Then and Now.  
by San Lyman

Think back to Woods Hole in the fifties and sixties. If you can’t, I’ll help.

You could hop a train to Boston or New York. Imagine!

Or, if you didn’t want to go to Boston or New York, but simply stay in Woods Hole? Impossible now. You have to go to Falmouth for absolutely everything.
Back then all you needed for day-to-day existence was here, right in Woods Hole.

**A List**

bookstore
hardware store
gas station
print shop
*bank
bakery

beauty parlor
laundromat
barbershop
drug store
art gallery
fish market
real estate business
*liquor store
*grocery
*ice cream store
*clothing store

* still available

So— you could fill up your car with gas and put air in your tires. Yippee!!
You could get a haircut or a perm.
A new hammer. A paperback or the best seller of the day.
fresh-baked bread
You could get terrific fresh-caught fish any day. Sam Cahoon's Fish Market. What a loss.

The drug store was my fave. Ed Jaskunis. First it was near the Captain Kidd but then moved to Coffee Obsession's present spot. I loved it. There was a long counter seating local fishermen—and a spittoon was placed at the end. You had to be careful not to get in harm's way. Plus you could read the latest magazines until caught. And get cosmetics or prescriptions. A colorful place.
Another thing: There were doctors—
even a dentist in Woods Hole. Doctors
would actually come to your house to
treat you. They gave you your medicine.
No going to the pharmacy sick as a dog
to pick up your prescription. The current
system seems barbaric to me. [GRRRR.]

Thank heaven we still have the Woods
Hole Market. Back then it was part of
Ten Acre. The proprietor was Louis Tsiknas.
I remember Louis filling orders for Nauset
clientele. Delicious expensive viands
spirited over in the mahogany Nauset
launch.
Currently, the concentration is on food. We have magical dining experiences here now. Replacing the old Lee Side is Quicks Hole Tavern with sparkling innovative and delicious meals.

Landfall has expanded from a dory bar to resplendent space with waterfront views. The Captain Kidd has also been enlarged and renovated to acclaim. Across the street in place of the Fishmonger is Water Street Kitchen with a wonderful bar and superb restaurant. For daytime experience, Pie in the Sky, Coffee Obsession, Quicks Hole Tacqueria and now Jimmy's Classic Eats.

yum-yum.
So. If you left Woods Hole way back then and returned now, you would be relieved. Looking down Water Street the village appears exactly the same. The same dear Woods Hole you knew so long ago.

And wasn’t there a tugging in the back of your head— all the time while away, a voice which said

—— Go back to Woods Hole?

Despite having to go to Falmouth for practically everything, you square your shoulders. You say “It is worth it.” Woods Hole is where I need to be. Woods Hole is home.

About the Author: San Lyman grew up in New York City, went to college in Pennsylvania and came to Woods Hole in the fifties. She currently lives gleefully on Millfield Street.