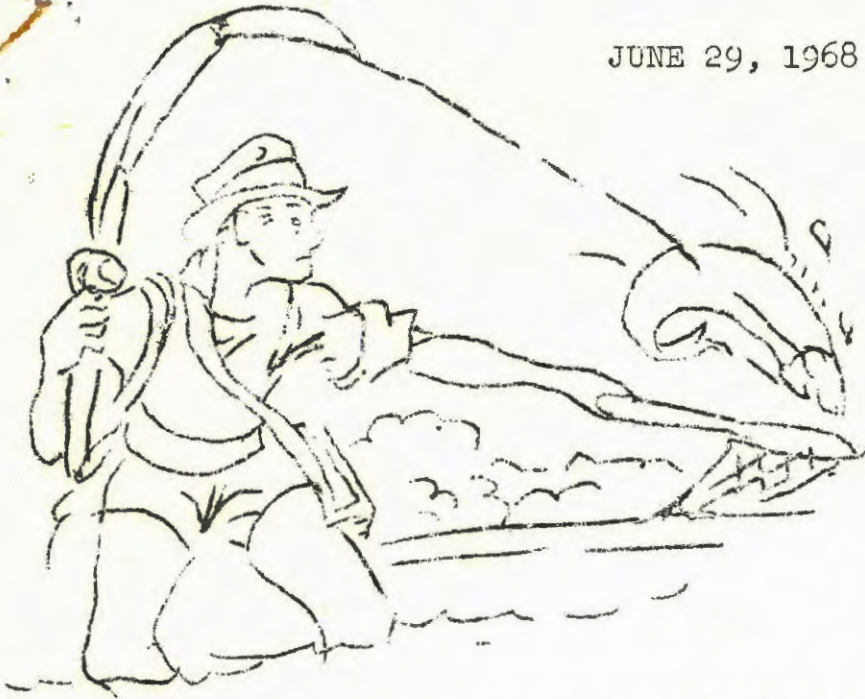


Ball

JUNE 29, 1968



# THE BIRCH BARKER

ISSUE # 2

BIRCH LAKE

VANDALIA, MICHIGAN

\*\*\*\*\*

... ALL TIMES LISTED ARE MICHIGAN TIME

\*\*\*\*\*

## WE CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOM

AT BIRCH LAKE

ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 3rd

(July 4 in case of rain)



The beautiful display of fireworks will be shot professionally by Perri

HAVE YOU GIVEN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR DIRECTOR? IF NOT, PLEASE DO

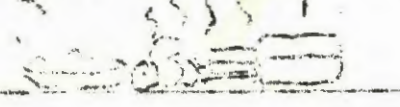
SO AT ONCE OR SEE COMMODORE FLOYD H. FULMER AT COTTAGE 302-Ph.476-2181

...Invite your friends and families and if necessary, reinforce your pier...understand some parties were so large last year that the piers were groaning.

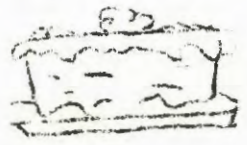
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BIG CAKE SALE



SAT - JUNE 29



AT THE YACHT CLUB

FROM 2:00 UNTIL 4:00

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS OF CAKES, COOKIES OR PIES. Please bring to Scofields, cottage # 185 on the East Side. If it is not convenient to deliver your "goodies", please phone Darlene at 476-9622 for pick up service. Thanks!

\*\*\*\*\*

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

# SPECIAL BULLETIN

HEAVY RAINS HAVE CAUSED EXCESSIVE DAMAGE IN OUR AREA.....ROADS AND BASEMENTS HAVE BEEN FLOODED....TREES BLOWN DOWN....RETAINING WALLS AT HOWARDS, FORBES AND EBERHARTS HAVE BEEN WASHED OUT.....TOP SOIL FROM ADJOINING FARMS HAS WASHED INTO THEIR YARDS AND THE LAKE.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST.....OUR CLUBHOUSE HAS SUFFERED SEVERE DAMAGE. NEARLY ALL OF THE WEST WALL WAS CAVED IN PUSHING THE POP MACHINE TO THE CENTER....FLOOR WAS COVERED WITH 3 TO 6 INCHES OF MUD.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING WAS HELD AT 11:30 TUESDAY NIGHT TO EVALUATE THE DAMAGE. BOB HAGUE, BUILDING CHAIRMAN WAS AUTHORIZED TO HAVE BUILDING REPAIRED AND HAS MADE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. PROMPT ACTION WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE COMING JR. SNIPE DISTRICT 3 CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA.

