

THE BIRCH BARKER

from Beautiful Birch Lake

#4 - Vandalia Michigan 7-16-66 15¢



IT'S TOO EARLY TO START WATCHING BUT NOT TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING.....

for the BOAT PARADE (one of our annual events). There were 19 boats registered last year. Understand stock in the Film Industry really soared.... you never saw so many cameras a 'clickin' .

Mrs. Howard Andersen from Cottage # 182 has once more accepted the chairmanship of this colorful event. Date will be announced soon...in the meantime, start using that gray matter and come up with a winning idea. Well, of course, there will be prizes.



JUNIOR YACHT CLUB MEMBERS

The Yacht Club is now open on these nights for you to enjoy. Hours on Tuesday and Thursday are 7:30 to 10:30 and on Saturday from 8:00 to 11:00.

Plenty of records for dancing...pop for drinking and 2 tables for ping pong enthusiasts. Why not let Mom and Dad enjoy a little peace and quiet on these specified nights?

Mom and Dad may REST assured this will be a all "Chaperoned Fun".

at the Clubhouse
These are your right



Your Yacht Club Memberships for 50¢ entitles you to all this fun.

There have been two Jr. Yacht Club meetings this summer. Both were directed by our President B. J. Hague.

The first meeting was held June 23, 1966 at 8:00 P. M. Thirteen people attended.

Jan Carpenter got the records for the juke box, bill was \$10.87.

Suggested activities for the following year:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ping Pong Tournament | Hay Ride |
| Three Dance Bands | Street Dance |
| Paper Drive | Car Wash -- Bake Sale |

Next meeting was set for July 7th, 1966 to be held at the Yacht Club. Also, the meetings are every other Thursday night. Next meeting will be July 21st.

The July 7th meeting was called to order by our president "B J" Hague.

The appointed directors to sell Jr. Yacht Club memberships are as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>East Side:</u> Cindy Ball | <u>West Side:</u> Karen Toth | <u>North Side:</u> |
| Pam Foote | Keith Claro | Kirk Lochmondy |

John Ball was appointed to be Committee Head of the Clean-up crew. Steve King was also appointed Committee Head of the advertising for dances and other activities.



JULY 22nd (Friday)
JULY 30th (Saturday)



WILL BE ADULT "MIXER" NIGHTS

at the Clubhouse.....Come over and get acquainted with your neighbors.

WITH A LITTLE LUCK YOU MAY TAKE HOME A BUCK

OR A TANKFUL OF GASOLINE FOR YOUR BOAT

Could be.....you might even win a door prize! Mrs. Arlene Machalleck is in charge of this fun (you're helping out the Kitchen Fund too, you know)

From 8:00 To 11:00

There's no donations....there's no fees..... Just "come as you are" and "go as you please"

SAILING NEWS

Last weekend four of our Snipe Sailors represented Birch Lake at Diamond Lake in the Annual District 3 Championships. 55 Snipes from 16 fleets from the Dakota's through Ohio participated.

Five races were sailed over 3 days in good winds with Dr. Lee Kellerhouse of Chicago taking 1st place. Representing Birch Lake were Bob Hague and Don Holtz, Wayne and Mary Milne, Tom Howard and Steve King and Earl and Jeff Troeger. Only the top 4 boats from each fleet in the district are eligible to participate. Earl and Jeff Troeger finished 7th in the Dunphy Series for the best finish among Birch Lake sailors.



This weekend Diamond Lake hosts a Sunfish-Sailfish regatta. Tom Troeger is planning to attend while Earl and Jeff Troeger will represent Birch Lake in the Michigan State Snipe Championships at Grand Rapids. Snipe Sunday Series will also be conducted on Birch Lake.

BETTER JOIN IN THE FUN AND GET IN THE SAIL !

WE wish to express our love and sympathy to Mrs. Fred Lunz and family in the death of her husband on Sunday morning, July 10th. Burial was in Fort Wayne.

