



# Cedar Lake News

August 2000

Volume 1, Issue 1

## ANNANDALE - MAPLE LAKE MN

### *Letter from your President*

Hi, I'm Linda Dircks from the west side of Cedar Lake (just south of the sand bar) and I'm the president of our lake owners association this year. And I want to say I'm pleased to serve you in this way.

Cedar Lake, I feel, is our lake and I want to do whatever I can to keep our lake as nice and clean as it is.

This is just a short note from me this time but I just want you to know that if you have any concerns about our lake, please contact me or one of our board members.

And I hope to see you at our dinner meeting on the 19th.

### REALLY, REALLY GREAT TIPS

1—Stuff a miniature marshmallow in the bottom of a sugar cone to prevent ice cream drips

2—Use a meat baster to "squeeze" your pancake batter onto the hotgriddle-perfect shaped pancakes every time.

3—To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.

4—To prevent egg shells from cracking, add a pinch of salt to the water before hard-boiling

TIPS—continued on page 3



Our Loon w/baby

### *Letter from your Editor*

Greetings to you all from your new editor Kale Danberg.

First I want to thank Shirley Cook and Donna Beckman for putting all those years into doing our newsletter previously. Sometimes it can be a thankless job but I feel they did it well.

Then let me introduce myself. Our family cabin, which my grandfather—William Peterson—built in 1939, is located on the east side of the lake south of the sandbar about halfway between the sandbar and the landing on the east shore. It is a white cabin with a white boathouse and it has an American flag, a U.S. Marine Corps flag and a large umbrella on the dock. And I have been there for 61 years.

I used to be a Commercial-Industrial Building Contractor based out of Cokato, MN and our company built all over the state including Lundeen Ford in Annandale, Malco Products west of Annandale, Lake Region Co-op in Maple Lake and several buildings for Wright Hennepin REA.

Now I edit/publish newsletters and I speak professionally. Some of my newsletters are "Globe and Anchor Facts," the newsletter of the MN 1st Marine Division Assn., "CCC PALS Town Crier," "Marketing Magic" plus

### MMMM WONDERFUL DINNER MEETING

Mark Saturday, August 19th on your calendar. That is the date of our scrumptious dinner meeting get-together. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. I can taste it now! Can you? Bring the family. It's a wonderful time of socializing and eating. See inside for all the sign up details. Hope to see you there.

EDITOR—continued on page 4

# ILONA AALTO'S LIFE ON CEDAR

(Note: Lankinen's Resort was on the east side just a little south of the sand bar.)

My father, Joseph Lankinen, purchased the five-acre lot on east Cedar Lake in 1929 (the year of the crash). He had been a contractor in Minneapolis but times were bad so he planned to start a small summer resort in the Annandale-Maple Lake area. He had to hand-cut the road into the area --this was not easy since large power equipment was not available and because of the large hill in the back (which belonged to someone else), he had to take a rather winding but natural route. When he first came to look at the property the only access was walking to the top of the hill (on the east side). The lots were government lots. He built three small cabins himself.

Several men used to come out with horses and power ice saws and cut ice from the lake. The ice was covered with sawdust, placed in one of the cottages which had a tin roof and it lasted all summer and into the next spring. We had no electricity (only kerosene lamps) and ice boxes were used instead of refrigerators.

A low, sandy spot on the shoreline once housed a steam bath; This burned in the time of Joe Breu's ownership. Lake water was pumped into the steam bath tanks by a hand pump. This is rather hard to describe as the handle was about five feet from the ground and you pushed and pulled away and forth from you. (It wasn't like a regular hand pump because the pumping motion was not vertical to the ground but sideways). Mother used to have a gas-line-powered washing machine (before that she hand washed) in the dressing room of the steam bath. The steam bath comprised of three rooms -- the steam room, the washing room and the large dressing room. This was the only form of bath we had until I was 12 years of age.

The steam bath was heated up several times a week. It was there we washed our hair and bathed regularly. The water would stay warm until the next morning so we could clean up all week.

We didn't have running water -- the pump on the back of the lot was the only well around. We would charge \$1.00 for the season for the use of the well (all the neighbors liked the water better than their own).

I remember going out to the area where Camp Courage is and getting maple leaf branches for switches for use at the steam bath in the summer. A bunch of us kids would take two boats and a lunch and go out for the day and make the switches and haul them back.

Going back to the steam bath. We are Finns as you can probably tell by the name. Dad kept the steam bath going all winter, only the water had to be hand carried in (he chopped a large hole in the lake). All winter we would have people come out for steam baths (he had it going Wednesdays and Saturdays). They would bring their own towels. He charged 25 cents for each person. My school teachers from Annandale were, regular customers (the MEN, of course) and they would jump into the lake to rinse off (we had to stay indoors when this was going on because they didn't wear swimming suits).

