



High Tide

AUGUST 2017, ISSUE 3



<http://www.hbamaine.com>

FEELING NOSTALGIC WITH GRATITUDE

My goodness, things have changed at the Higgins Beach Inn! If you haven't seen you've heard about the changes and updates with the times. The new dining room has a mural of the old Higgins Beach Inn. What a cherished gift to have this beautiful inn preserved in rich history.

Pulling weeds on my corner garden, across from the inn is my hub for neighborly chat. Today, people appreciate the corner garden. But it hasn't always been that way. Several years ago, while working in my yard, a long time resident at Higgins Beach told me that when

my house and the house next door were built, it began "the demise of the neighborhood." Our properties are where the Pavilion once was. The general store, soda fountain,



bowling alley, and dance hall was the hopping hub of the beach. Torn down in 1960 and replaced with two year-round homes that stuck out like sore thumbs. They

sat un-sold for three years after they were built. No doubt, a community grieving the loss of a fond landmark – of which I never knew. A debt of gratitude is owed to Bob Westburg and Diane Garafolo, for making sure that Higgins Beach Inn didn't go the route of the Pavilion.

Nostalgia is in the air. Thank you contributors Harry Moody and Melissa Carifio (past High Tide Editor). They have captured memories and traditions. Rodney Laughton's Scarborough historic Facebook page is a treasure too! Higgins Beach is a sacred place with special people. ~ Karen

IN TOUCH WITH HIGGINS BEACH ALL THE TIME!

www.hbamaine.com is mobile friendly! Up to the minute info - tides, events, weather and more on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Additional websites of interest:
www.higginsbeachproperties.com
www.higginsbeachmaine.com
www.mainehealthybeaches.com



HBA

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A DISAPPEARING TRADITION ?

by Melissa Carifio, 31 Morning St.

Harry Moody's July High Tide article suggested that cottage names would be a fun article. When Editor, Karen Vachon asked me to write a feature article, I agreed. Cottage names would be fun to research.

I started with step one; walking the streets checking out the names. Imagine my dismay, when I realized most cottages (can we still use that word to describe the year-round homes that are steadily replacing the early 20th century seasonal structures?) were NOT sporting their name signs. By my reckoning less than 10%

of the Higgins Beach structures currently display name signs.

When did that happen?

Years ago, I researched the tradition of naming beach cottages. I found a reference that claimed the tradition of naming beach cottages was tied to the nautical tradition of naming ships. Unfortunately, I couldn't find that source for this article. But Carol Turner of Virdap Street offered an alternate and somewhat more practical explanation: the tradition of naming cottages was born because summer colonies often did not have street names thereby necessitating cottage names to distinguish the structures from one another.



Whatever the reason, it's a charming tradition. We can guess at the etiology of many of the cottage names. Some reflect location (Maine Idea, Maine Stay, Spurwink, Spurwinkle, Viewpoint), some reflect nautical themes (Fantasea, Serenity by the Sea, Nautilus, Peep-O-Sea, Sea Urchin). Others reflect the surnames of their owners (Dilly Dally Daly, Smithwreck) or their owners' professions (School's Out). Some give a nod to family connections (Deep Roots, Family Tides). All have their own stories.

I asked lifelong Higgins Beacher, Gina Day, for the story behind the names of her cottages Sea Spree and Spongecake which she bought together in the mid '80's. Sea Spree, she explains, was selected partly for its visual impact. The

name on the sign, written in cursive with the initial "s" of each word

creates the illusion of billowing sails. She remembers that buying the cottages was a financial stretch for her, a bit of a spree, if you will. Which brings us to Spongecake. Gina was determined to purchase Sea Spree

and Spongecake, so she calculated that to afford her "spree" she would have to forego the large coffee that she bought for 43 cents every day before work. Pondering this, she was reminded of the famous words supposedly (cont. P 4 - Carifio)



CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AT HIGGINS BEACH

by Harry Moody, 22 Champion Street

Growing up in the 60's and 70's, there were more stores at Higgins Beach. Today, it is difficult to imagine gift shops, restaurants and a fruit stand, but that was Higgins Beach five decades ago. The Higgins Beach Market, on Spurwink Road is the last remaining store. Once known as "The Fruit Stand" they sold fresh farm produce. Across the street, Bertrum Kenny's home included two business: "Yoke Realty" and Bert's carpentry shop. We visited Bertrum. He gave us scraps of wood for kindling and made us little boats to float in the tidal pools at the beach. Recently, a lobster pound and gift shop where run out of the same house.



Heading down Ocean Ave, "Knotty Things" pine furniture store was in the barn behind one of the houses. The parking lot was privately owned and in the corner of the parking lot the Harmon family ran a small seafood restaurant called "The Conora". A small take out window in the back sold ten clam cakes for a dollar (big money in those days, but soooo good!).

Later, it became the "Seashell" restaurant which burned down soon after opening. Two doors closer to the beach was "The Stone Cottage" gift shop. A former garage completely covered in smooth beach stones, offered

souvenirs from scented soap to sea shell sculptures. My favorite item was the little log cabin with pine scented incense inside. I still have one in my den.

