



Birch Barken

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club
August 13, 1994
ISSUE: 12

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The little nip in the air this past weekend reminds us that Autumn is just around the corner. By and large, the weather this summer has been near perfect. Lots of sunshine on weekends and mostly cool nights. We could really be sweltering by now in mid-August. But, once again the Birch Lake Weather God has smiled on his people.

Let's hope that the sun shines for our Fun Walk/Run this Saturday. The Walk begins at 9:00a.m. and the Run at 9:15a.m. (both Indiana) at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. If you haven't been around the lake lately, this circuit will help you catch-up on the many changes and improvements that have happened or are underway. Who knows? Maybe you'll see an old friend. And what better way is there to work up an appetite for the Corn and Sausage Roast later in the day.

As you know, a new Vice-commodore selection will be announced at the Fall Dinner. Our screening committee has carefully perused the Resumes of the hundreds of applicanats, and they are very close to a final decision. I know I can hardly wait to find out. Just one more reason to attend the Fall Dinner. You have let Linda know that you are coming, haven't you?

Yo! Birch Lake Weather God. Don't forget our sailors this weekend like you did last Sunday. They made a valiant effort, but they weren't moving too fast.

Congratulations again to Tom, Betty and Becky from Tom's Garage for their recent milestone 25th Anniversary of the business' beginning. They are one of the remarkable constants here at Birch Lake and we thank them.

I love history and I especially like to find out about the past of places that are familiar to me. Birch Lake's history is especially intriguing to me. Many of you know that the area around Birch Lake was integral to the operation of the "Underground Railroad" in the Nineteenth Century. But for those of you who don't know, we are including an excerpt from a 1970's era Barker that describes the raid here by the Kentucky slaveowners in 1847.

Have a safe, fun weekend.

Bob Waddle, Commodore
Page 1

SUMMER "1994" EVENTS

- Aug. 12th - Camp Tannadoonah Candlelight Ceremony
Lake side - dark
- Aug. 13th - Fun Walk/Run - 9:00a.m. - BLYC
- Aug. 13th - Corn and Sausage roast - 5:30p.m. -
BLYC
- Aug. 14th - Sailboat Races - 10:30a.m.
- Aug. 16th - Birch Lake Walk - 9:00a.m. - BLYC
- Aug. 17th - Aerobics - 9:00a.m. - BLYC
- Aug. 19th - Aerobics - 9:00a.m. - BLYC
- Aug. 21st - Sailboat Races - 10:30a.m.
- Aug. 27th - Fall Dinner - 6:00p.m. - BLYC

(ALL TIMES INDIANA)

SAILING NEWS

Light to light and very uncooperative winds greeted the 10 skippers on the race course last weekend. Only one race was sailed and again the finishes were very close. Don Harman nosed out Earl Troeger to win the MC race with Bruce Harlan, Tom Troeger and Harold Cranmer close behind.

The Sunfish race was won by Tom Howard after a very close race with Scott Troeger. Scott was then nosed out of second by Dave Olson who caught a good wind to finish with. Rick Harman and Jeff Howard rounded out the 5 Sunfish Fleet.

Our starters were Marty and Doris Sante. The course was laid out by Harold Cranmer and Don Harman. With this kind of help our sailing can't help but be successful.

Let's see more boats out this weekend.

THE 1994 BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

The new Directories are going to be delivered or members can pick one up at the Machalleck's: 14874 Birch Lakeshore Dr..

One copy is FREE to Birch Lake Yacht Club members. Additional copies can be purchased for \$3.00 each.

**A special thank you goes out to everyone who helped me compile the information. If there's any corrections turn them into me and we'll print them in the Barker. Lori Machalleck.

AEROBIC LUNCHEON

How do you celebrate a summer's worth of exercising? Well, by eating, of course! If you have been to aerobics class even once this summer, you are cordially invited to the annual aerobic luncheon at noon on Friday, August 19th. Talk to Claudia about location. This year's fare will focus on salads, with everyone bringing their favorite. It's still not too late to join the group.

