



**THE HISTORY OF SILVER BEACH LODGE
AND THE
KATHRYN A. HEFFERNAN SUBDIVISION**

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1. Quick Primer Diagrams
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Preparing for Winter. L-R Fred French, Barb (French) Collins, Harold Morris, Maxwell French
Photo courtesy of Barb Collins, taken between 1946-1950.

Acknowledgements

The project was simple. Find the date Silver Beach Lodge was built. That task triggered more questions. I fell into the rabbit hole. During my descent I talked to some wonderful folks, all with treasured memories of Silver Beach Lodge. They deserve thanks.

Barbara (French) Collins, whose parents were caretakers at Silver Beach Lodge from 1946-1950, visited me at the Lodge on her 89th birthday, August 1, 2020. She brought wine, cheese, crackers, stories, and old lodge photographs. We stay in touch.

Kevin Trevas, nephew of former Lodge owner John Trevas, contacted me in 2013. He wanted to rent the Lodge for his mother's 80th birthday to celebrate many "cherished memories of the Lodge." When I started this project in 2020, I recontacted Kevin and sister Karen. Our discussion "provoked a cascade of memories" for Kevin and he provided great stories, lodge history and pictures. Pat Trevas, John's son, called with more stories about dirt bikes, snowmobiles and an "Aquanaut," stating the Lodge was "more fun than Disney Land." I appreciate their contributions.

Unannounced and unknown, I knocked on octogenarian Ken Royal's door. Various Johannesburg government workers touted him as a colorful local historian. While rain fell, I talked through my COVID face mask at a solid wood door explaining my history hunt. After mildly berating me for not calling first ("You can find phone numbers at the Johannesburg library"), he let a stranger in his house for the love of history. We visited often after that meeting. He had an extraordinary amount of local knowledge and was a brutal editor on early drafts of this project, which was merited.

Many internet hours were spent tracking people of interest. The most elusive person was the grandson of original Lodge owner Judge Judson Going, Dr. Robert

Going. I hit paydirt in late 2020, when he returned a call to one of the twelve numbers I left messages. Such a kind, soothing voice. We talked. He agreed to an oral statement over the phone with transcription by a court reporter. It was set to occur shortly after his 90th birthday on October 14, 2020. Sadly, Dr. Going's health slipped, and the statement was postponed. Dr. Going's daughter, Julie Trausch, found some fantastic pictures. I am grateful to both of them.

Randi Rafferty provided a wonderful accounting of her family's years at the Lodge supplemented by fantastic photographs.

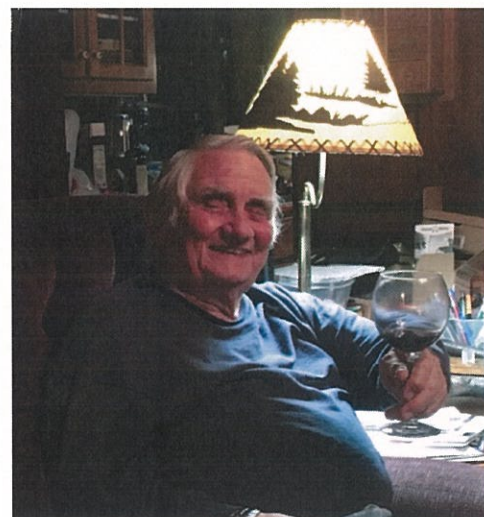
Thanks to my assistant Mary, for the countless words typed and corrections needed. The Lodge families always deserve thanks as does my wife, Bridgit, who listened to too much Lodge history as this project moved forward.



Barbara (French) Collins, daughter Julie Marks



Robert Going

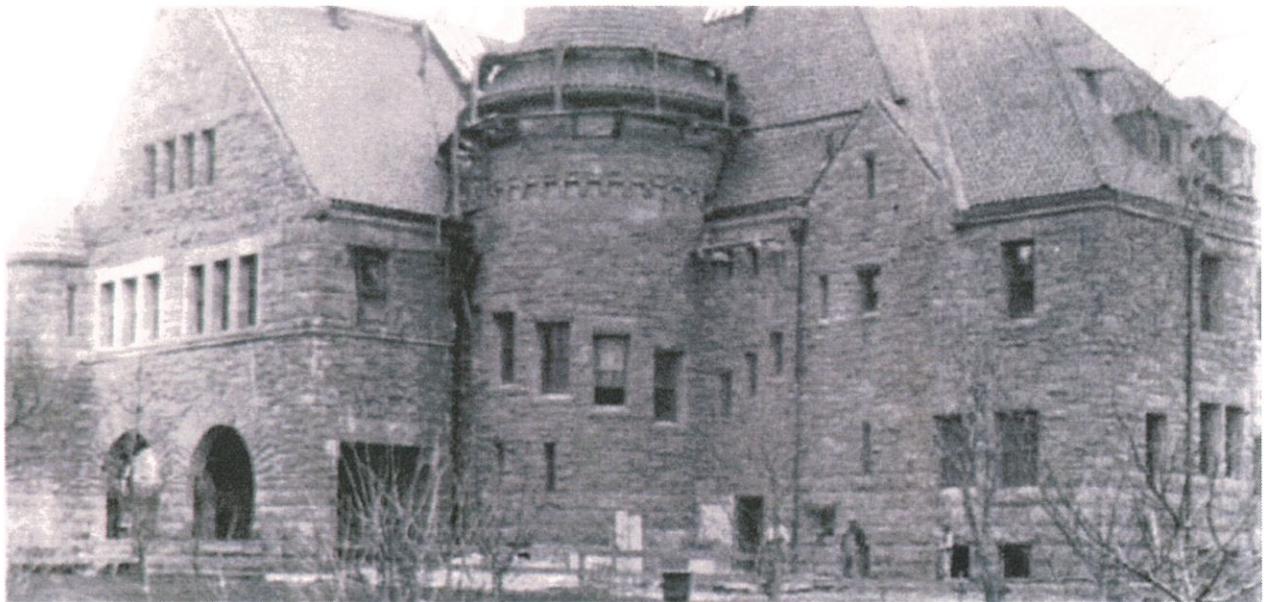


Ken Royal

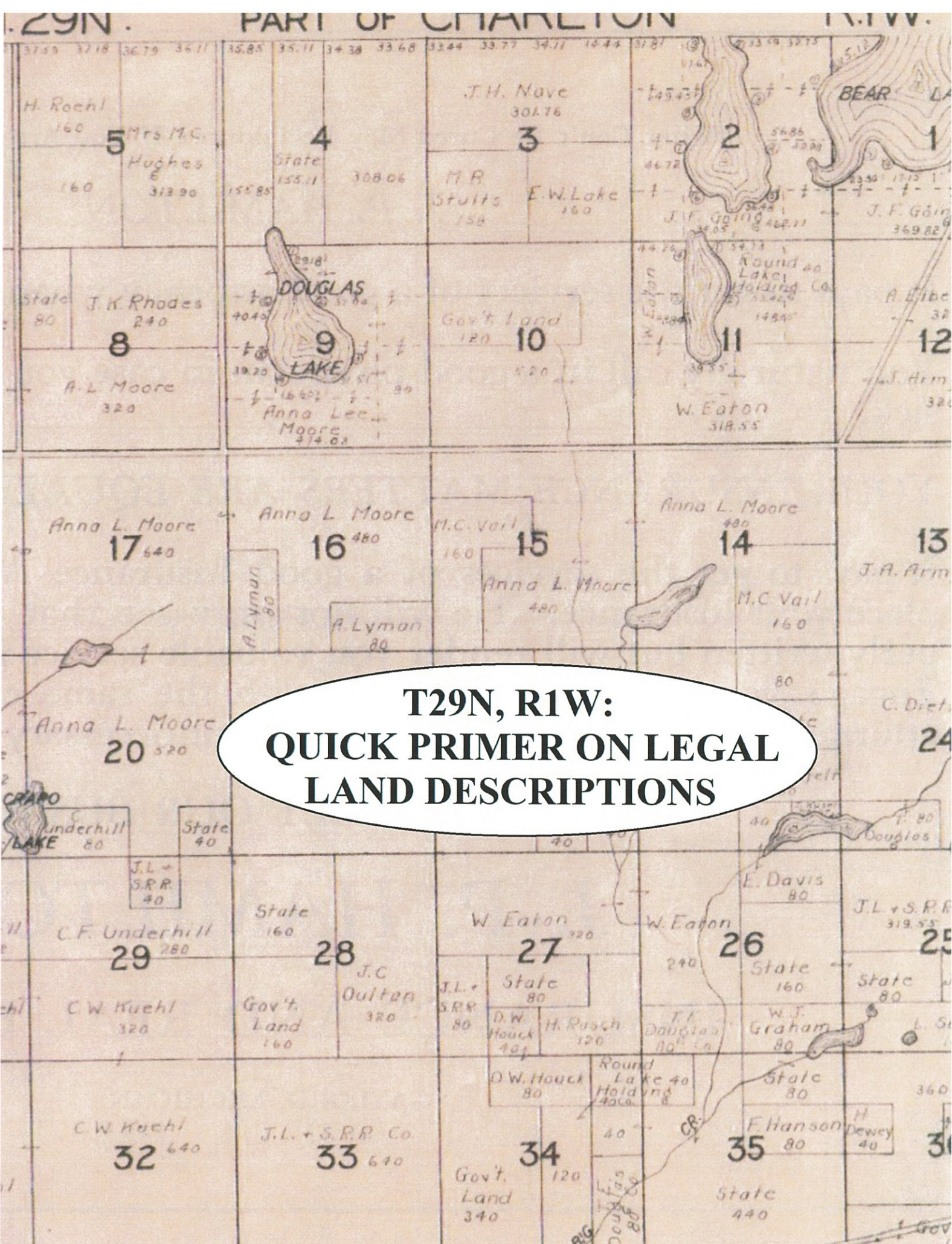
I. The Land and the Famous People Who Owned It

A. Introduction

Who were the first “recorded owners” of the land around Big and Little Bear Lake? They were Lumbar barons. A relative of the Governor. Railroad companies that would shape Michigan’s history. They owned the land upon which Silver Beach Lodge sits and the land surrounding Big and Little Bear Lake. These early owners lived in mansions located in New York and Michigan designed by famous architects. Their names christened ships and hospital wings. Their heirs own massive estates, one with “eight acres of elaborate gardens.” Fortunes made, in part, from owning the land upon which Silver Beach Lodge stands. Being part of this chain of title connects you to places of local and national interest. And to the historic past.



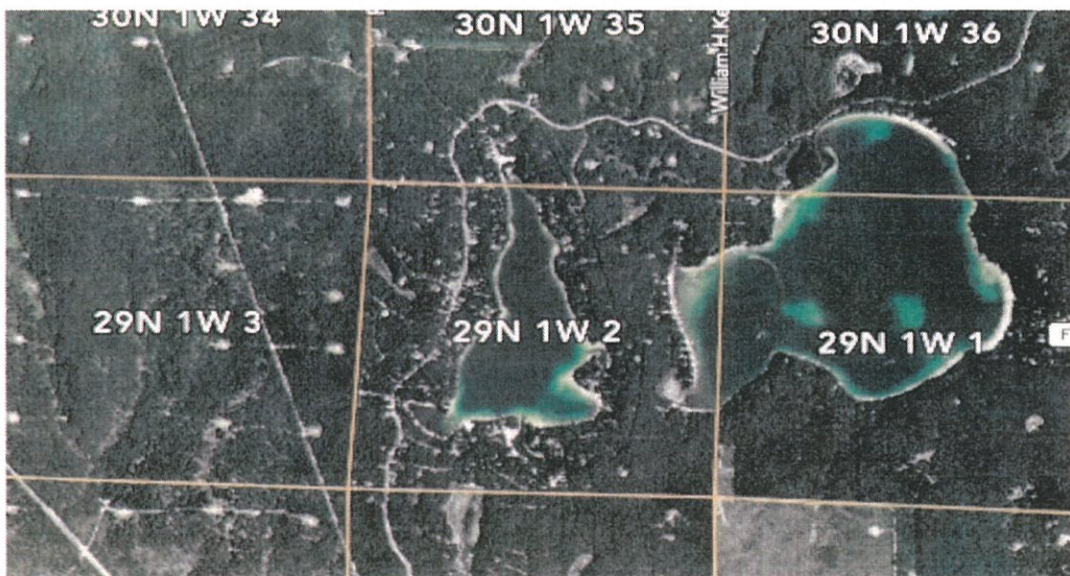
William H. Gratwick residence, Buffalo, NY. Erected 1888. Photo by Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

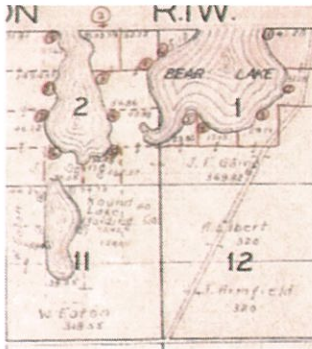


B. T29N,R1W: Quick Primer on Legal Land Descriptions

Most of Big Bear Lake is located in Section 1, T29N, R1W. Most of Little Bear Lake is located in Section 2, T29N, R1W. What does it mean? Why is it important? If you want to know the luminaries who owned the land around these lakes and the specific land upon which Silver Beach Lodge sits, some cursory knowledge on legal land description is helpful.

T29N, R1W, is the location of a "township" where Silver Beach Lodge sits. In legal land descriptions, a township is an almost square block of land measuring six miles on each side. To find the location of our township, you begin where the meridian line in Michigan (a north-south line) intersects the baseline in Michigan (an east-west line). That intersection point is in historic Meridian-Baseline State Park in Jackson-Ingham County. From that point go 29 townships straight north (29 6x6 mile blocks) up the meridian line, hence **T** (Township) **29N** (north). Once you've gone 29 township blocks straight north, move just one township west of the meridian line **R1W** (west) and you have arrived at the 6 x 6 mile block of land, where most of Big and Little Bear Lakes are located.





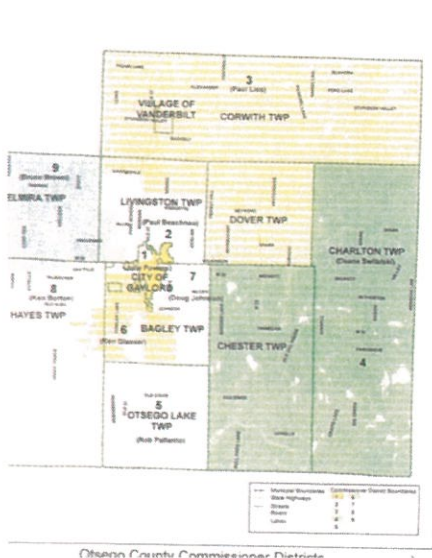
It makes sense. To arrive at Silver Beach Lodge, you drive up **Meridian Line Road** which tracks Michigan's Meridian Line, then turn west on Eighth Avenue. As soon as you turn west, you are entering into T29N, R1W.

Each 6 x 6 mile township is further divided into 36 almost equal 1 x 1 mile blocks called "sections." Each of the 36 1 x 1-mile "sections," are numbered from 1 – 36. Most of Big Bear Lake is in Section 1, T29N, R1W. Most of Little Bear Lake, west of Big Bear Lake, is in Section 2, T29N, R1W.

Each of the 36 individual sections is further divided into quarters.

Illustrations make everything clearer. See the Quick Primer Diagrams (**Exhibit 1**). One illustration shows the specific landowners of each section in T29N, R1W Circa 1920's-1930's. At that time, J. F. Going owned most all of Sections 1 and 2, T29N, R1W.

Silver Beach Lodge is in Charlton Township. Charlton Township is comprised of



three township blocks stacked end to end, north to south, creating a rectangle that is approximately 6 x 18 miles long. Silver Beach Lodge is located at the northeast corner of the southern township that comprises Charlton Township.

Who owned Section 1, T29N, R1W? The Otsego County Register of Deeds is the place to visit.



**In the Beginning:
Ulysses**

C. In the Beginning: Ulysses

After the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, the Treasury Department was charged with managing public land. In 1812, the General Land Office was created to assume the duties of managing land.

A land "**patent**" is an exclusive land grant made by a sovereign entity regarding a specific track of land. All claims of land ownership trace back to the original land patent.

With approval of the President of the United States, the General Land Office issued land grants ("patents"), passing title of particular tracks of public land from the United States to private parties. Grantees (people/corporations) paid for their patent in cash, **or** "homesteaded," **or** came into ownership through one of the many donation Acts Congress enacted to transfer public land to private ownership. United States President Ulysses Grant was in charge when the land around Bear Lakes was originally deeded.

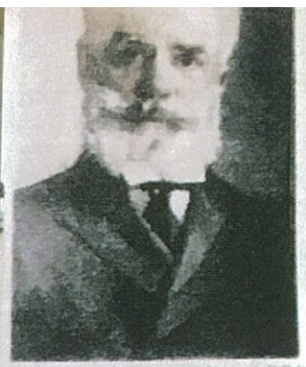
Township Twenty nine, Range One.

All of section one, containing three hundred and sixty nine acres and eight four hundredths of an acre.
All of fractional Section three, containing six hundred and fifteen acres and seventy six hundredths of an acre.

Seal

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, this eighth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and ninety three, and of the Independence of the United States, the Ninety-seventh.

