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1955

Maine The Land of Remembered Vacations, 1955

Maine Development Commission

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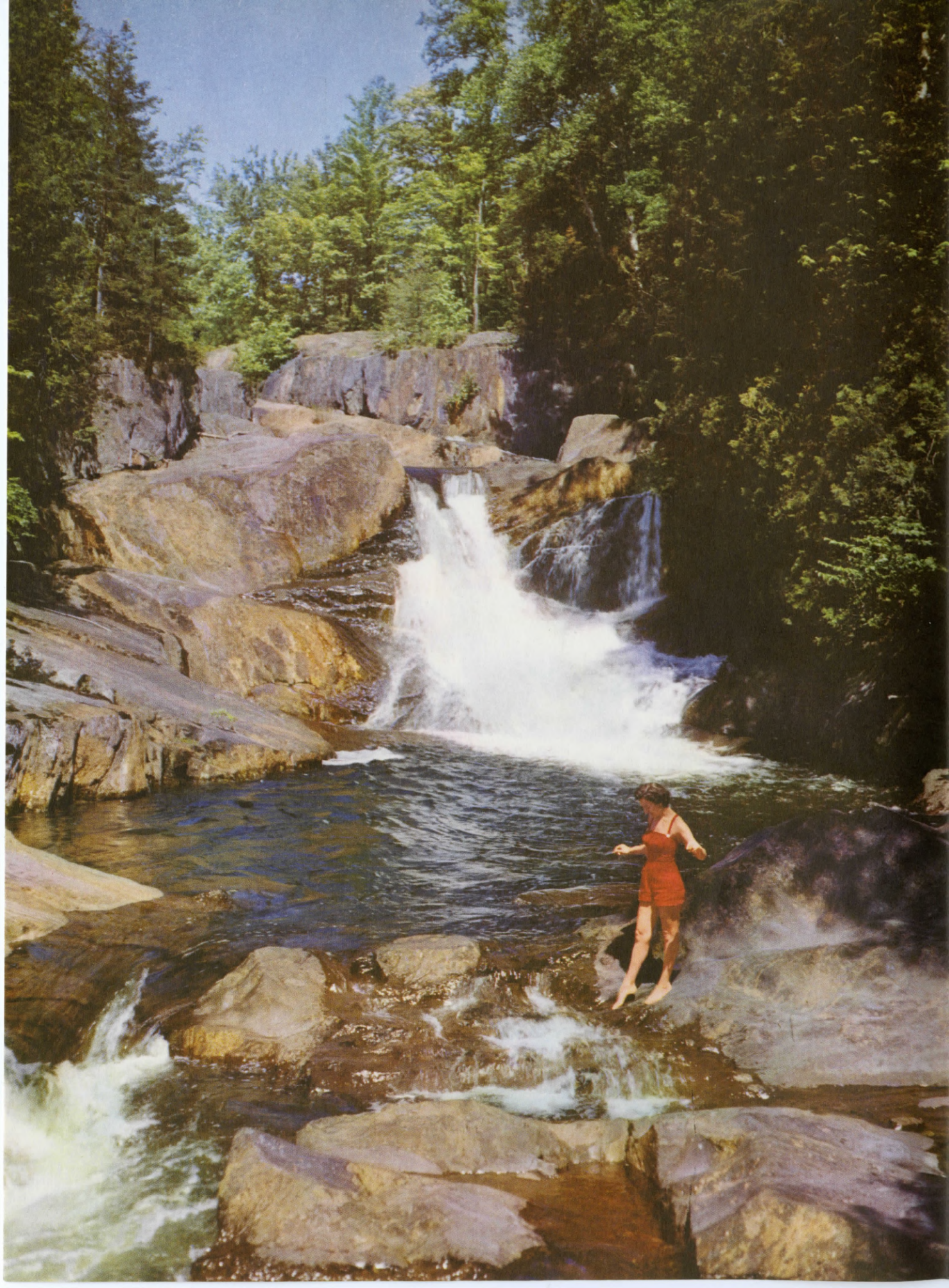
MAINE

THE LAND OF REMEMBERED VACATIONS

Maine - Development Commission 1955

JUN 14 1955



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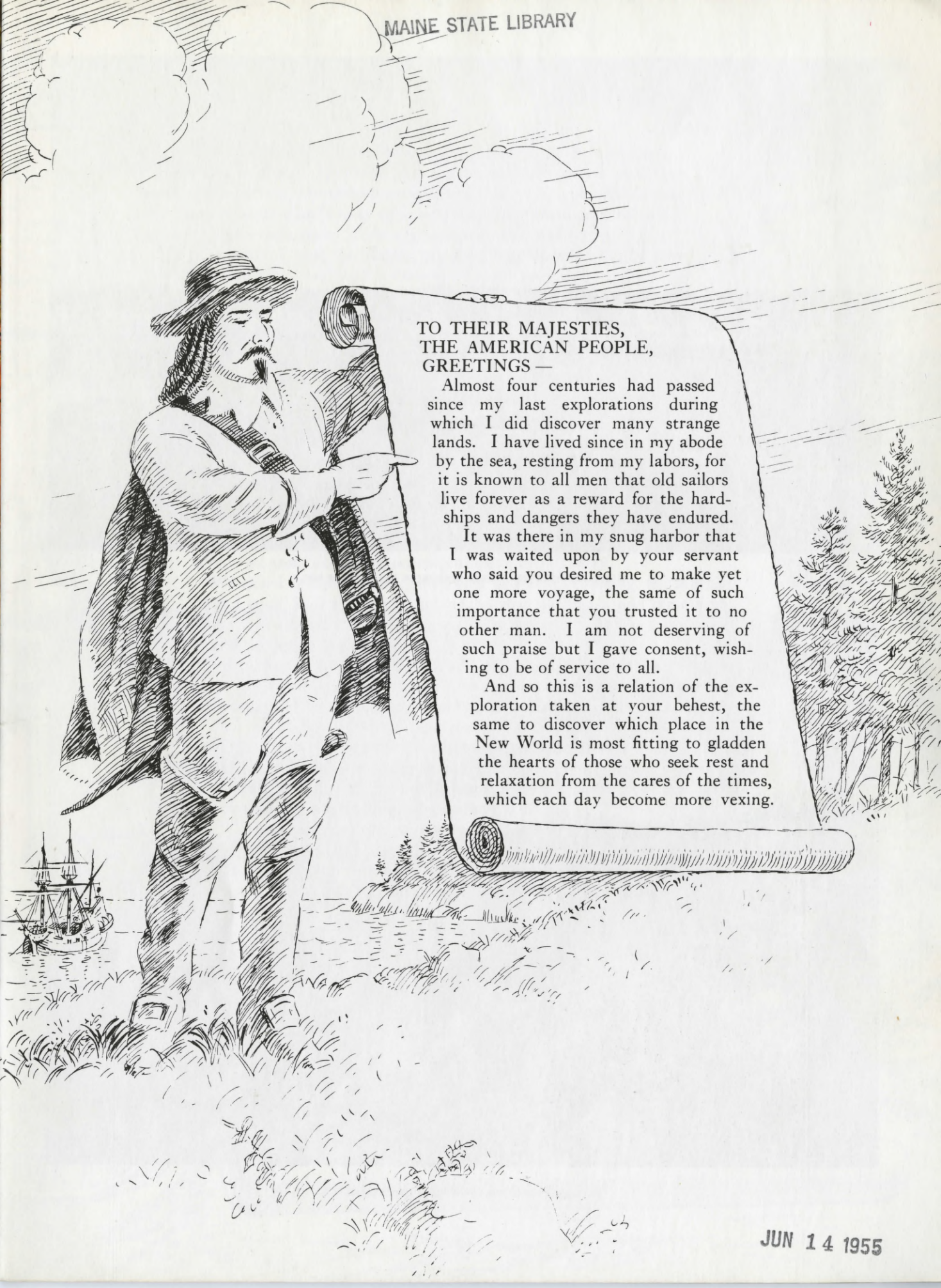


TO THEIR MAJESTIES,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE,
GREETINGS —

