

1946

Maine The Place to Live, 1946

Maine Department of Economic Development

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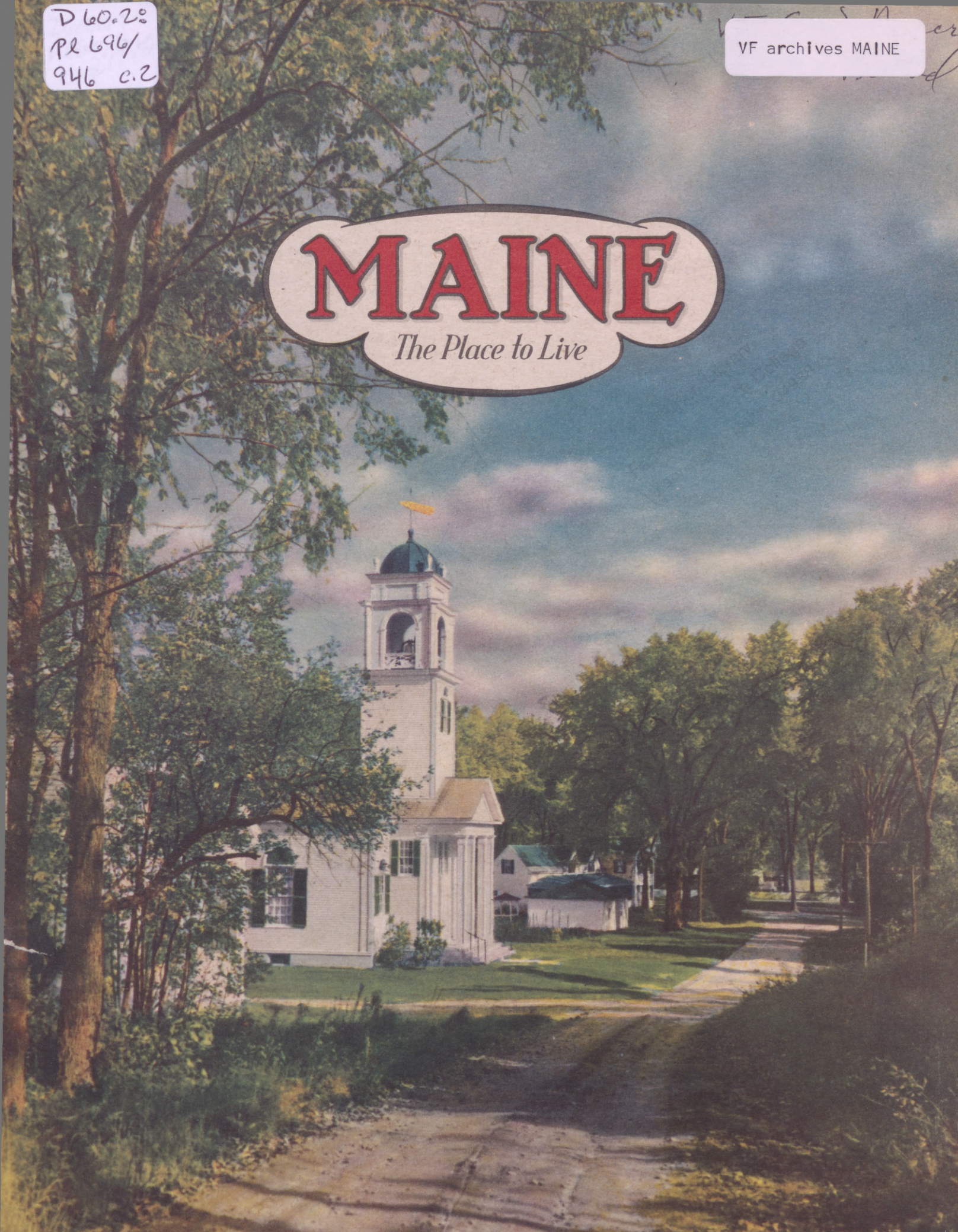
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MAINE

The Place to Live



MAINE THE PLACE TO LIVE

The 1940 census brought to light a highly significant trend. For the past 110 years people had gravitated towards the large cities, leaving the towns and villages and farms where they were born. Now they are going back. The spell of the city has been broken. America is "going home."

Thus in our time we are witnessing the end of one era and the beginning of another. This new era is to be a good one from every viewpoint. It will be more happy and more healthy than the old order.

There are many reasons why, as the census shows, the drift is away from the large centers of population. For one thing, decentralization is the theme of industry today. Smaller production units in smaller centers have been found to be more practical than one giant plant in a big city. Better roads and faster means of transportation have been found important factors in the decentralization of industry and of population.

Back of this trend that is attaining the proportions of a mass movement is a spiritual revolution that is taking place. Americans have awakened to the sanctity of the home from which all of our great traditions originated.