FOR SALE: Simmons Lounge with Slipcovers.... sleeps two. See R. E. Cealka Cottage # 16 - Hilltop East Side

Good and cold milk, fresh eggs, delicious ice cream (lotsa' flavors) and best cottage cheese, in fact, a complete dairy will be driving past your door every other day. Just listen for the Moo-o-o-o-horn and let him know you are interested in "direct to your door" service.

FOR SALE: Pontoon Boat Carrier Narrow Axel See Al Sikorski at Cottage # 20

It's the PRODUCER'S CREAMERY with refrigerated delivery service that I am talking about. His phone number is 476-3811

THERE'S PLENTY OF SUDS FOR YOUR "DUDS" at the

HILLTOP LAUNDRY (Dry Cleaning too)

Located on U. S. 12 just east of Birch Road

Operated by Mrs. L. Zimmerman Phone 641-5369

Date for Annual Dinner - meeting to be announced soon.



WE DON'T WANT
COWBOY SHENANIGANS

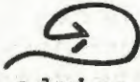
Practised on our Birch Lake.
Let's keep it SAFE and SANE!

Good sense, particularly experience and training are most important. Before letting your children out in the dinghy with its one and a

half horse, make sure they can handle it properly. (There are a good many of our Birch Lakers who would like to see a Safety Course taught to some of our Senior Citizens also) We don't need a law for instance, to tell us that a swimming area is no place to run an outboard..... at any speed! Yes, adults do it too. They're old enough and big enough to know better....why not set a good example?

You know there are always two sides to every story and our swimmers should also respect the rights of our boaters. We have plenty of water and plenty of room for everyone to enjoy good safe fun.

Following are some complaints that have come to our attention....maybe you didn't think....maybe this doesn't even apply to you...but let's remember:

- (1) When its dark enough for boats to have their lights on, its too dark to be skiing. It is difficult enough to watch, even on a sunshiny day, for skiers and especially if they have fallen.
- (2) Swimmers on rubber floats should not be so far from shore that they interfere with boat traffic.
- (3) Unmarked "snorklers" are appearing out of nowhere. With so much to watch...they are particularly hard to see....how about a little flag as a safety precaution (this is a law, you know)
- (4) The same lighting regulations apply to pontoon boats as to other watercraft...remember red and green on the bow and white at the stern.
- (5) Skiers should give fisherman more consideration (the law clearly states at least 100 ft. clearance....this goes for all boats, not only those pulling skiers.
- (6) Boat traffic should run in a COUNTER CLOCKWISE  manner. Maybe our own folks are not to blame but PLEASE advise the company enjoying your cottage and the lake to follow this rule. Don't be a "wrong way Corrigan"
- (7) KEEP SEATED!!! And this doesn't mean on top of the back of the seat or on gunwales.

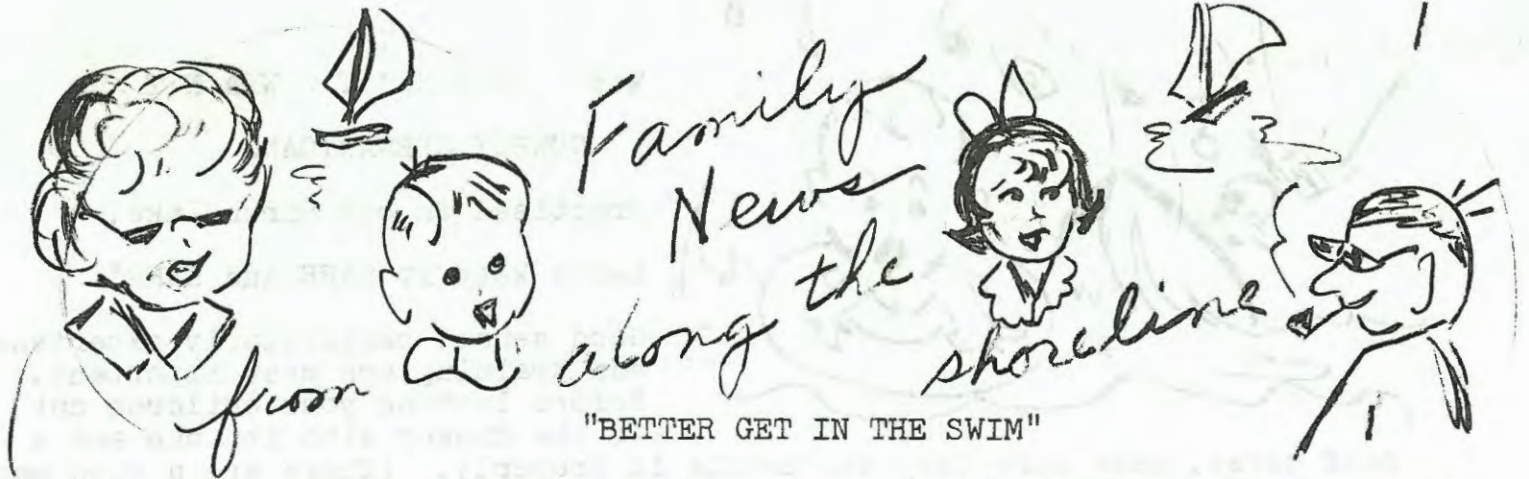
* From John Ball, your Commodore.