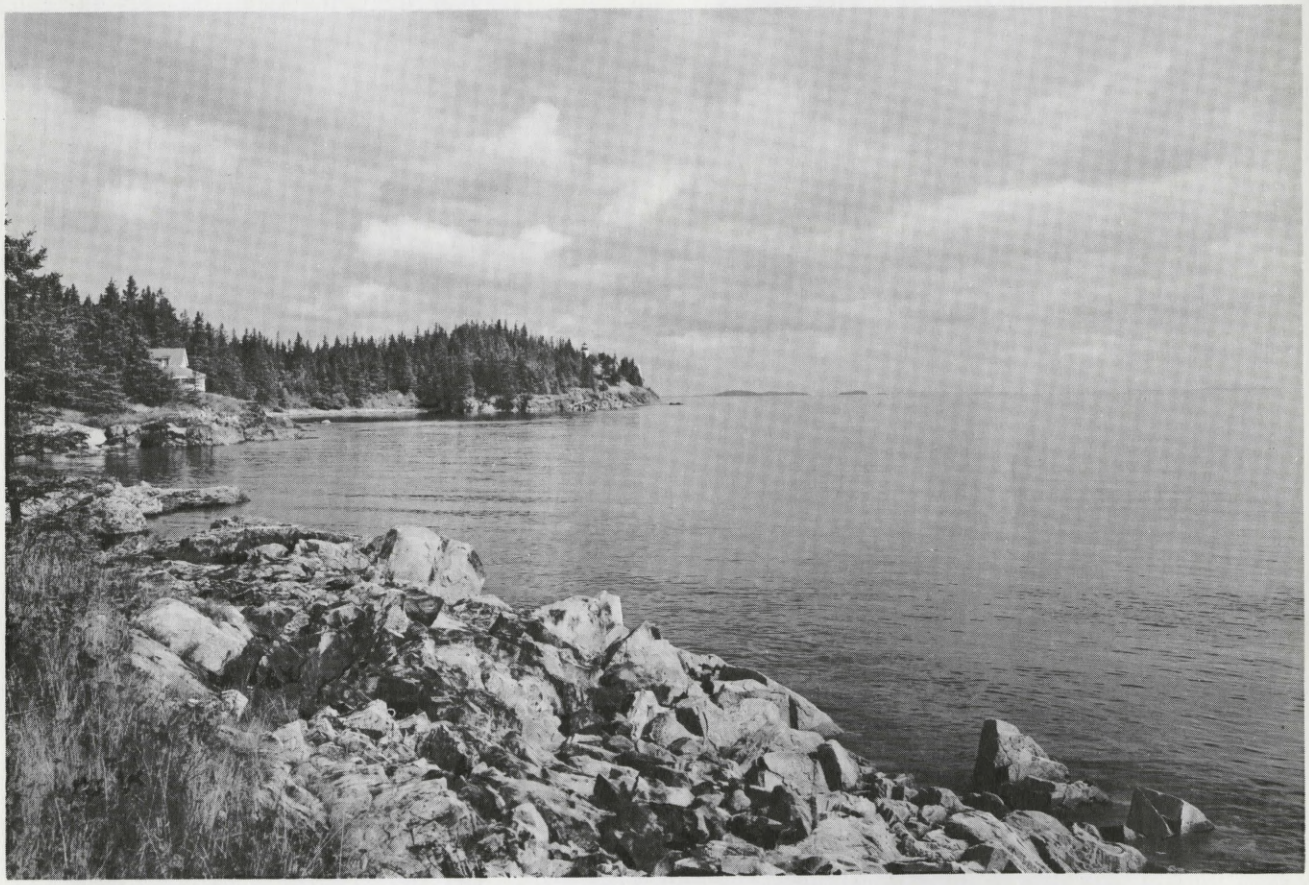
Almost four centuries had passed since my last explorations during which I did discover many strange lands. I have lived since in my abode by the sea, resting from my labors, for it is known to all men that old sailors live forever as a reward for the hardships and dangers they have endured.

It was there in my snug harbor that I was waited upon by your servant who said you desired me to make yet one more voyage, the same of such importance that you trusted it to no other man. I am not deserving of such praise but I gave consent, wishing to be of service to all.

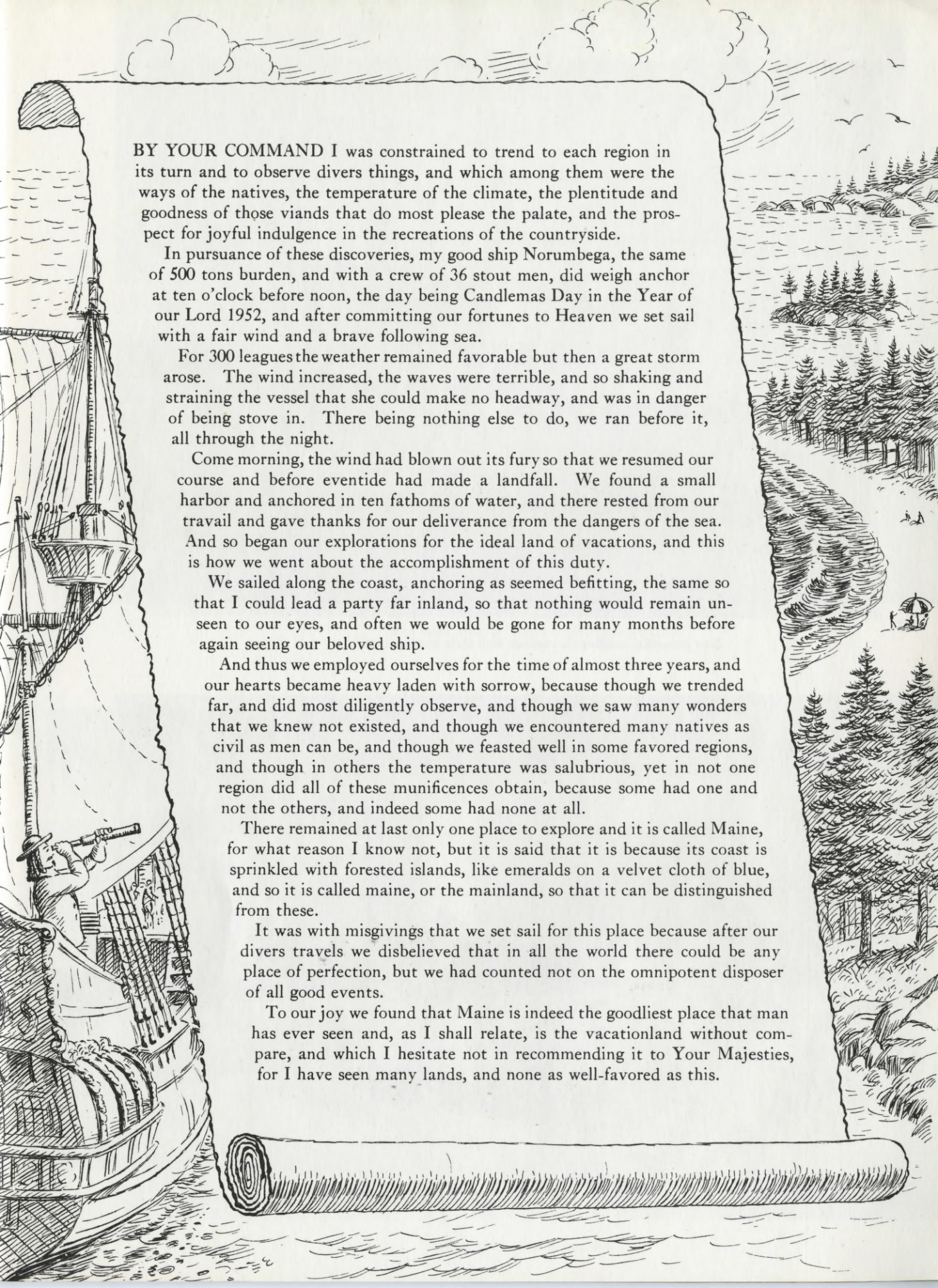
And so this is a relation of the exploration taken at your behest, the same to discover which place in the New World is most fitting to gladden the hearts of those who seek rest and relaxation from the cares of the times, which each day become more vexing.

JUN 14 1955

A typical tidewater village basking in the summer sun.



A rugged headland challenging the restless sea.



BY YOUR COMMAND I was constrained to trend to each region in its turn and to observe divers things, and which among them were the ways of the natives, the temperature of the climate, the plentitude and goodness of those viands that do most please the palate, and the prospect for joyful indulgence in the recreations of the countryside.

In pursuance of these discoveries, my good ship Norumbega, the same of 500 tons burden, and with a crew of 36 stout men, did weigh anchor at ten o'clock before noon, the day being Candlemas Day in the Year of our Lord 1952, and after committing our fortunes to Heaven we set sail with a fair wind and a brave following sea.

For 300 leagues the weather remained favorable but then a great storm arose. The wind increased, the waves were terrible, and so shaking and straining the vessel that she could make no headway, and was in danger of being stove in. There being nothing else to do, we ran before it, all through the night.

Come morning, the wind had blown out its fury so that we resumed our course and before eventide had made a landfall. We found a small harbor and anchored in ten fathoms of water, and there rested from our travail and gave thanks for our deliverance from the dangers of the sea. And so began our explorations for the ideal land of vacations, and this is how we went about the accomplishment of this duty.

We sailed along the coast, anchoring as seemed befitting, the same so that I could lead a party far inland, so that nothing would remain unseen to our eyes, and often we would be gone for many months before again seeing our beloved ship.

And thus we employed ourselves for the time of almost three years, and our hearts became heavy laden with sorrow, because though we trended far, and did most diligently observe, and though we saw many wonders that we knew not existed, and though we encountered many natives as civil as men can be, and though we feasted well in some favored regions, and though in others the temperature was salubrious, yet in not one region did all of these munificences obtain, because some had one and not the others, and indeed some had none at all.

There remained at last only one place to explore and it is called Maine, for what reason I know not, but it is said that it is because its coast is sprinkled with forested islands, like emeralds on a velvet cloth of blue, and so it is called maine, or the mainland, so that it can be distinguished from these.

