

.. SAM ELY ..

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'LAND TRUST' BEGINS FUNDING CAMPAIGN

On February 3, 1973, the Sam Ely Community Land Trust begins its first statewide fund campaign in an effort to raise at least \$25,000 which will support the organization for a year or more.

TRAINING SESSION FEB. 3

A training session for fund raisers and support people will be held in Orono on February third, in the Maine Christian Association Building, starting at ten o'clock. The all day session will be run by Professor Lee Young, management consultant and Bowdoin economist, chairman of the technical advisory panel of the Sam Ely Community Land Trust, and chairman of The Forum for Contemporary Thought. Professor Young outlined key organizational concepts of the fund raising campaign at the January 13 Board meeting of the Trust. The training session will follow up on that meeting and will go into specific detail on the following: materials to be used in the campaign; the basic approach to be used by fund raisers; the fund raising organization to be set up for each of Maine's sixteen counties and at the state level; the break-down of targets by county, town and individual fund raiser; and the daily and weekly reporting and follow-up system that will knit the campaign together into a strong and highly charged effort.

LEE YOUNG HITS HOME

"Organizations such as this," observed Mr. Young at the January 13

can't p.2



PHOTO BY KATHY HENDLEY

"WE INTEND TO SURVIVE-AND SUCCEED. BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT WE HAVE TO CLEAR UP OUR PRACTICAL PRIORITIES. IT MEANS WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO PUT OUR ORGANIZATION ON A SOUND FINANCIAL FOOTING--AND WE HAVE TO FIND THE WILL TO DO IT." Lee Young

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Trust History

(Editors Note) For some of you this may be the first that you have heard about the "Sam Ely Community Land Trust". The following is a brief summary of how the Trust got started, what it is involved in, and the goals the Trust hopes to achieve.

Last spring at the Maine Cooperative Conference, Bob Swann of the International Independence Institute led a workshop of about 300 people on the topic of Land Trusts. The group, enthused by Swann's speech, formed an ad hoc committee in an effort to form a Maine Community Land Trust. These people met monthly throughout the summer and fall, educating themselves and others about the Land Trust idea and the need for a "land advocacy" effort.

A planning committee was formed from the parent group to organize a founding convention.

(Editors note: It was also decided by the planning committee that a newspaper was badly needed in this State to deal with just land issues. A few people then took on that task, hence this paper was established.)

It was at that founding convention which was held November 4th in East Vassalboro, that the Trust came into being. It was incorporated as the "Sam Ely Community Land Trust", and a board of trustees were chosen. (Sam Ely was a strong land advocate in the 1700's)

Since the founding convention the board of trustees have met twice. A chairman, Gary Borders, of Brunswick, and a secretary, Rick Patterson of Bangor, were elected.

An Augusta attorney, Seward Brewster is working out details on tax-exempt status.

A committee to study the purchasing of land was set up.

Largely due to the efforts of John Newton, a Trust member, a coalition of groups concerned with land reform was established to make the land reform efforts in the State more effective.

Small groups are being formed in different areas around the State to discuss and define more clearly the concept of Land Trusts.

The goals of the Land Trust are as follows:

1. To acquire and liberate Maine land from traditional conceptions of private property;
2. To hold such land in perpetuity not as public or private property but in trusteeship;
3. To encourage that the land be used with practices consistent with environment and ecological principles and whenever possible to help provide resources necessary in the care and usage of the land.
4. To support efforts for land reform everywhere.

At present, the Land Trust is about to embark on a major fund-raising campaign. Their goal is set at \$25,000. This amount, according to Lee Young, a Bowdoin College Economics professor working with the Trust, is what is needed to effectively run the Land Trust for the coming year. Young will be coordinating the sixteen week State-wide campaign.

Trust Funding Campaign

meeting, "are long on brotherly love and short on money. We have to show the world and ourselves that we can have both - and if in the process of shaping ourselves up we expend a little of that surplus of brotherly love that's floating around, well that's alright too." Young also pointed out that numerous organizations "such as this" start up every year - but that over 98% do not survive the first year.

"We intend to survive - and succeed", he went on. "But in order to do that we have to clear up our practical priorities - it means we have to recognize the need to put our organization on a sound financial footing - and we have to find the will to do it."

"Now it would be a relatively simple matter" he continued, "to work really hard on a few wealthy people to come up with the \$25,000. But that doesn't build an organization. We need to extend and deepen the grass roots - and the participation and commitment that goes with it. Only is we do that effectively will the Sam Ely Land Trust be in a position to follow through on its goals: to acquire land and to act as a reliable Trust in relation to that land and the people who will use it."

"Our lack of money," he concluded, "is a tough hurdle that we must face now. This campaign is a good way to discover if The Sam Ely Land Trust has the will and commitment and potential for participation that will carry it over the even greater hurdles that are to come."

Funding The Land Trust

This is a "Grass Roots" campaign -- that is, we want to spread the word about the Land Trust concept and secure operating funds while hopefully broadening our membership base. "Grass Roots" to us at least, means somewhat of the following:

- 1,000 contributors @ \$25.00 each, or
- 2,000 contributors @ \$12.50 each, or
- 2,500 contributors @ \$10.00 each, or
- 5,000 contributors @ \$ 5.00 each, or
- 25,000 contributors @ \$1.00 each, or

any combination thereof.

This method, more arduous and time-consuming to be sure is in preference to approaching foundations or governmental units for funds. It will be a "peoples" campaign from start to finish and while fund raisers will approach wealthy individuals and businesses it will be to secure nominal donations rather than seeking the full amount required to run the organization.

Certificates of appreciation will be issued from the Sam Ely Community Land Trust Board of Directors to all individuals, agencies, and firms who contribute \$25.00 or more to the organization. While the ideal situation would be that all contributors take an active role in Land Trust activities we realize that many are much too busy to do so, thus the certificates of appreciation indicate our thanks for their support. Based on securing \$25,000 from the fund-raising effort the tentative budget is as follows:

SAM ELY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST BUDGET FOR OPERATIONS FEBRUARY 1973 - JANUARY 1974

Advertising	\$ 300
General Office	1,000
Electricity	300
Legal, audit and consultant fees	500
Printing and copying	1,200
Supplies, postal fees, mailing	1,000
Telephone (3 office location)	1,500
Salaries	10,040
Rent (Office space 3 locations in State Bangor, Brunswick, Presque Isle)	2,400
Rental of meeting halls, etc.	300
Rental (office machines and other equipment)	960
Travel, lodging, food costs	2,000
*Production of newspaper (Maine Land Advocate) including postage and mailing of 3,000 copies	3,500
Annual Statewide Convention	500
Cost of fund raising (est. 10% costs)	2,500
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$28,000
*Anticipated Income from newspaper (est. 1,000 subscriptions @ \$3. year)	\$ 3,000
From Fund Campaign	\$25,000

OPINIONS FROM WITHIN

The Sam Ely Community Land Trust is starting a fund-raising campaign in February. At a recent session in Brunswick, some of the members offered their views on the campaign and the trust.

Gary Borders of Brunswick, the newly elected chairman of the Sam Ely Trust Board, explained that the fund campaign would give Sam Ely the capability it needed to take the next steps.

"We all want to get to that point", he commented, "where we will actually acquire land and be in the process of having people move on that land to begin using it. But to get to that point, we now realize, a lot of other things have to happen first. For example, a much more thorough understanding of how a trust works is needed by both Trust members as well as other interested people. Feasibility studies also need to be done, once a consensus is reached on where in Maine to zero in on a first tract of land, that tell us whether how we want the land to be used fits the characteristics of a particular tract, and whether that is in accord with local and state regulatory agencies".

"Also," he continued, "we need to figure out how we can finance the costs that will accrue to the Trust, both from the original acquisition of the land, and its subsequent maintenance and development and payment of taxes".

"All of this will fit into place in time but it's a process that has to be gone through. It's a process that costs money - hence the fund drive."

"If the campaign is successful I see us moving carefully towards the acquisition of land sometimes between six months and a year after the completion of the campaign," he concluded.

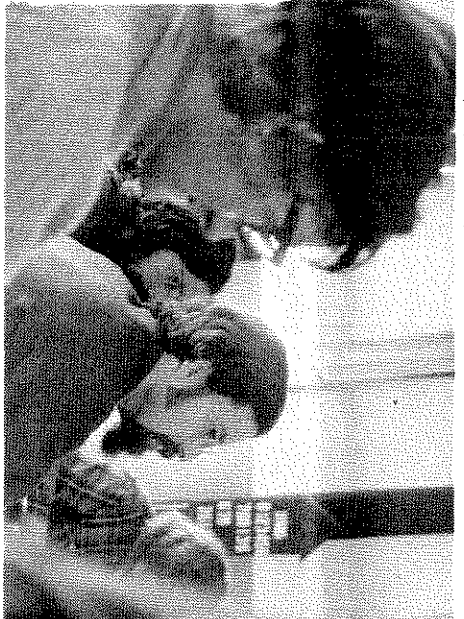
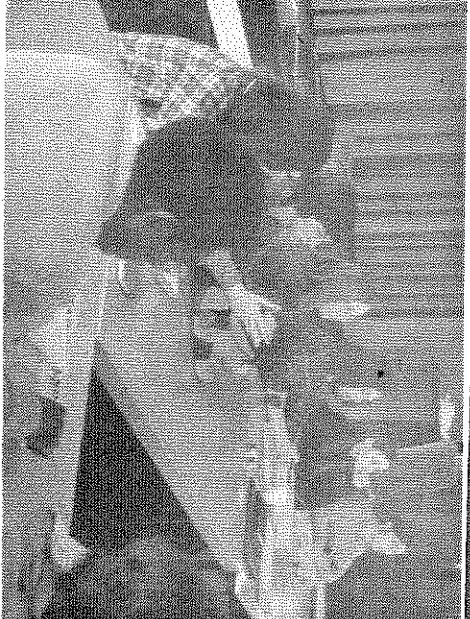
John Newton, of Lisbon Falls, and alternate member of the Sam Ely Trust Board, saw the need for a fund campaign of this kind. "But I want to emphasize it's importance in the context of an overall struggle for land reform"

Newton is one of the main organizers of a land reform coalition that started meeting last fall and involves people from various organizations such as Pine Tree Legal, The Maine Land Use Regulatory Commission, Coastal Economic Development, and The Sam Ely Land Trust. "The issue of land", he declared, "is the issue of multi-national corporate domination of resources, the issue of a screwed up tax system that favors the rich and undermines local community capability, as for example in education; the issue of the gross abuse of the environment; the issue of the continued destruction of the small farmer; the issue of the crowding of working people and the unemployed in urban centers; and of many other issues."

