

1930 Wianno Senior # 87 “Alert” Originally “Eroica” (Photo’s show as “Eroica”, then “Alert”)



Photos Courtesy of Robert Danforth and Richard P. O’Leary Jr.

1930 Wianno Senior # 88 “Ocean” Originally “Haze” (Photo’s show as “Ocean”)



Photos Courtesy of James B. Melcher Jr. and Barbara A. Melcher.

1930 Wianno Senior # 89 “Spinster” Originally “Adios” (Photo’s show as “Stymie II”, Then Essex Fire)



Photos Courtesy of Robert R. Churchill Jr. and the Hartford Courant

In 1930, Crosby Yacht Building and Storage Company completed eleven Wianno Seniors. Three of these Wianno Seniors were of a slightly unique configuration. These Wianno’s, #87, #88, and #89 had their cabin extended aft to the end of the centerboard trunk to facilitate more of a cruising style, in the hopes of attracting more Wianno Senior cruisers. The coamings sport two portholes on each side instead of the standard single porthole. All three Wianno Seniors (plus one standard Wianno Senior, #90) were bought by members of the Edgartown Yacht Club. Wianno Senior # 87, “Eroica”, was owned and sailed by Francis J. Danforth. Mr. Danforth was very successful with “Eroica” as he won the Saturday series for the Wianno class, the Wednesday series, and his cousin won the women’s cups. Wianno Senior #88, “Haze”, was owned by Henry Kane and Malcolm McVickar. They both sailed their boat mainly as a cruising sailboat, as well as competing in Edgartown races for the Wianno class, but the Edgartown Yacht Club records do not show any awards being given to the McVickar brothers for winning any races. Gerald Chittenden, who was on the Auditing Committee for the Edgartown Yacht Club in 1931, owned, raced, and sailed Wianno Senior #89 “Adios”. The E.Y.C. records show he competed in Yacht Club races but like the McVickar brothers, had no luck winning. #87, #88, #89, and #90 were raced out of Edgartown Harbor between 1930 and 1942, when the last two Wianno remaining (#88 and #90 had been sold off. The participation of Wianno Seniors in the Annual Edgartown Regatta since 1928 was probably responsible for the interest that resulted in these four boats being built for Edgartown sailors.

As of 2010, these three Wianno Seniors will be 80 years old, bought and sold many times. None have their original name or original owners. Wianno Senior #87, “Eroica” continued to be a successful racer even after leaving Edgartown. Renamed “Alert” in 1941, she was the first winner of the Bass River Challenge Cup in 1956. The “Alert”, is now owned by Richard P. O’Leary Jr, who is the son of the boats second owner. It was bought from the International Yacht Restoration School (I.Y.R.S.) in Newport, RI. “Alert” is now at Berkshire Wooden Boat in Dalton MA, where she will await a major restoration, including a complete re-framing, new planking, a new deck, new cabin and new coamings with the long term goal of sailing in the Wianno Senior 100th Anniversary celebration in 2014, as the only surviving Extended Cabin Wianno Senior! Wianno Senior #88 is currently acting as a decoration at Steve and Sue’s Par-Tee Freeze ice Cream and Miniature Golf course in Hyannis under the Name “Ocean”, along with Wianno Senior #99 “Wiggle”. During #88’s ownership by Jim Melcher, she had her deck raised 10 inches in 1963 (Wianno Seniors #42 and #90 had there decks raised as well at Crosby Yacht Yard in 1961 by carpenter Doug Higham) The reason behind this was to have a drier ride and roomier cabin. (another attempt to facilitate more of a cruising Wianno?) She sailed under her new guise for 30 years before becoming a part of the miniature golf course in 1993! And lastly, Wianno Senior #89 sailed under the name “Stymie II” when owned by the James Churchill of Bass River from 1938 to 1945 when she was chartered to F Gardiner Schirmer out of Hyannisport for two years under the name “Blue Boy II”. In 1947 #89 was returned to James Churchill where she returned to Bass River under the name “Stymie II” once again. In early 1950’s, “Stymie II” to a man who re-named her “Lady B” and brought her to his new home town of Essex, Connecticut. This man, in 1963 gave the “Lady B” to the Essex Boat Works for a trade up to a larger yacht. #89 was bought in 1964 by yard worker Thomas Marston and was renamed “Spinster”. Unfortunately, in January 1968 the Essex Boat Works storage sheds where the “Spinster” was kept during the winter became engulfed in flames. This mysterious fire destroyed the “Spinster” along with 95 other boats. As of July 2010, only “Alert” #87 has any hope of being sailed again. When her restoration is completed, she plans to sail out of Bass River MA.