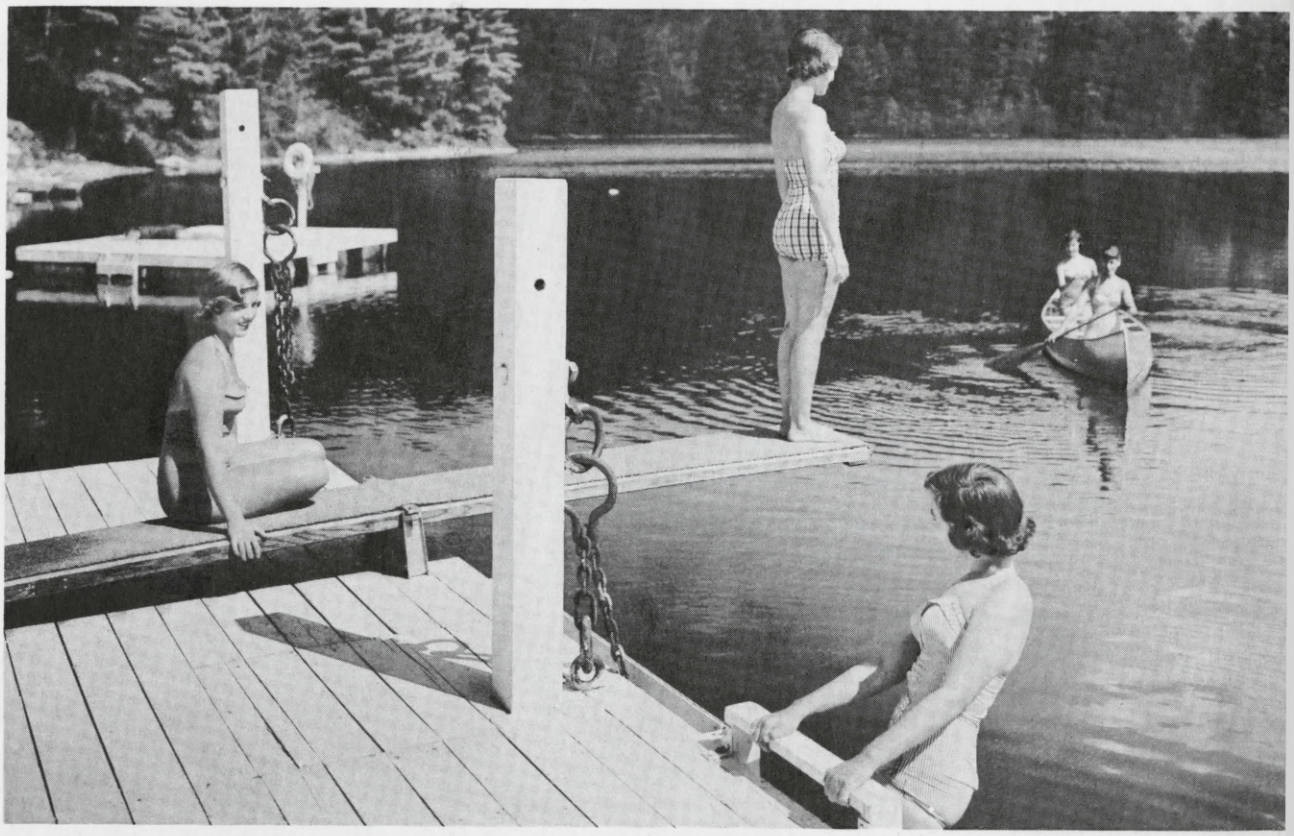
It was with misgivings that we set sail for this place because after our divers travels we disbelieved that in all the world there could be any place of perfection, but we had counted not on the omnipotent disposer of all good events.

To our joy we found that Maine is indeed the goodliest place that man has ever seen and, as I shall relate, is the vacationland without compare, and which I hesitate not in recommending it to Your Majesties, for I have seen many lands, and none as well-favored as this.

New industrial buildings harmonize with their surroundings.

Canoeing will never outgrow its popularity with Maine visitors.

Maine takes pride in being a family vacation state.

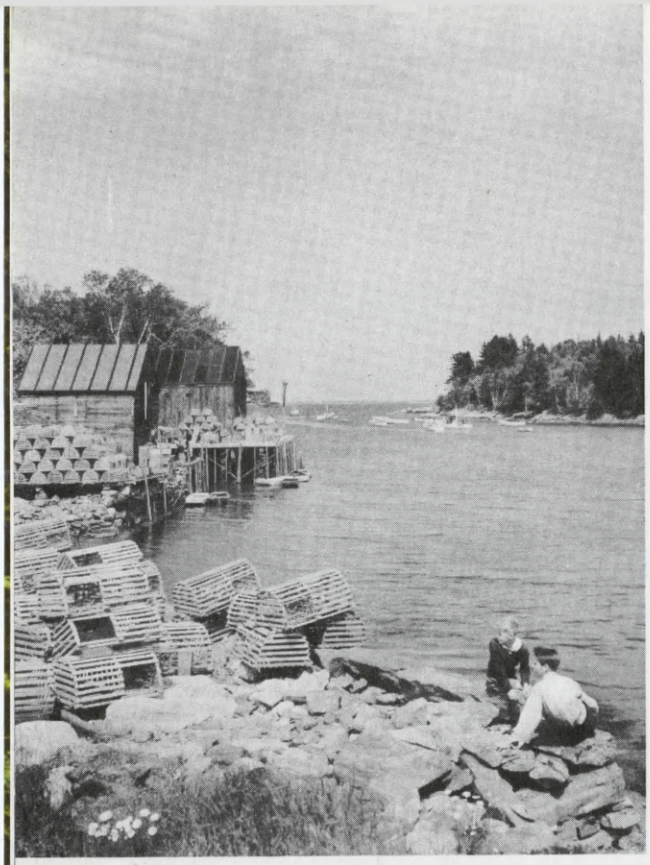


Fun for all on a Maine lake.

A "back of beyond" Maine lake.

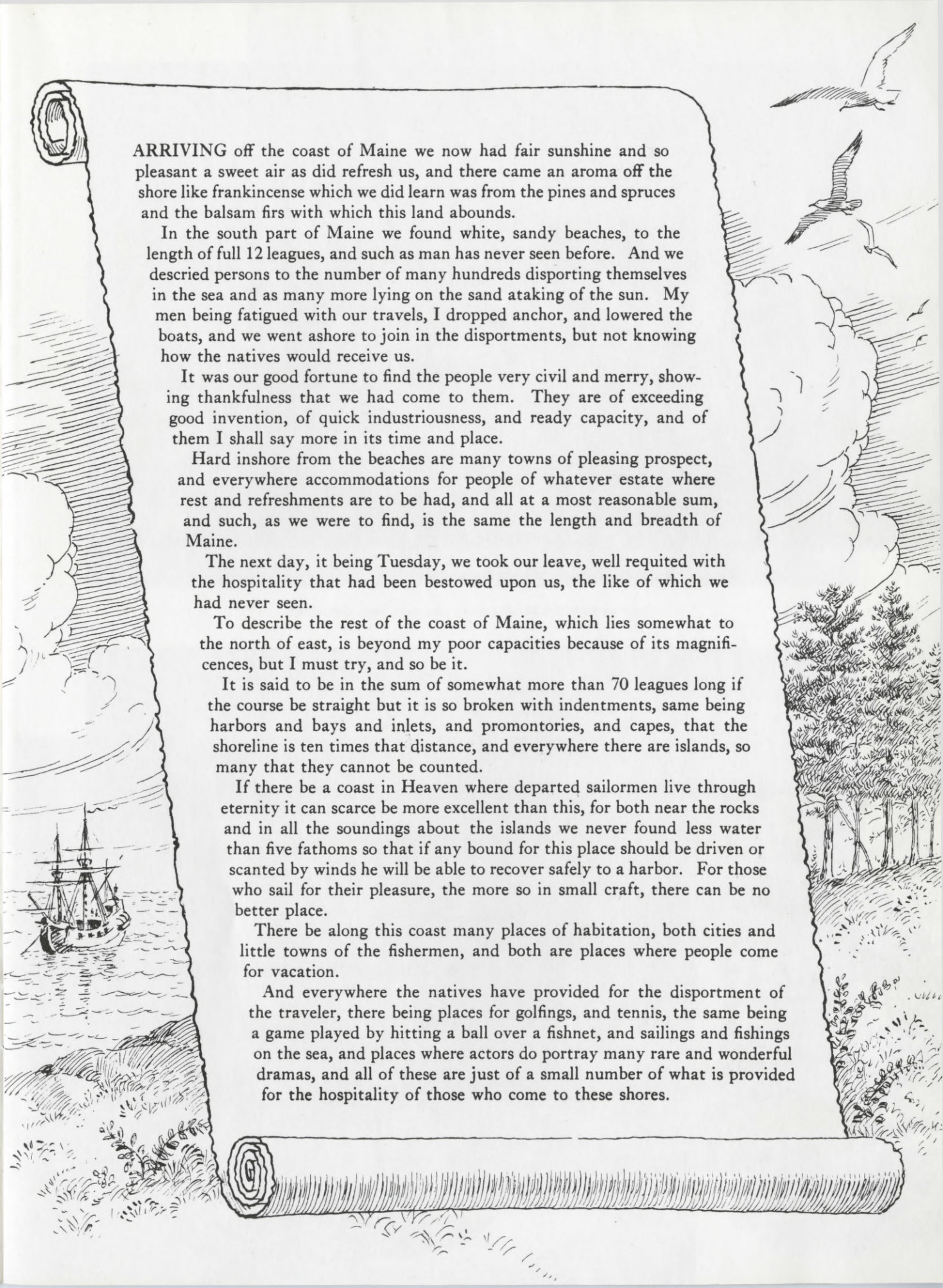
A Maine potato farm lush with verdant growth.

