



# Birch Lake Yacht Club

Vandalia, Michigan

August 20, 1988

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 20	DIRECTOR'S MEET
AUGUST 27	FALL DINNER

Tickets are available to the FALL DINNER. The dinner will include buffet style BBQ ribs and chicken. Cocktails (cash bar) will begin at 5:00 IN with dinner around 6:00. A meeting will follow the dinner. The cost of the dinner is \$7 for adults; \$4 for children. The following Directors have tickets Frank Horvath, Herm Kruggel, Bill Holleman, Bob Temple, Claudia Gableman, Tom Howard, Mike Love, Marty Sante, Earl Troeger and Linda Rasmussen. There are a limited number of tickets due to available seating at our clubhouse.

If any of our NEW LAKE PEOPLE would like a directory with the telephone numbers and addresses of people on the lake, there are a few copies left. Contact Dan Reynolds for cost and how to obtain a copy.

FOR SALE SUNFISH SAIL BOAT \$550; 2 hp PORTABLE GASOLINE WATER PUMP \$75 Stan Stokel 2113

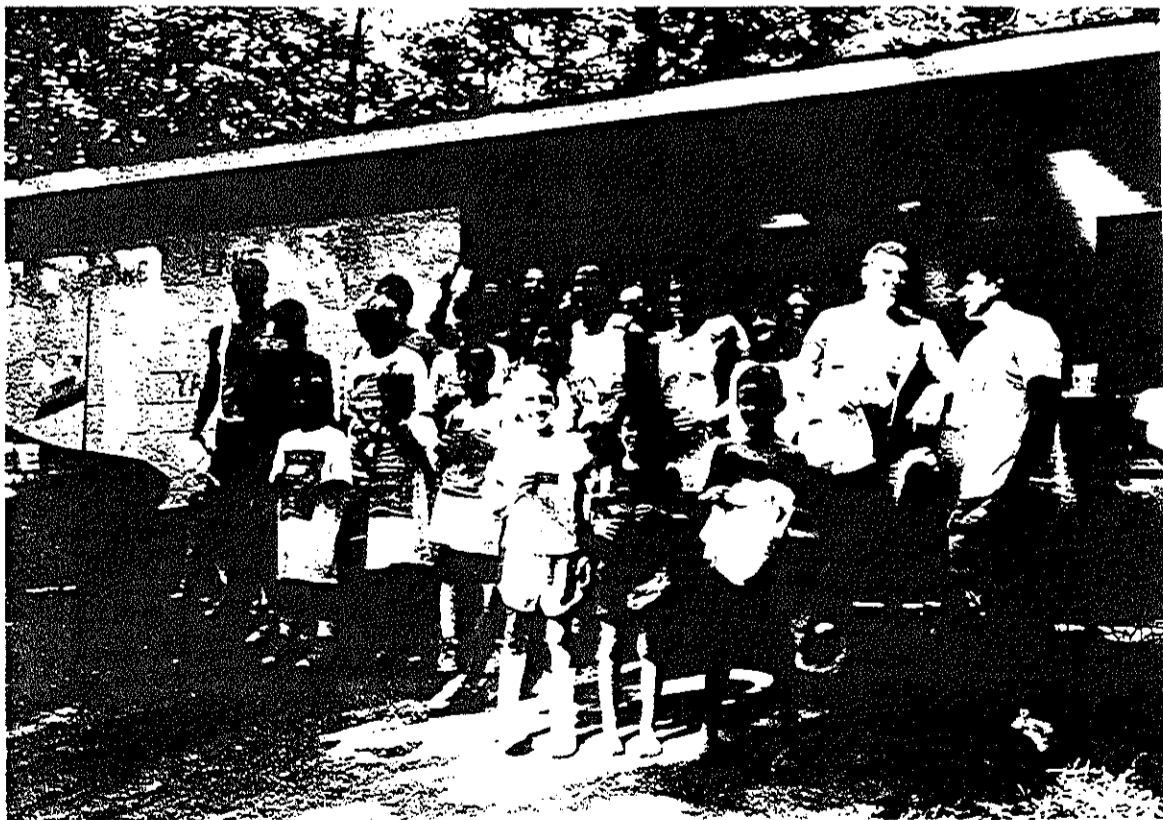
6 GAL OUTBOARD MOTOR GAS TANK \$10; CHARCOAL GRILL \$15; DURACRAFT 10" TABLE SAW \$100 Mike Machalleck 2642

48" ROUND ANTIQUE OAK PEDESTAL TABLE Everetts 2760

The COUPLE'S SAILBOAT RACE was sailed last Saturday afternoon and although the turnout was light, those that did come-out had a good time. The order of finish was:

- 1 KEN & SALLY EVERETT & HAROLD & DONNA CRANMER
- 2 DON & LIN HARMON & BARB & JOHN RONDEAUX
- 3 BRUCE VATH & MARTY CARRY
- 4 BRAD & DEBBIE DAVIS

Our hats off to all that came out to enjoy the day, and in particular to DONNA CRANMER who sailed an excellent last leg to help her team win.



Participants of 1988 Triathlon By Sue Montague



SAILING NEWS - Last Saturday was a great day for sailboat racing and nine Sunfish sailors came out to test their skills against the steady breeze we had. Dave Troeger finished first with Harold Cranmer second and Steve Sante third.