## MINUTES OF THE BLYC EMERGENCY MEETING

June 25, 1968

Due to the damage to the Clubhouse, caused by the heavy rains, an emergency meeting was called by Commodore Fulmer at 11:30 P. M.

Present were:	F. Fulmer, Commodore	Herb Howard
	D. Cowen, Vice Commodore	Glen Myers
	Mahlon Eberhart, Treasurer	Pat Forbes
	Bob Hague, Building Chairman	I. T. Bowers

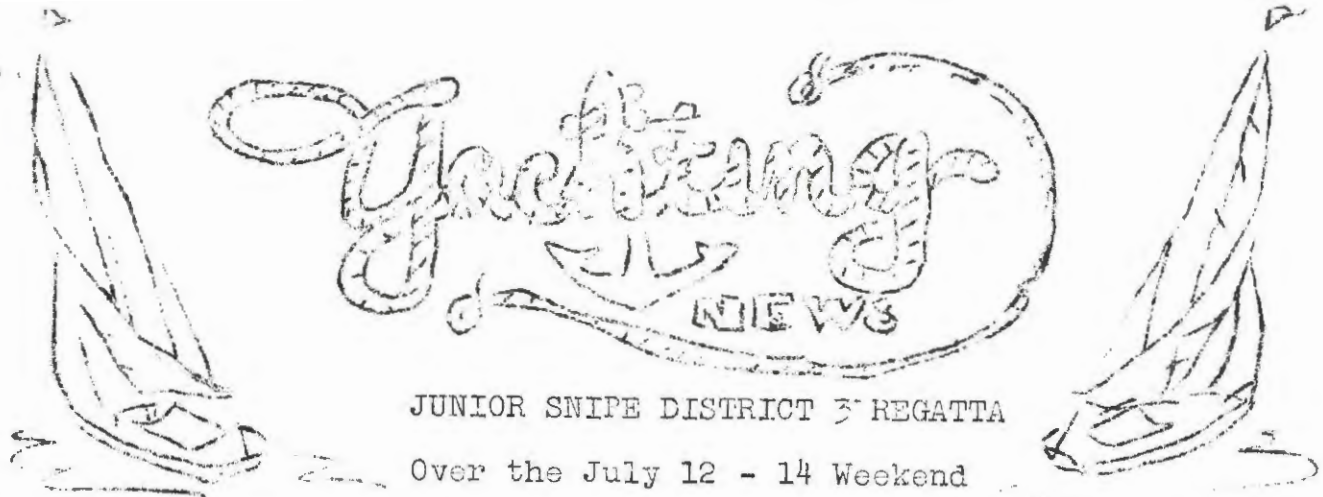
After inspecting the damage, a motion was made by M. Eberhart, and seconded by I. T. Bowers authorizing Bob Hague, Building Chairman, to have the damage repaired. Motion was carried unanimously.

Arrangements were made to have the Boating Safety Course held at Rieth's Cottage # 301. Meeting was adjourned at midnight.

Dick Cowen, Acting Sec.

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SPECIAL NOTE: THE BAKE SALE, SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH FROM 2:00 until 4:00 WILL BE HELD IN SCOFIELD'S GARAGE.....COTTAGE # 185 ON THE EAST SIDE.