By the President: M. J. Grant



Wm. H. Gratwick c.1890

GRATWICK, SMITH & FRYE

A BARGAIN AT OTSEGO LAKE.
FOR SALE.—A good dwelling house at Otsego Lake containing 13 large rooms, together with two lots and a good barn. Well on premises. Price \$450. One-half down and balance in two years. Inquire of A. D. Marshall, Gaylord, Mich.

Otsego Co. Herald Times October 12, 1881. From the collection of the Otsego County Historical Society.

RAILROADS AND FAMOUS LUMBAR BARONS

**How Nelson Holland Lost
Money---He is Perfect-
ly Solvent.**

A press dispatch from Det-
ing says: "The Holla-
ber Company of
asked for
meeting



STORY OF DISASTER

A HOWLING GALE BLOWING YESTERDAY.

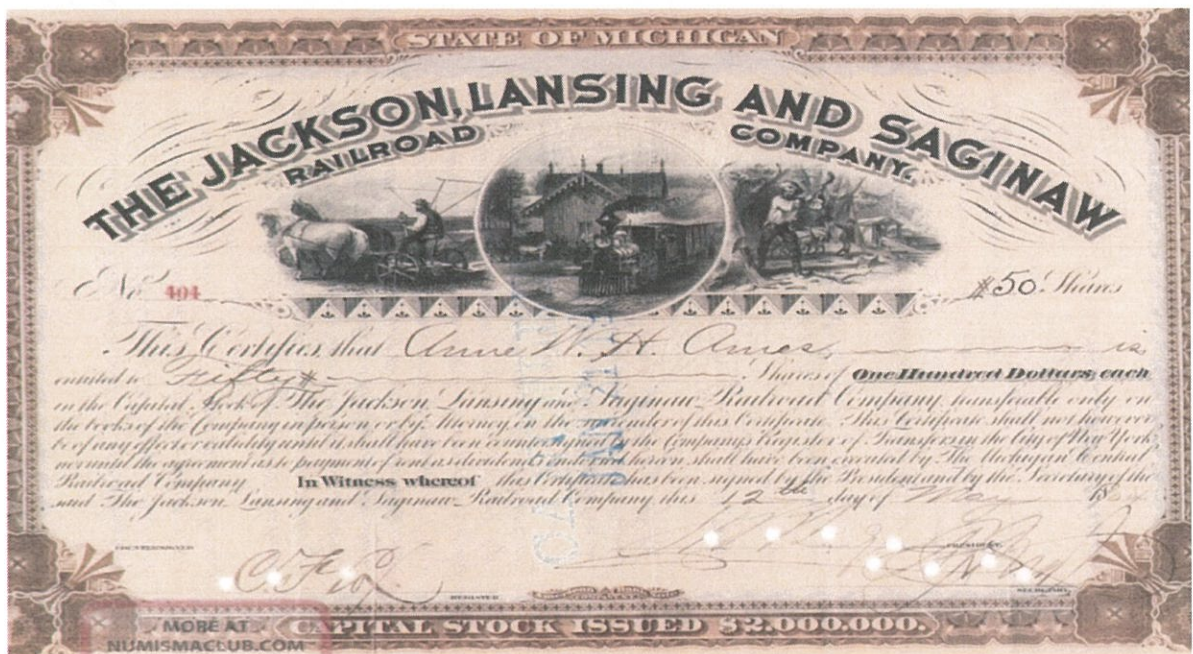
SHIPPING ON ALL THE LAKES SUFFERED FROM IT

**SEVERAL CREWS MIRACULOUSLY SAVED FROM
DEATH.**

D. Railroads and Lumber Barons

In 1856, Congress enacted a law granting various public lands to the State of Michigan to “aid in the construction of certain railroads.”

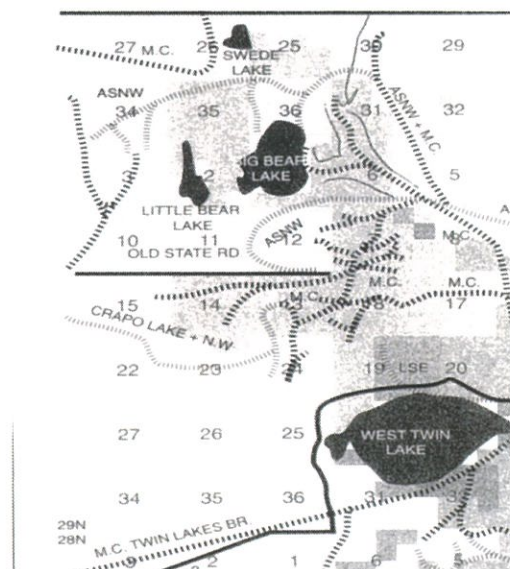
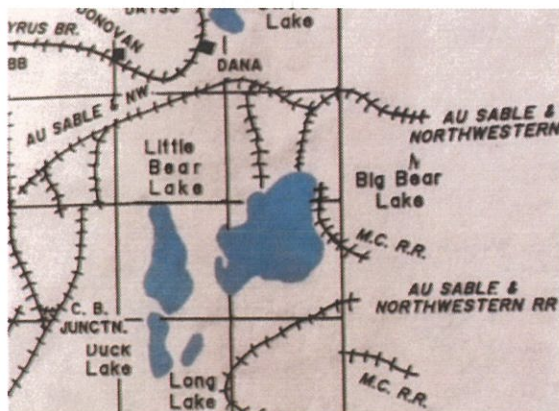
In 1862, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management signed a Grant giving the land upon which Silver Beach Lodge sits, and all of Section 1 T29N, R1W, (along with many other T29N, R1W, sections), to the **Amboy, Lansing and Traverse Bay Railroad (AL & TBR)** to construct a railroad. (All patents, grants, warranty deeds, plats and transfer documents are in chronological order in **Exhibit 2 – Deeds/Plats**). The AL & TBR was built from Owosso to Lainsburg in Shiawassee County in 1860. The AL & TBR added rail service to Lansing in 1863, the first rail service to the state capital. The railroad was sold (foreclosure) in 1866 to the **Jackson, Lansing, and Saginaw Railroad Company**. Additional history detailing the specific railroad companies and maps of their routes are found in **Exhibit 3 – Railroads and Lumber Barons**.



On May 8, 1873, President **Ulysses S. Grant** issued a separate patent for Section 1, T29N, R1W, to the **Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw Railroad Company** (JL & SR) giving the JL & SR the land around Big Bear Lake and other nearby townships. The JL & SR extended its route to Gaylord (1873) and by 1881, the railroad went from Jackson to Mackinaw City.

About this time, the JL & SR was sold to the Michigan Central Railroad Company Mackinaw Division (MCR) which was owned and operated by the New York Central Railroad.

Some of the MCR track which headed north from Gaylord now comprises the 62-mile Gaylord to Mackinaw bike path. The Michigan Central Railroad spawned many spurs including the "Johannesburg Branch" that sent tracks to the east and west of Big Bear Lake until the branch was abandoned in 1930 (see maps in **Exhibit 3**, Railroads and Lumbar Barons). Maps from the Otsego Historical Society and *Lewiston in the Lumbering Era* show a spur of the Michigan Central Railroad abutting the east side of Big Bear Lake on the location of the old railroad grade road that now leads to Burns Avenue (**Exhibit 3**).



Railroads received massive land grants with the knowledge they could sell surrounding land to lumber companies. Smart lumber men knew when and where railroads would be built. They purchased tracks of timber, built camps, and had functioning camps when the railroad was constructed. Too much land in one area was risky as a fire would destroy all the timber.

The JL & SR sold tracks of land, about 316 acres, including our property in Section 1, T29N, R1W to the **Gratwick, Smith & Fryer Lumber Company** in 1892, for \$19,700. The lumbar barons arrived.



William H. Gratwick (D.O.B. 1/25/1839), was born in Albany, New York. After finishing public school, he “entered the office of a lumbar firm as a tally boy, thus beginning his life work at the bottom of the ladder.” In 1877 he moved to Buffalo and founded his own firm, Gratwick, Smith & Fryer Lumber Company. It was capitalized at \$500,000 with offices in Albany, Detroit, and Tonawanda. Gratwick’s concept involved buying vast timber tracks and providing his own “transportation and milling.” This would include lake transportation. He became the “managing owner of six of the largest boats on the lakes.” He owned a castle-like home in Buffalo, New York, designed by famous architect H. H. Richardson, sadly demolished by neighbor Frank Goodyear who wanted the land. The Gratwick Basic Science building is still located in Buffalo, New York. The Gratwick Society identifies donors who contribute \$1,000 annually to the Rosewell Park Cancer Institute. The Otsego Lake Township Cemetery was dedicated by Gratwick and partner Ed Smith on January 1, 1880. When he died in 1899, his estate was valued at \$1.1 million – about \$32 million in contemporary dollars.

For \$15 you can visit the Gratwick's 325-acre estate with 8 acres of elaborate gardens featuring trees from "115 tree Peony cultivators from Japan and 500 Japanese tree Peony seeds." Every May the Gratwicks still host the "Tree Peony Festival" in Buffalo. Pictures of the Lumbar Barons, their houses and details of their lives are in **Exhibit 3 – Railroads and Lumber Barons.**



Linwood Gardens. Photo from Linwood Gardens.org

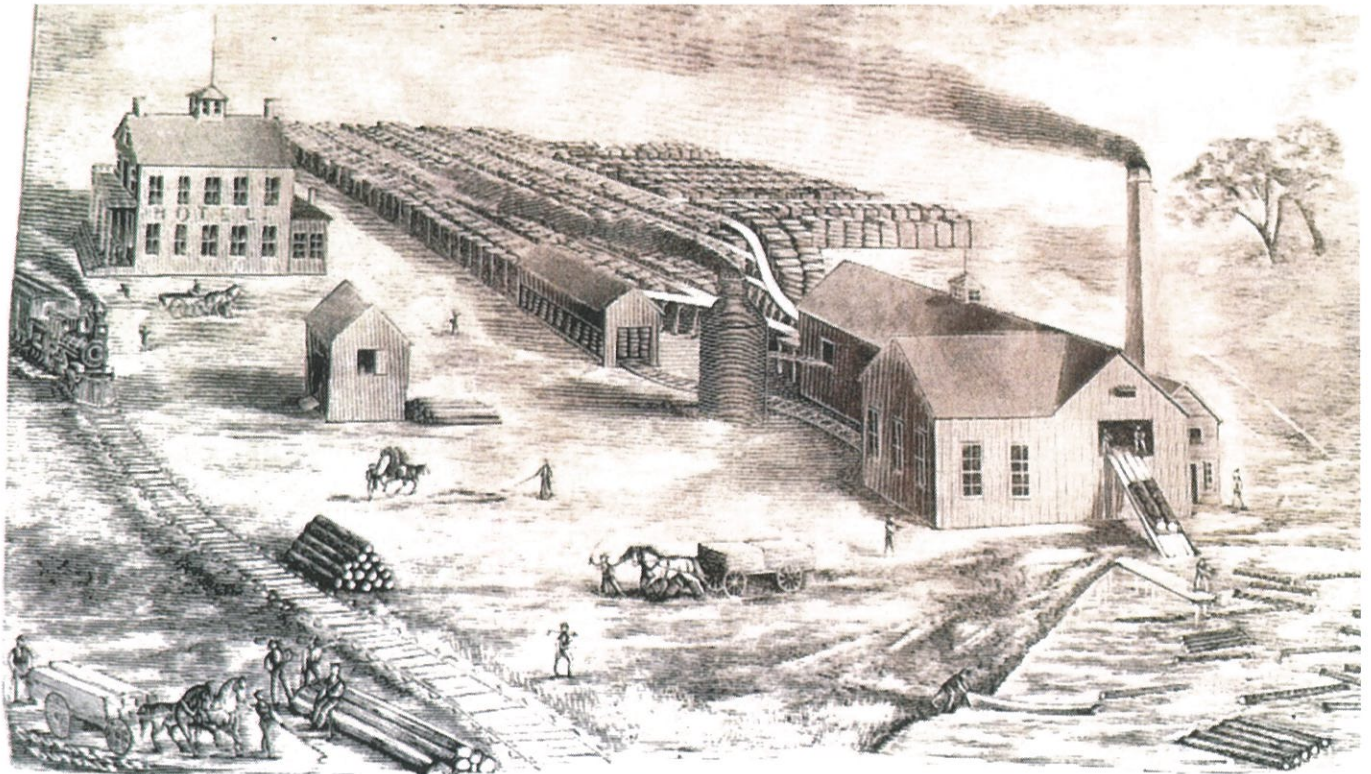


Lindwood Gardens. Photo of Karen Cowperthwaitela

Included in the Gratwick, Smith & Fryer Lumbar Company was Edward Smith who, in 1888, built a similar mansion at the southwest corner of Woodward/Putnam, Detroit, Michigan. The third principal, Robert S. Fryer, was headquartered in Albany, New York.

Gratwick, Smith & Fryer operated the Otsego Lumber Company, the major company in the area. Their shingle mill employed 10 men making 25,000 shingles a day. The planing mill employed 12 men turning out about 8,500,000 feet of dressed lumber a year. They had Michigan operations in Oscoda, Frankfort, and the Village of Otsego Lake. The owners were against the sale of alcohol within the village and sued townspeople who sold it as men got drunk and did not work. On May 19, 1881, fire

destroyed their lumber office and, since they were against the sale of alcohol within the village, they packed up operations and went to Oscoda County. In 1882, the firm established a six-mile railroad at the headwaters of the Au Sable River near Crapo Lake and continued logging. Their Otsego Lake mill was used by others until it burned in 1892. Their dwelling house at Otsego Lake containing 13 rooms was priced for sale at \$450. In 1882, the firm was putting 5 million feet of logs into Otsego Lake to be manufactured at their mill and 20 million feet of logs in the Au Sable destined for the mills at Oscoda.

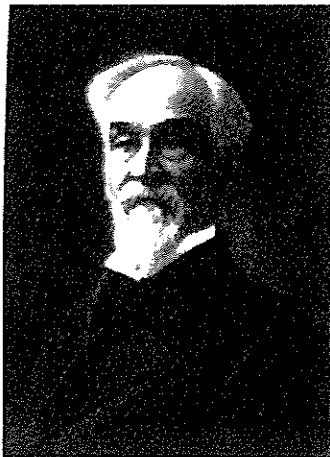


THE COMPANY SAW MILL AND LUMBER YARD AT OTSEGO LAKE, MICH – ANNUAL CAPACITY 15,000,000 FEET

As a short historical detour, approximately 80-95% of the mill workers were foreigners. Most were French-Canadians and there was a large mix of Germans, Scandinavians, Scotch and Irish. Typically, they worked 7-8 months a year, 6 days a week, (6am – 6pm) with wages ranging from “.50 - \$5 a day.” Unskilled laborers

earned less than \$1.87 a day. Gratwick, Smith & Fryer followed the practice of “holding back the first 15 days wages of their employees until the end of the season” to force men to work well. If they quit or were fired, they forfeited their salary. Some lumber companies double dipped by providing stores for the “convenience” of their workers.

On April 10, 1894, **Gratwick, Smith & Fryer** sold Sections 1 and 2 of T29N, R1W (along with parts of Section 13, 23) and land surrounding Lewiston in Townships 28, 29, 30 to Lumber Barons **Nelson Holland and James T. Hurst** for \$400,000, about 12,440 acres at approximately \$32/acre. The deed transferring our land and the land surrounding Big and Little Bear Lake was signed by William Gratwick and Edward Smith (**Exhibit 2**). **Nelson Holland and James Hurst** were now owners of the property where Silver Beach Lodge would be built and land the surrounding Big and Little Bear Lake.



Nelson Holland was born in 1829, his father a farmer in Springville, New York. He moved to Buffalo to work for an uncle who operated a mill in Michigan. Later, he purchased a portion of a sawmill in Michigan, 4,000 acres of pine lands in Michigan and another mill in St. Clare, Michigan. He had 4 salt wells which manufactured 39,872 barrels of salt in 1880.

Nelson Holland

Not content to just make money on lumber, he purchased vessels to transport lumbar on the Great Lakes. Four of his ships sailing near Cheboygan, Michigan on Lake Huron encountered a “howling gale” on October 14, 1893, beaching all four including his name sake, the Nelson Holland. All the ships, valued at \$110,000, were blown onto the beach near Point Sable in Cheboygan, Michigan.

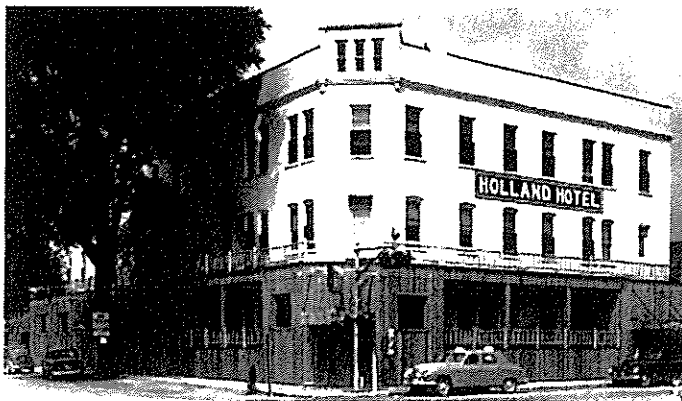
STORY OF DISASTER

A HOWLING GALE BLOWING YESTERDAY.

SHIPPING ON ALL THE LAKES SUFFERED FROM IT.

SEVERAL CREWS MIRACULOUSLY SAVED FROM DEATH.

Holland also bought into the Emery Lumber Company, operating out of Ontario, Canada. It sent logs to the mill at East Tawas, Michigan. In 1892, Emery Brothers Lumber Company was reorganized as Holland and Emery Lumber Company.