"Such issues," he pointed out, "require a concerted effort by like-minded people in a variety of organizations to bring pressure to bear on legislatures and the organs of public opinion for better laws and clearer understanding of the problem among the general populace. A Trust," he said, "helps that too,

by pointing to a better direction, a more positive solution to the problems of community life."

Lulu Chamberland, one of two staff members of the Sam Ely Land Trust, whose folks live on a farm near Madawaska, reflected on the steady, almost invisible, way that Maine people have been losing ownership and control over the land in which they live. Now over 50% is owned by a few huge companies, and another 30% is owned by out-of-staters. That leaves 20% for Maine people who are generally poor. "Our forests and land are valuable, but we don't control them," she said. "Decisions are made in New York or Boston and are not always in the best interests of Maine land or people but are in the interests of



the stock-holders of these corporations."

"I agree with John, we have to struggle on both fronts: against oppressive forces, and for alternative ways of enabling people to win self-determination for themselves in their daily lives. I see the Trust as a mechanism to protect and preserve the rights of ordinary Maine citizens, whose land is in jeopardy or who are looking for land on which to feel secure and self-reliant."

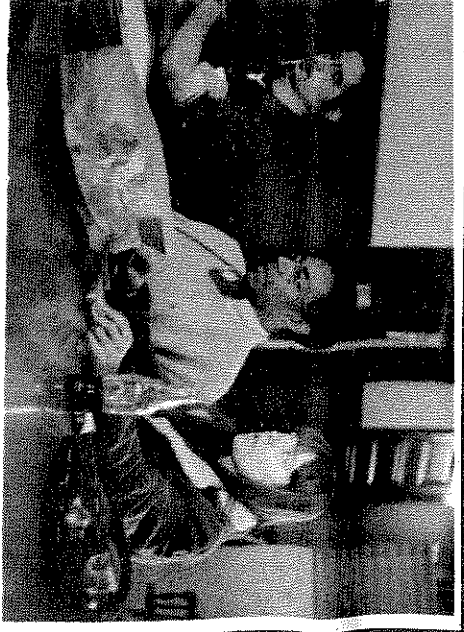
"The way we are operating," she concluded, "gives us time to plan and think these things through, and the experience to work out ways in which we can build a strong organization, one that is rooted in serving the needs of a variety of Maine people."

John Rensenbrink, a Bowdoin government professor and one of the organizers of The Sam Ely Community Land Trust, talked about the need to link up the theory and practice of the Land Trust with the historical development of industrial society and the overall trends of world history. "I'm trying to get a handle on this in articles I'm presently writing for the Maine Land Advocate", he said.

"I'm seeing more and more", he continued, "how the land struggle

is at or very near, the heart of the matter - the matter of human survival and of social, political and personal change. What has been most fundamental in history has been the human being's attitude towards nature, including his own."

"Two tendencies have been dominant: for thousands of years the basic mode was the peasant's attitude of having to be in subjection to nature. This conditioned all religion, philosophy, politics and science. Then came the great rebellion of the western bourgeoisie, dating from about the 17th century, with their heady and revolutionary notions of domination by man over nature. That arrogant attitude now rules contemporary national and



world economics and politics. It finds its clearest expression in the multi-national corporation. The end product of that attitude, if allowed to continue unrestrained, will be the desolation of planet Earth."

"But," he noted, "a movement that is rooted in a new attitude towards nature has begun - we call it a cooperative or interactive nature. The key is the land and its resources. It means treating the land as a being with rights, a being to cooperate with. We want to steer clear of excess or extremes. Nature for us is not something to bow down to, as in most romantic dreams; nor to reshape and control as you please, as in the mechanistic dreams of the corporate state."

"We can take this new attitude," he went on, "as a guide for the way we humans view ourselves (our own nature); how we define social and economic roles in a community or shop-or factory; how we apply technology to human relations and the land; and what we will and will not tolerate in political relationships."

"This is what the Land Trust is involved in. We can proceed steadily, one step at a time, (as with our fund raising campaign), by evolving a philosophy that will give scope and direction to all our actions."

The Land Reform Coalition:

STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE

For three months now the Land Reform Coalition has been struggling to get off the ground. We have met twice since the end of October (our third meeting is Jan. 26), and we've done a lot of talking, at meetings and in-between times. But we haven't done much else but talk. We have not developed:

- 1) a clear perspective of what land reform means in Maine,
- 2) a clear and comprehensive definition of individual land issues,
- 3) a priority list of land issues,
- 4) an organizational structure to carry out our work.

(We, of course, should realize that solutions to these problems are never final and are only found by participating in an on-going process that is never completed.)

Our biggest problem has been in developing a clear idea of what Maine land reform means. Land reform can not be just a series of "land issues". For an organization to grow it must have an idea or perspective around which people can galvanize themselves.

We think Maine's two most important resources are its land and its people. We want to protect both from the effects of speculation, exploitation, and absentee ownership. We want to return Maine to its people. We are tired of the injustices and inequities of the land market. Maine people are being driven off their land by rising land prices and rising taxes. We want that stopped.

We want local control of our land and resources. We are tired of ownership being concentrated in the hands of a few absentee, international corporations. Our concern is "the conservation of Maine land and the alleviation of the unequal distribution of land (and wealth) among Maine people and absentee landowners". (Times Record, Jan. 18)

Both are equally important. We want to develop a program to allow us to put our ideas into practical action. This is our perspective (at least my view of it): these are the common threads that hold our land coalition together. But is this perspective adequate to unite the diverse issues we have discussed? Or, are the issues too divergent to be united under one perspective?

Answers: Our perspective is not yet adequate. Our issues are too diverse. Naturally, we have the same problem with the different groups of people we talk about reaching.

We want to unite the rural Yankee farmer and fisherman, the low-income working people both in the cities and the country, the Franco-Americans and French Canadians, the Indians, the middle class environmentalists, and the young people who have come north to escape the cities. But such a united coalition is hard to build, there is much to divide us.

Where do we begin? Let us look at the issues we've been discussing over the past few months and see how we might decide which ones

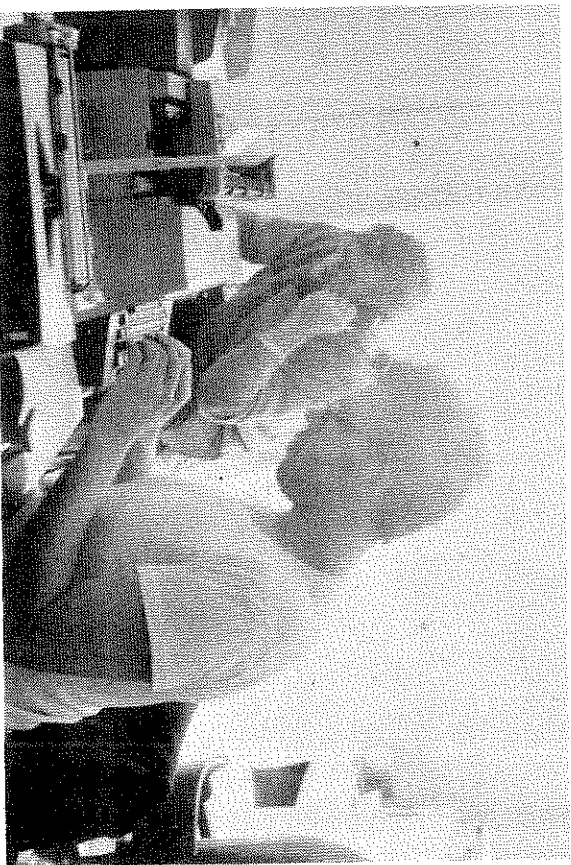
are most important. Here are fourteen of the issues (we can all think of more):

Taxation (land taxes, tax reform), Housing, Coastal Ownership, Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), Public Lots, Wildlands, Timber Industry, Economic Development, Baxter Park "timber grab", Indians' Land Claim, Forestry Commission, Anti-trust: Interlocks--Maine banks and big landholders, Absentee Land Ownership, and MIBA-Vahlsing "fraud".

tion group has mostly high income members.

3. Overriding issues: Those issues that are more global (State-wide) and abstract in nature. Those issues that are not people's day-to-day concerns like "bread and butter" issues. Our overall concern about the unequal distribution of wealth, about concentrated and absentee ownership, about interlocks between banks and large landowners, would come under this category.

We should develop all three types



WE MUST FIND COMMON PROJECTS TO WORK ON TOGETHER AND FIND WAYS TO WORK TOGETHER

We have done a poor job so far in adequately defining these and other issues. Many we have not even considered, others like absentee ownership, Baxter Park, and wildlands and the timber industry we have done a pretty good job in presenting them in the Maine Land Advocate.

Which of these issues are our priorities? Into which of these issues will we, both as individuals and as an organization, put our time and energies? There seems to be no very easy answers.

Perhaps, what we need is a set of criteria by which we can set priorities. Let me suggest a direction.

It seems to me we have three kinds of issues:

1. "Bread and Butter" issues: those day-to-day concerns of the average working person, who is struggling to put food on the table, clothes on the children, and a roof over the family. Examples of such issues are housing and taxes. These issues are more economic, concerning seemingly indirectly the distribution of income and wealth (land) rather than use of land and resources.

2. Environmental issues: those concerns of the so-called middle class, above average income, person for the use (as opposed to distribution) of the land and resources. Baxter Park is an example. Of course, you don't have to be "middle class" to be concerned about land use. On the other hand, Natural Resources Council, the state's largest conserva-

tion group has mostly high income members.

3. Overriding issues: Those issues that are more global (State-wide) and abstract in nature. Those issues that are not people's day-to-day concerns like "bread and butter" issues. Our overall concern about the unequal distribution of wealth, about concentrated and absentee ownership, about interlocks between banks and large landowners, would come under this category.

We should develop all three types

At our last meeting (Dec. 1), there were several suggestions of "projects" that we undertake:

1. Compile a list of human resources with interest and expertise in land reform issues; develop a larger mailing list.
2. Use the Maine Land Advocate newspaper as a forum for our issues, for spreading the word, generating interest, drawing other people to our support.
3. Eventually publish press releases and position papers.
4. Establish a speakers bureau.
5. Contact ETV to do a documentary on land issues.

We hope you will inquire at the office (136 Maine St., Brunswick) if you would like to come to a meeting, or if you would like more information about the Maine Land Reform Coalition.

by
John Newton

In December, a suit challenging the Baxter State Park Authority's right to make a cutting agreement with Great Northern Paper Co. was filed in Kennebec County Superior Court by the Natural Resources Council. The suit filed by attorneys Stuart White of Island Falls and Clifford Goodall, executive secretary of NRC, raises what former president of NRC Robert Patterson calls "the possibility of an unintentional breach of trust on the part of the Baxter Park Authority". Although many of us question whether the breach of trust by Great Northern and the Authority was "Unintentional", we wholeheartedly support this attempt to stop Great Northern from opening up the remote northwest corner of the Park to timber harvesting.

