

1932-1982



Clear Lake Story

Dedication

DEDICATED TO THOSE WHOSE VISION, PERSEVERANCE AND APPRECIATION OF CLEAR LAKE AND ITS FUTURE BROUGHT ABOUT THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE ON FEBRUARY 1, 1932.

John P. Brownlee, James Menefee,
Louis H. Moore, W.D. Alleman, Petitioners.
and
T.P. Riddle, Herman Mundt, Oliver Guilford.

Foreward

The 50th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Clear Lake is an opportune time to tell the Clear Lake Story, in special observance of this occasion. This booklet is a combination of history and memoirs collected from factual records and memories of early residents of Clear Lake. There are duplications, some inaccuracy of dates and some omissions, which are unavoidable. Over the years memories can become clouded and old records misplaced or lost. It is the hope of the Editor that the sequence will portray the growth, changes, and improvements in Clear Lake which will add to the appreciation of our lake.

The Clear Lake Story is sponsored by the Clear Lake Association in observance of this special year.

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Isabelle Carsten, Assistant, (Mrs. Earl Carsten)
Printed by the Steuben Printing Company
July 4, 1982.

Emblem designed by: Alicia Caswell
(Fremont High School)

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Our thanks go to the committee who has worked diligently to make the Anniversary Weekend of July 4, 1982, a memorable one.

Acknowledgements

Robert P. Federspiel
Peggy Perrine Frederick
Paul and Marty Haberly
Fred Hadley
Senora Rieke Hadley
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Agnes Hanna Shoaff
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Lee Duguid and the Herald-Republican as sources of information.

Photographs: Courtesy of Wilfred Faucher, Mrs. Carleton Lewis and Mrs. Ethel Hobart.

With grateful thanks for their assistance and the personal memories contributed to the Clear Lake Story.

The Incorporation

Incorporation - what does it mean? Very simply, it means acquiring a degree of independence. It means that as an incorporated town, there can be an elected governing body with the right to create certain laws and ordinances needed to take care of problems unique to the town itself. It does not mean that the residents are free from county and state laws and taxes, in addition to those established within the Town of Clear Lake. The incorporation itself has brought only progress, improvements and protection to those who call Clear Lake home.

Even in 1932, the men who already had become staunch Clear Lakers recognized the value of making Clear Lake a town, considering the desirability of a body of clean water, wooded shorelines and the necessity of controlling and preventing damaging changes. This group of men agreed that a petition for incorporation was the answer and the ball was set in motion. It took from May 31, 1928 to February 1, 1932 to achieve their goal.

Clear Lake became an incorporated town in 1932. The first petition was presented May 31, 1928, by John P. Brownlee to the County Board of Commissioners. On June 8, 1928, the Commissioners refused to order the incorporation, and the petitioners filed an appeal with the Steuben County Circuit Court. On February 4, 1929, the Court ordered the Commissioners to grant the petitioner's wishes, and to order an election to be held at Petty's Landing, on the South Shore, on Saturday, February 23, 1929, between 9 and 4. The Election was held, but the vote was against the incorporation. The petitioners requested the Board of Commissioners to reconvass the area and recount the votes. This the Commissioners refused to do.

Again the petitioners filed an appeal with the Circuit Court on March 4, 1929. The Circuit Court denied the appeal, and this decision was then appealed to the Appellate Court of the State. There is no record of events between this date and February 1, 1932, except that the Appellate Court did enter an order declaring that the Town of Clear Lake was incorporated. At this time

the Board of Commissioners found that Clear Lake was incorporated and appointed Thomas P. Riddle, Herman Mundt and Oliver Guilford to divide the town into "no less than seven wards." The reporting date was set for one week, and on February 8 1932, these men appeared before the Board and the work of incorporating the Town of Clear Lake was thus completed. The last petitioners, James Menefee, L. H. Moore, and W. D. Alleman, with sheer perseverance, brought about the incorporation, taking four years to accomplish the task.

Since that date, with a steady increase in population, there has been an active Town Board which meets monthly. The Board consists of three persons, plus a Town Clerk, a Marshal, and a Building Inspector. The Board is elected by the year-round voting members. The Town Board, mindful of their responsibilities and of the ever present problems of water pollution, traffic control, water safety, sanitation and safety, is striving constantly to maintain the high standards Clear Lake has enjoyed throughout the years.

The Town of Clear Lake

First minutes

Thirty-six votes were cast in the first election of the new town of Clear Lake in Clear Lake Township, in November, 1932 and Joseph P. Brownlee was elected trustee of the first ward with 24 votes, Frank Federspiel trustee of the second ward with 31 votes, Charles Rabus trustee of the third ward with 34 votes, Mrs. Mary Guilford clerk-treasurer, with 32 votes. The inspectors appointed to divide the town into three

wards and conduct the election were T. P. Riddle, Oliver Guilford and Herman Mundt. The officers were chosen for a term of four years. The land included in the town of Clear Lake extends from a width of 150 feet to 500 feet from the shore of the lake and includes the lake and an island in the lake. The territory has a permanent population of 100 and a steady summer population of about 500.

Town Boards- 1936-1984

1932-1936: Frank Federspiel, President, Joseph P. Brownlee, Charles Rabus.

1936-1940: Henry Mies, President - Oliver Guilford, Frank Federspiel and Clerks, M. Lamont and G. Federspiel.

1940-1944: Frank Federspiel, President - Oliver Guilford, John Schmitt and Clerk, Gladys Meyer.

1944-1948: Frank Federspiel, President - John Schmitt, Oliver Guilford and Clerk, E. F. Stauffer.

1948-1952: G. H. McClintie, President - John Schmitt, R. E. Tucker, Harry Hageman, Bob Reed and Clerks, J. F. Kuntz and Mark Stauffer.

1952-1956: John Schmitt, President - Leonard Scheibert, George McClintie, J. F. Kuntz, E. Tucker and Clerk, M. Stauffer.

1956-1960: L. Knoblauch, President - R. Wyneken, W. Hardy and Clerk, L. Hansbarger.

1960-1964: Larry Hansbarger, President - L. Knoblauch, W. Hardy and Clerk, Beverly Fansler.

1964-1968: Larry Hansbarger, President - E. L. Knoblauch, W. Hardy, Max Schultz (President, retired) H. H. Dennis, Burtus Horrell, Coral Schultz and Clerks, Beverly Fansler and Dorothy Fackler.

1968-1972: Robert B. Hanna, President - H. H. (Doc) Dennis, Coral Schultz, Larry Hansbarger and Clerk, G. Eichler.

1972-1976: Martin Luepke, President - Dale Gary, Thomas Wehrenberg and Clerks, Gloria Eichler and N. Rettig.

1976-1980: Martin Luepke, President - Charlene Botts, Shirley Crampton, Thomas Wehrenberg and Clerk, Nat Rettig.

1980-1984: Martin Luepke, President - Shirley Crampton, Thomas Wehrenberg and Clerk, Nat Rettig.

From Town Records

An article regarding the dynamited new Canal Bridge... Someone with malicious intent in their mind committed a crime last Saturday morning between the hours of one and two o'clock by placing a quantity of dynamite on top of the new concrete bridge that spans the canal connecting Clear Lake with Lake Ann. The concussion was of such force that it blew a hole three feet in circle in the middle of the bridge and bending the i-beams under same.

The iron railing and the concrete ridges on the west side of the bridge were blown off. The bridge was not wrecked and can be repaired.

The cottages nearby were more or less damaged due to the heavy concussion. The

large window in the Riddle home was shattered. The dishes in Taylor's cottage were blown from the shelves and many broken. The Climer cottage nearest to the bridge was badly damaged, windows and doors wrecked and the furniture turned topsy turvy, this cottage was damaged the worst, fifty to one hundred dollars won't replace the damage. The cottages owned by Slyder, Mitchell, Wilkinson, Barber, Oliver Bailey and Rogers were damaged by broken windows and doors. This is a case where the innocent suffered due to unfriendly feeling that exists among some of the citizens of Clear Lake Township and the officers of the newly incorporated town of Clear Lake over the changing of the road.

FROM THE CAMDEN ADVANCE

Clear Lake Association

In 1919, ten years before the incorporation struggle began, there were those far-sighted men whose love for Clear Lake even as only summer residents, gathered together and formed the Clear Lake Association. It is not known how many cottages lined the shores but it is safe to say that compared to 1982, the lake had many open spaces facing the water. A booklet published by T.P. Riddle describing his plans for the luxurious "Hill of Health" hotel to be built

where the Frank Carroll home stands, included in its content a page telling the Clear Lake Association's part in the lake advantages. It is interesting to note that even with a much smaller population, the Association was so organized to include all facets of lake life. Their purpose was clearly to keep the lake as it was and to act as guardians of its beauty, sanitation and social life. The following is reprinted from that page in the Riddle brochure.

THE CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

FOR the purpose of developing and conserving the social, civic and property interests of Clear Lake, the cottagers and resident property owners at Clear Lake have organized "The Clear Lake Association" with the following officers and committeemen elected to serve from July 3, 1919 to July 3, 1920. This organization requests your membership and co-operation.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT, R. B. Hanna, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

VICE-PRESIDENT, B. H. Miese, *Decatur, Ind.*

TREASURER, Eugene R. Hardendorf, *Norfolk, Va.*

SECRETARY, Izda Lundeberg, *Chicago, Ill.*

COMMITTEEMEN

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chas. W. Parker, *Hillsdale, Mich.*

K. Rice, *Camden, Mich.*

Fred Vordermark, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

SANITATION COMMITTEE

Thos. Comparet, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

Dr. W. A. Oliver, *Camden, Mich.*

B. P. Rowe, *Camden, Mich.*

FISH and GAME COMMITTEE

B. H. Somers, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

J. F. Thompkins, *Ray, Ind.*

Gus. Hilgeman, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Van B. Perrine, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

J. Elam Artz, *Dayton, Ohio.*

Mrs. R. W. Day, *Scranton, Pa.*

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

T. P. Riddle, *Lima, Ohio.*

B. S. Alward, *Camden, Mich.*

Izda Lundeberg, *Chicago, Ill.*

ROADWAY COMMITTEE

Fred Vordermark, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

Guy Bassett, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

Rev. A. J. Folsom, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Carl Lewis, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

F. E. Meek, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

Marian Cleveland, *Chicago.*

LAW and ORDER COMMITTEE

J. C. Ewing, *Pioneer, Ohio.*

O. J. Bard, *Dayton, Ohio.*

Nelson Richey, *Ft. Wayne, Ind.*

From Canoes to Motor Boats

By ELIZABETH HANNA

Reprinted from the Herald-Republican,
1970

It is easy, sitting beside Clear Lake shore on a quiet evening, to imagine the lake slipping into the darkness of night with no lights circling the lake except for the flickering light of Indian campfires. The same still water with its little ripples, the wooded shores, the starlight overhead are here now, with the same beauty that called the Indian tribes to this lake long ago.

We know that both the Potawatomi and Baubese tribes were in this area, enjoying the lake regions with their fishing and game attractions. We do not have many accurate records of dates when the Indians came, or when any giving over of any land occurred, according to our authority, Orville Stevens of Angola. Stevens stated with pride that he had been in Angola Court House for 56 years. He had a wealth of historical knowledge stored in his mind, and his memory was a keen one. Information on old deeds and land transfers can be found in his office along with maps and countless interesting stories of early Steuben County history.

In any locality where there has been Indian tribes in residence, there are stories and legends. On the North Shore, the site of the old Hazenhurst Hotel, there is a large mound, said to have been an Indian grave, probably a Chief. The marker, an old wooden one, scarred and showing signs of age, is in the possession of the McNaughton family. The inscription on the marker reads "In the memory of Red Jacket - Warrior Chief of the Baubese Indian - June 30, 1833."

Also, there is a quotation from the grave marker that says "According to the story of an eye witness, Red Jacket and a party of his braves were encamped on what is known as North Point, where they were surprised by a band of Wyoming Indians and were massacred, and a few days after, the body of Red Jacket was brought to this place for burial on June 30, 1833."

In a well chosen spot in the First National Bank of Fremont, there is an impressive picture, in oils, painted by George Phippen, and depicting the actual arrival of the McNaughton clan. The artist chose as his scene the narrow strip of land dividing Round and Clear Lakes, now called the Peninsula Road. According to the

McNaughton records, the wooded knoll standing between the two lakes was once an island, making Clear Lake and Round Lake one body of water. With the addition of filled land being made on each side of the knoll, the small island became first a peninsula, and then part of the shore line of both lakes.

It is on this spot that the Indian chief is portrayed extending his hand in greeting to the McNaughton family in their covered wagon. This was Alexander McNaughton. In the land transfer records, there is a quit claim deed transferring a parcel of 80 acres of land on the West Shore of Clear Lake from James Duguid to Alexander McNaughton for the sum of \$50 on July 24, 1849. This date followed by some 10 to 12 years the arrival of the McNaughton family.

Although there does not seem to be many authentic dates available for events in this period of Clear Lake history, imaginations are given free rein, visualizing Indian trails and camp sites with tents pitched in full view of the lake. Knowing the Indian's appreciation of nature and its beauty, one can be sure that Clear Lake was a center of early Indian life.

Gradually with the coming of white settlers, there were more lights appearing around the lake. These were the lanterns and oil lamps, dim and flickering, but shining out with bravery, and pointing to the fact that the once dark lake was becoming home to more human beings. Wilfred Faucher, now the co-owner of the Haven Apartments, located on the northeast shore, states that one of the first white people to arrive at Clear Lake with the intention of staying was one John Russell, coming down from Michigan in 1834.

He came in a horse and buggy carrying materials for a small cabin which he and his brother erected on the high ground facing the lake on the north shore, across from the present Hazenhurst site. In 1836, John Russell obtained a tract of land, 159 acres in total, from a grant signed by President Van Buren. The first house on Clear Lake, then, was built on this site.

Not much can be learned of events during the next few years, although stories appear of various people coming through, some staying, and others on their way to Fremont,

(originally known as Brockville). Fremont's history tells us that Brockville was platted in 1837, the second community in Steuben County. Brockville officially became Fremont in 1851, named for the explorer John C. Fremont by Jeremiah X. Tillotson, who was one of Fremont's admirers.

The name of Silas Doty appears in Clear Lake's story during this period. Doty was a colorful individual, whose success as a general thief, including his specialty-horses, has made him famous. He was especially talented in jail breaking also. There is a volume in the Carnegie Public Library, in Angola, written by Jeremiah W. Coburn with the title of "The Life of Silas Doty." Here is a fantastic story of "Sile" and his life of misdoing.

He was born in New York State May 30, 1800, and died at the age of 76 in Reading, Michigan. He was a familiar figure in countless jails where he always managed to escape. Michigan and Indiana jails are mentioned as being the most difficult ones for him to negotiate his freedom. In spite of his record of thievery, (which included anything he came upon that he wanted or needed), Doty was well liked and surprisingly, respected by all who knew him.

He had a Robin Hood attitude in his chosen life of stealing. He stole from the rich and gave to the poor. In fact, in the history of the First Baptist Church of Clear Lake, it is mentioned that during the early days of the church, when a small dedicated band of worshippers was trying desperately to assemble the means to build a church, Doty helped himself to someone's supply of lumber and nails and presented them to the church. According to the historian, Ethel Tompkins Hobart in this case there is no record of the church fathers questioning the wisdom of accepting Sile's gift. These wise men knew that sometimes a gnarled misshapen tree will continue to bear good fruit."

Mrs. Hobart's history of the church states that in September, 1871, the agreed upon plans for the little church were signed, with a total of \$228 pledged. It is interesting to learn that members of the Latter Day Saints Church and the United Brethren Church, located on the south shore of the lake were aware of the need for a church on the north side, and contributed generously as did many others. In a short time, the pledged amount reached \$1000.

In 1860, the United States government had sold "certain lands in Northern Indiana" for the sum of \$2 to \$4 per acre. Money thus obtained was called School

Land Money, and this purchase resulted in the erection of a small school house built on the north side (three quarters of a mile east of Clear Lake. The Baptist Church was built 40 rods east of this early school house, and was open to all orthodox Christian denominations for worship when not in use by the Baptists.

Frank Carroll, who has been coming to Clear Lake since 1903, has in his possession a map of Clear Lake and the division of the lake property as it was layed out in 1864. This map was published in Philadelphia by C.A.O. McClellan, and is the actual survey made by C.S. Warner, Corps of Engineers, Starting at the Hazenhurst property and going east around the lake shore, we find that A. Patterson owned 51 acres, J.D. Austin had 67 acres and S. Graham claimed 60 acres. This brings the division of lands to the East side of East Bay, past the Point where E.H. Brown owned 80 acres. J. McElhanie owned a farm with land running to the shore, of 65 acres. Carroll remembers threshing on this farm during the summers of his boyhood.

