

## **Rye Beach Comes of Age**

With the growth of the hotel industry at the beach, especially the Farragut, Seaview, and Drake House, and the grand boarding houses of Sea Road, it was only a matter of time before some of these well-to-do city folk from Boston, Philadelphia, and St. Louis would decide that hotel life was getting old. The Allens built the first “mansion” at Rye Beach on the corner of Central and Sea Roads in 1900. The trolley had already come to town; Ocean Boulevard had been approved by the state and there was a post office at Rye Beach since 1875. Abenaki Golf Club was laid out by 1905 and it was that year that Rye Beach became a separate precinct of the town with its own sidewalks and streetlights. The Rye Beach Post Office and Community Hall would replace the Seaview House in 1919, the same year Stoneleigh Manor was built – the great new hotel at the corner of South and Central. Locke’s bathing pavilion would morph into the Beach Club in the 1920s. Rye was a lovely and famous seaside resort; why not live here for the whole summer season? And so they came and the rest is history.