

## ORTLEY BEACH

Located about midway, on a narrow shoestring peninsula some twenty-two miles long, stretching from Bay Head to the tip of Barnegat Inlet, is your community.

Michael Ortley settled this peninsula in 1812. Prior to this date, there was an entrance from the sea known as Cranberry Inlet at a point that now would separate Seaside Heights from Ortley, the lower or southern part known as Island Beach and the upper section as Squan Beach. The sea closed this inlet in 1812. Square Riggers, Whaleboaters and Privateers skimmed in and out through this channel to ravage British shipping during the Revolution. Many captured English Merchantmen were steered home to Toms River by triumphant Privateers through this inlet.

After this inlet was closed, Michael Ortley, rallying fishermen and farmers, worked on and off for some three years to reopen this channel. Success was reached in 1821, when the sea and the bay were again joined. This was short-lived. In less than twenty-four hours, the bar had again built up and closed it. The attempt was again made and completed in 1847 only to have it closed by the tide and heavy seas. Nov. 17, 1935, a northeast storm cut a new inlet across the dunes about a mile north of Barnegat Inlet. This time they worked in reverse. Instead of trying to keep it open, they worked to close this beautiful 600 foot wide channel. The following spring, the opening was closed by nature.

In 1909, the first road was started southward from Point Pleasant. By 1911, the highway reached Seaside Park. Five brothers from Philadelphia, the Cummings boys, chose to develop the exact spot where the Cranberry Inlet ceased to flow almost a century before. Many of our residents can read in their property searches, the names of these enterprising gentlemen. Their courage and foresight turned the barren dunes to one of the most popular summer resorts in the country.

Of course, this strip of dunes was not always connected with the main land. The original wooden bridge, erected in 1912 by private enterprises, was a toll bridge, sold to the state in 1922. Mr. W. H. Magill from Philadelphia, in 1911 set up the first newspaper on the strip known as the "Ocean County Review", soon to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

God and nature planned this peninsula, knowing that someday it would be developed for the health and pleasure of the people, and a place to relax from the pressure of modern day living.

## TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION OF ORTLEY BEACH

DOVER TOWNSHIP, OCEAN COUNTY, N. J.

INCORPORATED



SEPT. 6, 1955

## FIRST ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

C. Y. O. HALL  
Corner Central and Grant Avenues  
Seaside Heights, N. J.

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE EIGHTH  
NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN

