

the seabreeze

Vol. 2

Bayside Village, Maine

No. 1

Saturday, July 11, 2020

Who We Are

On July, 31st, 1879, a group of residents of the Northport Campground - the area which would one day become Bayside - created a tiny newspaper. Headed by Charles J. Burgess and J.L. Williams, the group decided to honor their coastal home, and name the publication The Sea Breeze. The paper was short in pages, but massive in content, cramming dozens of tiny-font articles into each gargantuan page. Stories detailed various goings-on, from the building of new cottages, to the arrival of great steamships, to the weddings of locals. The paper, which was published six-times seasonally, rapidly became a staple in the Campground community, gaining a large readership with relative ease. But as years passed, the paper gradually declined, eventually publishing it's last issue over two decades later. (Copies of the old Sea Breeze are available at www.baysidehps.org)

150 years later, in the summer of 2019, I saw a display case of old issues of The Sea Breeze in town hall. This got my thinking; these days, Bayside lacks its own true news source - a place where residents can send in stories, and local news can be displayed for all to see. A paper edition which all residents are free to read. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to combine Bayside's past with Bayside's future. So, with the help of some friends, family members, people from around Bayside, and the Bayside Historical Society, I began to create my vision for the new newspaper. Like the original Sea Breeze, it would start small - only one issue per month for July and August. It would feature news, stories, interviews, pictures, and history, from around Bayside, all easily packaged in paper copies for Bayside residents. But I also wanted to make some changes to distinguish the second volume of the Sea Breeze. First, my brother, Nate Cohen, helped to modernize the look of the paper. Instead of the classic late-19th century design, Nate adopted a more sleek and modern feel - manifested in the minor name change of the paper from The Sea Breeze to The Seabreeze. Second, we're unfortunately no longer reporting on people visiting Bayside (unless of course, someone very important happens to arrive) - instead, we'll have a focus on events in the community which might interest readers (see the new Corner Store, and the Itty Bitty Art Gallery pieces in this edition). Third, we're really listening to our readers this time. The original Sea Breeze featured articles reported by those working on the paper. The new Seabreeze will be virtually the same. However, we've opened up the option for people from the community to submit ideas or even write stories (if you're interested, please email seabreeze@baysidemaine.com).

All in all, this is going to be an endeavor. We're in the midst of a crazy period of American and Bayside history, just as Charles J. Burgess and J.L. Williams were when they founded the original Sea Breeze. But hopefully, with the help of the community, we can truly revive the paper, and with it, a piece of Bayside history.

-Edited by Aaron Cohen, Layout by Nate Cohen

The Corner Store

The Bayside Country Store, lovingly known as The Corner Store, doesn't really sit on the corner. It sits on more of a physical and ideological edge between Bayside and everywhere else. As a result it caters to a huge variety of customers, ranging from kids looking for a quick midday snack to travelers stopping for a sub and a drink. But with travel down and regular activities cancelled, how will the Corner Store manage?

The answer is a combination of factors and changes from previous years starting with the most significant - the store is changing hands. The management of the Bayside Country Store was recently taken over by Liz Lane, a Northport resident of 25 years, and has been undergoing light renovation in the past few weeks. Lane's goal is twofold: first to maintain the core of the original Country Store, and second to incorporate new changes which will make the classic store feel fresh. In terms of the former, Lane aims to keep a lot - "We're keeping pretty much the same menu," she said in an interview at the almost-finished store Sunday morning.



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Itty Bitty Gallery

If you travel along Shore Road for a while, you'll end up at a tiny barn sitting next to a Victorian style cottage. The barn is painted a nice shade of blue-gray, and seems precious compared to its full-sized neighbors, which is fitting considering what lays inside. On the door hangs a wooden sign which reads "Itty Bitty Gallery."

Beyond the doors of the mini-barn lies a mini-world, intricately set inside of two ornate doll houses, and a shelf filled with colorful figurines. Each room of each house has stylistic differences, but all are incredible both in skill and scale. These aren't the dollhouses you played with as a kid - these look habitable (that is, if they were increased by a scale factor of a few hundred). In addition, each room details something different. Some detail bathrooms, some detail kitchens. One details a parlor with a checkerboard floor which might have come out of the '50s.

