

years just before World War Two. At that time the stimulation of employment had so reduced the number of families in need of help that the officers of the lodge decided they could safely discontinue the custom. There has been no reason since to resume.

TWO HOSPITAL ROOMS

The cornerstone of Brotherly Love can also be well applied to this humane activity as well as it could to the maintenance of the Elks room at the Madigan Memorial Hospital and the promise to underwrite a similar service at the Aroostook General Hospital when the new wing shall have been completed.

Perhaps the most spectacular contribution to this community by the Houlton Lodge of Elks has been its faithful annual sponsorship of the annual July Fourth celebration in the Shiretown. This is an undertaking of considerable responsibility and risk and it has only been made possible by the wholehearted and unselfish participation of all the members.

The idea was first picked up in the late thirties, a few years after the collapse of the Houlton Agricultural Society when it appeared that Community Park, for so many years such an important factor in the life of the town, might decline to complete uselessness.

In the first years of the demise of the society, the Chamber of Commerce had stepped into the breach and had conducted an observance of Independence Day. This action was all that saved this annual holiday program from being snapped up by neighboring towns in the county.

ELKS SHOULD BURDEN

But it remained for the Elks to shoulder the burden in 1939. J. K. McKay took over the task of general chairman of the affair and he continued to do the job for most of the years up to 1945 when the lodge relinquished their rights to the annual event. To Jack McKay must go a vast amount of credit for the fact that the lodge was able to do so well with their annual sponsorship of the July Fourth celebration and also for the fact that this affair is still exclusively Houlton's.

Since 1945 other local organizations such as the American Legion and the Fire Department have been granted the rights to conduct a celebration here on July Fourth. No other group, it seems, has the manpower, the experience or the skill to do as well with the day as

all this work over the next half a dozen years was a significant and historic ceremony which was staged on October 24, 1945.

On this day, at 9:30 o'clock in the evening, the mortgage was burned and, at long last, the Houlton Lodge of Elks stood completely free of debt. Honor guest for that occasion, which probably compares equally in importance with the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication of the building, was J. K. McKay, who had spearheaded the July Fourth committee for six consecutive years.

Roy C. Roix was the exalted ruler at that time and acted as Master of Ceremonies with P.E.R. George E. Roach, then secretary, serving as toastmaster. The speakers included P.E.R. Thomas V. Doherty, then and still, the oldest living past exalted ruler, William R. Yerxa, a charter member, Harry M. Briggs, oldest, in age, of the past exalted rulers, George A. Russell, organizer and charter member of the order, and P.E.R.'s and former D.D.G.E.R.'s Albert G. Merritt and W. S. Lewin.

