



A Maine Lady and Her Ship Models

ALICE Washburn of Perry, Maine had a partly finished model of an old Maine coasting schooner on her work bench, its rhythms and meanings as yet fully realized only by the artist. "I begin to have a feeling for the way she would respond to a quartering wind, or her helm put hard over."

Miss Washburn's model boats are not made to sail the seas, but to launch the imagination, and that adds to the meticulous craftsmanship that goes into their execution. Those who have felt the tilt of a deck or the living pull of a tiller can respond most keenly to Miss Washburn's work, but even the landsman senses the soar of lifting sails, the cutting thrust of hull in her models. This special talent is no accident.

Miss Washburn was born and reared on a salt water farm settled by her great-grandfather, William D. Dana, in 1827. She built her present home and studio on a corner of that same land overlooking Passamaquoddy Bay. Her father, Frank P. Washburn, was Maine State Commissioner of Agriculture from 1921 to 1941 and, like many down east farmers, he was also expert in the ways of the sea. His interests stimulated his daughter's knowledge and love of gardening, the sea, and boats. Mr. Washburn was also skilled in cabinet making, and encouraged his daughter to use the woodworking tools in his shop.

In the beginning, she did a good deal of hit-or-miss whittling, but by the time she was in high school, she had focused on boats. Then she saw two advertisements in a magazine. One offered a set of carving tools especially designed for model boat making; the other, plans and designs for a model of the *Constitution*. At the age of fifteen she completed the model of the *Constitution*, elaborately detailed and finely executed.

After graduation from Gorham State Teachers College she made a series of eleven dioramas, which

MAINE TEXTILE CENTER



Maine's Largest Selection of Fabrics

Open Weekdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sundays 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Telephone Belfast 338-3930

ROUTE 1 BETWEEN BELFAST AND SEARSPORT

BREEZEMERE

So. Brooksville

On the rock-bound coast of Maine. Colonial homestead, cottages, fireplaces, shuffleboard. Cabin cruiser, island picnics, bird-watching, swimming, golf nearby. Excellent food served family style, second helping a pleasure. American Plan. Folder on request.

TEL. 326-4243

JULIA S. GRAY



CAROL & GEORGE ALDRICH, Proprietors

Deer Isle — Sedgwick Bridge • Little Deer Isle, Maine

DINING ROOM OR TAKE-OUT SERVICE

LOBSTER
Any Style

★
Clams - Scallops



COMPLETE
Shore Dinners

★
Fresh Crab Meat

Chowders • Sandwiches • Stews

PICNIC AREA — BATHING BEACH — AMPLE PARKING

rowantrees

Made by Hand by
Village Craftsmen

pottery

Blue Hill, Maine

Open All Year

Popular Maine Coast Landmark
at Searsport
U.S. Rt. 1 & 3

LIGHT'S

MOTEL and
RESTAURANT

16 Deluxe Units
Automatic Heat
TV & Radio in each room
AIR CONDITIONED

7 a.m.
10 p.m.

Shore Dinners
Lobster * Steak
Seafood
Specialties



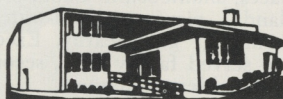
Tel. 548-7262—548-6602



Save by mail.
The Gardiner Savings
Institution pays
postage both ways!
It's prompt, easy, and
convenient. A good
way to be thrifty!

CURRENT DIVIDEND RATE

"COMPOUNDED
QUARTERLY"



GARDINER SAVINGS

Incorporated
1834



INSTITUTION

GARDINER, MAINE

SAFE SAVING FOR OVER A CENTURY

PORSCHE '67



VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

Austin Healey-MG-Sprite
Volvo - BMW - Porsche

Largest & Finest Selection of New & Used Imported Cars in Maine
Available for delivery in Europe

IMPORTED CAR SALES

Robert M. Reynolds, Prop.

EXPERT SERVICE
COMPLETE PARTS



LAND-
ROVER '67

No. Belfast Ave. Rt. 3 & 202, Augusta, Maine 207 622-5134

were used as part of the Department of Agriculture's educational program on Maine life and resources, for exhibition at the Maine State Fair and the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts.

All details of the diorama were carefully worked out down to tiny lace curtains at the windows, only a fraction of an inch wide, of the houses, and all showed an imaginative use of materials to simulate reality. Tips of blueberry bushes stuck into the soil base became an apple orchard. There were tiny piles of firewood in the dooryards; fields and pastures were enclosed by fences; she put telephone poles and mailboxes along the roads, all executed to scale.

