



SUMMER 1975

BIRCH BARKER

CIRCULATION MANAGER, JUDY CURTIS 182

EDITOR, JUDY OLSON 126

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

BIRCH LAKE, VANDALIA, MICHIGAN

Commodore Joe O'Brien 177
 Vice-Commodore Bill Hayden 300
 Secretary Shirley Ross 101
 Treasurer Ginny ~~177~~ 266
 Fleet Captain Bill Carpenter 72

Trustees
 Dick Cowen 308
 Terry Montague 1
 Bob Ross 101

Directors

SOUTH SIDE
 Don Erhardt 27
 Frank Horvath 34
 Chuck Stevens 46A
 Virginia Gard 99

EAST SIDE
 Bud Lovejoy 102
 Dave Olson 126
 Harry Price 136
 Bill Humphrey 146
 Mort Hunt 200-8

NORTH SIDE
 Bud Zesinger 268

WEST SIDE
 Joe Caenepeel 310
 Bob Axelberg 355
 Herm Kruggel 388

June 28, 1975

4th of July
Coming up!



Good Heavens
so soon!

Fri., July 11: Lake & Stream Association presentation at the Yacht Club

Sun., July 13: Family Softball Outing

Sailing Results of June 21

Seven boats were out for the opening of the 1975 sailing season. This is far under our average, and is far below the total number of boats on the lake. We encourage more sailors to go out. The races get started at 10:00 Indiana time Sunday morning. We're out there for fun and it's more enjoyable with more boats. We're happy to see one new boat out there, George Varga.

Under a new Michigan law, all sailboats must be registered at the Cassopolis license bureau which is by the Buy-Low Supermarket.

name	number	first race	second race
Kevin Kruggel	24252	1	3
Kurt Kruggel	14766	2	4
Bill Carpenter	21923	3	1
Rick Doolittle	29392	4	3
Leo Zelasko	39996	5	6
George Vargo	-	6	5
Al Courtney	9	7	7

A week from today will be the start of the 4th of July Regatta. The race will start at 11:00.

Open House Opens Season

Fifty friends and neighbors gathered at the Yacht Club last Saturday night to enjoy the first scheduled event of the season, the annual Open House. Renewing old friendships and making some new ones were the orders of the evening.

refreshments to flow freely as everyone sampled the variety of delicious snacks and entered into the lively conversations. Surprisingly enough no one wilted even the decorative daisies held up. Visitors from Pittsburg, Corey Lake, etc. as well as Birch Lakers vouched for a fine evening.

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open seven days a week
5 pm to 11 pm



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Bair Lake on old M-60

9am to 5pm closed Monday

244-5186

RESIDENTIAL SPEED LIMIT IS 25 mph

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Cass County Sheriff - - - 445-2481

Fire & Ambulance

Newberg-Porter - - - 244-5235

Fire (Vandalia) - - - 476-2440

Hospital (Three Rivers) - - - 287-1145

Mich. State Police - - -120-483-7611

LOCAL CHURCHES

Diamond Lake Baptist Church

Decatur Road

Cassopolis 445-2591

St. Ann's Social Hall

421 N. Broadway 445-2248

Cassopolis Rectory 445-3140

First Church of God

Spencer Road

Cassopolis 445-8500

Porter Baptist Church

5 mi. Sq. of Jones on Rte. 40

Constantine 435-7493

St. Paul Lutheran Church

W. State Street

Cassopolis 445-3950

United Presbyterian Church of Cass.

E. State Street

Cassopolis 445-2664

Cassopolis United Methodist Church

South Rowland

Cassopolis 445-3107

Union Protestant Church

R. F. D. 2

Cassopolis 445-2066

Here Comes #199

Next Friday is the 199th birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. What does that mean to you? To me? To Birch Lake?

To me, it means living in a beautiful country with many opportunities, good people, and also the responsibility of taking care of that country. We pay taxes, but not as much as many countries. We are governed, but unlike many countries under sovereign rule, we are charged as the electors of that government. To date it seems the best system. Of course, a system is only as good as "those" who run it. And we are "those". It is our responsibility to train our children, govern our own lives and see that we do not take advantage of others any more than we would be taken advantage of ourselves.

And so we come to "What it means to Birch Lake". It means EACH of us is responsible! We EACH owe Birch Lake! To be responsible as far as safety for others (boat driving, swimming, etc.), as far as the health of others (septic systems, lake usage), and as far as sharing of what public land is left, keeping in mind that we must not abuse the use of this land.

On this our country's Bicentennial Year minus one, we must all remember our purpose for this country and our small part in continuing this concept. Courtesy in every day living does matter to you, to me, and to Birch Lake in year #199 of our Country.