One of my lady teachers was invited (by my father) to have a steam bath and she took offense. (Not everyone understood that it was an honor to be invited for the steam bath ritual.) The offer was innocently made and when you think of it nowadays, a rather prim, schoolteacher would wonder what he meant.

Our next steam bath was built in 1955. My father was visiting us from the West Coast and he had been using the neighbor's steam bath (this

was part of the property my mother sold to the Breu's -- friends of the family) and they had so many kids running in and out of the steam bath, my father came back to our cottage in a huff and said "that's it. It's like Grand Central Station over there -- next year you will have your own steam bath."

The next year my dad came out for visiting purposes and stayed about a month. He made the roof joints (rather a sample) and had the material sent out from Montgomery Wards and paid the contractor to put in the footings. (My husband and I put up the framework and metal). My dad hired someone to make a steam bath stove for us and the next year he took his steam bath without being interrupted. He was 72 or so when he and my husband built the Class A chimney required for the wood burning stove.

We usually had kids staying with us all summer (there was only my sister and me in the family). Times were hard in the 1930's and we often had two boys or so for the summer who lived in the little shack on our property, eating leftovers from Mom's cooking and fishing and earning their way by helping with resort chores, filling ice boxes and keeping the steam bath going and putting the dock up. We used to have a 22-foot diving tower off the dock area.

Summers were hot and fun. South Haven used to have open air movies and whole gangs of us would go there for the evenings (the boys got to use the old panel truck) and we would sit on blankets and watch the movie.

I used to have to walk up to the "T" to catch the school bus as I went to grade school in Annandale. In 1941 we moved to Aberdeen, WA and Vancouver, WA. During the

ILONA—continued on page 3

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

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Saturday, August 14, 1999  
Maple Lake VFW Club

GUESTS: Steve and Mary Jo Quill; Don and Dixie Hozempa

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Olson, Marlys Enger, Lynn Warden, Jan Altman, Ross Pope, Bill Pallies, Tom Knaup, Donna Beckman, George Suddendorf, Alan Glass, Don Badger, and Duffy and Linda Dircks.

The Meeting was called to order by President Bob Olson. Jerry Altman moved to waive reading of the minutes of our last General Meeting and approve them as printed in our newsletter. Royal Beckman seconded the motion which was carried.

Bill Pallies, our Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report and Zero Roser moved that we approve them with Ron Dircks seconding. The motion was carried.

Our president then gave out the awards to the winners of the annual fishing contest after which George Suddendorf gave a report on the Wright County Federation.

After the winners of the raffle were announced Don Enger was introduced as our representative to the Wright County Federation.

President Olson introduced the nominating committee – Bob Johnson and Vern Harper. Vern reported that there are three openings on the board and that the nominees are: Leslie Kruetter, Larry Tysk and Arlene Fortner. Vern moved that we approve the nominees which was seconded by Jim Palmquist and carried by the membership.

Following that our president, Bob Olson, recognized the following board members for their many years of service on the board. Those members are Don Badger, Peter

Cook (who passed away this past winter) and George Suddendorf. "Thank you for serving our association!" After this tribute our meeting was adjourned.

**ILONA—continued from page 2**  
War Years we stayed there. Mother and father divorced in 1945 at which time Dad kept the fruit farm in Vancouver and Mother got the lake place. She divided the remaining lots -- one to my sister and one to me, and since then my sister has sold her lot to Harold Carpenter.

Mother sold part of the property to the Breu's in about 1946-47. Joseph was a German baker. He came to the United States when he was 25 and said he would retire in 20 years -- which he did. He married Senje Lehto (a Finn). She died a few years back -- he remarried and shortly afterwards sold the place. Joe was a family friend, he gave me away at my wedding because my father could not make it here to Minneapolis from the West Coast. Joe Breu had a bakery on Glenwood Avenue and Morgan for years. He and Senje had a good life, Florida in the winter and summers here on Cedar Lake. They had a house on Washburn North near Glenwood (Wirth Park). This, Joe sold when he remarried. The main cottage Arlene Fortner lives in was used by Senje and Joe. The rest of the cottages were used by the Engstrom family (John and Bernice), and Bernice's mother and father used the old ice house and Bernice's uncle and aunt used the one closest to the lake. Later on, Bernice and John's son and daughter-in-law used the cottage when Marty Melzarek quit coming out. One more thing, the main house Arlene Fortner purchased used to be a screened-in store which Joe and Senje finished off and enlarged.

The property our house sat on used to house an old cabin. In 1947

we tore the old cabin down and had the land bulldozed as there was a high hill right on that side and we built a 20 x 32 cottage. Then in 1968, we put a basement underneath the old cottage in a T-shape and three years later we added the kitchen and dining room. We later added a garage and entry room.

