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BIRCH BARKER - BIRCH LAKE, VANDALIA, MICHIGAN 49095

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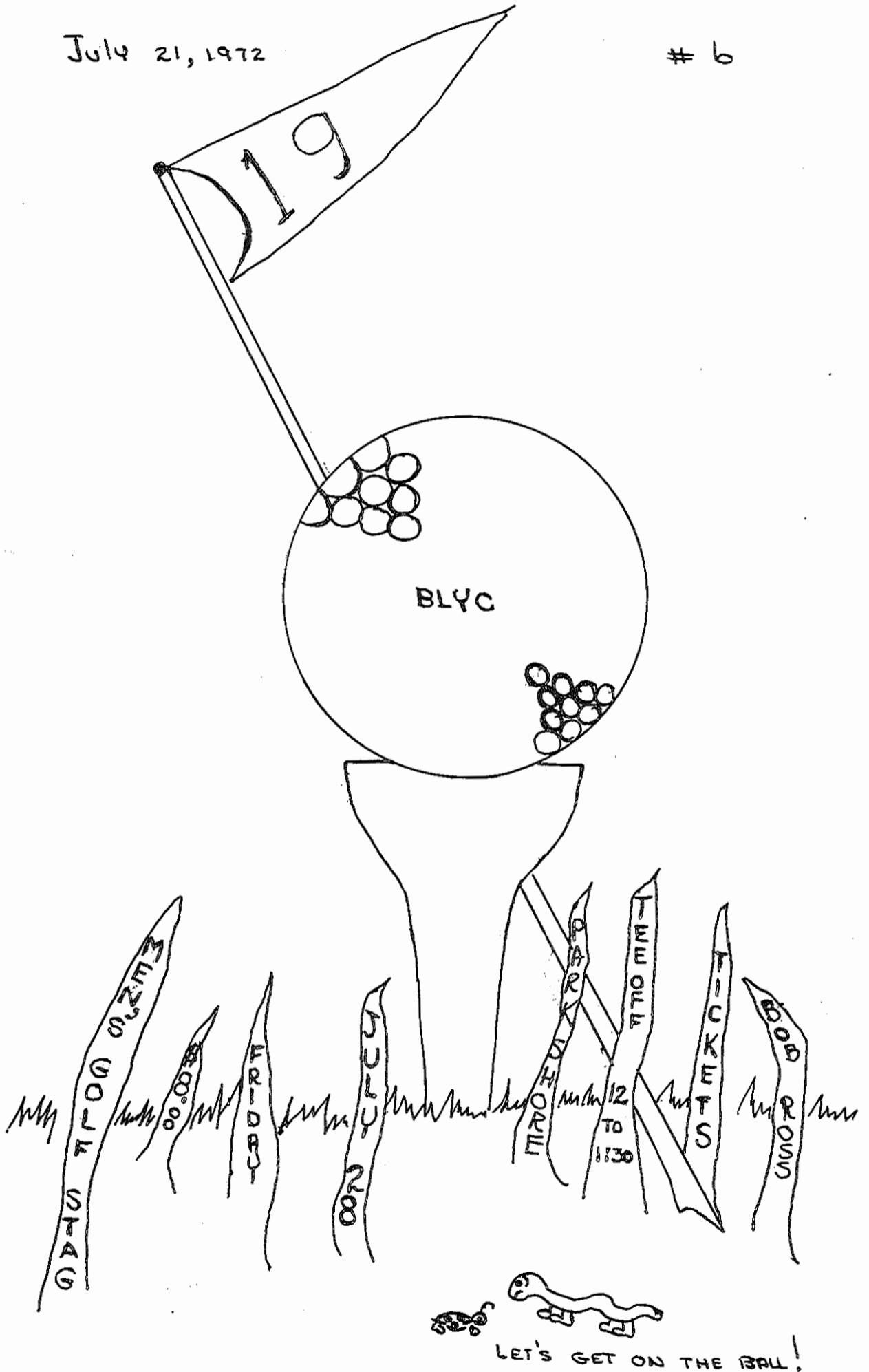
L. Speck

SUNFISH

L. Machalleck

July 21, 1972

6



HISTORY OF BIRCH LAKE

Long ages ago, millions of years in the past, the region where Birch Lake now lies was deep under a tropical sea. After the sea receded the land which emerged was the home of the reptilian and mammal age. Some 2,500 years or more ago great sheets of ice a mile in thickness swept down from the northeast, plowing and gouging the surface of the land.

