

## History of PYC Location at Old Powerhouse Road

In 19th century Falmouth, the families of Ramsdell, Norton, and Buckman were holders of large tracts of land. In 1853 Seth Ramsdell sold a parcel of land --- part of which would become the plot for PYC --- to Eliza Ann Ramsdell. There were several Ramsdells and several Nortons among whom various land transactions were negotiated during 1855, 1857, 1876, and 1893. In 1898 Josephine Clark, "heir-at-law" of Eliza Ann, conveyed a parcel of her property -- together with rights of way for electric wires and poles from shore to Foreside Road -- to Portland and Yarmouth Railway Company who intended to install a substation to power the trolleys on Foreside Road.

On December 10, 1901 Josephine Clark sold all of her property including the P & Y RR Co. parcel to her abutting neighbor Ralph S. Norton, and on October 5, 1903 the Railway Co. conveyed Their parcel to Mr. Norton. A quarter century later in 1929 Mr. Norton conveyed "a certain lot or parcel of land (one acre) together with buildings thereon" to Mrs. Marjorie Clarke Josselyn, who after 17 years of pleasant summer vacations shared with her children and grand children, sold her property to the Portland Yacht Club on October 4, 1946.

Many old timers are familiar with the trolleys, but few if any are aware of the short lived power substation project which gave its name to a road which was to provide the right of way for electric wires and poles. During the recent rebuilding of the Club kitchen, some excavation revealed some heavy concrete work which could have been a partially completed foundation for heavy machinery. A new power plant was put into operation at Underwood Springs in August 1898, and after determining that "more juice was needed" a larger generator was put in place in July 1899 April and the old one taken out. It seems unlikely that two power sources would be located less than a mile apart In any event, it is obvious from the date of deed transactions cited above that on October 5, 1903 P&Y Railway Company had no further use for property which would become home for PYC.

Research leads to exhaustive information about railroads, railways, trains, and trolleys, but data for the power systems --- particularly the rural interurbans --- are elusive at best; railways were bought, sold, abandoned, merged, bankrupted, but after all, they were done in by the automobile. The P & Y trolley line did not survive the 1930's.

Respectfully, Don Ryan\417 \

Sources:Portland Argus (1898-9) newspaper

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