

## *Home of the Annisquam Historical Society*



### **Annisquam Vignettes Summer of 1947**

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I first spent a summer in Annisquam in 1947 when my parents rented a very small house on the corner of Leonard Street and Arlington Street. I was only 6 years old at the time, but that summer left me with some vivid impressions and memories.

The summer of 1947 was very hot, and when my grandmothers came to visit from Somerville, my father, brother and I carried some pails (mine a very small pail) full of sea water up from Cambridge beach so they could sit in the shade with their feet in the cold water. They were otherwise dressed in long, Victorian dresses.

The house had an ice box, and I looked forward to the twice of week deliveries of the ice blocks. Another novelty of the house was the toilet that had a "box" of water up above it with a pull chain for releasing a loud torrent for flushing. I pulled the chain as often as I could justify to my parents.

We didn't know any families in Annisquam and we didn't own a boat, so my brother and I spent a lot of time on Cambridge Beach looking for seashells and star fish- and learning how to swim. There was a particularly nice lady staying at the Brynmere who supplied us daily with a little bag of cookies to snack on. Other

outstanding memories include attending the Sea Fair with the *Punch and Judy* show. What I remember of the show was a lot of shouting and the puppets hitting each other with sticks I was a bit scared and was glad when the show ended.

We made almost daily visits to the post office to mail some postcards or to pick up mail. And it became our nightly ritual to go down to the Market to watch the tunas being taken off the boats and hauled up to the street for loading onto waiting flatbed trucks. I do remember everyone in the gathered, watching crowd being amazed when a tuna weighing over 800 pounds was hauled up. On some evenings there were square dances for kids at the yacht club which I loved going to. But I had to drag along my then somewhat reluctant and unsociable, older brother.

My family had spent previous summers to 1947 in Magnolia with a Swedish family, but my parents fell in love with Annisquam, and eleven years after our 1947 summer, my parents bought a house at 52 Leonard Street- up the road from our little rented cottage. They made a great decision- and now I live full time here and love it!