On a table at the side of the room sits a laminated piece of paper which details the backstories of gallery curators, owners, and artists Amy Tingle and Maya Stein in relation to the gallery. Both of them spent hours decorating and playing with various kinds of non-traditional dollhouses - in Tingle's case a "replica of her childhood home," and in Stein's case a "replica of Fort Lauderdale." Many years later, they founded the Creative Caravan together and since then have been working on creating a wide variety of exhibits, some "mini," such as their "Tiny Book Show," and some not.

After a look around the exhibit, I headed to talk with Stein about her work and the gallery. First we discussed the inspiration for the gallery, which Stein cited as stemming from the work of Stephanie Rond, the artist behind the S. Dot gallery, which is a fully-functioning art gallery fit inside of a dollhouse,

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A Conversation with an Icon

I have been in Bayside for a while now, and at the sailing school for just as long. For all these years at the sailing school, Andrew Trasati has been arguably the best instructor. Andrew Trasati is 20 years old, and would describe himself as "pretty awesome, and overall just pretty great." All the members of the sailing school would agree. He lives in New Hampshire and goes to the University of New Hampshire. His spirit animal is the ferocious, feared by all, feisty penguin.

I headed over to his cottage on Tuesday, to ask some questions to get to know him better.

Q: What are your favorite things to do around Bayside?

A: Some of my favorite things to do around Bayside are spending time with my friends, getting to see all of the familiar faces around Bayside, catching up with everyone, going swimming, sailing, and just being on the water.

Q: What is your craziest sailing experience?

A: My craziest sailing experience would have to be last year in the John Short Race when there was a freak storm. It started raining and thundering. Then, two catamarans flipped, and a woman went missing. She was stranded out at sea with nothing but a piece of wood.

Q: Where and when did you start sailing?

A: I started sailing at the Northport Yacht Club, at the age of nine, the first year I was allowed in.

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?

A: I want to be a mechanical engineer.

Q: What do you think of the economic rise of imported goods in Kyrgyzstan?

A: I believe that the United States should collaborate with the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take down our real threat: man-eating narwhals.

Q: What do you like about Bayside?

A: What is there not to like about Bayside?

Q: Can you name all the points of sail right now?

A: Hmm.. let's see.. We got close hauled, close reach, beam reach, broad reach, run, wing on wing...

Q: What do you do in the winter?

A: In the winter I attend the University of New Hampshire, and I love to go skiing.

-Micah Cohen

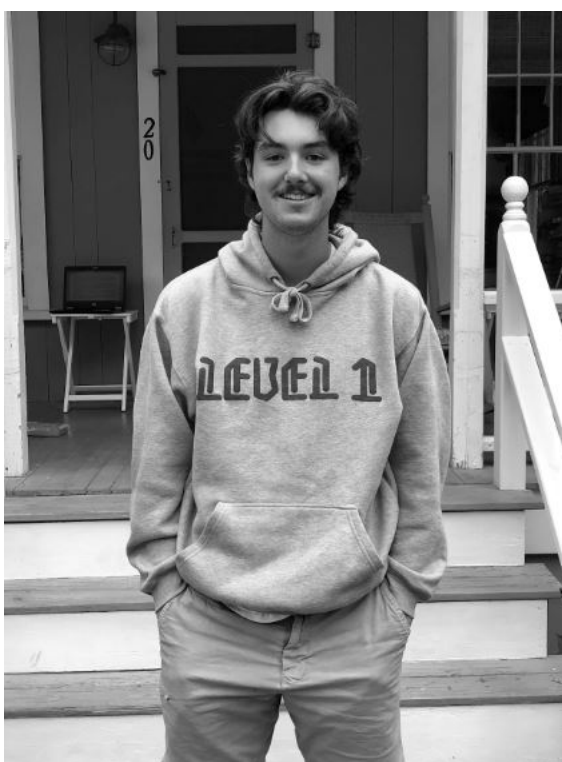


Photo Credit: Nate Cohen

Maine History: Maine Mutant

A few weeks back, I was on my way up Shore Road. It was late at night, so the only source of light was a street-light about 50 feet away. All of a sudden I heard a rustle in the bushes and a low growl. I started walking along the road a bit faster, as the rustling got louder and louder. I could have sworn I saw a pair of eyes peeking out at me from the bushes. As the growling intensified, I broke into a run, determined to leave whatever was in the bushes.