JUNIOR SNIPE DISTRICT 3 REGATTA

Over the July 12 - 14 Weekend

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB will host the Jr. Snipe District 3 Championship Regatta. The regatta will attract 30 to 40 snipes from the states of Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota as well as Indiana. These sailors will be needing housing for the TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH OF JULY. Do you have room or can you make room for these young sailors? PLEASE VOLUNTEER by contacting Tom Howard, phone 476-9352, Brian Hague, cottage # 20 or Commodore Floyd H. Fulmer - Phone 476-2181

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BLYC SUNFISH RACE SCHEDULE FOR 1968

SUNFISH RACE RESULTS

Date	Time		6 - 22 - 68
June 22	2:00	1 race	
June 29	2:00	1 race	1 Kieth Clark - 14766
July 4	to be announced	2 races	
July 6	" " "	2 races	2 Herm Kruggel - 14962
July 7	" " "	1 race	
July 24	" " "	1 race	3 Bill Carpenter
July 20	" " "	1 race	
July 27	3rd Annual Diamond Lake Open		4 Scott Troeger - 14580
Aug. 3	2:00	1 race	
Aug. 10	2:00	2 races	5 Dick Cowen - 20990
Aug. 17	2:00	2 races	
Aug. 24	2:00	2 races	6 Bob King
Aug. 31	to be announced	2 races	
Sept. 1	" " "	1 race	

\*\*\*\*\*

RACE RESULTS FOR SNIPIES - 1st Race 6 - 22 - 68 2nd Race

1 Earl Troeger - 16953	1 Earl Troeger - 16953
2 Tom Athanas - 14375	2 Jeff Troeger - 9432
3 Jeff Troeger - 9432	3 Don Holtz - 13836
4 Bob Hague - 15500	4 Bob Hague - 15500
5 Don Holtz - 13836	5 Jim Howard - 14009
6 Brian Hague - 15218	6 Wayne Milne - 13835
7 Wayne Milne - 13835	7 Brian Hague - 15218
8 Jim Howard - 14009	8 Craig Speck
9 CCraig Speck	DNF Tom Athanas - 14375
10 Boy Scouts - 1058	DNF Boy Scouts - 1058

\*\*\*\*\*

A SPECIAL WELCOME IS OUT TO OUR NEW BIRCH LAKERS THIS SEASON . . . . .

...MANY HAVE NOTICED THE REMODELLING AND "HOLIDAY INN-NO VACANCY" SIGN ON THE BOCK COTTAGE # 319. CALVIN AND JACQUELINE BOCK WITH CHILDREN SCOTT, DENISE AND CINDY, LIVE AT 151 LOS ANGELES AVE., ELKHART, IND.

...THE BEAUTIFUL NEW "COVE" DWELLING # 303R BELONGS TO DAVID AND SHIRLEY VAN BUREN, WITH CHILDREN SHARON AND KENNETH. THE VAN BURENS OFF SEASON AT 19192 STAFFORDSHIRE DRIVE, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.

...OLD FRIENDS TO MOST OF US (OF LAKELAND FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FAME) BUT NEW TO THE LAKE PROPER THIS YEAR ARE CARL AND ETHEL HILLRING. THEIR NEW HOME (WITH GARDEN, OF COURSE) WILL BE # 373.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FIREWORKS HAVE BEEN COMING IN AT A BRISK PACE. IF YOU ARE AMONG THE FEW WHO HAVE NOT JOINED AND CONTRIBUTED, PLEASE CONTACT THE DIRECTOR IN YOUR AREA. JOIN THE EVER-GROWING BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB AND RECEIVE YOUR NEW 1968 BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORY.

THERE ARE STILL SOME DELINQUENT BOAT STORAGE ACCOUNTS. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOURS, PLEASE REMIT TO MAHLON EBERHART, TREASURER - FLOYD H. FULMER, COMMODORE OR YOUR DIRECTOR.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME COMPLAINTS THAT SOME SKIERS HAVE BEEN SKIING THROUGH THEIR NEIGHBOR'S SWIMMING AREAS, PARALLEL TO THE SHORE, RATHER THAN DIRECTLY INTO THEIR OWN DOCKS. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS IS UNNECESSARY, DANGEROUS AND CONTRARY TO MICHIGAN LAW. VIOLATORS WILL BE TICKETED.