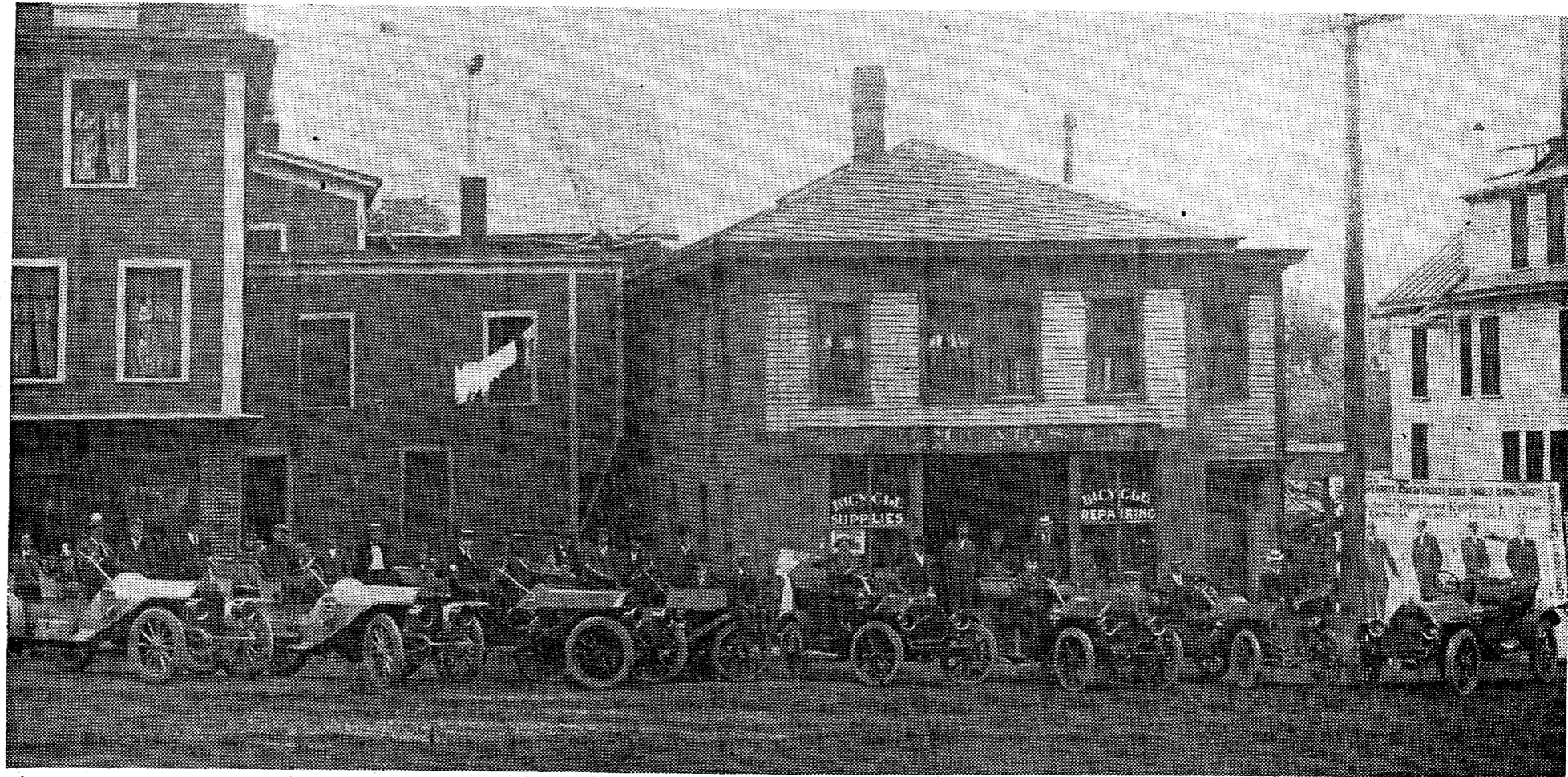
The Elks lodge is extremely generous in its charitable work in other ways, still keeping in mind the cornerstones of Brotherly Love and Charity. It gives annually to all such financial campaigns as the Salvation Army, the March of Dimes, American Red Cross and other local fund raising appeals. It has been estimated that the annual expenditure for such charitable needs will average between \$1500 and \$2000.

The club was one of the original sponsors of a Little League baseball team and has maintained its organization in the league for the past five years. It also sponsors a local Boy Scout troop. In addition its quarters are always at the disposal of local groups seeking facilities for charitable functions.

Its bowling alleys in the basement are among the finest and have been the scene of many a hotly contested tournament sponsored by the Eastern Maine Bowling League. Teams representing the Houlton lodge usually acquit themselves well at these meets and have been victorious on several occasions.

The alley facilities were considerably improved a few years ago when the south wall of the building, under the piazza, was pushed back several feet permitting the installation of several rows of bleacher seats providing accommodations for many more spectators for the bowling activities.

These Were the "Hot Rods" of Their Day — More Than Half a Century Ago



Houlton's First Automotive Show was probably an impromptu one as the handful of car owners around the turn of the century, gathered near the first, and for many years the only, garage in Aroostook County. It was owned by Harry M. Cates, a skilled mechanic of his day who put together his own automobile at one time. His wife, Mrs. Mabel Cates, who is still alive and who now makes her home in the Heywood Apartments, was the first Houlton woman to be granted an automobile driver's license. The second woman to win that coveted distinction was Mrs. J. R. Harvey, who is still driving today. Shown in this picture are, from far left, Allie Osgood, Harry Cates and Harry Wheeler. Drivers of the next three cars are unidentified. Charlie Osgood is believed to be at the wheel of the car second from right.

It happened in . . .

1908

NEW FIRE HOUSE COMPLETED

Houlton's new building for the housing of its fire fighting apparatus was completed and ready for occupancy January 11. The building is of brick and granite with a roof of slate, and is a beauty in itself as well as being well arranged for the purpose for which it is designed. It is two stories in height and measures about 54 x 60 feet.

On the first floor are the rooms for the apparatus itself with stalls for horses directly in the rear. An engine, hose cart and ladder truck will be stationed on this floor and each will have its

lor of Washington while A. J. Rainboth of Ottawa will have charge of the Canadian interests . . . Mr. Rainboth informs us that the new posts will be located so that standing at one the next in line will be visible. Granite posts will be established and these will be embedded in concrete below the frost line. These boundary posts will be square, three feet high, tapering at the top, U. S. being marked on one side and Canada on the opposite. They will be furnished by the Houlton Granite and Marble Works.