Nelson Holland teamed up with East Tawas Mayor Temple Emery, to construct a new sawmill, a salt block, docks on Tawas Bay and the \$34,000 Holland Hotel in 1891. The project was premised on rafting White Pine logs across Lake Huron from Canada, but that bubble burst seven years later.

Holland and Emery Lumber anticipated tariff problems between Canada and the US which happened in 1897 when Ontario decided that logs cut in Ontario, had to be sawn in Ontario. To bypass problems, Holland bought an interest in Byng Inlet, Ontario and moved their East Tawas Mill to Byng Inlet.

On November 30, 1892, the Bay City Times Press bemoaned the closing of three sawmills including the Holland Mill in Saginaw.

In 1896, the Holland and Emery Company was “brought to the verge of bankruptcy by the actions of one of the company’s partners” when Temple Emery signed as a guarantor on bonds for a partner, but the partner defaulted. Temple made good on \$300,000 of debt but it spawned lawsuits. Holland left the company in 1906. For pictures of the **Holland Hotel** in East Tawas and information about the **street named after Holland** in Buffalo, New York see **Exhibit 3**.

Byng Inlet is now a ghost town after being home to one of the largest sawmill operations in Canada.

Nelson’s co-owner of the Silver Beach Lodge property was **James Hurst**, of Wyandotte, Michigan. Before the war (enlisted at age 20, Company M, 4th Michigan Calvary) he entered the lumber business, then returned to the business after the war building a large steam saw and planing mill in 1872. The mill produced dressed lumber, doors, sashes, and blinds. He sold the mill and bought 50,000 acres of pine forest. Hurst diversified by purchasing a 320-acre stock farm near Wyandotte with Clydesdale Horses and Hereford/Jersey cattle. He voted for Abraham Lincoln in 1864 and every Republican since that time. Seemed like an outstanding person (Shriner, Mason, State Prison Board member, US Inspector of Customs) but newspaper articles tell a slightly different story.

Neither Nelson Holland nor Luther P. Graves has returned from the creditors' meeting and Mr. George B. Montgomery, the other member of the Black Rock firm of Holland, Graves & Montgomery, declined to say anything about the transaction, as he does not appear to be directly concerned in it.

It was learned at Mr. Holland's office, however, that the embarrassment of the Holland & Emery Company came about through the manipulation of the company's paper by Temple Emery, the president, and James E. Hurst, the vice-president of the company. Hurst failed last week for a large amount, as he is a large lumber operator on his own account, and it was stated that he had secured Nelson Holland by a trust deed covering an indebtedness of \$118,000. It is learned that this deed is for land in the vicinity of Detroit, or rather its suburb, Wyandotte, where Hurst lives. This property is, of course, a very different matter from ready cash, though it may be worth its face.

It appears that Mr. Holland has of late been suspicious of the transactions of Hurst and Emery and on the 18th of this month an election of the company was held at which both Emery and Hurst were dropped from the list of officers. Luther Holland was made president and H. M. Gillett, a Bay City lawyer, vice-president, Nelson Holland remaining the treasurer. This was before the Hurst failure.

An examination of the affairs soon showed that the company's paper had been converted to private uses to a large extent, how great cannot as yet be told. Already \$90,000 has been discovered and there is prospect of more. These transactions are unhesitatingly spoken of as steals by persons acquainted with the affairs. The indebtedness of Hurst to Nelson Holland is a different affair and grew out of the purchase of logs made some time ago.

Without being able to unravel the whole tangle, for no one appears to be able to do that now, it appears that the leak in the Holland & Emery Co. has been stopped and also, which ought to pass for much, that the banks are satisfied that it is solvent, or no five-year extension would have been given. There is, then, no expectation of further action. That Mr. Holland will lose considerable seems certain, but his great wealth will not be impaired seriously.

It is said that payment on the \$90,000 worth of the company's paper which has been converted to private use will be contested on the ground that the issue was unauthorized and that the company is not liable for it.

According to reports, Nelson Holland was "suspicious of the transactions of Hurst and Emery" who both worked at the Holland and Emery Lumber Company in East Tawas (assets of \$2,100,000, liabilities of \$1,200,000). Hurst and Emery were unexpectedly dropped as company officers when examination showed "the company's paper had been converted to private uses to a large extent, how great cannot yet be told. Already \$90,000 has been discovered and there is prospect of more. These transactions are unhesitatingly spoken of as steals by persons acquainted with the affairs."

Holland and Hurst sold Section 1 and 2 of T29N, R1W (along with Sections 25 and 25 of T30N, R1W) for \$167,000 to John Mansfield and Henry Howard in August 1894. All signatures appeared on the Deed.

Henry Howard died in Port Huron, Michigan on May 25, 1894, three months before the 1894 Warranty Deed was signed. The Deed indicates that the transfer is "in pursuance with the terms of an Execution Contract Sale of land from the first parties to the second parties dated October 4, 1892." As a lumberman, Howard "built three separate sawmills in Port Huron, where he also for several years kept a hotel." He

abandoned the Port Huron sawmill in 1878 which had "outlived its usefulness" and bought a newly erected mill on the north side of the river. He associated with **John Mansfield** of Bay City, with whom he bought the land. Their business was getting "long sticks for rafting to mills on Lake Erie" under the name Howard & Mansfield. The operations commenced in 1880 and continued until 1893, when Howard disposed of his entire interest in the Lower Peninsular and invested in Pine timber in the Upper Peninsula. Since Howard's death, the business continued under the name of "Henry Howard Estate." Howard also ran a tug business, was President of the "Northern Transit Company" organizer of the Port Huron "Times" Company, organizer of the First National Bank of Port Huron, President of the Port Huron Gas Light Company, Vice President of the Michigan Sulfur Fiber Company, Michigan Director of the Grand Trunk Railroad lines, Vice President of the Port Huron Engine and Thresher Company, staunch Republican, Alderman for the 2nd Ward and, in 1882, elected **Mayor of Port Huron**. In 1870, he was elected to the State Legislature and re-elected in 1872. At the time of his death, Howard was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan. One article described him as a person who:

"destroyed the vast forests of the Lake region, only to replace them with the fertile fields, populous cities and all the adjuncts of that higher civilization which within a half-century has so fully developed."



National Archives/Wikipedia

Little can be found of Howard's partner, **John Mansfield**. On April 29, 1892, the Bay City Times reported:

"John Mansfield is having a fine veranda added to his home on the corner of 5th Avenue and Sherman Street. There is a great tendency toward verandas and nearly every new house has one, while a few years ago a house with a veranda was the exception."

For a brief detour, Karen Hartwick's amazing effort to save 8,000 acres of old growth pines (costing her a time adjusted \$600,000) is detailed in *From Wilderness to Wasteland: How the Destruction of Michigan's Forests Shaped Our State* by Dustin Dwyer. Her action created Hartwick Pines State Park.

Here is what the deeds show so far:

Year	Deeded From	Deeded To
1862	Pres. Ulysses Grant	Amboy, Lansing, Traverse City RR/Jackson, Lansing, Saginaw RR
1892	Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad	Gratwick, Smith, Fryer Lumber
4/10/1894	Gratwick, Smith & Fryer	Nelson Howard/James Hurst
8/1894	Nelson/Hurst	Howard/Mansfield

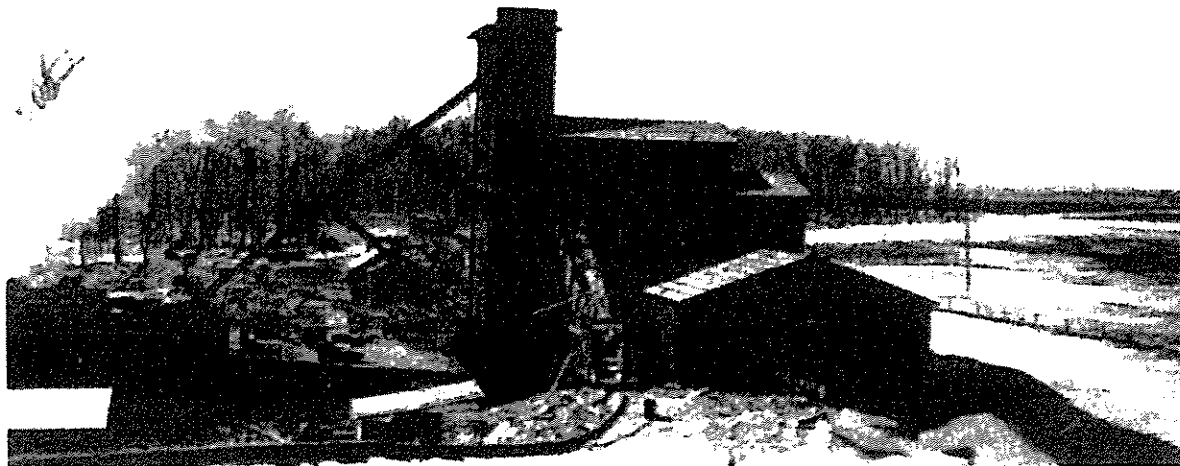
From here the chain of title gets murky. There is no record of **Howard/Mansfield** deeding Section 1 or Section 2 of T29N, R1W, to anyone. The **Howard/Mansfield** estates did deed land from our township to **Aaron P. Bliss** (well-known in Michigan history) but there are **no** recorded deeds transferring Section 1 or Section 2 of T29N, R1W. Even though the Register of Deeds doesn't have a deed from Howard/Mansfield to Bliss, Bliss deeds our land, (Section 1 and Section 2, T29N, R1W), to Postmaster August Haedke on September 25, 1902. Howard/Mansfield must have deeded Section 1 and Section 2, T29N, R1W, to Bliss which allowed Bliss to sell the land to Postmaster Haedke on a Warranty Deed. The paper transaction seems lost to history. Bliss is another interesting former property owner .

Aaron P. Bliss was "raised, educated and started in business" by his uncle, Aaron T. Bliss, who served the in 10th New York Calvary during the Civil War, moved to Saginaw, Michigan, began a lumber business, was elected Republican State Senator/US Congress and was installed as the 25th **Governor of Michigan** (1901-1905). The Bliss in our chain of title, Aaron P., was an experienced pine lumberman in the firm of Bliss & Parsons which had 150 million feet of standing timber in Wisconsin, a large amount in Michigan, extensive tracks of Redwood and Fir timber in California and Washington. He was the Director of the First National Bank of Saginaw, a Director of the Saginaw County Savings Bank, Proprietor of the Swan Creek Stock Farm (640 acres, Saginaw County) which bred shorthorns and pacing horses including "the celebrated pacing stallion 'Clear Grit'." His shorthorn herd "has no superior in the Country." In 1890, he organized the Bliss-Van Auken Lumber Company which cut Michigan timber until the supply was exhausted, then it cut Canadian timber.

BLISS-VAN AUKEN LUMBER COMPANY

The Oldest and Largest Saw Mill in Saginaw, Mich. Cuts Ten Million Feet of Hardwoods Annually

In 1903, he was the President of the National Engineering Company which manufactured wood tanks and gasoline engines for farm use. The company invented an improved motor for pumping water. In 1905, Aaron P. Bliss teamed with Arthur Bernard prospecting for coal near Saginaw. Bliss owned 880 acres upon which "several veins of high-grade coal were discovered." He formed the Bliss Coal Company which, in 1907, dug a shaft 160' deep producing 80,000 tons of bituminous coal annually for the Michigan market and employing 185 men. Add **Bliss** and **Haedke** to the chain of title.



TIPPLE OF BLISS COAL MINE. SWAN CREEK
(History of Saginaw County)

In 1909, William Barney (President of the Michigan Lumbar Dealers Association) quitclaimed Section 1, T29N, R1W, to James Caldwell ; a quitclaim deed simply meaning that they are giving whatever interest they may (or may not) have in a property to someone else. They are not warranting that they own any of the property, but they are simply giving what interest they might have. There are no deeds documenting

Barney ever acquired any interest in the property where Silver Beach Lodge would be built.

In 1909, the mysterious Frederick Grant of Chicago, Illinois appeared. He filed a lawsuit against Caroline LaFond, the widow of Postmaster August Haedke because Haedke was the last person named in the chain of title for properties Grant wanted, including Section 1 and Section 2 of T29N, R1W. No property taxes were paid on Section 1 and Section 2, for the years 1897 – 1905 and Frederick Grant wanted to buy all the land at a tax sale from the State of Michigan. How did Chicagoan Grant know about the tax sale in faraway Otsego County? Before he got the tax sale property, he needed to clean the title which means clearing Postmaster Haedke's widow's claim (which he does with the lawsuit) and the potential claim of another person, Thomas Tindow, of Buffalo, NY.

Tindow died on April 6, 1909 and left a Will granting significant money to 20 relatives and churches. The Will contained ambiguous language possibly granting a questionable interest in Section 1 and Section 2, T29N, R1W ("The investments of Tindow and Jackson are nearly all in mills and timberlands in Michigan . . ."). Grant needed to clear that possible interest and apparently did by the court suit. As an aside you must love Tindow who said, in his Will regarding his \$800,000 estate:

"If the income from said \$100,000 is insufficient to support my wife not only comfortably, but really luxuriously, she shall have the privilege of using part of the principle of said sum . . . so as to make her yearly income therefrom \$6,000 . . ."

There is little information on Frederick Grant (wife Dagmar) of Chicago, Illinois, who discovered that the entire Section 1 and Section 2, T29N, R1W, could be bought at a tax sale in Charlton Township, Michigan very cheap. The 1900 United States Federal

Census indicates Frederick was born in Germany (1/1855), married to Dagmar Nelson in 1884, had four children and was employed as a contractor.

1854	1900	Grant, Frederick	Head	M	M	Jan	1855	45	M	16			1
		— Dagmar	Wife	M	F	Apr	1862	38	M	16	5	4	2
		— Freddie	Son	M	M	June	1886	14	S				3
		— Lillie	Daughter	M	F	June	1879	11	S				4
		— Henry	Son	M	M	Oct	1890	9	S				5
		— Willie	Son	M	M	Oct	1891	9	S				6

Ancestry.com indicates Dagmar died October 19, 1915, in Chicago, Illinois (age 52). The 1920 Census showed Frederick, then 64, lived in his daughter Lillie's house with her husband (John Haeffner) and Frederick's son, Willie. Frederick's job was "real estate", and he owned his own office. Frederick died on March 29, 1929 (age 74). Sadly, Frederick's son, Frederick Grant, died November 10, 1941, of a "gunshot wound of brain (suicide)."

After Frederick Grant cleared the title, he began buying property for the price of unpaid taxes. In May 1910, he obtained 80-acre parcels of Section 1 and 2, for about \$47.79/80 acres (.60 cents an acre). For approximately \$320, he acquired all of Section 1, T29N, R1W. He acquired all of Section 2, T29N, R1W, for approximately \$330. The tax sale deeds from the Auditor General to Frederick Grant are all dated September 18, 1909. Now, things get interesting.

AUDITOR GENERAL

Received for Record, the 9th day of May A.D. 1910 at 5:29 clock P.M.

This Indenture, Made the Twenty-fourth day

FREDERICK GRANT

Between NATHAN P. SIMPSON, Deputy Auditor General of the State of Michigan, of the first part, and FREDERICK GRANT of Chicago, Illinois of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That Whereas, In pursuance of the provisions of law, the said party of the second part, on the Eighteenth day of September A.D. 1909 became the purchaser of the rights of the State in and to the following described lands situate in the County of Orzech, in said State, which were bid off to the State for the taxes assessed thereon, in the years 1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904 to wit:

South half of Southwest quarter Section one, containing Eighty acres more or less, Town Twenty-nine North, Range One West.

And Whereas, The said party of the second part obtained a certificate from the Auditor General for the purchase of the above described lands, according to law, and paid to the State Treasurer upon said Certificate the sum of Forty-seven Dollars and Nine Cents, being the amount of purchase money thereof as provided by law, which certificate has been presented and surrendered to the said Auditor General.

Now, therefore, this Indenture Witnesseth, That the said Nathan P. Simpson, Deputy Auditor General of the said State of Michigan, In the Name of the People of said State, and by virtue of the authority vested in him by the laws thereof, in consideration of the premises, and the payment of the purchase money above mentioned, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, does by these presents Remise, Release and Quit-Claim, unto the said Frederick Grant part y of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns, forever, all the rights acquired by the State in virtue of the original sale or sales to the State in the premises above described, subject to all the taxes assessed and levied on said lands subsequent to the taxes for which the land was bid off in the name of the State as aforesaid.

Provided, however, That this Indenture is subject to the relevant conditions imposed by Act No 229 of the Public Acts of 1898 amended.

In Testimony Whereof, The said Nathan P. Simpson, Deputy Auditor General as aforesaid, has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

MAUD H. SMITH

NATHAN P. SIMPSON

EMMA LINDSTROM

DEPUTY Auditor General of the State of Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

COUNTY OF INGHAM,

On this Twenty-fourth day of September A.D. 1909, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County, personally came the above named Nathan P. Simpson, Deputy Auditor General of said State, known to me to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed.