Probably primitive man lived here before the ice came. He may have been the Folsom man as Folsom points, believed to be spearheads, have been picked up in Cass County. Shortly after the ice left, man came again, the forefathers of the Indians.

The first Indians in this section as found by the early French explorers were Miamis. Through a war council treaty the Miami Indians, who were not a war-like tribe, were replaced by the Chippewas, Pottawattomies and the Ottowas, who with the exception of occasional wars, lived in relative peace.

The area around Birch Lake was held by the Pottawattomi Indians, who were headed by Big Chief Pokagon and under Chiefs Weesaw and Shavehead. While Pokagon was a very brilliant man, making friends with the white man, accepting the white man's ways and teachings, Shavehead was the opposite. He was a large man for an Indian, very ugly and very mean, gaining his name by keeping his head shaved, which did not make for an improvement in his appearance. Shavehead's winter quarters were around Shavehead Lake and in the summer he migrated to what is now Mottsville where there was a ford across the St. Joseph River. This ford was on the Sauk Trail which is now the modern U. S. highway 112. Shavehead would camp at the ford and extract a fee from the white settlers for use of the crossing. It is reported that he discontinued this practice only after a young burly settler had taken his ox whip and thrashed Shavehead within an inch of his life.

Shavehead was responsible for the death of many white settlers. He would promise to secure game for the white man but no one returned from the hunting trips but Chief Shavehead. Strangely enough, Shavehead met his death the same way. He was at the Trading Post, which is now Cassopolis, drunk and making his brags about participating in the Fort Dearborn massacre. He was overheard by a young trapper who had lost his wife and child in the debauchery. The young trapper was then living on the island in Diamond Lake. He asked Shavehead to go home with him. A shot was heard and Shavehead was never seen again.

The Indians under Chief Weesaw, whose winter quarters were in the vicinity of Newton's Woods joined Chief Shavehead's band in the early spring around Birch Lake, where they bathed in the lake and drank of its water, claiming the water had great healing power. It is recorded that Chief Pokagon, who was ill, made the journey from his home near Summerville for this purpose.

Settlement in Cass County was very slow; in 1840 the population was only 5,710. Early settlers around Birch were the Harveys, Merritts and O'Dells.

The decade previous to the Civil War was very exciting in the Birch Lake area. Sections of land in the south Cass County had been purchased by Quakers for the purpose of setting up small farms for runaway slaves and negroes brought up through the underground railroad. Periodically there would be a raid by southern slave owners to recover their property.

As the pure, clear water of Birch Lake was known to the Indian, it was destined to be known by the whites. Before there were any cottages it was a popular fishing and camping lake. The quality of fish taken from its waters was superb. The scenery magnificent and as roads became passable, cottages began to be built on its shore. One of the first, if not the first, was the Smith cottage. Today the lake has over 200 cottages with a summer population of about 650 people enjoying its sky-blue waters.

After looking over many locations the officials in charge of selection of sites for the summer camps of the South Bend and Mishawaka Camp Fire Girls chose Birch Lake with Camp Tannadoona and Camp Ki-Lo-Qua (now Birch Lake Basketball Camp) the results of their vision and foresight.

TO BIRCH LAKERS:

A meeting was held at the Yacht Club on July 15, 1972. The following items were discussed:

BOAT STORAGE

We have a number of people who have not yet paid their 1971-72 boat storage fee. Rather than embarrass them by listing their names, we hope they will contact Virginia Spratt and pay her the \$25.

SAILING LESSONS

It was recommended that sailing lessons be made available to new and interested sailors and a review of rules for the old sailors. This would be a good project for our Fleet Captains.

