

Interview of MARILYN DUANE

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**Can you tell us your name and how long you have been at Bayside?**

My name is Marilyn Johnson Duane and I have been at Bayside as long as I can remember. I celebrated my first birthday on Sea St. at the Bally cottage.

**How about your family, how many cottages, family members have been in the area?**

The first that I know of, my great-grandmother who used to come down on one of the big steamships and bring a granddaughter or two, she had four grandchildren. They would stay a week in a rented cottage on one of streets that (go) off Broadway to the campgrounds, which it was then called.

From there, these various people all loved it and used to rent, come here and rent for a week or two when they were adults and finally, four out of four bought cottages in the area. And three of the sisters bought lots down in Kelly's Cove, from Derouche. which is a well-known name in the olden days and then my mother who bought one of the lots decided that she wanted to be waterfront and so she bought Breezy Point in the forties, that was. My aunt bought the log cabin that is somewhat in disrepair, at the moment, but it was the first log cabin in the area, down in the Cove. My other aunt bought a more traditional cottage, which burnt and has now been replaced by the Spady cottage.

**Tell us some of your fond memories of the Bayside, some of the things you did as a child?**

Oh boy, lets see. I remember we used to walk a lot. It was necessary to walk from here a lot to get what was then the mail service up at the campgrounds; mail came in twice a day, believe it or not. And we went to the post office; we must have expected a lot of mail. And then we used to walk at night and go all the way to Temple Heights and back. And they had had to carry me part of the way, which was a job. Then one of our favorite things was to walk at night up in campground area, because the windows were all lighted up and look and see how people were and how they were furnishing their cottages and what they were doing and all that kind of stuff. We don't do that as much anymore. That was something I did as a child.

We used to have wonderful beach picnics right in front of cottages in the Cove. Stole across the road there and down a right of way that was there at that time. Cook hotdogs, and sometimes just have a fire. And that puts me in mind of the end of World War Two; we haven't been able to have fires for several years on the beach because of the fear of the enemy ships or submarines in the Bay. I don't know if they were actually there but there was concern about it. And the day that it ended, we went down and had one of the biggest fires we ever had and sang some patriotic songs and had a wonderful time and I've never forgotten it, of course.

**Oh, that's a great memory.**

An older memory was of the store that used to be up on the back road, George Street which was Hastings store for awhile, but prior to that was the Perkins store and when I was a child, he was an old, old, man, but he liked children, and he would always give me these little glass lanterns filled with hard candies .....I wish I had saved them. But I had a lovely time with them, then. He used to have onions, and bananas, and everything hung from the porch, the way you picture things in the olden days. That building is now down at the Blair's place, they moved and made it into a residence.

**That's my brother-in-law's house.**

Is it really? Well, I have many fond memories of that place. It was mostly because of the Gisters (???)

**You ought to come down. They would love to show you the inside. Have you been inside?**

No, I haven't. Haven't been in for years. Hastings closed up.

**If you have such fond memories of it, they would love to show you it.**

Yes, I would love to see it, yes, I would.

**What kind of fashions were there, bathing suits?**

Oh dear! I hated my wool suit.

**Oh a wool bathing suit?**

Yes, it was so itchy. When they were really called part of a tank suit. I've got lots of pictures, scoop neck in front, scoop neck in back, and just sort of hung there on you with just a stripe across a modest length skirt. Kids could wear something with a little less covering than that, but as I say, it was pretty itchy stuff. I was very glad when they came in with some of the other fabrics a little later.

**What about hats? Did you wear a lot of hats?**

I don't recall a lot down here a lot of hats, unless you were sitting in the sun, the older people generally wore a brim kind of style. One thing we used to do, I don't know if I should mention it or not, there was a captain, that kept a sort of a passenger boat. Captain Goodwin, I think his name was, and he, for a couple of dollars a head takes a whole party of people out for a day's journey around Islesboro, and visit the seal rocks, at the islands, I guess they call them. And then if the tide was right he would bring you into the area over by Marshall Cove, dig clams for you, and let you swim or do whatever you wanted to do for the princely sum of two dollars a head. It was about what he charged for an all

day thing. On one occasion, a lady whose name I shall not mention, who was a resident down here for quite a while, borrowed my mother's bathing suit, they changed in the bushes, came out into the water, and she dipped down, the way you would, and she had it on backwards. You couldn't tell much. So, it was rather a funny exposure.

