

SUMMER 1975

BIRCH BARKER

CIRCULATION MANAGER, JUDY CURTIS 182

EDITOR, JUDY OLSON 126

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

BIRCH LAKE, VANDALIA, MICHIGAN

August 30, 1975
Labor Day Weekend

Commodore Joe O'Brien 177
 Vice-Commodore Bill Hayden 300
 Secretary Shirley Ross 101
 Treasurer Ginny Spratt 266
 Fleet Captain Bill Carpenter 12

Trustees
 Dick Cowen 308
 Terry Montague 1
 Bob Ross 101

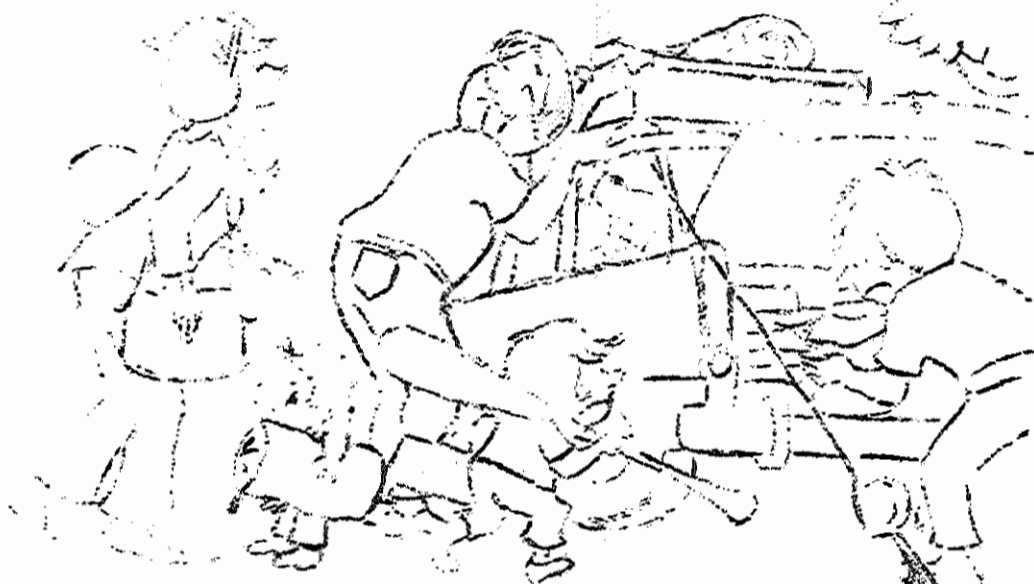
Directors
 SOUTH SIDE
 Don Erhardt 27
 Frank Horvath 34
 Chuck Stevens 46A
 Virginia Gard 99

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

"Hope it all fits."



"Hurry and get this stuff and I'll pull you around the lake one last time!"

"June will be here before you know it!"

It's not difficult to say 'thank you' most sincerely and with great feeling to a fine group of 13 Directors, 3 Trustees, 4 Officers, more than 25 dedicated workers and the entire community of Birch Lake. What is difficult is not being able to name each of you in this article at this time as I leave the quarterdeck.

This year has been particularly rewarding for me. Perhaps I missed a bit of fishing and skiing but working with you all has made my term as Commodore a year I'll treasure.

Singling out a few for special praise is proper however. To Judy Olson, Shirley and Bob Ross I must tip my hat. Never has a Commodore had such able, willing and dedicated support. No Commodore should be without a trio like these. All Birch Lakers join me in expressing our gratitude to our retiring editor, Judy, and to the hardest working couple, the Rosses.

Now I solicit your support and cooperation for our new Commodore, Bill Hayden. 1976 promises to be a fantastic year; we'll have a great opportunity to show our Birch Lake spirit and solidarity under Bill's capable leadership.

So long for awhile; it has been fun, really. Thanks again.