HOMER S. POWLER

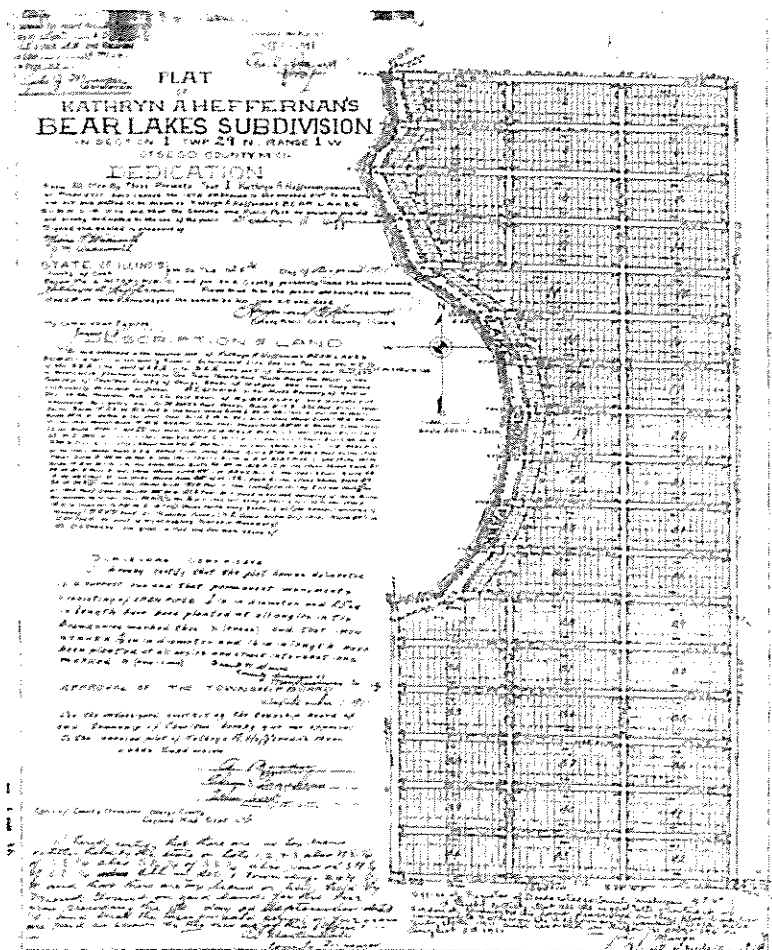
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 15, 1913.

Notary Public, Ingham County, Michigan

Less than 2 years after the Chicago Grants purchased the land, Frederick/Dagmar Grant sold the 369 acres that comprise Section 1, T29N, R1W, to Chicagoan Katheryn A. Heffernan, name sake of our subdivision, for \$2219, on July 25, 1911. A tidy 593.4% profit. How did Grant know fellow Chicagoan Heffernan? Why did unmarried Heffernan want undeveloped property in Michigan? How did she pay for it?

Just one month after the Grants sold Section 1 to Heffernan, the Grants conveyed all of Section 2, T29N, R1W, to Judge Judson F. Going, Chicago, Illinois, for \$2,795, on August 25, 1911. A 746.9% profit.

Twelve days after the Grant/Going sale, on September 4, 1911, Heffernan submitted an enormous project to Otsego County - the complete surveyed plat of the new Kathryn A. Heffernan's Bear Lake subdivision. How was it done so fast? Who paid for it? Who was Kathryn A. Heffernan?



According to various deeds, Kathryn A. Heffernan (aka Katheryn) was "unmarried" on November 9, 1912. Later deeds referred to her as follows:

"Kathryn A. Heffernan Comstock, formerly Kathryn A. Heffernan

and Winfred Comstock, her husband of the City of Chicago . . .”

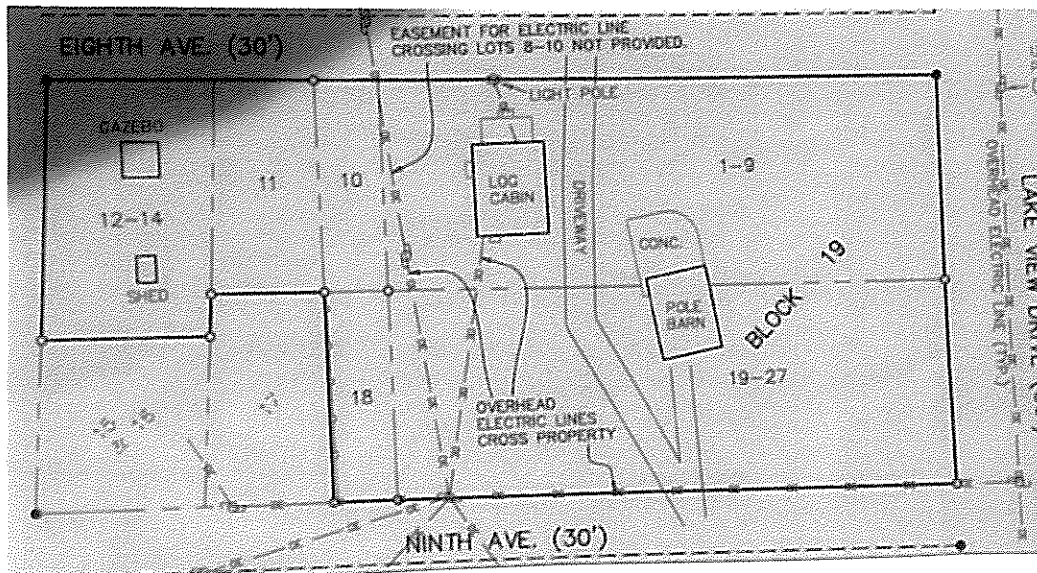
Kathryn A. Heffernan was born in Des Moines, Iowa, to Daniel Heffernan and Margaret McCarthy. She married Wilfred L. Comstock on August 4, 1917, in Woodstock, Illinois. His parents were Fred Comstock and Annie I. Lydiard. A February 13, 1923, *Chicago Tribune* article indicates Wilfred L. Comstock was a candidate to the Board of Governors at the Edgebrook Forest Preserve Golf Club. Mr. Comstock's obituary was listed in the October 21, 1930, *Chicago Tribune*. Kathryn might still be alive at that time. The 1920, United States Census had her listed as a stenographer for the “Steel Company.” She was listed in the 1930 Census. Mrs. Katherine French, caretaker of Silver Beach Lodge from 1946 – 1950, referred to Kathryn Heffernan as “Judge Going's private secretary” in her 1985 recorded statement. Nothing more is known.

The Kathryn A. Heffernan Bear Lake subdivision plat submitted to the Otsego County Register of Deeds on September 4, 1911, mapped out a linear subdivision bounded by 1st Avenue to the north, 18th Avenue to the south, Meridian Line Road to the east and Big Bear Lake Shoreline on the west. Eighteenth Avenue extended 1563' west from Meridian and then, at that point, subdivision line went north 1864' to the lakeshore at about 12th Avenue.

The subdivision was divided into 44 numbered blocks, 1-44. Silver Beach Lodge would be built in Block 19. Each of the blocks are further divided into small 30' x 100' lots. A typical block had 32 lots but, due to irregular shaping by the shoreline, shoreline blocks may have more or less lots.

Block 19, where Silver Beach Lodge sits, has 27 lots. Silver Beach Lodge owners have Lots 1-14, 18-27. Lots 15, 16, and 17 (Sandy & Cher Kaplen's property) were cut out of Block 19 on March 1, 1913 and deeded by Kathryn A. Heffernan to Carl

Ireneus. Since Lots 15 – 17 were cut out of Block 19, those lots have been under different ownership from the rest of Block 19 which is tied to Silver Beach Lodge.



While Heffernan owned the subdivision, she deeded a few lots to various people - Lot 18, Block 22 to George Jacob Hinn a/k/a George Jacob Heffernan on October 12, 1911 and Lots 16-18 of Block 18 to Willard Brode (12/10/1913).

The Heffernan/Going connection deepens on November 9, 1912, when **Heffernan** deeds **Judge Going** all of Section 1 (except the Kathryn A. Heffernan Bear Lake subdivision) for “the sum of One Dollar and other good and valuable consideration.” About one year later (12/10/1913), **Heffernan** transfers much of her subdivision to **Judge Going** (“One Dollar”) but reserves many prime lake front lots for herself. Map of properties kept **Exhibit 2**. On December 18, 1919, **Heffernan** quick claims many of the lake front lots she held to **Judge Going** (including Lots 10-11-12-13-14 in our Block 19).

Not much development happened in the Big Bear Lake area from the time Heffernan acquired Section 1 from Grant (July 25, 1911), the subdivision was platted

(September 4, 1911), Going acquired Section 2 from Grant (August 25, 1911), Going acquired Section 1 land from Heffernan (November 9, 1912), and Going acquired Heffernan subdivision lots from Heffernan (December 10, 1913, December 18, 1919).

In 1923, Judge Going, owning most of Section 1 (including Lots 1-14, 18-27 in Block 19) and Section 2, began marketing his property.

A black and white portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie. The portrait is the background of the entire page.

The Going Era

Judson F. Going

N. Gertrude Avery

B 11/29/57 D 5/16/35

Judson Freeman Going, Jr. - Edith M. Nagle Grace May

B 9/2/97 D 1/3/85

Robert F. Going - Joyce Jackson

B 10/14/30

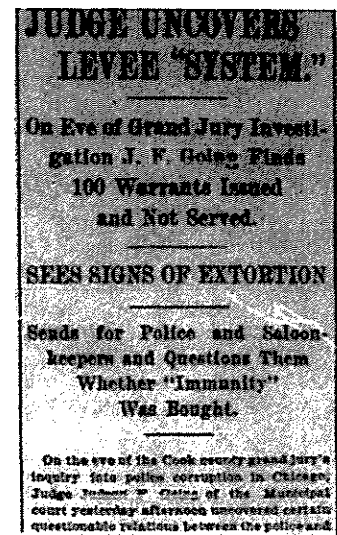
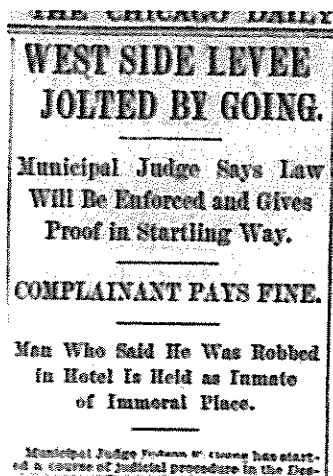
II Silver Beach Lodge: Owners and Occupants

A. The Going Era

On August 30, 1923, the *Otsego Herold Times* (*H.T.*) proclaimed “Bear Lake Subdivision Opened.” In the article, Judge J. F. Going, of Chicago, announced “advanced sale of lots on Big Bear Lake” because he received “so many inquiries for lots that he has decided to place them on the market.” The lots (of the Kathryn A. Heffernan subdivision) featured a common use park (between the lake front lots and the lake) with “talk” of “erecting a hotel and building a golf course.” Big Bear Lake, according to Judge Going “beats anything in southern Wisconsin” which was a “popular playground” for Chicago people.

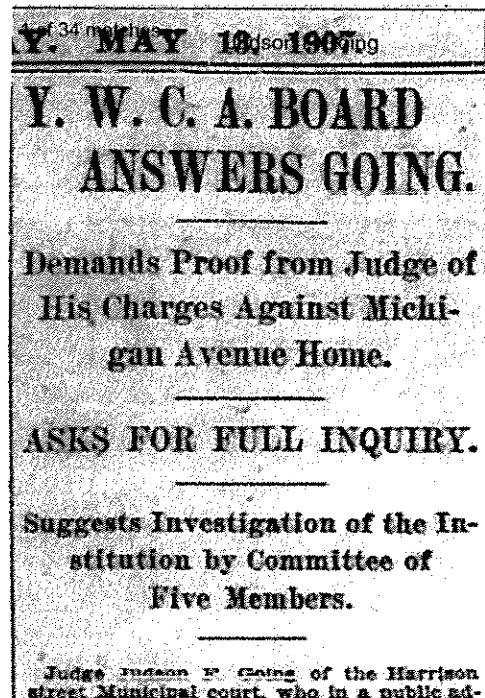
Due to his profession and strong character, Judge Judson F. Going’s life was well-chronicled. Born November 29, 1857, in rural Illinois, his family moved to Chicago in 1873. He attended the State University in Champagne (graduated in 1883) and attended law school at the Union College of Law (Northwestern) (graduated in 1885). He married Gertrude Avery (Eau Claire, WI) on July 16, 1885, having three children, May (B 1/4/1890, D 5/16/1892), Grace (B 8/29/1886, D 3/25/1926) and Judson Freeman, Jr. (B 9/2/1897, D. 1/3/1985). He was a Justice of the Peace (1887-1891), Assistant State’s Attorney and General Counsel for Calumet Electric (1894 – 1898). In 1906 he was elected to a six-year term as Judge of the Municipal Court. Going was a Mason, Republican, and member of the Illinois Athletic Club. His sympathies were directed toward “juvenile dependents, delinquents and defectives” as the director of the Chicago Boy’s Club. (For additional background information, **Exhibit 4 – Owners/Occupants.**)

As a Municipal Judge who weeded out massive Chicago corruption, he garnered much print in the *Chicago Tribune*. Notable *Tribune* articles (see **Exhibit 4**) include a 12th Ward election fight where he “rebelled and bolted the door of the hall where the election was to be held” to keep voters out (11/28/1900). He also exposed the “police, a court clerk, saloon keepers, and attorneys” who were the vice of Chicago’s West Side (50 women arrested in raids, all released with no bonds filed, 12/7/1906). A December 8, 1906 *Tribune* headline blared “West Side Levee Jolted by Going” and detailed Judge Going sentencing, with “moist” eyes, a “good looking fellow, said to be married” who lost \$75 after accompanying a woman to a hotel that “entertained transients under more than questionable circumstances.” Another article indicated he advocated “use of the whipping post for wife beaters.”



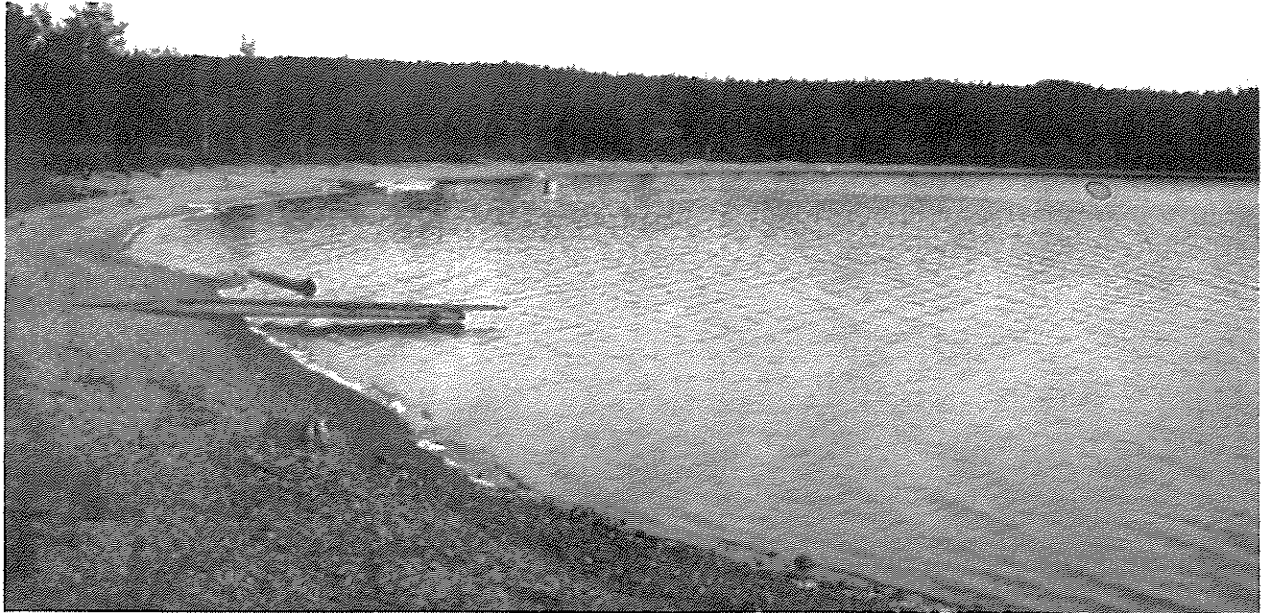
Judge Going’s severe criticism of his municipal office with “foul and pestilential odor” was well-documented (12/15/1906), as was a death threat against him (1/5/1907), along with more corruption probes (“Judge uncovers levee ‘system’”) (5/1/1907). During a lecture he delivered searing comments about the YMCA Home for Girls (5/12/1907)

prompting the YMCA to consider a "libel suit" (5/13/1907). When he first took office, he noted between "50 and 60 (amoral women) were an ordinary night's harvest" but, following his reforms, "only 3 amoral women were brought before me." His May 2, 1909, *Chicago Tribune* photograph shows him surrounded by the "blackface" Fullerton Club Minstrels.



According to the *Otsego County Herald Times*, Judge Going later became ill and, unable to fulfil his judicial duties, was confined at his Chicago home. His "faithful caregiver" reminded him of the Bear Lake property he purchased several years earlier from "an Estate without seeing it" (there is no documentation he received the property from an Estate although Grant sued an Estate to get the land on tax sale). Chicago doctors proclaimed Judge Going "as being about dead" so he listened to his caretaker and decided to see his property "once before he passed away." He was put "on a cot,"

taken to the property, lodged in a tent, and fed meals. Within “days” he was better. After two months he could “walk about.” At three months, he was in the lake “rowing.” The air and water of Big Bear Lake had him “enjoying the best of health” for the next 12 years (H.T., 10/29/31).