Whether your party was planned or if you just have guests "drop in", please know we are interested and would like to print it in our Shoreline News. This makes the paper so much more interesting.

Get your news ready ahead of time so when your Barker is delivered you can give it to your News Hound. Thanks.

PLAN AHEAD





Two weeks went much too fast and Tuesday finally came and Mike Machalleck was on his way to Yorktown, Virginia, to start his new duties at the SKIFFES CREEK ANNEX Nuclear Weapons Station.

As a graduation gift, Mike gave his sister Kathy a trip to Washington, D. C. Accompanying them is Diane Waltman of Niles. Kathy and Diane will spend a week with P. C. and Cindy Waltman, sisters of Diane, who are working in D. C.

Pat and Clair Bonfoey of Niles, Michigan, spent Sat. afternoon and evening at the Deckers. The five young Bonfoeys, Mike, Mary, Joe, Terri and Laurie made merry despite the quick change in the weather. On Sunday Mrs. Decker's niece from Niles entertained the Senior M. Y. F. from the Niles Methodist Church. Joining the "fun day" were her parents and sisters Luann and Lynne, counsellors, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Hemphill and the Rev. Lloyd Schloop and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cealka Jr. and son Jeff were hosts at the Cealka Sr's cottage for the 4th of July weekend. Their guests were friends Mr. and Mrs. Al Boggs and daughter Jill from So. Bend and Suzanne from Washington, D.C. Their neighbors from Elkhart, Mr. and Mrs. Maloney and son Marty and daughter Marilyn and cousin Jerry Kenney and wife Lola from Galien, Michigan all enjoyed the lake and lovely fireworks display.

The Dee Shewman's have a new bluebird house which has attracted a bluebird or is it a green bird. There seems to be a question.

Jeffrey Miller from Kansas City visited the Hayden's last weekend.

Tori King is very glad to be back at good ole Birch Lake after spending 3 weeks at Michigan State U. for "Operation Bentley - 1966". She said they had a beautiful outdoor pool but it doesn't compare with the lake.

The Hartranfts, our new neighbors at cottage # 129, announce daughter Patty is operating a new sailboat (has a red, white and blue sail) Daddy Hartranft says it isn't the biggest boat on the lake but he'll bet Patty had the biggest grin when it arrived. She loves it.

The Stoneburners from 12409 E. Jefferson, Mishawaka, will be enjoying the I. T. Bowers' cottage # 307 for the next two weeks. The Bowers will be enjoying a trip to the Dells in Wisconsin and a visit with his brother Carl and family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE BEAUTIFUL POST CARDS BEING SOLD BY OUR JR. YACHT CLUBBERS??

It's a picture of a Birch Lake Sunset which was taken by Mrs. John Kensill. Understand they had to take 3000 in order to have it reproduced. They certainly should have no trouble in selling them though.....20 for a dollar or 10 for 50¢.