Joe O'Brien

Election of 1976 BLYC Officers

At the annual Birch Lake Dinner the election of officers was held. The nominating committee chaired by Bud Lovejoy presented Bill Hayden for Commodore, Ginny Spratt

for treasurer and Shirley Ross for secretary. The nominees were accepted and elected unanimously. The position of vice-commodore will be filled at the Spring Dinner.

SERVICE OIL CO.

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distributor of Sunoco products for Cass Co.
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Service is our Business
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Sears Street 476-2276
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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Paula Seager, beautician

gasoline LP gas
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candy ice cream
bread milk
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K TAP ROOM
Vandalia, Michigan

open seven days a week
5 pm to 11 pm



GOOD FOOD

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201 East State Street
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SPORTSMEN'S CENTER OF VANDALIA
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License Fishing Tackle
Ammunition Live Bait

Mon thru Thurs - - - 5am to 8pm
Fri and Sat - - - 5am to 9pm
Sunday - - - 4am to 6pm



COUNTRYSIDE BEAUTY SHOP
Pat Swiatkowski, operator
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. Paul Lutheran Church
W. State Street
Cassopolis 445-3950

St. Ann's Social Hall
421 N. Broadway 445-2248
Cassopolis Rectory 445-3140

United Presbyterian Church of Cass.
E. State Street
Cassopolis 445-2664

First Church of God
Spencer Road
Cassopolis 445-8500

Cassopolis United Methodist Church
South Rowland
Cassopolis 445-3107

Porter Baptist Church
5 mi. So. of Jones on Rte. 40
Constantine 435-7493

Union Protestant Church
R. F. D. 2
Cassopolis 445-2066

Dye Testin Project Almost Completed

Voluntary testers of Birch Lake properties have been producing some encouraging reports. Again the continued cooperation and enthusiasm of owners have been sincerely appreciated.

Tests completed and reported-108
Tests completed but not reported as yet-----39
Homes contacted but owners not at home-----21
Homes still to be contacted---42
Refusals-----1
Number of reported leakages----0

With one more weekend to go the project will be completed as final contacts are made. The results so far obviously are very welcome.

FOR SALE:

1974 Plymouth Gold Duster, A-1 condition; am buying camper with no trad-in; will consider \$2600; call Jo Murphy, Camp Tannadoonah, 476-2177

1973 Sears 3 1/2 hp air-cooled outboard motor 476-2780

FREE--people and water loving dog. He is short-haired, has had distemper and rabies shots; is 8 mos old; mostly labrador retriever. Would be excellent hunting, guard or family dog. Call 476-9352 (#24) or South Bend 219-287-9032.

HILLTOP LAUNDRY AND CARWASH
US 12 East of Union
Mon to Fri. 7am to 10pm
Saturday 7am to 6pm
Sunday 8am to 4pm (Mich. time)
laundry closed holidays

FOR SALE: fresh vegetables at the Hain farm in Williamsville-- stay on Walnut, continue on gravel road, right and first house on right. 476-2443
ATTN: BIRCH LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

SOUTH BEND TREE COMPANY
16655 Gerald Street
Granger, Ind. 219-272-2774

Michiana's most progressive tree experts is expanding service to Cass Co. property owners-- schedule work during the off-season and get special winter rate
Call or write for free estimate and advice--fully licensed and insured.

We specialize in top quality service at reasonable rates.

County Health Dept. Report Presented

On Tuesday, Aug. 26 Mr. Keith Harrison gave a preliminary report on the Co. Health Dept.'s Sanitary and Water Quality survey. This survey conducted on 32 Cass County lakes this summer included bacteriological and detergent testing as well as studies as to the extent of lake pollution. A slide demonstration of infra-red photographs accompanied the report. The photos of county recreational and well-populated lakes were taken from a height of 5500 feet. Ken Troyer and Joe O'Brien attended this meeting.

The report shows that most all Cass Co. lakes were well within quality standards set by the State. Birch Lake studies all turned out to be good. We should be especially pleased with the fine results of our dissolved oxygen tests which indicated ideal conditions for good pan fishing.