So that one of the trips, we had wonderful fun then, every summer. We didn't have vehicles in our family, we would be one or two, and they would bring them down in the summer and use to go into Belfast for groceries but you really didn't need to do that because almost every day, Cushman's bakery come through carrying all kinds of bread, rolls, and goodies and whatnot. There was a milkman that came every day with butter, milk, cheese, and all that kind of thing. There was even a meat man, although we didn't patronize him very much. There was also a fresh fish man that came and he had scales and everything, you go up and pick out the stuff and he would weigh it for you and you really didn't need to go to the store. Only for the most incidental things and the staples, because it was brought to you. There used to be so many peddlers that came by with fresh raspberries, strawberries, and stuff like that, blueberries, just little kids, and then the Indian children and their parents came through with wonderful Indian baskets, which they sold very inexpensively. And we had quite a collection of these, since we felt very sad for these big-eyed little boys that were standing there with a basket.

**Did you still have some of these baskets?**

Yep.

**That's great. That's a tradition we should start again, having them come with all the fish and meat. You wouldn't have to go to the store. That would be great!**

Well, it was wonderful, because particularly in the case of the fish, it was very, very, fresh. They would have just caught it somewhere and then trucked it down. And then we had a fantastic, you probably heard about him, Jack, the garbage man? Well, we liked Jack, everybody liked him, and everybody was a character. Oh the iceman came by, frequently, I don't remember. You know most people had, not refrigerators, but iceboxes, which sat out in the back or in the kitchen and leaked all over the floor.

**How about the community house. What happenings do you remember about at the community house?**

Well, I remember being in a couple of minstrel shows that were orchestrated by Joanne Coughlin's mother, Mrs. Short, and I think with help from John Short whose was always an end man with Kelly Crosskill. These names aren't familiar to you, are they? Well they would be to the oldsters here, because they very actively made things very pleasant for people down here. It takes a lot of work to put on something like that. Do you see that recent show, Steamboat Fever? Well that was a ton of work too. These shows used local talent. It took a lot of patience to get everybody together and all. I was in those; I am trying to think of what else. Well, I don't remember. I remember those especially.

**How about the sports in the area, do you have memories of the golfing, swimming, horseshoes?**

Oh, horseshoes. I do remember, although I didn't play them. We used to go up and watch them because we had friends who did play. We were friends of the Butters. who were old, old, summer residents here.

**Did they play horseshoes down in the Bayside area?**

No. They played up by Upper Broadway that goes into Merrithew Square, you know. You go up one of those side streets and part way up there was an entry into this horseshoe pits. I don't know what you call them. You go there and they had some bleachers along the side. And you could hear when you walked into Merithew square, you could hear the clink. I can still hear that sound in my head, that clink, clink. That was the horseshoes, from the men or whoever was playing.

**How about social events, dances?**

Oh yeah, they had dances. Probably, it was the Shorts, again, that may have organized them. They had three girls, you know Joanne probably, Joanne Coughlin? Nice lady. Anyway, the parents were nice too. They organized a lot of these things; they were held to the community hall.

**Did they have breakfasts there like they do now?**

Oh, I think so, although I don't recall that I went to them. We were very family- oriented then and it's really a shocker now that I am really the only one left that comes down here. It's sad.

**Is this the only cottage that's in the family now?**

That's right. It was my mother's. She came to have this lot, as I told you between her and the two sisters down in the Cove. But she never came. She put a foundation down, of sorts, and was going to build. My mother was a little bit diseased, got really very blotchy from the sun. She came down one weekend, it was terrible hot out down there. She was staying with my aunt in the log cabin back in the woods. And this place was for sale, and my aunt said to her, "Call up Mr. Clark and see how much it is" (he was the realtor) and she did and he said, "I've got the key, here, and go up, they've taken all the stuff they want out of there, the people it was left to, just go in and see what you think. Stay overnight." She was so hot and the wind was blowing through the bedroom windows and she was so thrilled, she went to the bed and climbed in. The next day she bought it.

**So did she name it Breezy Point?**

No, it's always been Breezy Point; I saved postcards with pictures of it. And also long shots from up at the wharf that show it, and the name Breezy Point was here before the

cottage, probably and the cottage just took it's name from that. But it doesn't let you down in most weather, if it's as cool as anyplace on the coast. We do love it.

**How about the Fourth of July? Do you remember the 4th of July here? It seems to be a big event now.**

I don't remember. I don't have any special memories. My uncle used to come down with some fireworks and he used to buy ten dollars worth which was a humongous amount then, and set them off down on the beach. That's a memory but you know it's not of the community, really. It was just a personal family memory.

**How about storms that go on here? It's an interesting year to ask you right after this horrendous ice storm.**

Oh, well, I think nothing of that, when we were down in Florida, having worst storms, tornadoes, and people dying all over the place, no one died in the ice storm. I prefer Maine. My brother winter and summers here, that I know of, but yes, we gone through several hurricanes down here. The worst one I was not here for, it was very bad, it knocked the locks off the window here, and three huge trees, a group of them, the size of that one right there, came down on the house on the edge of the house over there, knocked down the well curb (?) went through the roof. We were very lucky considering that, you know, it could have been a direct hit and it would have been a real mess.

