

1977

Birch Barker

Issue #2 June 18, 1977

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB
VANDALIA, MICHIGAN

From the Commodore:

By way of the grapevines I've heard that some of the newer lake residents don't know where the Yacht Club is located. The building is on the south side of the lake; at the top of the big hill, behind cottage #41. Turn left and the road goes back to the Yacht Club. There is a nice new sign that identifies it. I hope that the weather is great this weekend so more of you can make it over to see the progress.

Directors and officers, be sure to attend the meeting this afternoon at the Yacht Club. Some important decisions need to be made.

Collection of dues will start this weekend. The amount will be decided at the Directors' meeting today. At the Spring Dinner, it was voted to increase the dues from \$12 to \$15; this will be discussed and voted upon.

Barker subscriptions will still be \$3.00, which are included in the dues. Any boys and girls who want to be Barker carriers, please contact Julie Weaver at cottage #004.

Judy Olson

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Today: Clean-up at the Yacht Club. Come one, come all; come big, come small. Let's clean up! (Morning)

1:00 In/2:00 Mi - Directors and Officers of BLYC at the Club.

3:00 In/4:00 Mi - Sylvan Shores property owners at the Club.
(See last week's Barker for details).

June 25: Season Opener with the Dick Whiteman Band

July 3: Ice Cream Social, Julie & Doug Weaver, Chaircouple.

July: Women's Golf Outing, Angie Lovejoy, Chairwoman

July: Men's Golf Outing, Bill King & Barry Schaar, Chairmen

July: Monte Carlo Night, Joe O'Brien, Chairman

August 7: Couples Sunfish Race, Kathy & Mike Machalleck, Ch.

August 27: Fall Dinner at Cassopolis Fairgrounds

IN MEMORIAM

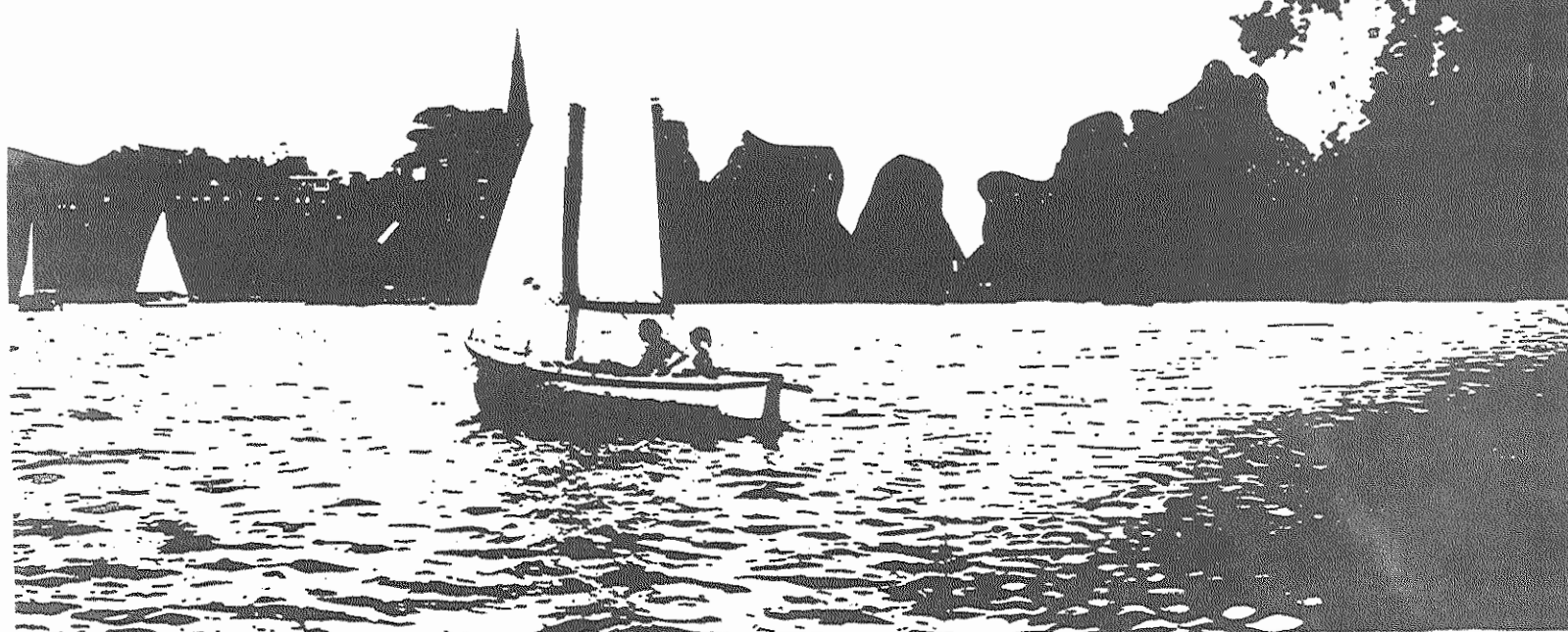
Albert Osborne - Cottage #365

Directory Changes:

#00 - New - Dave & Myra Anthony, 1840 Kessler Blvd., South Bend, In 46616 Phone 234-8637

Children: Mike 18, Jeff 15, Sue 13 (Sue is available for babysitting).