Undated photo of Silver Beach. Courtesy of Robert Going/Julie Trausch

Rejuvenated, Judge Going announced in 1923, the opening of “his” subdivision (actually the Kathryn A. Heffernan subdivision he owned) and began an aggressive advertising campaign to sell lots at the “Silver Beach Cottage Camp.” (H.T.) Judge Going placed numerous, spectacular ads in the *Otsego Herald* from 1923 through 1927 (**Exhibit 4**). No descriptive word was left unsaid. Every promise was made. Silver Beach Cottage Camp was:

“Where the fish are hungry and will give you a fight that will long be a pleasant memory.”

“Where nature has completed one of her greatest masterpieces and has turned it over to man.”

"Where the rarified air, the pure drinking water, the warm days and cool night of the Top o' Michigan will fill your body with new blood and pulsating vigor."

[illegible]

ADVANCE SALE
OF
LOTS!

ON BEAUTIFUL
BIG
Bear Lake
Located 5 miles southeast
of Johannesburg

Remarkable Prices if bought NOW.

See or Address
J. F. GOING 4708 Oketo Ave., Chicago
or Mr. Jerry Wolohan, Johannesburg, Mich.

[illegible]

Silver Beach Cottage Camp

WANT to see the most beautiful and comfortable place in the world? Then come to Silver Beach Cottage Camp. It is the only place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds. The camp is located on a beautiful beach, and the cottages are the most comfortable and well-furnished in the world. You can enjoy the best of both worlds. The camp is located on a beautiful beach, and the cottages are the most comfortable and well-furnished in the world. You can enjoy the best of both worlds.

WANT to see the most beautiful and comfortable place in the world? Then come to Silver Beach Cottage Camp. It is the only place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds. The camp is located on a beautiful beach, and the cottages are the most comfortable and well-furnished in the world. You can enjoy the best of both worlds.

Big Bear Lake

WANT to see the most beautiful and comfortable place in the world? Then come to Silver Beach Cottage Camp. It is the only place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds. The camp is located on a beautiful beach, and the cottages are the most comfortable and well-furnished in the world. You can enjoy the best of both worlds.

WANT to see the most beautiful and comfortable place in the world? Then come to Silver Beach Cottage Camp. It is the only place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds. The camp is located on a beautiful beach, and the cottages are the most comfortable and well-furnished in the world. You can enjoy the best of both worlds.

WANT to see the most beautiful and comfortable place in the world? Then come to Silver Beach Cottage Camp. It is the only place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds. The camp is located on a beautiful beach, and the cottages are the most comfortable and well-furnished in the world. You can enjoy the best of both worlds.

A Real Summer Camp

WANT to see the most beautiful and comfortable place in the world? Then come to Silver Beach Cottage Camp. It is the only place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds. The camp is located on a beautiful beach, and the cottages are the most comfortable and well-furnished in the world. You can enjoy the best of both worlds.

Judson F. Goring, Owner, Postoffice, Johannesburg, Mich.

[illegible][illegible]

About this time, Silver Beach Lodge was built. There is little evidence to determine who built it, who originally owned it and the date it was built. The Charlton Township Assessor has limited information on the property. The May 5, 1970 "State Tax Commission Residential" appraisal card states, under "Year Built," "old." The "Otsego County Residential" appraisal card dated October 1974, states, under "Year Built," "1920 est." The "Charlton Township Residential" appraisal card dated January 12, 1986, states, "Year Built": "1928." Subsequent appraisal cards parrot the "Year Built 1928" date. Current Township Supervisor Matt Nowak found a 1938 W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) ledger indicating a 1928 build date.

Del Thomas, long-time Johannesburg resident, indicated his father, Dewey Thomas, helped build the Lodge while working for Grant McCready. Del stated his dad was born in "1917, lived up here since he was 8, off and on." If Dewey Thomas helped build Silver Beach Lodge in 1928, he was 10 years old.

Katherine Louise French's statement was recorded in 1985. She and husband Maxwell were Silver Beach Lodge caretakers from 1946 – 1950. Regarding the Silver Beach Lodge, Mrs. French said, "the McCready's built the lodge," and it was here before 1936. She added "And for the lack of \$500 to finish it, Judge Going took it away from him." She indicated "the McCready's was (sic) going to run a business there." Her information came from "Chet Feltner, who came in here with the surveyors." There are, however, no deeds indicating McCready ever owned property in subdivision Block 19, where the lodge was built. The build date remains cloudy as does the financier.



Earliest photo of Silver Beach Lodge, undated. Courtesy of Robert Going/Julie Trausch.

On July 17, 1930 Judge Going arrived at Silver Beach with friends for a week vacation. It was the “first time Mr. Going has been back for two years.” On October 1, 1931, Judge Going “called on friends in Johannesburg and was “accompanied by a gentleman who is buying his Bear Lake property.” The “gentleman” was probably either James L. Graham or Kenneth I. Wallis.

1. The Graham and Wallis Mystery

The *Otsego County Herald* , on October 29, 1931, proclaimed “South Bend Men Buy Bear Lakes – Will Begin Development Work at Once. Plans Appear Promising.” According to this article, James L. Graham and Kenneth I Wallis of South Bend, Indiana, bought “the complete property of Judson F. Going,” including “Big and Little Bear Lakes” with a combined lake acreage of “close to 800 acres.” Their plan was to sell lots on the lake “within two weeks” after clearing up shoreline brush. Graham was in the oil business (gas stations) and Wallis was an “advertising specialist.” They

formed the partnership of "Graham and Wallis." Their property restrictions included the "proposition is purely Caucasian and other races will not be permitted to purchase property from them." They hoped to bring "people who are of the better class" to the area.

Graham and Wallis produced a brochure to sell lots entitled "The Great Northland and You." They advertised the Bear Lakes as "the most beautiful lakes in existence and none who have seen them will dispute the statement that they rank among the most beautiful in all of America." The brochure promised amenities including "piers, landing fields, athletic grounds, community clubhouses, natural bridal path and a private fish hatchery" funded by "5% of all sales." Pictures of the "contemplated friendship community house" were included. Health advantages were cited: "Accepted by medical authorities as a haven of retreat for sufferers of hay fever, asthma, and nervous disorders." While the brochure does not have a publication date, it contains letters of recommendation from Indiana bankers dated November 23, 1931. (See Parts of the brochure, **Exhibit 4.**)

In December 1931, Graham and Wallis posted ads in the *South Bend Tribune* for a "girl with personality and executive ability for bookkeeping and general secretarial work," and for a "high grade man" for an excellent opportunity if possessing "integrity and past sales record." Additional ads were placed by Graham in the *South Bend Tribune* (7/31/1932) promoting "beautiful" Bear Lake as the "Switzerland of America" and a "haven for hay fever sufferers." The ad contained an invitation "to camp among the pines on beautiful Bear Lake" "without cost or obligation." On site was Mr. Wallis

who would "locate you for a thrill of the most wonderful camp life you have ever enjoyed."

SUMMER RESORTS.

ATTENTION!

Hay Fever, Asthma and Sinus Sufferers and Outdoor Lovers.

To any campers, lovers of the great outdoors, persons afflicted with Hay Fever, Asthma or Sinus, interested in purchasing an unspoiled vacation site, you are extended an invitation without cost or obligation to camp among the pines on beautiful Bear Lake, Otsego county, Michigan, twenty miles southeast of Gaylord and five miles southeast of Johannesburg. The lake has been characterized as the "Switzerland of America," has all sand beach and bottom, Northwoods appeal and is privately owned for twenty years. Drive in and ask for Mr. Wallis and he will locate you for a thrill of the most wonderful camp life you have ever enjoyed. For further information phone J. L. Graham, 3-9600 or write 444 Associates Building, South Bend, Indiana.

**OFFER 'HEAVEN'
FOR HAY FEVER**

A "heaven for hay fever sufferers" is offered free to those who are afflicted with the malady by the Graham Wallis company, according to a report issued from their offices in the Associates building Saturday. The "heaven" is located among the pines on Bear lake in Otsego county, Michigan, 20 miles southeast of Gaylord, Mich., and five miles southeast of Johannesburg. The lake is about 300 miles north of South Bend and is said to be located in a desirable spot for those seeking relief.

By August 1, 1932, Graham may have ditched Wallis as the *South Bend Tribune* contained an advertisement authored solely by Graham who was looking for a "partner, active or silent" to join a "present established business that can assure a large substantial income" as long as the new partner had "\$8,000 to invest." Graham and Wallis seemed to disappear with only scant mention of Wallis in later editions of the *South Bend Tribune*. (Mr. Wallis was Vice President of the Merchandisers Club - 3/13/1940, his wife was Vice President of the St. Paul's Memorial Methodist Church - 6/8/1940.)

A search of the Otsego County Register of Deeds data base does not indicate any large-scale transaction from Judson F. Going to Graham & Wallis or Kenneth I. Wallis or James L. Graham. Kenneth Wallis did purchase Lots 18, 19, 20 and 21 in Block 15 from the Goings on June 20, 1932. His lots (18-21, Block 15) were sold in 1962 for \$8.29 due to a 1956 unpaid tax bill.

There are no deed transfers to support a Going/Graham & Wallis sale. None of the amenities promised in the Graham/Wallis brochure occurred. The Goings continued

to transfer deeds and conduct other real estate business around their lakes. The business transaction seemingly unraveled but how, or why, is another mystery.

Meanwhile, the *Otsego County Herald* continued to track Judge Goings' 1932 visits to his "cottage on Bear Lake" (7/7/1932), (9/15/1932), (8/13/1933). Judge Going returned to Bear Lake August 21, 1934, indicating "his health has been poor, and says that the North saved his life once, and a few weeks up here will make him as good as new again." Mrs. Going was ill and did not accompany him.

Nine months later, Judge Judson F. Going died on May 16, 1935, at age 77. Obituaries touted "his lifelong battle against crime and vice" which made him a "marked man." His will bequeathed "all my estate, both real, personal and mixed, to my beloved wife, Gertrude A. Going."



Front, Robert Going. 2nd row L-R, Jim Crum, Gertrude Going, Bess Crum (Edith's sister), Edith Going, J Freeman Going, Jr. Back row, unknown. Approx 1935

Gertrude Going and her son, J. Freeman Going, Jr. , took over the ongoing sales of Silver Beach property. Mrs. Going was the sole owner of Silver Beach Lodge. New Warranty Deeds were created for transfers between Gertrude A. Going and third parties; all deeds containing restrictions that “the above described property shall not be conveyed, leased or occupied by anyone not of the Caucasian race.” Silver Beach Lodge business cards were changed from J. F. Going to Going & Son.



A May 28, 1936 *Otsego Herald Times* front page article read: “Bear Lake to Open Hotel this Summer.” Caretakers Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Prescott were “in charge of the resort” open for business by June 15th. Silver Beach Lodge would “be turned into a dining hall and hotel.” Fishing boats were supplied and, following the rules of J. F. Going, deceased, the Lodge would “cater only to a gentile clientele.” An “Announcement” advertisement noted Big and Little Bear Lakes were still “privately owned” and the Bass fishing was “unsurpassed” with a Gaylord Fish Festival contestant winning first prize with “his catch of five Bass weighing 18lbs.”



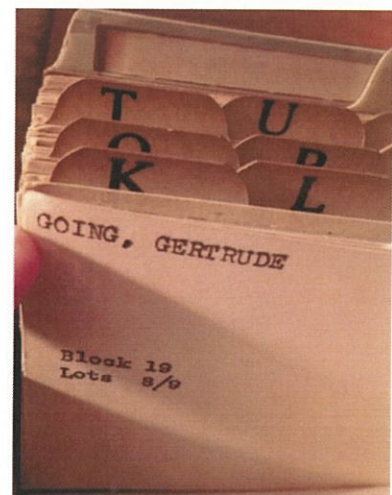
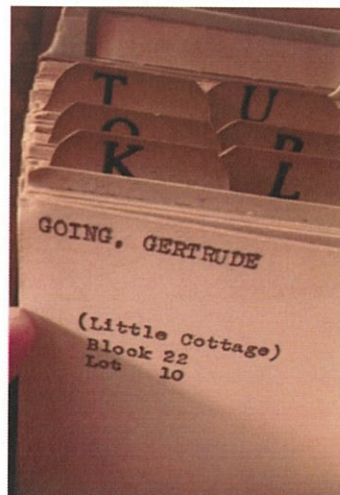
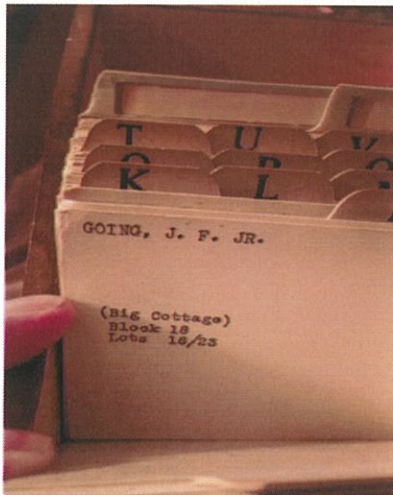
Undated photos of avenue to Big Bear Lake (Eighth Avenue). Courtesy of Robert Going/Julie Trausch.

Gertrude Going filed, in court, a Petition to Vacate part of the Kathryn A. Heffernan plat which was granted on July 19, 1939. The court Order vacated various blocks of land in the subdivision and specific streets (e.g. “all of Lakeview Drive north of the north line of 4th Avenue and south of the south line of 13th Avenue,” “First, Second and Third Avenues east from the east line of Pleasant Place” and more). Title of the vacated avenues would “revert to and vest in the owner and owners of the several lots in each plat adjoining said thoroughfare . . .” Burns Avenue was created.

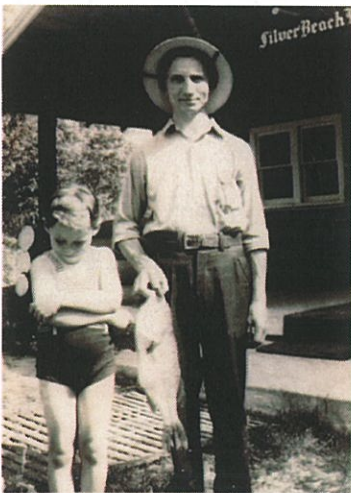
The three lots cut out of Block 19 (Lots 15-17) were deeded to the State of Michigan for unpaid taxes on November 29, 1939. Those three lots were acquired by Ross/Wilhelmina Jackson after paying a \$55 tax bill to the State of Michigan on May 3, 1943.

On December 28, 1940, **Gertrude Going** deeded her ownership of Silver Beach Lodge, and Lots 1-14, 18-27, to **J. Freeman Going and his wife, Edith M. Going**. A

second generation of Goings took ownership of Silver Beach Lodge. The card index, still in the Lodge, shows other Going properties.



J. Freeman Going was born September 2, 1897, in Chicago, Illinois. A



Young Robert Going and Ray Swab with 5 ½ lb. Bass from Big Bear Lake. Approx. 1938. Photo courtesy of Robert Going/Julie Trausch.

September 12, 1918, draft card listed his occupation as “Machinist EC Manufacturing Company.” The 1930 Census indicated he was “Head Clerk Bank.” The 1940 Census had him as a “clerk” at “trust company.” Another registration card had his employer as “Northern Trust Company.” Freeman married Edith M. Nagle (b 9/29/1902). They had one son, Robert (b 10/14/30).

A July 20, 1946, *Detroit Free Press* article advertised nine cottages for sale on Big Bear Lake. There was also a “fine resort” priced at \$39,000 which the realtor said, “We might even cut the price more: in fact we might even give it away.”

Gertrude Going died on October 25, 1946, at the age of 83, in Evanston, Illinois.

Tragically, on April 21, 1947, Edith Going, age 44, was killed when a 15-year-old driver ran a stop sign and collided with the Going vehicle. Their son, Robert, was 16 years old.

From 1946 – 1950, Maxwell/Katherine French paid Freeman Going for the use of Silver Beach Lodge and, in turn, rented out rooms. Katherine French's recollection of Silver Beach Lodge, neighbors and properties was captured in a 1985 statement. Her daughter, Barb Collins, visited the Silver Beach Lodge August 1, 2020; the date of her 89th birthday. Ms. Collins kindly provided photographs taken during their stay. She remembered Art/Tessie Shipman were caretakers before Mr. and Mrs. French. When the Shipman's were leaving, Harold Morris, long-time French friend, alerted French's that Shipman's were

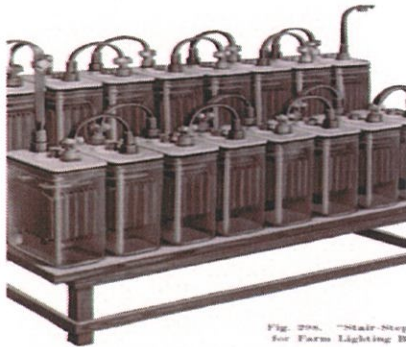
vacating. Max visited the Lodge, talked with Freeman and the



L-R Bottom: Maxwell French, Mrs. Beaulous, Mrs. Grenewicki, Katherine French, Top L-R: Mr. Grenewicki holding Susan French, ?, ?, Dr. Beaulous. 1948 Photo Courtesy of Barb (French) Collins.

French family immediately moved in. As part of the French's responsibilities, they rented

out approximately five cabins owned by the Goings which were close to the Lodge and received a cleaning fee. At Silver Beach Lodge, Mr./Mrs. French normally stayed in the bedroom by the kitchen, Barb was in the first-floor corner room. Each night Mrs. French cooked meals for lodge guests, Barb made \$12 a week serving the meals and cleaning the lodge. Hunters would come in the fall, no guests stayed during the winter. To preserve heat during the winter, Mr. French constructed a large wall between the living room and dining room; the fireplace was only lit on wash days during the winter to dry clothes.