Children grow strong in Maine's great outdoors.



Picturesque places like these delight the Maine visitor.

Home is the sailor — with a cargo of Maine lobsters.



ARRIVING off the coast of Maine we now had fair sunshine and so pleasant a sweet air as did refresh us, and there came an aroma off the shore like frankincense which we did learn was from the pines and spruces and the balsam firs with which this land abounds.

In the south part of Maine we found white, sandy beaches, to the length of full 12 leagues, and such as man has never seen before. And we descried persons to the number of many hundreds disporting themselves in the sea and as many more lying on the sand ataking of the sun. My men being fatigued with our travels, I dropped anchor, and lowered the boats, and we went ashore to join in the disportments, but not knowing how the natives would receive us.

It was our good fortune to find the people very civil and merry, showing thankfulness that we had come to them. They are of exceeding good invention, of quick industriousness, and ready capacity, and of them I shall say more in its time and place.

Hard inshore from the beaches are many towns of pleasing prospect, and everywhere accommodations for people of whatever estate where rest and refreshments are to be had, and all at a most reasonable sum, and such, as we were to find, is the same the length and breadth of Maine.

The next day, it being Tuesday, we took our leave, well requited with the hospitality that had been bestowed upon us, the like of which we had never seen.

To describe the rest of the coast of Maine, which lies somewhat to the north of east, is beyond my poor capacities because of its magnificences, but I must try, and so be it.

It is said to be in the sum of somewhat more than 70 leagues long if the course be straight but it is so broken with indentments, same being harbors and bays and inlets, and promontories, and capes, that the shoreline is ten times that distance, and everywhere there are islands, so many that they cannot be counted.

If there be a coast in Heaven where departed sailormen live through eternity it can scarce be more excellent than this, for both near the rocks and in all the soundings about the islands we never found less water than five fathoms so that if any bound for this place should be driven or scanted by winds he will be able to recover safely to a harbor. For those who sail for their pleasure, the more so in small craft, there can be no better place.

There be along this coast many places of habitation, both cities and little towns of the fishermen, and both are places where people come for vacation.

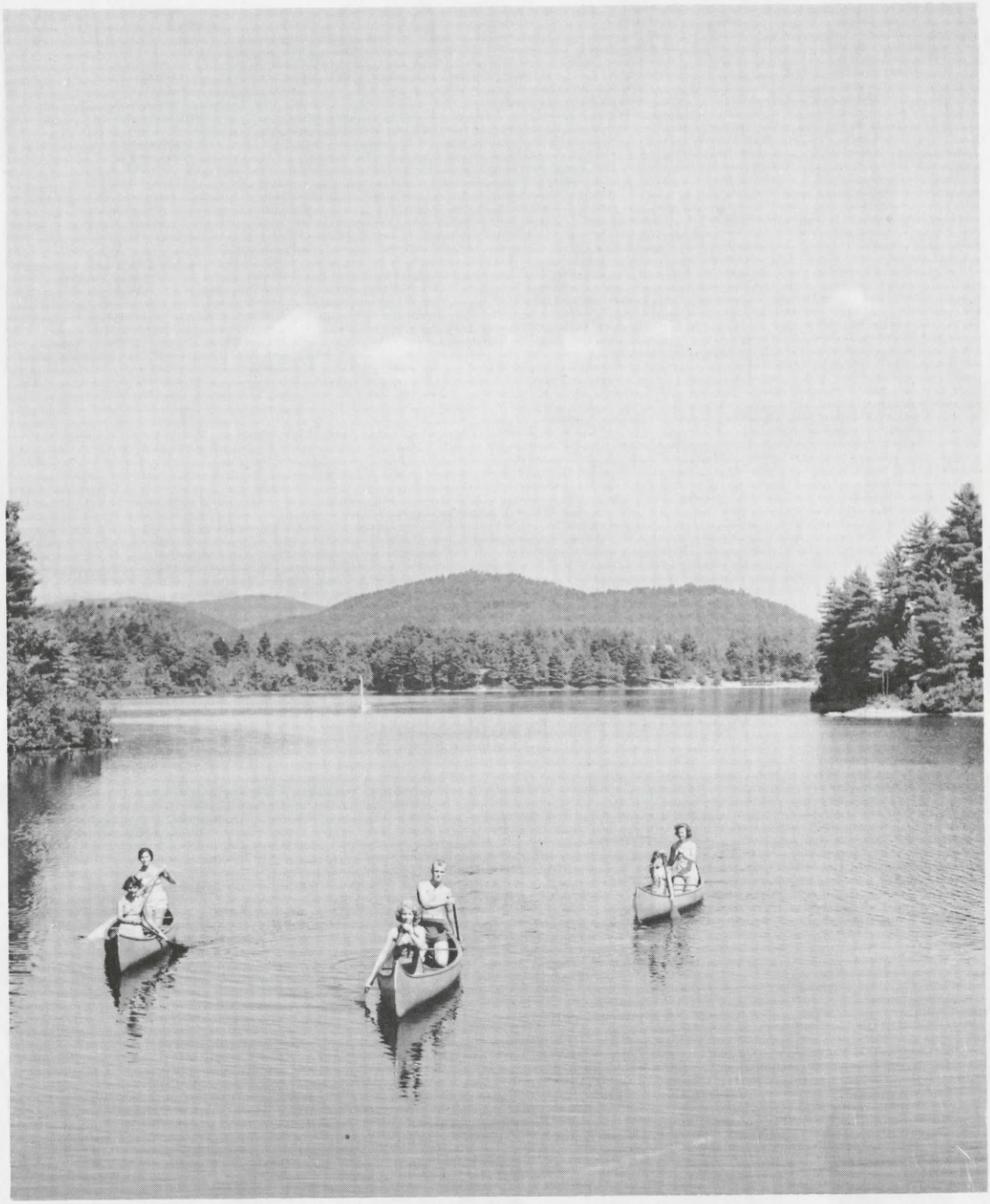
And everywhere the natives have provided for the disportment of the traveler, there being places for golfings, and tennis, the same being a game played by hitting a ball over a fishnet, and sailings and fishings on the sea, and places where actors do portray many rare and wonderful dramas, and all of these are just of a small number of what is provided for the hospitality of those who come to these shores.

You are always near a safe harbor along Maine's famous coast.

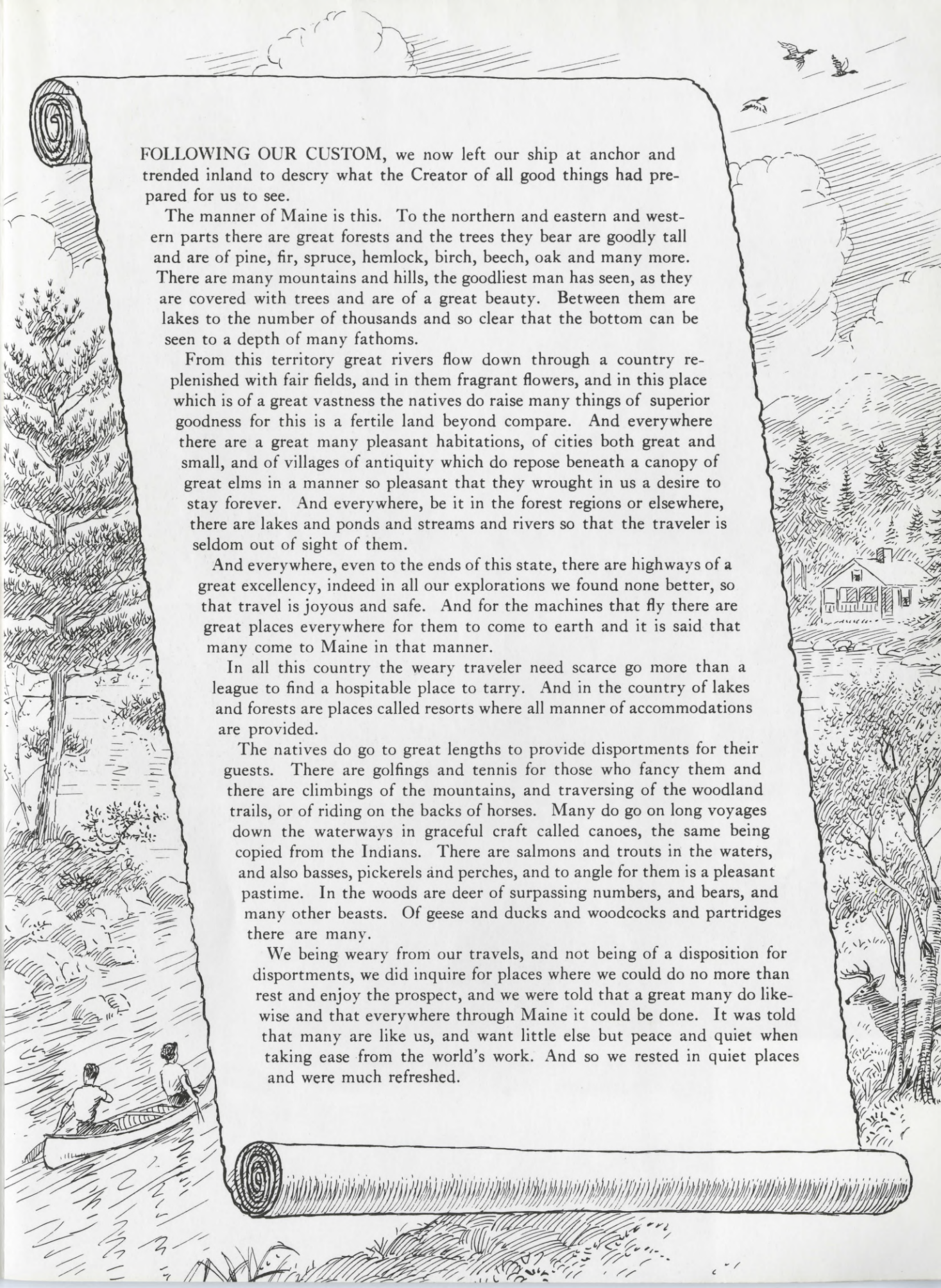
Maine beaches are unexcelled for beauty and variety.