The south side of East Bay was owned by P. Buck, claiming 60 acres and adjoining the 60 acres owned by E. Teeters. Going west along the shoreline, O. Graves owned 2 parcels of land, one of 147 acres and one of 51. Back of the island, including Paradise Point (now known as Cope's Point) there were 83 acres in the name of S. Hannie. This tract included all of West Bay. From Sunset Point and running almost to the present Foye McNaughton property, there were 97 acres held in the name of A. McNaughton.

From the Peninsula Road to the Hazenhurst site, completing the entire shore line record, the next 127 acres were in the name of L.I.C. Young. The land where the Lakeside Hotel stands was owned by C. Sings, whose claim dates 1848, and his land amounted to 47 acres. South and west of this tract, there were 49 acres owned by Hoffman, whose ground borders on Round Lake to the west.

The land in the possession of the Brown family in East Bay included a small lake known as Graveyard Lake, because of a small cemetery on the hill at the northwest corner of the lake. There were only a few graves there, and at one time vandals carried away the markers, one of which turned up later in Montgomery, Michigan. The Reverend Erasmus B. Brown was known to have been buried there.

In the last of the 1800's, Clear Lake grew more populated, and deeds of ownership

appeared in the County records. On the North Shore the Grandview Hotel and the Island House were built. The Island House, which became later the Hazenhurst was beautifully situated on the fine crescent shaped beach, and it was built sometime between 1870 and 1880. The grandfather of Mrs. Hobart, Willard Tompkins owned and operated this Inn, serving northern Indiana travelers, both winter and summer. Strangely, not much is known about summer guests but stories of oyster suppers, maple sugar parties, and dances during the winter are in Mrs. Hobart's memoirs. People came from near and far in sleighs for these occasions. Mrs. Hobart's father Julius Tompkins came to Clear Lake in 1880 to make his home with his father Willard, who was at the Island House then.

Across the road, on the high ground and facing the lake, the Grandview Hotel was built about 1880. Joseph Adams was the owner of the Grandview Hotel and the builder is reported to be Jeremiah W. Coburn, who was the author of the "Life of Silas Doty." Most historians agree that the Grandview Hotel was erected before 1878. Later, about 1900, the Island House became known as the Annex, and belonged with the Grandview Hotel, taking care of guest sleeping rooms.

The story of the small steamer which capsized in deep water off the North Shore is a well known one, but here again, the actual year of the tragedy is not certain. One report states that it occurred in 1858 and other records show 1856. At any rate 11 persons are known to have lost their lives.

Recently quoted in the *Steuben Republican*, as happening 80 years ago, which would be 1890 the following item appeared: "J. H. Adams owns the north shore of Clear Lake and has had the grounds east of the Hotel Lakewood laid out into lots and calls it Lakewood." Two houses on the lake shore were built at this time on the north side. One was a tavern, and next door, but at a safe distance, was the tavern owner's home. Mr. Van Ostrand was the proprietor of the tavern.

By the year of 1915, the tavern itself had become a summer cottage known as Twin Trees, and was owned by Irving Macomber of Toledo and the property is still in the Macomber name today. The other house, the residence of Van Ostrand became Maplecrest and belonged to Mrs. Edith Day who sold it to James C. Anderson in 1920. This home is still in possession of the Anderson family.

The early 1900's saw five or six homes

built along the north lake side, including the Lakeside Hotel. This hotel was built in the 1800's, as a private home, then added to from time to time until it became as it is today. It was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clark, and later, after "Grandpa Clark's" death, it was owned by Mrs. Edith Day of Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, and her sister Mrs. Wade, both of whom were nieces of Mrs. Clark. Mrs. Wade returned to Chicago, and Mrs. Day owned and operated the hotel until it came into the hands of Mrs. Christine Morland, a niece of Mrs. Day. Mrs. Morland has had it ever since.

About 1890 Eugene Hardendorf coming from Texas, joined two Fort Wayne gentlemen, Messrs Root and Thieme, in a purchase of two beautiful groves of oak trees on the West Shore. This was platted and staked off in 40 foot lots and named Oakwood, which title it bears today. The West Shore road was then built to accommodate the planned building of cottages. Now Clear Lake shores were lighted at night by small glowing spots of light from oil lamps on all sides of the lake. Total darkness was a thing of the past.

The South Shore was more sparsely built up but there were 4 cottages there in the early 1900's. The Reverend Folsom, Henry Miese and Captain Hughes were three of the owners. Paradise Point was at one time a Mormon settlement. John Smith, coming through the area with his followers and travelling on the old Vistula Road (now Route 120) stopped to rest on the shores of the lake, and found good camping grounds on the point. They stayed for some time here, long enough to become part of Clear Lake history.

The lake was becoming a resort spot, attractive for fishing, swimming and family vacations. There were five cottages now standing between the Lakeside Hotel and the Hazenhurst. Frank Carroll recalls that the Hazenhurst Hotel was known as the Annex, at the time that the Carrolls made their first trip to Clear Lake in 1903. Carroll says they stayed in the first four rooms on the second floor of the Annex, taking their meals across the road at the Grandview Hotel. In front of the Annex there was a boat house, with a dance hall on the second floor, locker rooms and bath house facilities on the lake level. The first floor, also included a barber shop.

The Carroll family, as well as all Fort Wayne vacationers came up by train. There were six trains a day running between Fort Wayne and Jackson, Michigan. The small town of Ray afforded two liveryies, with hack service for transportation to the lake. Frank

Mott owned one livery and his driver was Elsworth Green, who carried the Clear Lake bound people over the two and a half miles of narrow dirt roads to the lake. Charlie Lockwood also owned a hack, so there was competition for customers.

When the small trains came puffing into the depot, two hacks, with their teams of horses, stood ready and the drivers would shout for the attention of the passengers in a daily fight for trade.

People coming to the Grandview Hotel could be ferried across the lake to the South Shore in a small boat owned by "Captain Hughes". This was a rear paddle wheel boat of some 24 feet length. Captain Hughes ran a ferry boat service to the South Shore and other points on the lake.

The Hazenhurst, before it was taken over by Mrs. Marion Cleveland who named it for her family--the Hazen family--had a number of proprietors. Boley starts the list, followed by the Rossington sisters, who later ran a hotel in Fremont. Then Rickle and Wilcox bought both the Grandview and the Annex, and it was from them that Mrs. Cleveland purchased the Annex. The Grandview was bought by Eugene Hardendorf, who converted it into a beautiful residence, calling it Fairknolls.

Mrs. Cleveland was a delightful, gracious lady, whose standards for hotel management were high. Families coming from Fort Wayne and Toledo formed the habit of annual vacations at the Hazenhurst Hotel for many years. This was also true of the Lakeside, making Clear Lake's reputation a good one for families looking for a healthy and wholesome vacation. Following Mrs. Cleveland's management, the Lewis Brothers took over the Hazenhurst and maintained the same family atmosphere. In addition to the hotel, they operated a dance hall and grocery store back of the hotel on the corner of the County Road and lake road. Across the lake, Terrace Gardens Dance hall appeared. By now the roads were such that both dance halls did very well.

There was more activity on the lake itself, although this was the day of canoes and row boats. Power boats were just around the corner but for the first 15 years of the 1900s, the fisherman enjoyed the undisturbed waters. The beautiful evenings were enjoyed by groups of young people, usually with their current love, floating or paddling on the lake. A date for the full moon was a sign of true love. This was before the advent of automobiles and adequate roads between towns so that the

entertainment was fairly well confined to Clear Lake itself. The East shore was well built up and the road winding down this shore was a dark and narrow one. Walking down this road at night was of course by flashlight or lantern. Even the moonlight was dimmed by the heavy foliage.

Real estate promoters and developers coming to Clear Lake about this time had a great influence on lake property. T.R. Riddle, Eugene Hardendorf and Van B. Perrine were three of the most influential. Most of the best lake property became owned by these three gentlemen, and of course was eventually divided into lots.

Records show that Eugene Hardendorf acquired in one instance some five acres "beginning at high water mark at a point where the north line of section 19 touches Clear Lake...thence northeasterly meandering along the lake shore to place of beginning." It is easy to understand how there has been boundary disputes and some confusion today. Hardendorf purchased this special five acres from Archibald and Fidelia McNaughton in October 1889, for \$120.

Electricity came to Clear Lake about 1920. Now the lights around the shore became brighter, and it was easy to count the number of residents on the weekends and during the summer months. Life at Clear Lake was at its peak during the vacation period, from July 1 to Labor Day. Some people came by automobile but most used the trains bringing them into Ray. The horse drawn hacks were replaced by spluttering motor cars. Families came for the summer which necessitated trunks being brought in, which were brought over to the lake from Ray by wagon or small hacks.

Boat activity increased and seemed to go in phases. Power boats arrived in the 1920's, much to the disgust of the fisherman and row boat owners. Sail boats made their appearance on the heels of the power boat craze and these beautiful white sails, motorless, were a restful change from the water churning, noisy racers. The dinghy class was a popular one and there were enough on the lake to start a racing program, and eventually a small Yacht Club was built by residents of the lake, subscribing to the cost. A small piece of land was acquired on the West shore, and a simple two room building was erected, still serving its purpose today. Sailing enthusiasts have been loyal to their sport, and today Clear Lake's shores can show well over 100 sail boats moored.

There have been a number of men who have left a mark on the pages of Clear Lake

history, but probably Thomas P. Riddle would top the list. Riddle, hailing from Lima, Ohio, started many important developments, and had dreams of many more. His thinking went far into the future. Among his major plans was the "Hill of Health, the New Hotel" hopefully to be built on the West Shore of Clear Lake. A brochure was printed in advance of the actual building, and it described in glowing words the proposed hotel, to be located on an attractive knoll overlooking the lake. The plan progressed only to the hauling in of countless loads of stones. These stones were later taken across the road and became the foundation for the Mirador Hotel. It was the hope of the builders that "Tara-jor-ies" or Hill of Health, would be open to the public in 1920, complete with a nine hole golf course, baseball diamond, tennis courts and 160 acres of "extensive playground for the occupants of the 108 guest rooms. The golf course was built and did exist for many years.

In 1919 a Clear Lake Association came into being "for the purpose of developing and conserving the social, civic and property interests of Clear Lake, the cottages and resident property owners at Clear Lake". The first officers of this organization were President Robert B. Hanna, Sr., Fort Wayne, vice-president, B. H. Miese, Decatur, Illinois, treasurer, Eugene Hardendorf and secretary Izda Lundeborg, Chicago, Illinois.

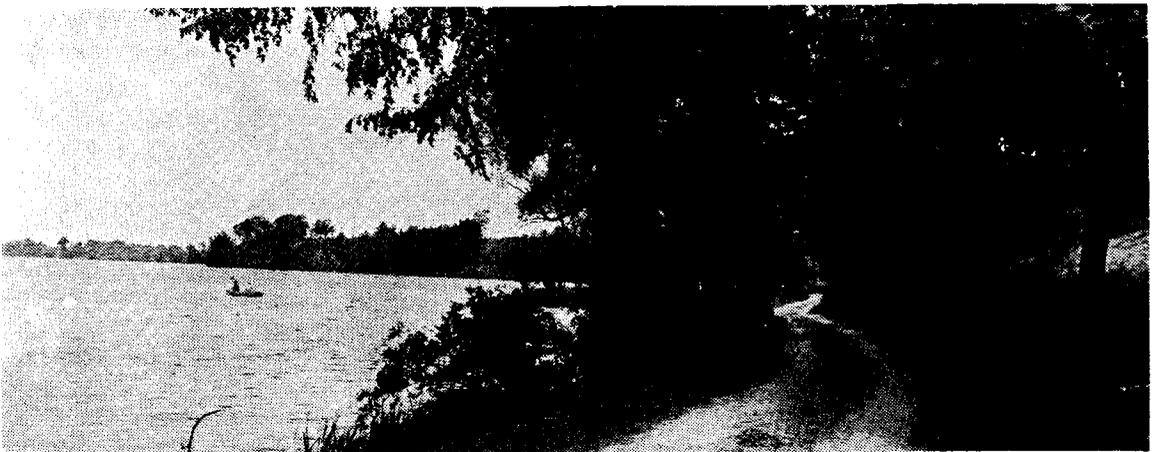
The Association is in existence and active today, known as the Clear Lake Taxpayers and Improvement Association. It is interesting to note that in the original organization, provisions were made for the following committees: Membership, Sanitation, Fish and Game, Conservation, Beautifications, Roadway, Entertainment and Law and Order.

Carroll recalls that there were some business enterprises underway when he first came to Clear Lake. Hi Rice had a small store on the road east of the Hazenhurst Hotel. Hi was a large, weighty man and handicapped by having only one leg. Carroll remembers a sign posted in front of his store advertising "Corn - 10¢ a dozen or 2 for a quarter". On the corner of the County Road and the present Lake Drive, was Sinel's store, which burned down several times and each time was rebuilt, finally with a dance hall attached. The dance hall later was bought by the Lewis brothers, along with the grocery store known as the Northshore grocery.

Later in the 1920's, the Mirador Hotel was built by the Rieke family on the attractive point of land on the West Shore. This was a small, unusually attractive hotel, geared to family vacations and a popular inn for many years. The Rieke Boat business came into being on the West Shore, specializing in the manufacture of dinghy sail boats. Dayton Rieke's skill as a craftsman produced many fine boats to be used not only on Clear Lake but throughout the area.

There are many lights now around the shores at night. More homes with brighter lights, and back of the cottage lights are the street light, evidence of the progress the lake has seen in the last decades. The beauty of the lake is still the same, the moonlight as brilliant and the stars as bright. The changes that have come have appeared with the increased numbers of people, many of whom have chosen to live here as permanent residents.

Loyalty and love for the lake remains the same as it has always been. In these days of tension, high speed and restlessness the quiet beauty of a serene lake, whose waters are still clear and clean for our pleasure remains something to be treasured.



Northeast Shore

We Remember...

CLEAR LAKE RECOLLECTIONS - FROM FRANKLIN MACOMBER

EARLY HABITATION BY CITY PEOPLE: In 1836 there were still some Indians around and the Vistula Road led from Toledo to Chicago on what is now Route 120. There were stage coach stops along the way and one favorite stop was on the north shore of Clear Lake at what is now "The Haven". This was a small diversion from the regular route to be able to savor the benefits of swimming and lake activities.

Overnight stage riders stayed at "The Haven" which was three stories high and put up with the typical facilities of those days, a dresser - with a water pitcher - bowl and slop jar with a potty under the bed. In the basement of this 1836 building you can still see the hand hewn beams of oak and mortise and tennon joints of the skilled carpenters of those days. With a change of horses, the coach proceeded the next day to Fremont, Orland, Brighton and many have stayed the next night in Howe or possibly Bristol if the weather was good.

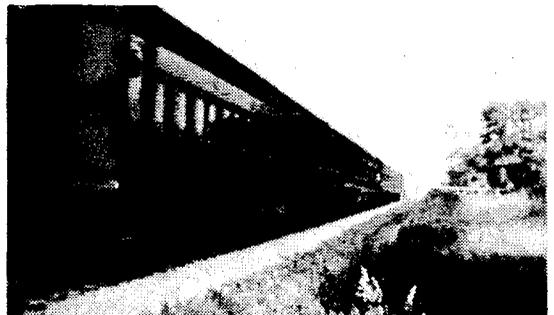
COTTAGE 264: Our cottage site - #264 - has two interesting features. It was once the dock side bar for the stage coach tavern. For many years from 1911 on we found old coins and bottles buried in the sand in front of the cottage. Our abstract shows that the site was once owned by Ada and Gardner Work. The "100 Years Ago" column in the Steuben County Republican for August 1976 showed that in 1876 "the Modoc -the new steamboat at Clear Lake is now ready to carry passengers on the crystal waters. Gardner Work and Mr. Davis have the boat in charge". We have an old photograph of this boat which had two decks and was about 45 feet long. It was a side wheeler with the wheels encased in wells amidships. It capsized from overload about 1890 and drowned four people. We are still searching for the hull which is evidently in ninety feet of water off the peninsula. Another older boat had sunk in 1858. This was operated with a propeller activated by two men turning a large flywheel with hand cranks.

Mr. Work's boat was dragged up on shore before the ice came each year into a trough dug in the sand bank. Incidentally the abstract for our land also shows that it was sold for back taxes in about 1850 for four dollars and fifty cents - \$4.50.