Across the street was and still is the lovely Higgins Beach Inn. I mowed the lawn, painted the shingles and washed dishes there. We called the owner "High Pockets" because he wore Bermuda shorts so high it was said he reached over his shoulder to get his wallet out to grudgingly pay us fifty cents an hour. Two subsequent owners have continued improving the Inn which is a centerpiece of our community today.

Crossing Greenwood, was "The Pavilion." It had a dance hall and a bowling alley. My father was a "pin boy" there as a kid - jumping over the rail after each shot to reset the pins by hand.

Closer still to the beach were several "home business": a talented amateur painter set up her front porch as a gallery; Lynn Piper cut and styled hair. Of course, the charming Breaker's Inn still operates today on the corner of Houghton and Bayview, but how many remember "The Silver Sands Hotel" painted gray and green and the three matching cottages right on the beach at the end of Ashton Street?



Piping Plover Protection

The eastern end of Higgins Beach (down by the Spurwink River) is owned by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Please note that this property is roped off with "No Trespassing" signs to protect our nestling and roosting endangered Piping Plovers. Beach walkers are asked to respect the roped off area. Department biologists and volunteer monitors are easily identifiable and happy to answer any questions you may have.

IMPORTANT

Dogs are *prohibited* from trespassing on the eastern end of the beach beyond Champion Street from April 1 - Labor Day.

Dogs are *welcome* on the west end of the beach. The following rules apply:

Dawn - 9AM: Dogs allowed off leash under voice command.

9AM - 5PM & Dusk to Dawn: Dog's are prohibited.

5PM - Dusk: Dogs permitted on leash. Thank You!

REMINDERS AND TIPS:

- Don't get locked in! The public parking lot is open 5:30AM – 9PM sharp!
- Make your reservations; Dinners sell out quickly! \$15/adult, (\$20 Lobster)
- The clubhouse is available May 14th – October 10th (excluding HBA events). Members wishing to hold a private event should call Sue Naiden: 239-6421

Continued P2 - (Carifio) uttered by Marie Antoinette when she was informed that the peasants had no bread and were suffering. "Let them eat cake." This being the mid'80's, Gina gave a nod to Jimmy Buffet and Margaritaville ("Nibblin' on spongecake....")

It would be a shame to see this cottage naming along with the original structures. The internet is full of clever suggestions for cottage names (Vitamin Sea, The Reel World, Beachy Keen), and I feel certain that the brains of Higgins Beach owners are filled with ideas that are just as clever! I look forward to reading more naming stories in future High Tides!

Happy 100th Birthday - Joe King!

For 50 years Joe has summered at Higgins Beach up until 2016 on Morning Street. His 100th was celebrated in Chattanooga TN.

Correction: July's High Tide inadvertently left out a few wonderful volunteers who deliver the High Tide to you.

Those who were forgotten: Barbara O'Brien, Lisa Jesmain, Sharon Conley, Barbara Bambaci, Maura Gwyer, Patty Daly, Gina Day, Roger & Glennis Chabot.

Thank you – All!

Continued - Page 3 (Moody)

It was lost in terrible storm.. A chain link fence around the ocean front lot is the only reminder of this once popular hotel. You may still see boulders that once elevated a small parking lot right on the beach; it's conservation land now so stay out of there.



Finally, there was the store across from the current day bath house. Fifty years ago it was "Grover's": it grew up with us or we grew up with it. Coke in thick glass bottles and ice cream pops, Italian sandwiches, beach toys and oh – the candy! Candy bars were five cents except Skybar -the Cadillac of candy (a great treat back then)- was a dime. Penny candy of all descriptions, licorice and dots of colored sugar stuck to ribbons of paper:Pixie Sticks and little wax things filled with syrupy juice.

One year they got a pin ball machine, the first I had ever seen. A sign on the front door read: "TV rental: \$1.00 per day." Cottages didn't have TV's back then; there were only two and half stations to watch!

Two gas pumps were in front of the store. I gassed up my mower for twenty -five cents a gallon (full service). Steve Marsden took over. after Grover. The pinball machine gave way to the first video game. "Shark Attack" - it debuted the same summer as the movie "Jaws". Steve's wife, Jan, made sandwiches. Soon the menu offered the "Mahoney Special" or other specialties named after regular customers. Sadly, the next and last owner of the store could not make a go of it and converted it to apartments.



just off the beach, about a quarter mile up Spurwink road was Len Libby's Candy Store. It was air conditioned! I remember the delicious smells and watching the owner in the back room creating confections as if by magic.

The Higgin's Beach of my youth was a different place than today, but the Market, Shades Restaurant at the Inn, the Breakers and the Suncatcher craft shop at the end of Bayview provide places to meet people and add memories to those of the wonderful beach that brought us all here.

MORE GOINGS ON AT THE CLUBHOUSE..

HBA Annual Meeting: August 25th, 7PM
Monday Bridge - 1PM until mid-Sept.

Wednesday Donuts - Aug 30th, 9AM
Pumpkin Painting - Sept 14th 9AM

News stories, announcements, photos are always welcome! All material is subject to edit due to timeliness and space. Deadline for material is the 10th of each month (June – August). Send content via e-mail to: kvachon59@gmail.com. Please put HIGHTIDE in the subject line. Thanks!