But what is a home? Certainly it is not a few rooms in a crowded apartment house in a big city where every influence tends to break down family life.

Home means a place where living can be gracious and unhurried; a place where friends and neighbors are nearby; a place where trees and green fields instead of brick walls greet the eye; a place where quiet and peace instead of noise and turmoil prevail.

In looking for a real home consistent with the best ideals of Americanism many are turning to Maine. From the very beginning Maine has been a state of homes. Here, in the cradle of American liberty, the home has always ranked first in the thoughts of its citizens.

Those who have settled down in Maine find that they can live more comfortably, happily and economically here than anywhere else. They find it is an ideal state in which to work or play.

The person coming to Maine finds that he can select a location to his liking. He can choose the coast, the lake country, a farming region or a city, town or village in which to settle down. If he builds or buys a place outright he will find that he will get much for little. He will find that taxes and upkeep are extremely reasonable.

But there are many less tangible things that go to make up a home as those who are moving here to Maine find out.

Maine people are hospitable and friendly. They heartily welcome their new neighbors. Before long, the new arrival feels that he has always belonged to the community. He becomes part of the social and business life of the place. He finds that he is wanted and respected. Life takes on a new meaning and a new value where a person can live surrounded by friends.

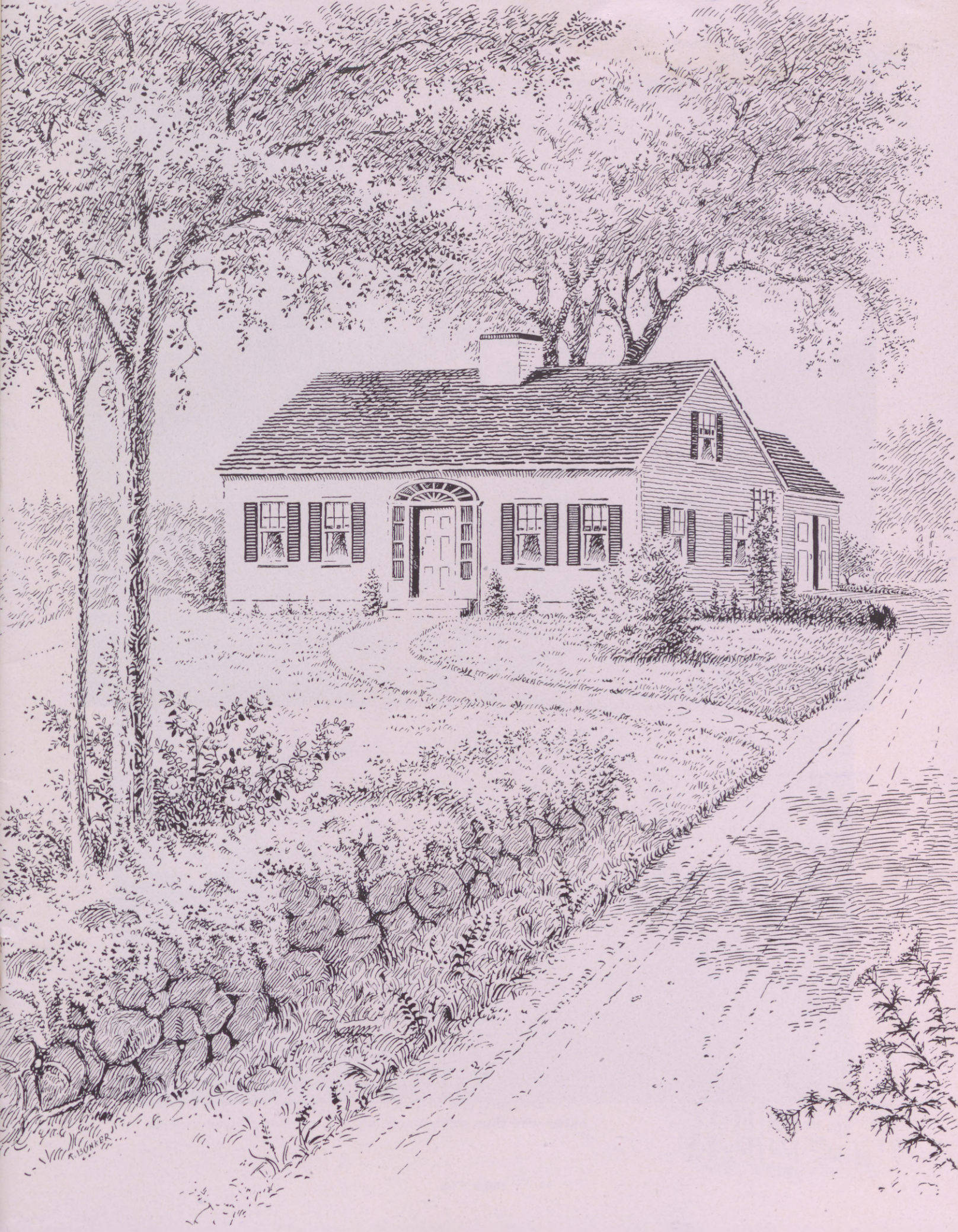
You are cordially invited to move to Maine; to come "back home" where life moves more slowly than it does in the city. Here in Maine we "put a lot of store" in the words home, family, friends and neighbors. We think they are just about the most beautiful words in our language.