THE RAILROAD: In 1870 the Fort Wayne

Jackson railroad was built running through Auburn, Waterloo, Steubenville, Pleasant Lake, Angola, Fremont, Montgomery, Reading, Hillsdale and on to Jackson, Michigan. This is part of the present route of the Hillsdale County Railroad. South of Steubenville it is now impassable. There were four passenger trains a day at that time. I remember getting on at Ray and getting off at Waterloo where you could board a fast train to Chicago or eastbound to New York via the water level route of the New York Central.

With the advent of the railroad, Clear Lake became a resort area for people from Fort Wayne, Toledo and other Indiana and Ohio cities. Direct trains from Toledo went to Adrian, Hudson, Hillsdale, Coldwater and west. To avoid the long eighty mile stage coach drive from Toledo - three days in 1875, and four hours in 1914 - people came to Hillsdale and transferred to the Fort Wayne Jackson train and were let off at Ray with their steamer trunks. A "station wagon" or coach met them at Ray and took them two and one-half miles to the Hazenurst Hotel or one of the other smaller hotels. At one time there were three on the north shore including the Lakeside (Clear Lake Lodge) the present Haven, the Grandview then - and the Hazenurst. About 1925, Mrs. Cleveland, who ran the Hazenurst, used to serve a fine chicken and corn Sunday dinner for fifty cents; children twenty-five cents. In 1875 it didn't pay to come all the way to Clear Lake unless you stayed two weeks and "took the waters". They had tennis, sailing, rowboats, the steamboat, and fishing was superb. After about 1905 lake people started driving to Hillsdale to meet the Toledo Train. In many instances lakers drove all the way and frequently had to be pulled out of the mud by mules.



The train running from Ft. Wayne, Indiana to Jackson, Michigan, stopping in Ray, Indiana

THE EAST SHORE: The first cottages appeared about 1875 and were concentrated along the east shore. Most of them are still there. Why they had such narrow lots with all the farm land available is hard to understand.



East Side of Clear Lake

THE NORTH SHORE: My father - Irving - discovered the lake in 1911. He had a brand new Pope-Toledo chain drive car. It had no windshield and had carbide lamps. He had made the daring trip to the first Indianapolis 500 Mile race in 1911 and returned to Toledo on the Northern route through Steuben County. He stayed at the Hazenurst and explored the lake, renting a cottage called "Twin Tree," at the present site of the Macomber cottage, for the following summer.

My family started to come up from Toledo every summer from 1911 on using the mud roads they had then. Irving interested the Andersons - Elizabeth, Buzz, Phil and Vince's father and mother - in the lake and they eventually - about 1917 - bought the cottage next door to us, now #262. The Daniels came in a few years later and took the west shore cottage now owned by By Dickes. The Broer family owned the present Bauerle cottage on the "peninsula." The second generation all played together.

My father decided to tear Twin Tree down and build a larger "modern" cottage in 1921, it was finished in 1925 after a long series of crises over the spiral staircase and other innovations that the locals couldn't contend with. The foundation was dug with horses and drag buckets. A man was worth thirty-five cents per hour, but with a team was paid fifty cents per hour. Alfred Westwick - a master carpenter - newly arrived from England took on the project and finished it - slate roof and all - as the foreman - for ninety-five cents per hour! We found fifteen Indian arrowheads while excavating. Mr. Westwick died soon after.

My earliest recollection as a boy of ten was hauling field stone for the house on to our site in our Apperson Jack Rabbit - about 30 HP -. We would load up with stone at some farmer's field. We paid nothing for the stone as the farmers were glad to get rid of it. When the rear fenders scraped on the wheels we knew we had enough stone on board and dropped some off to provide wheel clearance.

The stone for our two hundred foot sea wall was moved from the Round Lake gravel pit through the shallow water by teams of horses and wagons and dumped at the site. I have a letter - dated 1924 - from my father to the man with the team suggesting that it was "highway robbery" to raise the price from one dollar per load to one dollar twenty cents per load - "This inflation is killing us all!"



The Northeast Shore

THE GOLF COURSE: About this time, the Toledo crowd joined other enthusiasts and decided to build a golf course near the west shore. It was completed about 1926; nine sporty holes! Joe Laird - a Scotch gentleman - was the Pro and Manager. It was not a financial success because in 1929 everything was wiped out in the crash. It had sand tees and cloth towels to wipe your hands on. Bob Hanna was the golf teacher for the boys just getting started. I was very proud to win the 1927 boys' championship with a score of eighty-five for eighteen, under his tutelage.

THE DINGHYS: In 1925 I was given a birthday present of the first fourteen foot Canadian Dinghy on the lake. Several other families acquired dinghys from the same place - the Toledo Yacht Club - which found them too light for Lake Erie. By 1928 there was a fleet of about twenty-five. We raced them regularly...and even started a Yacht Club which had no clubhouse. We raced for a trophy made of two funnels that Phil Anderson and I had soldered together and painted.

Dayton Rieke borrowed my boat one winter to make wood forms of the bottom for his factory near the present Yacht Club. From those forms he built over one hundred dinghys and sold them here and at nearby lakes.

My boat is nearly sixty years old and still operates after going thru seven sails - four masts - three rudders and two centerboard wells. Bob Federspiel has just restored Anderson's old dinghy and there are still several others around.

As the second generation grew up and had families, their children enjoyed the lake, got married and had more children who stayed around. The place is now teeming with the new third generation who go in for waterskiing - barging, etc....and, are now having enough babies to fill the "Cry Room" at the Chapel!

THE TOWN: It has only been ten years - or so - since the lake has been completely ringed with some five hundred fifty cottages. The town of Clear Lake is now fifty years old and has developed various means of saving the lake from overcrowding...which has hurt many other lakes. Our Clear Lake Association is flourishing with nearly three hundred members cooperating to help keep life beautiful here. We are lucky that the Town was incorporated early enough so as to exercise some control over the environment and create equitable zoning laws as a single entity.

FROM MARTIE HABERLY (MRS. H. PAUL) -

I remember Clear Lake when it was very serene and quiet. My family rented Merry Sunshine here about four doors from where we are now. The only mode of transportation across the lake was to row or sail . . . no motors. As I was about five years old, the fish we caught were "whales" or looked like ones to me! Then, when I was a teenager, we stayed with the Browns, on the south side of the lake. Dad and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Seibert, built a cottage on the south shore known as "Shang-ri-la".

There were two dance halls, Terrace Gardens and the Carldon on the north, this was great fun and I learned to dance at these places. I also met my husband there and was introduced to an inboard motor . . . his boat. I'll let him tell what he remembers.

FROM PAUL HABERLY: My first introduction to Clear lake was visiting the Bowerfinds - my Aunt and Uncle and three cousins - at Greengables cottage, which they rented

summers from the Perrines. I was six or seven at the time. I continued visiting the Bowerfinds for the next several years and then my family and I came to Clear Lake several summers, staying at the former Hazenhurst Hotel.

The next years were interesting. After our summers at the Hazenhurst Hotel, my father decided to try camping with adequate tents and equipment to make this venture exciting and enjoyable for me and all. I was now in my early teens. Our first Clear Lake camp site was on the Island which was exciting and great fun, but as I remember, presented somewhat of a supply problem. Our next camp site was in the beech-tree grove, above Lake Ann. This was our most eventful summer. Our tents and equipment plus saddle horses were watched over and cared for by Charlie - Miami Indian who worked for my father.

During our stay we needed a cook as ours became ill, and we had a camp full of guests. So, my father came down to what was then the Riddle Inn to inquire about a cook. When my father failed to return to camp for quite a long time I became curious and came down to find out what had happened. He was just coming back to camp when I met him and when asked if successful in getting a cook, he responded "yes, I got a cook and I also bought the Riddle Inn!"

That fall he had considerable remodeling work done, changed the name to "Kasota Lodge" and it is known today as cottage 552 Lake Drive. Kasota is the Indian name for "water clear as the sky."

We spent our summers at Kasota Lodge until 1966 at which time we built and moved to 556 Lake Drive where we now reside. I knew Clear Lake back when we had just a small number of cottages compared with today's population. Those were the formative years at Clear Lake. We had happy times then as we do now. Clear Lake has always had a stronghold on those who have made this their summer or permanent residence. Many of the families here are in their second and third generations proving its attraction to most of us early settlers. I hope that the future will be as good for Clear lake as the past.

FROM BOB FEDERSPIEL -

According to my recollection of Frank Federspiel, my father, in 1917 he came to buy the Charles Robus properties (2) which are now the Fenton & McArdle properties, Cottages 318-320. They were split from the

Charles Borton lakeside strip adjacent to Borton's three cottages near the "twin" Borton cottages south. Mr. Borton built five cottages--one for each child--and rented them.

Mr. Borton was a truck farmer and processor of the native mint which he milled on the low muckland east of his three cottages. His granddaughter, Betty Oxenger, has a new home #329 overlooking the site of the spearmint mill which was an exciting aromatic early Clear Lake industry. After Ruth Borton Forrester's husband Glen moved to the farm, the mill ceased operation. Glen hauled much sand, stones and gravel for fill of roadbeds, lots, seawalls and construction. He also delivered milk and vegetables around the lake.

Great vision of the beauty and potential of the Lake was encompassed in Mr. Eugene Hardendorf who planted his property (The Haven) with trees from around the world. Dr. Woods, a subsequent owner, had much of the wrought iron and stone work added to the present Faucher property.

Mr. T. P. Riddle was perhaps the greatest visionary in his early pre-1920 acquisition of the lake shore from Earl Ford McNaughton's #420 cottage southward including T. P. Ridge to old Terrace Garden or the inlet channel in southeast corner. He also acquired Lake Ann--named after his daughter--and much property south of it including what is now the "landing strip" or public park owned by the Town. He also built many cottages, including Kasota Lodge--formerly Haberly's and now Rhinehart's. He also owned the land now the Carroll property, #185, and the Yacht Club site. This was to be a Lodge but the adversity of '29 prevented its completion. The plans were grand. A brochure describing "Tara-jories"--meaning Hill of Health--was published and circulated.

T. P. was an outstanding and controversial developer. He planned Circle Park and plotted many lots and executed the pump and fill of the "canal" connecting Lake Ann and Clear Lake. The "fill" covered all of the tree roots on the "island" and killed every tree. He "lost" many of his levered holdings in the early 30's and yet retained a vital interest in Lake Ann and remained in residence in his houseboat on the canal--later on land--even after his defeat as a candidate for Congress in later 30's. His children lived in and around the lake many years.

During the early years of the Incorporation of the Town of Clear Lake, Frank J. Federspiel was the first president of the

town board. The town was incorporated to effect a local tax base to retain funds to improve roads, straighten, drain and pave them. The county and township assessors and trustees were anti-lakers and pro-farmer in spirit and detail. Much controversy resulted in the re-location of the east shore canal bridge and road from lake side to present alignment approximately 150 feet east.

This relocation and subsequent violence in the "blowing up" of the bridge (present site) and the unlawful mob action of many trucks filling in the canal at the water's edge resulted in a lawsuit. To stop the unlawful mob filling the canal, Robert P. Federspiel and Frank J. Federspiel placed their car across the road to stop the trucks. The sheriff would not respond to the Mayor's plea. The mob picked up the '26 Buick with Robert (aged 14) and Frank and carried it off the road to the beach with the wheels in the water. Guns, shovels, anger and threats were rampant. Eventually the other Town Board members, Mr. Henry Miese and Oliver Guilford and other supportive members of the community pleaded for a civil peace, and law and order prevailed without injury.

The injunction against the demonstrators was resolved by their being forced to remove the canal fill and repair the dynamited bridge. The compensation to the demonstrators was the gift to the county of the lakeside park. The county agreed to maintain the park and also to maintain the "in Town" portion of the road from 4 Corner Grocery to 120. This is a huge maintenance relief of the tax base for the town. Construction, blacktop, maintenance of snow removal of approximately two of the eight miles of perimeter road are involved.

At a town board meeting at FJF's house (320) Mr. T. P. Riddle and Mr. Henry Miese argued violently over the bridge-street lawsuit and Mr. Miese struck Mr. Riddle on the face and broke his glasses. The blood and anger and scuffle led to another lawsuit. Mrs. FJF said "that's the end of that. No more animals can attend meetings in our house." Genevieve Federspiel Ashe was the secretary of the Town Board and kept minutes of that hassle. Subsequent town meetings were held in rented public buildings.

The early Town Board passed many very important and timely ordinances hiring a town marshal, banning outside privys, establishing speed limits, controlling school charges and many more. Frank Federspiel's last major town benefit effort (pre-

retirement), in 1948 was the placement of the street light system around the Lake.

FROM ERNESTINE SPANGLER -

The Spangler family interest in Clear Lake goes back many years and includes many Spangler brothers, cousins, sons and daughters, all of whom have traveled the miles from Bryan, Ohio to their Indiana homes with faithfulness. In 1936 the North Shore Grocery was purchased by A.G. Spangler and it was operated in 1936-1937 by Norm Carroll, also from Bryan. In 1938-39-40, it was run by Ted Spangler during the summers. 1941-42 saw Art Pritchard as proprietor, probably for the summer season. In 1943, the Peeler family took it over. This was after the Lewis brothers' ownership. In addition to the Ted Spanglers, the Harlan Spanglers, the Frank Spanglers, the Albert Spanglers, and the Jim Spanglers have all made Clear Lake their vacation spot. Betty Spangler Levenson (Mrs. Neil Levenson is also one of this Clear Lake minded family. Their memories are varied and numerous but each family has made real contributions to the lake. Some will remember the frog-leg dinners and soda fountain served by Ted's North Shore grocery with Millie Lomont (Mrs. Maurice) as the cook. When the Yacht Club was started in the early '30's, Art Spangler was one of the four men who walked the lake raising money for the building. As the sailing era came in, the Spangler name was very much in evidence and the Mirador Trophy was won by Ted and his sister Betty in 1937. The trophy was homemade of two inverted funnels. One weekend before Labor Day, the Spangler Olympics was one of the summer highlights. The Spangler sailors were good competitors all through the years as the sailing program and the Yacht Club grew in numbers and activities. Today the "Bun Board" given by Mrs. Harlan (Bun) Spangler to remind the members forever of the loyalty to the Yacht Club that her husband had felt. In total, members of the Spangler families own or have owned 10 different cottages on Clear Lake. They remember the nightly walk to Ray by some of the young people to watch the train come in with the mail, which they brought home. They remember the Charlie Borton family and farm and the unpasteurized milk available each night. They remember Ray as the town half in Indiana and half in Michigan, and the fire of 1920 which practically wiped Ray off the map. They

remember the varying water levels of the lake, when it was possible to walk to the island from both points. The installation of dams took care of this eventually. They remember the sand pit on East Sand Beach where the swallows nested. Most of all, they remember many years of family fun.

FROM PEGGY PERRINE FREDRICK

It was wonderful - it still is!!! Some things I know and others I have heard about from my grandparents on both the Perrine and Parker sides as they each practically go back to the same year. These are the five generations I speak of who are and have been at Clear Lake every summer since about 1909 or 1908:

Charles W. (Mina) Parker
Ruth Parker Perrine
Peggy Perrine Fredrick
Diane Fredrick McArdle
E. G. and Marne McArdle
Now ages 9 and 5

Van B. (and Edith) Perrine
Joe Perrine
Peggy P. Fredrick
Diane Fredrick McArdle
E. G. and Marne McArdle

About 1908 Charlie Parker of Hillsdale, Michigan built a small cottage next to one of the oldest on Clear Lake (belonging to Cletus Sinell), which had a cavernous, thick-walled cellar under it. In those days -- it was perfect for the illegal brewing of beer and distribution to the farmers and anyone who wanted to come up over the Parker hill and thru the blackberry patch to purchase it. At first my grandfather Parker and Byron Somers - a near neighbor with whom he fished - wondered why Mr. Sinell had so much company...they later found out. This is where the new Levenson cottage is now. Mr. Somers and my grandfather caught some very large bass right out in front of their cottages - once they had to jump out of the small chug-chug launch and keep on running with the line in order to bring it safely up on the beach.

It must have been shortly after 1908 that the "Interlaken" - Perrine cottage was built on the west shore. I'm sort of guessing at this date, but I know that Charles Parker's only daughter, Ruth, soon had a persistent, red-headed young admirer - Joe - who came from Fort Wayne and whose father - Van B. Perrine - had just built on the "peninsula."