Let's make this a profitable venture for our young folks and their Jr. Yacht Club Fund.

The Cowen's son Richard and family from South Bend visited with them last Sunday.

Guests at the I. T. Bowers cottage # 307 for the weekend were Mr. James Hile and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ulrich and baby daughter Amy Sue. Mrs. Ulrich was the former Miss Sue Vyverberg, high school classmate of Fran Bowers. Sking and then more sking and an exciting water ball game took up most of the time. They did take out enough time though to enjoy some delicious barbecued chicken. Baby Amy slept through it all....the fresh lake air must have agreed with her.

Mr. and Mrs. John Heckber celebrated their birthdays at their son's cottage in the Cove. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Heckber from Mishawaka and the Stanley Niles family from Pennsylvania were also present.

Mr. Mel Hibschan is vacationing the weekend of the 9th in the International Falls and where fishing is supposed to be wonderful. Good Luck!

Jim and Marsha Hibschan were at the lake with guests from Indianapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Streitmatter. Jim and Marsha are going to be proud parents at the end of November.... Congratulations!

Karen Toth had a slumber party the weekend of the 8th for her 15th birthday. Thoses present for the fun were Alice Harvey, Chris Carmola, Jill Small and Mary Anne Dorchents. Happy Birthday, Karen.

Tami Mason from Western Springs spent the weekend with Gayle DeCoudres. She conquered the water skis.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Thimlar, Leslie and Laurie visited the Budzinski cottage Sunday. After taking Leslie and Tom to Camp Tamarack, the others returned to Birch Lake for an afternoon of swimming and skiing.

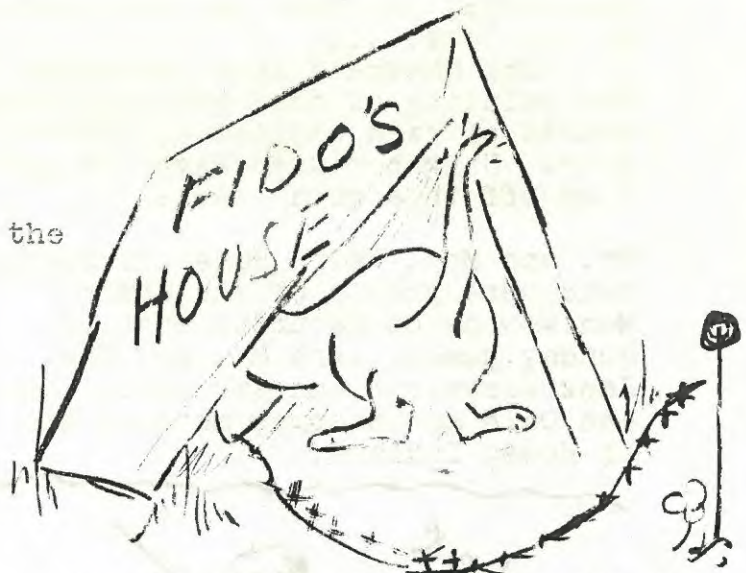
The William Humphrey's entertained the William Abolt's at a cook-out on Sat. night. A good bridge game followed.

The weekend of the 4th guests of the Ward Scofields cottage # 185 were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Van Laecke, daughter Rose Mary and son Bob and his girl friend Cheryl. Jim and Bill Cortier, friends of Bob, were also there. Other guests were the Seckaroski family, John Sr. and John Jr. and Gene. Ward's brother John and his family from the Cove on the Northwest side of Birch Lake came over with their guests to get a better view of the fireworks.

Jim Cortier brought his boat along Sunday. Bob, Bill and Jim enjoyed a boat ride but were left stranded on the far side of the lake. The Birch Lake Sheriff's Patrol Boat came to the rescue, otherwise it would have been one long swim back, says Bob. Bob's luck failed him the following day when the boat stalled near the middle of the lake. Bob was towed back to the cottage that time by Steve Tunncliffe. Everyone agreed they had a great time though.... however, there are now two boats on the lake out of working order for awhile.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Izdepski from South Bend came up last Sunday for a picnic. Their daughter Tricia is coming up to visit Debbie for the day.