Here in Maine you will find peace and happiness and all of the other things that go to make up a full measure of living. Best of all, you will find that you are wanted here for, if you are "a homelover," you will be among kindred spirits in Maine.

MAINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

STATE HOUSE

AUGUSTA, MAINE





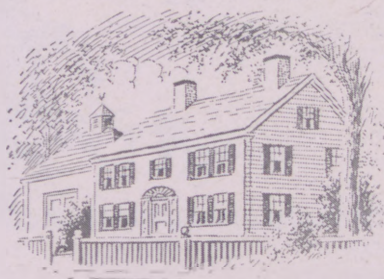
When the rigors of early Colonial life became tempered by the growing wealth of the young nation, Maine folk went about the business of building enduring homes.

The procedure was as simple as all great things are. They simply added a full measure of charm to equal parts of grace and dignity. The result—a home, in all that the name implies.

Within their walls dwelt the happiness that is bred of a Maine man's love for his home and family. From them came men and women who added immeasurably to the wealth and glory of America.

Even today they are not old; they have only mellowed. With the passing years they have only gained in beauty. They are not only the shrines of those who built them; they are still the cherished homes of their descendants.

Occasionally one of them may be purchased by a fortunate buyer who thus secures not only a house but a home as well.



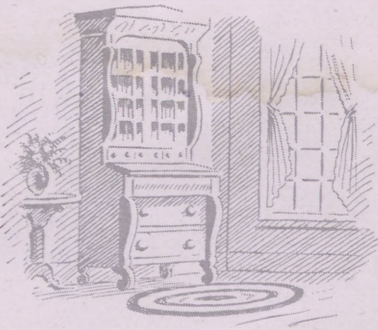


Shade trees surrounding these Maine homes are the product of the years. Planted when the houses were first built, generations ago, they stand in stately dignity, giving the present owner a feeling of permanence and association with his home's proud past.

Wide lawns and quaint flower gardens add to the charm of the country residence, and the dweller therein stands forth, conscious of his security as lord of all he surveys.

Who could ask for a better life in today's unsettled world than a quiet, serene existence in one of these friendly houses that has weathered so happily the changes over many years.





✿ The beautiful old homes in the villages along the Maine coast are, in reality, monuments to the early seafaring men of Maine.

As these men sailed the seven seas they had visions of the days when they would sail no more. They wanted substantial and beautiful homes in which to pass their declining years. These houses were constructed under the careful supervision of the owners. Doorways were carefully planned. There had to be chimneys enough so that there could be a fireplace in each room. Then the furnishings had to be right, many of them brought from all over the world. These houses, when completed, were beautiful inside and out.

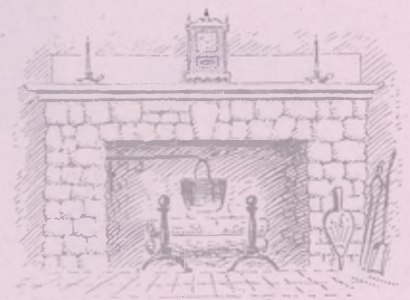





Many visitors to Maine make it a point to tour the coast; studying the architecture of the old homes; taking photographs and exploring the interiors.

Most of these old homes are exceptionally fine examples of Georgian architecture. They were built by the village carpenters of those days; incredibly fine artisans whose craftsmanship has remained as a standard of excellence to this day.

A good many of the inland villages also have fine examples of homes and churches. Many of these houses still contain the original furnishings. Occasionally one of these old homes is offered for sale, and fortunate is the person who may purchase one.





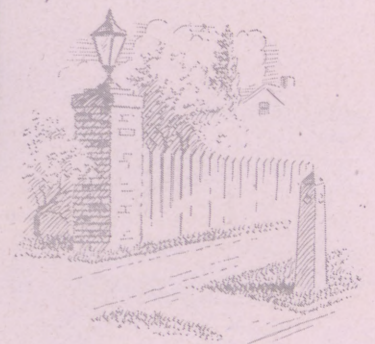
 The charm of an old doorway holds an irresistible appeal to all those who are conscious of beauty.

In Maine the artisans of old outdid themselves when they fashioned these gracious portals. To their undying credit it can be said that even today a good copy of their work is something to be treasured.