Because there appeared no immediate way to use these talents to earn a living, Miss Washburn became absorbed in other activities for a number of years. After Gorham she was graduated from the music course at the American Institute of Normal Methods, and there followed years of teaching — richly rewarding, but not an answer to her special creative drive.

Later this was partially expressed by four years' employment with Boucher's, a famous New York firm of model ship builders. A woman model maker in the firm shattered some august traditions in a field dominated by males, and relationships were not always easy, but it was excellent experience. While there Miss Washburn worked on models of the racing sloop *Enterprise*, the Phillips Andover model of the *Flying Cloud*, and William Vanderbilt's model of his own *Alva*.

In working on models at Boucher's, certain rather unusual talents were expected, but they were used only in partial execution of a work conceived by someone else. It wasn't enough for Miss Washburn, and she began freelancing.

She made a model of the *Sabot* for Elihu Root Jr., of the *Queen Mab* for the Commodore of the New York Yacht Club, the *Savannah* for the Museum of Science and Industry, the *America* and *Enterprise* for the Smith Paint Company. Still lovingly remembered, because early New England work boats are her primary interest, was the model of a Gloucester fisherman for Leon J. Weil of New York.

Glass Basket Antiques

DOROTHY-LEE JONES

One of New England's Finest shops specializing in very choice glass and china. Offering early Blown and Pressed; Pittsburgh, Sandwich and New England — Victorian and Art Nouveau — English, French and Continental glass — Far Eastern, English and European Porcelains.

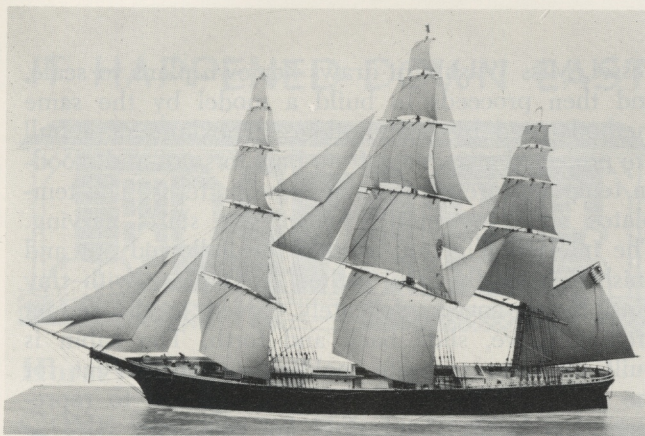
DOUGLAS HILL (Sebago)

Area 207-787-3527

MAINE

Off Route 107 — 32 miles west of Portland

Mid-June through September — closed Sundays



Model of the ship Flying Cloud, now at the Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Andover Academy.

AS Miss Washburn refined her techniques, ready-made tools became inadequate, and she began to fashion some for herself. Her basic knife has a blade that was once a section of a band saw, from which she removed the temper of the steel, ground the edge, then retempered it and set it in a hand-carved handle. She used the same process to make fine chisels and some other tiny cutting blades from dentists' tools. Among her few ready-made tools is the smallest plane manufactured by a national tool-maker, but she also made a tiny plane for herself, with a blade shaped to cut wood so that it resembles clapboards.

Miss Washburn cuts all the iron work for masts and spars from brass and files them to shape and size. Wooden blocks for the rigging, some of them not much larger than a pin head, are finely carved; larger ones have sheaves that really turn. Wire rigging is wound in units of three from Monel metal wire about the thickness of a human hair.

She has restored many old models of sailing craft, repairing and replacing parts which have broken or crumbled with time. Such new work is treated to look old, in keeping with the age and original nature of the model. Among her antiquing agents are tea, coffee, cigarette ash and dirty paint rubbed off while wet. She can even put in worm holes on request!

In addition to their esthetic qualities, Miss Washburn's models are historical records, designed from the plans of real boats. She has clipped and collected pictures of sailing craft since her childhood, and now has a file of over 12,000 of them for reference. She also has a sizable library of books which detail the design and plans for different vessels.

She once searched all winter for plans for a particular schooner model which she had been asked to build. The information she needed was not in her own material, so she appealed to a number of other professional services, including the Smithsonian Institution. The model was not started until she finally located the proper designs.

Starting with the original specifications for a

COLBY & GALE, Inc.

Damariscotta Tel. 563-3414

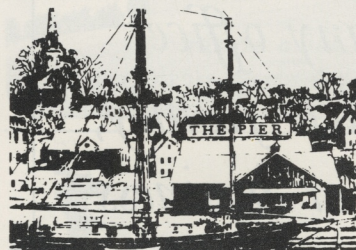
Bottled Gas - Appliances - Sales & Service

Heating oils. Radio-equipped trucks and fast service. Gasoline and Accessories.