Fourteen years ago, in August of 2006, a monstrosity was found dead on the side of the road. The creature in question was located on the outskirts of Turner, Maine, 80 miles from Bayside. It had presumably died on impact after being hit by a car traveling along Route 4. But the creature was like nothing most locals had ever seen before. That's because it probably wasn't. Although the creature itself was largely ignored by experts, a zoology expert from Portland reviewed the photos of the beast (which are mildly frightening), and determined that its resemblance to a beast discovered years earlier. That animal did receive a DNA test, which proved that it was a hybrid between a wolf and a dog.

In the decade and a half preceding the animal's death, there had been numerous claims from across Androscoggin county, detailing the murder of dogs and the like at the hands of a mystery beast "with chilling monstrous cries and eyes that glow in the night" (NBC news). Perhaps Michelle o'Donnell, a spotter of the beast before it's death, said it best - "It was evil, evil-looking."

Additionally, with the existence of one wolf-dog confirmed, and the existence of another probable, how likely is it that there are more, living undetected across Maine? Probably low, but just in case, if you hear a strange howl in the night, you'd better keep your pets inside.

As for the creature on Shore Rd - who knows? Maybe I left a wolf-dog's thirst for blood unsatiated that night. And maybe a friendly Golden Retriever was just scampering home.

-Aaron Cohen

The Corner Store

In terms of the latter, she has big plans - "We're going to do delivery" a project which will be undergone in collaboration with next-door neighbor and Bayside favorite "The Hoot." there's more - in the coming weeks, Lane plans to implement a special menu, which will cycle various foods in and out of rotation on various days, such as "lasagna Mondays," plus, she's "bringing back penny candy!"

The Corner Store holds a special place in Lane's heart. Born and raised in Scarborough, Maine, a hundred miles down the coast, she remembers summer days where "everyone rode their bikes past the cottages and headed to the Higgins Beach Store," her local Corner Store, which has since closed. As the new owner and manager of the Bayside Country Store, she hopes to revive and encourage some of that same magic from years to go.

More recently, Liz spent time as a small business specialist in New Hampshire, after which she served as a property manager. Overall, it looks like the Country Store couldn't be in better hands.

With the store officially launched on the Fourth and the store's inventory and menu options increasing daily, now is a great time to head out and support the store. Hopefully, with the support of the community (which I do not doubt will be incredible), the Corner Store will remain the staple in the community that it has been in summers past

-Aaron Cohen.

Corner Store Hours:

6:30 - 7 Sunday-Thursday

6:30 - 9 Friday-Saturday

The Bard of Bayside

Amos Kimball is a kind man who has been in Bayside since 1932. This 4th of July marked his 88th year here. He has so many interesting stories to tell, and I am upset that I can only share a few.

I headed to Kimball's house on Sunday, June 28th to get to know him better. We had a great conversation that lasted close to 2 hours. After he was done, he told me that we just went over three things you should never talk about: politics, religion, and money. We discussed everything from family to religion to Donald Trump and his effect on the Middle East. He is a very smart man with very interesting opinions. Kimball's family history is equally amazing - he is a direct descendant of much royalty of Europe, and is likely a member of the oldest family in Bayside that is still around. Amos W. Kimball has many stories to tell.

Q: What did you like about being a kid in Bayside?

A: Well, of course being a kid in Bayside in those days, was not unlike kids in Bayside today. I did not have a bicycle, but I was allowed to go down to the wharf. I was allowed to go down to the seashore, and around the immediate area and play with other kids down there in the park area. It was much the same as it is today.

Q: What did you do for fun as a kid?

A: I frequently went to the little store that was here for candy, and I would go to the wharf and I would go down to the water's edge and go in the water, in the shallow places.

Q: How, if at all, has Bayside changed over the years?

A: Bayside has changed and yet it hasn't changed. The people that I remember that were here when I was younger, many of them had been coming here more many, many years. I think today there are a lot more people from out of the area.

Q: Were people sailing back then?

A: Very few people had sail boats, as we know them today. Very few.

Q: How did people get here?

A: People usually got here by steamboat.

Q: Have you ever lived through anything like the Covid-19 pandemic before?

A: When I was a kid, there were various epidemics such as measles, the whooping cough and scarlet fever.



