

Have you ever been to Algie's Bay? By Lina Farr

Yes, as I was born there, being the youngest daughter of the late **Mr and Mrs Alexander Algie**. Really I shouldn't be writing this as the article says I have passed on, but I am still very much alive and so is another daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Algie now living in Mt Eden.

I was highly amused at the artist's clever sketch, trying to convey to the reader a vivid picture of the **Algie** brothers conveying the lady passengers from the rowing boat to the beach. How my brothers would laugh could they see their bandy legs with struggling women in their arms; believe me, for some of the ladies it was the best part of their holiday and they wished the distance from the boat to the beach was greater.

So as not to embarrass the ladies clad in turkey-red bathing suits nicely gathered at the ankles, my father, when he wished to go to a house on the hill, would climb the hill rather than take the shorter, easier beach route. I wonder if he were here now, would he be brave enough to pass the mini-clad bathers?

When my mother and father arrived at **Algie's Bay**, the nearest place of worship was a little church on a hill near Mahurangi Heads. On the first Sunday they wound their way along the narrow, rough road and afterwards barely missed a Sunday at that little church. There was no organ and my father, who had a good singing voice, was the percenter and led the singing. Many times he conducted the service for the late **Rev. Robert McKinney**, who was the minister in Mahurangi for fifty years.

It was the spiritual atmosphere in the **Algie** guest house that influenced many who spent their summer holidays there. The bay is now full of baches and many who spend their holiday there attend the same little church on the hill but travel a good road by motor-car. The church is crowded every Sunday and many have to sit on the grass outside to hear the service through open windows and loudspeakers. On Sunday evenings at the home of a grandson of the late Mr and Mrs **Algie**, visitors assemble and have a time of worship singing well-known hymns and choruses. So **Algie's Bay** Guest House and its Christian influence remain in the memory of many, many people.