A big bank of glass Delco batteries in the basement provided electricity. Occasionally, Freeman and son Robert stayed overnight. Freeman played Gin Rummy for money with guests. Barb remembers learning Gin Rummy from Robert. Boats were kept stacked on the

beach for guests' use.



Susan French in kitchen sink, east Wall. 1946- 50. Photo courtesy of Barb (French) Collins

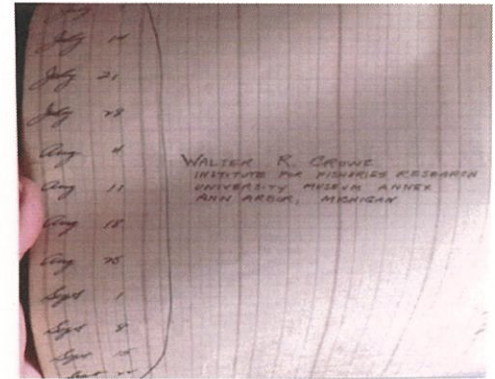


Susan French celebrating 1946-50. Photo courtesy of Barb (French) Collins



Susan French admiring Dr. Beaulous' deer 1946-50. Photo Courtesy of Barb (French) Collins

While renting out Silver Beach Lodge rooms, the Frenchs kept records of the people that stayed and rates paid. The logbooks are still at Silver Beach Lodge. One notable visitor was Walter R. Crowe, Institute for Fisheries Research, University Museum Annex, Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 1946 he stayed at Silver Beach Lodge from July – September and authored numerous articles on the fish population of Big Bear Lake including a 1953, 18 page article entitled “An Analysis of the Fish Population of Big Bear Lake, Otsego County, Michigan,” still available online.



In 1950, the Frenches moved out of Silver Beach Lodge and Mr./Mrs. Walter Jones were the new proprietors (HT 6/29/50). Three months later, Mr. Jones died. Mrs. Jones headed back to Lansing (HT 9/14/50).

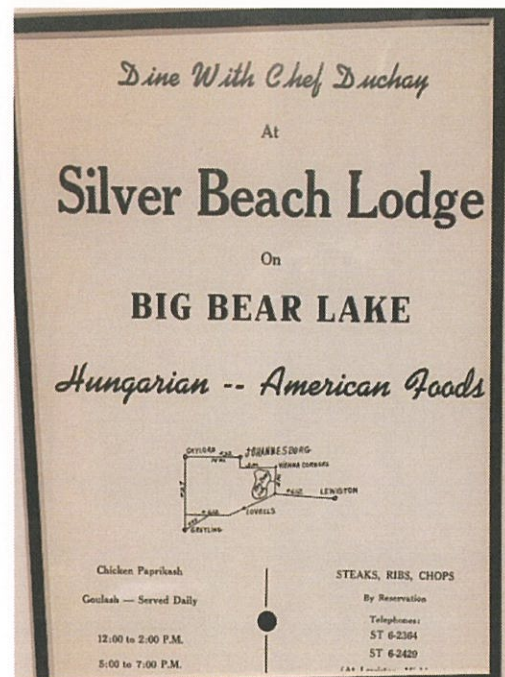
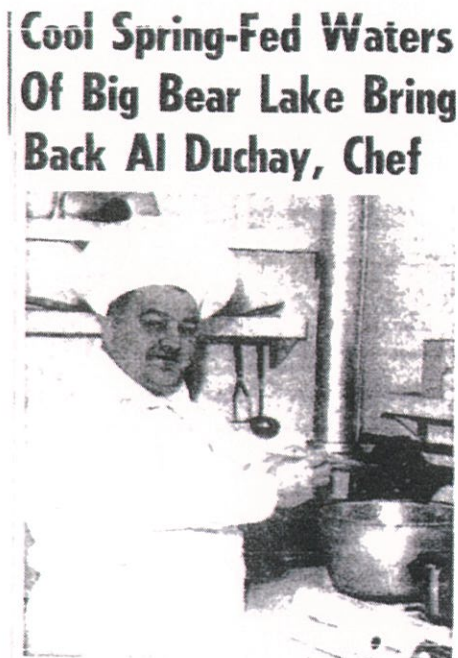
In May 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Everette Wiggins were the new managers of Silver Beach Lodge (HT, 5/29/52). The Wiggins managed Silver Beach Lodge until 1957, when they moved back to South Bend, Indiana (HT, 2/21/57).



J. Freeman Going, Jr., 1956. Photo courtesy of Robert Going/Julie Trausch

Adalbert Duchay and wife Mary Duchay purchased Lots 24-27, Block 22 from Freeman Going on March 19, 1955. They moved to a home on Big Bear Lake in May

1957 (HT 5/30/57). Chef Duchay prepared meals at Silver Beach Lodge in Summer, 1957 (*Star Press*, Muncie, Indiana, 6/7/57). A lengthy newspaper article – “Cool Spring-Fed Waters of Big Bear Lake Bring Back Al Duchay, Chef” appeared in the *Herald Times*, (2/20/58). Like Judge Going, his serious health issue (crippling polio) was cured by the “spring-fed, delightfully cool waters of Big Bear Lake.” He was still at the Lodge in 1960 (HT, 6/9/60).



Two Lodge calendar books (from 1957-1958) remain at the Lodge. The books list visitors and rates paid. A boat rented for \$1.50 a day, a meal cost \$1.85 and a week's lodging was \$25. During the 1940's, iced Nehi pop and various staples were available from a small store in Room 9. The store vanished during the French years but reappeared in Room 8 from the mid 1950's – 1962.

On July 30, 1965, after 54 years of land ownership by the Goings, J. Freeman Going sold Silver Beach Lodge with Lots 1-14, 18-27 of Block 19, to **John R. Trevas** and his wife, **Thressa O. Trevas**. Before the sale, Freeman discussed transferring

ownership of the Lodge to son Robert and his wife Joyce, but they declined. Robert built a cottage for his father on the west side of Big Bear Lake while pursuing his career as a veterinarian.

The Going Era ended.

Minstrels with Judge Going as Interlocutor

[From a photograph taken for THE TRIBUNE]



Judge Judson Going, Chicago Tribune, 1909



J. Freeman Going, Jr. Photo courtesy of Robert Going /Julie Trausch



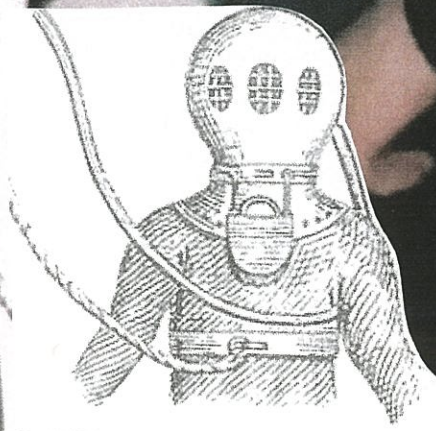
Robert Going building Freeman's cottage, west side of Big Bear Lake. 1952-1959. . Photo courtesy of Robert Going /Julie Trausch.

SILVER BEACH SUB. LAKE LODGE

J.R. TREVAS

Jack Trevas is spending a few days at Silver Beach Lodge, repairing and remodeling. It took him twelve hours to make the trip from Detroit, because of the big snow storm.

THE TREVAS ERA



68	68	68	207.9
33.33	TENTH AVE		
82	136 000-018-00	82 136 000-017-00	82 140.4 000-016-00
82	136 000-013-00	82 136 000-014-00	82 140.9 000-015-00
	136	136	141.4

B. The Trevas Era

John Rundell Trevas was born May 7, 1923, in Detroit, Michigan.

Ancestry records document his military service (12/25/42) and a marriage to Thressa "Tolly" Odessa Samelson (m 6/2/1945). They had two children, Pat and Mike.

Trevas was the principal owner of the New Hudson Fence Company, Inc., (incorporated 6/13/1967). The officers included John R. Trevas, President and Sue Specht, Secretary. According to his nephew Kevin, John also bought the DeWitt Fence Company in Lansing.

In 1962, Gaylord attorney Daniel F. Walsh obtained numerous lots in various blocks of the Kathryn Heffernan Subdivision through tax sales (including lots owned by Kenneth I. Wallis). In the same year, Walsh received a Quick Claim deed from Judson F. Going (Freeman) for 107 lots in 10 different blocks of the subdivision. In 1963, Walsh transferred most of these properties, by Warranty Deed, to John R. and Thressa O. Trevas.

Before buying Silver Beach Lodge, John bought a "very rough beach cottage at the end of 12th Avenue," the "Johnson Cottage," according to nephew Kevin Trevas. John's son, Pat Trevas, thought John bought a second cottage in the subdivision before the Lodge purchase. John's niece, Karen Antrim, sent pictures of the cabin, the lake and an old stove that might have been in the Lodge (**Exhibit 4**).

John Trevas was 42 when he purchased Silver Beach Lodge in 1965. He had bought/sold numerous lots in the Kathryn A. Heffernan Subdivision since 1983. His name appears on approximately 109 real estate transactions in the Heffernan Subdivision. A J.R. Trevas Silver Beach Subdivision (boarded by Eighth, Pleasant,

Thirteenth and Meridian) was created on land Gertrude Going vacated in 1939 (**Exhibit 1**).



Trevas sign, still at Lodge.

When John bought the Lodge, it was “frozen in time with stuff from the 1930’s-1950’s” according to Kevin Trevas. There was an old Coke machine (from the Lodge “store,” see Karen Antrim’s photo, **Exhibit 4**), four huge lithographic prints of locomotives/ocean liners on the dining room walls, four “hideous fluorescent light fixtures” in the dining room, an out- of-tune piano and some “stuffed, mounted fish.” The 1930’s hand embroidered linens and a full set of old earthenware china were still housed in the 2nd floor storage room. He remembers the “handmade pine tables,” (which are still there today).

During his tenure, John remodeled the kitchen with 1960’s cabinets, a range and stove (no dishwasher). The first floor had “no ceilings”; just jousts attached to the underside of the second floor (see Barb Collins’ picture, earlier in text). Around 1968, he drywalled the living room ceiling and installed the cosmetic beams which are still present. The second floor rooms had “brown board” ceilings which he painted white around 1970. There was a 1940’s gas pump in the back driveway set on a concrete base. John removed it.

During the summers, John would fly to Lewiston in his Piper Cub as I-75 was not completed. He kept a car in Lewiston to reach the Lodge. While John was a "fair weather visitor," Kevin Trevas' family loved the Lodge during winter. They would call ""Dewey at Vienna Corners" to light fuel oil furnaces before their arrival. The Lodge was still cold so:

"We kept a large pile of smooth (steam tumbled?) rocks on the hearth of the fireplace, we each had our 'own' rock. All day long the fire would heat up the rocks. When we went to bed, my father would put your rock in your bed, around where your feet would be and it would stay warm radiating heat through the night. These rocks were about 2-3 pounds, I remember when I was finally big enough to carry my own rock to bed."

John and Thressa divorced with John keeping Silver Beach Lodge and his Heffernan/Trevas subdivision lots as evidenced by a flurry of land transactions from Thressa to John in 1987.

Kevin Trevas, like so many other people connected to the Lodge, had specific cherished Lodge memories. He relayed two memories in a 2020 email:

"On July 20, 1969, I was 11 years old and just our family was at the Lodge. We watched the moon landing on a very old, grainy black and white TV while looking out the large picture window at the full moon. It was a beautiful night, after watching Neil Armstrong, we walked down to the beach and stared up at the moon. It is one of my most treasured memories."

*

*

*

"In the early 70's my uncle had a thing called an 'Aquanaut,' it was basically a gas air compressor that floated on the surface and had hoses/masks/weights that allowed you to swim about 25' below the surface. I remember finding an odd stacked pile of big logs/rocks offshore a little north of SBL beach about 10' underwater. I was told that it was from when they would float logs across the lake and 'store' them over the winter that way by weighting them down under water."

Sue Ann Specht, John's secretary at the New Hudson Fence Company, was John's "lifetime partner/girlfriend" and "very involved" with the extended family. Her daughter, Katherine (Kate) Specht, (aka the self-proclaimed "Queen of the Aquanaut") is the current president/treasurer/director of a successor corporation to the Fence Companies.



Aquanaut exemplar



2021 Photo of "Arnie"
(Almost 60 years old) guarding SBL liquor supply

Kate solved two mysteries. The Lodge armadillo was caught in Texas, by the Trevas/Specht clan, stuffed, and brought to the Lodge in the 1960's. "Arnie," (as named by Pat Trevas), currently guards the Lodge liquor storage area.

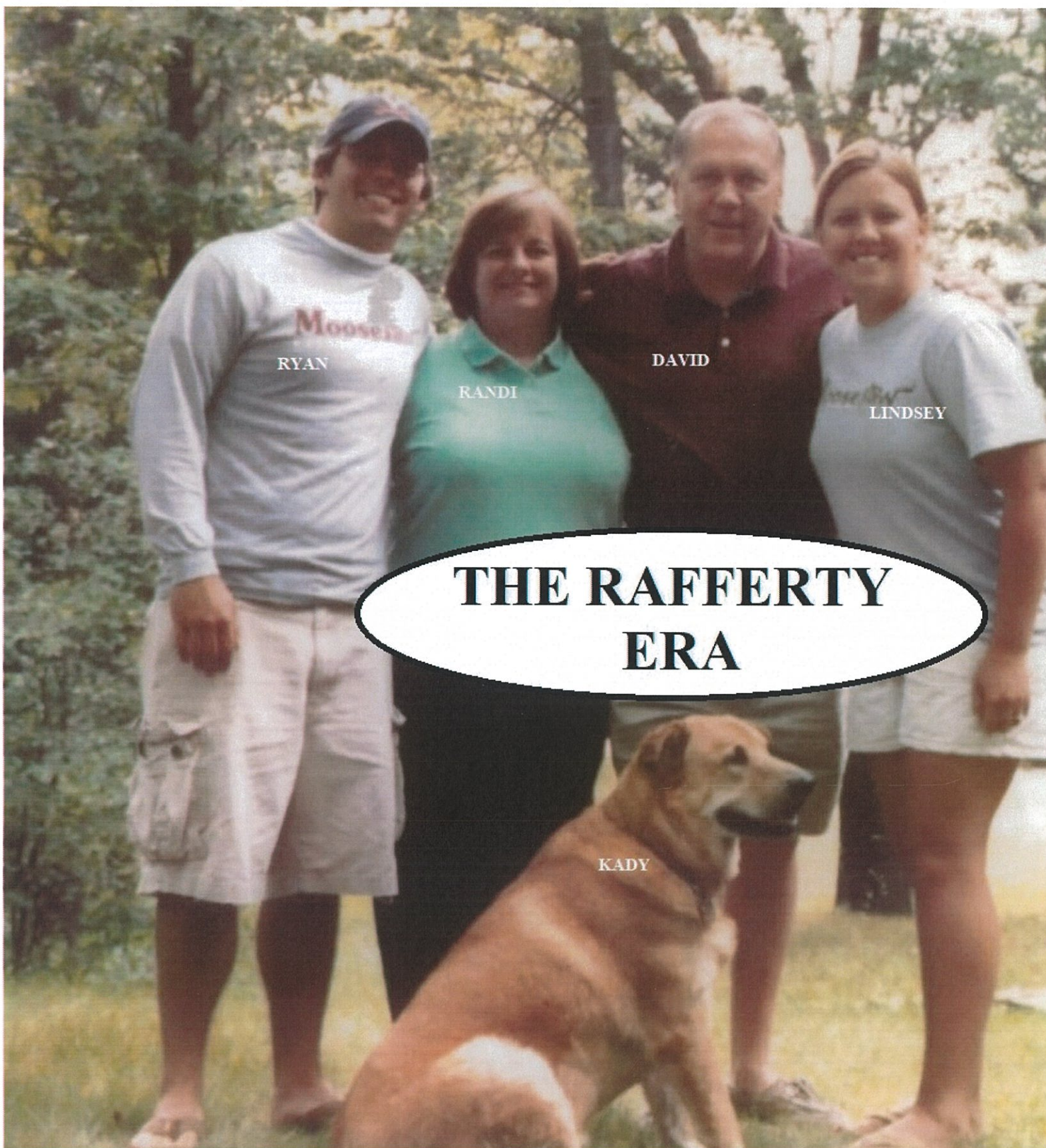
A mysterious, black and white framed print of a female dressed in religious garb and staring nowhere still resides at the Lodge. During the Trevas years, the mystical lady brought good luck to those who had her in their room. Her location was determined during each Trevas visit by a coin flip between Kate (Room #9) and John/Sue (Room #8). The current owners, who dubbed the portrait, "The Lady of the Lodge," remain wary of her powers. Currently, she is peacefully sequestered in a closet.

Pat Trevas remembers a basement full of dirt bikes and snowmobiles calling the Lodge, "more fun than Disneyland." At age 72, he's the crew chief in a B25 Bomber for the Yankee Air Museum, perhaps influenced by his father's Piper Cub flights to the Lodge. No one knows why John Trevas sold Silver Beach Lodge. Around the time he sold, John bought and renovated an old tugboat which he piloted "all over the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway," according to Kevin. A July 26, 1992 *Detroit Free Press*

article listed the Lodge, 30 acres and 84 lots for \$225,000.