Yachtsmen come from afar to visit the Maine coast each year.

Another of Maine's spacious, uncrowded beaches.



Canoe trips take visitors deep into the Maine countryside.



FOLLOWING OUR CUSTOM, we now left our ship at anchor and trended inland to descry what the Creator of all good things had prepared for us to see.

The manner of Maine is this. To the northern and eastern and western parts there are great forests and the trees they bear are goodly tall and are of pine, fir, spruce, hemlock, birch, beech, oak and many more. There are many mountains and hills, the goodliest man has seen, as they are covered with trees and are of a great beauty. Between them are lakes to the number of thousands and so clear that the bottom can be seen to a depth of many fathoms.

From this territory great rivers flow down through a country replenished with fair fields, and in them fragrant flowers, and in this place which is of a great vastness the natives do raise many things of superior goodness for this is a fertile land beyond compare. And everywhere there are a great many pleasant habitations, of cities both great and small, and of villages of antiquity which do repose beneath a canopy of great elms in a manner so pleasant that they wrought in us a desire to stay forever. And everywhere, be it in the forest regions or elsewhere, there are lakes and ponds and streams and rivers so that the traveler is seldom out of sight of them.

And everywhere, even to the ends of this state, there are highways of a great excellency, indeed in all our explorations we found none better, so that travel is joyous and safe. And for the machines that fly there are great places everywhere for them to come to earth and it is said that many come to Maine in that manner.

In all this country the weary traveler need scarce go more than a league to find a hospitable place to tarry. And in the country of lakes and forests are places called resorts where all manner of accommodations are provided.

The natives do go to great lengths to provide disportments for their guests. There are golfings and tennis for those who fancy them and there are climbings of the mountains, and traversing of the woodland trails, or of riding on the backs of horses. Many do go on long voyages down the waterways in graceful craft called canoes, the same being copied from the Indians. There are salmons and trouts in the waters, and also basses, pickerels and perches, and to angle for them is a pleasant pastime. In the woods are deer of surpassing numbers, and bears, and many other beasts. Of geese and ducks and woodcocks and partridges there are many.

We being weary from our travels, and not being of a disposition for disportments, we did inquire for places where we could do no more than rest and enjoy the prospect, and we were told that a great many do likewise and that everywhere through Maine it could be done. It was told that many are like us, and want little else but peace and quiet when taking ease from the world's work. And so we rested in quiet places and were much refreshed.

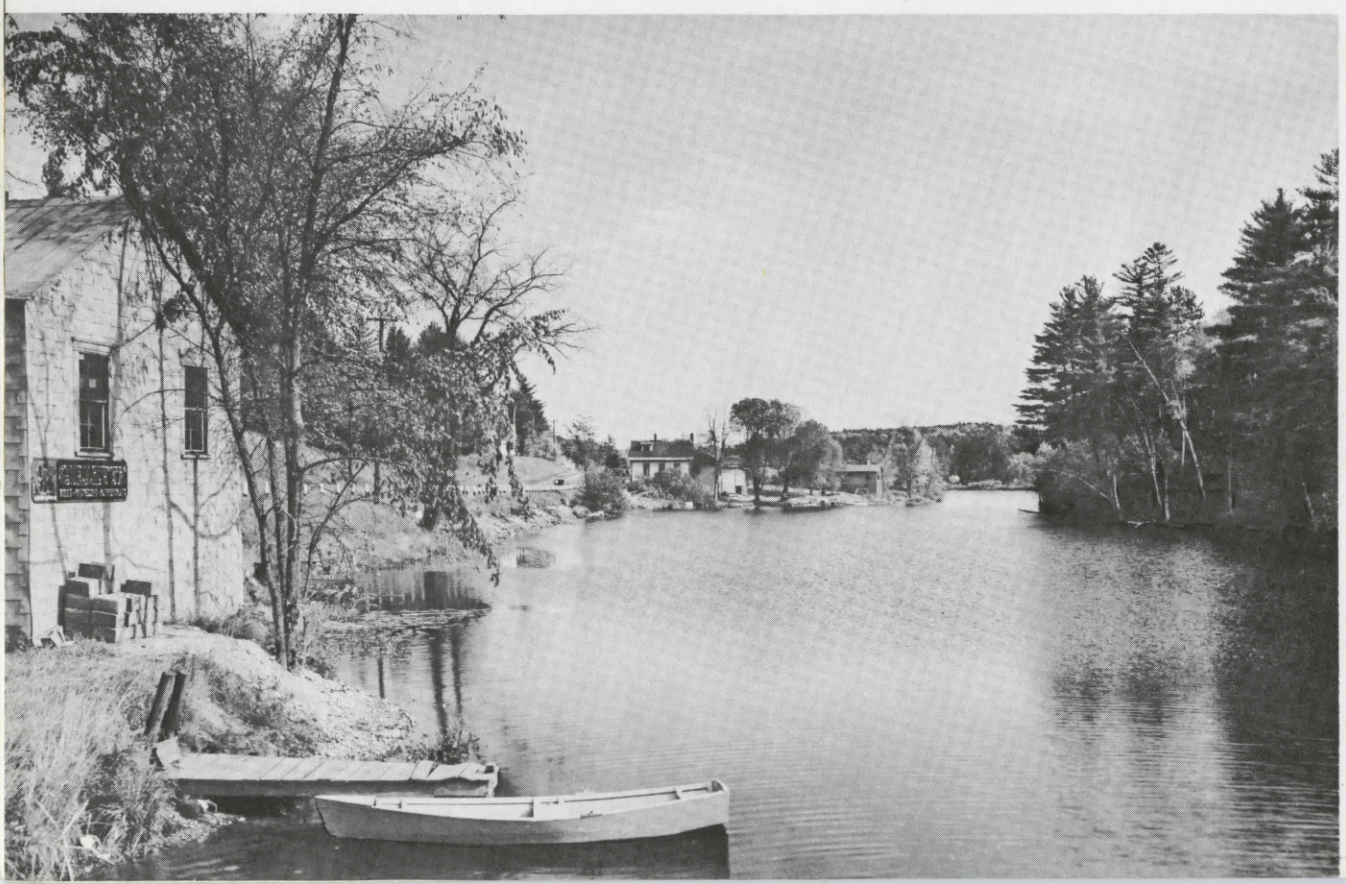
A Maine byroad beckons the visitor ever onward.

Maine has over 2,500 lakes and ponds like this.

Here is where the big ones lurk.

A lazy day on a Maine lake.

Down by the old mill stream.



Fair sailors bound for fun.

Wineglass elms shading a Maine village.

There's plenty of sailing room in Maine.

Young folk never forget a Maine summer.

YOUR MAJESTIES did constrain me to pay due notice to the temperature of the climate, it being unpleasant to vacation where it is too hot or too cold, or too rainy or too dry.

Here the air is so wholesome that I suppose not any of us at any time were more healthful, nor with better stomachs for good fare.

It being the middle of the summer when our observations were taken, yet heat did bother us not, it being seldom hotter than 80 degrees on the warmest days, and usually not more than 75 degrees.

As the air is dry this temperature induces good spirits, so that even the oldest of us felt like colts.

When the sun does sink the temperature becomes such that a person sleeps most profoundly, and indeed it was a relief to us who had endured the tossings and turnings of hot and humid nights in other climes.

The government does say that Maine is the most healthful of the states, and to such we can well subscribe, the more so as the natives are healthy and vigorous, proof that this is the fairest of all places.