THE PORTER TOWNSHIP DUMP, LOCATED ON ELBOW LAKE ROAD, IS OPEN ON SATURDAYS ALL DAY AND ON MONDAYS FROM 9:00 A. M. UNTIL 12:00 NOON. THERE IS A CHARGE OF 25¢ PER CAR, \$1.00 FOR TRAILERS AND PICKUPS AND \$2.00 FOR LARGE TRUCKS.

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JUNIOR YACHT CLUB MEETING REPORT

The Jr. Yacht Club meeting was held on Saturday, June 22, 1968. The meeting was called to order by Steve Tunnicliffe. There were 15 present at the meeting. An election of officers was held and these were the results: Steve Tunnicliffe was nominated for President by Barry DeCoudres and Tim Messner seconded the motion. Patty Hartranft was nominated for Vice-president by Julie Ball and Sue O'Brien seconded the motion. Tim Burchell was nominated for Treasurer by Barry DeCoudres and Julie Ball seconded the motion. Darlene Scofield was nominated Secretary by Tim Messner and John Ball seconded the motion.

The subject of hayrides was brought up and the acting members of the club decided to hold two hayrides, one being in the 3rd week of July and the second hayride is to be held in the second week of August. The age limit for hayrides and dances was decided to be 12 years on up. Barry Hague brought up the subject of housing sailors for the Junior Regatta July 13th and 14th. The sailors will be arriving on Friday, July 12th so housing will be needed July 12th through the 14th. Steve Tunnicliffe reminded all of the Pleasure Boating Course which will be held June 26th, 27th and 28th at 11:00 A.M. at the Yacht Clubhouse. Commodore Fulmer asked all of us to try and be present at the Director's meeting on June 29th at 11:00. The meeting was then adjourned.

\* Darlene Scofield, Acting Sec.

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PLEASE NOTE: After meeting with various members and officers of the BLYC, it was decided that Birch Barkers would be delivered to seasonal subscribers only with extra copies being sold to them for 10¢ each. A season's subscription is \$1.50. Copies will be available to weekly renters at 15¢ each.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 3 - Fireworks (4th in case of rain)

JULY 12th, 13th and 14th Jr. Snipe Regatta

AUG. 11th - Boat Parade

AUG. 17th - Annual BLYC Dinner

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Another name has been turned in to add to the list of Our Boys in Service... Sp/4 ROBERT A HAGUE... RA 16897809 - 11th Evac Hospital (SMRL) APO San Francisco, Calif. # 96259. He is in Pusan, Korea for 12 months.

want to remember all our Birch Lake boys but we can only mail Barkers to those whose name and proper address have been turned in. All of our boys would be glad to hear from you. This is the least we can do. After all, they are giving up two to four years of their life for us. Please send names and addresses to Floyd H. Fulmer- Ph.476-2181

The Barkers have already been mailed to our Birch Lake boys that are in service whose names and addresses have been turned in. We



DIRECTOR'S MEETING

SAT. - JUNE 29 - 11:00

AT THE CLUBHOUSE

EVERYBODY WELCOME

\*F. Fulmer, Commodore

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Following is a list of telephones installed for Birch Lake subscribers this Spring, after the 1968 telephone directory was published: I.T. Bowers-476-2420 Eberhart, Mahlon 476-9986 Howard, Herb 476-9352 Scofield, Ward 476-9620

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SHORELINE

NEWS

their church, the Southlawn United Methodist in South Bend, and the Byrd's daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Souders and children Karen and Belinda from Lebanon, Ind. Miss Julie Kinner and friend Jim Rans arrived later in the afternoon for a good swim.

Saturday afternoon was Cub Scout Day at the Joe Cranmers. Harold and Donna Cranmer were hosts for the Cub Scout Pack 27 from Weston School, Elkhart. 22 boys and 6 adult leaders enjoyed swimming and pontoon boat rides. The leaders were Mr. and Mrs. Allen Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cranmer, Mrs. Gillis, Mrs. Hinks, Walter Weltz and Robert Peterson.