Sculptors in wood, these old craftsmen might be called, for the beauty and delicacy of their work required not only cunning skill with tools but an artistic sense that has not been fully appreciated until fairly modern times.

Today those who love things of enduring beauty will travel many miles to see the magnificent work that was done on doorways by these village carpenters who, by rule of thumb, created these masterpieces.

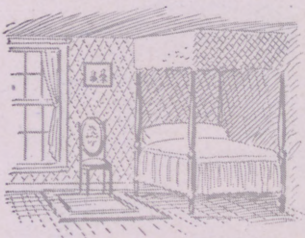






When building these early homes a great deal of attention was given to the front hall and the stairway. Just as much effort was given to the planning of the stairway as to any other part of the house. The banister had to be just right, with graceful curves. The paper on the walls was carefully selected, sometimes the walls were painted with scenes of the surrounding country.

The front hall was always the place for the grandfather's clock. The stair carpet was often hooked by the lady of the house. The stairway was the means of getting to the second floor with its large airy bedrooms, four-poster beds and plenty of closet room.

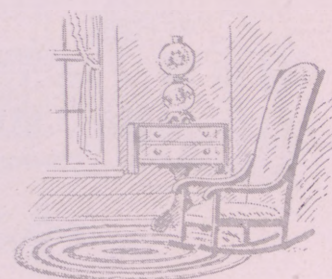




The stairway was a focal point of charm to the early craftsman who planned Maine's fine old residences. Even the most modest of these old houses boast graceful staircases with line and proportion that are mute evidence of the artistic ability of the master builder.

Pun'kin pine woodwork, doors equipped with L and H hinges and hand-wrought iron latches are exciting finds for those who seek beauty.

These rooms lend themselves to graceful living, for in a house that is truly a home, none cares to stray far or stay long. There is a figurative candle in the window, beckoning the wanderer back to friendliness and love.





✿ A little white church with its glistening spire reaching toward the heavens is the first object to be seen as one approaches a Maine village.

As simple and staunch as faith itself, the little place of worship dominating the skyline bears witness to the uncompromising trust that Maine people have always placed in a benevolent Creator.

Many changes have occurred in the world since these churches were fashioned from the pines of Maine by men of old. Within their walls, however, all is as unchanged and unchanging as eternity itself.





Those interested in the fine workmanship of Colonial artisans are keenly attracted by the simple beauty and utility of some of these old Maine churches. Built by village carpenters, they reflect not only their cunning with the tools of their craft but also their bent toward innovation.

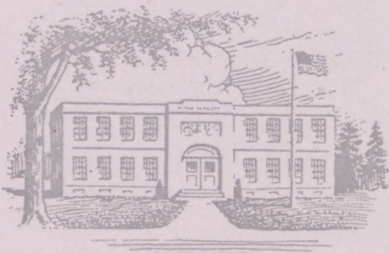
No two churches are exactly alike. Each has its own departures from the common standard. They also reflect the changing times in the early history of the state. Many are as austere as the lives of the early Colonial settlers who built them. Others show the classic influence of the Georgian Period when Maine builders were noted for their ability to interpret the beauty and delicacy of design that marked this period.



Living in a Maine village is really an adventure in contentment. There is no need to hurry; there is time to say "hello" to your neighbor; there is time for living, time for thinking, and there is time to know the folks round about you.

To those who want social life, there are garden clubs for the women, service clubs for the men; there are the Granges and churches for both, and once a year the Country Fair.

In these communities there are fine educational opportunities for the young folks. Modern public schools in every community; private seminaries and academies throughout the State, fine colleges and junior colleges for higher learning.






Those who live in Maine's friendly little villages savor life to the fullest. There is none of the hustle and bustle common to cities to destroy one's perspective. Instead, life goes on at a quiet, leisurely pace that is in tune with the unhurried passing of the seasons. To be a good friend and a good neighbor is the goal for which all villagers strive. Here, in these small communities, the new citizen is greeted cordially and is made to feel that he is doubly welcome. It is not long before he finds it hard to believe that he did not live there always. For, to him, it has become the home he has been searching for all his life.






 There's security here for the growing family.

Children have all the advantages of the large cities without the attendant dangers encountered in the rough and tumble rush of urban life. They have room to stretch and grow; room to run and things to see that remain unknown to their city cousins.

Aware of the importance of their children and their duty to today's youngsters who will be tomorrow's citizens, Maine folks are making every effort to prepare their youngsters for the responsibilities they must face in a rapidly changing world. They have shown more than usual concern this year for the future of their schools and have sought, through study of conditions and appropriation of funds, to add materially to the existing educational opportunities.



 There are few places in the entire world that hold the charm of a little Maine village.



There are many reasons why this is so. In the first place, many of them are very old, having been build prior to the Revolution. Thus they contain many unrivalled examples of Early American and American Georgian architecture. Then, too, Maine villages are invariably scrupulously clean and well-kept. They are quiet and in them life goes on at a leisurely pace.

