Railroad Property Chapter #28A

The 1990s will close with the following chapters of the ongoing issues of the Railroad property and the 911 Emergency System. Mentioned many times in the History of the SLA; the SLA's mission for Silver Lake is very important for <u>all</u> lake property owners. Property values will always be a concern for this organization. The support from the SLA membership and the Lake community property owners (non-members), is needed more than ever as local, county, and state funds dwindle away for the care of water environmental issues. The determination from our collected voices can help lobby for the monies needed to keep the property values up and Silver Lake a recreational destination.

At a meeting held April 21, 1990, John Pachuta received a letter that was read to the SLCOA by Elaine Cook. It was a final notice on outstanding taxes on the railroad property totaling $3,968.14. SLCOA owned the land for a year, and then deeded it over to the Village. If John was unsuccessful in getting it waived, a lawyer may be needed. Elaine suggested getting in touch with the former SLCOA President Howard Benedict. By the May 19th, 1990 meeting the tax bill situation was cleared up by John Pachuta.

The legal issue of the railroad property was brought up at the July 18, 1992 meeting. Cottage owner Ed Schaefer of June Drive requires a letter from the SLCOA to attorney Theron Foote regarding a typographical error on Ed's quit claim deed of 12 years ago. The board directed Elaine to send that letter. Ed Schaefer thanked the board for its successful work on his behalf clarifying a 12-year old error on the deed to his property. He outlined a utility problem June Drive was experiencing and the resident's work with the village of Perry to have it assume responsibility for the private developments water, sewer, and road.

March 20, 1993 the railroad property issues with property lines where stated. The property line on Gellis parcel was incorrectly drawn 13 years ago; corrections were put on file with attorney Theron Foote. SLA could only act as a referral in future cases by informing people to contact Theron Foote who handled initial railroad transactions.

911 Emergency System Chapter #28B

Don Murray met with County Fire Coordinator Jack Fisher to turn over safety forms and transfer the database over so the county can get it in their 911 emergency system. Fisher committed to the SLCOA last year that once he gets the information into his database, he would get it back electronically by street names and lot numbers, to check it out for currency when the SLCOA handed out flares.

Frank Young talked to the postmistress and learned that there were block numbers already assigned by the post office and unused and there was an objection to the SLCOA assigning their own numbers. Frank would try and get the unused numbers.

Supervisor Bowles requested the cottager's cooperation when the enumerators for the county's 911 system began to work on the lake properties. This may mean slight changes in addresses but would provide instant location information to emergency squads. Payment was already part of a 35-cent telephone bill surcharge. A past ambulance call from Walt's Tract sent rescuers to Waltz Tract. These types of mix-ups could be life or death situations.

Under old business John Pachuta reported on the 911 listings. Jack Fisher was not at the May meeting and would be asked to attend the June session. 911 lists were distributed to tract directors. It was up to individual cottage owners to know their 911 address. When a call to 911 was made, the four digit number listed on the address sheets John distributed should be used. It should have also been used as an official mailing address.

Castile Supervisor Bob Bowles said that the 911 system is incomplete and had errors regarding the Lake District. He and Town Supervisor of Perry Ross Roberts ordered Jack Fisher to straighten this out and match properties with tax numbers. Marge read a 1973 letter calling for proper enumeration of the Lake District so that emergency squads could respond effectively by the Village of Perry and Silver Springs for fire protection and the Village of Castile handled ambulance proving that wheels of progress were slow indeed.

The July 18, 1992 meeting started with Jack Fisher updating the SLCOA membership on the 911 system. The emergency 911 phone system would require visibly enumerated according to 4-digit numbers provided by 911. The current database was being correlated using telephone service numbers, county highway numbers, and real property tax parcel numbers. These numbers put the location of cottages on a special grid. Some addresses (Country Club Road, Luther Road) were already county roads which was why tract directors did not find them on the initial 911 lists. Elaine received a 911 updated list which she would bring to board meetings. It was important that everyone uses this new numbering system and that tract directors promote it. It would require that one name be given to roads that are presently called by several names and that all residents agree on it. The County Board of Supervisors was asked by Civil Defense to pass a resolution mandating the use of 911 numbering system throughout Wyoming County.

All owners must call the telephone company to see what number it had for the address and emergency number. Jack Fisher then briefed the SLCOA with new information. The 911 work including new Rochester Tel's Call Restrict won't hurt Wyoming County's 911 calls.

As of the April 1994 meeting the 911 system still had problems on the lake where new 4-digit house numbers are not used or known. The County would mail letters to the property owners about it. Clarence reported the ambulance squad had problems locating two victims in two separate incidences and asked if the SLA would want to erect mileage markers to help. Since this was a county program and a Silver Lake Institute problem the SLA Board would not consider buying markers. Francis would contact the County Emergency Services Director Jack Fisher for current four-digit lists for cottages.

Francis had the new 911 4-digit code list at the April 29, 1995 meeting. If you wanted to look up your number, you needed to know your parcel number (from your tax bill). The Institute was redoing the street signs but did not include the 911 numbers.

At the 1998 Annual meeting of the SLA the Wyoming County Emergency Services Director Jim Reger discussed 911 and fire safety concerns raised after an 11 PM fire at the Vogt cottage on Private Drive #3 in the Traber North Tract. Castile Fire Department made the initial response but went to the wrong place, Private Drive #4 in Old Orchard Beach. Silver Springs Fire Department had jurisdiction over Traber North, but did not respond. However, it took firemen 16 minutes to get there (national average response time is 18 minutes) and another 16 minutes to set up. Water was not drawn from the lake but a portable pond set up by the volunteers. Reger said there was a concern that the private roads are too narrow for emergency vehicles and recommended installation of dry hydrants, another project Don Cook was working on for the SLA. The SLA needed help from lakers, especially those with fire service equipment and fundraising experience. The county was looking for sights to install the hydrants around the lake. If any tract didn't have one, it should be considered to proposing a spot for one. The county would tour for potential sites July 28-29, 1998. SLA was aiming to have a hydrant in every tract.

Reger said the four digit house numbering system and road naming-and signing systems should be revamped. The county map was now inaccurate. It would take 3-4 years to develop, implement, and enforce a 911 system but it was a main goal of the County Planning Board at that time. Reger wanted to ensure the job was done right since the people would then be required to change their addresses (on properties, checks, post office, phone books, etc.). Under the new road naming system, roads would not have numbers or letters but actual names.

Reger continued saying, the county had not determined how to pay for the new street signs, particularly on private roads. He would push for a county subsidy of it since an accurate road sign could save a life. The first step to a total revamp was to get a resolution authorizing it and its enforcement from the County Board of Supervisors. The initial 911 system had failed in part because property owners were not forced to change over to the four digit house numbers.

This was a very busy year (1998) for emergency service volunteers. There was the January 8th ice storm, the June 2nd tornado, and floods June 26th and July 8th.

The next step for the SLA in conjunction with emergency services was to educate the lake community on house numbering. Dick Swanson of Lakeside Avenue extension, called 911 after the October SLA meeting and learned he was logged as 4118 Dekonski, an address he doubted firefighters knew. That highlighted the kind of problems that existed around the lake.

In the chapters of the 2000s, the SLA had bigger issues to settle. These chapters will tell how important the continuation of the SLA is to this community and how hard it is to keep a viable intact organization of volunteers together. The SLA could always use more volunteers to assist in taking care of these issues. If the Silver Lake property owners would work together with the community, local municipalities, and the state and federal government, there's no telling how much could be accomplished.