Grandson Brian Kinner and his friend Tim Reiter of South Bend are spending several days with his grandparents at # 307. Fishing, swimming and EATING are the main events of the day. Food always tastes better at the lake.

Sunday guests at the Cranmers were Harold Cranmer and Allen Davidson families. They enjoyed the lake and a picnic dinner.

A 25th wedding anniversary party for the Mahlon Smiths of Niles was given Friday evening by John and Dorothy Parnell and family at their Woodland Cove cottage. They were assisted by the Smith children...Ellen, Jerry and Brad...and by Mrs. Smith's sister and brother-in-law Laura and Ross Linsenmier. Thirty-four guests had a lively time dodging showers and wound up enjoying a delicious buffet supper which was served in the Parnells roomy garage. All enjoyed the movies of the wedding.

The Kruggels have a new addition to their family this year...a pony named Diamond. Paula and Kevin are learning to take care of her and to ride. Lyzaette Truax of South Bend is enjoying this week with the Kruggel family.

The Kruegers and Athanas at #324 have had much fun the past week with Phyllis Krueger Beck and 6 month old Matthew David of San Antonio, Texas, who have been vacationing with them. They will fly back to Texas on Tues. the 25th where Mort is busy at Lackland Air Force Base.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Habich entertained for the weekend the parents of Butch Habich's fiancée, Miss Jean Vincelli, Mr. and Mrs. Hartkoff of Crestwood, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. John Cleveland and daughter from Elkhart, Indiana. John brought word that Herbie Cleveland is now in Viet Nam.

Carol and Larry Inman of South Bend and their new daughter "Debbie" were weekend guests of Carol's parents, Bud and Louise Rieth at #301. Grandma Louise was busy showing off her first grandchild, but Debbie slept through it all.

Bobby Rieth celebrated his 11th birthday on June 22nd with three guests from Elkhart. They were Dave Whisler, Tim Lyons and Steve Colagrassi. Swimming, boating and games were enjoyed in between the hot dogs, baked beans, cake and ice cream.

Rick Powell, formerly of Birch Lake, was an unexpected surprised guest at the Rieth's and his parents, Dick and Ruby, and sister Susan are vacationing for two weeks on the East side. Seems good to see that black and white boat going around

Weekend guests of the Dave Van Burens were his sister and family Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sparkes, Pam and Jeff of Holt, Michigan. Pam will stay with Sharon for a week and enjoy the swimming and boating.

A picnic dinner was enjoyed at # 307. Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Bowers entertained Rev. James Byrd and his wife from

Birch Lake again. But the Powell's seemed to have quite a bit of trouble "bailing it out" at first.

Peggy Caenepeel, cottage # 310 flew to New York last Thursday to visit Martha Asire and to see the sights of the big city. She will drive back to Birch Lake with the Asires next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Aime Verloot, 119 E. 10th St., Mishawaka and cottage #323, had open house from 3:00 to 7:00 P. M. Sunday in honor of their son Michael's graduation from college. He will receive a degree in civil engineering from Chicago Technical College on Friday.

A weekend party was held at the Gollatz cottage. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hans, Mrs. Liena Claffery, Mrs. Dorothy Burke and Mrs. Harry Shields.

Charley Gollatz is trying to catch all the fish in the lake and is doing a pretty good job of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Fitzsimmons of Mishawaka enjoyed a hamburger cook on Saturday evening with Starr and Mildred Wentworth.

Dr. and Mrs. Harris have been catching their dinner from the lake (BASS AND TROUT) No vegetables as yet though! Perhaps a few water lily leaves would make a good salad.....ha ha.

Marty's brother Andy and his wife and twin daughters were guests at the lake for a week. Marty Kaczmarek's guest was Rudy Chanski.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Milchak (formerly Lita Kaczmarek of cottage 102) arrived home Friday from a two week honeymoon in Florida. They were married on June 8th.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mutz from Indianapolis will be guests this week end at the Ron Carpenter cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Metzgar of Fargo, North Dakota are guests at the L. J. Meyers.