An Interested Birch Laker

Ambulance contd.

Your donations, here again, will help defray expenses.

We are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated organization of friends and neighbors banded together to help us all in emergencies. We trust we won't have to use the service to any great extent but it's comforting to know that it is there when that crisis does occur.

Two good rules for keeping a friend is never to lend money or recommend a restaurant.

The Volunteer Ambulance Service

You never know when you will be required to use the emergency number to call for an ambulance. This past year we have noticed those flashing lights threading their way around our shores a number of times. Birch Lakers can feel quite secure in the knowledge that an outstanding, strictly volunteer, ambulance service is operating in our area.

This service located in Jones covers northern Porter township and Birch Lake is almost exactly in the center of its boundaries.

Gary Felcolm, chairman, of Driskills Lake, Roy Campbell, secretary, of Jones and Sue Forester of Fair Lake lead a group of 19 volunteers most of whom are registered Emergency Medical Technicians. These ratings are achieved after 126 hours of medical training at Southwestern Michigan College as well as the Advanced Red Cross Medical training. Three technicians a driver and two attendants are always on scheduled duty 6:00pm to 6:00am daily while the day hours are handled by local area volunteers.

The new van type ambulance is equipped with air conditioning and two resuscitators capable of cardiac and pulmonary emergency care. Another fine feature is the telephone service whereby attendants can communicate with hospitals while in transit.

Patients are taken anywhere the request when their conditions do not endanger life, otherwise the technicians must make the decision. Normal runs take the service to Elkhart, So. Bend, Niles, Dowagiac and Three Rivers. The service is primarily designed for emergency calls for transfers of patients are not refused but naturally availability for emergency service has priority. Therefore, depending on the situation, there may be some limitations on transfers.

The service operates strictly by donations. It is not a commercial venture but simply a fine group of volunteers interested in assisting the general public in a vital area of need. Donations normally range anywhere from \$15 to \$50 according to Roy Campbell.

Roy also advised us of the regular Coffee Hour every Saturday morning at the Jones Fire House. Coffee and doughnuts can be enjoyed while you inspect the equipment and other items of service.

contd.

Red Colored Algae Identified

Over the past weekend, the East and North sides were alarmed to see a murky red substance invade their shores. The many calls that I received from concerned residents equalled the number of theories proposed as to the cause. My calls to the Lake & Stream Assoc, the Dept. of Health and the Bureau of Natural Resources among others proved futile, noting that nothing should go wrong on weekends.

On Monday, a water sample was analyzed by staff members of the Dept. of Biology at Notre Dame. The findings were passed on to the Cass County Dept. of Health. What developed was an unusually great bloom of blue-green algae known as Anabaena. This form of algae normally flourishes in late summer but the intense heat of our week helped it out compete the regular lake algae. It is expected that the pesky intruder will drash or die off within a few days and the friendly diatom algae will grow and get us back in balance. Therefore there is no cause for alarm according to both authorities, Actually there is nothing that can be done to help nature along.

The red color proved to be tricky. The anabaena's florescent characteristics frequently allow it to mask its chlorophyll by a reddish pigment in the water hence the rusty invasion of last weekend.

A further coliform bacteriological test to measure forms of pollution will be made but the results will not be known before this edition goes to press.

Joe O'Brien
Commodore

Birch Lake Testing

As a spin off from our contact with the Dept. of Health of Cass County concerning our algae bloom, we found that this Spring the Dept did take water samples of Birch Lake for bacteriological testing. The results, according to Environmentalist, Keith Harrison, were good.

Harrison revealed the Dept. plans for a longer range water quality testing program. This survey will be conducted over the next three months with water samples taken from the lake on six or seven occasions. When we receive the results of this program we will advise all residents.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!!

Camp Tannadoonah Opens

Something new has been added to the Tannadoonah program this summer. Several residents of Birch Lake have requested camping by the day for their children and/or grandchildren. Altho several weeks are full as far as capacity is concerned, all children aged 6 to 16 (BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS) who live on Birch Lake can register for one or more weeks of camping by the da

They would be involved in all the regular programs including Red Cross swimming instructions, canoeing and sailing (if qualified), all sports activities, archery, handcraft and campcraft. All activities are optional and camper can choose which part of the program they would like to be involved in.

The camping-by-the-day fee is \$24.00 per week and includes the noon meal and camper insurance. For further information call the camp office: 476-2177.

Two special weeks are incorporated in the season this year--- a girl's basketball camp and a tennis camp; both having qualified instructors who will live at camp and spend the entire week teaching fundamentals and individual instruction to campers.

