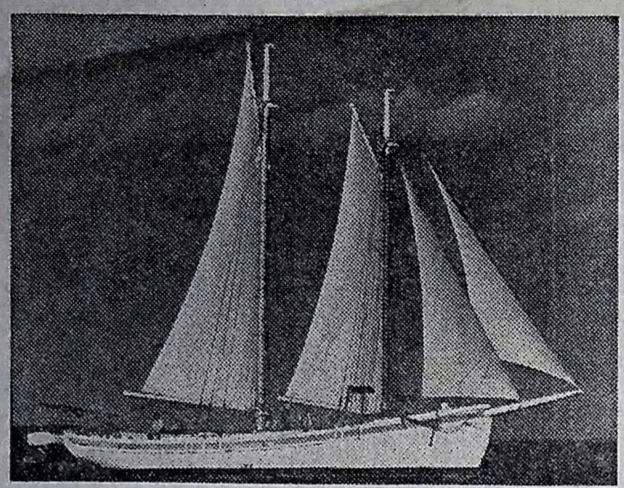


THE FRONT DOOR of the Cluney home is opened often as her daughters Mrs. H. Davison Osgood Jr., and Mrs. Patricia Perry, and four Cluney grandchildren live nearby. Note the flagstone flooring by the door.



THE HOSTESS is never out of earshot of family or guests as she prepares one of the gourmet meals for which she's noted in this large, functional kitchen which is separated from the living room by a wrought iron railing. The center island contains two ovens, a cooktop, two sinks and a dishwasher. There's another sink and an icemaker in a long counter out of the picture at right. Not seen at left is a built in grill and the butler's pantry storage area. Cabinets are of driftwood and countertops are white.

Photos by Staff Photographer Charles H. Merrill, Jr.  
Text by Hazel Loveitt, Women's Editor



INSIDE

A teacher and a nurse have turned Portland's old pilot boat, left, into an adventure . . . Page 11C.

South Portland councilman's wife puts crafts to work . . . Page 3C.

What's the story on trash compactors? . . . Page 9C.

# Family

Bridal Album

Starts on Page 5C.

## Two Heritages Join Hands Here



By NANCY TABER  
Staff Writer

When the Robert Platts ". . . decided to try a new frontier"—by moving from California to Maine—they began their venture in a 210-year-old home in Scarborough.

"My husband stepped through the back door and said, 'I want it.'"

The Portland lawyer's immediate infatuation with the historic home made Annelise Platt a little nervous, she admits, because ". . . we hadn't even seen the rest of the house."

But, after they'd seen it all, Robert Platt didn't have to urge his wife to agree this was the place they wanted to bring up their son and daughter.

That was three years ago. Torben, now 14, and Kirsten, 10, and their many pets take full advantage of the home's spacious rooms and the three acres which surround it.

The main part of the house was restored, and an ell and garage added by the late Harry Knight, so the Platts had no major structural work to do when they purchased the home. They did, however, make some changes such as adding closets in upstairs bedrooms.

Mrs. Platt smiles as she explains Mr. Knight couldn't bear to do anything that wasn't authentic. But she feels the old will have to learn to live with the new. She does not believe in denying the family reasonable comforts to keep things as they were more than 200 years ago.

DANISH by birth, Mrs. Platt came to this country when she and Robert married 15 years ago. She brought with her much of the furniture which has filled their various homes. When additional pieces were needed, she sent to Denmark for them. And this was the furniture which arrived from California to furnish this antique house.

Had Annelise Platt not been a student for four years at Schaeffer School of Design in San Francisco, she might have been floored by the prospect of combining the two heritages. As it was, she met the challenge with enthusiasm.