#172 - Tormas now reside at the lake year-round.



C. WENT MARINE
MERCURY Outboards
 Mercury
 Between Long and Baldwin Lakes
 Evenings 6 to 9 pm (IN Time)
 Sat and Sun 9 to 5
 BOATS IO's TRAILERS
 PONTOONS MOTORS

For Your
 AMWAY PRODUCTS

Louise Rieth
 476-2174
 Evenings

COUNTRYSIDE BEAUTY SHOP

Pat Swiatkowski, operator
 Bair Lake on old M-60
 9am to 5pm closed Monday
 244-5186

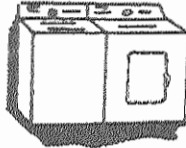


118 EAST FIRST STREET - MISHAWAKA, INDIANA 46544
 219/255-3722

Presto Print
 Business Forms & Systems Wedding Invitations
 Envelopes & Letterheads Road Maps to Lake

HILLTOP LAUNDRY & DRYCLEANING

Coin-op Car Wash
 Located on Highway 12 - 1 1/2 mile
 east of Union.
 Open 9-6 Indiana 7 days a week
 Closed on holidays



SERVICE OIL CO.
 604 Water St.
 distributor of Sunoco products for
 Cass Co.

BELTS PURSES WALL HANGINGS
 HANGING POTS OTHER NOVELTIES

MACRAMÉ

LOTS O' KNOTS

Darlene Troyer
 R-1 Birch Lake
 Vandalia, MI (616) 476-2639

WAYSIDE BEAUTY SALON

Sears Street 476-2276
 open 9 to 4
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
 Paula Seager, beautician

TOM'S GARAGE AND WELDING
 If you need help, call Tom at 476-2272
 open 7 days a week
 Williamsville

gasoline LP gas
 motor oil fuel oil
 cigarettes pop
 candy ice cream
 bread milk
 free delivery to fill 55gl. gas barrel



Vandalia
 Sportsmen's
 Center

Michigan Hunting & Fishing
 License, Fishing Tackle & Live
 Bait, Ammunition & Hunting
 Wear, Boots & Footwear.
 Tourist Information, Lake Maps &
 Fishing Tips & Information.

Welcome to:
 Sportsmen's Center
 M-60 West in City
 Vandalia, Mich. 49095
 Phone (616)476-9610



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB
 1977

officers

commodore--Judy Olson
 vice-commodore--Dick Whiteman
 secretary--Shirley Ross
 treasurer--Ginny Spratt

fleet captain--George Varga
 Birch Barker--Phyl Davis
 Sue Howard
 Doris Sante
 Julie Weaver

building committee--
 Dick Whiteman
 Julie Weaver
 Bob Temple

water control-- Ken Troyer
 Joe O'Brien
 Jr. Yacht Club--Sally Everett
 Barb Zesinger
 Lynne Schaar
 Trudy Claro
 Bev Kruggel

directors

#12 Mildred Carpenter: 000-0 to 12
 #19 Bob Martin: 13 to 23
 #34 Frank Horvath: 24 to 39
 #42 Kay Greenig-Julie Weaver: 40 to 54
 #46A Chuck Stevens: 56 to 76
 #96 Roy Henderson: 84 to 102
 #120 Sue Dufour: 106 to 122
 #124 Clem Haines: 124 to 137
 #138 Leo Zelasko: 138 to 170
 #181 Darlene Troyer: 172 to 200,201
 #1-8 Sonya Wirick: 1 to 26 (hill)
 #232 Gertie Temple: 200 to 200-8, 205 to 232
 #268 Barb Zesinger: 235 to 272
 #298 Loretta Drolet: 288 to 301
 #309 Sally Everett: 302 to 313
 #322 Phyllis Davis: 314 to 329
 #350 Linda Carey: 330 to 371
 #382 Dennis Tudor: 375 to 400A

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Class NOTICE:

If interested, please notify Darlene Troyer, #181, 476-2639. Need 15 for a class to be conducted by the Red Cross. There would be a fee for the book; more information later.