OPEN HOUSE

It was decided to have an Open House at the Yacht Club August 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 p. m. It will be free and the Club will furnish soft drinks and beer. Anyone wanting other beverages should bring their own. Also, each couple bring a plate of hors' d'oeuvres. More news will follow later!!!

THIEVES

We have had some motors stolen on the lake. Everyone should take proper precautions. Also, any suspicious people or cars should be reported to the Cass County Sheriff's Dept.

J. Beehler
Commodore

NEWS FROM AROUND THE LAKE

The L. A. Milne's had a rare treat on July 4th when their daughter, Donna and son-in-law Farrell Isenagle paid them a visit after nineteen years and drove here from Sacramento, California in a Sportsman Travel Trailer. Of course the Milne's had seen them three times in between; twice in their home and once they all met in the Rocky Mountain Park where they vacationed together for 10 days. After a few days here they all went to visit with Wayne and Nancy Milne in their new home at Dyer, Indiana. Wayne and Donna are brother and sister. A new member of the family was their little dog "Tuffy" who made up with the family and enjoyed himself immensely. They are now enroute to their Sacramento home where they have three married daughters and five lovely grandchildren. Their only son, Tom, is unmarried and in the U. S. Navy and stationed at San Diego, California. It will be a trip long remembered by all. On return they expect to visit the Black Hills, Grand Tetons and Yellowstone Parknearly 5,000 miles in all.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRED!!! From Doug, Julie, Jeanne, Allyson and Dewayne

Jeanne Weaver spent the past week in the Woodpeckers cabin at Camp Tannadoonah. When last seen before Mom and Dad left the lake, she was taking a swimming test. When picked up this weekend she will join everyone for "Pappy's" birthday party.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

FOR SALE: Snipe #9432 Varaly Built - 1 suit Levinson sails - reasonable. See Earl or Connie Troeger at Cottage #22 - phone 476 2237.

Conn Clarinet - Good condition - Cottage #267 weekends.

Two gas mowers - need adjusting - reasonable.

Spare tire 8.25 x 15

Portable Electric Washer - one sheet capacity

Contact Cottage #310 - Cove Phone 476 2587

FOR RENT: Cottage #64 - Sleeps 8 - Available August 12 - 19 and from August 29th on.
Inquire at Cottage #76 weekend of July 29-30 or call 219 288 6743.
S. Eichorst

LOST: Navy blue windbreaker from Walcamp. (Over the 4th of July). Please notify
Cottage #201 if found.

Lisa Sanders

FOUND: One ski board - May be identified and claimed at the Rosses - Cottage #101.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

The Men's Golf Stag on July 28 needs prizes! Anyone wishing to donate please contact John Brown at Cottage #127 or phone 476 2125. Don't forget to get your tickets for this most entertaining event! They may be obtained from Bob Ross, cottage #101; Bill King, cottage #263; Joe Myers, cottage #159; John Brown, cottage #127; Bob Hague, cottage #020; Herm Kruggel, cottage #388 or A. R. Reith, cottage #301-Cove. Cost of the tickets are \$8.00 and the tee-off time is from 12:00 to 1:30 p. m. on Friday, July 28. Park Shore Golf Course in Cassopolis!!!

LADIES GOLF OUTING

Date: Thursday, August 3 Place: Park Shore Golf Course-Cassopolis
Tee-off 18 holes 8:30 - 9:30 a. m. Luncheon: Diamond Harbor Inn
Times: 9 holes 10:00 -11:00 a. m. Fee: \$7.00

Come for golf and lunch, just for golf or just for lunch -- but please come!!!!!!
Contact - Nadine Brown - #127 - phone 476 2125.

Betty Jane Hartranft - #129 - phone 476 2240

GOLF - PRIZES - REFRESHMENTS - FUN - LUNCH

News for the Birch Barker this week was skimpy to say the very least! Let us know what is happening! Maybe everyone spent the weekend resting up for the last half of the summer comin' up. Get your news to Cottage #140 - Beehler's - by 6:00 p. m. on Mondays.