We will obtain the final published report in two weeks time. We will be able to compare our water quality with all other area lakes.

Harrison allowed that this was a base line study and that is must be followed up each year with similar studies. He added that Self-Help Projects conducted by Lake Associations continue to provide this required follow up independent of the Dept. of Health.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom cottage, #150 for rent from Oct. to May. Rent very reasonable. Cottage has phone. If interested, call Jim Bender, 476-2668 or 219-264-3859.

LAKE NEWS

Weekend guests at Huston's #60 and Fergus #53 was Peg and Russell Dinick and their 3 daughters from Cedarburg, Wisc. Betty, Spud, Steve and Susan Huston from South Bend and Mike and Sharon (Huston) Dinick from Bowling Green, Ohio.

The Dinicks are Mike's parents and Sharon's in-laws.

It was their first time at Birch Lake and they really enjoyed all the activity, swimming, boating, skiing, and fishing. They all agreed "what a beautiful, clear lake".

They brought several kinds of cheeses, tenderloin steaks and "brats" from Wisc. Our chef,

contd.

Russell prepared steak on the grill, steamed sweet corn, and Peg fixed baked potatoes and salad for 13 of us on Sat. night. Peg cooked the brats for lunch in beer butter and onion. Quite a treat.

Our good neighbors, Arline and Katha Machalleck contributed a pickled carrot relish which was delicious with our steak dinner and everyone wanted the recipe.

Sunday, we entertained all at Inez's #53. We had a turkey dinner, watermelon fruit boat and baked zucchini. The Dinick's want to come back soon.

Tell Ernie and Jane Nagy we couldn't wait for his zucchini squash, ours came from the garden of Mike and Sharon, and Betty and Spud. Ernie will know what we mean.

Congratulations to Betty and Spud Huston on their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Mrs. Jessie Huston mother of Spud and his Aunt Inez surprised them on August 19th by preparing dinner at their home in Swanson Highlands in So. Bend.

* * *

The newlyweds Karen (Bernaciak) and Earl Wecher after a honeymoon in Bermuda visited Gran Bernaciak last week end.

Ken Bernaciak ended his vacation here on Birch Lake with regrets having to leave the Lake and easy living.

* * *

Thank you Joe O'Brien for doing a good job as Commodore. We wish the new Commodore Good Luck.
East Side Resident

* * *

Carla Jean Klappauf will celebrate her birthday at Granny and Gramp's Sunday. She will be 3 years old. We all wish her a happy birthday.

Gramps & Grampy Klappauf, Uncle Ed, Auntie Kathy, Lisa, Holly, also Dad, Mommie and brother Brian.

* * *

We have a new teen-ager, Steve Curtis who will be 13 on Aug. 30. We all wish him a very happy Birthday.

Ray Klappaufs, Kellys, Harris, Sanders, Carl Klappaufs, Hunts, Fenrichs, Winarskis, Troyers, Lisa, Holly, Carla, & Brian, too, Dad Mom, Karen, Grandpa & Grandma Curtis

Weekend guests of the Ray Klappaufs were Ed & Helen Klappauf from Palos Park, Ill. It was their first visit and they enjoyed our beautiful Birch Lake and plan to come again.

Bill & Maxine Curtis celebrated their 35th Anniversary Sunday with neighbors and family. All had a good time.

A big weekend is coming up at the Klappauf's. All the grandchildren are coming and their nonnie's and Daddy's, too. Gramp & Granny's house will be jumping.

* * *

Karen Curtis is having a birthday on Sept. 11. She will be 12. We all wish you a very happy day.
The Gang

* * *

Mrs. Gaedtke, #318 enjoyed the visit of her son, Walter (Bud), wife, Pat, and their 3 sons, Don-14yrs, Dan-10 yrs, and little John who will be 5 years this Oct. 3. Grandma sure enjoyed their visit which ended Thursday afternoon. The boys (all 3) said their goodbyes ending with "Grandma next summer we will visit you in Florida." God bless them.