Maurie, Jo and Terry Jenkins will be at cottage # 152 for the next 4 weeks.



Boy Oh Boy!! Did you see all the dogs a-runnin' for their chains and dog houses last Monday? (on the south side of the lake). Mrs. Otto Mais couldn't get her pet cat to come down from the highest limb of the tree so she called for help. The Dog Warden came to the rescue.

Galen and Sarah Sargent from Sebring, Florida, spent last week with the Hubert M. Weavers. Mr. Sargent was formerly Business Superintendent of the South Bend Schools.

The James Shearman family of Niles, Michigan spent the 4th with the Hubert M. Weavers.

Mrs. Hazel Myers of Columbus Grove, Ohio is visiting the P. C. Forbes for several days.

Thursday evening Mr. and Mrs. Charles Purdy enjoyed dinner with their daughter, husband Mike and Mary Ann Vylonis of Indian Lake, Dowagiac.

Jim Purdy talked with his family via the phone and he will be spending this weekend with his grandparents, W. H. Trosts of Los Angeles, Edwin Trosts of Manhattan Beach and Edgar Merrimans of Northridge, California. To complete the reunion his sister and family Sue and Dale Barter, Cindy, Sandy and Randy of Cassopolis will also be guests. The Barters are spending a month in Sunny California.

The Norman Monroe family have purchased the Breece cottage, # 133. They are enjoying Birch Lake and Tom, Robert and Mindy Anne are making a big "spash". Welcome folks and have fun!

Mrs. Hazel Dilaneau, Mrs. Ed Van Ryan and daughters Katie and Kristine of Mishawaka spent Friday with the Forbes.

Neighborly interest has been shown in the Cove.....

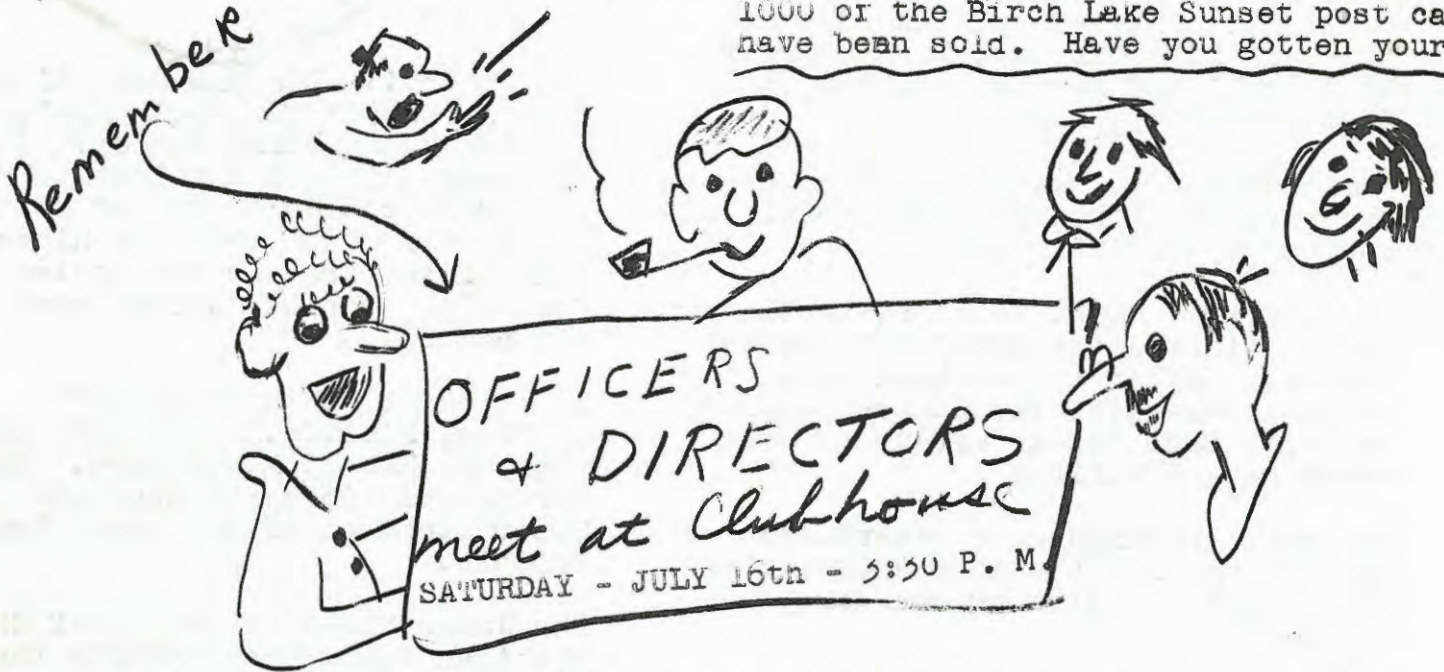
The Shewmans have completed the painting of the remaining nine boards of each section of their pier. Neighbor Chet Waggoner got them off to a good start!