While they are quaint, charming and sometimes very old, they do not lack the touches of modernity that add to the comfort of living. In fact, every modern comfort to be found in the city is part and parcel of every Maine town.

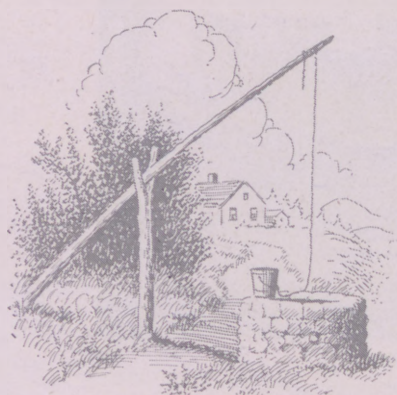
Many of those who have come to Maine to visit have later settled down in these little Maine villages. There, among new-found friends and neighbors, life has taken on a new meaning and a new purpose.





Have you ever traveled along a quiet country road entranced by the scenery on every side; breathless at the view ahead, and suddenly you come around a turn in the road and setting there is a house that seems to beg you to stop and purchase it?

In a twinkling it ceases to be just a house and in your mind's eye you see it as your home. Perhaps right then and there you plan some addition. A larger window in front so that you may get a view of the lake and hills; porch on that side; some shrubbery over here; then in back a vegetable garden enclosed in a picket fence.





✿ In considering Maine as a place to live, there are many and varied tastes to be satisfied. Some folks prefer the old colonial homes; some prefer to rebuild and reconstruct an old home and others prefer to build or buy a modern one. Each taste may be satisfied in Maine.

These new homes have every modern convenience, usually painted white with dark blinds, and may be had in the smaller villages or in a residential district in the cities and larger towns. Here folks live and have a chance to play—at no time far from the seacoast or from the lake regions.

Ocean beaches and good fishing waters are within easy driving distance.

You will find many such places in Maine that may be purchased and you will enjoy fixing them over in your own way.





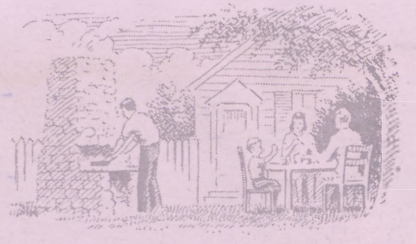
Trim, comfortable and inexpensive is this new little home built in Maine by one of the many who are "settling down" in the Pine Tree State today.


Located near an excellent highway, it is still far enough from other buildings so that the occupants have plenty of "elbow room."

The retired couple, in particular, can have the time of their lives in a place like this. Excellent farm lands tempt the owner to experiment with raising flowers and vegetables. A village where churches, a library, a theatre and stores are located is "just a piece down the road," as we say in Maine.

Fashioned by Maine builders, this little house is as sturdy and permanent as the good old State of Maine itself.





 The welcome sign is always out when you have an attractive home like this. You'll find friends from far and near will stop by to exclaim at the pristine beauty of your little white house with its shining green or blue blinds. Everyone will envy you your flourishing flower gardens and beg for a slip from your rambler rose bush whose soft red blossoms are a summer picture on their trellis.

There is always something fresh and inspiring when your home is located like this one, protected from the outside world by its sturdy white fence, safe from the wear and tear of civilization and inviting you to stay quietly inside where there is time for relaxation and thoughtfulness.





✿ The Maine coast with its endless variety of rugged scenic charms is admittedly one of the most beautiful regions in the entire world.

No two miles along the Maine coast are alike for it is a place made up of sandy beaches, rugged headlands, quiet harbors, myriad islands and long, beautiful peninsulas.

Thousands of persons visit the Maine coast year after year and many have become so enamoured of its beauty and desirability that they have settled down for life in this most pleasant of all coastal regions.

Typical of the coast is this view of a little town nestled around its harbor while little islands offshore add their picturesque touch to the setting.



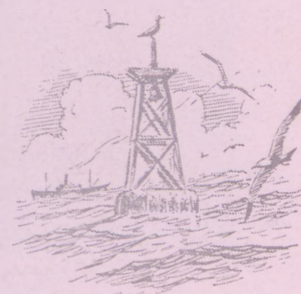


Life is not all work in a Maine coastal town unless one wants to make it so. Recreational opportunities are many and varied.


Sailing in and out of the harbors and among the thousands of islands that dot the coast is a highly enjoyable pastime. Fishing for tuna, striped bass, cod, haddock, mackerel, pollock and even flounders affords excellent sport for the angler.

For those who like seafoods, the Maine coast offers the best in the entire world. Maine lobsters, scallops and clams are noted for their unexcelled quality.