DRUG STORE CHANGES HANDS

Perks Bros., well known drug business here, changed hands May 16 when it was purchased by the partnership of Ernest Leighton and J. Chester Feeley. It will be known by the firm name of Leighton & Feeley.

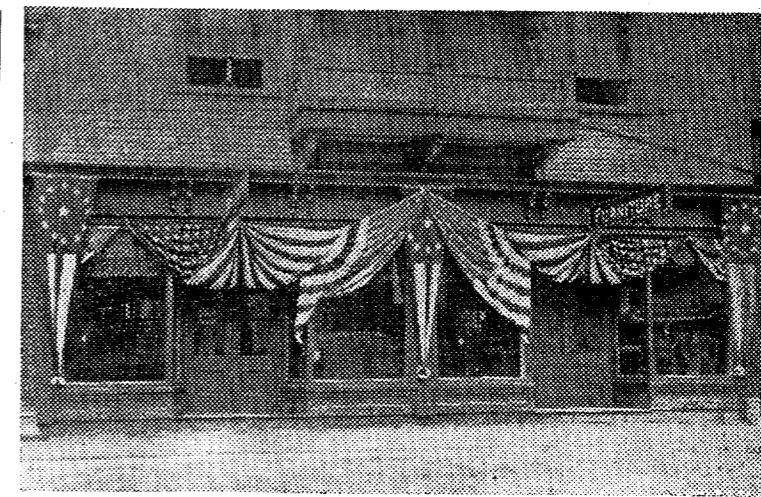
gime. H. Dal Luther of New York, who possesses one of the richest baritones ever heard here, has been engaged as soloist.

ENTERS R. L. TURNEY FIRM

Arthur O. Putnam of this town who has been in the employ of Dodd, Mead and Co., publishers, of Boston, severed his connection with that firm Saturday, March 14, and arrived at his home here Wednesday. Mr. Putnam will enter the firm of R. L. Turney & Co.

NEW ELECTRIC POWER

Houlton was under the glimmer of the electric current from the Aroostook Falls Power Company January 18 for the first time. The lights were the brightest and steadiest ever enjoyed in Houlton. All takers of electricity on the system supplied by this current are enthusiastic over the



DUNN FURNITURE CO.

A new corporation to be known as the Dunn Furniture Company has been organized in Houlton. The officers of the new company are A. E. Astle, president; P. M. Ward, clerk and Frank Dunn,

block on Court street. Mr. Dunn has left for the Boston and New York markets to purchase merchandise for the new concern. The company will also engage in the undertaking business.

Early History

(Continued from Page Four)

burned, with the clothing, beds and provisions. The fire caught from a piece of felled trees adjoining, of some 50 acres, which accidentally took fire, and so terrible were the flames that the family fled for refuge to the opposite shore of the creek. Those misfortunes must have been severely felt by Mr. Putnam and family, while they were striving to establish themselves with a new and permanent home; yet Mr. P. endured the losses and privations which he sustained by those potent and antagonistic elements, with fortitude and forbearance which was characteristic of him.

In the summer of 1811, Doct. Samuel Rice and Joshua Putnam, with their families accompanied by Samuel Kendall, Jr., and Sarah his sister, removed from New Salem to Houlton, thus adding two families more to this oasis of the forest, there being six, beside other settlers, young unmarried men, viz: — Samuel Houlton, Joshua G. Kendall, Ebenezer Warner and Phineas Stevens. These families were located upon both sides of the road running nearly east and west, within a distance of less than two miles; and all busily engaged, building, clearing away the forest, converting it to a beautiful field. The crops of all kinds of grain and vegetables were abundant. They planted but little corn but what they raised was of the best quality. Potatoes and ruta бага turnips were raised with facility and in abundance from the newly cleared land, and they were found to be valuable rearing stock, fattening beef and pork. These vegetables were of great service, particularly before their improvements were sufficient for producing a supply of hay. The potatoes were not subject to rust and rot as of late, neither was wheat liable to blight or weevil, as now. Their only fears were of untimely frosts. They then raised, from three pecks of seed, more than 33 bushels, or at the rate of 100 bushels from 2½ bushels of seed, though this was more than the average crop, yet it proves the genial adaptation of the newly cleared lands to the growth of wheat which has until of late, been the staff of bread for the country.

skill to do as well with the day as do the Elks. And it is now back with the lodge again.

There has been, of course, a generous dividend to the lodge as a result of this annual event. Considerable money has been earned with the result that, not only was a rather substantial mortgage completely paid off but there was left, in addition, a sizeable sum which has been judiciously and fairly distributed among many local charitable activities.

