

## HARPSWELL'S CLUB FOR ALL SEASONS

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SECOND only to the Garden Club's interest in its annual shows is its program of restoring and preserving the heritage of the area.

Union Church had been unused for thirty years when members of the club decided to investigate with a view to its restoration. The key had been lost and the owner was unknown. When scouts of the club limbed through a window, they encountered a scene of wreckage and decay. The roof had ceased to resist the elements, the plaster of one wall had collapsed, most of the glass was gone and the carpeting was a moldering fabric held together more by its musty unguence than by its fibers.

Today, after endless volunteer labor, an investment of over \$15,000 and gifts such as a 100-year-old carpet and some Empire furniture, Union Church stands as a landmark that gives the whole community pride. Besides the annual flower show, three vesper services are held there each summer — June 27, August 1, and September 12 this year — and every Christmas, club members decorate the exterior. The interior, highly reminiscent of the style of Sir Christopher Wren, after whose designs it may well have been modeled, is architecturally unique in southern Maine.

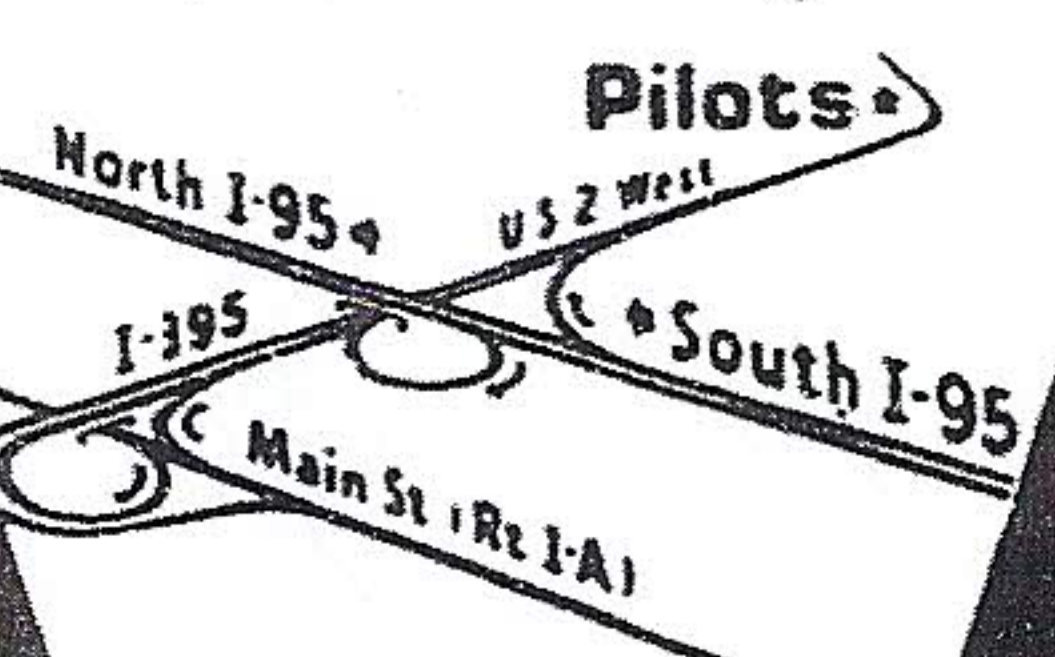
Harpswell Town Commons, located near the Kellogg Church, is also of historic interest to the club, which provides tours there on Memorial Day and Annual Harpswell Day in July. The best known building at that site is the Old Harpswell Meeting House, constructed 1757-59, used for over two centuries as a church and town meeting hall, and now restored to its original condition. In 1969 it was designated a National Historic Landmark — one of fifteen in Maine. Adjacent to the Meeting House is an old burying ground.

Also on the Commons is the Hearse House, built around 1860 with boards cut from one immense spruce tree and containing a hearse which is over