S & H Green Stamps



THE PIER ON THE DAMARISCOTTA



DAMARISCOTTA
MAINE

Tel. 563-3318

Restaurant
MAY 26 to NOVEMBER

Seafood at its finest,
Captain's shore dinners.
Lobsters prepared six

different ways as well as Steaks and Chicken. New enclosed deck overlooking river. Open continuously.

HOURS — 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Daily

JULY AND AUGUST - SATURDAY - 9:30 p.m.

• GIFT SHOP •

AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINERS CLUB

COCKTAILS — WINE — BEER

Yacht Landing, Guest Moorings, Ice, Water, Gas, Showers, Laundry

Vacation Bound?

"Gourmets' Headquarters Since The Days of the Clipper Ships"

LINDT
DROSTE
OLD MONK
CHALET
SUZANNE



CRESCA
RAFFETTO
MAILLIARDS
SPICE
ISLAND

We offer imported Food, Cheeses and Candy together with the finest fresh produce. Custom fruit baskets. Assorted packaged gifts.

GAY'S GROCERY, INC.

Since
1882

DAMARISCOTTA, MAINE

The Cables

RIVER ROAD

NEWCASTLE, MAINE

WOODBURY PEWTER



*Visit any office
for complete family,
personal or business
banking services*

**THE MERRILL
TRUST COMPANY**

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Member Federal Reserve System

Serving All of Eastern Maine

Vacation Bound?

"Make Eating Out an Every Day Pleasure"

SEAWALL DINING ROOM



**Seawall
Road
Manset
Maine**

Manset 244-3020

Located at Seawall — Overlooking The Ocean

LOBSTERS Live or Boiled ● SEAFOOD ● STEAKS

Follow Rt. 102-102A after crossing bridge onto Mt. Desert Island

ANNABELLE ROBBINS, Owner-Mgr.

THE COMPLETE HARDWARE STORE

ACKERMAN **HARDWARE**

ELLSWORTH SHOPPING CENTER

S & H Green Stamps

vessel, Miss Washburn draws her own plans to scale, and then proceeds to build a model by the same methods used by boat builders. The lines of a hull are projected at sections from bow to stern and wooden templates are made from these patterns. The templates serve as guides when she starts carving. The interior of a hull is carefully hollowed out and finished, with the ribs "bolted" into place with tiny pins. Hatch covers, delicately carved to the proper arching curve, slide back and forth. The cabin is built up from separate moldings; openings cut for the portholes are fitted with clear plastic to represent glass before the casings are installed.

Completion of a model may take Miss Washburn 600 to 1000 hours, depending upon the complexities of equipment and rigging.

Aside from her first model of the *Constitution*, Miss Washburn has kept only one other — a 3/32-inch scale model of the *Viator*, which has special meaning for her. The original vessel, launched in 1893, was the last schooner built at the Nutt shipyard in Pery and her grandfather, Jacob Cedarwall, made the iron work for the spars.

The *Viator*, a three-master, is kept under glass to protect her from dust and moisture; but even so, you would swear to a faint whistle of wind through her rigging, and half expect the cook to step out of the galley and dig some salt fish from the two barrels lashed on deck.

One of Miss Washburn's favorites among her recent models is a Friendship sloop, made for a summer resident of Northeast Harbor. She likes it particularly because the famous little sloop was a work boat peculiar to Maine, and also for the stout functional lines of its hull under the butterfly quality of the canvas. She named it the *Natica* because it is round and fat and white, like the sea snail of that name.

"The current model on the ways," she said, "is that of a typical 1890 Maine coast two-master — the dependable, hard-bilged, slogging old cargo carrier of the kind that played such a prominent part in the life of the New England coast and on down to the West Indies just before and after the turn of the century."

Her problem is to combine a feeling of strength and capacity with enough lightness to show the beauty and spirit of the old schooners. This she achieves by a slight rake of the masts, fineness of the run of the after-quarter, the least adjustment upward to the steeve of the bowsprit, and the curve of the cutwater.

She has a boat of her own, an outboard, which she built herself. It is called the *Scared Cat*, and it does run like one. When there is time and the tide is right, Miss Washburn maneuvers the little boat out of the channel of her cove for a run to one of the outer islands, a fishing trip, or just a lark to get a good taste of salt on her lips.

— LARUE SPIKER