Race Results		Season	
1 DAVE TROEGER	6 Mike Machalleck	1 TOM HOWARD	6 Marty Sante
2 HAROLD CRANMER	7 Dave Olson	2 STEVE SANTE	7 Mike Machalleck
3 STEVE SANTE	8 Brad Davis	3 MIKE GOTSTEIN	8 Dave Olson
4 Tom Howard	9 Jim Foos	4 Harold Cranmer	9 Bob Cranmer
5 Don Harmon		5 Don Harmon	

Dan Reynolds submitted a very interesting article concerning the development of our area; a couple paragraphs of the article were used here and there, as needed; however, I am afraid this very fine article lost a lot of its meaning. Following is an attempt to pick-up and complete the article.

#### A LITTLE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Birch Lake is located in Porter Township, the largest township in Cass County, having about 54 square miles instead of the usual 36. What very few people realize is that Birch Lake is responsible for one of the most distinguishing features of our county: The Mogador Valley.

The Valley obtained its name because thousands of years ago it was the bed of glacial Lake Mogador. Eventually the water cut down through the land and emptied Lake Mogador. Angle Creek, which still drains the valley rises in Birch Lake, follows the outlet stream through the mill pond, passes through Shavehead Lake and falls into Long Lake before running South until it joins the St. Joseph River.

Starting at the outlet of Birch Lake, the valley covers an area about three miles wide and eight miles long to the Indiana State Line. The drop of the creek at Williamsville is eighteen feet, at Centennial fourteen feet and another eight feet to Long Lake.

Long Lake and Baldwin Lake are unique in Cass County in that they lie North and South and are quite narrow. Other lakes in Cass County are elliptical in shape with swampy South and West Shores and high ground to the North. All the lakes here are glacially formed and why these two do not conform to the pattern remains a mystery. Anyway back to Angle Creek.

Angle Creek has a long and interesting history. Before the coming of man we know that prehistoric wild life, birds and animals, were numerous in Mogador Valley. If man had actually lived in the valley 10,000 to 70,000 years ago they would have gone hunting for mastodons, musk-ox, giant beavers and wild hogs. They were here because fossil remains have been unearthed within the area.

One of the interesting features of the valley is the way it was created by the sudden lowering of old Lake Mogador several thousands of years ago. This change made possible the easy excavations of the vast amount of marl which has been taken out for fertilizer.

In 1929, while excavating for marl just north of Mogador Church (Log Chapel on Chapel Hill) the skeleton of an elephant, which preceded the mastodon here, was found under about 20 feet of earth. Scientists from the University of Michigan figured it had died between 50,000 AND 70,000 years ago. Also fossils of prehistoric plants have been found in the valley.

When the first settlers arrived they found Mogador Valley occupied by Pottawatomie Indians. The settlers found the valley a veritable patchwork of Indian trails, crossing Angle Creek, the Sauk Trail (now US12) going back and forth from Long and Baldwin Lakes to Shavehead and Birch Lakes and Williamsville and Union.

Angle Creek and Mogador Valley were bee hives of activity in the eighteen thirties. First, in 1832, was the Rinehart saw mill on Angle Creek - on the north side of the present highway. (South of Carter Lake, east of the house, but upstream from the junction of Angle Creek with the creek out of Carter Lake.

This mill operated for a number of years. However, the records show that on May 12, 1836 Lewis Rinehart purchased from the U. S. government the site of the present Centennial Mills. No doubt the Rineharts foresaw the greater water power further down stream... Also, in 1836 the first building was erected which housed the saw mill. (Mill and buildings are gone now but what looks like fish ponds cover part of the old mill pond on the West side of the road).

It is interesting to know that this mill was powered by an overshot wheel with an up and down saw and the drop of Angle Creek at that point is 14 feet. This is the mill where thousands and thousands of feet of lumber were sawed and delivered to the St. Joseph River. This lumber was loaded on rafts and floated down the river to South Bend, St. Joseph and across the lake to Chicago.

This mill with the overshot wheel operated continuously until 1870 when it was replaced with a turbine.

In 1876, the Centennial year of American independence, a flour and grist mill began operating in conjunction with the saw mill and was just North of the present saw mill. The two mills were called "Centennial Mills."

As we reminisce we are reminded that there were 16 water powered mills in the immediate area in and around Porter Township operating at the same time and Centennial was the last to close.

During the eighteen forties Isaac Miller and his wife Eliza emigrated from Ohio to Mogador Valley. They built a home and adjacent blacksmith shop to Angle Creek, located about 30 rods south of the junction of Birch Lake and Carter Lake Roads. This shop was appreciated by the settlers in the Valley and surrounding area for they could get their horses shod, machinery repaired and many other odd jobs done that only a blacksmith was equipped to do.

The house was a two story with a porch on the Northside. The foundation can still be seen, the remains of part of the basement, 16x32 feet, the cellar wall built with flat faced stones and some mortar in good condition. The shop was about 5 rods North of the house, both on the Westside of the creek.

So, the next time you're looking for something different to do - go exploring and check out the Mogador Valley and Angle Creek.

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