In those days there were many trips from

Fort Wayne, and all other places around the lake in funny looking cars, big, tied-down bonnets for the women - getting stuck in the mud, etc., etc., Some families came by train to Ray and then had their luggage brought on out and over to the big yellow hotel or their cottages by "taxi". From the long Hazenhurst Hotel dock, people walked out and mostly went for a leisurely ride in canoes and small launches with chairs brought from the porch put into them.

Numerous cars went off the narrow road leading to the "peninsula" and beyond to the Dr. Daniels' cottage, - now the Byram Dickes home - the Yacht Club and the Rieke Mirador Hotel. This was always exciting and to be able to go with Joe Reilly - the much loved helper at the Van Perrine home - to get them pulled out. Milk (not pasturized) was brought in in quite large amounts from the Straw farm...and every Sunday we turned the handle to make the special ice cream. Fourth of July there were large, gas-filled balloons set up over Round Lake and watched until they disappeared or sometimes caught on fire when almost out of sight. Ice was cut in the winter time and packed away in sawdust for the summer months...or else you went to a farmer who had it for sale.

I don't know if I really remember when there were only lamps at the lake or not, but my mother did - I do remember pumps on the back porch or out in the yard for drinking - although if one had a whole electrical pumping system, you could have running water and flush toilets. But definitely the main cooking system was either a kerosene stove or huge, lovely looking wood stoves...it was really great, especially in the fall or on cool evenings.

The island was so super then...so quiet and peaceful for canoes to park with the rushes for an anchor. It had a large wooden slide, with wooden sleds on which to slide down into the water. Later on, it had an attractive log cabin built by some of the lake boys - Norman Perrine and Dayton Rieke - in which all could have cook outs and barbecues. Oh yes...the popular meeting place was no less than RAY - and the train from the city of Fort Wayne would come in - and everyone went there to get letters from their friends in town.

Of course by now Carl and Don Lewis owned the hotel - and it was still very nice - people really dressed in the evening to go into the Dining Room. The Dance Hall - with orchestra boys from nearby colleges was the chief entertainment for ALL. The Moms and Dads even came and sometimes danced while holding their children - babies. We

were all so well chaperoned - an "older boy," Jack Riddle, and I danced and won a Waltz contest. But some of us would sneak away to the Terrace Garden side to be a bit more risqué.

Lena Mae Mulcahay McNaughton lived on a farm across from the store and dance hall and I was fascinated with her one-room school - now the Catholic Church - as she took me there to visit once. So much of our food shopping was accomplished just at different farm homes - one place for milk and butter and eggs...another for chickens and maybe still another for cakes, etc.... Yes, life was certainly different then.

Another big thing for the boys of the lake - Phil and Buzz Anderson I believe and others - was "how far did you swim today? Over to the island and back or to the point?" Not how much did they ski each day as it is now. Surf boards later became the thing and not until our Steve was six, - just think, even that was thirty-four or so years ago - did it come into the skiing craze. For them, the fourth generation, things were still a bit different. There was the Cooley Hut, a nice grocery store, a bowling alley and skating rink. Now, of course, the lovely Condominiums are there.

FROM SALLY RANDALL HOLMES

When we first went to Clear Lake in 1928 - the Golf Course and the Mirador were going strong. We were all golfers and stayed at the Mirador several days at a time.

In the fall Father (A. L. Randall) bought "the swamp" between the Pfanner cottage - now the Wamsher cottage - and the old green Ferguson cottage. On the high part of the swamp was an old house which had been used as an ice house on the other side of the lake. We were told that it had been moved across the lake on the ice. It was remodeled and has been used by us ever since...some fifty-four years! The place was purchased from Mr. Eugene Hardendorf who at that time, I believe, lived in what is now "The Haven". The back part of our lot was purchased from Joe Laird who owned the golf course. This was filled-in and the swamp disappeared.

From the Randall cottage - to the left, facing the lake - the first cottage belonged to the Pfanners from Dayton, Ohio...next came the Prey family, also from Dayton, Ohio - then Mr. Bard and his daughter and family - the Batelles. Then came the Artz cottage - now the Harlan Spangler's - and then the Webb cottage (rented at that time, each year, to the Greife family from Ohio).

Next was "Aunt Minnie White's" cottage and then Dr. Daniels from Toledo, Ohio. Most of the cottagers were from Ohio and this whole group was called "the Camp". They always had an annual picnic and, of course, being from Indiana, we were interlopers. After about ten years Mrs. Pfanner decided that Mother and the rest of our family were alright. Our families became great friends. The Vesey girls bought the Pfanner cottage and used it a number of years before selling to the Wamshers...

Going down toward the Yacht Club, there was the cottage built by Ed Roethele - now the Hanna home - next to them, the original cottage built and owned by Robert B. Hanna, Sr. in 1921-22 and now owned by Agnes Hanna Shoaff. The Ed Roetheles built the modern home next to Shoaff's.

There was the old Ferguson cottage which Phyllis Randall Trask bought. She used it several years before she had it torn down and built the present one in the fall of 1941.

Next came the Esterline cottage which Mrs. Will Pettit bought. The Esterlines and Fergusons were related. The Heines - from Fort Wayne - inherited it from Mrs. Pettit and later sold to the Coopers.

Next came a vacant lot on which Hadleys built much later, then there was - in 1929 - Miss Stella Stringer's cottage. It burned several years later and she rebuilt. After her death it was sold, and I believe, that the Hagermans rebuilt - or added to - and remodeled it. Next to them came the old Mendenhall cottage. The three Vesey women bought it, later sold it to the Lifes - relatives of theirs. The Lifes added a second story and made extensive modern changes. They later sold to Dr. Thomas Williams of Ohio.

In our early days at the lake the hotels, dance halls and golf courses were going strong but the depression of the '30's affected all of them. My husband, Jack, took over the golf course one year and could hardly make ends meet. Then Joe Laird leased it to Elmer Wilkins, but after he ran it for a couple of years he gave up...Mr. Laird then let it go to seed. Most of this took place during the war years.

There was a very active sailing group consisting of Hannas (Bob), Andersons, Vordermarks, Bill Daniels, Dayton Rieke, Macomers, Hadleys, Spanglers, Ewings, Compos, - Bill Nichols didn't sail but kept time - Helen Vordermark kept the records. The Dinghy was the most popular sail boat at that time. The group sailed in races at Lake James and Clark Lake, Michigan as

well.

Jack was one of the early Commodores when the Yacht Club was first built. Stock was issued - now makes nice wallpaper...The Club House was made possible by the work of some members doing the roofing, flooring, etc..

My nephew, Tom Gallant, told me he used to be able to go into Round Lake in a boat pushing under a little bridge - or culvert - between Round Lake and Clear Lake down past the McNaughton place - formerly Perrinnes. There were lots of little turtles there and also in the marshlands of East Bay.

The water level in those early days changed from time to time...one year we had about a twenty foot beach out from the seawall. This was caused by a dam being built and then removed.

FROM FRED HADLEY -

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Waldo Hadley came to Clear Lake from Pioneer, Ohio at just about the turn of the century, living in the Hadley cottage #302 on the East side of the lake. The same cottage is now owned by Ralph Hadley, the second of three sons. Ethel (Mrs. Hadley) went home each weekend to do the laundry, driving 19 miles over dirt roads in the family Mitchell-Studebaker car. The boys were young lads, born after 1902, with Richard the No. 1 son, Ralph, No. 2 and Fred No. 3. The cottage was their summer home each summer, which stretched in spring and fall too as the boys grew older. In 1905, Mr. Hadley's sister May came to the lake during the summers, to rest from her duties as an English teacher at Smith College for Women. She owned a horse "Old Elf" who enjoyed his summers at Dude Tompkins farm across the road from Miss Hadley's little red cottage named "Kilkare". This little cottage standing between the Macomber and Anderson cottages on the North Shore was eventually moved across the ice to a new home after Miss Hadley's death.

In 1912 Byron Somers bought the lot next door to the Hadley cottage for \$500 and built the cottage #304 now owned by Fred Hadley, the No. 3 son. Thus the Hadley family has been always listed among the old time residents. With the advent of the sailing era and the dance hall activity, the young people grew to be good friends from the East, West and North Shores of the lake. A lake romance resulted in the marriage of Senora Rieke and Dick the No. 1 Hadley boy and they built a home of their own #206 on the West Shore near the site of the Mirador

Hotel, which had been a Rieke business. Like many others, the Hadleys remember the sailing races, the moonlight canoe dates, the picnics on the island and through the years, Fred says "This is home"

FROM AGNES HANNA SHOAFF

When our family first came to Clear Lake in early June, 1914, we came from Fort Wayne by train. The Lake Shore line of New York Central R. R. ran through Waterloo where we sat, sweating and swatting flies, for an hour waiting for the east bound express to cross the tracks ahead of us. This was in accordance with its usual off-schedule routine.

At Ray we de-trained and piled into Mr. Julius Thompkins' dray drawn by a team of horses. We sat on planks along the sides, our trunks on the floor at our feet.

When we came to a steep hill directly behind the present Byram Dickes cottages, Mr. Thompkins urged the horses with a vigorous "Geeee yup!" and we reached our destination, a tiny cottage built high among tree-tops no bigger than a bird house. It was one of eight along the west shore between Round Lake and a second row of cottages far to the south of the Yacht Club. Eight cottages; sixteen counting the out-houses behind each one. Now there are only two more than sixteen (plus the Boat House and Yacht Club) and no outhouses. By this reckoning they are only slightly greater in quantity and, with in-door plumbing, vastly greater in quality!

In those earliest days Clear Lake provided a natural playground totally free of danger from motor cars and motor boats. Trees made good playmates. My tree-friends Boswell, Emily Pond and Suzanne among many others still survive.

During the summer of 1916 Old Doctor Ferguson lived beside us in a wee green cottage with two elderly spinster daughters known as the Ferguson "girls". Old Doctor Ferguson had a beautiful long white beard and no legs. Each day his daughters would carry their father out to the end of a small dock in a basket and settle him in the bow of his fish-boat. Then while one remained behind to bake bread the other would row the old man out to catch messes of blue-

gills, bass and perch. Old Doctor Ferguson was my First Love. I was four years old.

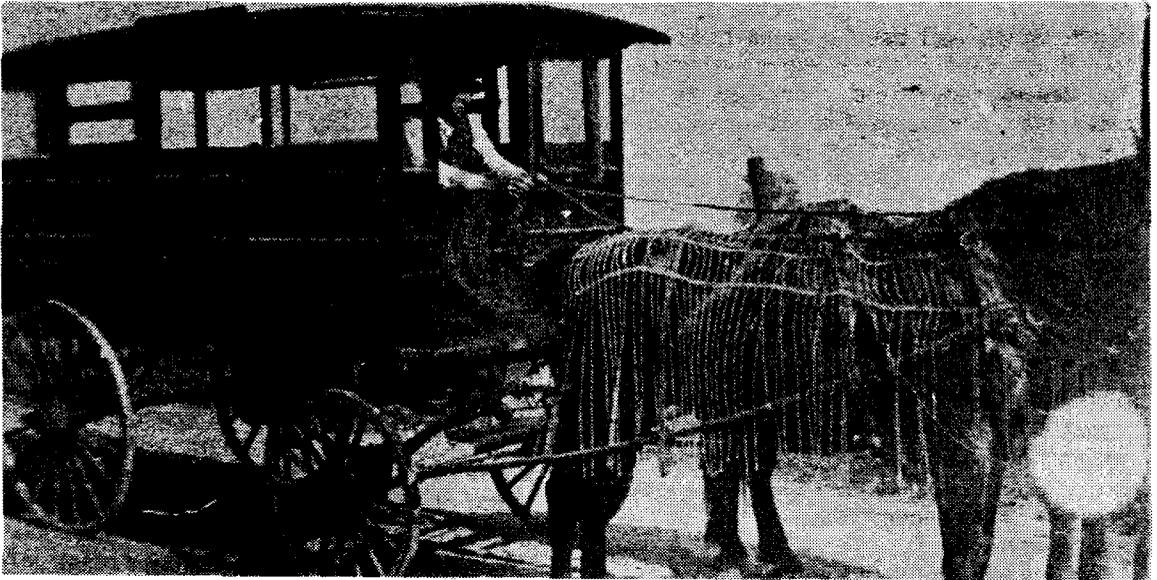
By the 1920's those of us who did not yet own automobiles were transported back and forth from the train station by Doc Etheridge who drove a Model T. Each trip was memorable chiefly because Doc never looked at the road, but directly at those in the rear seat. He could not do otherwise due to a wry neck, a permanent affliction.

This condition made us particularly uncomfortable one dark rainy night coming from Ray over a new road laid out on the ridge of Hog Back by Mr. T. P. Riddle who had left standing, in the middle of the road at its highest and most precarious point, an enormous oak tree, leaving six inches between us and Eternity. "Nasty night," said Doc, favoring us with the full benefit of a wry smile.

"The Summer of the Sheep," 1923, introduced us to a variation on the game Run-Sheepy-Run. Very early each morning, bleating madly, a flock of sheep fresh from the fold would come jogging their mindless mile up the road without benefit of shepherd. Leaping out of bed my brother Robert would run out in pajamas and yell his favorite yell: "Zigetty Boom Rah Rah South Side High School Rah Rah Rah". The sheep would give out a great bellow and turn back.

A feature of almost every cottage at Clear Lake in early days was its well-box. Well-boxes might vary in kind but their nature was always the same: coolness fresh and sweet as the water itself. Most were sunk in shadowy depths in the ground beside an out-door pump. Ours was an oblong concrete box half underground beneath the spout of an artesian well. The box retained a portion of the water as it drained on out into the lake and was divided into sections of different depths to accommodate containers for food of various sizes. Under its hinged wooden lid was an array of food as organized as in any modern refrigerator.

Clear Lake has aged gracefully over the years. During the past fifty years being incorporated has meant that she has been



Brown School Bus driven by Wayne Smith for 42 years at Clear Lake. Inside were heated stones for heat.

able to avail herself of regular check-ups vital to her well-being. By respecting certain restrictions and following a well-advised regimen she is keeping herself well-preserved. For that, as always, she has our blessing.

Clear Lake's early stores

The Northshore grocery was first opened in 1906 and operated by Hiram Rice. In 1910 Charles Mingus took it over followed by Ed Sinel in 1915. Then the Lewis Brothers became owners until it was purchased in 1926 by Ted Spangler.

In 1926-27, Mr. W. D. Alleman operated a grocery store at Fountain Beach on the South Shore of the lake. Later the South

Side Grocery appeared but eventually closed its doors.

Schools

There were four schools in the Township of Clear Lake. These were not part of the Town of Clear Lake, but bordered it. The first was the Brown school at the southwest corner of the lake. The second one was the Harris School located about one and half miles east of the Brown School on St. Rd. 120 and is the only one now standing. The Sand School stood at the northeast corner of the lake where St. Paul's Chapel now stands. The fourth was the Rathbun School which stood in the south central part of the Township.



West Shore

Our Churches

THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLEAR LAKE is the oldest one of the north shore churches, organized in 1864, under the leadership of Elder W. H. Welker. A group of people met at a schoolhouse which was located where the church parsonage now stands. It was organized at that time with the name of the Regular Baptist Church of Clear Lake. The articles of faith were very strict and it was required of the members that they adhere very closely to these promises of pledges. A parcel of land, "10x18 rods" was purchased for \$20.00, and the builders of the church were Strunk Bros. of Montgomery, Michigan for the sum of \$1800.00.

From an excellent history written by Ethel Tompkins Hobart, there is the following:

The land was purchased in 1871 after a meeting on September 2, with a total of \$280 pledged. Members of the Latter Day Saints and the United Brethren Churches on the south side of the lake contributed generously to the cause, along with many others. Since there was no road connecting the north and south shores the need for a church on the north side of the lake was recognized. The final amount pledged was close to \$2000.00.

On December 21, 1871, the group met and finalized their plans for the purchase of the land and the erection of a church building. From an excellent history of the church written by Ethel Tompkins Hobart, there is this story: "Those who knew the history of northern Indiana are familiar with the legend of Silas Doty. "Silo" as he was called, was a horse thief, in fact a thief of anything on which he could lay his hands.....At the time plans were in progress for the building of the Baptist Church, Silo lived on the shore of Long Lake, a quarter of a mile distance from the chosen building site. To the building fund he gave generously, not in money but in nails and lumber. There is no record of the church fathers questioning the wisdom of accepting Silo's gift. These wise men knew that sometimes a gnarled, mis-shapen tree may continue to bear good fruits".