LEWISTON - LAKES
East Twin Lake — 200', 3 bdrm., home, 1372 sq. ft., firpl., 2 gar's., appli's., 20x15 liv. rm., \$119,000.
Tee Lake — 113', exc. cond., 3 bdrm., 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ baths, 1260 sq. ft., att. fin. gar., sandy beach, \$64,900.
Big Bear Lake — 120' lake frig. log lodge, 9 bdrms., 3,200 sq. ft., 30 acres, 84 lots pkg., \$225,000.
Little Wolf Lake — 210', 2 bdrm., 1,116 sq. ft., 20x20 kitck., brk. firpl., all appli's., att. 24x24 gar., encl'd. lakefrt. porch, \$110,000.
East Twin Lake — 132', 3 bdrms., 1,761 sq. ft., full block bsmt., firpl., new crpt. throughout, 2 covered porches, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ baths, 24x26 gar., 800' deep woods, dock, asphalt dr.,
SETTLE ESTATE
REDUCED PRICE
ALL OFFERS CONSIDERED
Call Mary or Glen Alsobrooks
517-786-2294
Century 21 - N.E. Realty

John Trevas entered into a land contract with David and Randine Rafferty for lots 1, 11, 18-19, of Block 19 which was recorded on May 24, 1993. The Trevas/Rafferty land contract was assigned to Sue Specht by the Estate of John Trevas on June 26, 2002. Additional lots in Block 19 where Silver Beach Lodge sits, were included in the Assignment. A Quick Claim Deed from the Estate of John Trevas to Sue Specht was signed April 21, 2004, with **Sue Specht** issuing a Warranty Deed to **David and Randine Rafferty** for Silver Beach Lodge (Lots 1-14, 18-27, Block 19) on April 21, 2004, for \$155,000.00.



RYAN

RANDI

DAVID

LINDSEY

THE RAFFERTY ERA

KADY

C. The Rafferty Era

You can tell something about a person by the refrigerator that he/she keeps.

Neat or messy. Carnivore or vegetarian. Beer or wine.



You didn't need to open the Raffertys' Silver Beach Lodge refrigerator to see traits of the family patriarch, David Rafferty. Parts of his personality were plastered across the refrigerator door. Proud Marine. Staunch Republican. Snowmobiler and fisherman. Supporter of his kids' activities. While the refrigerator (still at Silver Beach Lodge) provides a few clues into David's personality, matriarch

Randi Rafferty provided most of the Rafferty clan's Lodge history.

David Edward Rafferty (b 1/17/48, d 5/29/17) and Randi (b 4/30/50) had two children, Lindsey Danielle Rafferty-Neal (b 6/18/78) and Ryan David Rafferty (b 9/13/84). David served in the United States Marine Corps with a stint in Vietnam handling munitions at the DMZ.



In the late 1980's, the Rafferty clan visited Big Bear Lake residents Sue and Sonny Blaisdell and fell in love with the "sandy bottom and clean lake."

In 1991, the Raffertys bought a house (trailer) at Pleasant/11th Street. Toys followed: a pontoon boat, four-wheeler (still in use at Silver Beach Lodge) and snowmobiles. With a small trailer, life was simple: arrive Friday night, the ladies drank wine, the men went snowmobiling.



Dave Rafferty by original Rafferty owned trailer.

When Trevas listed the Lodge in 1992, he included all of his surrounding property (84 lots) making the cost “too high” for purchase. David convinced Trevas to separate the Lodge from the properties and the Raffertys bought the Lodge on a land contract. Trevas “took his favorite things and moved out” leaving “a lot of lumber” in the basement. All the Trevas furniture (including the Rittenbacher Pine tables) and couches stayed.



Four nappers on previously owned Trevas couches

Immediately, the Raffertys started building their own signature improvements. In 1993, they built a huge pole barn and a storage shed by the lake. Once the pole barn

cement flooring was finished (7/4/1993), it became a skateboarding/rollerblading mecca until David rode in on the ATV, slammed on the brakes and sent a scared rollerblader to the ground, breaking her arm; the first Rafferty Era broken bone.

In the mid-1990's, David and Sonny Blaisdell, drinking cocktails, envisioned a "Yacht Club." According to Sonny, as the cocktails flowed, the project grew from an originally planned 8 x 8 slab to its current 12 x 12 construction. David, Sonny, Dale Ruhlig and Greg Wymore built and stained it in 1995.



David and Sonny on break.



Stain team: Lon, David, Greg



Once constructed, the Yacht Club (with nearby firepit) moved the Rafferty parties to the lake. Randi noted:

“One of my fondest memories is having about 20 of us playing *Catch Phrase* in the Yacht Club and having to take a sip of our drink if we missed. Some of those nights proved very difficult for some people to get back up the hill to the Lodge!”

To assist people back to the Lodge, the Raffertys hired a landscaping company that put steps down the hill at the front and back of the house. The company planted Hosta's and other flowering plants throughout the yard that never grew.

Randi indicated:

“Most of our years can be summed up in one word: parties.”



Village People make appearance at SBL (Lon, Sonny, Greg, David, Sheryl, Sue, Randi).

The annual Fourth of July party brought the extended Rafferty family to the Lodge. David “made a point of waking everyone up during the 4th by playing ‘Stars and Stripes Forever’ as loud as possible at the top of the stairs.” Randi remembered “we had people in every bed and roll-away bed” without enough sheets or towels. Subsequently, everyone brought their own sheets and towels. Meals were assigned. The dance train, fueled by family cooks with Martinis in hand, snaked through the living room and outside to the grill, usually powered by Buster Poindexter’s All-Night Party.

The era of easy
mass family
gatherings
arrived and
continued every
Fourth of July.



Dance train heading north to grill.

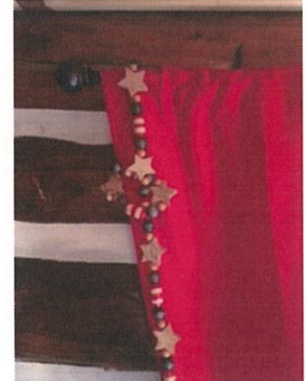


Martinis at the grill.

Relics from the past received new life from the Raffertys. If you won the Annual On-Site Ladder Golf Tournament (throwing string-tied golf balls at a ladder), your trophy was the mounted, stuffed fish discovered in the attic, the same fish seen above the fireplace mantel in the 1948 Barb Collins photo.

For many years, the Raffertys attended a huge New Year's Eve bonfire at the Big Bear Lake boat launch. Often, after food and drink, people headed back to the Lodge for music and dancing. The party continued until Dave brought out the armadillo (now named "Dilley") which signaled the end of the evening.

The Rafferty's created different themes for various rooms. Room 6 (Stars & Stripes) had red, white and blue bedding, red curtains and stars painted on the floor. There was a Moose room. A Fish room. The Lighthouse room. A ghost occupied Room 7 ("Fred") that often opened and closed the door.



The Lodge rooms were always filled with family and friends.



Ryan, Lindsay & Kady Rafferty



The Rafferty brothers: Brian, Dennis, John, Jim, Dave



Ladies nite: Triopoly & Long Island Ice Teas - Randi, Maggie, Cheryl, Kathleen, Sandy, Cari, Kathy

Outdoor activities never stopped. During a snowmobiling weekend with brothers and nephews, one nephew had an IBS issue so David strapped a porta potty to the back of his snowmobile. During the summer, David strapped a crutch to his ATV (he had a bad tendon), but , after encountering bad terrain, he jumped from the ATV, catching his leg on the crutch and sending his leg under the ATV producing another Rafferty broken bone which required screws and plates.

With years of cherished memories to reflect upon, David and Randi had a difficult decision. As Randi indicated:

"As we got older and our health started failing, we found that the kids weren't able to come up as often, we felt the place became too large for David and I to maintain. Which is why we decided to put it on the market and sell to a younger group of people who could take good care of the place. When it was sold, it was very difficult to walk away."

The Lodge is big. It facilitates big gatherings. Extended family gatherings. Large friend groups. It's always hard to walk away from a place that offers up so much.



David and Randi Rafferty



Fisherman Ryan

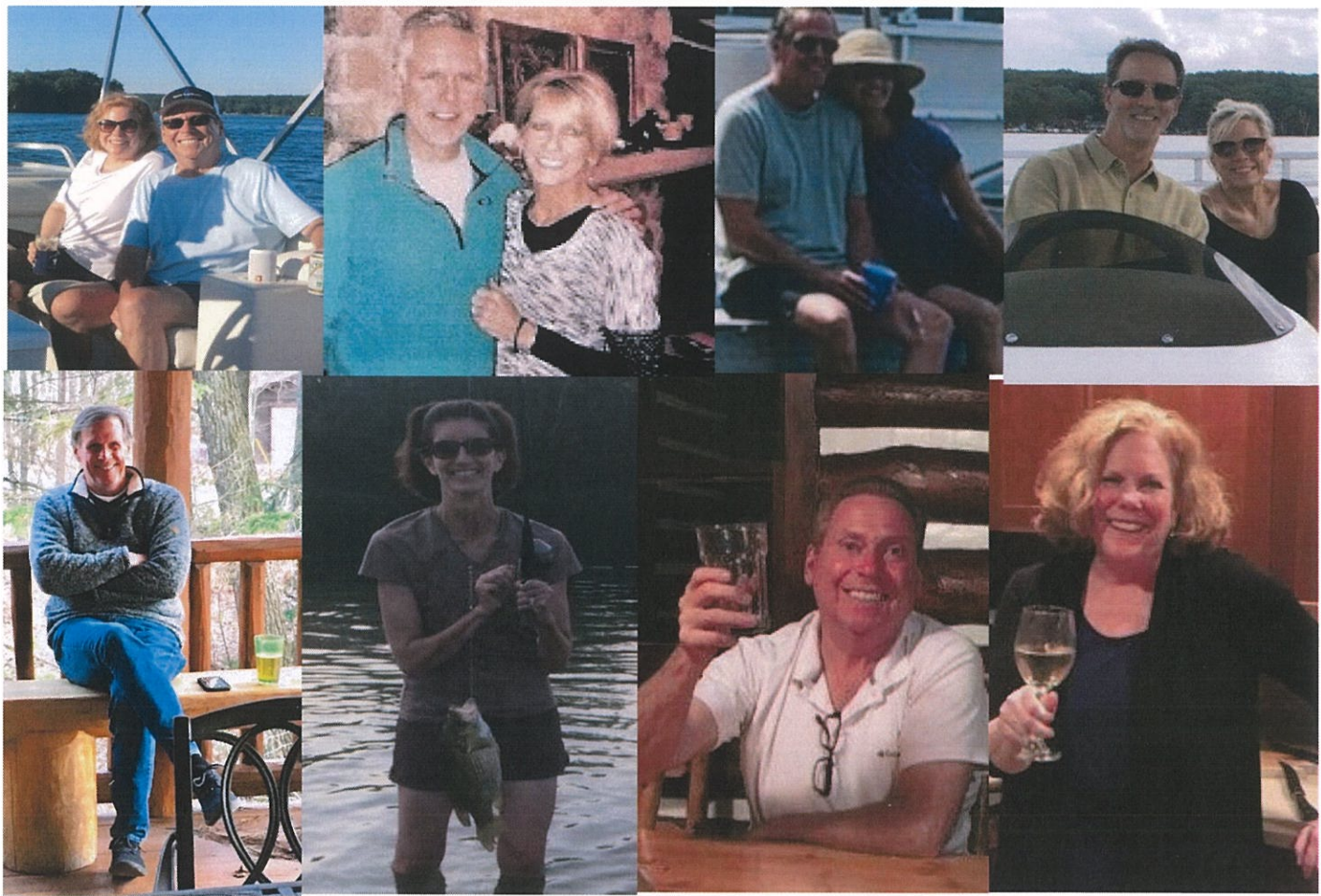


In SBL gear, the Rafferty brothers salute: Dennis, David, Brian, John, Jim

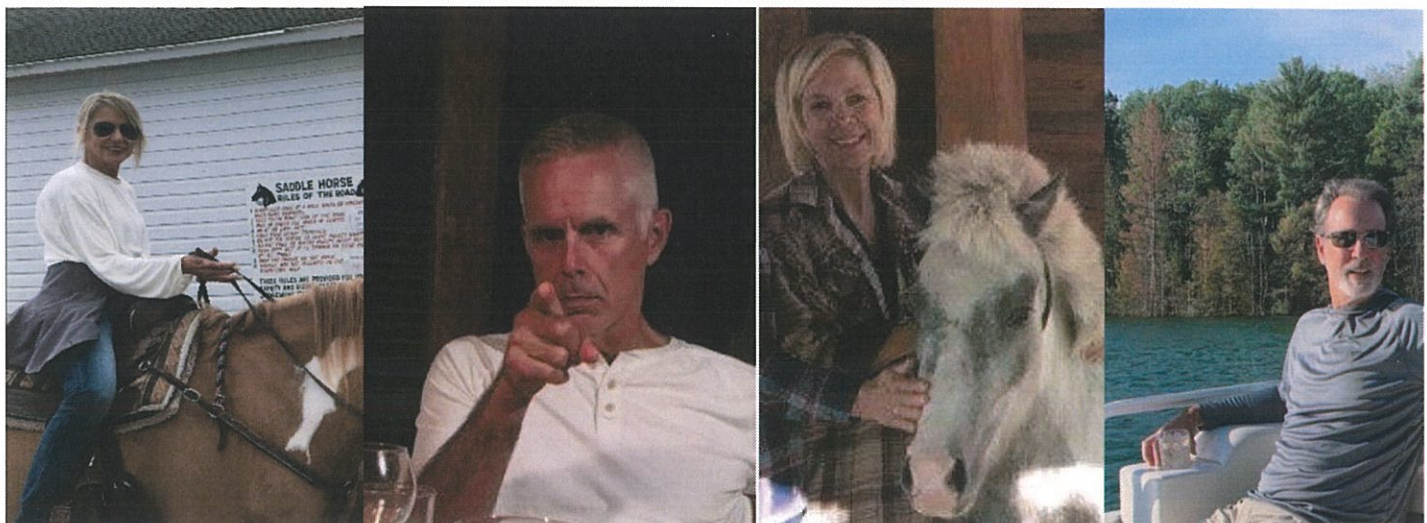
After 18 years of ownership (1993 – 2011), the Raffertys sold Silver Beach Lodge. For David's 65th birthday party (2013), relatives gathered and everyone told their favorite Lodge story. Six years after selling the Lodge, David passed away. Current Lodge owners toast him on July 4th in the Yacht Club he built.

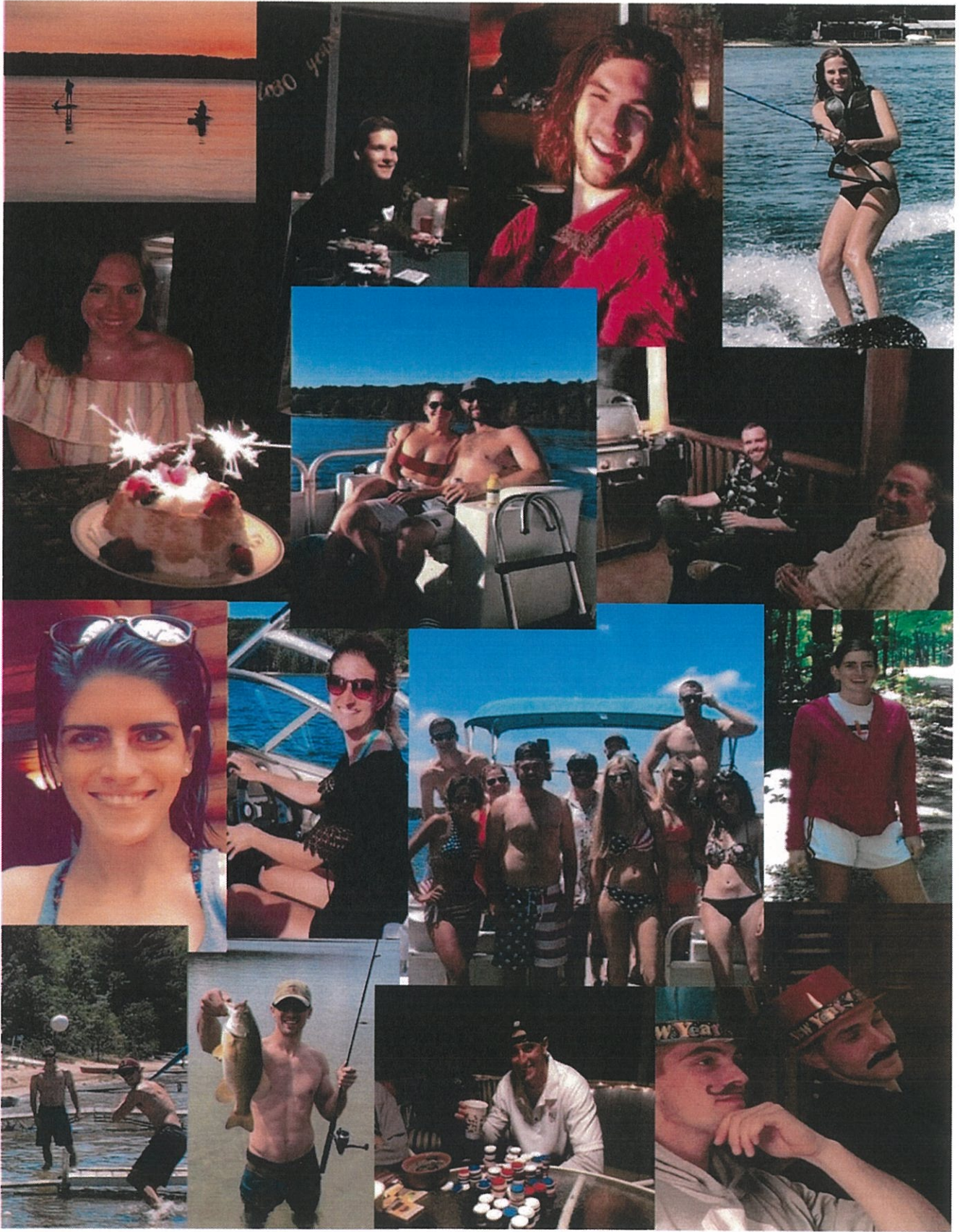


David, with beloved Yacht Club cap.