The last 3 aerobic workouts are Monday, Aug. 15th; Wednesday, Aug. 17th; and Friday, Aug. 19th at 9:00a.m.(IN) at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. All are welcome!

BIRCH LAKE COOLERS

A limited number of coolers (hold nine cans) with Birch Lake design (same as this year's shirt design) will be available for sale at the Corn & Sausage Roast - Saturday -.

The cost is \$20.00 and proceeds will go to the Yacht Club.

DOG OWNERS

To dog owners - please be responsible for your pet by making sure it does not use your neighbor's yard for a potty. The dog does not know any better but you should! Thank you.

TOP TEN REASONS FOR GOING TO TOM'S

- #10. Fish bait available 24 hours a day.
- # 9. Crystal clear ice.
- # 8. A great selection of Schwan's ice cream.
- # 7. Betty has "necessary items" on the shelf.
- # 6. Tom's always willing to tow home your problems.
- # 5. Enough gas for all the boats, jet skis, cars and trucks around.
- # 4. A great place to meet your neighbors from the other side of the lake.
- # 3. Movie rentals for those rainy days and long nights.
- # 2. A dentist's delight selection of candy.
- # 1. Always a friendly greeting from Tom, Betty and Becky.

By Phil and Betsy Custard

TOM'S GARAGE OPEN HOUSE

The weather was perfect, the attendance great, the food delectable and the hosts delightful! A fine time was had by all who attended (between 200 - 250 people). Tom's Garage was shining and looking terrific. Did you see the new mural?

Tom, Betty, and Becky would like to thank all who attended and shared their 25th anniversary with them and helped to make it extra special. Also, thank you to those who brought gifts.

BIRCH LAKE AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

One of the principal grievances of the Southern Slave Owners before the Civil War was the Underground Railroad.

Quakers from Pennsylvania came to Michigan and purchased sections of land around Birch Lake and Calvin Center. When the runaway slaves from the South were carried by the underground to Michigan, a farm was given to them and many families retain this land to the present day. The underground railway was a route over which the colored men and their families were carried after dark, on horseback or wagon, from one station to the next. These stations were usually about twenty miles apart. Two principal routes were used, one coming from Cincinnati through Indiana and the other from St. Louis through Illinois. Those two routes converged just east of Cassopolis at the home of Stephen Bogue. A monument marks the spot on M 60. This was the Michigan terminal of the Underground Railroad. Bogue and Josiah Osbourne were the principal operators and the most important men in the undertaking.

Osbourne was located on the farm that was later known as Hillring's Lakeland Gardens. Mr. Osbourne operated a nursery on this farm 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 runaway slaves. They arrived in the month of August and camped near Shavehead Lake. They knew exactly where the runaways were living as they had sent up a spy the previous winter. The spy had made maps and reported their locations 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, sythes, and clubs. The Kentuckians were stopped and surrendered at the Osbourne 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 Birch Lake, which fanned the flames of the Civil War.

The wagons that were dumped in Birch Lake were visable 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - CINDY RHEINHARDT!

BELATED - HAPPY 11th BIRTHDAY TO LAURA PENCE!

NEWS FROM THE PENCE COTTAGE

Sabrina and Laura Pence are at Camp Tannadoonah this week. Sabrina is there for her 9th year and Laura for her 5th. Laura talked up camp so much in her class this year that 6 boys and 3 girls from Western Springs, Illinois, joined Laura for week 4 at camp.

Sabrina took a 3 week summer stock theatre class at Lyons Township High School where she will be a freshman, but she is now enjoying Birch Lake and camp with all her lake friends.

FREE SAND

Sand to be given away.

The Pencos - 14842 Lakeshore Drive - call #476-2018.

FREE STOVE

20 inch electric stove with oven and 3 burners.
Call #476-2181.

