

Bayside Historical Preservation Society Oral History Project
Interview of Arline Tibbetts Parker by Betty Wilson 8/14/1997
Transcribed by Eleanor Lagner and Sandy Hall

Also sitting in on the interview were Stanley Arnold, Arline's nephew, his wife, and Arline's daughter Polly Parker.

BW: This is for Arline Parker, postmaster in Bayside. Do you know what year you came?

AP: '51.

BW: '51 to what?

AP: '51 to '63...

SA: I don't know. I was in Castine in '65. Were you still here then? I came over here in my uniform, and you were still here. That was in '65.

AP: You didn't go to school until '61? You graduated in '65. Ah yeah, that's right. You went in about '61 or '62 or '63. I'm sorry I can't remember.

BW: Did you ever occupy any other place other than the store down here?

AP: Lowell's father and mother, grandfather, and grandfather before him, had the cottage next to Genevieve Sheffield, this side of it. Know who's got that now. I don't know. I don't remember, but yes, they were there for years, and we were there before we bought the store. (The Shermans. He was professor at FSU.)

BW: What are some places around Bayside that were important to you...the Community Hall or .

AP: Oh, the Community Hall...that's where they had the ballet and all the activities. Remember, Stan, when you were in something? What did you do? Ah, it was so funny. The kids put on a show with the Wagonsiels.

PP: The moderator. You were somebody...

AP: You were...who was on TV at that time?

SA: Oh, yeah, I was Ed Sullivan.

AP: Ed Sullivan. You were good. Activities. Is it still here? And they had a nice ballet up there and all of our...

BW: It's still here.

SA: That was a good rainy day place. We used to go up there on rainy days.

AP: ...and play games.

SA: And then we had dances once in a while.

AP: Oh, yes. At night. And Lowell used to have the movies there, before, when we was high school. He had the old movies there.

S: That was back in the '40's.

AP: That's right. And what else? Oh, I think they played up there when they weren't on our porch. Our porch was loaded on a rainy day. All the kids, you know, when they didn't go swimming or anything, they were on our porch.

SA: Down at the Yacht Club. That was special to you (Polly).

AP: Oh, yes, the Yacht Club was right next door. You (Polly) were secretary of that or something some time.

PP: The treasurer.

AP: You were the treasurer? Good. Well, that's how you can balance your checking account!

BW: Who was here when you were younger? Anybody that we would know that would still be here, other than Genevieve.

AP: Aren't the Dykstras still here?

BW: Stella is.

AP: Does she come down in the summer?

BW: Every day.

AP: Oh, good.

BW: She just lives in Belfast, you know.

AP: I know she lives in Belfast, but I wondered if the kids had the cottage now or something like that.

BW: No, they don't.

SA: I've got a question. Is this primarily for Arline that we're discussing this?

BW: No, no, for you, too.

SA: For both of us. O.K. Well now, the Samways aren't here any more, are they?

BW: Yes, they are.

SA: They are...the Samways...because Terry was a good friend of mine.

AP: The Lovejoys and the Samways...Lovejoys are still here..and the Witherills.

BW: They're way down on the South Shore.

SA: His son's not...Dave.

BW: No, he's not, he's up here in... I don't even know the name of the street.

S: He's a captain with Sea River. I haven't sailed with him in a while. I remember David and his brother when they were about three or four years old. They were just little tiny things. His father was an instructor at the Maine Sailing School, and I remember those kids as they grew up, and they talked about coming over to Castine at one time, and they sure enough did...David did...he was in Maine Maritime, and when he graduated he got a job with Exxon which is who I was working with, and he worked his way up through the ranks and became captain, and I sailed with him as captain...

AP: ...and you worked your way up through the ranks and were chief engineer.

SA: Thank you, Arline, for putting that in there. Matter of fact, he is captain of the sister ship of the Valdez that went on the rocks up there in Prince William Sound, Alaska. The Valdez, which was the largest ship that Exxon had...it was a million and half barrels, and David does a nice job; I sailed with him as master on there, and he does a real nice job. I haven't seen the family for a long time. I know his father taught down in Springvale at college.

AP: I was in hopes that they'd be here.

BW: They are here.

AP: They are here now?

SA: Is David here, too? Or is his Dad...

BW: I don't know if David is here or not. His family might be here.

SA: I'd like to just meet his wife because I've never met her.

AP: Well, I'd like to see Jean and Bob.

SA: Well, I would, too. Now David lives just outside of Portland, in Cumberland. I know where he lives because he lives pretty near Captain Bill Full, another Maine Maritime graduate who also ships for Exxon who's also a captain with the company. The matter of fact, they might be relieving each other on the ship, come to think of it. They were roommates at Castine, (See note #1) and I think they were relieving each other as master on the ship. But of course Bill Full never had anything to do with Bayside.

AP: Diane Cunningham's husband is also maritime captain, and we knew her so well.

BW: And who else was here? I'm sure there are a lot.

SA: How about Jack, Frankie, up the street here, and his sister...

AP: Oh, Geagan.

SA: I was thinking of them.

AP: Well, but she rents the cottage...Colleen...she rents the cottage down here, but they don't own a cottage down here.