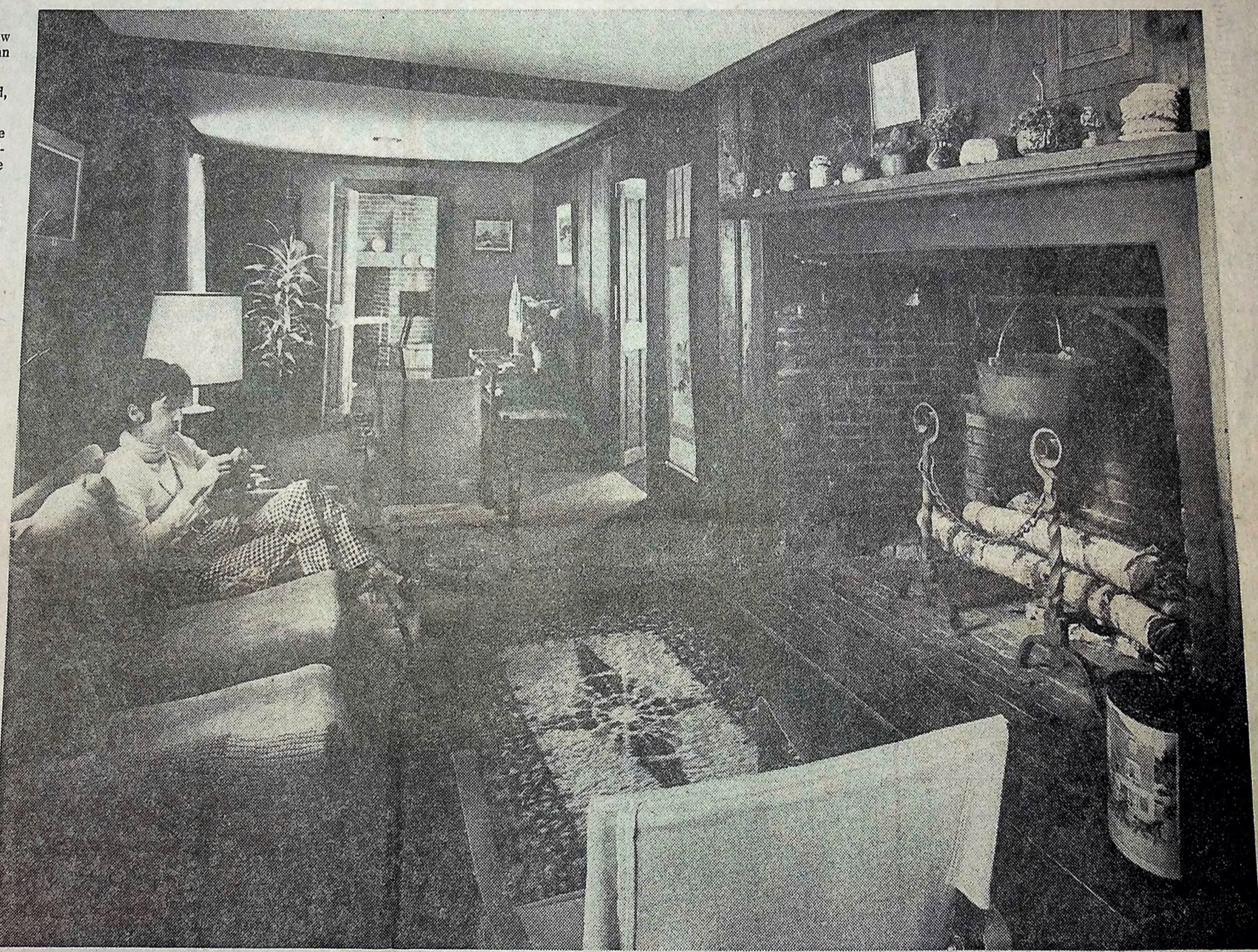
She laughs at the expression of amazement she notes when people step into the old-fashioned kitchen and find it furnished with a modern, white pedestal table.

"I just happen to like the way that table looks with my Danish chairs," she says.

And that's the way it is all through the house. With a touch that is independent as well as nostalgic, Annelise has personalized the old dwelling behind its stockade fence.

MANY OF the rugs and wall hangings have been made by her deft fingers. So have curtains and window shades. When she wanted fishnet curtains for the upstairs playroom, she fashioned them from two strands of yarn—one cotton, one nylon—and a crochet hook. She explains the two strands are necessary so the curtains won't sag. The cotton gives softness; nylon prevents stretching.

She also molds pottery in original designs and uses the



FAMILY ROOM — Mrs. Robert D. Platt often knits in front of the huge fireplace in the room which once was the kitchen of this 210-year-old Scarborough home. Through the open door can be seen the fireplace of the well equipped kitchen in the new ell. Of the seven fireplaces in the home, Mrs. Platt says

this one has the best draft and gives off the most heat. The family found the unusual andirons, badly rusted, in a second-hand shop and rejuvenated them. Paneling in this room was stripped but not sanded, to preserve the original finish.

STAFF PHOTOS BY WALTER H. ELWELL

Please turn to Page 13C

# Home Destroyed As Forest Fire Hazard Rises

SCARBOROUGH — One oceanfront home was destroyed and a second heavily damaged in a general alarm fire on Winslow Homer Road at Prouts Neck Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the forest fire danger in southern Maine rose from "very high" to "extreme" in Thursday's warm, dry weather, according to District 1 Forest Ranger Donald Cox of Alfred.