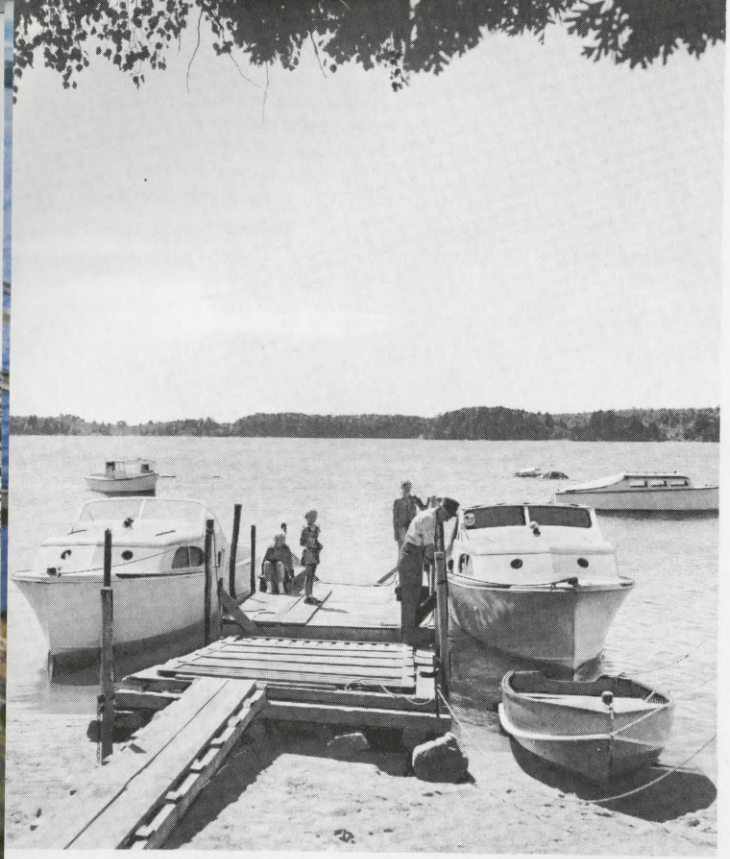
Here the natives enjoy four seasons, all different, and each with its own attractions. We have told of the summer. Winter, so it is said, is not rigorous, there being no overabundance of snow, nor of cold weather. Indeed it is said that many look forward to this season to enjoy the many disportments on the snow and ice.

We learned that the roads are plowed and made safe for travel even before snow has stopped falling so that the traveler may go from one end of the state to the other with speed and safety, and to us this seemed a great wonder and we wish greatly that we could tarry and see it with our own eyes.

It is said that spring in this region is a season of magic. The sky rings with the glad songs of returning birds, and the land rejoices with the rebirth of growing things, the air being sweet with the aroma of apple blossoms and lilacs, and other flowers beyond number. The wild things make merry now that winter is past and their joy is shared by all who observe them. There is a poet who said that nothing is so rare as a day in June, and from what we have observed he must have been thinking of Maine when he was so inspired.

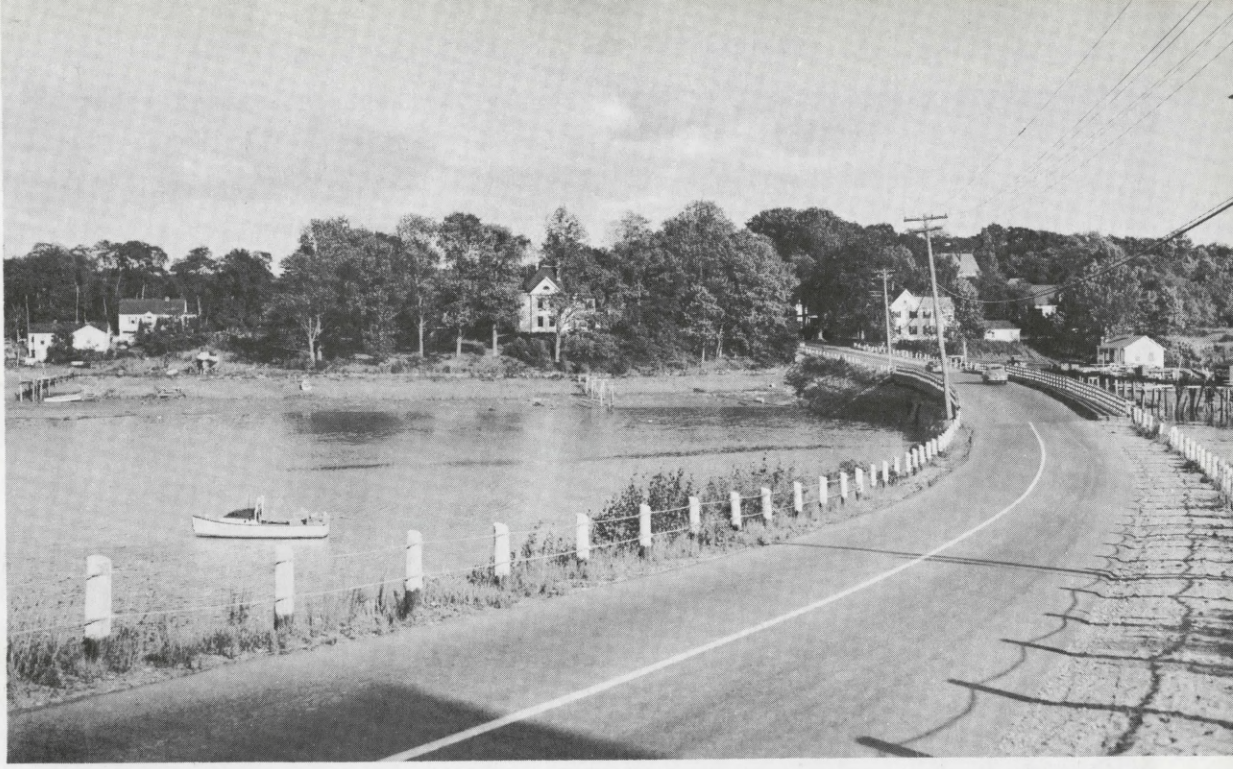
But though they have abiding love for all of their seasons the natives do say that the autumn is the best of all, and what they say of it would seem beyond belief if we did not know that they are the most truthful of men. In autumn, they do say, the fields and forests are ablazed with coloration of such degree and variety as to make the observer believe that he is in another world. It is as if Mother Nature, before her winter sleep, puts on her most glorious of garments to delight the eye of all mankind. They do say that persons from afar come to see this glory and are well pleased.

I have given you a true account of the four seasons because it is told that many who come here to vacation are so entranced that they settle here forever, I being mindful that perhaps you will do likewise.



Day's end on a Maine lake.

Even back country roads are excellent in Maine.



View along coastal Maine.

A home in the pines.

Scenery and other attractions make Maine a photographer's delight.

Living the adventure they planned all winter.

I WILL NOW RELATE more of the natives, as I have promised. They are well-favored and most hospitable, and for a reason that I soon discovered.

There is a bond of fellowship among those who travel and there is a great tradition of explorations among the people of Maine, because there have been no greater travelers in the New World.

Men of Maine, in their great wooden ships, of which they were the greatest of sailors, were the first to establish trade with Cathay, and Japan, and India, and all the lands of the earth, and everywhere in Maine there are the old homes of these great sailors and their memory is most revered.

The ancestors of these people came from many lands, here to create a place in which tolerance and understanding prevails, and they do dwell here in peace and happiness, ever mindful of the rights of one another, and they greet the traveler as one of their own, for that is their way.

It is from this background that there springs the hospitality with which they greet the traveler for it is second nature here to use well the strangers within their gates.

It did warm us well to find that kindliness was not reserved for just the rich and famous but was given without stint to all men, as is right and just.

The natives are not given to great exclamations, or of slappings on the back, but rather their hospitality is of a deep and quiet friendliness, such as one brother bestows upon another.

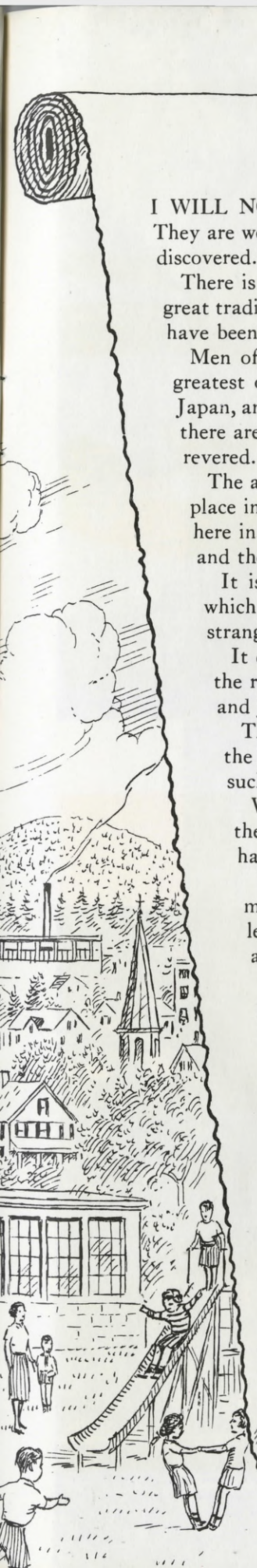
We did find as we traveled the length and breadth of the land that the people did inquire solicitously about our comfort, and whether we had dined well and slept comfortably.