BW: No, they don't.

AP: Then over on Park Row, going down, who is still here now that used to be.

BW: Sally Wilson.

PP: Oh yes, the Holmes. Is Sally still here?

BW: I don't know if they're here right now.

AP: Oh, we've got to see Sally. We have a book that was illustrated by Sally Holmes, and we want to see actually if she is the one that illustrated that book.

BW: She's a lawyer in Massachusetts.

AP: Well, she was an artist. S: The McInnishes aren't around here any more, are they?

BW: No, they're not.

S: I was thinking of Frank Banks and his sister, Joan. (Mother and Father: Arliele and George Banks. Older brother Bill)

PP: That's a Geagan.

SA: No, Frank lived straight up the street from where we are. That was a Geagan?

PP: That was the Geagans.

SA: What was his sister's name?

AP: Coleen?

AP: There was a little bitty...

SA: No, she was older than that one. She was older than myself. (Here Stanley talked sotto voce, and I couldn't get the words. Arline says he was referring to the Banks.) We're all trying to think of the same thing. The boats down there. They all came ashore one storm- in the hurricane, Carol or something.

AP: Carol, that was, I think, Carol, in September, Labor Day weekend, wasn't it?

S: All the boats were all out there. McInnich's had that cottage right on the water

AP: And the Clements were here. They had the whole Clement family there.

SA: The McInniches- we were at the Yacht Club. Four big boats came in right up on the rocks. It was bad, really, really bad. That could not have been Labor Day, because it was earlier than that.

PP: It was the 20th of September, I think. (It was Labor Day weekend. Stan was working before going to school. AP)

SA: Was it that late? What were we doing down here on the 20th of September?

PP: I wasn't down here. I was at Farmington.

SA: You were going to school at Farmington?

PP: Yes.

BW: Do you remember when I came down to be down here with you (Polly) to kind of babysit for you?

PP: No.

BW: You were about six or seven.

AP: She was nine when we moved here.

BW: OK, you were nine or ten. You would fix lunch for us.

AP: Where would we have gone?

BW: Oh, you wouldn't be going anywhere, but you'd be working in the store.

AP: Oooh, I don't remember that.

BW: You don't? I spent a whole summer down here.

SA: They paid you to do it, anyway.

BW: No.

SA: Volunteer work.

BW: They just gave me board and room.

AP: You stayed with us?

BW: Yes.

AP: What a memory! I tell you, I'm getting old. I'm really am an old lady. I don't remember. Isn't that awful. I don't remember you staying with us for the summer.

BW: Do you remember, Polly?

PP: No, I don't either.

AP: Polly, you don't have any excuse. You should remember.

SA: The Harts have both died now?

BW: Catherine died last winter. She died the day before her ninety-fifth birthday.

SA: They were old when I was here.

AP: She was a St. Patrick's Day baby, and she died the 15th of March.

SA: She must have been old!

AP: She was 95, I think, it was before her 95th birthday. Oh, yes, the Colletts, and Penny...

BW: We're talking about Janet Collett Pattee, and Penny Pattee Matthew.

BW: Polly, you knew about Penny? She just left here.

AP: Oh, what a shame. Oh, that's too bad. I'm so sorry to think that. Polly and Penny were very friendly, very close. Of course, we've known the Colletts all our lives. We love to tell a story about...

SA: Now the Porters aren't here any more.

BW: The name is here- still on the house.

AP: On the Collett place?

BW: No, on the Porter place.

AP: Oh, the Porters. The last I knew they hadn't sold it.

BW: No, I don't think they're going to sell it.

SA: Is that right. Bonnie, who used to...

AP: Oh yes, the Stowells.

SA: The Stowells.

AP: Are the Stowells still around?

BW: No.

SA Now she had a younger daughter, too.

AP: Yes, well, Betty had a daughter.

SA: I know, she was a nice-looking girl.

AP: Oh, yes, they were a nice family. well, I had something (a clipping and picture AP) about Betty Stowell, and I thought her daughter was still here, and I was going to give it to her.

BW: Could that be Betty Chittick?

AP: Yes. Is she still here?

SA: There you go.

BW: Yes, she's still here.

AP: Oh, good.

BW: But she's not here right now. She's off working.

AP: Anyway, I want to come back down when we have a few hours, to go around and visit and see people. But we're just on our way in now. We're going up to a family reunion.

SA: In Ellsworth, that's where the family reunion is.

AP: Branch Lake.

SA: Yeah, well...

AP: That's not really in Ellsworth.

SA: Well, no, it's outside of Ellsworth.

AP: It's between Bangor and Ellsworth.

BW: How did you discover Bayside?

AP: Oh, we didn't discover it. It was discovered generations before us by Lowell's grandparents. See, Lowell had the store, and I had the Post Office, and Lowell's mother had been an invalid for many years, and we decided that we wanted to...we were tired of being held down and we were going to enjoy life and so we decided to come down and we bought the store and stayed here in the summer time. And then we went to Florida in the winter time. We didn't make much money, but we had a lot of fun!

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SA: I discovered from my aunt and uncle who owned the store and we came down and we used to put the bottles in the cooler. That was my job the first year and I got paid 25 cents a day, I think.