As outlined in "Baxter: A Public Trust?" (in the December, 1972 issue of this newspaper), this writer believes the history of events leading up to the "swap" (of cutting rights in the southern section of the park for those in the north), is very strong evidence that GN has (almost) pulled off one of the biggest "timber grabs" in Maine's history.

The NRC suit does not raise questions about the nature and "fairness" of the "swap"—whether or not a deal was made. On one hand, to do this is to play it safe politically. On the other hand, challenging the nature of the deal would require an incredible amount of research and documentation. It might require challenging the once secret land and timber survey of both sections of the Park by the James W. Sewall Co. Given the power of Senator Joseph Sewall of Old Town, such a challenge would also be politically difficult. A suit judging the merits of the exchange would also have to document many events leading up to the swap. Showing GN's immediate need for an easily accessible supply of saw timber for its newly acquired lumber mill, and documenting the history of GN's moves to set-up the Park Authority for the deal (or cooperate with the Authority, whichever) would be very difficult.

The nature of this case could drastically change if GN itself decides to raise the issues of the "fairness" of the "swap". This would mean that questions such as those just raised would become part of the suit. If that was to happen (and it very well might), the NRC would need the help of many of us to document this necessary information. We should be prepared for these turn of events.

Can the present suit be successful, given that it is based only on the laws of the State of Maine pertaining to the Park? The answer is yes. The Maine Supreme Court could rule that the Park Authority violated the Trust and State law in permitting the exchange of cutting rights. It could then award a sum of money to Great Northern for the cutting rights they lost. (Court procedures are long and drawn out, and would be no time for GN to do



more cutting in the southern section, if they lose in the north, since the southern cutting rights expire at the end of 1973.) Of course, GN never wanted to cut the south anyway, that's why it engineered this deal for the timber in the north.) The problem is Great Northern doesn't want money, GN wants lumber. That's why it arranged the swap. If GN just wanted money, the Park Authority could have made a money settlement for the value of the remaining timber in the southern section in the first place.

We are not in favor of giving GN anything: wood or money. But a money settlement would be no problem, as the Baxter Trust endowment fund, which can only be used for the park to keep it "forever wild", apparently has a huge amount of money in it. Even a sizable amount to pay off GN would not make a dent in the fund.

In whose favor will the Maine Supreme Court decide? Can the Court withstand the pressure surely being placed on it by GN? Will the Maine Court succumb to the influence of the largest landowner (two million acres, ten percent of the State) in Maine or will it support the people's right to keep Baxter "forever wild"? Only time will tell. But there is something we can do. We can maintain public awareness of the suit. We disagree with the Natural Resources Council's attempt to keep the terms of the suit out of the media and away from the public eye. Their reasoning is that too much publicity will cast a shadow on the suit in the Court's eye. We feel the opposite. The Supreme Court does not make decisions in a political vacuum. Public light on this case cannot but help remind the court that the people of Maine have a right to have the Park remain as it is. J.N.

COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND

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The objective of this inquiry into absentee ownership of the American economy is twofold: to set forth what is already known about the control of major industries and different geographic regions (surprisingly little is known), and to raise questions for further exploration. This is, necessarily, incomplete. There has not been a full-fledged examination of private ownership patterns since the Temporary National Economic Committee disbanded more than 30 years ago. Nor has there been much discussion since New Deal days of building alternatives to our dominant private institution, the giant corporation. Unraveling the relationships between holding companies, "street names" and financial institutions is like peeling an onion. Banks and insurance companies exercise

substantial influence on major industries and consequently over the allocation of resources. New technologies are introduced, wealth is produced and distributed, public investments are made, subsidies and tax breaks are handed out, the environment is altered and debased, more often than not in the interest and at the behest of those who own the most.

Consumer advocates have focused attention of the production of shoddy, dangerous and overpriced products. Environmentalists have noted the voracious corporate appetite for land, water, air and other resources. Civil rights and women's groups have stressed the inequalities in corporate hiring practices. All this has caused the holders

The westward expansion of American enterprise left upper New England behind. With the exception of the pulp and timber companies who have long dominated the north woods, it was once an economy of small dairy, potato and truck farms with an industrial base of family-owned manufacturing businesses. All this has changed as more and more of the region's economy has been taken over by outsiders.

The out-of-state interest in local business is partly a result of the search for low-wage labor, weak unions (both New Hampshire and Maine have a smaller percentage of their nonfarm work force in unions than do such right-to-work states as Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee), and, until recently, a tolerance of most state officials toward industrial pollution. But to a greater extent, absentee ownership in northern New England results from the corporate merger boom that has characterized the American economy for more than a decade. The lure of stock gains from the takeover of one corporation by another has sent conglomerators into the hinterlands in search of small, profitable and well-managed companies whose acquisition can send stock values soaring. New England, with its decentralized industrial base of small and medium sized family-owned firms, was ripe for the taking.

In Vermont, the list of acquired corporations includes machinery firms like Jones and Lamson, taken over by Textron; Bryant Grinder Corporation taken over by Ex-Cell-O; and Fairbanks-Morse, acquired by Colt Industries. In New Hampshire, Gulf and Western bought the Brown Paper Company, and Ingersoll-Rand bought the Improved Machinery Company of Nashua. Maine acquisitions include the Hathaway Company by the conglomerate Warraco, the Penobscot Company by Diamond International, the Oxford Paper Company by Ethyl Corporation, Maine Research Corporation by North American Rockwell, and the Portland Copper and Tank Works by W.E. Bliss Company, which in turn was acquired by Gulf and Western. Nineteen out of 22 Vermont plants employing more than 500 workers are now owned by out-of-state corporations.

In New Hampshire, 16 of the 20 largest firms are absentee-owned, and in Maine, all six firms employing more than 2000 workers, and 29 of the 41 employing over 500 workers, are absentee owned. Ten years ago only half of the largest firms in Maine were so-owned.

There are rarely any employment benefits from absentee ownership in a small community. Some studies show that the immediate direct effect of a merger on jobs is negative, and there's evidence that outside ownership has a deadening effect upon growth. For example, between 1958 and 1969, firms headquartered in Maine with over 500 employees expanded employment by over 82 percent while firms owned outside the state grew only eight percent. Absentee corporations tend to bank and purchase accounting, engineering and other professional services in the corporate headquarters rather than in the vicinity of their plants. They also encourage purchasing of supplies and materials from national firms. Absentee corporate personnel have little interest in the community from which they derive their profits, and an absentee firm is quicker to lay off workers at the slightest sign of a downturn than is a local firm whose management feels some responsibility for the community.

The deep-water harbors along the rugged and beautiful Maine coast have a special attraction for another group of corporate profit-hunters—the international oil companies. This coast is the only place on the eastern seaboard with natural harbors that can accommodate the new generation of supertankers needing 60 to 70 feet of draft. Ashland Oil, Royal Dutch Shell, Occidental Petroleum and Atlantic-Richfield are among the corporations whose agents have been trying to persuade the state that a few oil refineries would produce economic miracles for the people at little or no environmental cost. A recent entrant into the refinery sweepstakes is Metropolitan Oil, a subsidiary of the Pittston Coal Company, the owner of the slag heap dam that burst earlier this year on Buffalo Creek in West Virginia

taking 125 lives.

Last year the Maine Environmental Improvement Commission turned down a bid to build a refinery for Ashland Oil at Searsport-smack in the middle of the vacation playground of David Rockefeller, Douglas Dillon, Thomas Watson of IBM and assorted Cabots, Lodges and DuPonts. As John Coles, editor of the weekly Maine Times, tells it, "It was the wrong time and the wrong place". But everyone knows that there will be another, more sophisticated application, not so threatening to the summer homes of America's financial establishment.

As usual, the politicians are singing the praises of oil, although the growing environmental consciousness, plus a concern with his national image, has caused Senator Edmund Muskie to back off a bit. Most of the ballyhoo is aimed at convincing the underemployed and unemployed as well as the small businessman that oil will mean more jobs and a better life. What is ignored is that the fragile coastal wetlands already support a variety of local industries which would be shattered by the intrusion of oil. Harvard researchers concluded that when the impact on fishing and tourism was considered, the net effect of the Ashland refinery would have been to cut local wage income by about one million dollars a year.

Another project along the coast jeopardizing the environment and economy of the local residents is the construction of a nuclear power plant in Wiscasset, part of a scheme drawn up by private New England power companies and the Atomic Energy Commission to make Maine a "power bank" for the growing energy demands of the Northeast. Seventy-five percent of the first year's power output will be exported. Besides electricity, the plant will generate monopoly profits for its owners and jobs for atomic technicians, of which the local area has very few. But the increase in water temperature resulting from the plant's operations will be a disaster for the local bloodworm industry, which contributed two million dollars to the Maine economy last year.

20th CENTURY STYLE

The greatest threat to the rural life-style of Maine comes from the demand by outsiders for land itself. In the late 19th century, paper and timber companies began buying up large tracts of land in northern and central Maine to assure themselves of a steady supply of pulp for their mills. Today the paper and timber interests own more than half the land area of the state and, through lease arrangements with smaller landholders, control the productive output of much more. The Great Northern Nekoosa Company, headquartered in New York, owns more than two million acres. International Paper, also in New York, owns more than a million. Other large landholders include Scott Paper (Philadelphia), St. Regis Paper (New York), Georgia-Pacific (Portland, Ore.), Diamond International (New York), and Oxford Paper (a subsidiary of Ethyl Corporation, New York).

The lumber and timber companies have dominated the state's political economy for years. The boards of directors of Maine's banks, utilities and insurance companies are sprinkled with directors and officers of paper and timber corporations. Paper and timber company officials sit on government boards and commissions, often in seats specifically set aside for them by a considerate legislature. In many towns, company officials no longer even have to participate directly in local politics; selectmen openly acknowledge that they make no major decisions without clearing it with "the company".