Bernadette Hickson was one of the oldest residents on the lake. She was in the gold cottage-house with the white garage and lived with her dog called "Tellu." I believe she bought her lot in 1934-36 or so. She was Finnish and she also had a steam bath. She worked for 46 years in the office at Leef Bros. (her cousins owned it) and she retired in 1969 and moved out to Cedar Lake permanently. She never married, however, she had a friend, Toivo, who helped her with many things at her house for many, many years. He died several years ago of cancer. She was my closest friend.

Kohler's, down the line (green older house) was another old-time resident. He used to be a butcher and a fisherman. His daughter, Shirley Cook, now owns the place and has remodeled it.

The property in back on the hill was owned by the Selvala's. Mother sold it to Ed Ojala who died and his sister's sons, Bob and Arnold Selvala, purchased it and eventually sold it to Harold Carpenter. Arnold was in the service and Bob and his wife lived in Owatonna. They rarely came out.

**TIPS—continued from page 1**

5—Run your hands under cold water before pressing Rice Krispies treats in the pan—the marshmallow won't stick to your fingers.

6—To get the most juice out of fresh lemons, bring them to room temperature and roll them under your palm against the kitchen counter before squeezing.

# Do You Want to Serve on the Board?

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON YOUR BOARD?

If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors for your lake, please contact one of the Board Members by Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> or send a note expressing your desire to: C.L. C.C., P.O. Box 192, Annandale, MN 55302.

If you don't know any of the Board Members, contact our President - Linda Dircks @ 763/287-6877.

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## IDEAS, INPUT, CRITIQUE, SUGGESTIONS

Your Board wants to hear from you with any of your ideas, critique, comments, suggestions, questions or any other input. PLEASE address your correspondence to the Cedar Lake Board at P.O. Box 192, Annandale, MN 55302

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## HOW CEDAR LAKE GOT IT'S NAME??

Years ago my aunt Florence said "do you know how Cedar Lake got its name?" I said no. She then proceeded to tell me that 2 native Americans were standing on top of the high hill on the east overlooking the lake. One said to the other "See Der Lake?"

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## HEARD ON KSTP RADIO

Minnesota residents: If you mail in your renewal fee for your license tabs, you do NOT have to include the \$3.50 fee.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF A CEDAR LAKE COMMITTEE?

There are a number of important committees on our Club. Would you like to be involved in any of them?

There is the **HISTORY COMMITTEE**. This committee is involved in interviewing some of Cedar Lakers with the most longevity on the lake so their memories can be shared with us. This committee is also searching for past records and articles about Cedar Lake. And for anything of interest to us.

And there is the **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**. This committee is working hard to bring in new members as they buy property on our lake and on those who are property owners but who haven't taken the time to join an organization dedicated to make our lake the best it can be.

And there is the **ACTIVITY COMMITTEE**. This is a committee searching for ways for our residents of the lake to do things together such as play cards, have picnics, go on excursions, etc, etc.

Then there is the **LAKE QUALITY COMMITTEE**, a group dedicated to keeping on top of the quality of our water. Cedar Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in the state and this committee is working on keeping it that way.

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## ANYONE(S) LOOKING TO GET TOGETHER??

For cards or crafts or for jaunts to a casino or, or — let you board know and the activities committee will take it under advisement. Your ideas on this are most welcome. This probably would fit summer and year-round full timers rather than you that come up weekends and vacations. Give a holler!

EDITOR—continued from page 1

several more and I used to do "The Diabetes Challenge." And my latest speaking presentation was I gave the Memorial Day address in Maple Lake.

I am married to JoAnn Gierke of Hutchinson, MN. We were married 10 years this past April. JoAnn has 6 children and I have four from a previous marriage. JoAnn heads a department of Project Managers at Personnel Decisions, Inc., an International Corporation headquartered in downtown Minneapolis.

A few years ago I wrote "My Fifty Years on Cedar Lake," which I've updated to 55, 60 etc. faster than I'd like. Occasionally I will quote from that article but if any of you would like a copy please send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and I will be happy to send you a copy. My address appears on page 5.

I'm hoping that several of you will tell us of your experiences on Cedar Lake too so that we may share your memories with our readers. All of us who love Cedar Lake I'm sure love to read about its past. If any of you have any articles or any other type of memorabilia about our lake we'd love a copy so we can share it with others. Board member Arlene Fortner has an old article from the Minneapolis paper titled "WHERE TO FISH," by Joe Hennessee, staff writer. We will be sharing that with you.

Well I don't mean to blab on and on. Just wanted to give you a bit of an idea who I am and I also wanted you to know I need your help to come up with interesting items about our lake. Thanks much! See you next issue!