In 1878, a missionary society was organized, including men as well as women who were eligible upon payment of 25 cents annual dues. The church has undergone meager years, changes of preachers and declining numbers, but the faithful have never deserted the little church. For some years theological students from Hillsdale College filled the pulpit, paid for by the few

members, who donated the four dollars for their train fare and services. The greatest problem confronting the members was the difficulty in obtaining a pastor and the small membership but the church was never closed and the dedicated members stuck by their posts.

There have been many donations through the years. In 1948 Mr. F. C. Lowrey gave \$4500 dollars for the building of a parsonage, along with a church organ in memory of his wife, Eva Phillips Lowrey who had taught in the day school and the Baptist school at one time. Dr. and Mrs. O. T. Laird gave a plot of ground 10x20 rods for the site of the parsonage. Dr. Laird was a retired Optometrist, who had returned to his native soil. In 1948, then, the parsonage was built on the exact spot on which the old school house had stood. The men of the church did the work, taking one year to complete the five room house. They called in skilled workmen only when special jobs were involved. The Reverend and Mrs. L. S. Slaybaugh were the first residents of the new parsonage.

In 1959 Mr. and Mrs. George Merrill built and completely furnished an addition to the church, known as the educational building and containing the Mormerl Fellowship Hall, class rooms, kitchen, rest rooms and the parson's study. In 1969 a new Lowrey organ was given by Mrs. Winifred Neil and Mr. Forest Lowrey in memory of their mother, Mrs. Eva Phillips Lowrey and their grandfather, Mr. Josiah Phillips.

The Baptist Church has been a landmark through the years, standing faithfully with its white spire pointing to the sky above and guiding its members to the church services.

THE CLEAR LAKE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

BEGINNING: It all started during the summer of 1937 when a number of cottagers at Clear Lake began to discuss the need for Sunday worship in their area. Then came action! They asked Dr. W. G. Polack, professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and a summer resident at Clear Lake, whether he would be willing to preach summer Sundays, if a suitable place could be found. He was delighted at their request. The Clear Lake Lutheran Chapel Association was organized. The next Summer 1938 ten services were held, July 3 to September 4, in a vacant school on State Road 120 - a few miles from the Lake, and they were at-

tended by an average of 106.

FIRST CHAPEL: The Association, meeting in Fort Wayne on March 30, 1938, passed a courageous resolution to build their own chapel. Ground was broken a few weeks later, April 15, at the present site. The members did most of the building themselves - did it well! and on July 2 the simple yet appealing chapel was dedicated at a cost of \$2,305 for materials and \$212.00 for furnishings.

THRU THE YEARS: 1940: An electric organ was installed and dedicated. 1941: More ground was acquired. A public address system was put up for the overflow crowd that could no longer get into the chapel. 1946: Pews replaced folding chairs. Sunday school was begun. 1947: The donated plot across the road from the chapel was set aside as a cemetery with arrangements for perpetual care. An oil-burning furnace was put in. 1948: The stone altar was dedicated for use at occasional outdoor services. The chapel basement was divided into kitchen and Sunday School room. Average summer attendance for thirteen services was 286. 1950: Dr. W. G. Polack passed away just before the opening of the summer services and was buried in the chapel cemetery. Chimes and a marble memorial were given to perpetuate his memory. The Reverend Armin C. Oldsen, then professor at Valparaiso University, served as summer guest preacher, as he has ever since. 1951: A summer parsonage on the east shore was acquired by the Association. In the fall, Pastor Oldsen began to conduct year-round services to accommodate a small group of area residents. 1958: The mortgage on the parsonage was paid in full. Average summer attendance had risen to 605. 1962: the 25th Anniversary Season was observed by enlarging the chapel, providing a new chancel and sacristy; redecorating the sanctuary and installing indirect lighting; building another sanctuary exit, an indoor stairway to the basement, a larger Sunday School room, larger restrooms. The cost of the program was \$6,500, which was met by special gifts and a liberal Anniversary Offering. Shortly thereafter, a new electric organ was acquired. 1968: Two Sunday morning services were introduced at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. A winterized parsonage was purchased at 826 Clear Lake Drive and the old parsonage was sold.

The feeling that services should be conducted under the sponsorship of a new congregation, which was being formally organized, the Clear Lake Lutheran Chapel

Association disbanded, and in most magnanimous manner turned over the ownership of all property - chapel, grounds, cemetery, parsonage, etc. - to the Clear Lake Lutheran Church. Pastor Oldsen became full-time resident pastor. Through the years there have been many dedicated churchmen and women who have guided the Lutheran Chapel to become the strong house of worship it is today. The list is too long to mention but certainly the influence and self-sacrifices of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gerke should stand at the top.

THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHAPEL

FROM JOYCE HOOK

THE NEED: In the early 1920's residents of the Clear Lake area felt a need for their own Church. For the next few years people talked over and over about the "how" and "where". Around 1940, Frank J. Federspiel, a real estate agent, learned of a tax auction to be held of a schoolhouse (the Sand School) on Clear Lake-Ray Road and 875E - one-half mile east of the Hazenhurst Hotel.

Frank and his friends, Ben Pohlius, Frank Carroll, Robin Brady and Mrs. Joseph Reide bought the thirty by forty foot brick schoolhouse for the sum of one hundred sixty nine dollars (\$169.00). Their work was cut out . . . much of which was done by the Franciscan Novices from Angola. The cross atop the building was a gift of St. Jude Parish of Fort Wayne, Indiana. In preparing the building for use as a Chapel, the people were instructed by Bishop Noll that all bills for improvements had to be paid in cash . . . NO DEBT was to be acquired. No one complained because the reality was nearing. The building was blessed and the first Mass celebrated on July 27, 1941 with around two hundred people attending . . . the collection amounted to \$47.28!!

1946 - 1954: The Chapel group began to emerge as a Family . . . many of whom are with us today. The Chapel underwent a major remodeling. Until it was completed, Mass was held at the Clear Lake roller-skating rink.

1954 - 1966: Thanks to Robin Brady, Frank Carroll, Ralph Shirmeyer, Norbert Schenkel and Vance Harrington additional acreage around the original property was purchased from W. E. Esterline and great changes took place . . . the Chapel grew, with plans completed - and the help of Harry Humbrecht and Associates - for added

seating and the beautiful front and vestibule. During this time the present pews were installed and the altar was built.

1966 - 1970: A new heating system was installed, the ceiling completed, the Chapel walls panelled and the Cry Room finished, the parking lot improved and carpet laid in the Sanctuary. Thru the goodness and help of Heimie Geiger, new chandeliers were hung.

1970 - 1982: More improvements . . . still more space was needed and work began on a permanent meeting place (with Thomas Wehrenberg and John Schenkel, co-chairmen of the building committee) for St. Paul's members and their activities, as well as additional seating space for summer masses and a site for religious class groups. The Teen Group was organized in October, 1981.

THE LATTER DAY SAINTS

On St. Road 120 stands the white Latter Day Saints Church, with its faithful congregation. Although it is not in Clear Lake

itself, it is a neighbor church and Clear Lake residents come through its doors when the call for elections is heard. The church is what remains of the Mormon's visit in this area. The church building was purchased from the Reformed Presbyterians, known locally as the Covenanters, with Reverend John French as their pastor. He had conducted services in that building at the Ray Cemetery site, after it was built in 1853, and in 1856 the church was sold to the Latter Day Saints.

They moved it to the present location on the old Vistula Road (St. Rd. 120) as it was known then. It has served the people well through the years. A branch of the Mormon Church came through the lake area in the late 1840's and stopping to rest beside the cool waters of Clear Lake, they decided to rest even longer and stayed for some time. They made their headquarters on Paradise Point, which is the old name for the point of land guarding West Bay on the south. There are many tales of Mormon services, baptisms and activities at Clear Lake before the caravan moved on west.

About Our Hotels

It is sad that this part of Clear Lake's story must be written in the past tense because today there are none. Only one of the four claimed by the lake still stands, but with closed doors for the 1982 season. The story of the others deals with the Grandview, now the Haven, the Island House, later the Hazenhurst, the Lakeside, now the Clear Lake Lodge, and the Mirador.

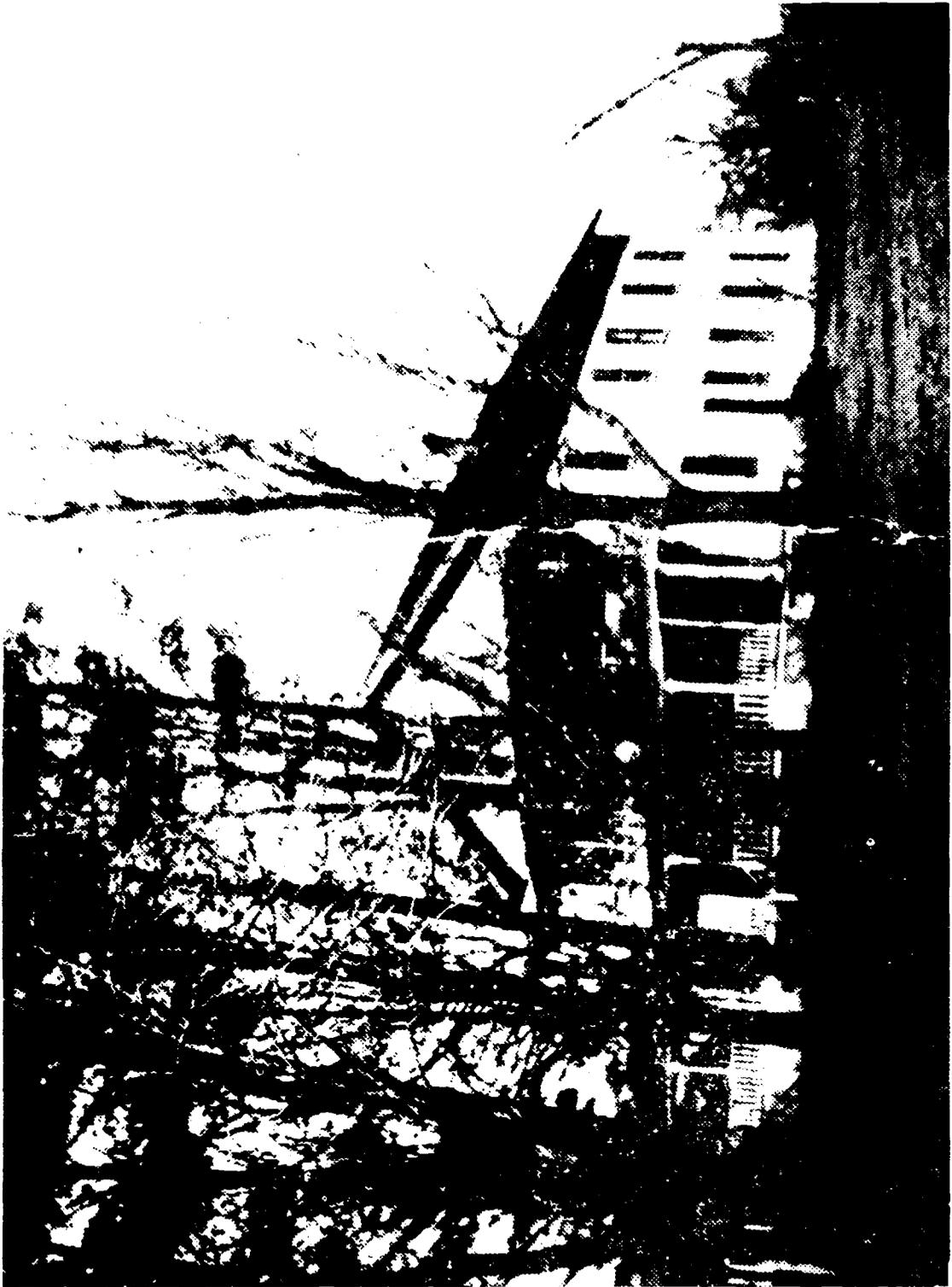
The Lakeside

The original building still stands on the northwest corner of Lake Drive and the Clear Lake Road and dates back to the late 1800's. It was built by Mr. and Mrs. Clark for a private dwelling and through the years it was added to and changed in size to become a summer "boarding house". This did not happen until it became the property of "Grandpa Clark's" nieces, Mrs. Edith Day of Pennsylvania and her sister, Mrs. Wade. In the early 1900's Mrs. Day operated it as a summer hotel until it passed into the hands of her niece, Mrs. Christine Morland. Mrs. Morland's reputation as the proprietor of the comfortable, homey inn was known far and wide and her summer bookings were regular ones, coming year after year. Her famous hot rolls and ex-

cellent food never changed as well as her high standards in keeping the hotel strictly a family one. She employed young people, sons and daughters of summer cottagers, and there are few who will not admit to having training that they will never forget under Mrs. Morland's supervision. Since Mrs. Morland retired from the hotel business, the Lakeside has changed hands several times, with varying successes. Today, 1982, it remains closed for the season.



The Lakeside Hotel



Grandview Hotel (The Haven), North Shore

The Grandview

The Grandview, known now as the Haven, stands on a beautiful knoll overlooking the North Shore beach. It is the oldest of the four hotels at Clear Lake, having been built about 1842. According to a "Remember When" article appearing in the Steuben Republican some time ago, the Inn was constructed of 8x8 handhewn timbers. Instead of nails, it was put together with wooden pegs. It was an exchange station where the pony express riders stopped on the way from Toledo to Chicago. It was equipped with a stable and fresh horses for the riders, a post office and a house where the express riders stayed. The back porch, now the East side, was designed for carriages and buggies, pulling up to the door for the convenience of the boarding passengers. It was built with 3 stories with rooms added through the years to make it a summer hotel for vacationists from Fort Wayne and Toledo. Across the road to the east, there was a small hotel which was acquired for the overflow of guests at the Grandview but all meals were served in the Grandview. According to some records Joseph Adams owned the Grandview with Jermiah W. Colburn as builder, Mr. Colburn is the author of the book, The Life of Silas Doty. It remained as an Inn until it was bought by Eugene Hardendorf, of Texas, who found his way to Clear Lake, liked it and decided to stay. He joined with two Fort Wayne gentlemen, Mr. Root and Mr. Thieme, in purchasing a large number of acres of lake shore property, chiefly on the West shore. He removed the third floor of the Grandview and changed it into the rambling dwelling that it is now, keeping the large central room in the middle with a wing on either side for bedroom and kitchen area. While the Inn was in operation, a "Look Out" was built on the lake front for the pleasure of the guests. Mr. Hardendorf converted it to a stone gazebo which stands today. After Mr. Hardendorf's death, the home was sold to Dr. Wood of Cleveland, and following his ownership it became the property of Adelard and Wilfred Faucher. The land around the old Inn has been a treasure source for Indian heads and relics because of the Indian tribe which had camped there for many years.

"The Small Hotel" referred to above seems to have been known as the Hotel Lakewood or the Clear Lake Hotel. A letter from Mr. Wesley O. Mault of Reading, Michigan states that his grandparents Elias and Esther Caywood owned and operated

the Hotel from 1887 to 1891. An abstract of title belonging to John Oehler, a long time resident of Clear Lake, showing that his property (northeast of the Hazenhurst Shores) was part of 160 acres of land on which the hotel stood and that he gave a \$10,000 mortgage back on the property when he bought it. Mr. Mault also says that it is his understanding that this tract of land extended east from the hotel to the site of the present Catholic Church and then south to the lakeshore itself. The Clear Lake Hotel was noted for its dances, with music furnished by James and Alpheus Caywood, Alph's wife Margaret and Ab Canfield. This agrees with the newspaper clipping which states that before 1878, J. H. Adams owned the northshore of Clear Lake and had the grounds laid out in lots, which he called Lakewood, after the "Hotel Lakewood". Eventually, it became the Annex, after being acquired by the owners of the Grandview.



Hotel Carlton (The Hazenhurst)

The Hazenhurst

The Hazenhurst which has been replaced by the condominiums has an interesting history. Before it was purchased by Mrs. Marion Cleveland, it was called the Island House and the proprietors were listed as "Colburn and Work". It was apparently finished in a remodeling program in 1875 ready for a grand opening on August 30th of that year. Through the generosity of Lee Duguid, whose historical knowledge of this area is unsurpassed a photo-copy of the announcement of the evening affair has been made available. It is worth repeating here, reprinted from a very formal handbill. It reads:

HARVEST DANCE

We, the proprietors of the ISLAND HOUSE, at CLEAR LAKE, IND., having completed and fitted up what will be known as the ISLAND HOUSE,

The dimensions of which is 120 feet long by 40 feet wide, and having a finely arranged hall 40x80, and a goodly number of rooms to accomodate our patrons, the building being situated upon the banks of the crystal waters of Clear Lake, the scenery of which is unsurpassed in the West, and is well designed as a summer resort, will give a

HARVEST DANCE

on

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 30th, 1875

To which the Ladies and Gentlemen in the surrounding country are invited.