Fanned by a strong onshore wind, the Scarborough fire leveled the \$150,000 summer residence of Mrs. George Putnam of Pennsylvania, fire officials said.

The roof, attic and one side of an adjacent house owned by Mrs. William Day, also of Pennsylvania, were swept by flames, causing an estimated \$80,000 damage.

The three-story wooden homes were unoccupied and had been closed since last summer.

One fireman, Steve Bennett of Engine Company 7, was treated by a local physician for a badly cut nose and several others were treated at the scene for minor cuts and bruises.

Fire Chief Michael Anton said a grass fire of unknown origin initiated the general alarm blaze, which was reported at 1:20 p.m.

Some persons in the area reported seeing young people smoking on rocks on the shore near the homes. Anton ruled out arson.

Anton said the Putnam home was engulfed in flames when fire fighters arrived.

Neighbors reportedly hurried to carry furniture from the first floor of the Day house while firemen fought the blaze upstairs. The furniture was stored in a nearby garage.

Firemen were hampered by a lack of water supply Anton said. They could tap into only one fire hydrant installed within the last six weeks and a small water line to the summer home area which recently was turned on for the season.

Anton said the fire could have been much more extensive without the new hydrant.

Firemen also were occupied extinguishing four or five spot grass fires near the houses.

Seven engine companies, one from South Portland, a ladder company, a tank truck and two rescue units surrounded the fire scene.

Units from Saco, Old Orchard Beach, Gorham, South Portland and Cape Elizabeth covered at local fire stations for the busy firemen.

Cox said a half dozen other communities in the region reported grass fires which got out of control for a time during the day.

About 500 acres have been burned in 50 to 60 such fires in the southernmost forest district in the last two weeks. Two large fires in Westbrook and Biddeford accounted for more than 450 acres of the area.

Cox said most of the problem fires are started by persons burning brush or grass without a permit.

Permits are required from local wardens, usually fire chiefs or deputies connected with fire departments, for all such fires unless the ground is covered with snow.

Cox said many fires burn out of control now because the ground is so dry. The last rain in the area was April 8, and that was only about a quarter of an inch.

Dryness is common at this time of year because the absence of leaves and grass favors evaporation. Cox said this spring has been drier than most.

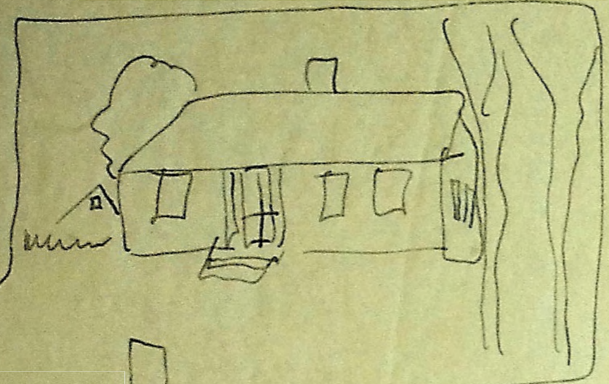


Smoke rises from the ruins of Scarborough general alarm fire. (Staff Photo by Bill Curran Jr.)

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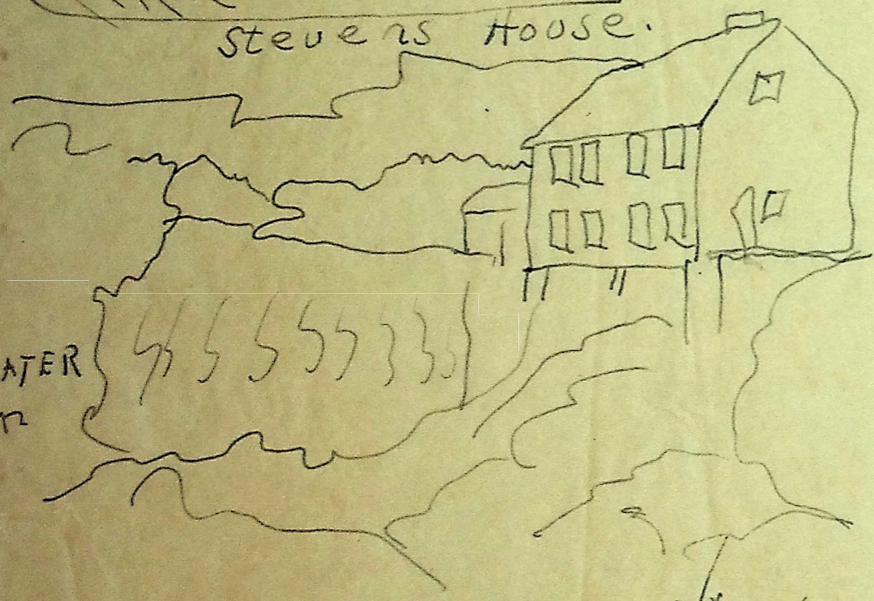


Patrick House.