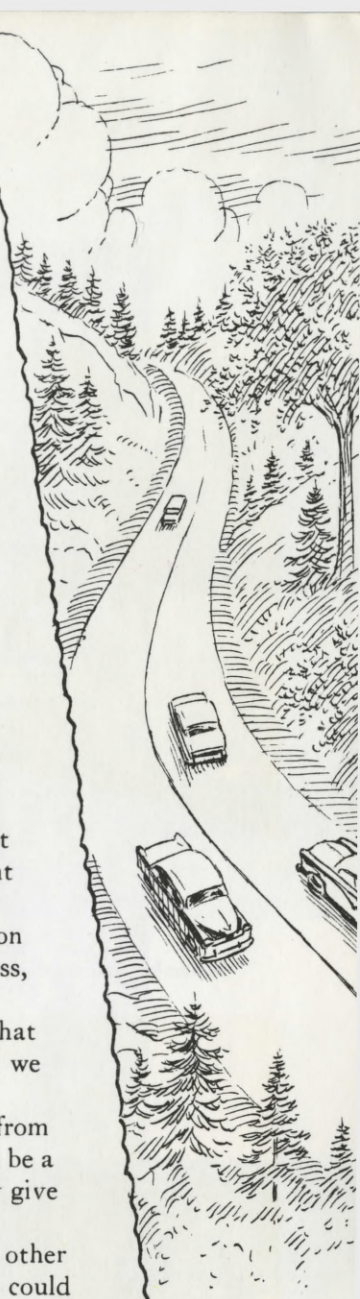
The forefathers of those who reside here come to these shores from many nations, yet all live together in peace and amity, which should be a lesson to all men, for though they take pride in their ancestry they give allegiance to none but their state and country.

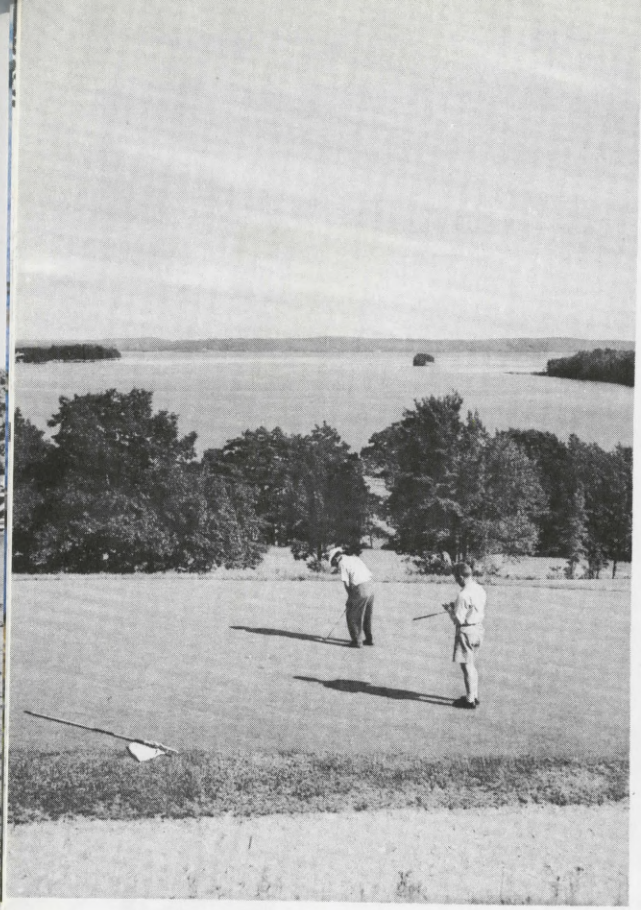
We did find that many are even now moving to Maine from other places, the same being a tribute to their judgment, as no place could be more pleasant, particularly in this troubled age, and they do say that these new citizens are greeted with a whole heart and are made to feel at home.

There is much in Maine of what is known as culture. The writings of Maine men and women are admired everywhere, and here there are many great artists, and musicians who play on many instruments, and actors who delight all in the presentations of plays.

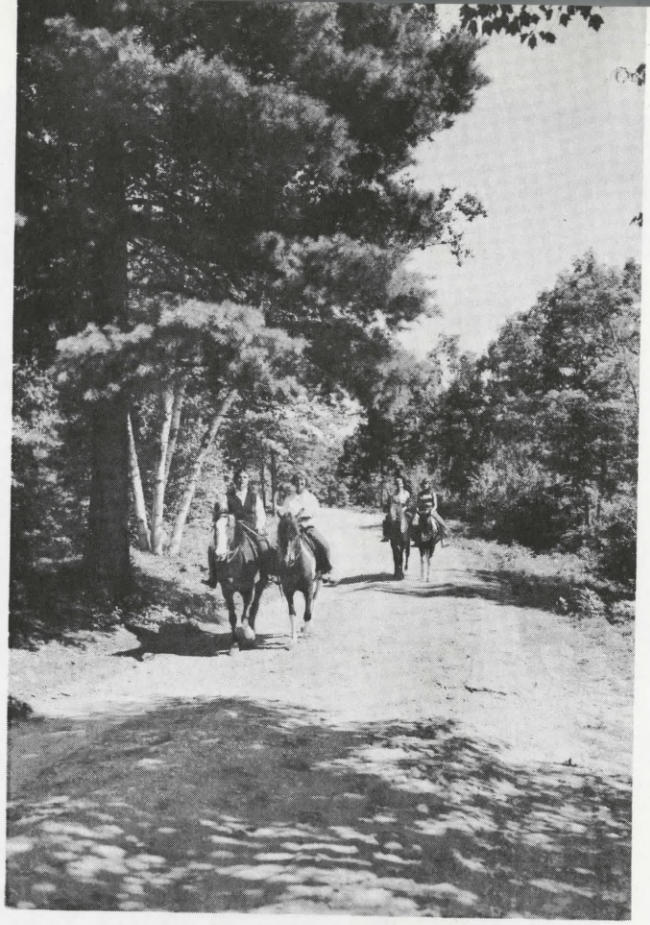
In all we did find these natives to be a most goodly people, because as I have related they are great travelers, and are used to the ways of travelers, and therefore know well how to entertain their guests. Those who come here are said to leave with great reluctance, which we can well believe, because nowhere have we been so well treated, even though we claim to be naught but humble man.







Maine has many famous golf courses.



Riding along a woodland trail.

Prescription for relaxation. A log cabin and a Maine lake.

Anywhere in Maine the visitor can worship in the church of his choice.

A Maine lobster bake, an adventure in luscious eating.

A Maine apple pie is a perfect ending to a good meal.

WE DID FIND MAINE to be a place of most pleasant fruitfulness, truly a garden of nature, for the things that are produced here to bring joy to the palate are many.

We wondered why the foods were of such deliciousness, being tender and flavorful, and the natives did tell us that it was because of the beneficence of the climate. The days, being warm and sunny, and the nights cool and dewy, are a joy to the farmer because fruits and vegetables do not grow too fast, but just fast enough. As for the lobsters and the fishes, they grow and wax fat in the cool, clean waters of the North Atlantic, and so cannot help but be of the best.

I have related of the goodliness of the things of the sea and shore which are nowhere as delicious as when first taken from their natural habitat, so that we made great feastings of lobsters, clams and fishes, as do all who come to these shores.

On the farms they raise potatoes of such numbers and of such excellence that they are shipped throughout the whole nation. Of chickens which are the most delicious, and of turkeys, there are many millions which also are in great demand because man does not raise better. Great cows, of noble antecedents, dot the country side, producing milk and cream, the best we have tasted.

They do raise a berry here called the blueberry which is of surpassing taste and which is put into pastries called pies, and into muffins, and which it would be a great tragedy if the traveler should not try them because none could be sweeter or more delicious.

Corn, which they do eat when on the cob, apples of the most wonderful flavor and color, and many other things we did find.

The manner of the way they do cook is most pleasant and satisfying, because here they have a great tradition of preparing foods for the table. They strive to preserve the natural goodliness of the foods rather than to hide these flavors beneath any overly plentitude of spices and herbs, and they are masters of this art. Being a hearty people, their tables groan beneath the goodly things to eat, of so many varieties as to seem endless. It is an adventure to come to Maine just to sample the many good things that do please the stomach.

Being mindful of the comfort of travelers the natives have provided places everywhere for the refreshment of those within their gates. In many places we did see great fireplaces whereon lobsters in great numbers are boiled to please the appetite of the famished wayfarer. There are inns, and hotels, and restaurants on all sides where the hungry may dine well, regardless of the greatness or the smallness of his purse.

Deep in the lake country we found a custom that is most pleasing and which the natives call a cookout. A fire is built on the shore and fishes of the most deliciousness, the same being salmons and trouts, are broiled to a deliciousness we knew not existed, and the variety of other things that do please the palate well, and that are prepared over these small fires, are endless in their variety.

Maine upland game hunting is famous among sportsmen.

A sight to delight nature lovers.

Maine in the autumn, a color wonderland.

Snow on the evergreens.

Maine's countless hills furnish wonderful winter fun.

AND THUS, your Majesties, we have acquainted you with the particulars of our discoveries of our present voyage, and have carried to a conclusion that which you entrusted us to do.

We are as one in saying that Maine is the goodliest place for rest and relaxation of the body and spirit that we have seen. Many of our company who have been travelers in sundry countries, and these throughout the whole world, yet affirmed that none are comparable to this they have beheld here. It is with the utmost difficulty that I have persuaded them to make the return voyage, for they have beseeched me to let them stay here forever. The excellency of this place has so ravished us with variety of pleasantness as we could not tell what to commend, but only admired all.