The climate along the Maine coast during the summer is ideal. Soft sea breezes temper the heat of the summer sun so that days are just right for outdoor activities. Nights are cool and induce complete rest.





 Mother Nature showers a bountiful harvest of good things to eat upon those who live in Maine. The clear, clean waters of the North Atlantic furnish Maine's famed lobsters, clams, scallops and ground fish in abundance.

Maine apples, potatoes, corn, peas and blueberries are known virtually everywhere as being the best of their kind. Maine dairy and poultry products are in demand far from the borders of the state.

The person who moves to Maine can raise much of his own food if he wishes. If not, he will find a wealth of epicurean riches for sale at the corner store; foods fresh from the sea or land full of the delicious flavor that characterizes all Maine food products.





Many Maine coastal towns are among the oldest habitations in the entire country.

Here adventurous spirits from Europe settled down long before the Revolutionary War to found a tradition that will live forever in the memory of man.

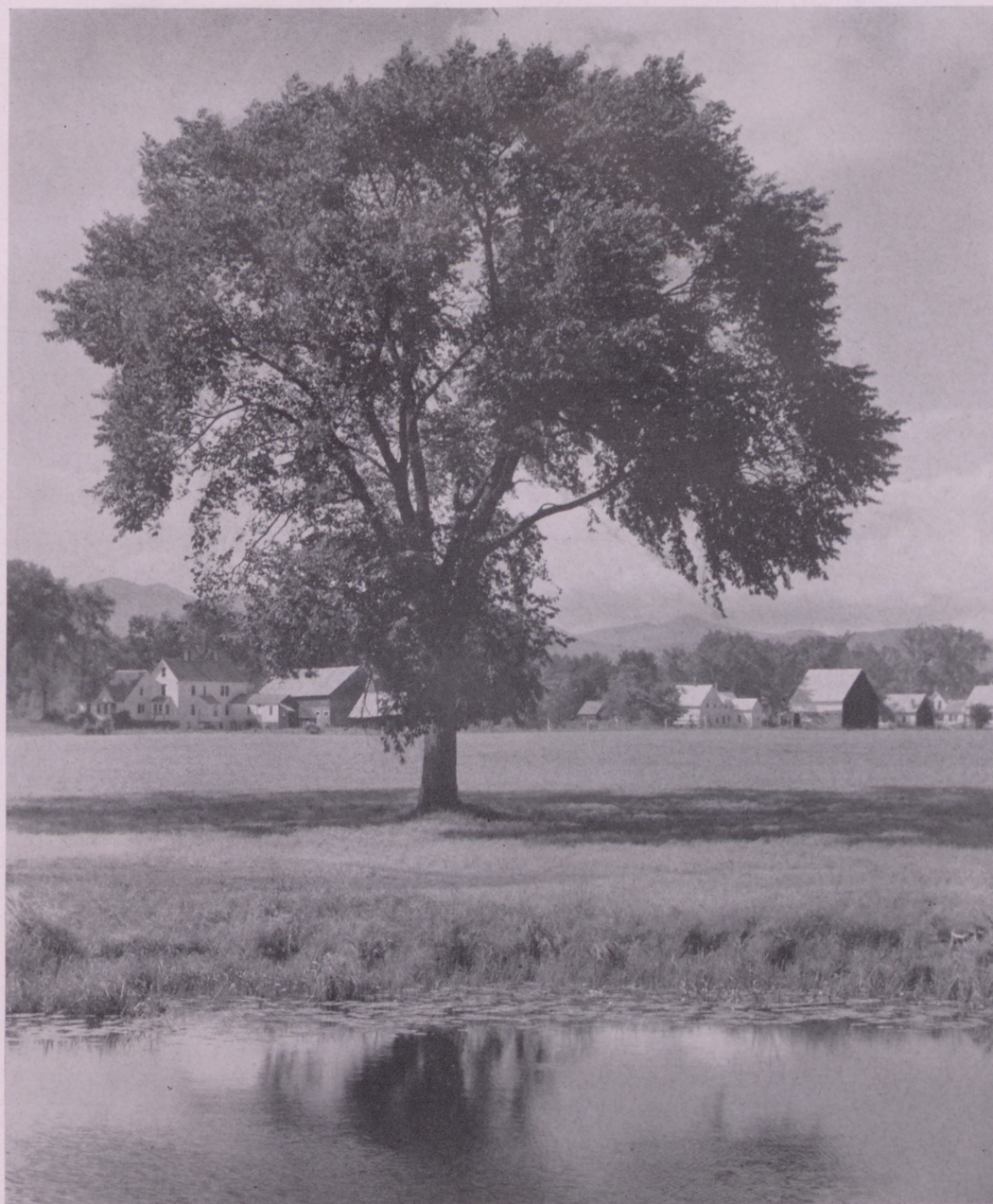
These men of Maine were followers of the sea and their ships sailed into every port in the civilized world to establish the foreign commerce that was to play a great part in the eventual prosperity of the new nation.