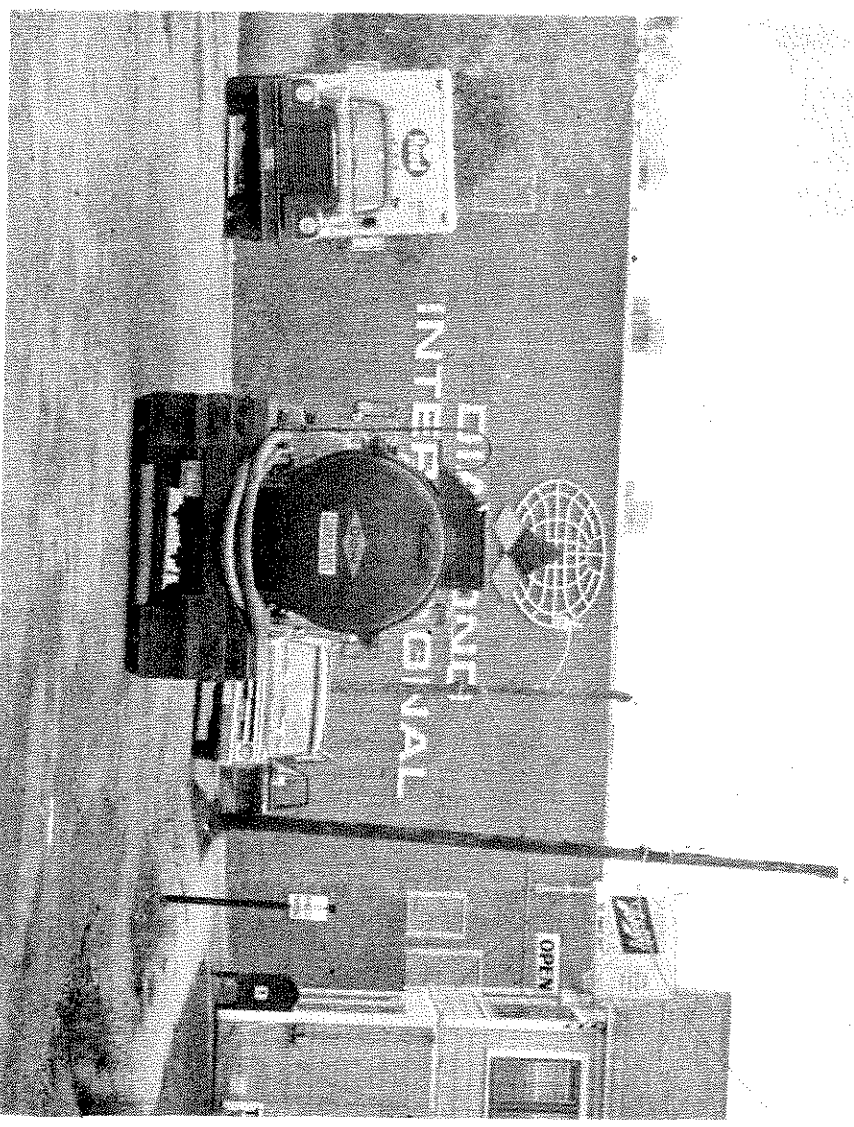
Short-changing the state-usually with state cooperation—is an old story with the paper and timber industry. The companies have long been leasing timber rights on state lands for very low rates, in some cases as low as \$50 per thousand acres. After the timber is cut, the companies lease the land to sportsmen at many times what they pay the state for cutting rights. The state forest commissioner sees nothing wrong with this and in fact encourages it as consistent with national trends in leasing public land to private interests.

The individual paper and timber companies work together. They lease and manage each other's timberlands and trade entire townships with the ease of children playing Monopoly. And of course they act together politically. One of their objectives has been to prevent the permanent settlement of the timberlands, for settlement would restrict the companies' unhampered control and also raise taxes; timberland owners in unorganized townships pay only three taxes as opposed to nine in organized areas.

A restrictive settlement policy might be expected to result in a shortage of local labor for logging work. It does, but the companies solve that problem by importing French Canadians with the help of US Immigration and Labor Department officials. Paper company spokesmen are fond of saying that the French-Canadians will work harder and are "naturally" better

loggers than Americans, an assertion akin to ex-California Senator George Murphy's remark that Mexican braceros are better farm laborers than Americans because they are built closer to the ground.

In order to keep their labor supply docile and the price of pulp cheap, the paper companies try to limit the proportion of pulp wood that comes from their own forests to



about 50 percent. The rest is bought from other people's land, cut and hauled by "independent contractors"—local Maine people who are required to furnish their own equipment and are paid at piecework rates. By forcing the pulp cutters and haulers to act as independent businessmen, the companies push capitalization costs onto their labor force, avoid fringe benefits and minimum wage requirements and duck responsibility for the industrial accidents that plague logging work. When the "contractors" get restless, the companies threaten to import more French-Canadians.

The strategy has worked. The price the companies pay for pulp wood is about the same as it was 20 years ago, despite a 65 percent increase in the cost of living. In 1970 a pulp producer's association made up of cutters and haulers went out on strike. The paper companies crushed the rebellion by invoking the state's antitrust law against the woodsmen!

Until now the average Mainer seems to have tolerated the arrogance of the paper and timber companies and the modest corruption of their political economy on the grounds that there is no alternative. The state has troubles enough without antagonizing the corporations which provide a large share of whatever decent jobs have been generated in the last half century. In many towns semi-skilled jobs at the mill are handed down from father to son. Moreover, the large landowning corporations have in the past allowed local people to hunt and fish and

camp on company land, a privilege highly prized in a rural state. Still, things are changing. In the last five years, spending by tourists, skiers and vacation homeowners has doubled, making recreation the leading industry in the state. Land prices have skyrocketed. Land that sold for \$20 an acre in 1962 cannot be had for less than \$200 an acre today.

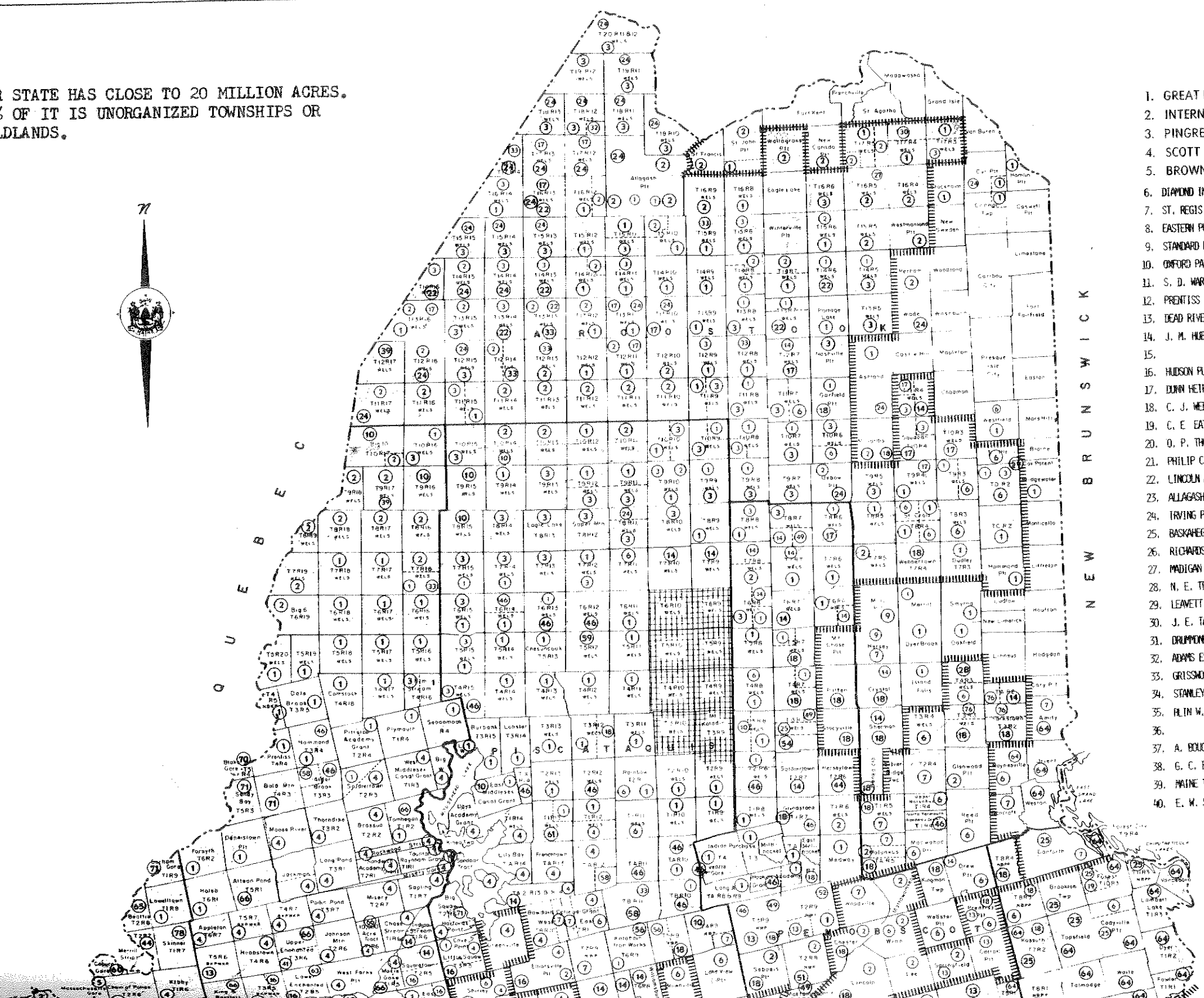
The effect of this on the poor is profound. The increase in taxes rents and the general cost of living squeezes them mercilessly. Few local people can make a living in a seasonal tourist industry that employs thousands of college students at minimal wages. Whereas rural Maine people previously could supplement their income with a garden, hunting and fishing, digging clams or cutting wood, they are now being priced out of their own communities. Even the land, which was open to everyone, is now being fenced off for the tourists.

Rising property taxes is the primary mechanism for accomplishing the transfer of land from Mainers to developers and outsiders. Farmers sell their land when their small farms, always marginal in Maine's harsh environment, can no longer generate enough income to meet tax payments. More and more frequently, the smell of a fast dollar has brought out the home-grown hustlers who willingly exploit their neighbors to satisfy demand from the cities.