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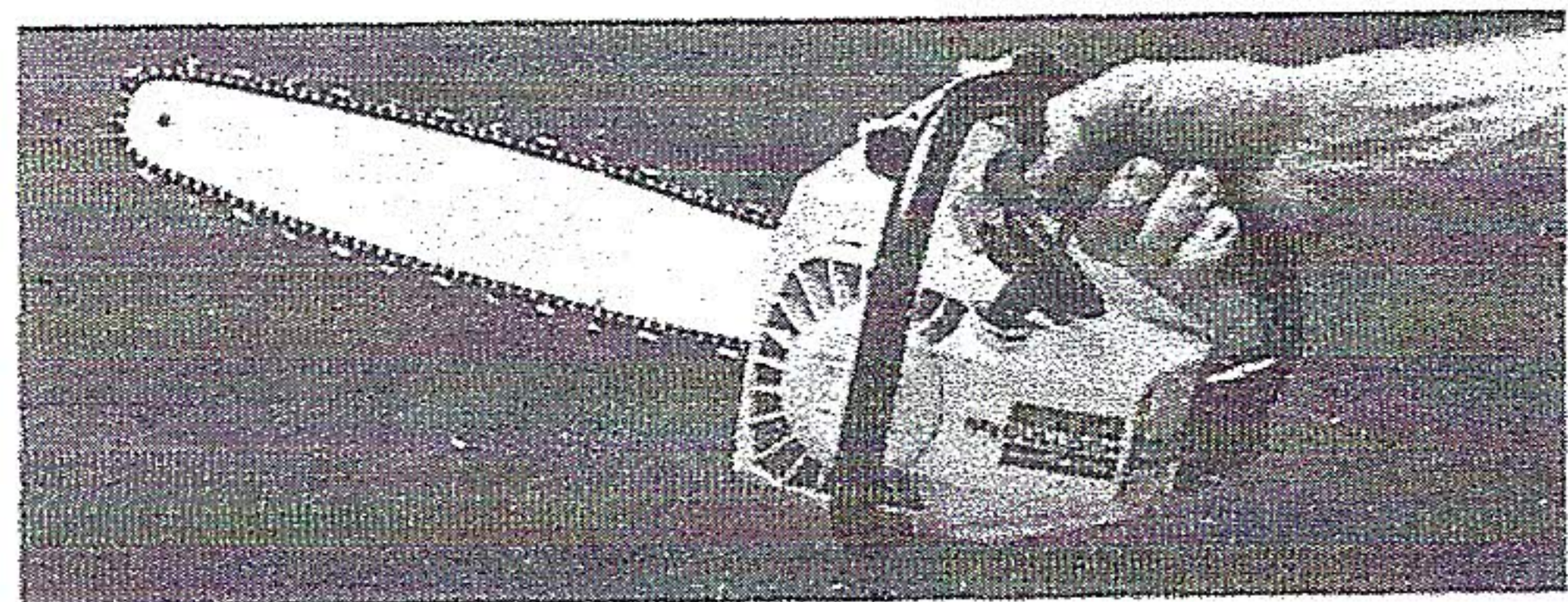
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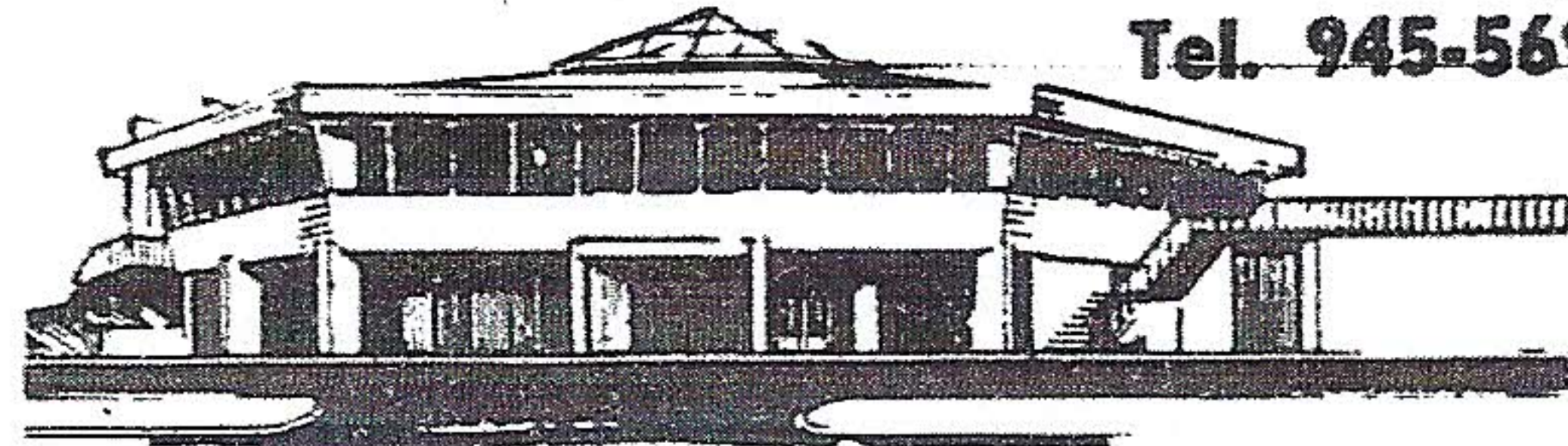
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