



Sept 20, 1995

Marge Dalton talk to Krafton
Historical Soc. about Lake Taconic

Taconic Lake Ass'n was incorporated in the State of New York on July 13, 1901. It will be 95 years old in 1996, and 100 Years old in 2001. I think it originally was about 400 acres. Since then when the CCC camps were closed and ready for sale the Ass'n purchased them - --and when the Well property was for sale --that also was purchased. Russell Fowler lived at the there prior to the Wells.

We have one family with roots to the original founders. The Doles--now Deschenes and the Duquettes. I remember Danny from my first years at the lake, his grandfather was Mr Reynolds He owned a shirt factory (dress shirts) in Petersburg. The ladies would take the shirts home with them, finish them by hand and iron them. He also was elected an assemblyman. From Petersburg also came Mr Lewis, Jesse Moses, Dr. Sweet, Russell Brimmer, and from Troy The Hon. E. W. Greenman, a lawyer Mr Finder, Mr Howard a Sup. Court Judge, and a Mr Tyner. From Albany Dr Green and a Mr Wesley Weeden from Boyntonville, a Mr Nevin from Springfield, Mr Leach from Sunderland, Mass Springfield Mass. From New York City came Dr Seward Webb, Mr Bootman, Mr Peacock, Marjorie Curry, Mr Morse, and Mr Hallam. Mr Leming from Walden and Dr Rouff from Washington D.C.

The whole Troy area was Mohegan Indian Territory, it is said that a dugout canoe was left at the lake years ago. The lake is small 1 1/2 miles in circumference, it is fed by springs. The water is pumped into the houses from the lake therefore no motorboats are allowed. A very good spring is available for fresh water nice and cold for drinking.

Swimming, canoeing, sailing, and fishing are all at hand for one to do. *Go on early, leaflet it says* Clean air, pure water, natural environment, good neighbors, peace and serenity and quiet --describes Taconic Lake.

In the early days Phil Elgeizer was the caretaker and he built the house which he lived in all year. Mary Millard was the latest owner, now in her estate I believe it was given to her daughter a Mrs Ingalls. He, Mr Elgeizer met the people at Hudson River Dayline Pier in Albany when they came up by boat from New York City.. He met others in Petersburg at the train station, bringing them with ~~the~~ luggage up the mountain to the lake. In 1944 during the war my mother-in-law needed a refrigerator because she could not get ice anymore and a friend of ours was permitted to buy a new one as his was broken, so we sent the broken ^{one} to Sears and had it repaired and they sent it up to Petersburg by rail. For many years Charley Weeden had cut the frozen ice in the lake and placed it in the ice-house with straw. During the summer he would deliver it to the camps from an ice-boat. I believe you would find a pair of ice-tongs in most camps around the lake. Charley also sold fresh eggs, butter, chickens, and milk. In 1905 milk was 3¢ a qt later 5¢. The ice-house was torn down and a play-house was constructed. It has been used for meetings, bingo, movies, parties, plus a place for the children to play especially when the weather is bad. It is called Tucker Hall after one of our Presidents.

For many years we had a store built by Phil Elgeizer. The first manager was a Mr Bennett, the second was Art Power's

mother, next came Allen & Lucy Stewart, Allen also did construction work around the lake, and acted as a taxi, taking people in and out of Taconic for transportation connections. After them came Madsens then the McCarthys parents of Marion and Art who were the final managers of the store. We all have pleasant memories of the store and people. Milk, bread, pies, cookies cake and staples were sold at the store. Plenty of treats for the children ice-cream, candy, soda, potato chips etc. It was a place to go to meet their friends, play, get their treats and generally have fun. About 7pm after supper you could hear the children as they assembled for the evening. Parents also went down, sat on the porch had treats and watch the children at play while they visited with friends. Marion also ran a sub-station of Petersburg Post Office selling stamps, taking in mail, and packages going out, and sorting the mail when it came in. It surely was a nice convenience. The only telephone for many years was a coin operated one at the store. Messages were delivered by children at times, but often by one or another member by car. Today everybody has a phone in their camp. The old phone at the store is gone but we still talk about taking the handle and ringing it to get the operator and how she could tell you who was home or away and if the doctor was available or not.

On nice days swimming was generally on, what the children wanted to do. and teaching the children to swim early in life was a must with the lake at our front doors.

On rainy days the boys made models of airplanes or ^{cars} and the girls made clothes for their dolls or played house. In our area as they grew a little we found that repairing canoe seats was very interesting. We went down to Fogerty on River Street and he had a book and supplies and when the children had mastered a seat and it was put on the canoe it was a time of pride in their accomplishment.

In 1950 a hurricane hit this area on Nov 25th and Mrs Hess lost 300 trees, and was in the house at the time. They had spent the holiday at camp, Grace was alone with her children as husband Wendell and son Wendall had gone for help. It must have been a difficult ~~time~~ time with 3 children and trees falling around the house..

Paul Buehler when he became a member decided he wanted to have electricity. so he got up a petition and the members signed it and the electric came in, that was in the middle 30s Lights instead of kerosene, lamps, --then refrigerators instead of ice-boxes--and bathrooms instead of out-houses.

In the early days the snow-white laundry ^{ed} picked up wash and dry-cleaning, a man named Louis Spencer brought fresh meat around and I remember Mel Piche bringing around fruit and vegetables. We also got chickens and butter from the Burdicks on Crandall Rd Milk, cream, vegetables from Mary Bailey, she often left milk for us in a cold creek near her house when she was not at home. One day as we were at her place ambulances went by one after another Wait a minute she said and went in and picked up her phone and

came back to tell us of the tragic accident in Berlin, and that many were hurt and some killed.

For many years a soft ball team was at Lake Taconic and they played other teams. It was revived for a short while but did not last. At Mr Cushmans Camp the high diving board was quite an accomplishment for those who could master it. Hikes to snow hole and Mt Greylock for overnight or two days were favorites of the boys. Hikes to South Long Pond and Dyken Pond were always interesting. My children always enjoyed Dr Martin Buerger as he explained the rocks and plants to them. Even today they say how much they enjoyed those outings. Today at dyken Pond children can benefit from the knowledge of the environmental center. Sleeping out on the porch or in a tent close to home^h with the door open to the house to come in if someone was scared, was always fun for the young, still not too brave.

Allen Stewart was generous to bring his truck filled with hay for a hayride to Petersburg to the square dance on Friday nights and return the children safely, nice memories of a summer vacation

I came up for the first time in 1938 with my then boy-friend Buzzy Dalton to meet his parents and to see their summer camp. Old timers Agnes Johnson, Lucy Ross, Marge Curry were set on getting us married. They were going to have a wedding that weekend. They called the Stage coach Inn to see if the Justice of Peace was going to be around and if they had a nice room for us. Well, it did not work we were not ready yet and we were planning a nice church wedding ..

Margaret R Dalton