The first wave of developers in Maine were mostly small-fry operators jumping at the chance for a fast buck. They buy a thousand acres, bulldoze a road and some homesites and open shop. Lake Arrowhead Estates near Limerick in the southern part of the state is an example. According to the Maine Times, the developer is a Boston firm, Leisure Living, one of whose owners was indicted on tax evasion charges last year and (don't following map)

LAND OWNERSHIP MAP

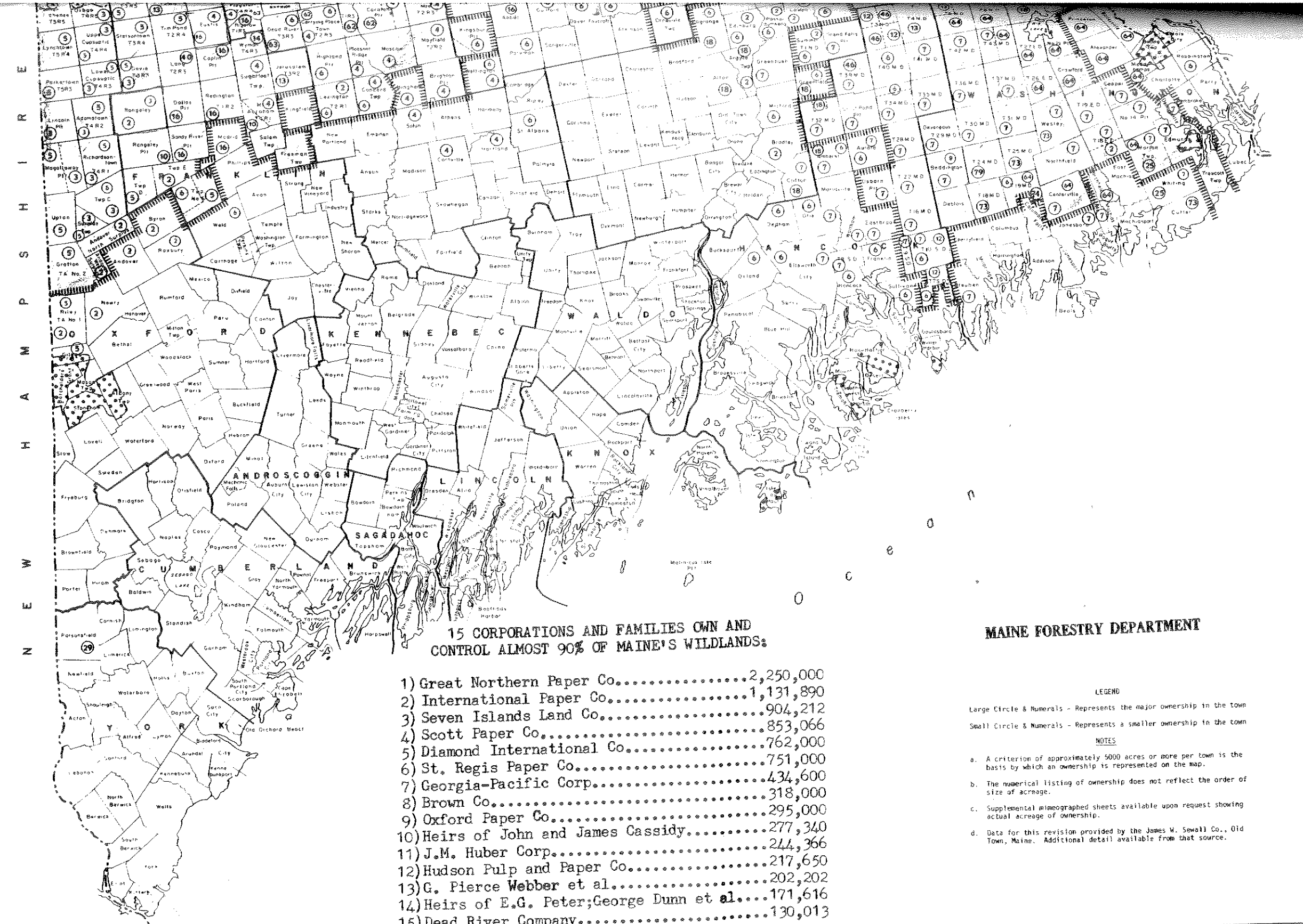
OUR STATE HAS CLOSE TO 20 MILLION ACRES.
49% OF IT IS UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS OR
WILDLANDS.



Maine

Land Ownership Map Key 1970

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. GREAT NORTHERN PAPER CO. | 41. VILES TIMBERLANDS |
| 2. INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO. | 42. |
| 3. PINGREE HEIRS | 43. FINCH PRUNY CO. |
| 4. SCOTT PAPER CO. | 44. FRANCONIA PAPER CORP. |
| 5. BROWN CO. | 45. BLANCHARD HEIRS |
| 6. DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL | 46. JOHN CASSIDY EST. |
| 7. ST. REGIS PAPER CO. | 47. HAROLD M. PIERCE |
| 8. EASTERN PULPHOOD CO. | 48. WALDO ROBINSON |
| 9. STANDARD PACKAGING CO. | 49. LYDIA GOODOE |
| 10. OXFORD PAPER CO. | 50. ALICE P. EDWARDS |
| 11. S. D. WARREN CO. | 51. OSGOOD TOWNSEND, JR. |
| 12. PRENTISS & CARLISLE | 52. WEYMOUTH HEIRS |
| 13. DEAD RIVER CO. | 53. |
| 14. J. M. HUBER CORP. | 54. L. L. ROBINSON |
| 15. | 55. W. B. RICE |
| 16. HUDSON PULP & PAPER CO. | 56. ALLIED CHEMICAL & DYE |
| 17. DURN HEIRS | 57. LOUIS OAKES |
| 18. C. J. WEBBER | 58. MCORTLIS LAND ASSOC. |
| 19. C. E. EATON | 59. TINA N. MOULTON |
| 20. O. P. THOMAS | 60. WILFRED GREGG |
| 21. PHILIP C. HUMPHRIES | 61. M. F. ROSS |
| 22. LINCOLN ASSOCIATES | 62. D. V. FOGG |
| 23. ALLAGASH LAND CO. | 63. CENTRAL MAINE POWER |
| 24. IRVING PULP & PAPER | 64. ST. CROIX PULPHOOD |
| 25. BASKAHEGAN CO. | 65. MEGANTIC MANUFACTURING |
| 26. RICHARDS REALTY CO. | 66. OGDEN LAND TRUSTEES |
| 27. MADIGAN & PIERCE | 67. FOSTER MFG. CO. |
| 28. N. E. TRUST CO. | 68. WILLIAM PHILBRICK |
| 29. LEAVETT PLANTATIONS | 69. R. PARRET |
| 30. J. E. TARBELL ASSOC. | 70. F. DUPUIS |
| 31. DRUMMOND, ADAMS, & GRISSMOLD | 71. L. O. HILTON |
| 32. ADAMS ESTATE | 72. L. C. GAGNON |
| 33. GRISSMOLD HEIRS | 73. PEJESPOOT PAPER CO. |
| 34. STANLEY MERRILL & CO. | 74. NORTHEASTERN PACKING CO. |
| 35. BLIN W. PAGE | 75. A. L. STEWART |
| 36. | 76. |
| 37. A. BOUCHARD | 77. |
| 38. G. C. BRADFORD | 78. BEADURY LUMBER CO. |
| 39. MAINE TIMBERLANDS LTD. | 79. W. W. WEBBER |
| 40. E. W. SPAULDING | |



15 CORPORATIONS AND FAMILIES OWN AND CONTROL ALMOST 90% OF MAINE'S WILDLANDS:

1) Great Northern Paper Co.....	2,250,000
2) International Paper Co.....	1,131,890
3) Seven Islands Land Co.....	904,212
4) Scott Paper Co.....	853,066
5) Diamond International Co.....	762,000
6) St. Regis Paper Co.....	751,000
7) Georgia-Pacific Corp.....	434,600
8) Brown Co.....	318,000
9) Oxford Paper Co.....	295,000
10) Heirs of John and James Cassidy.....	277,340
11) J.M. Huber Corp.....	244,366
12) Hudson Pulp and Paper Co.....	217,650
13) G. Pierce Webber et al.....	202,202
14) Heirs of E.G. Peter; George Dunn et al....	171,616
15) Dead River Company.....	130,013

TOTAL: 8,952,955 Acres.

MAINE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

- LEGEND
- Large Circle & Numerals - Represents the major ownership in the town
- Small Circle & Numerals - Represents a smaller ownership in the town
- NOTES
- a. A criterion of approximately 5000 acres or more per town is the basis by which an ownership is represented on the map.
 - b. The numerical listing of ownership does not reflect the order of size of acreage.
 - c. Supplemental mimeographed sheets available upon request showing actual acreage of ownership.
 - d. Data for this revision provided by the James W. Sewall Co., Old Town, Maine. Additional detail available from that source.

COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND

was mentioned by a Mafia stool-pigeon as one of that organization's business partners. Leisure living got started five years ago after promising local townships that added property taxes from Lake Arrowhead would raise \$2 million for a new high school. After selling some 2000 lots on its 2200 acre site, the developer was banned from building more houses (30 are completed) until he can bring them up to federal standards. Lake Arrowhead is not a lake; it is a man-made impoundment of water which is released during the winter when the power company opens the dam. The Maine Times reports: "The lake described as so remote in the brochures—still much the same as when the Socolois Indians roamed these shores.."—was not only not there when the Indians were, but is currently serving as a summer cesspool for the raw waste of some 900 citizens of Limerick".

The larger landholders are moving more slowly, letting the small operators make the mistakes and take the public wrath. When the state has had it with the small developers, the paper and timber companies seem confident that their won plans for higher quality (and higher cost) developments will be welcomed. Recently a corporation created by the Hudson Pulp and Paper Company bought Saddleback Mountain for a ski and second home development. Scott Paper has established a subsidiary, Skylark Corporation, to handle its recreation development business. One of its first efforts was to talk the state into bartering away public land on Squaw Mountain for a Scott-sponsored ski complex. Scott also owns some 800,000

acres around beautiful and as yet unspoiled Moosehead Lake.

The latest entrant into the Maine land grab is the International Telephone and Telegraph Company. ITT has recently purchased almost 50,000 acres outside of Eustis in west central Maine, has an option on about 30,000 more, and is still buying. ITT has fenced its land and posted guards at the gate and refused to give any clue to its future plans.

The average Mainer, Vermonter or New Hampshireman is confused by all this. The hard but stable old life-style is breaking up because of that same spirit of enterprise they thought would somehow keep them safe. The town meeting, built on the localized economy, is crumbling. "Town meeting have become a farce," says one extension agent who has lived in Maine all his life. "People can't dope with these problems. The bankers and real estate people and lawyers come in with their proposals and dominate the meeting. The ordinary person feels too embarrassed and ignorant to say anything".

There is a chance, a small one, that an anti-colonial movement could coalesce around rural working people who are being thrown off their land, French-Canadians ("white niggers" of New England as well as Quebec), environmentalists who see land being raped and water polluted, and younger middle-class migrants who have come north by the thousands to escape urban suffocation. But so far, the things that divide them are stronger than the things that bring them together. And time is running out.

by Geoffrey Faux

Homestead Exemption Act

A man's home is his castle? Is this true as far as your creditors are concerned? Folks with financial problems might find their goods and homesteads repossessed. There is protection for the homes owned by people of moderate means. This protection is known as the homestead exemption; protecting property up to the value of \$7500. It is easy to receive this protection. The small homestead owner should file his exemption with the county registry of deeds. Forms for this can be obtained from the Land Trust Office or your nearest Pine Tree Legal Assistance office. Pine Tree has put out a helpful pamphlet on this. Parts of it are reproduced below:

Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 14, Article 3

Homestead. A lot of land and dwelling house and outbuildings thereon, the property of a householder in actual possession thereof and not the owner of an exempted lot purchased from the State.