For their daring and for their seamanship Maine sailormen have never been excelled. Rare indeed was the deep water sailing ship in the days of old that did not have at least one Maine man on its roster.

Even though sail has given away to power, Maine ships and Maine men still carry on the tradition of supremacy on the seven seas.

The person who settles down in a Maine coastal town cannot remain unaware of the part it has played in the building of a nation. It is inherent in the very life of the community and in the character of the inhabitants.





❁ "I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree." To the lovers of trees, Maine has a particular appeal. Here right on your own land you can have a lovely pine or a sturdy elm. From nearby woods you may transplant seedlings of fir, spruce and cedar to help landscape your property.





There are so many places to go and so many things to see in this State that it is a hopeless task to enjoy them all to the fullest in the short space of a lifetime.

One can never grow tired of Maine scenery for every turn in the road, every hill that is climbed, unfolds some new phase of its natural beauty.

Along the coast the magic spell of the sea holds the traveler in its grasp. The quiet beauty of the farm country has its own particular charm. The thousands of lakes nestled in their surrounding green-clad hills have an irresistible appeal. The long stretches of majestic forests as viewed from the hilltops are unforgettable.

No long trips are necessary in order to reach these spots of scenic beauty. They are at the very doors of those who live in Maine.






For those who like plenty of elbow room Maine offers many opportunities in its sparsely settled areas on the fringes of the mountains and forests. Besides the joy of living in one of the most ruggedly beautiful spots on the globe, the person who buys property in these places will find that he has many opportunities to make a very good living. New advances in farming technique promise a rich future for these sections of Maine.






 No farming country in the world is more beautiful, or more fertile than that of Maine. For those who plan to take up farming as a vocation, the Pine Tree State offers vast opportunities. Through a happy combination of climatic circumstances, foodstuffs grown in Maine reach the ultimate in flavor and texture. Sheep, cattle and poultry grown in Maine are in great demand in the markets of the east.

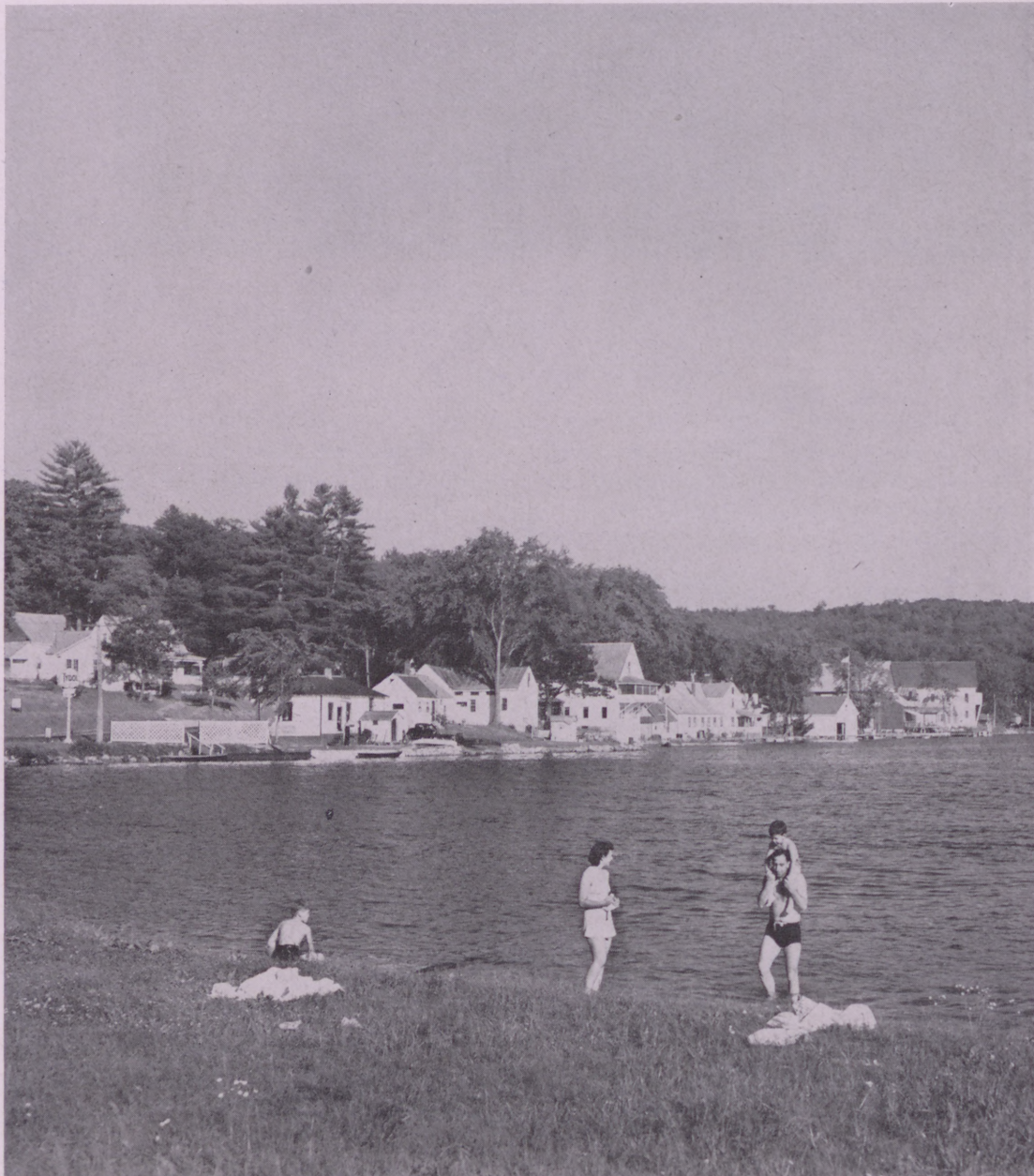
The person who buys a farm in Maine will be agreeably surprised by the many excellent services he can obtain from state agencies. Under the leadership of the State Department of Agriculture, the Extension Service and other agencies the quality of Maine crops has risen steadily upwards. Rural communities welcome the stranger within their gates and give him every cooperation in getting started.