We talked and talked. Kimball told me about the legend of the Native leader Cannabis who had his wigwam by the basketball court; how his daughter's boyfriends fought and died for her love and are buried by the wharf in an unmarked grave. Kimball told me more about Bayside and how over the years he has met many people named "Bill Cohen. As we talked Kimball weaved together a picture of Bayside history. Gradually, I began to wonder if one day I would have stories like these to tell, to pass down the traditions of Bayside to generations to come. Thank you to Kimball for the interview and for sharing his amazing stories.

-Micah Cohen

History of Bayside

I first became aware of the existence of Sea Breeze the summer of 1969. I had finished up my thesis for my MSLS degree in June and decided to take the rest of the summer off to get myself readjusted to being a civilian again and catch up with what had happened when I was away in the service. My father, John E. Dykstra, was working on a project that involved some of the financial records that were available from the Northport Wesleyan Grove Association. At some point the existence of the Sea Breeze came up. The cottage that I currently own at 9 Park Row, was originally called Maplerest. The current sign was made by my brother William (Bill) H. Dykstra. It was based on a sign that we had found under the cottage when we jacked it up and re-posted it the summer of 1998.

The cottage really needed a lot of work. Over the years the place had sagged and several of the posts under it had tipped. The last time it had major work done on it was in the summer of 1950, when my father tore off the old lean to ell at the back of the cottage and added a two storey addition that included an additional bedroom upstairs, a kitchen, an eating nook, and a bathroom with a tub. My contribution to the project was wheeling the dirt that was dug out up to the Stover cottage to form the parking pad that was added to the current Kavage cottage. It took a lot of trips as I could not manage a full wheelbarrow load as an eight year old.

I think I got about \$.75 for the job, which was big money for an eight year old. Among the objects that I found under the cottage was the original flag pole that is in an old postcard that I had in my collection. I enlarged the post card, which was produced by Eastern Post Cards of Belfast, ME. That card influenced my design choices for the porch and porch roof. I went back to using turned pilaster railing supports, which was historically original. One of the parts of the project was adding a floor support for the second floor, which was quite springy. To allow the building to move I removed the inside battens on the downhill side and found that one of them had been signed A. S. Gorham. Writing one's name on the inside of cottages is not new; and workmen signing their work in unobtrusive places is also not uncommon. This began a search for just who A. S. Gorham was.

The first thing I did was check the phone book. Back then, there were regularly issued phone books and there was a collection of them in the cottage. That did not turn up anything other than the fact that there was a Gorham, ME. My next stop was the Bangor Public Library's collection of city directories for the State of Maine. I hit the jackpot. I found an A. S. Gorham in the directory for 1880 and for other dates. He was a Methodist and was identified with the Campground. I talked with Joe Reilly about what I had found out and asked if there was anything on who owned the early cottages.

He came up with a copy of the Sea Breeze for Thursday, August 26, 1880 - Issue No. 2.

The masthead of the Sea Breeze states that it is a weekly seaside season journal. A subscription for 6 issues cost \$.25 or 5 cents a copy. Five cents in 1880 is equal to \$1.26 today. Geo G. Brackett was the editor and publisher. It was for sale and subscriptions were available at M. P. Woodcock & Sons in Belfast, and was available at the Wesleyan Grove house on the campground. Issue No. 2 had four pages and three columns per page.

The Sea Breeze is an example of a very useful source of local history. It was published at the same time as the events it covered. Another contemporary example is Dan Webster's Bayside Picture of the Day, which is an extremely valuable tool for future research into Bayside's history.

The Number 2 issue contains a number of articles relating to the history of the early days of the Eastern Maine Methodist Camp Meeting Association and how they located at Bayside and the way that the grounds expanded. There are articles on the Northport Camp Meeting Notes, Directory of Advertisers, and on page three under, SEE PAGE 4

Itty Bitty Gallery

with artists in residence swapping out every so often. Then we discussed the path to Stein and Tingle's own gallery, which Stein revealed was largely a result of chance - "we found a dollhouse by the side of the road a couple years ago."

They worked from there - now, Stein and Tingle have become a kind of "silent curators," who have truly "given the space over to the artists," as Stein said in an interview last week. The gallery changes around every so often.

As of now, the current iteration of the Itty Bitty Gallery is here to stay, so be sure to stop by, and say hello at 757 Shore Road.
-Aaron Cohen



The History of Bayside

heading Northport Register, there is a list of cottage owners, by street, that identifies the original owner of 9 Park Row as A. S. Gorham.