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hanes of South Bend were guests of the Starr Wentworths on Saturday evening. Sunday guests were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wentworth and two sons, Myron and Dale and Starr's mother, all of Howe, Indiana.

About 60 of our loyal Birch Lakers attended the Porter Township Board Meeting at the Porter Township Hall last Tuesday evening. The need for the blacktopping of Walnut Road from Brownsville to Harvey, thence on Harvey to Birch Road was presented.

After much discussion the Board agreed to set up a meeting with the Cass County Road Commission, the Porter Twp. Board and the Road Committee of Birch Lake.

Was just out to the end of the pier to check the tea which was a-makin' when Cindy Ball boated past. She reports 1000 of the Birch Lake Sunset post cards have been sold. Have you gotten yours?



ANY DRAWINGS RESEMBLING THOSE HOLDING OFFICE IS ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE. HA!

HISTORY OF BIRCH LAKE AND UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

One of the principal grievances of the Southern Slave Owners before the Civil War was the Underground Railroad. Quakers from Pennsylvania came into Michigan and purchased sections of land around Birch Lake and Calvin Center. When the runaway slaves from the South were carried by the Underground into Michigan a farm was given to them and many families have retained this land to the present day. The Underground railway was a route over which the colored men and their families were carried on horseback or by wagon, after night from one station to another. These stations were usually about 20 miles apart. Two principal routes were used, one coming up from Cincinnati through Indiana and converged just east of Cassopolis at the home of Stephen Bogue. A monument now marks this spot on route M 60. This was the Michigan terminal of the Underground Railroad. Bogue and Josiah Osborne were the principal operators and the most important men in this undertaking. Osborne was located on the farm that is now known as Hillring's Lakeland Gardens. He operated a nursery here as far back as 1850, furnishing shade and fruit trees for the surrounding country.

In 1847 slave owners from Bourbon County, Kentucky organized an expedition to come to Michigan to recover some of their runaway slaves. They arrived in the month of August and camped near Shavehead Lake. They knew exactly where the runaways were living as they had sent a spy up the previous winter. The spy had made maps and reported their location to the slave owners. The Kentuckians captured several men, women and a baby living on the Odell farm. The alarm spread and from all over the Birch Lake area angry farmers gathered, armed with guns, scythes and clubs. The Kentuckians were stopped and surrounded at the Osborne farm (Lakeland Gardens) Their wagons were overturned and later dumped into Birch Lake. The colored people were again free and the slave owners left to return to their homes the best way they could. After returning to Kentucky they wrote many threatening letters to the farmers around Birch Lake, which fanned the flames of the coming Civil War. The wagons that were dumped in Birch Lake were visible for many years on the east side of the lake. Even in recent years reports that pieces of these wagons have been sighted and brought up from the soft white marl bottom by skin divers.

- 6 - See you next week!