MEMBERSHIP DECLINES

For many years a mortgage had encumbered the Elks Home. During the thirties when the entire nation was in the grip of a depression and the national economy was at a low point, the membership rolls of the order had declined to a number which made any possibility of mortgage reduction out of the question through any earnings from dues.

Accordingly it became necessary to find another source of earnings. In September, 1936, the mortgage indebtedness stood at \$22,000. It was refinanced at that time for a somewhat lower cost but still the load was a burden.

It was at about this time that the July Fourth idea began to take shape and finally developed into an annual activity. The climax of

In 1955 the club installed a lounge in the basement and this has been an orderly conducted and comfortable addition to the facilities of the club since.

In commenting on the part the Elks club and its commodious home plays in the social life of the community, the annual ball cannot be overlooked. This function is always one of the highlights of the winter season and has been an outstanding social function in the town for many years. Although less elaborate in its formality than it once was, the occasion still draws a large attendance.

Since the lodge was first founded, only five men have served more than one term as exalted ruler. Charles Carroli, who was in the chair in 1906 and again in 1907, probably succeeded himself in those years because of the erection of the home over that period.

Don A. H. Powers, who was the first exalted ruler of the order, returned to that position again in 1911. Joseph J. Marriott was head of the order in 1913 and 1914 and Dr. P. L. B. Ebbett served as exalted ruler in 1924 and again in 1929. George E. Roach arose to the position of exalted ruler in 1934 and stepped back again for part of the year of 1937, on the resignation of George E. Benson.

this floor and each will have its own double doors. There is also a harness room in the rear.

The second floor is one large room for the firemen to hold their meetings. There is also a room for the men who are constantly on duty and from this the brass pole leads to the first floor. There is another large room on this floor which can be used for voting if it is needed at elections. There is also room on this floor for feed for horses.

The basement has toilets, electrical apparatus room and storage space plus a washroom for the hose after a fire. The tower has a depth of about 55 feet, well adapted for drying the hose.

BOUNDARY MARKERS

Crews representing the United States and Canadian governments arrived in town this week to get things in readiness for marking out the boundary line. They are now established in making camps and moving supplies. The United States is represented by J. G. Bay-

TWENTY-THREE AUTOS

Houlton now has twenty-three automobiles flitting about the town. They are becoming more common than bicycles. Others are contemplating purchasing machines later on and by fall it is expected that at least thirty machines will be owned here. . . . Automobiles are becoming more plentiful in Houlton than silver dollars and the pedestrian has to be on the lookout to duck them safely. It would be well for the drivers to bear in mind that the man afoot has the right of way on street crossings and doesn't care to be run down.

TWO THEATRES MERGE

The management of the Pastime and Dreamland theatres have decided to merge and, commencing with Saturday, January 18, all future exhibitions will be in the Heywood Opera House. New machines have been installed and up to date vaudeville will be carried out under the new re-

sults as they were far superior to anything they had expected. One of the most beneficial results is seen in the lighting of the streets. Heretofore the lights on the streets were no better than a candle stuck on a pole. Now our streets glow with a brilliancy that is attractive and pleasing.

NEW FOUNTAIN

The old horse fountain was moved from Market Square this week to make room for a new one. It will be placed at the intersection of Main, Military and Franklin streets, giving an additional chance to water horses coming into town. The new fountain was presented to the town by the National Humane Society.

DR. MITCHELL OPENS OFFICE

Dr. F. W. Mitchell, who has been practicing medicine in Island Falls for the past few years, has disposed of his practice and real estate and will move to Houlton where he will establish a specialty practice in eye, ear, nose and store.