The last page of the Sea Breeze contains a map of the camp ground showing where the Auditorium was located. The location of a number of water wells is also shown. Griffin Street and Park Row are listed. Originally Park Row was part of Griffin Street as shown in an early deed to 9 Park Row, The list of the owners on Park Row begins with Norris Bragg of Bangor, and continues the list in order of distance from the water.

In the 1880s, lots were leased from the Wesleyan Grove Association and not deeded to the owner. There is no record of who the lease holders were that I was able to find in any document at the registry of deeds. At a later time the Methodists exchanged the lease for a Warranty deed, for an additional payment. This article is the first I saw that was current at the time many of the cottages were built. 150 cottages were added in the prior four years, which is a huge amount of construction at any time. The folks who built the cottages were thrifty and reused building materials that were originally utilized to build the tent platforms that the cottages replaced. The flooring in the original cottage recycled the flooring from the tent platform at 9 Park Row.

The outside walls of the cottage supported both the roof and second floor, which has been a long lasting and extremely economical use of material. This is known as balloon construction and is not the way modern buildings are built. It is my best guess that 9 Park Row was built either in the fall of 1879 or the Spring of 1880. This would make the original cottage 140 years old.

I do not know if there is a full run of the Sea Breeze in any archive today. I sure hope so as it gave me a look into the history of my cottage.
-John R. Dykstra II

UFOS's Over Maine

If you believe in UFOs, you will see them everywhere - in the Bible, in the memoirs of Colonial America, even in modern New England, with special eagle-eyed intensity in the skies above Maine.

The craft show up late in the Old Testament, when the Prophet Ezekiel, on the road to Babylon, sees a fiery wheel, which, to some is God in his chariot, but to others is a classic UFO sighting: "I looked, and I saw a wind-storm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light," Ezekiel writes. "The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, but each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands."

Saucers were seen over America from the beginning. According to John Winthrop, the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, three men, rowing in a stream that emptied into the Charles River on March 1, 1639, spotted a fantastic light in the sky. "When it stood still, it flamed up, and was about three yards square," Winthrop wrote in his diary. At one point, the craft, which "ran as swift as an arrow," came close to the men. When it faded, the men found themselves miles upstream, with no memory of going there, which suggests a possible alien abduction. (An Alien Lost and Found just might contain a ruffled bonnet).

Maine has been a leader in sightings since the 1950s. In 2014, UFO magazine declared the state a hotbed of encounters. Glowing orbs have been reported, as well as humming sounds and flying craft. Monson is the number one spot for sightings in Maine, followed by Turner. Oxford is the home of Starborn, a group founded by twin sisters who, following their own terrifying abduction, began to counsel fellow returnees. (Warning: some husbands have been known to explain infidelity via alien abduction, as in, "The creature must have returned me the wrong bed.") The most famous Maine abduction took place on August 20, 1976, when four men say they were lifted from their canoe by aliens & "probed and tested by four-fingered beings with almond-shaped eyes and languid limbs." (This experience is chronicled in the book "The Allagash Abductions.") More recent encounters have been reported in Bucksport, Orrington and Prospect. Some UFO-ologists think the aliens are drawn to the surreal Penobscot Narrows Bridge.

In a normal time, such encounters might be dismissed as the ravings of the overly excited, stressed out, or drunk, but recent Pentagon declassifications - the Feds have acknowledged the truth of some sightings, the existence of a secret government committee on UFOs and released the testimony of U.S. fighter pilots who have tracked impossibly fast tic tac shaped machines off both coast w- have made it all seem a little less unreal.

The crafts themselves, which likely come through wormholes created by anti-gravity engines, are almost always the same, small and sleek, moving like less like metal than like light, which argues either for the universal nature of good design, or the commonality of dreams.

Editor's Note: A few nights ago, I believe I might have seen some kind of UFO myself. I was lying in bed, looking out a window to my upper left. Suddenly, I saw a brief but intense flash of light in the sky. It then faded away and a second later was replaced by a second flash, a bit past in the sky. Finally, there was a third flash near the edge of my window, and then whatever was making the flashes was gone. What makes me suspicious of this craft was the sheer speed with which it moved. For reference, I saw a plane in the sky at the same time - this vehicle was moving at least 10 or 15 times faster. Very strange.

-Rich Cohen