Sam Lawrence – July 2010 --- This Information was put together with the help of many people! Thank You to: Richard P. O’Leary Jr.; James & Barbara Melcher; Charles Melcher; Bob & Sally Churchill; Bill Roman (EYC Manager); Steve Ewing; and Bruce Hammatt; Thank You all for your help in putting this all together!

Wianno Senior # 87 Owners & Names

Boat Name ~ Owner ~ Home Port ~ Years Owned

Eroica ~ Francis Danforth ~ Edgartown ~ 1930-1941



Alert ~ Richard & Edward O'Leary ~ Bass River ~ 1941-1958



Alert ~ John & Tony Correa ~ Bass River ~ 1958-1980?



Alert ~ Nathaniel Bray ~ Brooklin, ME ~ 1980?-2006

Alert ~ Atlantic Challenge ~ Rockland, ME ~ 2006-2007

NOTE: "Alert" fell into disrepair in this time and she will require a total restoration before she can sail again, during this time 87's rig also lost. Her owner hopes she will sail in the 100th anniversary in 2014.

Alert ~ I.Y.R.S. ~ Newport, RI ~ 2007-2009

Alert ~ Richard O'Leary Jr. ~ Bass River ~ 2009-



This is how Alert, Wianno Sr. #87, appears today.

Wianno Senior # 88 Owners & Names (Rebuilt)

Boat Name ~ Owner ~ Home Port ~ Years Owned

Haze ~ Henry K. & Malcolm McVickar ~ Edgartown ~ 1930-1942



Unknown ~ Unknown ~ Unknown ~ 1942-1946

Mitsipupu ~ Richard Southgate ~ Hyannisport ~ 1946-1951

Unknown ~ Unknown ~ Chatham ~ 1951-1956

Ocean ~ James & Barbara Melcher ~ Pleasant Bay ~ 1956-1971



NOTE: "Ocean" was rebuilt during the winter of 1963 by James Melcher to have a higher Deck for more cruising accommodations for his family, a deeper keel was also added at this time.

Ocean ~ Philip & Elizabeth Azoy ~ Hyannisport ~ 1971-1989



Ocean ~ Crosby Yacht Yard ~ Osterville ~ 1989-1993

Ocean ~ ParTee Freeze Ice Cream ~ Hyannis ~ 1993-



This is how Ocean, Wianno Sr. #88, appears t o day.

Wianno Senior # 89 Owners & Names

Boat Name ~ Owner ~ Home Port ~ Years Owned

Adios ~ Gerald Chittenden ~ Edgartown ~ 1930-1938

Stymie II ~ James Churchill ~ Bass River ~ 1938-1945



Blue Boy II ~ F. Gardiner Schirmer ~ Hyannisport ~ 1945-1947

Stymie II ~ James Churchill ~ Bass River ~ 1947-1952

Lady B ~ Unknown ~ Essex, CN ~ 1952-1963

Lady B ~ Essex Boat Works ~ Essex, CN ~ 1963-1964

Spinster ~ Thomas Marston ~ Essex, CN ~ 1964-1968



NOTE: "Spinster" was destroyed on January 20, 1968 when the Essex boat works sheds mysteriously caught fire. "Spinster" was lost alongside 95 other boats when this disaster occurred.

Wianno Sr. #89, "Spinster" doesn't exist today.