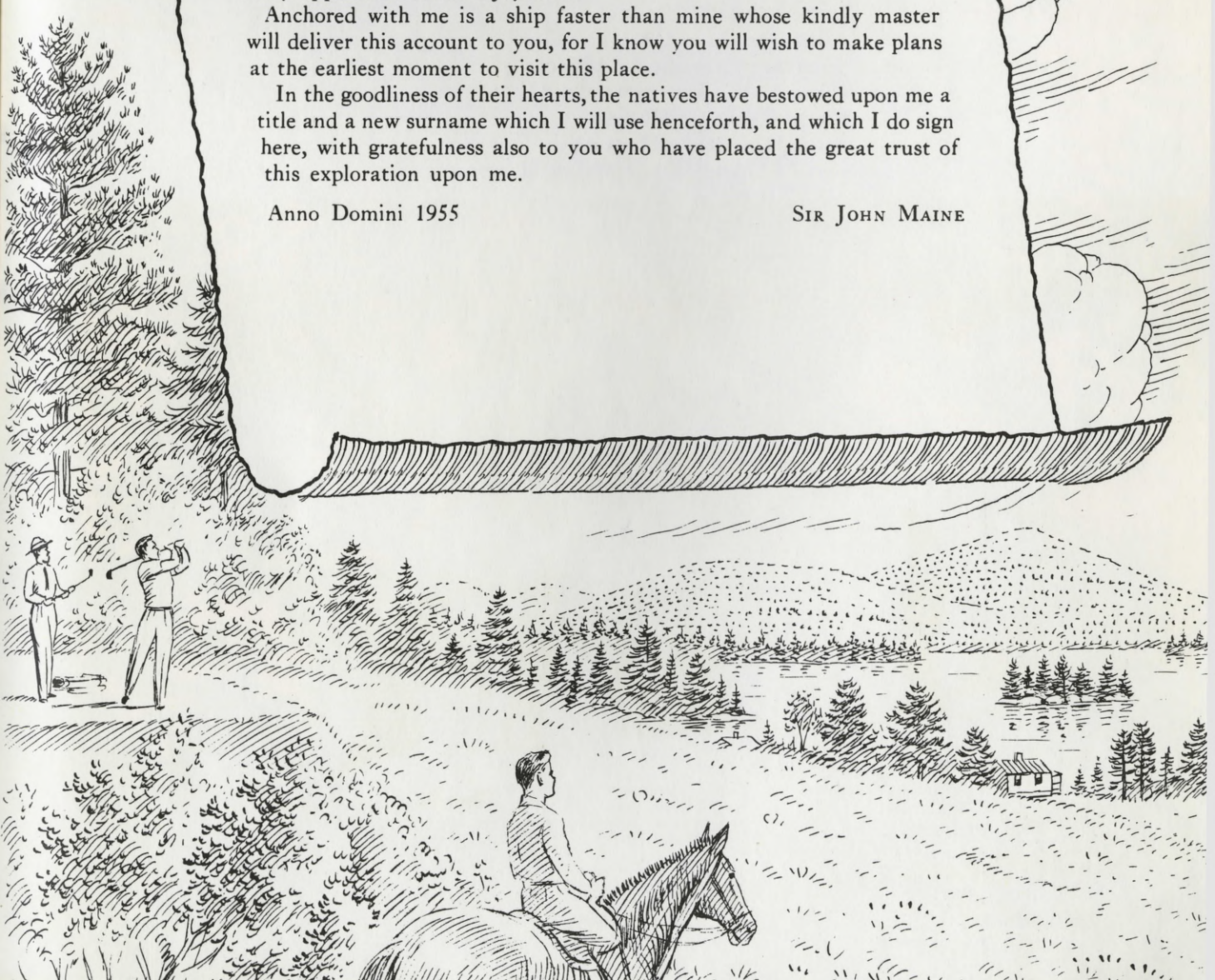
I have related that here are all of the things that you do seek in the most admirable of vacations places, and which are a most kindly people, a benevolent climate, a place of great and endless beauties, of food of the most excellence, and a place where nature and man have provided many opportunities for enjoyment.

Anchored with me is a ship faster than mine whose kindly master will deliver this account to you, for I know you will wish to make plans at the earliest moment to visit this place.

In the goodliness of their hearts, the natives have bestowed upon me a title and a new surname which I will use henceforth, and which I do sign here, with gratefulness also to you who have placed the great trust of this exploration upon me.

Anno Domini 1955

SIR JOHN MAINE



In the limited space at his disposal Sir John Maine has told us something of the virtues of the State of Maine as a vacation center. To augment what he has said we have prepared a list of other booklets that may be of interest to you. Sir John read the manuscripts before the booklets were printed and gives his unqualified endorsement to them.

Our desire that your Maine vacation shall be a happy and fruitful one does not rest with the publications of these booklets. If more detailed information would be helpful, please do not hesitate to write, phone or wire us. We will answer promptly and fully. Just address the Maine Development Commission, State House, Augusta, Maine. We will be glad to send you any or all of these booklets:

Maine, The Land of Remembered Vacations
Maine Fishing
Maine Hunting
Maine Canoeing
Maine Salt Water Fishing
Facts About Maine
Maine Highway Map
Mountain Climbing in Maine
Maine Camps for Boys and Girls
Public Parks in Maine
Maine, Geared to Industry
Buyer's Directory of Maine Manufacturers

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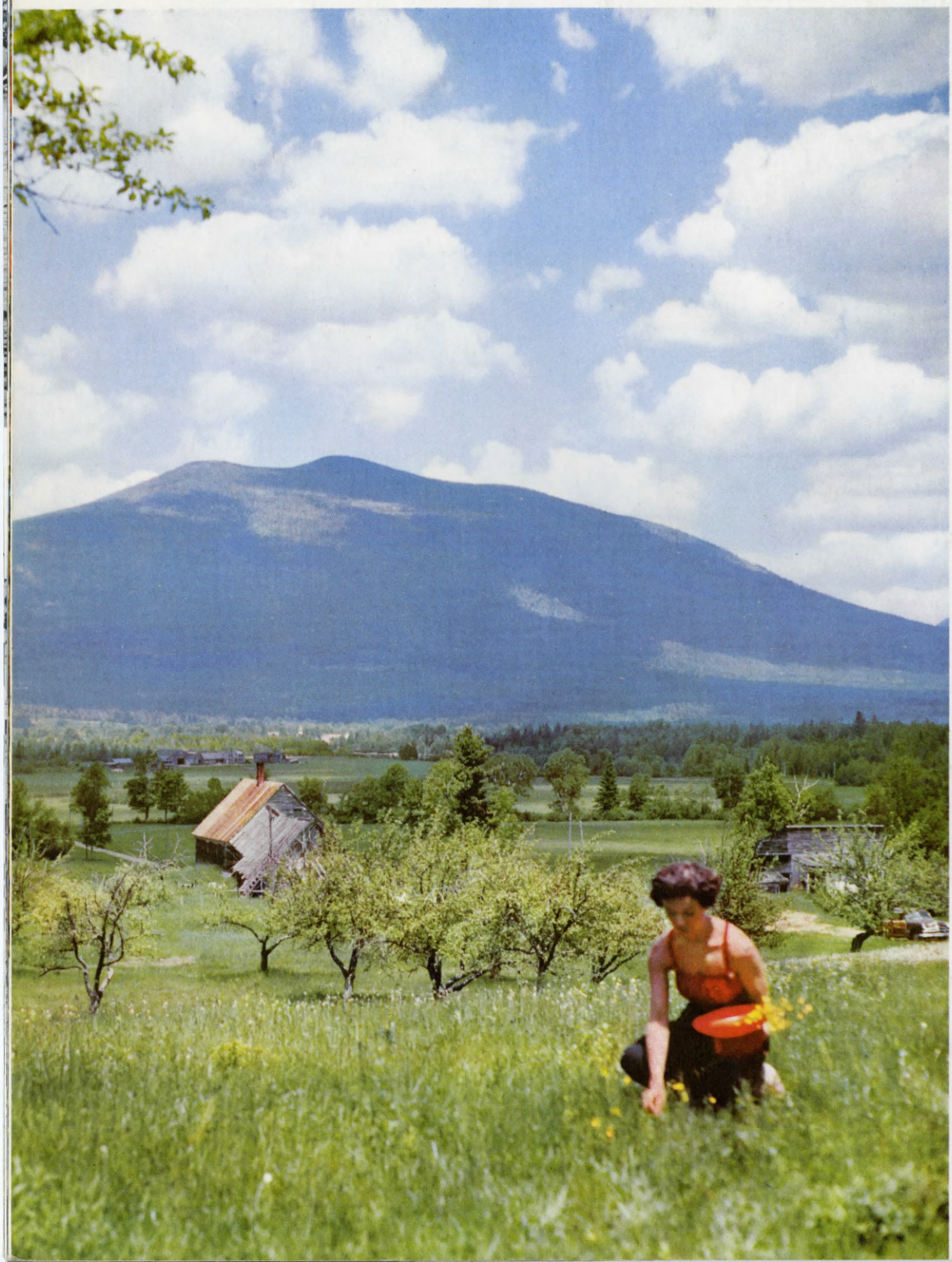
THE LAND OF REMEMBERED VACATIONS