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Old Orchard Beach Excerpt

Charlotte Michaud

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Old Orchard BEACH is now its official name, and for a good reason. ~~It is~~ It is predominantly a resort where residents live the daytime hours on the beach. It is especially favored by families who live at that resort the season-through, or come for the length of the father's vacation.

Strolling on the beach, one can but admire these families who provide such a healthful vacation for its members. Children play for hours on sand and in the water. Watchful mothers sit nearby or introduce the ^{infants} ~~children~~ to the waves. It is a safe beach, too, with lifeguards on duty throughout the season, and even the ~~breaking~~ breaking waves are sufficient to keep children from going beyond their depth.

The slightly older have their yard-long plastic surfboards that break much too soon. The visitors bring supposedly lifesaving circles that deflate almost on contact with the water, keeping lifeguards busy warning against their use. The same is true with floating mattresses the elders use--but, the greater majority of beach folk just sit, breathing-in the uncontaminated air, which is priceless, and makes one realize how we are deprived of its purity in towns and cities.

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