But I can tell you five of them stories like that. My mother was married at that point, to Brent Milliken who was from Pittsfield, Maine and he was set in his ways. He had been up there, and he knew it was a hurricane, and he was due to come here and he was going to come here and he used to come the back roads and with trees falling all along. So when he got here, mother was sort of bailing from all the wind and all the trouble and whatnot. Mother said, "I am going out and get my beans." She always had her baked beans made by a lady out in the back woods in Lincolnville, and that night, and my mother was such a nut going out in this and she made him and he did. He went out and came back with the beans. Mainers were a tough crew.

**I guess. How about the Depression? Do you have memories of Bayside during the Depression?**

I was pretty young. I was born in 1929; I just had my 69th birthday. It didn't affect all the families, very much. I do remember a funny incident that might have had something to do with the ban on selling alcohol.

**Prohibition?**

Prohibition. Was that at that time? I don't remember. We were, one of my aunts, not the one with the log cabin, had built her place and it was still roughly furnished and she would bring women friends of hers, and just have a good time, like young people would. And I would come down with them. And this time, we were sleeping on a collapsible

bed; it was propped up with oilcans, as I remember. There three of us lying on an open front porch in this metal bed, I can see it so well in my mind. And after dark we became aware, I suppose I had gone to sleep and woke up during the confusion, that there was a man patrolling up and down in front of the cottage, its still there, but the bushes are cut low in front of the Spady cottage so you can see out to sea. He was walking along, back and forth; all you can see is the light from a cigarette or something. And he patrolled back and forth for hours, and they were half scared and half hilarious, you know the way they are. I was intrigued I didn't have any reason to be scared. And they thought that he was looking for rum-runners coming in. There was something in the paper later on about this concern, rum-runners coming in. They had agents, just tracking in the coves. They still do that with drugs, I think. I'm not sure they still do that but there are so many coves in Maine, you just couldn't possibly cover them all. Well, anyway, I remember that experience because the bed collapsed. You know with all the thrashing around. We weren't very far from this man you know, he was down there.

**OK. Think we'll conclude with some of your favorite people in Bayside, some of your best friends, past and present?**

Well, I was always fond of Marion Keith. You know Al Keith . Well that's his sister. She is still in the area, but not in Bayside. She was a neighbor in Bangor where we lived at the time, as well. That lot right there was the Keith cottage. You see the garden and what not? And there was a fire here. You don't want me to conclude with the fire, do you?

**Well, let's keep going the way we are now.**

The reason we have that property now, that was our guesthouse, that was the Keith barn, that building out there. It's now our guest cottage right there, but that place there had a very nice cottage and on the other side of it there was another cottage, owned by people named Swift. And in the fall, after most people had gone home, someone in the Swift family. had gotten married and he and his bride would come down here to spend their honeymoon. Well, he didn't understand the water heater. They went off somewhere. The cottage caught on fire, the boiler blew up, the cottage caught on fire and caught the Keith cottage on fire. And they were both totally gone. They had got some help from the fire department, but it was just gone on too far. Which, of course, ultimately turned to our benefit, because we got this lot the people who rented the cottage on the other side, bought the other. And we have space in between which is very nice and is a premium in Bayside to have a large amount of space.

Pam Short was also a good friend of mine. As I say, I wasn't up in the campground very much, and I tended to bring friends from Bangor down here, which wouldn't make any friends.

**What are some of some your favorite things to do in Bayside, now?**

Read. I love all things. And we entertain a lot. We have a lot of friends here. But I think the relaxing is the sport that I really enjoy and its cool. I've gotten like my mother; I'm

pretty allergic to heat. I never used to be, but that must be something that comes on in your elderly years.

**Thank you so much. Ok we're back, because after we chatted we found some more interesting things. We are going to talk about some of the celebrities that have visited Bayside.**

As I said, I would not swear to this, but it was told to me that Zazu Pitts at one time was a guest at this house or the Keith's place. And also, Mary Martin, spent a period of one summer at Breezy Point with her boy Larry. At another time, and this I was here to observe, Mrs Jungen who has the cottage now occupied by the Cummings has many friends in New York, prominent friends, she had worked with her aunt who had been a prominent person in New York society, I guess, and she knew this woman, a cosmetician, who was either Harriet Hubbard Ayer, or somebody with a name similar to that makes me think of it. Anyway, she built a place for her for this occasion for this woman who was coming to visit her, across the road on part of the lot. I guess the Cumming's sister owns that now. And they would walk up and down the street with her gentleman, introducing her to one and all. That place right now is down on Route #1, they added two wings and it was moved from here and taken down and added on to, and looking much like it did but a little larger.

**Okay, I think we are all set. Thank you very much.**