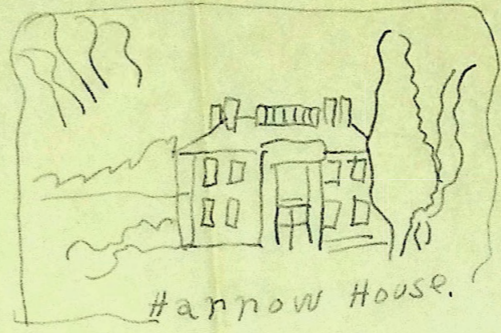


Stevens House.

grist mill  
AT  
STROODWATER  
River



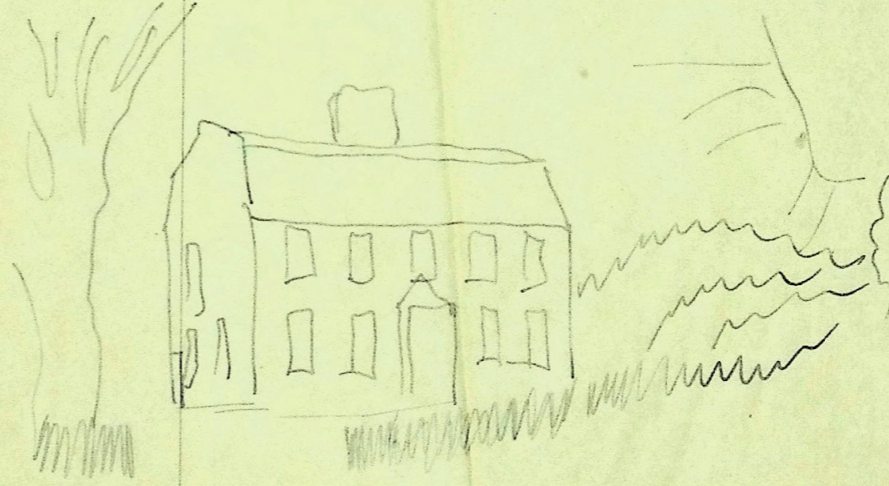
Fickett House. Site of Westbrook Garrison



Harrow House.



The Old Inn



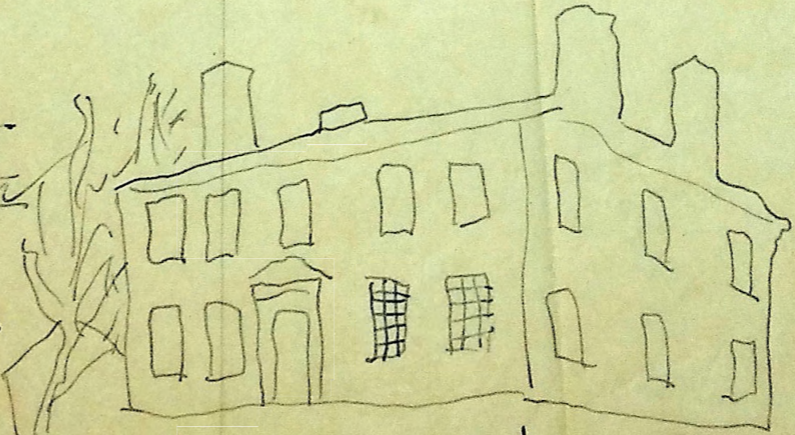
Admiral Tate's House.



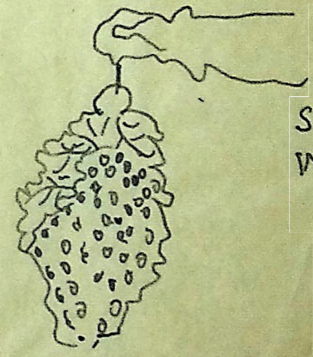
Brabley Parsonage.



The Tate Homestead  
Oldest House in Milne.



The Means' House.

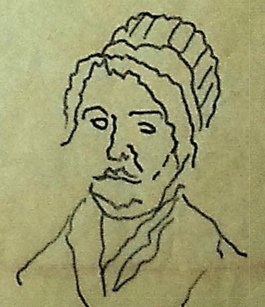


Sign of the  
Wayside Inn  
1832

6x3 down stairs  
5x3 up stairs



Thaddeus  
Broad



Ahmina  
Broad.