# Arlene Fortner's "Life on Cedar Lake"

By Arlene Fortner

I purchased my property on Cedar Lake in 1978 from Ralph Scherer (who lived in Bloomington, MN), who had purchased it from Joseph Brey. I had owned a cabin on Lake Sylvia but sold that and purchased this old resort as it suited my needs better. At that time, there was one main house and three small cabins. The cabins each were completely furnished with kitchen pots and pans, dishes, stove, refrigerator, kitchen table and chairs, a bedroom and living room. My family couldn't find me on Mother's Day that year because I had kept the purchase a secret from until I had a chance to clean it up and get rid of some "shrunken heads" that had been made out of coconuts (kind of gross looking) and a lot of other junk that the previous owner had accumulated.

I let three of my married children use the three cabins. This way, if one of their small children needed to take a nap or someone was having a bad day, they could go into their own cabin and not be bothered by anyone. My youngest daughter, who was not married, and I occupied the main cabin over the boat house.

The main house contained a bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, living room area and an outside patio in the back where a bar and grill area along with a picnic table were located. We later built a deck on the side of the house. There was

the cabins as weekend getaways and vacation homes.

In 1980 one of my daughters got married on the beach with guests arriving from New Jersey, South Dakota, Minnesota, Texas, Florida ??? Prior to the wedding my youngest daughter had a "painting" party and she and her friends painted all the cabins the same color. Believe me, there was a lot of action going on as this was done the weekend before the wedding.

As years went by and my kids didn't come out and stay at the lake as much because of the grandkids being involved in sports, I made the decision to build a retirement home. I gave one of the cabins to one of my youngest daughter's friend who moved it to the Paynesville area and now uses it as a hunting lodge. The rest of the cabins were demolished but I kept the boat house intact. I had donated a lot of the stoves, refrigerators, furniture, etc. to Camp Courage. When I demolished the cabins, my grandkids complained that I had torn down "their" cabin because they had always considered each of the cabins as their "own", not knowing that it was only theirs to use and enjoy. When I built my new home in 1991, I included a room in the garage which we call the "bunk room" which contains bunk beds, games, etc. This is so the grandkids have a place to call their own and they feel better about their cabin being torn down and in this way, I stayed on the good side of my grandkids.

My new home

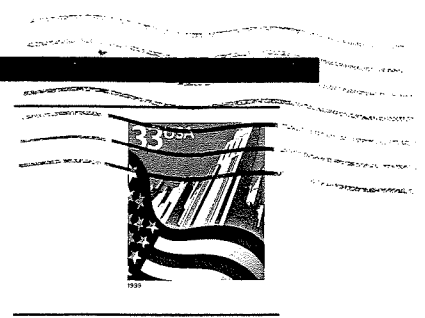
16 sun porch, a laundry room which connects the living area to the 20 x 22 garage. In the winter, the garage houses my pontoon boat and other summer equipment not stored in the boathouse, but also leaves room for my car. One of the bathrooms has a jacuzzi in it and the other can be entered from the outside so this keeps a lot of sand and wet towels from being traipsed through the main house. The landscaping was done by my youngest son and daughter-in-law and when they laid the sod, they were helped by my oldest daughter, finished just before it started to rain. My oldest son shared some of his flowers by planting them on the hillside between the house and the boat house and these have multiplied every year.

## "Best T-shirts of the Summer":

- 1) (around a picture of dandelions) I Fought the Lawn and the Lawn Won
- 2) So Few Men, So Few Who Can Afford Me
- 3) I Suffer Occasional Delusions of Adequacy
- 4) God Made Us Sisters, Prozac Made Us Friends
- 5) If They Don't Have Chocolate In Heaven, I Ain't Going
- 6) At My Age, I've Seen It All, Done It All, Heard It All... I Just Can't Remember it all.
- 7) My Mother is a Travel Agent for Guilt trips

Cedar Lake News

**CEDAR LAKE NEWS**  
P.O. BOX 192  
ANNANDALE, MN 55302



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER

Cedar Lake News

SATURDAY AUGUST 19th AT THE MAPLE LAKE VFW CLUB

**SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30 PM COST: \$5.00 Adults**

**DINNER: 6:30 PM \$3.00\*\*—12 & under**

**Menu: Turkey dinner w/trimmings, coffee, desert (milk extra)**

*Come and visit with your CEDAR LAKE friends and neighbors and enjoy a wonderful meal. A short meeting will follow where you can voice any concerns you have regarding our lake.*

Reservations are due by Saturday, Aug. 5, 2000. Please send check to Cedar Lake Conservation Club, P.O. Box 192, Annandale, MN 55302