Exemption; Claim Recorded. The person described in the previous paragraph may file in the registry of deeds in the county or district where the land lies a certificate signed by him declaring his wish for such exemption and describing the land and buildings. The register shall record it in a suitable book. So much of such property as does not exceed \$7500 in value is exempt from attachment or levy on execution issued on a judgement recovered for any debt, contracted jointly or severally by such person after the date of the recording thereof.

Creditor Claiming Greater Value. When such property is claimed by a creditor to be of greater value than \$7500 it may be seized on execution and the appraisers shall first set off such part thereof as the debtor may select, and if he neglects to do so, the officer may select for him, to such value, by metes and bounds. They shall then appraise and set off to the creditor so much of the remainder as may be necessary to satisfy the execution. The appraisers shall be sworn accordingly and the officer shall make return of his doings thereon.

For further information contact Pine Tree Legal Assistance at...

LEWISTON OFFICE
215 Lisbon St.
Box 888
Lewiston, Maine
784-9921

BANGOR OFFICE
61 Main St.
Bangor, Maine
942-8241

PORTLAND OFFICE
158 Danforth St.
Portland, Maine
772-3711

CALAIS OFFICE
173 Main St.
Box 388
Calais, Maine
454-2408

SKOWHEGAN OFFICE
17 Madison Ave.
Skowhegan, Maine
474-3607

PRESQUE ISLE OFFICE
154 State St.
Box 1207
Presque Isle, Maine
764-4349



DON'T
let this
happen
to you .

Around The State

Below are listed some of the different groups and organizations in Maine that are working on land problems and issues. In this issue we give a brief description of each of them and some of the work they are involved in. We will report monthly in this column their activities and interests.

LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION:

LURC was established in 1969 to extend the principles of sound planning, zoning, and development control to Maine's 407 unorganized and deorganized townships and to 56 mainland and island plantations. Encompassing more than 10 million acres, these areas comprise approximately 49% of the total land area of the State. LURC is charged with resource analysis and mapping developing a land use guidance plan for these areas, establishing standards, and with placing these areas into districts for land use guidance. The land areas are placed into one of four districts:

1. Protection--areas where development would jeopardize significant natural, recreational and historic resources.
2. Management--those lands which are currently being utilized for commercial forest product or agricultural uses
3. Holding--reserve areas adjoining development districts
4. Development--lands now discernible as relatively homogeneous patterns of intensive residential, recreational, commercial or industrial use

LURC is presently concluding public hearings designed to air opinions concerning the zoning of 22 townships in the upper Kennebec River drainage. A considerable controversy arose over Inland Fish and Game's request that significant deer yards, and trout and salmon waters be protected. The land owners objected to establishment of restriction on harvesting of wood in these areas. Inland Fisheries and Game requested limitations on the part of the land owners has not resulted in proper management of significant game habitats.

Controversy also developed revolving around LURC's proposal to place into "protection districts" the high mountain areas (above 2,500 ft.) in these 22 townships.

The Commission has 45 days from the adjournment of the public hearing in which to reach a decision. Once the final interim land use guidance maps are adopted, the procedure will be repeated for the next batch of townships.

PINE TREE LEGAL:

Pine Tree Legal, in their effort to address the basic issues concerning low-income people in Maine, have set up several Task Forces during the last few months. Already a Prison Reform Task Force concerned with the rights of prisoners, and a Housing Task Force concerned with tenants rights and low-income and rural housing, have been established. Pine Tree's latest effort has been to form a Land Re-



SOUND ZONING, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT.....?

form Task Force to help low-income people with "land oriented" problems. This Task Force will, hopefully, deal with many of the same issues (and others besides) that we have been discussing in the Advocate. The Task Force had tentatively decided to make taxation, economic development, and absentee land ownership their beginning priorities.

NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL:

The Natural Resources Council is a citizens environmental group made up of different organizations and individuals through-out the state. According to it's publications, NRC serves as a forum to focus on issues, to gather facts and to unite and

coordinate activities in protecting and wisely developing the State's environmental resources.

Most recently, NRC has filed suit against the Baxter Park Authority in the hopes that the issues surrounding the agreement with Great Northern will be clarified. An article appears on pages 5 on the Baxter Suit.

NRC MAINE COASTAL COALITION:

In an effort to consolidate and coordinate activities related to coastal environmental issues, NRC and other groups have set up The Maine Coastal Coalition. Recently the Coalition has been involved in the oil issues facing the Maine coast.

Why Be Involved?

When I was first told about the Land Trust idea, I couldn't help but think that this would be a really great way to "hold on" to Maine land. And keep the land out of the money hungry hands of the Real Estate people.

For too many years out-of-state people have been buying up Maine. To most of them its only a place to escape to for a week or two in the summer. To the people of Maine this means another field or wooded area lost to a new house or summer cottage. And of course the Maine Real Estate people just love this, because it means money for them and the chance more out-of-state people will come

here and also buy some land.

In the meantime its the people of Maine who suffer. By means of high land prices and less and less land to call their "own." Also there are alot of out-of-state companies that are also buying up large tracks of Maine land. Only 20% of this state is owned by the people of Maine. When you stop to think about this it can really get scary. So I think the Land Trust ideas will be about the only effective way to fight back and try to stop this whole land rip-off game.

by
Bill Carlisle

THE LAND STRUGGLE

A NOTE ON THESE ARTICLES

These articles on the Land Struggle are intended as a regular column in the Advocate. Everyone is invited and encouraged to send in comments, thoughts, criticisms, articles of their own, so that the column can become a continuing dialogue on the meaning and strategy (the theory and practice) of the land struggle.

THE LAND STRUGGLE II

Last time, I used the term Western bourgeoisie to describe the class and culture that grew up out of the ruins of traditional society in Western Europe several centuries ago. This class has spread the towers and tentacles of capitalist and State corporate enterprise throughout the world. They have presided over the building of industrial civilization. They have sought to impose their consciousness (cultural outlook) on all classes and peoples and races.

The consciousness and way of life of the Western Bourgeoisie arose out of the struggle of this new class with the consciousness and way of life of the predominantly peasant society that preceded it. This is a fact of basic importance: the scientific and full scale application of technology to human life (another way of saying industrialism) came into the world via a struggle of a liberated middle class with its traditional and immemorial peasant heritage. This radically conditioned how industrialism came into the world: much of the intense urbanism, rationalistic life styles, and exploitative capitalism (both state and private) may be attributed to this struggle at the dawning of the industrial era.

A better understanding of the character of this struggle can do several things. It fixes the historical limits of the Western Bourgeoisie as a class and a culture that arose at a given time and will pass away. It helps us appreciate some of the reasons why traditional society gave way, and continues to give way all over the world, to the Western bourgeois mode of existence. Finally, it provides valuable perspective on the next step for humankind. That next step, we believe, is a synthesis of bourgeois and peasant (or broadly traditional) consciousness. The process of taking this next step is going on now, throughout the world. It is a step, which as we pointed out last time, has itself been a long time coming to fruition during the centuries of confused opposition to the heady radicalism of bourgeois culture and economics.

A NEW CLASS

In the late middle ages the slowly growing towns of Western Europe gave birth to a new and revolutionary middle class. It originated mostly out of peasant stock which over a period of centuries had escaped the rigid confines of feudal society and fled to the towns. As they multiplied they gathered some portions of the established hierarchies of church, state, and landed aristocracy to their side. This middle class came to be composed

of merchants, bankers, wealthier artisans, small manufacturers, lawyers, and certain enterprising elements of the aristocracy. As they grew in wealth and power they rebelled successfully against church, feudal State, landed baron and peasantry.

They enclosed and commercialized the common land and dispossessed the peasants. They expanded and unified the markets, and invented the "free market" system. They invented a strong, centralized State. They built ships that carried slaves and rum and a rising volume of finished goods, exploiting Africa, Asia and the Americas as they went. They financed inventions and began to build factories, creating bigger and bigger cities. They expanded technology to an unparalleled degree. They eagerly embraced--as ideology--the new science of the Newtonians, the new versions of the Word of God of the Reformers, and the new political economy of Hobbes, Locke, and their many followers. For their ideal of living--the dream that spurred them on--they looked to what they imagined nobility and upper class leisure to be. They aped "aristocratic" styles, they affected a disdain for work, they made their women into objects of conspicuous consumption: in a word they invented an aristocratized consumer culture, and later bequeathed that "dream" to the classes below them.

In short the Western bourgeoisie overthrew the past with a heady vengeance; they wrecked traditional society and values. They ushered in the Industrial Era, perhaps the most significant event in the history of humankind since the Neolithic Revolution had transformed man from a haphazard nomadic to an orderly agriculturist.

ESCAPE FROM PEASANT EXISTENCE

The phenomenon that most clearly characterizes the industrial era, under the aegis of the Western bourgeoisie, is the movement from the land to the city. At first a trickle, it became a vast and eventually worldwide phenomenon, and is now engulfing the underdeveloped countries of the world. This has been an incredible physical journey. But much more it has been a profound psychological and spiritual journey.

In a deep sense, it was felt as a tremendous relief, an escape from what had been the age old experience of the mass of mankind--namely, peasant existence. Peasant existence is barely on equal terms with nature, the elements, and the land. Life is a constant and unremitting struggle for survival. The spirit is tied to the seemingly endless recurrence of things. Mankind, both rich and poor, are locked in to the cycle of the seasons, the cycle of the generations, and the wheeling to the stars.

In traditional society, Nature seems to give grudgingly and arbitrarily. Dependence on her is great. This enforced dependence is resented--but the resentment is assuaged by the sense of her (sic) incredible power. Cosmic forces seem so easily

to dispose of Man's plans and hopes. Control is seen to be not with man. Consequently, religions which enshrine, symbolize, and legitimize the power of nature, are strong. Such religion is also strongly encouraged by the tiny ruling aristocracies. It provides a necessary bastion against the permanent instability inherent in relatively unproductive forces, a fact which condemns traditional society to the constant threat of absolute scarcity.

THE QUARREL WITH THE ANCIENTS

The Western bourgeoisie felt that they had found a way out from under peasant existence ("the idiosyncrasy of rural life"); and out from under the intractable and inscrutable sway of Nature.

