

Memories of Marilynn Eaton Catanzaro  
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My earliest recollections of Bayside begin about 1930-31 when I was 8-9 years old. The first summer I remember was spent with my Grandmother Eaton (Nanny) and my young brother Gordon who was 3-4 years old. The house, or cottage where we stayed was called the Winterport House which consisted of 23 rooms.

It was one of many such houses/cottages which were arranged in a circle like a horseshoe with a large community house/chapel in the center of the area which we called the Methodist-Episcopal Campground. Mrs. Green and Mrs. Robinson (sisters) were the caretakers of the cottage. I believe Mrs. Green was the widow of a former minister. I played with Mrs. Green's young granddaughter named Helen Wing, who I understand became a private secretary to Margaret Chase Smith. (This is heresay, not documented.)

The cottage had a large porch, veranda or piazza, depending on where you came from. A large living room held a piano and an odd assortment of chairs. A big dining room had many long picnic tables along each wall... I think 8. Above each table was a cupboard for the dishes and on the table there was an array of food with a cloth covering over it. Any perishable items were lowered in the well located at the back door. I'm sure our menu was not very grand...my grandmother was a poor cook. Through a door on the left of the dining room a small room was set aside for the kitchen. A corridor ran through the center with bedrooms on either side.

The first year I stayed here we had one bedroom consisting of one double bed which Nany and I shared, two chairs which were put facing together which was the bed for Gordon. There was a wash stand which held a big bowl and a pitcher for washing your hands, face, and feet before going to bed. In the bottom of the washstand was a small compartment which held a large covered "urn" as Nany called it. I don't remember any other bathroom. The clothes were hung on nails on the 2x4 studs around the room. It was cramped quarters but who cared, you only slept here.

In 1930-31 we stayed for one or two weeks. The first we had one room, the cottage and the next years we had two rooms. In 1933-34 Mimi bought year the Tabernacle was removed.

The house was designed as follows: The living room had two large couches, two red leather and wicker reclining chairs and several straight chairs, and a grand piano. The color scheme was red. Since the cottage had no insulation or finished walls, the 2x4 wall cross beams were exposed and each section had a model of a ship that my grandfather had sailed on. He made these while at sea.

The dining room had a long picnic table with benches and a chair at either end. The color scheme was blue and maroon. A corner cupboard held the dishes. The main set was blue with a maroon flower design; the glasses were blue with a white ship design on each. Two other tea sets of dishes were also used for bridge parties and luncheons. One set was black and one was burgundy red. A clear set of glasses with a hand-painted ship was used at this time.

A portion of the dining room was made into a large walk-in closet which contained the shower, and dirty laundry box, and a box for personal items that had been left around the "didn't belong there." To retrieve these items from the box, one had to pay a fee of 5 cents, or more, depending on the victim's ability to pay. One could also do

community service instead. Along the walls of this closet we hung wet weather gear and heavy sailing gear. The stairs to the upstairs was here also.

Two bedrooms were made into a den with desk, chairs, and bookcases. The color scheme was black and orange. A full mullion of windows was added on the end wall. Along this wall there was a long bench with seats that lifted up to store sails and ropes, etc.

There were braided my grandmother made from gave her. I am fortunate rugs on all the floors of these three rooms which old woolen pants, jackets, and coats that people to have three of these.

The back of the house continued from the den to a deck where one could eat, and feed the seagulls. A crude path was made here so we could sneak down to the water. When my grandfather retired he used this route often to escape my aunt and grandmother who made him put on his marine jacket for their frequent teas, luncheons, and parties.

One of the downstairs bedrooms and the kitchen were made into the kitchen. Windows were added on one wall to let in more light and the breakfast table was located here. The cupboards held green and orange dishes used for breakfast and lunch if you ate in the kitchen.

The curtains throughout the downstairs were made of unbleached cotton and had a large sailboat on each panel of the color scheme of that room.

The bedroom curtains upstairs continued to have this same idea.

A hall extended from the front to the back of the house. Two rooms were used to make one bedroom at either end of the house. In the front there were two rooms of red and white, and on the other side of the hall the rooms were blue and white. The bedspreads were also made of unbleached cotton with large sailboats stenciled in color. Along the hall on either side the rooms were single until the back and they were made the same as the front. One was Mimi's room, across the hall was Nany's room. One of the rooms at the top of the stairs was used as the linen closet which had shelves with towels, pillows and blankets. All blankets, towels, sheets, and pillowcases had ships.

The third floor had two bedrooms on either end with a large room in the middle. We stayed here on rainy days. We had a ping-pong table, card tables for checkers, and cards. One room had magazines and lounging chairs. In the winter we stretched the sails out up here to dry.

The houses were so close that if one house went, the entire complex would have burned.

When Mimi began remodeling the house she removed the pitchers, bowls, and "thunderjugs" from each bedroom, as well as the kerosene lamps. The first three items were loaded onto a truck and taken to the family farm where they were thrown down in the dump in the pasture.

This was called the Winterport Cottage, and was a private residence until it became the house for the boys of the Maine Sailing School. One of the cottages which was purchased later was called "The Galley". This was the dining area for the school, while the bedrooms upstairs housed the girls.

The house next to the galley was rented from Dr. and Mrs. Reed and used as an office. Another year part of the Bangor Chapel was used as an office. In addition to the Winterport cottage and the Galley, a green cottage behind the Galley and a brown cottage

on the main street were purchased. These cottages were used by my grandmother and rented by my father.

The Maine Sailing School began when Mimi began a Girl Mariners Club at Ridgewood High School in 1936-1937. They came to Maine and went on a cruise out of Camden for a week. The second year- 1939- I went on the cruise, too, and the girls stayed a few days. In 1940 the Maine Sailing School was started.

## BOATS

The first boat I remember was an 18' inboard motor boat which Mimi named Cleo III. It was in the shop in Searsport for motor trouble almost as much as it was in the water. My grandfather called it a "floating coffin". The first sailboat was the "Mimi". My brother Wesley said it was the "Charlotte R" purchased from Decrow in Belfast. He's certain because he has a picture of himself painting it and the name was on it. I think this may be true, and after it was painted, Mimi renamed it the "Mimi". Gordon verified that he remembers only the name "Mimi", which was a centerboard catboat.(?) The Red Demon, the Dolphin (a Dark Harbor 12) and a Snipe were the first purchases. As the school grew I know there were others, but I was in college and out of college, so I didn't keep up.

After Mimi married and gave up teaching at Ridgewood High School, the sailing school began to deteriorate. Her husband was no help; instead, he was a negative influence in her life. Her father had died in 1943. After her mother died in 1954 her life as she had always lived it began to change markedly. It was as if she had no rudder and floundered. Mimi died in Savannah, Georgia on June 9, 1983.