A turquoise speedboat with a white top was observed by several people deliberately hitting one of the sailing buoys many times. These buoys are expensive! The boat will be reported if there is a recurrence.

SAILING:

A meeting of Sunfish sailors and the committee was held after the races. It was agreed to continue having the starting time at 10:00 In/11:00 Michigan time.

The number of races has been changed from two races on ten Sundays to two races on twelve Sundays, the last Sunday being August 28th. To qualify for a trophy sixteen starts are needed.

The two class systems will be continued.

The location of buoys was approved by the majority, with a longer start line and a shorter finish.

G. W. Varga, Fleet Captain

SUNFISH SAILING RESULTS FROM JUNE 11th

| CLASS #1 | | CLASS #2 | |
|--------------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 17 Years and Under | | Over 17 | |
| | TOTAL | | TOTAL |
| Dave Lovejoy | 3220 | H. Haines | 3111 |
| K. Kruggel | 3062 | B. Carpenter | 2989 |
| Dick Carpenter | 2908 | L. Zelasko | 2985 |
| R. Whiteman | 2758 | D. Olson | 2760 |
| S. Vicsik | 2612 | G. Varga III | 2685 |
| R. Vicsik | 2470 | J. O'Brien | 2470 |

A CELEBRITY IN OUR MIDST:

Bill King of Cottage #263 was named to the Ball State University Athletic Hall of Fame. Bill was acting captain of the 1948 and 1949 teams, who had a 14 game winning streak. He was the squad's Most Valuable Player both in 1947 and in 1948. Congratulations, Bill!

MOVING SALE: 14' (174) Rinkerbuilt boat with Johnson 40 hp engine with 20 hours and Sterling trailer.
8' Pool table
G. E. Dishwasher
Magic Chef Ceramic top automatic-clean oven range, 2 years old
Ford tractor with blade and chopper, hydraulic
Call 476-2202

BARKER NEWS: Turn in by Monday evening for the next paper. Collection points: Davis #322, Howard 24A, Olson #126 and Weaver #4A.
Next week's typist: Phyl Davis

LET US HEAR YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS.

OLD FASHIONED ICE CREAM SOCIAL, JULY 3: If you lost last week's Barker and didn't get a chance to turn in the coupon for your donation, there's another one this week! Donations of pies and cakes are needed. Doug & Julie Weaver are chairpersons. Please fill out the coupon below and give it to Julie at #4A or a Barker staff person.

NAME _____ COTTAGE # _____ PHONE _____

I WILL DONATE _____

THE DICK WHITEMAN COMBO

PLEASE
drive slowly

Creators of
Fine Danceable Music

Since there are no sidewalks here at the lake, children use the roads for bicycles, tricycles, skateboards, etc. Please drive carefully, and watch for children and animals.

R. R. 1, Box 186-A1
Birch Lake
Vandalia, Michigan
476-2792

HISTORY OF BIRCH LAKE

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 2500 years 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 found by the early French explorers were Miamis. Through a war council treaty, the Miami Indians, who were not a warlike tribe, were replaced by the Chippewas, Potawatomes, and Ottowas, who with the exception of occasional wars, lived in relative peace.

The area around Birch Lake was held by the Potawatomie Indians who were headed by Big Chief Pokagon and Under-Chiefs Weesaw and Shavehead. While Pokagon was a very brilliant man, making friends of the white man and 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. He gained his name by keeping his head shaved, which did nothing to improve his appearance. Shavehead's winter quarters was around Shavehead Lake and in the summer he migrated to what is now Mottville, where there was a ford across the St. Joseph River. This ford was on the Sauk Trail, which is now modern U.S. 12. 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 deaths 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, he met his death the same way. He was at The Trading Post, which is now Cassopolis, drunk and bragging about his participation in the Fort Dearborn massacre. Shavehead was overheard by a young trapper who had lost his wife and child in the debachery. 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 Chief 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 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 was magnificent and, as roads became passable, cottages began to be built on its shores. One of the first, if not the first, was the Smith Cottage.* Today the lake has over 225 cottages with a summer population of about 700 people enjoying its sky-blue waters.

----taken from an earlier Barker

* Who knows where the "Smith Cottage" was located? we'd enjoy hearing other early Birch Lake information.

* * * * *

Experienced Baby sitter: Renee Vicsik, age 15. Call any time 476-2242.

Father: Well, son, how are your school grades?

Son: They're under water.

Father: What do you mean, under water?

Son: Below "C" level.

The starboard side of a boat was thus named because that was the side of the steering board of Viking ships.

Two fishermen made a bet as to which would catch the first fish. One of them got a bite on his line and became so excited that he fell out of the boat. "Well," said the other, "if you're going to dive for them, the bet's off".