

Annisquam History

My contribution involves two storms in Annisquam. The first was Hurricane Bob in August of 1991. The winds were coming up the Annisquam River and were so strong that Dick Burkhardt, then owner of the Market, was concerned about the docks being destroyed by the storm surge. He asked the owners of large power boats facing the river to run their engines in gear to push the against docks into the wind and the surge. The boats ran for over 6 hours. It worked like a charm, and both docks and boats were safe.

During that same hurricane, the air currents and the barometric pressure were such that the linoleum floor in our kitchen at 48 Adams Hill Road was lifted right off the floor. It looked just like a pillow, raised in the middle and anchored around the edges. Fortunately, both Peter and I were witness to it, or no one would believe it. We were certain that we would have to replace the linoleum, but when the wind died down, the floor did too and is still there today, 30 years later!

The second storm was a line squall, I think during a Labor Day weekend. I was hoping that Connie Mason could pinpoint the year. She remembered well the storm but not the year. Both the wind and the rain were absolutely horizontal and kept blowing open our dining room doors which were closed and latched. The wind was so strong that our son Ben and daughter Buffy (now Needham) went out on the porch to test the wind. They tried to lean into it and were blown upright. After the storm was over Walker Mason told us that the rain was coming right through the walls of his house at 4 Planters Neck (formerly the Annisquam Inn and before that the Bywater Inn on what was then Highland Ave)

During that same storm Peter and Joe Mechem and two other `Squam men were playing golf at the Essex County Club and saw the storm coming. The men thought it was pretty funny to watch Joe, when he decided that he could run faster than a golf cart to the club house. He couldn't!

Alison Small

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