

# The GALLEY and



It is coincidental in the sale of Jesiek Brother's Shipyard that the purchase was made by two brothers, Herb and Roger Eldean from the two Jesiek brothers, Don and Bill, each pair occupied in carrying on the family named boating business begun years ago by their fathers.

Both fathers are living. Herb Eldean Sr., who created the mooring service in Chicago bearing his name, is in Miami and the senior Jesiek, now 92, who still resides in his house across from the yard.

But the coincidence among people ends there, for there is only one Margaret Ewing. Truly a related aunt of Don, Bill and the late Harold Jesiek, she is "Aunt" Margaret to the many friends who frequent the "Galley."

Margaret has a multitude of friends; the yard employees, the neighbors in Macatawa and the surrounding communities, the local business people, past and present, the kids who come in for penny licorice and the uncounted yachtsmen who come in from all the lake ports.

She runs her restaurant seven days a week each summer as she has for 36 years. She slows down in the winter to only six days of operation and she takes an afternoon off to visit the hairdresser. Margaret's summer helpers are young ladies selected from the local high schools.

Until last year she conducted her winter operations in another location near her home on South Shore Drive, but for simplification leased that to another party, so all her working time is spent now at the boat yard.

Margaret will admit her age only occasionally and in private, but being born in Grand Haven in 1896 makes her about 27 according to her arithmetic. And 27 she must be, as she opens for breakfast at 8:00, changes to a lunch menu after 11:30, and continues to serve into each afternoon. The bacon and eggs, the hamburgers and chili are great. The pies are fresh and warm. She does ask, however, that the meat be returned; should you find any in your beef noodle soup.

Not only is she cooking, serving and cashiering, but table hopping to converse with her friends or listen patiently to a monologue delivered by one of the more verbose natives, before shutting them off with witty expertise. She still receives proposals of partnership, some to share the restaurant and some outrageous flirtations all of which she handles with verbal dexterity and zest. Particularly long winded orators may find the kitchen timer placed quietly at their elbow.

Many years ago Margaret moved to Oxborough, now Bloomington, a suburb of St. Paul-Minneapolis and began operation of a grocery store there. In 1919 she married William Ewing. They had a splendid, but too short a life together when it was tragically cut off too soon by his death in 1930. During that time the Ewings were visited by Harold and Don Jesiek, sometimes for prolonged periods, and then later by the younger Bill and Lois.

The grocery store prospered. "The supermarkets today are just discovering what I knew about selling fifty years ago," she declares. But some years after her husband's death Margaret returned to Michigan.

In 1937 she came to Macatawa Bay where the Jesiek's shipyard had taken hold. Would she like to run the little restaurant during the summer "just for fun?" Well, she would and she did. Two years later the frame building was torn down and replaced with a larger structure. As the yard grew, so did the Galley under Margaret's managership, and in 1955 the present building was erected.

She has served as many as 350 persons on a normal summer day, but the greatest avalanche occurred during the Queen's Cup weekend a few years back when over 5000 hamburgers alone were served by the small staff.

Margaret's main philosophy, that "there are no finer people" than her customers is contagious. There is a warmth, a spirit of camaraderie, a singularity about

# MARGARET EWING

by Fred Stearns, Holland, MI.

the Galley that is felt in an overflow crowd on a summer holiday, but which is also evident around a small table of conversation when the snow blows around the doors and windows.

Now and then she finds it necessary to influence the activities of some guests and this is accomplished, after a manner of speaking, by hand lettered signs posted in conspicuous places.

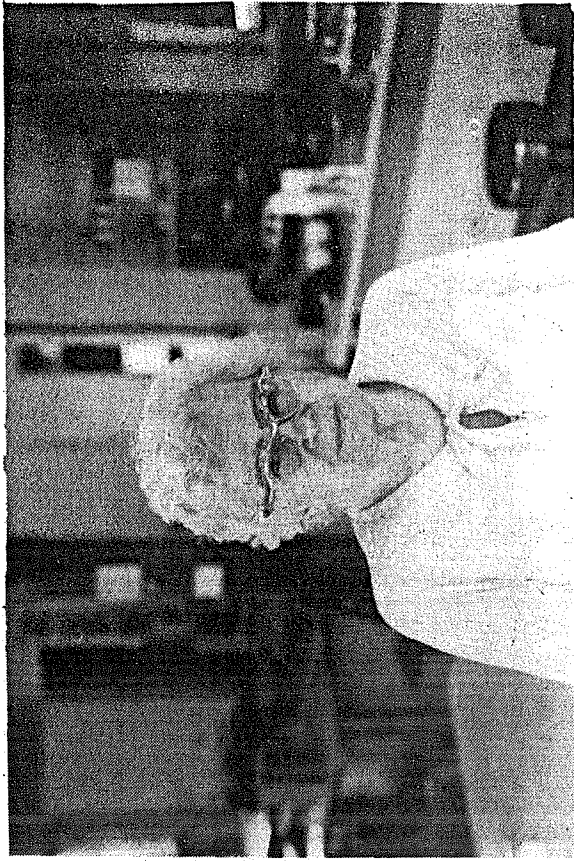
"Keep Out of The Kitchen" appeared first at the entry to the cooking department. Then another sign showed up on a post nearer the culprit's usual table. Finally a small note was taped to the napkin holder on his table. The message was received.

"Tops and Shoes Must Be Worn" is respected by all as they enter.

To avoid later explanations, there is a note near the coffee machine reading:

Coffee	15¢
¾ cup	15¢
½ cup	15¢
¼ cup	15¢

so you might as well order a full cup every time.



Also since the floor is newly painted "Please Do Not Move the Tables" may help the waitresses return to their right party although there is considerable movement among the diners anyway.

Margaret has a deep feeling for her family, her nephews, nieces and one great niece, Linda, and for her church, Grace Episcopal in Holland. Her thoughtful letters to the city council have been read in their meetings.

She is an enthusiastic poker player. "I wouldn't say I'm a loser over the years, but considering the people I play with, I'm probably lucky to stay even!"

She admits to pride in her long proprietorship of the restaurant and to successful financial operation. When the much larger Point West opened nearby a number of years ago, Margaret declared that she was not concerned, "I am their competition!" and she so stated to its owner, another friend of course.

Above all else she prizes her lively associations and contacts with her friends and customers, and they in turn are rewarded by a pleasant interlude in the day when, if they do not see the busy manager herself, they will certainly see a lot of her friends.

There is only one Margaret Ewing, and that is all we need for now.