The Herzogs from South Bend including Kathie and Mark visited the Joe O'Briens before starting on their trip to California.

Mary Olson #47 entertained her Mon. afternoon bridge foursome Tuesday afternoon after lunching at Diamond Harbor Inn.

Don Olson is home from his first year at Valparaiso Technical Institute, Valparaiso, Indiana.

The Kensills entertained their children, grandchildren, Mrs. Kensill's mother, Mrs. Miller, her aunt, Mrs. Samila and Harry Kensill, all of Elkhart. This was in celebration of Mrs. Kensill's 91st birthday on June 23.

Dr. and Mrs. Howard M. Lahr had as guests last week their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bancroft of St. Paul, Minnesota. Their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Lahr and family of Marion, Ind. joined the group on Thursday.

Sunday guests of the Dr. Lahrs were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Wolfram of South Bend and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clark of Mishawaka.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steele of Mishawaka called at the Dr. Lahrs on Monday.

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WILL GIVE LAWNS A HAIRCUT ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAYS. PLEASE CALL CHARLIE ECHOLS - 476-2400 OR BOB KING - 476-2128

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NOTE: We want to share in your fun by printing your news. Have your items ready for your carrier when he calls....deadline is Monday, 10:00 A.M. Late news will be printed in the next issue. If you have any question please call Sr. Editor, Helen Bowers, cottage 307 - Phone 476-2420 or Jr. Editor, Darlene Scofield, phone 476-9629

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KEEP THINKING ABOUT AN IDEA FOR THE BIG BOAT PARADE ON AUG.11th YOU WILL WANT TO DECORATE YOUR BOAT, PONTOON, RAFT, SAILBOAT ETC. FOR THIS BIG EVENT.

\*\*\*\*\*

That's all for now folks..... You'll be hearing from us again next week. Bye-bye.

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Cassopolis, Michigan



# Slave Wagon Discovered On Birch Lake Bottom

Divers today continued efforts to recover what they believe to be a wagon that local legend says has been at the bottom of Birch lake, near Vandalia, Mich., for more than a century.

At various times over the years, swimmers in Birch lake have reported finding what seemed to be parts of a wagon in 15 feet of water at the east end of the lake. Where the divers are working is not far from the cottages of V. M. Ball and Chester Hemminger of Elkhart.

On Feb. 15, 1937, the Dowagiac Daily News published an account that Perry Storey of Vandalia had told members of the Cassopolis Service club and the businessmen's association of Cassopolis that his father had told him about the wagon.

## Seen By Diver

The summer before, Storey said, a diver said he had seen the wagon under water.

In the days of the Underground Railroad, by which escaped slaves escaped from the South, Penn township in Cass county was a terminal for the railroad.

The Negroes were given safe haven by Quaker farmers who had migrated to Cass county from Pennsylvania, and who had given the name Penn township to their settlement.

In 1847 slave owners of Bourbon county, Ky., organized an expedition to come to Michigan to recover some of their runaway slaves.

The Birch Lake Barker, mimeographed publication circulated several years ago among Birch lake residents, carried this account of that invasion:

"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 made several maps and reported their location to the slave owners.

## Routed By Quakers

"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. Their wagons were overturned and later dumped into Birch lake"

The residents at Birch lake today believe it is one of these wagons that has been located.

The Underground Railroad traveled by two routes. One northward from Cincinnati, through Indiana, the other from St. Louis, through Illinois.

## Marked By Monument

They converged just east of Cassopolis at the home of Stephen Bogue. A monument now marks this spot on M 60, at what has become known as the Elk Park farm because of the herd of elk maintained there by the Bonine family of Cass county. The Bonines no longer own the farm.

Stations on the route were about 20 miles apart.

One is believed to have been in an old home in Bristol.

The Birch lake divers say the wagon on which they are working is buried upside down in sand and marl, and the task of uncovering it will be long and tedious. Friday they used an air hose to blow silt deposits away from a wheel and worked it free.

They worked until 5 o'clock Friday evening and were to resume work today.