Its good to be back among our neighbors for the summer and we would like everyone to know that they are welcome to come over any weekend to look around camp or "just visit". Boats can be docked at the pier since there are no camping activities from Saturday noon to 2:00 PM Sunday. We have an adult St. Bernard for a watch so it would be advisable not to bring your pets!

Mrs. Chas. Murphy, camp dir.
Mrs. David Iafin, asst. ca
direc
camp phone 476-2177



The following lakes are all our Porter Township; can you locate them? Indiana Lake
Baldwin Lake Cloverdale Lake
Bair Lake Little Wood Lake
Buck Lake Shavehead Lake
Elbow Lake Teesdale Lake
Spatterdock Lake Carter Lake
Stage Lake Robbins Lake Long
Wood Lake Bellows Lake

For Sale

Boat Lift suitable for outboard;
cottage 102, 476-2777

Armed Robbery at Tom's Garage

On Friday, December 13, 1974 at about 2:00pm, Tom went to the gas station to wait on some customers. They had parked in the road and walked in to the station. As Tom was approaching the station, the one who stayed in the car drove it away. This surprised Tom but he went on into the station. When he got into the station and behind the counter, they pulled a gun and told him it was a stick-up. After making him unlock the cash register they tied and gagged him and put him in the back room, taking the money from the cash register and wallet. Nothing else was taken.

As soon as they left, Tom was able to free himself and call the Sheriff's Dept. and they were apprehended in Edwardsburg about 40 minutes later. Two were 16 year olds and the other was 19. The 16 year olds are now in a State Detention Farm and the 19 year old was sentenced to 6-15 years in Jackson State Prison.

Betty Griffith
(Mrs. Tom's Garage)

Lake News

48 has been jumping with people and activity. For the past two weeks, Grandpa Ebeling has had Jeanne, Allyson, and Dwayne Weaver and Tony and Jill Hammes fishing, swimming, sitting out the rains and enjoying visits at "The Lake". Of course, some fish were eaten and Dwayne even caught a rainbow. "Mommy, I've a fish, but it won't come in!" was his excited cry. There is always something at Birch Lake.

* * * *

Well, summer and the gang arrived almost simultaneously at Machalleck's cottage 51.

'Grammie' Ellen McDowell, Arline's mom arrived by bus from Florida June 6th after a month's vacation with her daughter Evelyn and family at Lakeland and grandson Steve Machalleck and family at Sarasota. 89 years young, Mom is busy swimming and picking up shells every day and has taken over the dishwashing duties of the household which multiplied rapidly

to 12.

Bright and early Monday morning June 16th, Arline's sister Ruth Rogers, her daughter Karen and her daughter, 2½ year Andrea plus a cute Doxie named Denny pulled in from Canoga Park, Calif.

Wednesday, Kathy and Denny Wolf and their newest addition, a 7 wk. old German short-haired Pointer joined the group and added to the fun and confusion.

Of course, Mike and Katha and their two, Brian and Lori, are here at their second home so the old cottage is jumping for joy with such a special group.

The weather has been ideal. All have enjoyed swimming and boating. The kids should be waterlogged but are just happy and tanned. Old acquaintances have been renewed. We managed to keep all fed and many good games of Samba, Gin, and Pinochle have kept us up till all hours.

In case anyone saw a mass of black smoke coming from our cottage #51, I wasn't trying to get rid of my company.

In making some home remedy cough syrup (honey, lemon juice, and whisky), I burned a pot of honey that had sugared. After clearing away the smoke, cleaning the stove, discarding the pan and making some new syrup, I'm not really sure if it is working as fast as Katha is taking it.

* * * *

June is an important month at the Hubert Weaver cottage #383. Hubert's birthday was celebrated on the 7th, his 75th. Attending the event was Hubert, Jr. and Joan and their family of Tim, Nancy, Jon and Jeff, from South Bend; Ron and Maurine and daughter Jennifer from Oshkosh, Wis.; Larry and Nina and their 2 boys Matthew and Jeel from Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada; Patricia and Jim Shearman and daughter Teri from Niles.

Larry and Nina and the boys are at Birch for the month of June. The boys are disappointed about the fireworks. Larry is on the faculty of the University of Lethbridge and is on a sabbatical leave.

Hubert and Carolyn celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on the 19th. There were entertained with dinner at 100 Center, Nish.

* * * *

Small children feel more at home with animals than with adults for the simple reason that pets never criticize.

BIRCH LAKE AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

One of the principal greivances 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 twenty miles apart. Two principal routes were used, one coming up from Cincinnati through Indiana and the other from St. Louis through Illinois. These two routes 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 was known as Hiltrings 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 run-away slaves. They arrived in the month of August and camped near Shavehead Lake. They knew exactly where the run-aways 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 marl bottom.

--reprinted from July 27, 1968 Barker