SILVER BEACH LODGE, LLC





D. Silver Beach Lodge, LLC

It began like a movie scene. Four men sitting in a dark corner booth at an Italian restaurant. They arrived from Chicago and Detroit. A lawyer, an investment banker, a Director of Account Operations and an entrepreneur. A deal was struck, if approved by four wives. It was. On July 11, 2011, Silver Beach Lodge, LLC purchased Silver Beach Lodge. The closing was notable. The Raffertys were in tears as they gave up a cherished part of their lives.

Silver Beach Lodge, LLC is comprised of four families, the Van Maeles (Bill/Renee), Lyons (Jeff/Deb), Mahons (Bob/Eileen), Thiemes (Kevin/Bridgit). Between the families, there are 13 young adults. Jeff Lyons and Bob Mahon were high school friends, Bob Mahon met Bill Van Maele at Michigan State University and Kevin Thieme met Jeff Lyons at the University of Michigan. Throughout the post college years, the families stayed connected. They had joint family trips to Barothy Lodge, Walhalla, Michigan, where they stayed in lodges similar to Silver Beach Lodge.

For multiple years before 2010, the Van Maeles rented a cabin on Bear Lake. During the 2010 summer, the Lyons visited the Van Maeles at the cabin and saw Silver Beach Lodge for sale. The four families discussed a fractional ownership model where the families would rotate weeks throughout the year except for three “community weeks” where all families could use the Lodge together. The Lodge was bought.

After the purchase, various rooms were updated; some by choice, some by disaster. Construction of a deck and carport began in November 2011, finished in 2012. At the same time, the Lodge’s outside logs were sandblasted and stained after repairing

the chinking. The deck project, sandblasting, chinking and restaining were done by Del Thomas whose father, Dewey Thomas , helped build the Lodge 83 years earlier.



2011 MLS Listing photo



2011-2012 Del Thomas' crew.



January - March 2012



January - March 2012



Completed deck 2012



Completed carport 2012

Other major (voluntary) renovations included a new kitchen (2013), renovated second floor east bathroom (2012), renovated second floor west bathroom (which pushed into room Six) (2012), renovated first floor bathroom with added shower (2012), paneling the upstairs storage closet (2011) and tiling of the west basement room floor (2017).



2011 Kitchen



2013 Kitchen

In December 2013, the Lyons family arrived at the Lodge for the New Year's community week. Prior to their arrival, a handyman started the old oil burning furnaces. The upstairs furnace piping separated sending burnt oil ash throughout the Lodge. That problem spurred a large insurance claim which resulted in beautiful 2nd floor hallway/bedroom wood ceilings (replacing the "brown board" ceiling, painted white by Trevas), new carpeting, new bedding/mattresses and two new natural gas furnaces. The oil drum in the attic and a second one at the side of the Lodge were removed.



Brown board ceilings painted white by Trevas. Photo 2011.



New wood 2nd floor hallway/bedroom ceiling. Photo 2014

In 2015, a tree crushed the Rafferty-built Beach Shed resulting in another insurance claim and a new shed. Hail damage necessitated a new roof in August 2016. About this time, rumors circulated that the “Lady of the Lodge” (the mystical old, framed picture) might have contributed to the string of unnatural property damage events. When Silver Beach Lodge, LLC, took ownership of the Lodge, “The Lady of the Lodge” was stored in a closet. The “Lady” was liberated from her confinement and moved into various rooms. Subsequently, pipes broke, trees fell and hail rained down. Using care and caution, she was gently escorted back to the closet. Since confinement, all is quiet.

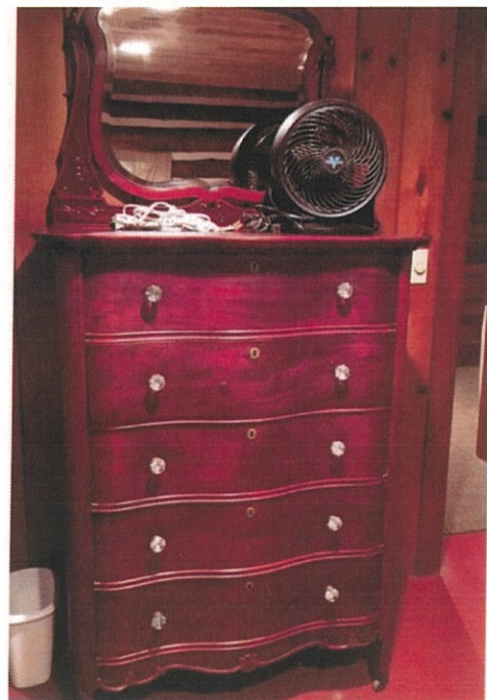
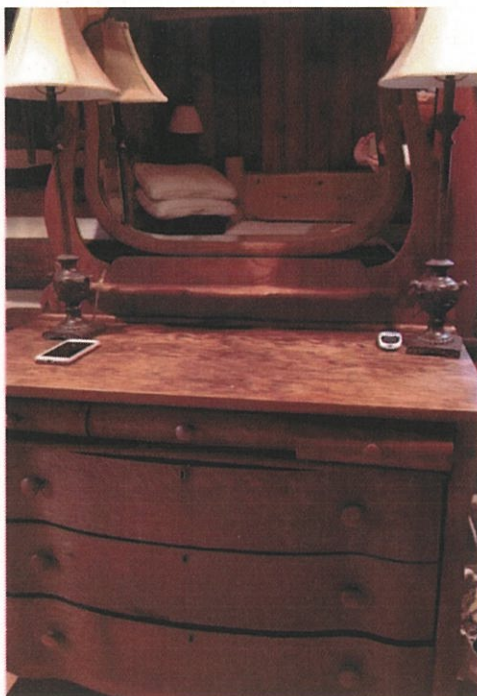


Tree crushes Beach Shed 2016

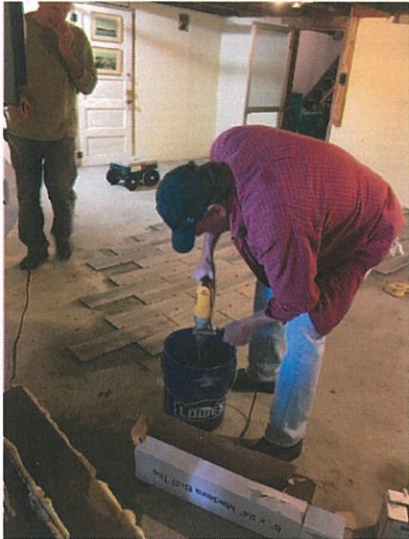


“Lady of the Lodge.”
Identity blurred to protect the Lodge.

While some of the Lodge was updated, many historical items remain. The original Lodge dishes/bowls/cups are still used. Dinner is served on the Rittenbacher tables, the same tables Barb Collins remembers from the 1940's. Antique dressers, selected by J. Freeman Going at yard sales, remain in the upstairs bedrooms. Arnie (the armadillo) still guards the liquor which is housed in the basement's wooden ice storage box built by Maxwell French.



Occasionally, the Lodge men do their own renovations. When the west basement room needed an update, Project Operation Manager Van Maele assembled his Lodge partners to paint the basement walls/ceiling and tile the floor. A heater was installed. The Lyons family donated a pool table, chairs and dart board. The room, which formerly required gloves to play ping pong in the winter, is now a year-round recreational gathering spot with TV.



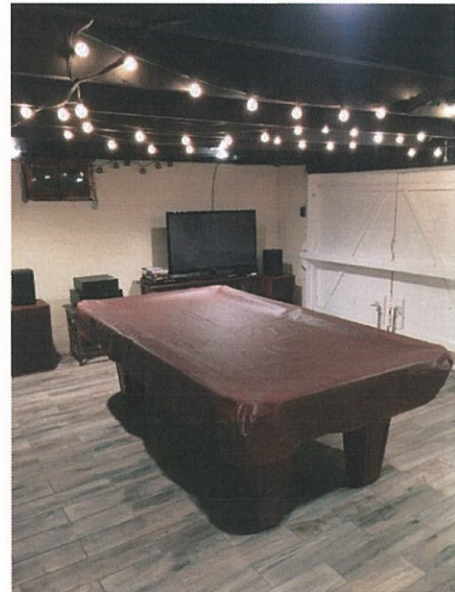
Mahon the mudder



Kevin the cutter



Bill the layer

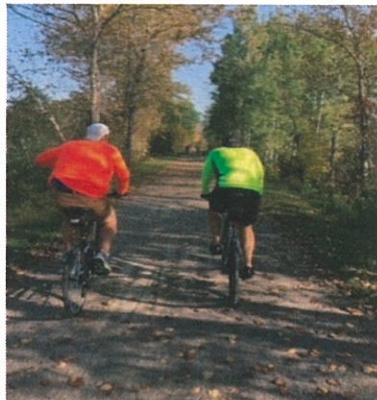


Lyons Pool Table

Like the prior generations of Lodge owners, the Lodge was purchased to create fun memories with family and friends. In less than ten years of Lodge ownership, over 200 different people – family and close friends – have overnighted at the Lodge. When the four families' children were young, it was normal for all 21 family members to gather during the community weeks surrounding the 4th of July, Labor Day and New Year's Eve. Each of the Lodge families have hosted their own family gatherings. Events like deer camp, golf outings and a 62-mile Gaylord/Mackinaw City bike trip were hosted from the Lodge. The activities are endless.



ATV/Dirt biking



Gaylord-Mackinaw City biking



Golf



Winning L-R-C



Sleigh Riding



Go-Kart



8th Avenue sledding



Poker



Curling



Beach Frisbee



Downhill skiing



Jenga



Snowperson making



Portraits



Cross country skiing



Snowmobiling



Boysen Skiing . . . and . . . subsequent hospital trip.



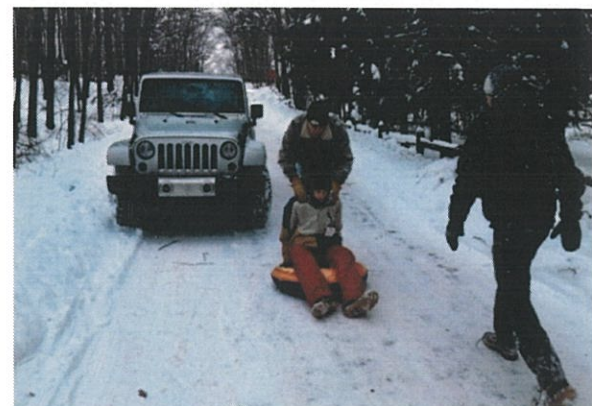
4th of July Sparkler Club



Portraits



Water Gymnastics



8th Avenue tubing



Dice winners



ATV ice body dragging



Polar plunge



Beach Book Club



Nature walks



Pickleball



SBL World Poker Tournament



Skiable feast



Birthday parties



Sailing



Relaxation Station



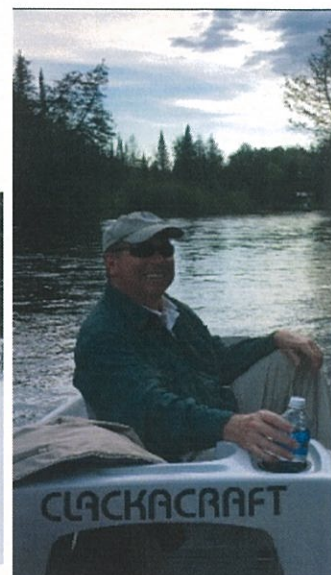
Pontoon Bar



Wake Surfboarding



Wilding



Grayling fishing trip



2 a.m. Pontoon dancing



ATV sledding



Paddle boarding



Doggie exercise



Indian River Rafting



Ice Fishing



New Year's Eve



Winter bonfires



Home run derby



Fishing



Exhaustion



Meditation



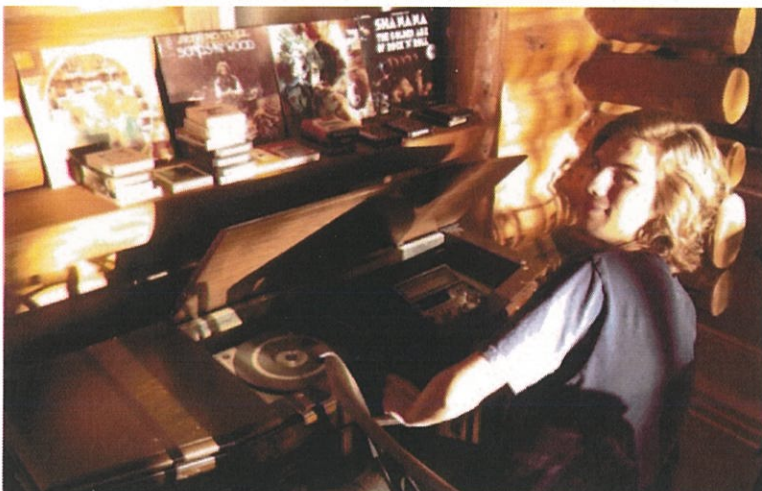
Yoga



Parade watching



Beach Volleyball



Yard sale bargains



Treasure hunt, lost ring

As the Lodge nears its (presumed) 100-year anniversary, what projects and people are in its future? A newly installed outdoor shower allows lodgers to cleanse themselves with the same Bear Lake waters that brought Judge Going “back from the dead” and healed Chef Duchay’s polio. The dirt-filled northwest basement corner might morph into the Lumber Barons’ Bar & Wine Cellar, a tribute to William Gratwick, Nelson Holland and the other Lumber Barons who owned this land. The pine tree population on the Lodge

land ticks upward, as a current owner, (the modern day version of Karen Hartwick), plants pines on the property.

Inevitably, at some point of time in the future, the Lodge gently pushes back. After giving you many years of treasured memories, it wants fresh ideas, younger hands and a new generation to enjoy it. So, the Lodge speaks. It tells you, as it did the Raffertys, that it now has “become too large . . . to maintain.” That’s sad. But it signals an opportunity. An opportunity for another new Era to begin.





Silver Beach Lodge Owners

1928-35' Judson F. Going

1935-40' Gertrude A. Going

1940-65' J. Freeman/Edith M. Going

1965-93' John R. Trevas

1993-2011 David/Randine Rafferty

2011-
SBL, LLC

POSTSCRIPT



If this book falls into the hands of a literary critic, please resist the urge to point out a grammatical error or misplaced comma. Someone might rightfully vent about missing footnotes. I am not a historical novelist. Historical references were plucked from other sources which are reproduced in Volume 2. I take no credit for any original historical references. This fun, not for profit, project is intended for Lodge owners.

There are questions I could not answer. As with most things, answers are available. At some point, I needed to stop. Finding answers to many of the unanswered questions requires persistence bordering on bothering people; something not in my DNA. Here are some loose ends for future sleuths.

There must be more information about Katherine A. Heffernan. A photograph. An obituary. Information that ties her to Judge Judson Going. Ancestry.com indicates

her mother-in-law was a Lydiard. The Lydiard's I tracked down were non-responsive. The Heffernan family tree (including George Jacob Heffernan who received subdivision lots from Katherine Heffernan), was, for me, a dead end. A better genealogist will find this information.

Old Otsego County newspapers are accessible through the Otsego County Library by internet. Using every search term I could imagine, hours were spent in search of the Lodge's build date. For any search term used (i.e. Judge Going), I needed to scan the entire newspaper as the search term was not highlighted. Consequently, in my quest to find the search term, I read through the smallest nuances of life from the 1920's (a broken finger, cat gone missing, relatives visiting, etc.). Why wouldn't construction of a large lodge merit some print? If it did, I could not find it.

What happen to Graham and Wallis?

When this project was finished, a mystery was solved: H. Hofmann. You'll figure it out. My apologies!

Using old newspaper articles and new internet searches, I tracked down relatives of various Lodge caretakers (Prescott, Wiggins) looking for pictures. My polite requests for photographs were well received prompting promises to search, but no calls back. I reached out to Chef Duchay's relatives, but got no call backs. Surely, in someone's basement, there are historical photographs of parties, meals and Lodge events; photographs just waiting to be tossed into the garbage by a young Gen Z cleaning out great-grandfather's stuff.

Join the hunt.

R. Kevin Thieme (May, 2021)

SILVER BEACH LODGE
BIG BEAR LAKE
JOHANNESBURG, MICHIGAN

STAMP

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

MODERN ROOMS - COMPLETE FACILITIES - T.V. -
EXCELLENT HOME COOKED MEALS - EQUIPPED HOUSE-



KEEPING COTTAGES - SANDY BEACHES - BOATS & MOTORS -
FISHING LICENSES - RESTRICTED CLIENTELE.

MESSAGE