CONVEYANCES WILL ALWAYS BE FOUND IN READINESS AT MONTGOMERY, TO CONVEY PERSONS TO AND FROM ALL TRAINS.

The capacity of the house is such that it will accomodate five hundred couples.

Music by Bergman's Quadrille Band.

Bill \$2.50

Colburn & Work

Republican Job Print, Angola, Ind.

There are more stories of interest about the Island House written in a letter from Ethel Tompkins Hobart. Her father was Julius "Dude" Tompkins, one of the well known Old Timers in Clear Lake's history. The Tompkins farm still stands on the North Shore, west of the Haven and is owned by Wilfred Faucher. Mrs. Hobart says: "When my Dad was five years old, he cordially hated his brother and sisters and made trouble plenty. His maternal grandmother, Electy Ann Lang, adored the obstinate little oaf so she took him home to live with her in Ionia, Michigan. Electy was a dowdy housekeeper but she did keep Julius in starched and ruffled finery; result, he was called 'Dude'. He had music lessons from the age of seven on. School and practice didn't curtail their freedom much. Almost every day, they sailed around the country in an open buggy behind two lively mustangs. They picked seeds to feed birds in winter. They swapped flower seeds and plant slips with friends or strangers and were never averse to accepting a canary or kitten if one were available."

"When Dude was twelve, they came to Clear Lake to visit his father, Willard Tompkins who owned and ran the Island House.

This would be the year 1880. Dude was invited and then ordered to play the organ. He balked. Dire threats could not induce him to perform. Electy took off her slipper and paddled his behind. Dude was indignant and refused to go home with her. This most broke her heart but he never relented and he was still living with his father at the hotel when he was fifteen."

Mrs. Hobart does not recall much about summer guests but she had heard of Oyster Suppers, Maple Sugar parties and dances in the winters, with people coming by sleigh from "near and far".

Mrs. Marion Cleveland became the owner of the Island House in the early 1900's, changing the name to Hazenhurst after her family name. She filled the hotel each summer with families coming from Toledo and Fort Wayne and other Ohio and Indiana towns. Everyone had the same rooms, year after year, and many friendships and romances started in the long summers spent on the fine sand beach, with only row boats and canoes available for water travel. Mrs. Cleveland required only the best of behavior and manners, even to making the gentlemen wear jackets in the dining room at night. This was before any cooling air

conditioning so only an excellent dinner could make up for the discomfort and the scanty breezes coming in though the small windows.

From Mrs. Carleton Lewis, (Helene), comes the story of the next owners. The Lewis brothers, Carl and Don purchased it from Mrs. Cleveland in 1920 and changed the name to the "Carlton". The Lewis brothers ran the hotel for over ten years in addition to the Dance hall and grocery store, located back of the hotel. They had bought the Northside Grocery in 1918 from Mr. Sinel, and they added the dance hall and remodeled the "ice cream parlor". One of the entertainments offered by the Carlton was an evening ride around the lake in the small launch owned by Henry Miese, who charged twenty-five cents per passenger for a leisurely sunset trip around the lake. The delightful porch facing the lake was a gathering place for the parents of the many children whose preference was the beach and rippling little waves washing in, making perfect wading for little feet. It was an ideal vacation spot for city folk to visit, relax and enjoy the water. In the 1930's the hotel resumed its name of Hazenhurst when the Lewis family left it, but it had passed its prime and the twilight years had come to the old hotel where so much pleasure had been provided. When the end came and the building was torn down, even the Hillsdale Daily News felt moved to write "Old Timers in the area may feel a bit sad when they drive around Clear Lake, a few miles west of Camden, in Indiana. The old Hazenhurst Hotel, scene of many dances and dinners

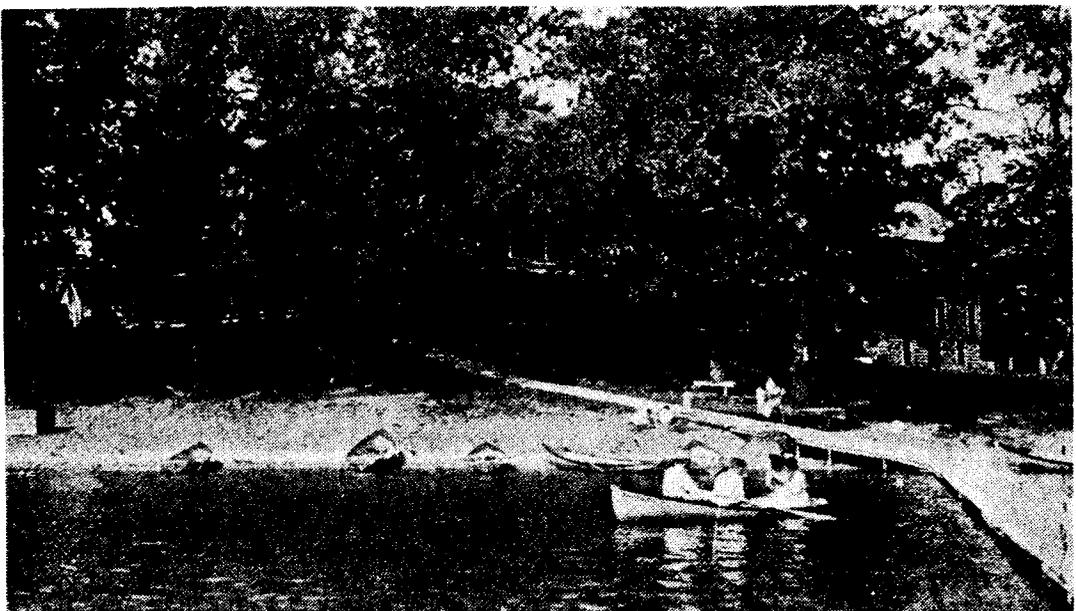


Henry Mies at the Hazenhurst dock

and parties in another era, is gone. All that is left is a pile of debris, still not carried away after the wreckers had completed their job of leveling the venerable structure.



Summer 1930, The Carlton Hotel Beach



The Hotel Carlton (Hazenhurst Hotel)

THE MIRADOR HOTEL - BY SENORA RIEKE HADLEY

The Mirador Hotel was a family project, the culmination of the love of Clear Lake, a love for people and a love of the family for each other. It was the result of a family helping each other to earn their way thru college...it is the story of the Rieke family.

It all started in the winter of 1921 when the eldest daughter was in her first year at the Art Institute of Chicago. It was obvious that help for the other three children, following along in rapid succession, was going to be necessary. So, that winter those at home conceived a plan to build a small resort hotel at Clear Lake in which all would work without remuneration and the proceeds be invested in college education for the children.

Among the inspired plans that T. P. Riddle had for Clear Lake was a sumptuous resort hotel on Hogs Back. Extending out into the lake in front of this site is an oak covered peninsula with a fine beach. This he had planned as the outlook and bathing beach for the hotel guests. Sadly, his financial problems forced him to curtail his plans...so, he was willing to sell "the chocolate drop," the Westsiders name for the knoll on the peninsula. This the Riekes obtained for their small dream hotel.

So in the summer of 1922 the project began. As the father was a cabinet maker and carpenter by trade, the eldest son handy with tools and the girls willing apprentices under their father's direction, the structure was completed, painted and concrete work finished.

It had been agreed that the mother - who was an outstanding cook - would prepare the food. The two girls would act as waitresses and housemaids; the boys would care for the grounds, beach, repairs and carry the luggage.

Following the completion...that next winter each guest room was given the name of a bird, common to the lake area, instead of ordinary room numbers and appropriate colors for each were selected and expressed in the spreads, curtains, etc. Appropriate artistic table mats were designed as well as bird paintings for the doors of each guest room. All was made ready for the Spring opening....

Advertising brochures were mailed and on Memorial weekend of 1923 the Mirador Hotel was opened to guests. All went well that summer but at the close of the season it was obvious that nine guest rooms did not produce enough revenue over mortgage payments to help much with college education. The following Spring a wing was added - providing a pleasant larger dining room and eight more bedrooms.

As the years passed and the children -one by one - withdrew to develop their own careers, college students were hired to fill the vacancies; also, kitchen and household help was added.

It was still Mother's kitchen...she furnished all the recipes - oversaw all the kitchen activities and personally did all the servings. She was a very sincere, loving, unselfish woman who solved all the problems through prayer. In fact, many guests returned for extended vacations - year after year - and became good friends of the family. Many guests called her "Mother Rieke" out of endearment.

With the children who had made the hotel a lively, happy place all gone, the parents eventually withdrew. Several attempts by other managements were made...but the Mirador always came back to the Riekes. Finally it was sold with plans to lay out five lake shore lots. Half the huge oak trees were removed and the knoll leveled for flat lots. The Riekes hope that someday the beautiful Mirador property - after so many happy times - will house other joyous families.

Our Social Life

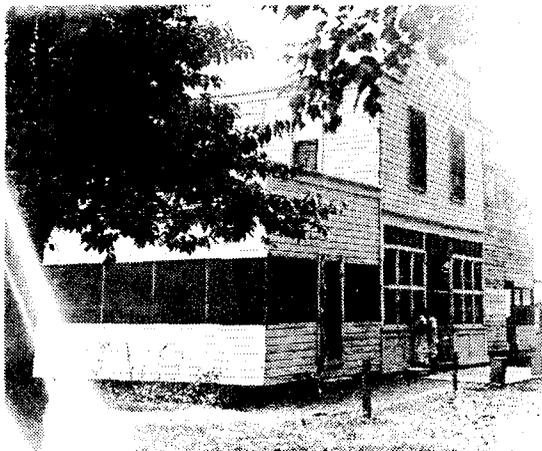
THE LEWIS'S NORTH SHORE GROCERY AND DANCE HALL

Carl and Don Lewis bought the grocery store from the Sinels in 1920 and added the dance hall and remodeled the ice cream parlor. They were welcomed heartily by the summer residents who were delighted with the personal house to house service Carl offered them a far cry from the "go and get it" methods of today. Carl came to the door

of each cottage on a scheduled basis, staggering his calling days so that everyone had at least a weekly opportunity to order what they needed for delivery later. He was always so pleasant that his visit was looked forward to, as he took down the order on his little pad from the lady of the house. The orders were then filled and delivered later right to the door. The stock in the store was greatly improved with much variety and the North Shore Grocery at once became a very

much appreciated and patronized part of the summer life.

Adjoining the grocery store, the ice cream parlor, fitted as an old time soda fountain



Lewis' Grocery Store, 1918

was, small tables and hard straight chairs. It was a mecca for young and old, enjoying the banana splits and tall sodas, made the real way, whipped cream, seltzer water and syrup over the good ice cream. Summer teenagers who qualified were hired as "soda jerks" and many of them went home with pains in their stomachs from eating the "mistakes" they had made in filling orders.

The ice cream parlor led into the dance hall which was a popular place, three or four nights a week. Saturday was the big night, of course, and every summer romance was always present for that one. The other nights were fairly well attended. Mother Lewis presided over the ticket selling, sitting regally in a little three cornered booth inside the hall where she sold tickets at 10 cents a dance, 12 for \$1.00. Carl or Don were always present and acted as genial hosts and chaperones not allowing any rudeness or misbehavior which satisfied the parents who might have had doubt about allowing their young to go. A five piece band from Fort Wayne, usually a college combo, fur-

nished the music, and they stayed in rooms over the store and played dutifully on the dance nights. All of the dancers had favorites and the band was always obliging. The Labor Day dance was the last one of the season and as the last dance was played with a suitable "Good night Ladies" or "Until We Meet Again" there would be tears over the summer ending, especially if it was the last dance of the year with the summer beau, who quite often turned out to be the permanent partner.

With dirt and gravel roads only, and a scarcity of automobiles, the only means of transportation to the dances were by boat or by foot. With no street lights, lanterns were carried, usually kerosene which were "checked" and then lighted for the homeward trek. Coming by boat, the canoes and row boats were parked on the Carldon Hotel beach, where the dancers were loaded into their own craft and either rowed or paddled home, usually with a "date," and usually taking the longest way home. Mothers listening at home could check the clock when the conversation on the lake started as the boats left the Hotel beach, and could also time the check-in hour to the minute. No one left the lake for entertainment and the cost of the fun was minimal. The East Shore group faced a dark walk home, down a narrow winding gravel road, lined with tall trees on one side and a row of privys on the other and the dark cottages with a small light burning on the lake side. But there was safety in numbers and the girls and boys went in a group, dropping off at their own cottage. This healthy summer fun went on for a number of years until the changing times brought an end to it. Then cars and other dance halls opening at Lake James, Hamilton Lake and even farther away took the Clear Lake boys and girls who were now college bound and interested in a world outside of Clear Lake. But for some ten years, 1919 to 1928-29, some of the happiest memories are those of the



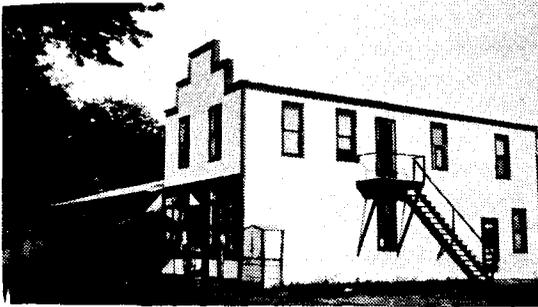
Lewis' Soda Fountain, 1918



The Dance Hall

dances at Lewis's.

The dance hall eventually became a Roller Skating Rink which was also a very popular spot and attracted many energetic feet from outside of the Clear Lake area. Of interest to



Lewis' Grocery Store

the skaters was the Kooley Hut built between the rink and the hotel and where the tantalizing fragrance of frankfurters sizzling brought in hungry skaters and also from around the lake. But the day came when the store and grocery took their leave in a fiery evening with the Fremont Fire Department in attendance and the Town Marshal standing beside a group of people who admitted to lumps in their throats as they watched the memories of the past go heavenward in smoke.



The Dance Hall

PETTY'S LANDING

From the Steuben Republican, July 6, 1971
- submitted by Lee Duguid

On July 4th, 1919, Petty's Landing, Clear Lake opened to the public. Patronage was expected from Branch and Hillsdale Counties in Michigan and Williams County in Ohio. The day was a "summer scorcher". Model T Fords covered the landscape. Several attractions were offered. Clear Lake had a good baseball team. The umpire - and a good one - was Boyd Huffnagle, a mute, who continued to umpire the games

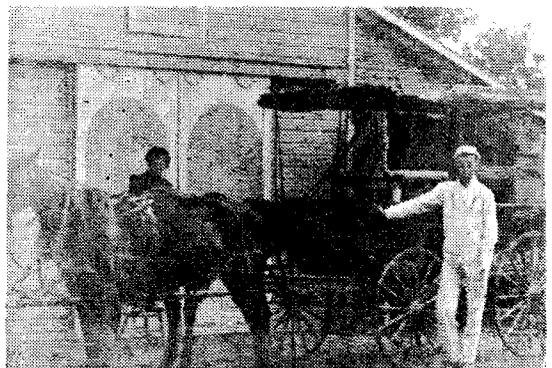
through the years. During the game they passed the hat to defray expenses for uniforms and equipment for the team.

There may have been a balloon ascension. Actually, balloon ascensions were done quite regularly in the ensuing years. Ellsworth Green, a well known local personality who had lost one arm, always took the balloon up and the whole countryside watched to see where Ellsworth landed...on a few occasions he landed in the lake!

Many enjoyed tobogganing from a high platform into the lake, and the bathing at a fine beach (if you didn't have a bathing suit, and many didn't, you could rent one at the bath house for 10 cents and water wings for 5 cents). There were eight slot machines on one side of the bath house. Tom Petty reported that he had netted \$105 from the machines that day - a lot of money in those times.

Lastly and most important was the dance. Tom Petty had gotten all the lumber for the pavilion from the army barracks at Camp Custer near Battle Creek. They were being torn down and sold. The dance floor was not quite completed for the grand opening - there was no roof over the floor, having run out of time and maybe lumber. Leaf-covered boughs were used to protect the dancers from the elements. The music was done by a black Dixie Land Band from Chicago. They played Dixie Land Jazz, and straight ballroom dancing, all by ear, without a note of written music. Their numbers included "Jada," "How You Gonna Keep 'em Down on the Farm," "Beautiful Ohio," "Smile the While," "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles" and "Beautiful Katie". Some of the more prosperous swains were wearing imported silk shirts that stuck fast as they perspired freely.