MOVING SALE

Saturday, August 13th - 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. (IN)
at North Side Troeger's - 62982 Birch Road

- 1) 175 H.P. Hurricane Deck Boat w/trailer - \$7,400.
- 2) Antique Iron Bed complete
- 3) John Deere Garden tractor - \$600.
- 4) Picnic table
- 5) Some furniture and lots of miscellaneous!

FOR SALE

Bikes for sale!

- | | | | |
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| Ladies | 3-speed Schwinn | - | \$35.00 |
| Ladies | 10-speed | - | \$25.00 |
| Kids | 1-speed! | - | \$10.00 |

Aluminum row boat - small leak - \$25.00.
Call Abernethys - North Shore - #476-2559.

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted: Wave Rider, cover, and lift. Must be in A-1 good condition. Call #476-2526.

BIRCH LAKE SPECIAL OLYMPIC DAY

On August 21, 1994, from 9:00a.m. until 4:00p.m., 80 Special Olympians will be at Birch Lake-Camp Tannadoonah to enjoy sun and fun. Interested volunteers should call Paul McMinn at the South Bend Recreation Commission, #(219)-235-9328.

If you would like to help but can not volunteer, donated baked goods will be appreciated.

For more information, call Paul McMinn at the phone number listed above.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Jean Hunt and her family for the loss of her husband, Lavern "Mort" Hunt. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following poem was printed in a June, 1979 Birch Barker and was written by Gertie Temple for friend John Ball (the Sailor). Submitted by Marty Ball.