AP: I thought it was \$15 a week.

SA: Well, maybe it was a dollar a day, or two dollars a day. I remember I had a bunch of quarters at the end of each week.

AP: Oh, I'm sure. That was two or three years, all summer long.

SA: Yeah, yeah, back in junior high school.

AP: You were just as much a part of Bayside as we were.

SA: I just thought as I was coming through this time that where the old garages, they had three or four things that have been torn down and built a house that is kitty-korner

across the corner, and that's where we used to keep all the bottles - you know, the soda bottles, and we used to bring them down in a wheelbarrow.

BW: Do you know what that house is on the corner?

SA: No, I haven't got a clue.

BW: That is the old Hastings store.

AP: It is?

SA: Oh, my goodness!

AP: They moved it down there!

SA: Well, they tore down the garage, and put that up.

AP: That was our property...I wonder...Blair probably did that, and sold it.

BW: Yup, yup.

AP: Blair bought that...

SA: I actually had another duty. I used to sweep the floor every morning. The store, we used to put down that green stuff so the dust wouldn't fly around.

AP: And listen. Oh, I'll never forget the Kellys. Are they around...Fred Kelly?

BW: Yep, Fred Kelly.

AP: They're in Belfast now?

BW: They live in Belfast, but they still, they have a place right over here.

SA: I can see you're up on...

AP: Fred Kelly got such a kick out of it because the doors were always open and the flies were coming and going, and we had a fly sticker thing hanging down right by where he checked out. We had a picture...he took a picture of that. Oh, that was so funny, that old fly sticker. They probably don't even make them any more.

BW: They certainly do.

SA: Oh, yeah, they do.

AP: They do?

SA: Yeah. We had a cat at camp got wrapped up in one of those things. We had a hell of a time. The cat couldn't get it off...all stuck up in it. It was a real project to get the fly strip off the cat.

AP: What'd you do, use kerosene?

SA: We ended up...Gradually even he knew he was in deep doo-doo. He got all tangled up in it, and he was pretty calm. Unwrapping the cat tangled up in that paper was something else. I remember we had them hanging all over the store.

AP: I only remember the one over the cash register.

SA: Oh, we had one out in the kitchen area there..

AP: Oh, probably. Oh, I didn't know they even made such things now.

SA: Oh, yeah, they still do.

BW: Did you have a boat?

AP: No, we didn't have time for a boat.

BW: No, of course not.

AP: We worked, when we came to Bayside we worked from morning to midnight. John Dykstra came down and kept us up half the night talking.

SA: What we did do, Polly and my brother and I used to take the Maine Sailing School dinghy sailboats, and go..

AP: Oh, yes.

SA: A lot of boats went out, were available to have...were accessible to us, like the Witherill's boat. They'd go out and they'd always want a crew member or somebody to go out with them or something.

AP: And Polly took sailing lessons for a while at the school.

SA: Yup, yup.

AP: She wasn't that enthusiastic, but she was better at swimming. Jumping off the dock.

SA: It was low tide, and that diving board was on the inside, and they had a rope, a woven rope over the board that you could grip, but on the end of it, it had a loose piece of rope, and I got my toe stuck in there when I went out once, and I did a bellyflop and it

was low tide, from the top of that diving board. I'm lucky I lived through it. I'll never forget that.

AP: You (Polly) hit your head one time, didn't you, when you dove off the wharf?

SA: What did you hit your head on, the bottom of the ocean or the wharf?

AP: She went off the wharf, not the diving board, but she went off the wharf and hit her head on the bottom of the bay.

SA: I remember we used to water ski coming in on the outside coming in right next to those piles under the dock. Oh, God.

AP: Well, we had a wonderful time all our years in Bayside.

SA: Oh, it was wonderful. We used to have a life guard down there.

AP: Do they now?

BW: Yes, they still have a life guard. Oh, look, is that a humming bird? Two humming birds, right there. They like the fuchsia. There's a feeder down at the end.

SA: Oh, oh yes. You wouldn't even recognize the school building.

(Here interference prevented deciphering the comments.)

SA: My name is Stanley Arnold.

BW: Stanley Arnold.

SA: Right. Aunt Arline is my mother's sister, so that was the connection I had with Bayside. Of course, when I was (?), Uncle Lowell, cousin Polly...

AP: Stanley would come over here and loved it all summer long, and his twin brother would come over and he'd stay two days, and he'd say, "I want to go home." he went down on the beach and cut his foot on the broken shells.

SA: Bruce would get homesick, and want to go home, and I'd come down here.

AP: But Stan never cared whether he ever saw anybody again or not. He loved Bayside and everybody in it, and everybody loved Stan.

SA: We used to put the flag up every morning. (Terry Samway and I. AP)

AP: And take it down every night. You know, now you don't have to take the flag down at night if there's a light on it. We had to take the darn thing down.

Note 1: Bill Full and Dave Witherill were never roommates at Maine Maritime Academy at Castine. Dave roomed with Arthur Hall three years. Dave and Bill were in the same class, and Bill Full married Art Hall's sister. E.L.