In 1924 the Pettys sold out and the pavilion was given a new name "Terrace Gardens," continuing a new era in Clear Lake social life.



Ellsworth Green at Petty's Landing

Tom and Eunice Petty were two people whose idea proved to be a good one, setting a high standard for a social gathering. Tom Petty was the son of Frank Petty, a local farmer, and a showman at heart, having organized miniature animal acts, trapeze and tight wire acts and he played the banjo. He and his wife followed state and country fairs across the country, selling medicine (his own invention) and taking photographs. His trademarks were a black bow tie, a short-brimmed straw hat, and always a white shirt. When the Pettys left, Terrace

Gardens continued on for many years but it didn't have the flavor - not the real grass roots razzle-dazzle of the former years under the Petty management.

Since Petty's Landing had been the only public place available, it was the scene for the first election to be held at Clear Lake when the residents were asked to vote on the incorporation but at the time it was no longer Petty's Landing but Terrace Gardens, located at what was called Petty's Landing for many years and after the Pettys had left the area.

The Clear Lake Yacht Club

The Clear Lake Story would not be complete without the Yacht Club and its beginning days in 1935. From a story written by Ed Anderson, there was an organization meeting at the Mirador hotel on July 4, 1935. Acting Commodore Herbert Rieke conducted the meeting at which time it was decided to have a membership committee and a constitution and by-laws drawn up. Three days later another meeting was held and permanent officers were elected: Commodore, Herbert Rieke, Vice Commodore, Franklin Macomber, Secretary, Don Vordermark, Treasurer, Frank Federspiel, Jr. Dayton Rieke and his skill in building dinghys were an asset to the sailors anxious to race in a buoy-marked course which Dayton provided.

In 1934, the sailing enthusiasm culminated in a Regatta on September 2nd, with a good showing of boats entered. Among the skippers were Al Randall, Bob Federspiel, Bob Tressler, Don Vordermark, Betty Nichols, Frank Carroll, Herb and Morris Rieke, Ted Spangler, the three Anderson boys, Ed, Phil and Vince, Franklin Macomber, Bill Daniels, Bill Bradley, Jack Holmes and Carlton Broer. An original trophy, designed and created by Phil Anderson and Franklin Macomber, was awarded on the Anderson beach by Mimi Macomber, presenting it to the winners, Vince Anderson and his guest Micky McDonald. The cup consisted of two funnels and two tin cups fashioned into an imposing trophy. The event was important enough to bring a photographer up from Fort Wayne to report it for the Sunday paper.

In 1936, it was decided by the sailing members to eliminate the original charge of fifty cents a boat as entry fee. From Ed's story "who had fifty cents to spend at that time?"

In 1937, after the signs pointed to an active sailing club was here to stay, Art Spangler, Gus Holland, Chase Nichols and Ed Anderson decided it was time to think about a club house. When the sailors had met before, they gathered either at the Mirador or Ted Spangler's grocery store or Dayton Rieke's front yard, where the skippers convened after the races or before to set the course.

In 1938 the first annual meeting was held and a Land Committee was appointed composed of Chase Nichols, Chairman, Jack Holmes and Bill Daniels. Ed (Buzz) Anderson and Gus Holland were appointed as a building committee. These "founding fathers" literally walked miles during the summer visiting every cottage for contributions to the building project. They succeeded so well that in 1939 the first Directors of the Clear Lake Yacht Club were elected, Ed Anderson, Art Spangler and Gus Holland. A piece of property, mostly swamp, was purchased from E.B. McNaughton of Fremont, and countless loads of fill were brought in at seventy-five cents a load. Mr. Alfred Westwick, a local builder, put up a simple, square structure which stands today, proving that the old builders knew how to do a good job. The minutes of the 1940 annual meeting reported: "land purchased, land filled-in, building erected, dock put out, building wired, plumbing installed." Some of the original chairs were rejects from a neighboring church and the cane bottom chairs came from Dr. Wood, owner of the Haven.

With the original 23 members in 1936, the membership grew as the club house took shape. The next ten years saw a flowing well drilled, club insurance for \$2500 and the Board of Directors increased to 8 members. In 1949 the mortgage, made into

the shape of a fire cracker was burned. Racing on Sunday was now an established pattern, with the canon sounding off at 2 p.m. With the blast coming from the West Shore, anyone eating Sunday dinner crammed as much fried chicken as possible into his mouth and pocket and took off for the starting line.

Social events were now a part of the club program and the membership increased accordingly. In 1956 the beef cooler condenser was replaced and a raffle netted the Club \$396.50 and the porch was built.

About this time the advent of the small power boats, noisy and fast, had an impact on the sailing enthusiasm. The younger generation turned their attention toward the motor boats and the sailing sport was a side line at the Yacht Club and on the lake. But in 1960 Jack Cochrane arrived in the summer with Flying Scot #119, and it was not long

before more Flying Scots joined him and soon C Scows, Catamarans, Inland Cats, Sunfish and Sailfish were now part of the fleet. Watching Jack's boat sailing so beautifully under his skilled hands stirred the sailing fire again and once more sailing was the thing. This year a census showed well over 100 sailboats on the lake.

In 1985 the Clear Lake Yacht Club will be fifty years old. In its 47 years of existence it has proven many times over its value as a part of Clear Lake's summer life. Good sportmanship, both on the water and on the newly built tennis courts, teen age activity, swimming instruction for the very young and social gatherings for the middle-young are combined to make the Club what it has become-a good place to be. And for the very old, the satisfaction of seeing the harvest of their early labors a bountiful one.

Clear Lake Tragedies

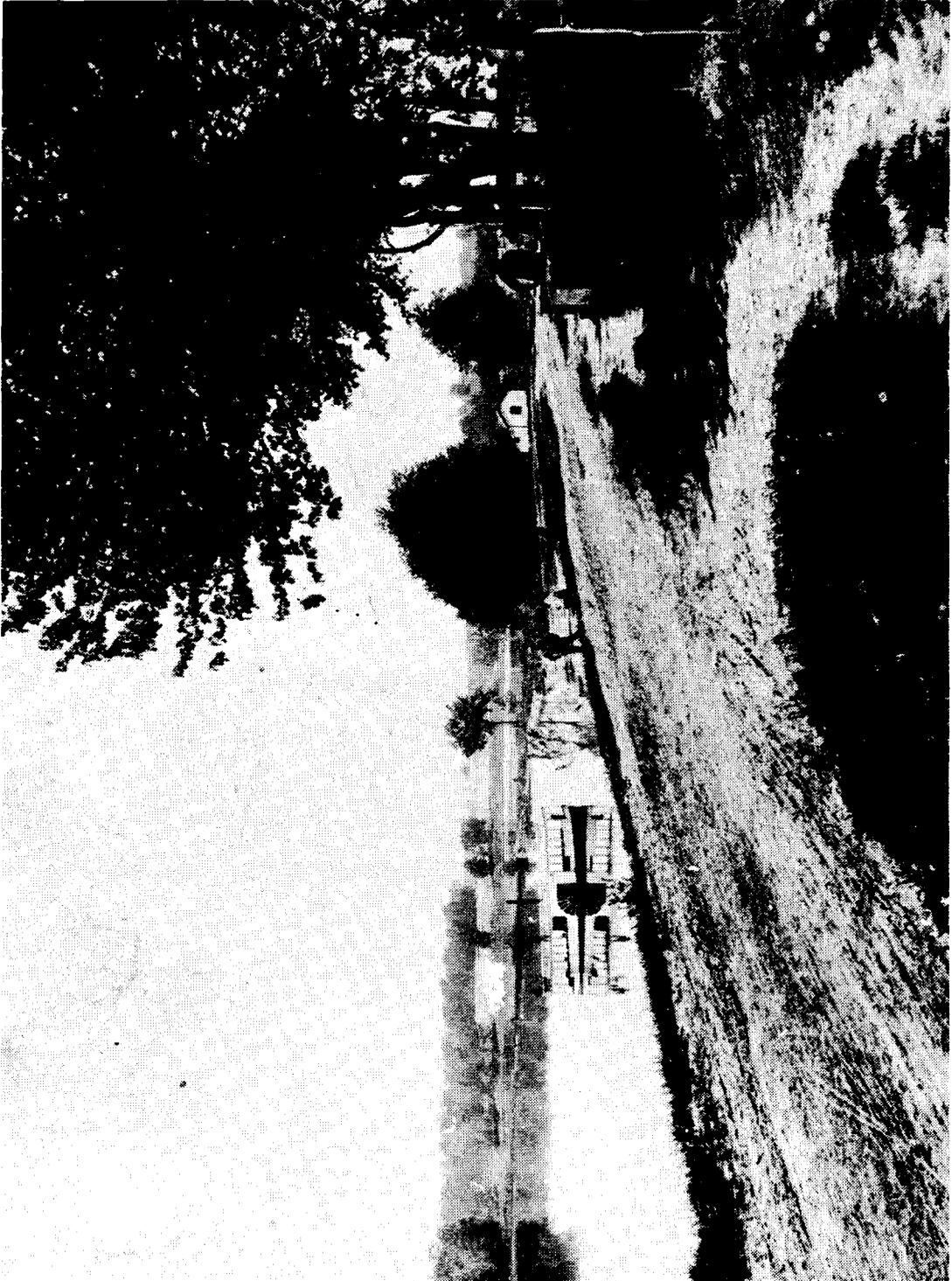
The sinking of the rear-paddle wheel boat on Clear Lake during a Fourth of July celebration heads the list of accidents. The year was 1859 although records conflict as to whether it was 1858 or 1859. Again Lee Duguid has produced a very factual account of the accident, obtained from some eyewitnesses and other sources. From his great-grandfather Alexander Murray Duguid's account, the accident happened not too far from the lake's inlet (where it empties into Round Lake). Eleven people drowned in shallow water, even water of a depth where they could have stood upright, touched bottom and walked to shore. There were twenty-one people on the boat. Added to this account is one from Marjorie Ward of the Steuben Republican who has written the "Remember When" columns in the past. From her account in 1923, the story states that on July 4, 1859 a scow decked over and with a wooden awning and seats along the sides of the awning posts and propelled by a wheel at the stern which was turned by cranks by two men, capsized in about 20 feet of water. There were twenty-one persons on board and as they were returning from the south side of the lake, a breeze sprang up and waves washed over the deck which frightened the occupants. Several

people anxious to get out went to the front of the boat, resulting in the capsizing. Carelessness on the part of the man operating the boat, the possibility (rumor) that he was under the influence of liquor and the overloading of the boat are blamed for the disaster. Another story handed down by survivors relate that a drunk fell overboard and the passengers all rushed to one side of the boat, causing it to roll over.

A newspaper clipping from the Reading Hustler, in Michigan, reports the names of the eleven who lost their lives, seven of whom were from Reading. The clipping also dates the accident as in the year 1859.

The sinking of this boat over a hundred years ago has always been of interest and curiosity as to the exact location has been a matter of speculation for many years.

The second lake accident occurred in 1882 when the "Modoc," the side-wheeler of which we have a photograph, capsized and four persons lost their lives. One report states the boat went down off the East Point and another marks the spot in the north shore area in 90 feet of water which would be the deepest part of the lake. No actual records have been found which would authenticate either story.



Modoc (sank in 1882) moored in front of the Grandview Hotel, North Shore.

A Word About Ray, Indiana

Ray was laid out by Alexander McNaughton and surveyed by E. N. Woodford on May 26, 1873. In the description of the town found in the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Steuben County in the year 1880, J. H. Beers & Co. Publishers of Chicago, it says: "located on the Fort Wayne & Jackson Railroad, three and one half miles northeast of Fremont; has a population of one hundred and is a smart village surrounded by a good country."

Clear Lake residents through the early 1900's found Ray to be the nearest town providing everything needed for them - hack service to the lake, four trains a day, post office, bank, drug store, department store, garage and doctors, even an undertaker. Dirt roads led to the little town but business was brisk especially during the summer. One could drive to Ray following the Clear Lake Road, turning into Ray a mile past the cemetery and then coming home by going straight east from Ray to Lewis's corners and then south to the cemetery again. This route could provide a stop at Dora Lewis's whose delicious baked goods were part of the summer for Clear Lake people. She cooked on a big black wood burning stove and the fragrance of her kitchen on Saturdays when her goodies were called for, can never be forgotten. Pies, rusks, rolls and cakes were turned out in quantities by this good lady each week.

With thanks to Lee Duguid, there are some interesting bits of Ray history available:

The name "Ray" was given to the post office and village for Ray Judson. Montgomery, Michigan might have had the name of Ray if Henry Judson had had his way.

The Ray depot was enlarged in 1890. The Ray Grain Elevator (still in use) and the Abrams Drug Store were built in 1904.

The Methodist Church was built in 1901.

In 1914 a pool room in Ray witnessed a tragic shooting in which James Dunlap of Angola was wounded, and Spencer Berry was killed.

The good people of Ray refused Berry a church funeral so the services were held in the pool room where he met his tragic end.

In 1915, Theodore McNaughton came to Ray and established a bank.

In 1926, the Ray Civic Association was organized with a committee consisting of E.E. Preston, Jennie McNaughton, Dr. McTaggart, H. D. Lint, James H. Duguid, T. P. Riddle, Lafe Carpenter, J. R. Bricker, Ray Hart, Rev. Roy S. Brown, Edna Judson, D. E. Teach, H. L. Smith, Mrs. W. H. Duguid, Mrs. Charles Borton, Mrs. Joseph Laird and Ralph McElheney.

and finally

in 1929, the "Great Fire at Ray" burned out the drug store, hardware store and bank . . . actually the southwest corner of the Square. The Post Office and the bank safe were the only things left standing. This marked the end of an era for the little town of Ray.

RAY, INDIANA, 1904



This is the center of Ray. (Depot on right)

Of interest is the clipping found in the "Remember When" column of the *Herald-Republican* printing an article by Victor Bretz of Fremont, describing his work in the Drug Store owned by Clyde G. Wilkinson. There are many people who will remember the good days when a shopping expedition to Ray would end in one of Victor's concoctions in the Drug Store:

In the early twenties I worked for the Druggist, Clyde G. Wilkinson who was a graduate of the School of Pharmacy, Tri-State College - circa 1906. (He now lives in Fort Wayne and will be 90 years old his next birthday).

This was before electricity came to Ray so we had gas for lights and ice for refrigera-

tion. They had a large ice house which was filled with ice in winter from Clear Lake. One of my jobs was to get up early and help get ice out of the ice house, a hot job in the summer. We had to move a lot of sawdust and the big cakes of ice were heavy. We had to get out enough for the day as we used it for the fountain, pop case and also sold ice to customers. After ice was brought to the store, I would wash it clean, then cover it with canvas. What was used for the fountain had to be broken up in a heavy box. I put the ice in the box, used a hand chopper. It was quite a job as it took a lot to fill the fountain. There was room for six five-gallon tubs of ice cream, also the water fountain had to be filled with crushed ice. In the back room was a cooler for pop, meat, etc., that took large cakes of ice.

Most of the time the soda bar was closed through the winter months, but when school was out and lake vacationers began to come, we would get out two round tables and twelve chairs, -- regular wire ice cream outfits. The bar was about ten feet long, four and one half high, made of marble, stainless steel and chrome. In back a part of it was a large mirror with shelves for displays and fountain supplies. We would mix beer and epsom salts and put wet on the mirror; when dry it would look like Jack Frost had been there, and it saved washing and polishing every day.

They had a syrup machine. I put in ten pounds of sugar and a gallon or more of water on top. As it ran through, by the next morning, the container was filled with clear thick syrup. The syrup was then mixed with concentrated flavors like strawberry, pineapple, butterscotch, lemon, that was used to make sundaes and sodas. The fountain had room for ten flavors and six pumps for syrups, and four with dipping ladles for crushed flavors. Most sundaes cost 10 cents (A tin roof was 15 cents; that was your favorite flavor with a handful of nuts on top). Sodas were 15 cents, ice cream cones, 5 cents, pop 5 cents per bottle.

We served good homemade ginger ale that when making a batch after closing the store, would take till two or three o'clock in the morning. First, put the contents in the barrel which was on rocker with handle, called cradle. It was rocked back and forth as air from compressed tank of carbon dioxide gas was let slowly into barrel, and ale was made under pressure.

Paper cups were used for sodas and sundaes, and were made for stainless steel holders, and cone shaped. Special spoons, long handled for sodas, and short small for

sundaes. All had to be washed in a container in the soda bar; glasses that were used over and over had to really shine.