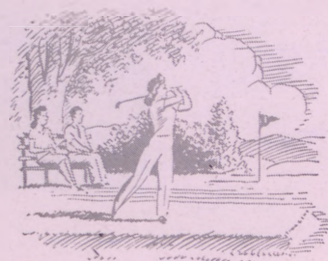
 There are many villages in Maine located on the shores of a lake. Many people prefer the lake regions to the seacoast.

Those who live in these lakeside villages have the opportunities almost in their back yards of swimming, canoeing, sailing and fishing.





 These country roads that wind in through the woods and by the shores of lakes afford fine opportunities for those who want to go cycling, horseback riding or hiking. There is always something to see. There are wild flowers, trees, and, in fact, nature at its best.





Most motorists are in too much of a hurry. It is fun to just motor along leisurely with no particular objective in view. If you feel unhurried you may stop and look at things as you go along—turn off the main highway onto a country road and you will be well repaid. There is the scenery of mountains, hills, fields and lakes. There are farm buildings with crops and herds of cattle and sheep to be seen. Many times just off the highway is a beautiful waterfall. There are streams and brooks where you may stop for a little fishing if you so desire.

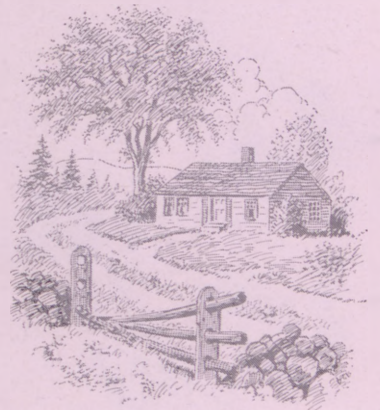
Once you have taken such a trip you will take one often.





Those who have toured through Maine will agree that there is no such thing as monotony on a trip through the state. Every mile, virtually every bend in the road, brings new vistas of scenic beauty. In a very few hours' drive from home, when you are living in Maine, one will skirt the magnificent coast, pass through charming little villages, visit the lake and mountain regions and travel through peaceful farming areas.

Maine has thousands of miles of fine, surfaced highways that allow the motorists to go long distances safely and swiftly. Thus every section of the state is linked in a great network of roads that makes isolation a thing of the dim past.





✿ Off the beaten path is this little road that leads to a sheltered haven far from the rush and hurry of modern life.

Here are fields to roam and woodland paths along which to wander where the daily miracles of sunrise and sunset may be viewed in all their glory.

For the sportsmen there are game birds in the hunting season; deer in the surrounding woods. Streams and lakes abound in trout, salmon and bass.

In turning the pages of this booklet it is hoped that we have been able to portray some of the many advantages that go with living in Maine. We hope that, as a result, you will want to join the many who have become permanent residents of our state within the past few years.

If so, you have probably built up a mental image of what this new Maine home of yours will be like. There remains now the task of finding this dream home of yours.

The Maine Development Commission will be glad to be of assistance to you in this quest. If you will let us know your preferences we will be glad indeed to suggest where what you are seeking can be found.

In addition, there are probably many other things about Maine living conditions that you will want to know such as social, educational and religious advantages to be found here.

It will give us great pleasure to help smooth the path that lies between your present residence and your new home in Maine.

A communication addressed to the Maine Development Commission at the State House, Augusta, Maine, will bring a prompt answer.

MAINE

The Place to Live