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

With their new rationalism they de-mythified and de-divinized the cosmos, nature, the land. They got partial but powerful support for this from Protestant and Jesuit Christianity. The Bible, which had so often been used against bourgeois commerce and finance (anti-usury laws and sanctions, for example) now seemed to come out on their side. Genesis one was quoted to establish man's dominion over nature, animals, and womankind too.

Mystery was banished. Where it refused to stay out, it was grudgingly allowed back in as something "irrational", or "the-not-yet-controlled", or as "that which lies beyond". This accorded well with the needs, both of the pious merchant and the intellectual skeptic. The important battle had been won. Nature, and the land that is its shape, now lay fallow for full scale rational progress in the realms of industry and science. The old barriers of awe and reverence had been burst assunder.

ECONOMIC

With their new political economy, the Western bourgeoisie successfully undermined traditional concepts which had subordinated property and commerce and man's labor to deeply religious and ethical beliefs. These beliefs had been rooted in awe of nature, and in a deeply ingrained sense that man was but part of a long and cosmic chain of being.

Against these traditional notions, a labor theory of value was fashioned first by Locke, later by Adam Smith, and later embraced by Marx as well. In this theory the contribution of nature to value is depreciated to a point where it is virtually "meaningless"---except as a source of "raw" forces. Such forces may be seen as malevolent, certainly chaotic, but above all organizable.

POLITICS

Furthermore man's nature, too, was now seen "objectively" as a set of forces, the most powerful of which were held to desires for material survival and accumulation. These forces were "liberated" from the crusty moral limits of Aristotelian and medieval Christian politics. These liberated forces could now

ISSUES TODAY

FROM A LAND TRUST PERSPECTIVE

*Concentrated Land Ownership Patterns.

Over 80% of the State of Maine is owned by out-of-staters; 50%+ by a handful of paper companies and the other 30% by corporations and families. Of the 4,058 miles of coastline in Maine, only 3 miles of it are public.

Are these trends reversible? Can they be even slowed or stopped? How can we go about it?

-Developing a state-wide citizen-founded Land Trust financed by donations and grants to purchase back land for locally owned development projects would be one way.

-Helping to lobby for comprehensive zoning programs and public acquisition of property, is another way.

-Exploring the possibilities of anti-trust action with respect to the concentration of land ownership is a vital third way.

*Absentee Ownership of Firms

In Maine all six firms employing more than 2000 workers and 71% of those employing over 500 workers are absentee-owned. 10 years ago, only 50% of Maine's largest were so owned.

Why is this a problem?

-In the 11 years between 1958-1969 Maine firms headquartered in this state with over 500 employees expanded employment by 82% while corporations owned out-of-state grew only 8%.

-Absentee corporations also tend to bank and purchase all their professional services out of state rather than in the vicinity of their plants. And their supplies and materials are usually purchased from national firms.

-Lastly, the personnel of Absentee corporations have no reason to be interested in the

The Land Struggle

be used to accumulate wealth and comfort by being organized through supposedly self-regulating free market mechanisms. In addition, new national constitutional mechanisms were brought forth through which competing material interests could be aggregated and stabilized with the help of a powerful State. In these economic and political schemes the universal pursuit of private, selfish, interest would "automatically" produce public good. Men dreamed of "systems so perfect that no one would have to be good".

TECHNOLOGY

Along with these turn-about in religion, philosophy, politics and economics, a new attitude towards knowledge and technology became dominant. "Knowledge is power", exulted Bacon and western bourgeois man thereafter. Technology came now to be venerated as something virtually good for its own sake, irrespective of its consequences for land and people. It was worshipped as par excellence The means to subdue nature, and to transfer natural forces into ever greater instruments for the production and consumption of wealth. The way seemed clear for undreamed of material progress.

MAN "ON TOP"

For bourgeois man this went quite literally to his head. Not only out from under his old antagonist Nature, but now On Top! This was the promise and the lure.

In all this, Nature was still something to be feared, perhaps now more than ever, for "she" was now more than ever seen as chaotic and tempestuous and dark and "animalistic", even demonic. Therefore "she" had to be beaten back with soap and concrete, with ever purer concepts,

and with ever larger buildings and organizations. Nature was not to be listened to or respected. The very notion was laughed to scorn. Civilizations which did that (American Indian, African, Asian) were laughed to scorn and destroyed. Nature was now forced to submit to limitless manipulation by a rationalistic animal, armed with sophisticated tools, and actuated by boundless desire for power and things.

THE PRESENT PROSPECT

We live, in the 20th century, in the advanced stages of Western Bourgeois class and culture-in their twin forms of market and state capitalism, of which the United States and Russia are the leading examples. Giant economic machines, organized for the ever more thorough (and, when possible, benign) exploitation of land, nature, and people loom darkly over the whole world. They extend the reach of "rationalized consumer living" everywhere and direct the policies of nations.

But problems and contradictions mount up. The land, Nature itself, has been in a state of rebellion for some time now. People who have reason to rebel are beginning to wake up and take notice that their liberation is closely tied in with the rebellion of Nature against urbanism, rationalism and capitalism. The opposition, which has been stirring confusedly for centuries, is finding new pathways and new, unlooked for, allies. New tendencies, which suggest a synthesis of peasant and bourgeois attitudes and ways, are gaining ground in many areas. We will return to these themes in the next article.

John Rensenbrink

by

communities from which they make their profits, and an absentee firm is quicker to lay off workers in times of recession than is a local firm whose management feels some responsibility for the community.

-The Land Trust hopes to encourage and explore the growth of community-owned enterprises such as co-operatives, and Community Development Corporations as well as help develop a system of credit, training and technical assistance for low-income rural people in such self-help enterprises.

*Energy Problem

How should we be planning for our energy needs without jeopardizing our environment and the economy of local residents?

-Wiscasset Nuclear Power Plant has shown us the way not to go, however what are alternatives that are realistic for Maine communities?

-Here again the Land Trust supports public or cooperative ownership of power sources which are locally controlled and more sensitive to the needs of its users. This could be hydro-electric, solar, wind, methane, or fusion power if that indeed proves to be non-polluting.

*Protection of the Environment.

As more of our land, water, air, and other resources are abused by greed and carelessness, it becomes increasingly important to encourage and work with others equally interested in safeguarding what we have left in this country and particularly in Maine.

-The Sam Ely Community Land Trust hopes to work through the Maine Coalition for Land Reform with such groups as Pinetree Legal Assistance, LURC, The Natural Resources Council, The Dept. of Environmental Protection, United Low Income Inc., and others in support of:

- Air Quality Standards
- Wetlands Protection
- Floodplain Zoning
- Stringent mining controls
- Shoreline protection measures
- Baxter Wilderness Preserve
- And strong State Environmental Policy in general.

It must be stressed that the Land Trust itself serves only as trustee of the land. As such, its authority includes a few matters such as selling or sub-leasing the land, inheritance rights, natural resource rights, and limits on speculation and improvements. The Trust is responsible for guaranteeing only that the land is used to achieve the specified social purposes. To carry out responsibilities beyond this, such a trust will normally encourage the formation of other organizations, such as Community Development Corporations, or work with existing organizations.

by

Randy Curtis

LETTERS & COMMENTS

Friends:

Have you reckon'd a thousand acres much?

Have you reckon'd the earth much?

where the black bear is searching for roots or honey,

where the beaver pats the mud with his paddle-shaped

tail,

where the quail is whistling betwixt the woods and

the wheat-lof,

where the cheesecloth hangs in the kitchen,

where the heifers browse,

where the hummingbird shimmers....

and three scythes at harvest whizzing in a row

from three angels with shirts bagg'd out at their

waists

And I or you pocketless of a dime may purchase

the pick of the earth

And to glance with an eye or show a bean in its pod

confounds the learning of all times

and here and there with dimes on the eyes walking

to feed the greed of the belly the brains lib-

erally spooning

the little plentiful manikins skipping around

in collars and tail'd coats

(O eternal Scrooge!)

Roots and leaves themselves alone are these

scents brought to men and women

from the wild-woods and pond-side

If you bring the warmth of the sun

the buds will unfold and bring forth form and color

If you become the ailment and the wet

they will become flowers, fruits,

tall branches and trees.

from Walt Whitman
(fragments sewn from Leaves of Grass)

Dear Friends in the Land Trust:

I would like to suggest an idea

for the Land Trust to consider as

one of its first projects. Hope-

fully the trust will start acquir-

ing land soon. I hope that one of

the first parcels of land acquired

would be recreational in purpose.

My reasons for urging this are:

1. It would help in getting our 'feet wet' in learning the techniques of acquiring and caring for land.

2. It would be a contact point with the public; serving as a recreational place and as a gathering place for people desiring outside activities.

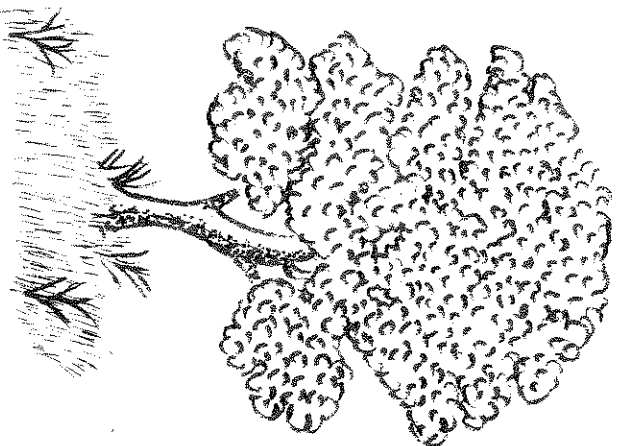
3. Any monies received from the use of the area could help in some of the expenses of the trust.

4. It could provide a living for an imaginative and energetic manager-caretaker.

5. The land could be used as collateral for low income people needing help with bail.

This last point is an important one for me as there are many young and low income people who serve long periods of dead time in the county jails because they can't find bail. A means could be worked out which would insure the land in such a scheme. We should be working with other folks struggling for justice. After all, once we acquire land we are part of the privileged in society.

In the Lamb's war!
Obadiah



Ken MacDonald

I would like to work on the fund raising campaign. I now live in the Sebago Lake area. But before I do I would like to speak to some one on the committee that knows a great deal about the hopes of this "land trust". This enables me to be able to speak about it intelligently.

Thank you.

Jacqueline Sonenson

Note: Page 1 features an article on the training session to be held February third, in Orono, on the fund raising campaign. Anyone who feels they would like to work on fund-raising campaign but need more information/encouragement is invited to come. It should be an educating experience for all of us.

Dear "Sam"

I noticed that on your listing (p.7) of your Board of Trustees, you don't have my address. This is too bad because I wouldn't want to miss a single issue of the Maine Land Advocate. John Rensenbrink's article, "The Land Struggle", was as fine an historical analysis of what's going on as I have read anywhere, and it was done with much sensitivity. Please keep me informed

I think your readers would like to know that the newsletter of the Maine Organic Foods Association, which I edit, is free to those who request it through the Extension Office, P.O. Box 778, Lewiston, Me. In it I hope you will find much of interest to homesteaders and gardeners. Unfortunately we are not able to include information on swapping or selling any more.