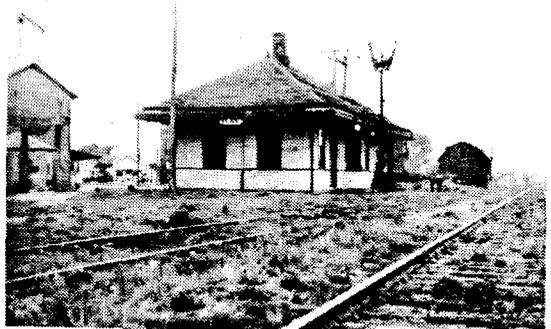
Besides drugs, the store carried a line of groceries, some toys, post cards some with scenic views of Ray, Clear Lake and area, candy, tobacco, beauty aids and one gas pump in front of the store. So along with taking care of the soda bar, I had to help get groceries, and wait on customers. Only very few drugs I could get. All spices came in bulk and had to be weighed on small scales, by ounce or less. They had a hand operated elevator that ran from basement to second floor, and was very handy in carrying supplies up and down.

I had a lot of fun waiting on trade, kidding and talking with girls from Clear Lake. They would try to stump me on new kinds of sodas or sundaes. One Sundae I made up was with puffed wheat cereal, not sugar coated. Try it some time; it was very good.

The store was open till eleven o'clock every night. At closing time all ice cream had to be packed with ice and salt so it would be solid for the next day; --another big job of crushing ice.



Ray Depot



Ray Depot

Who Can Remember The Old Timers Of Clear Lake?

WINNIE COBB -

father of a large tribe of Cobbs, most of whom lived on the "Cobb Estate" on 675, the small road running from the Adaka Marine to the Yacht Club. Winnie's blue eyes, gnarled hands, bent shoulders coming with his age, and his great love of the outdoors made him a well known figure around the lake. To those who knew him, Winnie was "a neighbor who was all that a neighbor should be."

PUG NORTON -

born probably in Ray, one of many Nortons. His life was a series of roamings, trouble and casual living. In his early days he was kept in food and beverage by helping the summer people. He opened and shut cottages, drove his antique Model T on errands, summered in the Ray Railroad station or wherever, wintered in jail as a vagrant (by choice) but he remains one of Clear Lake's characters, not to be forgotten for his sense of humor and willingness.

"DOC" ETHERIDGE (KIRK) -

driver of the Ray Taxi - first in a four seater with two horses and later in a jerky Model T. He met the trains regularly, would call for people two hours before train time if they were leaving, always allowing plenty of time to drive the two and a half miles, in case of a breakdown.

OLLIE GUILFORD (OLIVE)-

one of the founding fathers of the lake and one of the most faithful to the end of his days. His 1916 Auburn car whistled when it ran, always warning of Ollie's approach. He was handyman, plumber, electrician and philosopher with a smooth way of including a fine vocabulary of profanity in every sentence. His home, the last house (in early days) on the West Shore, was known as Trail's End, which indeed it was. The Kurt Hankes bought it from his gentle widow, Mary, who was the first Town Clerk in 1932.

"DUDE" THOMPSON (JULIUS) -

farmer and land owner and father of Esther Tompkins Hobart. Dude's wagon carried many trunks to and from the Ray depot as the summer people either arrived or departed each year. Dude's sense of humor was one of his charms and there are many stories and quotes from him today, remembered by those who knew him. His was the only telephone within reach on the north shore and having a party line and always interested in what was going on, Dude was a good source of information. He "enjoyed" gardening but as he would say, he liked the handle of his hoe for leaning on better than the working end.

FRANK GOTCH -

actual name - Frank Griffith, but called Gotch because of his resemblance to Frank Gotch of wrestling fame. His long arms and large head and massive shoulders made him a well known figure. He lived east of the Hazenhurst, in the first house to have been built at Clear Lake, in 1836. His partner, William Musgrove, a self-taught electrician, made the last mistake of touching a live wire unprotected, and so ended his days, on the corner of the lake in front of the Lakeside, leaving his little red-headed daughter, Dolly, in the care of Frank Gotch and Em Davidson, his eventual wife.

ELLSWORTH GREEN -

"One-arm Green" was the daredevil of the lake, drawing Sunday afternoon crowds with his balloon ascensions, driving a hack, complete with waving strings to chase away flies, from Ray to anywhere his passengers chose to go. On certain occasions on the South Shore gatherings, he would disobey the state laws of netting his fish, but the crowd backed him up by singing "Annie Laurie" which was the signal that the Conservation officer was approaching.

Lest We Forget

Ed Anderson
Frank Carroll
Jack Cochrane
Richard Hadley
Robert Hanna
Maurice Lomont

Nick Petras
Eugene Reim
Herbert Rieke
Norbert Schenkel
Harlan Spangler
Don Vordermark

To these men and the many others before them, for their individual contributions to the lake loved by them all we pay tribute.

The Last Word

As Editor, and a feminine one, I am following a woman's right to have the last word. The reasons are to express my appreciation to all those who have helped me to put the Clear Lake Story together with their personal memories.

Without the cooperation of my Clear Lake friends, friends from outside of the lake boundaries, the Steuben Republican "Remember When" columns by Marjorie Ward and the notes sent to me by Lee Duguid of Fort Wayne, the story could not have been told. The accomplishment of this project has long been a dream of my husband, Bob Hanna, and myself. Now that it is done, my satisfaction in finding the right time, the right people and the collection of material available is my reward. There will be duplications, inaccuracies, doubts as to truth and many omissions, but considering the volume of material read and studied, I have done the best I could to make it correct and readable, with good coverage of the years gone by.

For my own self, I have only happy memories of the years that Clear Lake has given to me. From the day in June, 1917, when I stood on the sandy beach of the Hazenhurst Hotel and looked at the clear sparkling water, with little joyful ripples touching the smooth shore, I felt that I wanted to be here. And so it was that my family, the Andersons - Mother and Dad, Ed (Buzz), Phil and Vince - came from Toledo in that summer of 1917, renting Miss May Hadley's little red cottage on the north shore. After our month there, we moved next door to Mrs. Day's Maplecrest cottage (a permanent move) because we couldn't bear the thought of only one month at the lake. This year was the beginning of sixty-five years of summer pleasure, and included in that span are fifteen years of year round living, since our retirement in 1967.

I remember the still nights when the only lake sounds were the splash of a canoe paddle or oars and the sound of voices over the water. I remember the dances at the Lewis's, listening to the good music given to us by the college boys. I remember the swimming competitions, and the increased distances each day, ending in the final achievement of swimming to the island. I remember summer romances and the thrill of a "date" on the special nights of the full moon, when everyone took to the lake in

canoes, visiting with one another as we drifted around under the bright moon. I remember the early morning swims when the lake is never lovelier.

The friends we made in our growing up days remained our friends, coming back each year as we did. Our young years passed all too quickly and the responsibilities of college days, married days and changes in locations broke the regular lake pattern for us. In my family, the Anderson cottage has seen the fourth generation coming each summer, when they can, and looking forward each year to Clear Lake time.

The Hanna family came to the lake in 1913 from Fort Wayne, eventually building their cottage on the West Shore, still owned by Shoaff and her grandchildren are completing the four generation cycle too. From 1917 on, my husband shared Clear Lake with me each summer, beginning our acquaintance by rowing the boat as my escort on my first "long distance" swim from home dock to the Hazenhurst. College for both of us and then our married life began which shortened the vacation time but always we touched base at Clear Lake except for one war year. Until 1930, the Hanna white canoe was moored at the Anderson dock countless days and nights. After this year, Clear Lake days were marked in red on our calendar, planning for the annual return to the cottage, first just two of us and then with one, two and three children and a dog. The children grew up knowing their Anderson cousins, as one big happy family. Sailing, swimming, Yacht Club fun and family picnics filled our summer days until in 1961, the Hanna family, just two again, with the younger generation off into their own worlds, established a permanent home on the west shore. By a stroke of luck, it was next to the original Hanna cottage, opening the door to a renewed family relationship.

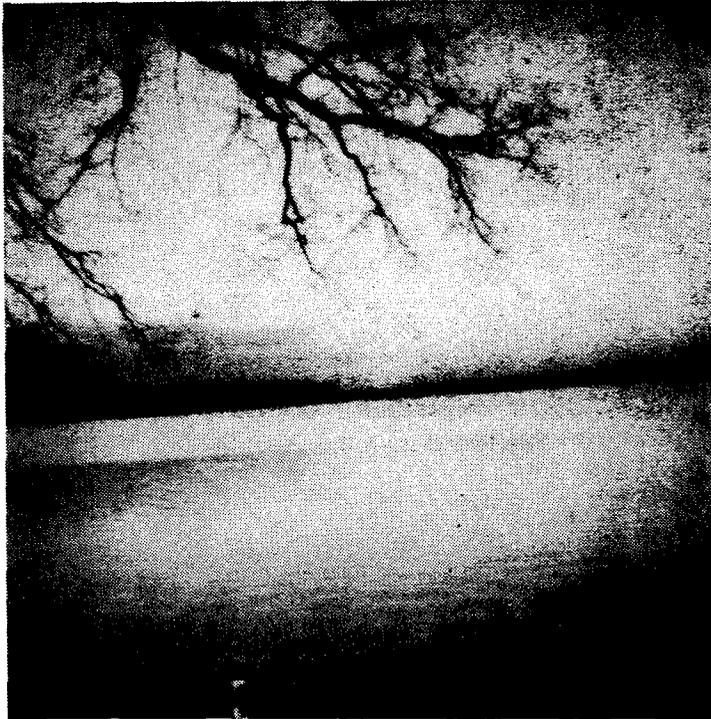
The lake does not change in its beauty and the same fun is there, watching the skiers, the sailors, the swimmers and the fishermen. The reunions with old friends as they come back each summer is looked forward to. For the year round "lakers", there is the changing of the seasons, the glory of the autumn reflected in the still water, the thrill of the first snow fall, the delight in the first buds of the spring and the rejoicing on the day when the blue water is free again from its winter blanket of ice, promising

another spring and summer ahead.

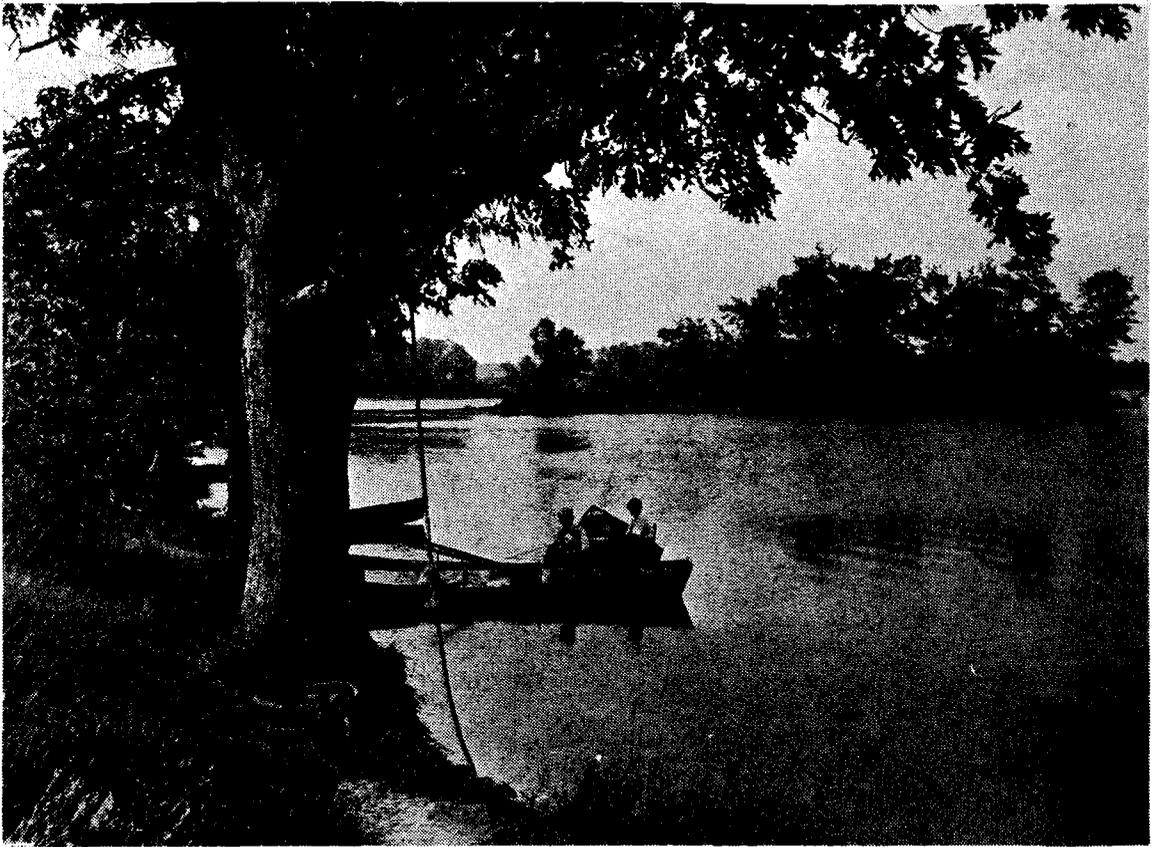
It has been my pleasure to offer the Clear Lake Story to those who love Clear Lake as

we have. It is my hope that they will find the same pleasure in reading about the "good old days" at Clear Lake.

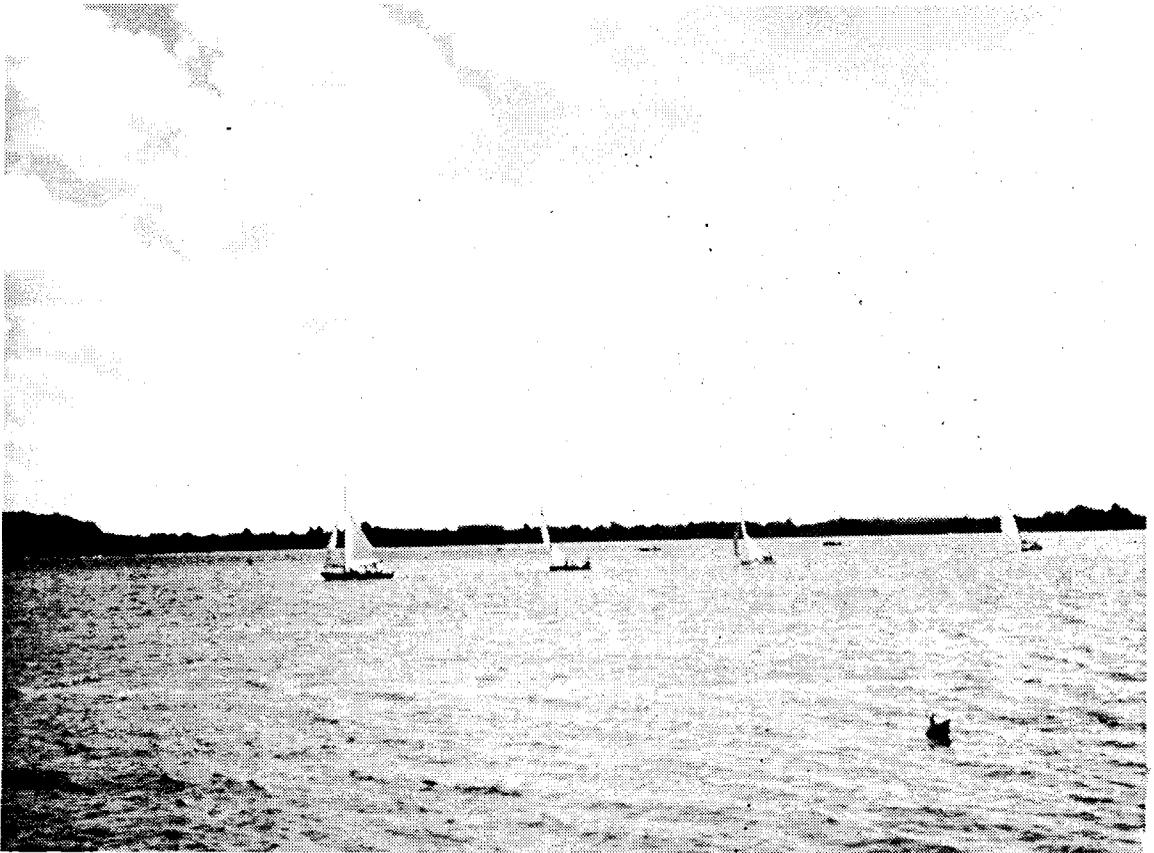
Elizabeth Anderson Hanna
July 1982



Sunrise from the West Shore



The Island from the West Shore



Clear Lake at its best