God bless all of you, too!

* * *

A notice in a U. of Colorado campus cafeteria stated: "Shoes are required to eat in the cafeteria."

Someone wrote below: "Socks can eat wherever they want."

* * *

EDITOR'S CORNER

The season's over and the relaxing days of summer are over. Now it's time to live by the clock and calendar again.

Doing the Barker these past two years has been quite enjoyable, I've met lots of people, learned the news first hand, and kept up on all gossip! I do want to thank the "Interested Birch Laker" for contributions, Lynne Schaar for her drawings, mom and dad--Madine & John Brown--for the use of their garage to store the mimeograph in, Judy Curtis for circulation, and many others for their support.

A big thanks goes to Commodore Joe O'Brien for all the work he did for all of us. Water quality means more to us know that it did at the beginning of the summer. His several meetings with the Health Dept. have made them and us aware

contd.

HISTORY OF WILLIAMSVILLE

Many of us come to Birch Lake through Williamsville or use Tom's Garage for gas and extras. In years past "Lankys" next door to Tom's was the friendly stopping place for food, refreshments, gas or just news.

But we'd like to turn back the pages of history just a few years and give you a glimpse of Williamsville 100 years ago. Where Mrs. Breece lives was a large 2 story brick building, The William Merritt Store. This store has changed hands many times since it was first established back as far as 1860 by Josiah Williams, the gentleman who laid out the village in March 1848 that bears his name. Some of these people are William Merritt, Wm. Merritt, Jr., J. Fred Merritt, Milo Merritt, Oscar Loupee, Tom White, Albert Snyder, Hyton Jones and G.W. "Lanky" Breece.

The general store has played a very important part in the history of this community. It was the center of all business transactions in the early days. Part of the time it housed the post office and most of the time it had the only telephone in the vicinity.

The earliest records in this township are the entries for land in 1829 by John White (who was probably the first settler in north Porter), John East and Nathan Williams. At this time, Josiah Williams built the great mill just south of the main streets of Main and Mill and it was operated by W.W. Camp. The old mill by the creek has also played an important part in the history of Williamsville. Many sacks of feed and flour have been ground by the great stone run by the water power coming down the mill race from Birch Lake and the Mill Pond. Austin Searer was owner of the mill in the 1940's and 1950's. His father, Christian Searer, came here in 1880, bought the mill and ground feed, made cider and sorghum.

Down on the corner of Main and Mill in a house owned in the 40's by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Franklin was an Inn operated by a man named Austin. No doubt many a weary traveler spent the night in this haven. Directly across the street was a grocery store or general store, as most all were in those days, operated by Rhuben Weikle and later by Tom White. In the center of the block was a telephone exchange installed by Perry Storey. There were two physicians in the village, a Dr. Moore who lived at the SW corner of Main Street and a Dr. Fort.

Zacky Brown started a barber shop in this same block and operated a feed store and a livery in connection with the barber shop. Other ventures were a saw mill run by Albert Reck and Jerome Cousins, a cabinet and paint shop operated by Will Rhinehart and a cooperage by Hardy McCally. Mail was carried at this time by horseback or horse and cart: the route running from Bristol through Williamsville and to Vandalia. The carrier was James W. East.

There was a Methodist Church erected on the NE corner of Pine Tree Road intersection on land donated by Wm. R. Merritt. Cost of the church was \$5,000. The Quaker or Friends Church was erected back in 1850. These people have left their imprint on the section through these many years.

Now when we go through Williamsville or to Tom's Garage, let's think a few kind thoughts of the people who many years ago were part of a thriving little village on Birch Lake.

submitted by An Interested Birch Laker

Editor's Corner contd.

that our water will not get better by itself--we must help.

Best of luck to Bill Hayden, out new Commodore. He will need lots of support and lets give it to him by attending his first activity, the Spring Dinner.

Have a good winter; see you in June, 1976!

Rich people miss one of life's greatest pleasures--paying the last installment.