****REVISED 1972 SAILING SCHEDULE****

	<u>SNIPES</u>	<u>SUNFISH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>STARTERS</u>
July 23	--	2	10:00	Varga
July 30	--	2	10:00	Foote
August 6	--	2	10:00	Howard
August 13	2	2	10:00/12:00	Courtney/Troeger
August 19	2	--	2:00	Kruggel
August 20	2	2	10:00/12:00	Doolittle/Milne
August 27	2	2	10:00/12:00	Carpenter/Varga
September 2	2	2	10:00	Foote
September 3	1	1	10:00	Foote

ADDITIONAL BOATING RULES AND REGULATIONS CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

1. No person shall operate any watercraft while under the influence of alcoholic beverage or narcotic drug, nor shall the operator consume any alcoholic beverage while in the process of operating any watercraft.
2. Any person who operates any watercraft in a careless and heedless manner so as to disregard the right or safety of others, and at a speed that would endanger or would be likely to endanger any person or property shall be guilty of reckless operation.
3. No person shall operate any watercraft at a speed greater than will permit him to exercise reasonable care, to bring the watercraft to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

4. No person shall operate a watercraft in a manner so as to unreasonably interfere with the lawful use by others of any waters.
5. All persons must be seated in the seats provided when the watercraft is underway and in motion; sitting on the decks or gunwale is prohibited.
6. Running lights are required on all watercraft between sunset and sunrise. (Red and green in front; white on rear).
7. Any organized and properly supervised race has the right-of-way over waters designated as raceway during period of the race.

SUNFISH SAILING RESULTS - July 16, 1972

		<u>First Race</u>	<u>Second Race</u>	<u>Season Standings</u>
21923	Carpenter	--	--	1620
14766	Kruggel	1	4	1504
20909	Cowen	2	2	1456
24252	Kruggel	7	1	1383
20979	Courtney	3	3	1341
14310	Troeger, D.	10	6	1242
130	Machalleck	--	--	1142
25075	Tunncliffe	5	5	1432
29293	Doolittle	4	7	1384
26161	Buchell/Asirc	--	--	1261
14580	Troeger, T.	6	9	1110
-----	Harlan	--	--	1034
25165	King/Spratt	11	10	971
-----	Troyer/Eehels	8	8	962
-----	Wolf/O'Brian	9	11	932
22898	Feete	--	--	838

*****Only seven (7) skippers have paid the \$5.00 sailing fee. Let's get the \$5.00 over to M. Machalleck at cottage #51!!!!

SNIPE SAILING RESULTS - July 16, 1972

		<u>First Race</u>	<u>Second Race</u>
17700	Howard	1	3
9432	Troeger	2	2
13835	Milne	3	1
19724	Speck	4	4
18399	Varga	5	5

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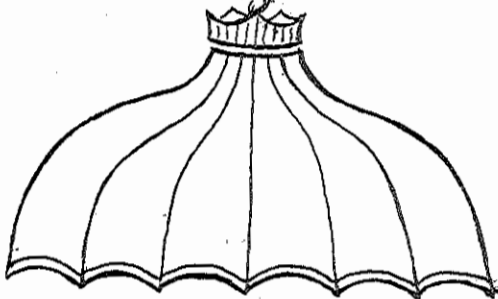


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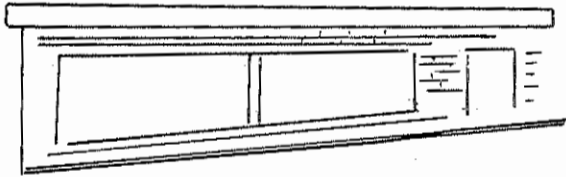
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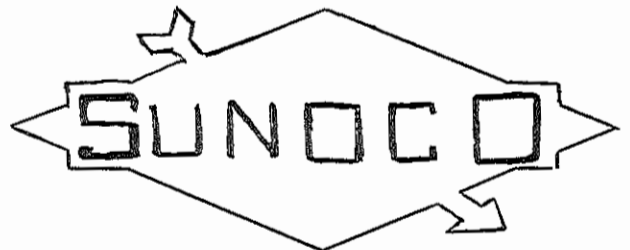
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