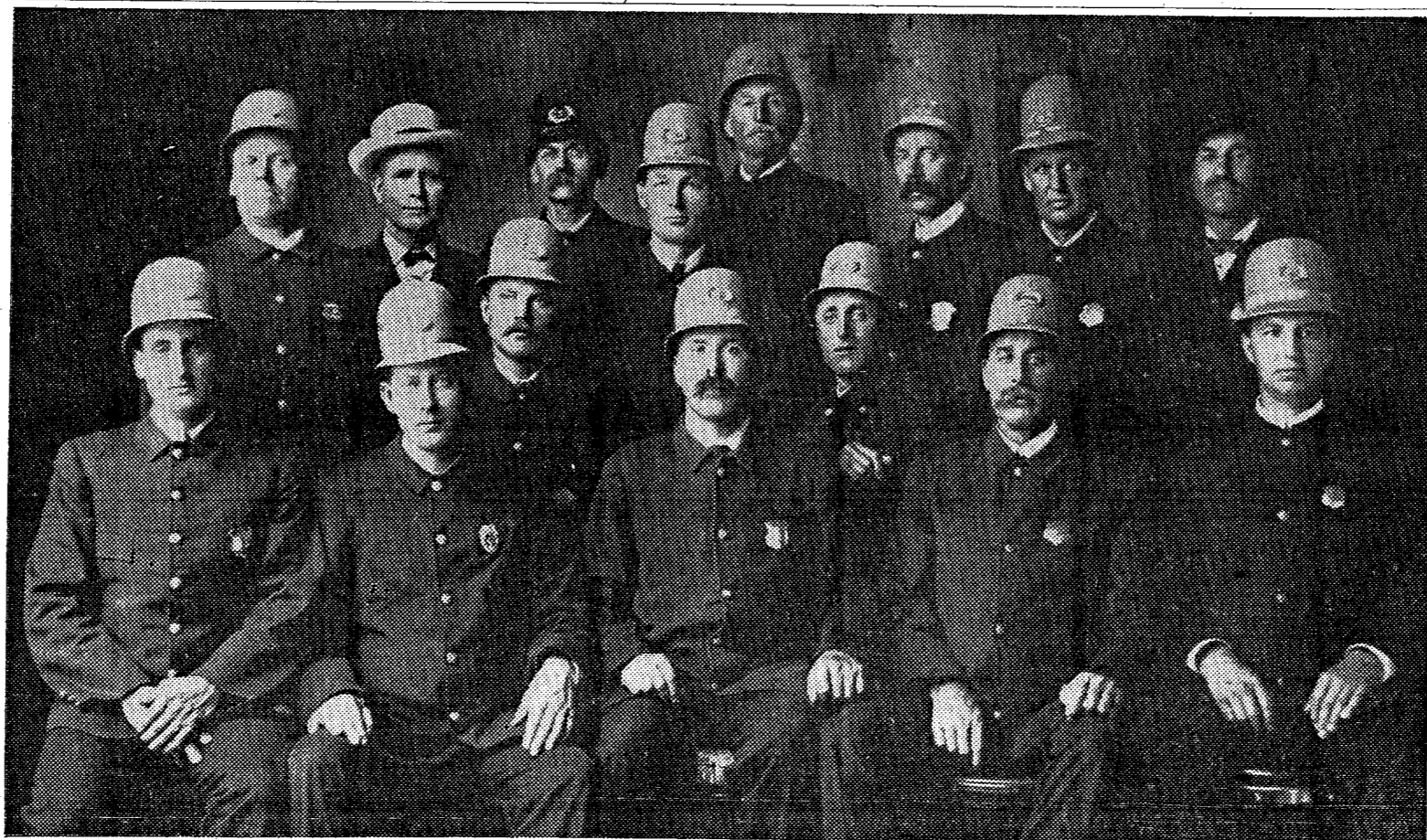
treasurer. The company will occupy the entire street floor and basement of the Opera House

throat. He expects to take further instruction at a prominent New York hospital before opening his offices here.

NEW DRUG STORE OPENS

The new drug store of O. F. French & Son, corner of Main and Court streets was opened to the public Wednesday. This event has been long looked for and large crowds were out to inspect this store regarding which great reports had been previously circulated. This store is a real gem and its magnificence filled all with admiration. The flooring is mosaic and of handsome design. The woodwork is all of mahogany of the richest kind. The show cases are of the silent salesman type and their woodwork is mahogany like the finish of the

Houlton Was Well Protected 40 Years Ago



Houlton's police force in 1912 poses for its picture containing many well remembered persons and faces. Bottom row, left to right, Wesley Ingraham, Frank W. Hogan, long time chief, Chief Ralph Whitney, Joseph Anderson, Melville Whitney. The two between the rows are, left, Robert Peabody and Fred Slipp. In the back row, left to right, is Michael Rideout, George MacNair, John Cosseboom, Jack McLaughlin, George Reed, (in rear), Del Atherton, Al Howard and Pulaski Jackins.



I wish to extend my
GREETINGS . . .
to the residents of
HOULTON on this
their 150th Birthday

Also to the
HOULTON PIONEER TIMES
in their 100 years of
Service to Aroostook County

RICHARD LAWLIS
— BROKER —
Maine Potato Futures — Insurance
MILITARY STREET, HOULTON



Whenever You Are
In Bangor, We
Invite You To
Stop In . . .

SPECIALIZING
IN
STEAKS
LOBSTER

"Banquets Our Specialty"

NEXT TO
QUEEN CITY MOTEL
Hammond Street
BANGOR, MAINE

**PILOT'S
GRILL**
BANGOR, MAINE

Extends . . .
Congratulations
TO THE PEOPLE OF
HOULTON
ON ITS
150th Birthday