Also, would anyone interested in working out the details of a Homestead Act" for Maine (or the U.S.) please get in touch with me. I am presently trying to find out what Gaylord Nelson's doing on this. Call 998-4580 or write.

Abbie Page

RFD #1

Jackson Road

Poland Springs,

Maine 04274

"I believe that the cycle of man is but one of many life cycles and that the continuance of man's cycle is dependent upon the cycles of water, earth, sun and on the continuance of other life cycles from the micro to the macroscopic."

FROM A PROSPECTIVE MAINE COMM.
LAND TRUST MEMBER

"The story of land is older than the story of man. Land came first; no man created it. Every society, large or small, must devise ways in which its members will share this gift. Members of society must also determine under what conditions the land will be passed on to the next generation. And they must decide if, when and how it may be traded with others." p. xiii The Community Land Trust: A Guide to a New Model for Land Tenure in America, International Independence Institute. (For copies of this important book inquire at the Land Trust Office; the price for the book is \$3.50.)

Conversations With Sam's Uncle

by Sam's Uncle's friend

On a day last week I was stopped by Sam's Uncle near the post office in Freedom where he lives. It was nippy out. But Sam's Uncle wanted to talk. You know how he loves to talk. I wish I could capture his style, because the style is very much the man. He's very well informed and very experienced about things. So I kept slapping my hands and shifting my feet while he talked.

"Didja read those pieces in the Times (he meant the New York Times), front page they were, on the South Bronx in New York City? Most frightening thing I've read in a long time. Talk about things falling apart! Talk about the edge of doom! The reporter says it's like the end of civilization. Four hundred thousand folks jammed into that part of the city. No heat. Bands of wild dogs roaming the streets. Bands of wild youth going crazy in the streets. People in terror of their lives night and day. New buildings gutted in a year. No jobs. No order. No prospects. No meaning."

He paused. "What frightens me," he said, "is that this can happen, is happening, in my land, in the land I love....that shouldn't happen to what you love." His head jerked a little and his voice was tremulous for a moment on the blue winter air.

"But ya know", he started in again, "that ain't but half of it."

"There's other things going on, all over this country, and the world too. Good things. Like you hear that Toronto has up and decided their city's big enough; and they're not going to let it get bigger; and they're going to build a beautiful rapid transit system and get away from traffic jams and all this concrete. Now that's using you head", he said.

"And what about this woman in Houston, Texas, who saved a 16-mile river--the last natural river in that part of the country, that's what they said-- saved this river from being taken over and destroyed by developers-- it was going to be reshaped into a drainage ditch.

That's what they're called", he said, in a bemused voice, "developers--now ain't that sumptin!... Course the big corporations were behind 'em, and the usual politicians. But she beat 'em all!"

"Now if that sort of thing can happen in Texas!" he said, "Well that's got to mean something! Or take that county in New York--Suffolk I think it is. They're planning to put at least 3,000 acres of farmland into a land bank--the sort of thing where the farmers on the land sell the land to the land bank and lease it back. And the land is to remain permanently out of the market--the market of developers and speculators, that is."

"We need something like that

right here in Maine," he added reflectively. "We need it bad."

"But you see the point, doncha?"

he said. "These are just examples of things going on in the last two or three months alone. People are startin' to wise up a little bit. Something's beginnin' to happen. Something is startin' to move. In Maine too-- I see people getting together more and finding out what the problem is and what to do about it."

"Don't get me wrong," he said suddenly, after a look around at the town and the weather. "I'm not saying these things make up for what's going to pieces elsewhere and in general. But there are people now who are beginning to get the message. That something stinks. That something can be done about it. Something fundamental--like rescuing the land."

"It may only be the size of a man's hand on the horizon", and he waved his arm, "like it says in the Old Testament. But it's growing," he said. "It's growing."

I realized when he'd finished and he'd walked away, that I wasn't feeling cold. My heart and my mind were going too fast for that to matter much.

I was thinking about America--the America Sam's Uncle loved, and that I loved. And about the meaning of the land. And the meaning of human struggle for survival, yes, and for happiness, and freedom. Lotsa things.

Friends,
In order to cover publishing & mailing costs, the Advocate has to go on a subscription basis. Subscription rate for a year will be \$3.00, which covers only those two basic costs.

If you would like to keep receiving the Advocate, please fill in and send the coupon below to the Maine Land Advocate, P.O.Box 116, Brunswick, Maine, If you cannot afford a subscription at this time, please indicate on the coupon. Arrangements can be made.

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The Adventures of
SAM ELY
&
friends

NEVER BEARS
ELY'S FAITHFUL FRIENDS
ARE HERE!!

Come on
all o' yao
to Springfield with us
to free SAM!

OK Sheriff!
Hand over thy keys
for SAM is a good man
and we intend to let
him go!

So it came to pass
that ELY revived his
"treasonable practices"
one month later in VERMONT
The State of VERMONT
is a damned state and
his #096A00 property
tax is a cursed act!!

1782 found the Folks of
Hampshire County starving.
ELY got busted for
plotting to overthrow
the courts to liberate
the people from their debts.

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CAREFUL SAM - HEAVY WORDS

In The Maritimes

I had a good chance to exchange ideas with the working committee of the Nova Scotia Land Trust around Christmas time.

They are presently working for funding through a Canadian Local Initiatives Project grant; the workers planning to do some income sharing to help each other out. Their project for L.I.P. involves an exciting map overlay project. Members of the Trust are making a series of maps showing different aspects of Nova Scotia land use on transparent plastic which is placed on the basic outline map of the Province. These maps will then be used in schools.

Folks in the Nova Scotia effort have printed up their 'By

Laws" as a first step for incorporation. Some of the items included are:

-To do all things for the purpose of promoting, stimulating and defining the establishment of a permanent non-profit, charitable corporation to be called "Land Trust"; the purposes of this corporation being to take land out of the commodity market; to hold it in trust for future generations; and to encourage use consistent with ecological and environmental principles.

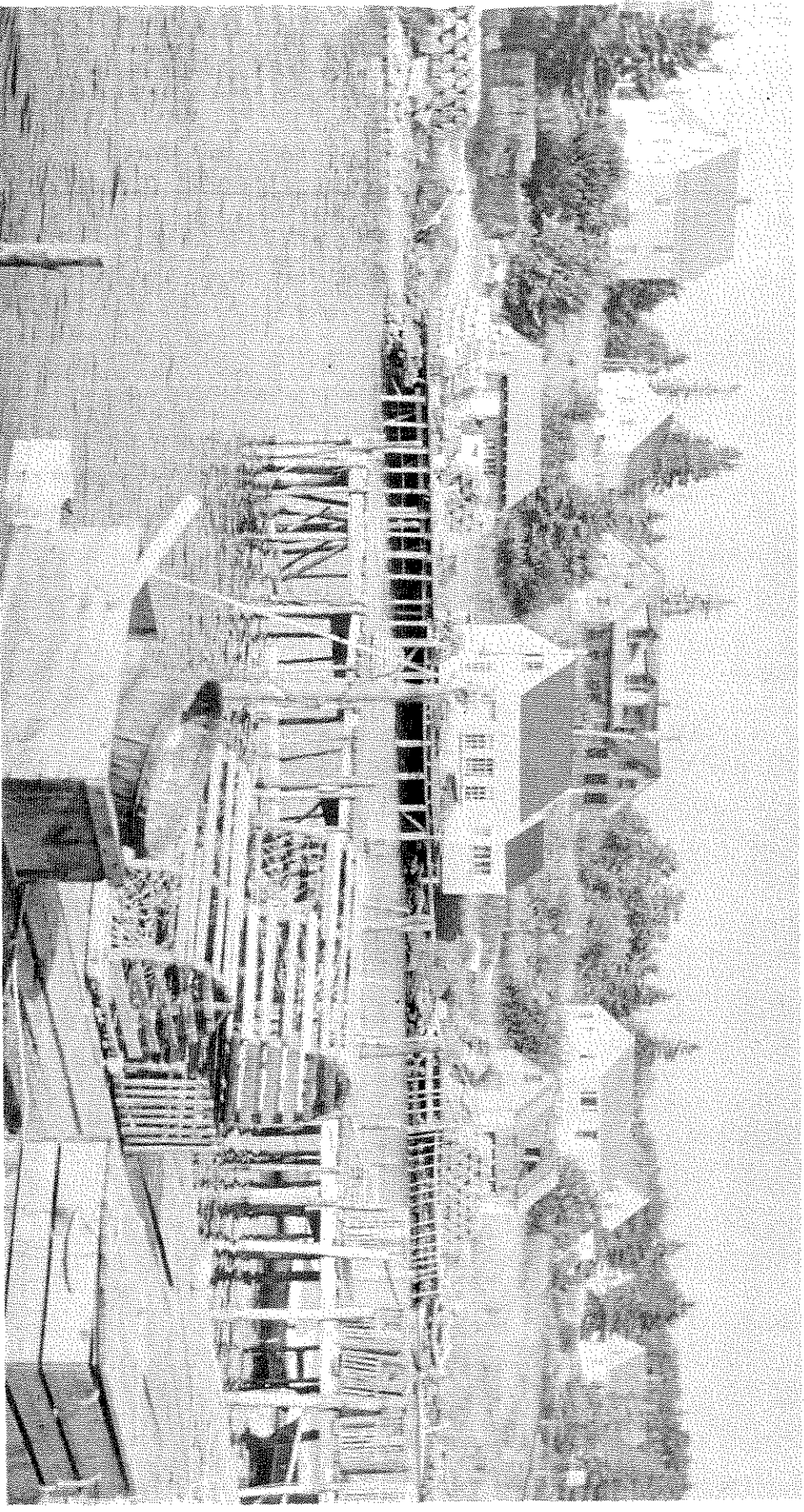
-Specifically to gather information on all topics relevant to Land Trust; to remain informed of the actions of other organizations and individuals concerned with

related issues and also to attain a broad understanding of the natural and human resources within Nova Scotia.

-Equally important is broadening our support base by establishing a strong nucleus of people founded on the growth of friendship and trust, so that the Land Trust may be planted on firm soil in Nova Scotia. By educating others as to our growth and findings we can aid in the development of a regional consciousness and spirit as well as better use of our earth.

The office of the Association is: c/o Paul Armstrong, 2415 Connaught Ave., Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Obediah



Maine Community
Land Trust Planning Committee
Sam Ely Community Land Trust

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