



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Join the Penobscot Marine Museum in
Celebrating the opening of the exhibition
*Maine Streets: Selections from the Photographic Archives
at the Penobscot Marine Museum***

On view at the Acadia Trust, NA offices in Portland, Maine
511 Congress Street, Suite 900
From March 14 – May 9

PORTLAND – The Penobscot Marine Museum’s exhibition *Maine Streets: Selections from the Photographic Archives at the Penobscot Marine Museum* will be on view at the Acadia Trust, NA offices in Portland, Maine. Located at 511 Congress Street, suite 900. (March 14th – May 9th). The opening reception will be March 14th from 6:00 to 8:00.

The Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company of Belfast, Maine was a postcard manufacturing firm active from 1909 -1947. Founded by Herman Cassens of Rockland,

Maine, the firm was, at one point, the largest manufacturer of photo postcards in the United States.

The visual legacy of that company, more than 30,000 original glass plate negatives, now resides in the photographic archives of the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, Maine. The addition of the Eastern Illustrating plates to an already important collection of photography at the museum has created one of the finest image archives in New England. The museum has begun processing these images, digitizing them, and making them available through an on-line database.

This exhibition features remarkable scenes of Main Streets in various communities throughout the state of Maine. Taken between 1910 and 1940, these images reveal fascinating glimpses into the architecture, businesses, people, modes of transportation, and way of life in Maine during the first half of the 20th century. Though we are only a generation or two removed from the scenes depicted, the photos document an era of great change. For example, numerous images show automobiles sharing the road (often unpaved, dirt roads) with horses and buggies. Telephone lines and electric wires begin slicing through the images as well as diverse forms of signs and advertising. These images, and the photographic archives at the Penobscot Marine Museum, offer a window into the Main Streets of our past and shed a light on development, change, and preservation (themes still prevalent today) in many of our communities around the state.

For more information regarding the exhibition or opening please visit our website at www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org or call Kim Fleming at 207.548.2529 x 208.

The Penobscot Marine Museum was founded in 1936 and is Maine's oldest maritime museum. Its Searsport grounds comprise 13 historic buildings, including ship captains' residences, an early town hall, and a commercial structure. Eight of the buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places, and together they represent Searsport when it was a bustling port during the Age of Sail. Inside the historic structures - artifacts, exhibits, and interpreters tell the stories of Maine's seafaring past.

The Penobscot Marine Museum is located at U.S. Highway 1 and Church Street in Searsport, between Bucksport and Belfast. The museum is currently closed and will re-open May 24, 2008. Special programs and events are held year round.

For more information on the museum's work, mission, and off season events please see our website: www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org.