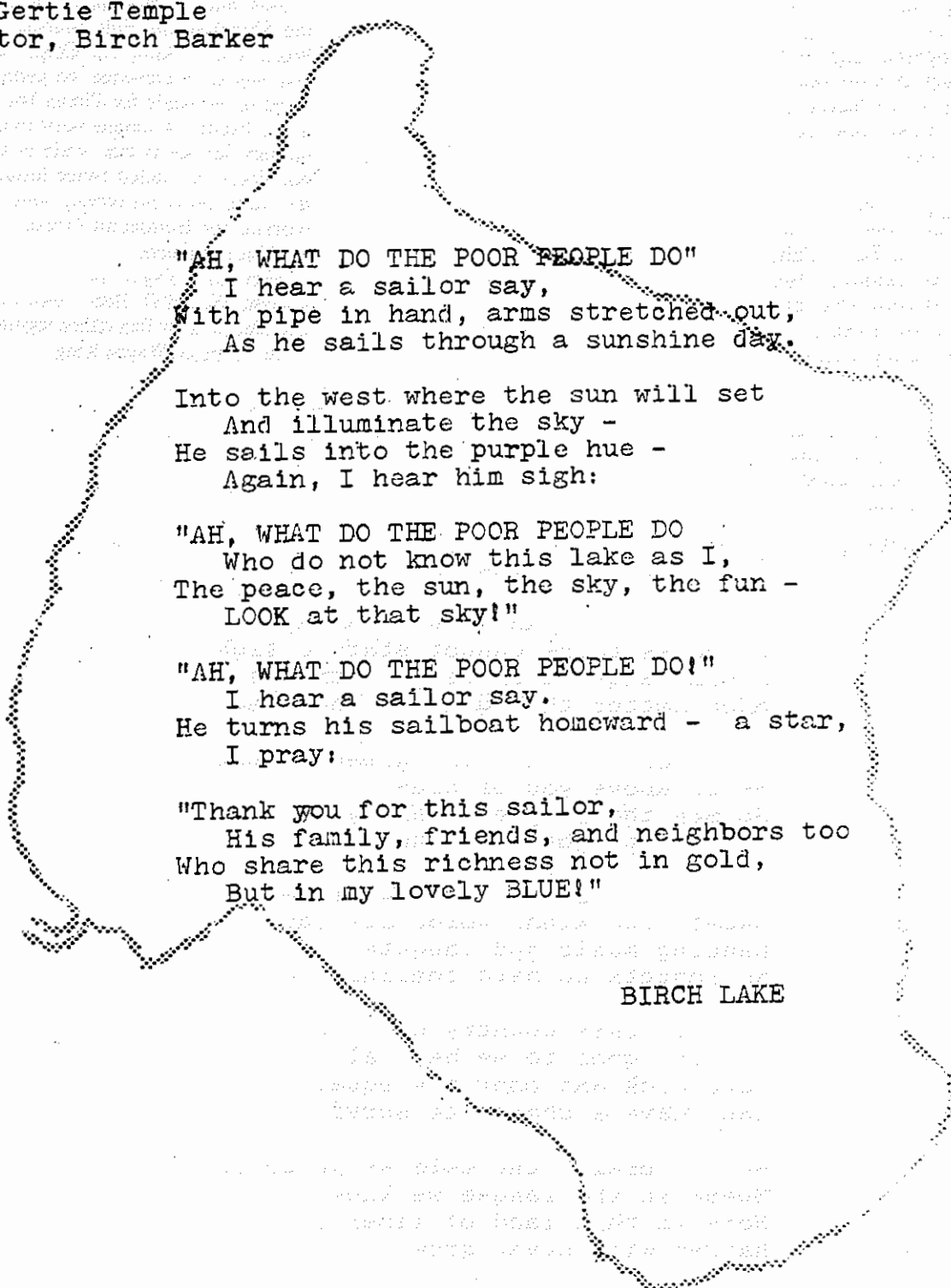
expressions

From a Different View

BIRCH LAKE'S SONGS OF THE SEASONS

By Gertie Temple

Editor, Birch Barker



"AH, WHAT DO THE POOR PEOPLE DO"
I hear a sailor say,
With pipe in hand, arms stretched out,
As he sails through a sunshine day.

Into the west where the sun will set
And illuminate the sky -
He sails into the purple hue -
Again, I hear him sigh:

"AH, WHAT DO THE POOR PEOPLE DO
Who do not know this lake as I,
The peace, the sun, the sky, the fun -
LOOK at that sky!"

"AH, WHAT DO THE POOR PEOPLE DO!"
I hear a sailor say.
He turns his sailboat homeward - a star,
I pray:

"Thank you for this sailor,
His family, friends, and neighbors too
Who share this richness not in gold,
But in my lovely BLUE!"

BIRCH LAKE

He danced her 'round kitchen table

By JAIME COURTNEY
Dowagiac Daily News

Joyce Klimek swore she wouldn't get married again until she found a man who loved to dance. In fact, she said, to win her love, a man would have to be willing and able to dance her around the kitchen table in the mornings.

And guess what? Matt Klimek did, and they have danced their way through 21 happy years of marriage.

The morning twirl around the kitchen table is still a highlight of the pair's day.

Dancing - and music in general - is a hobby that has kept the pair together and on the move through all those years.

Not only do they dance, they make the music that others dance to as well.

Performing at the Cass County Fair at the Hospice tent, Joyce, 63, and Matt, 77, under the name of The Polka Cellos, set up a toe-tapping, foot-stamping rhythm that drew passersby to the Hospice cold air balloon during Thursday's Seniors Day.

Matt plays the "button box" (concertina), and Joyce alternates between the harmonica and the polka cello, which is a sort of home-grown instrument

See KLIMEK, page 2

Klimek

Continued from page 1
that resembles a sophisticated arrangement of broomstick, hubcaps, jingle bells, screen door springs, and the kind of horn that makes an Model-T-ish Ooga! sound.

They specialize in polka music, and play during the polka festival at Camp Bellowood near Union in mid-September. But their repertoire is not limited to polkas; Matt can coax a lump into your throat with familiar, folksy airs on the button accordion, and Joyce can bring a tear to your eye with lonely laments on the mouth organ.

Sometimes they are joined in performance, as they were at the fair, by a couple of friends who call themselves The Ding-A-Lings: Evelyn Gay, who plays the washboard (more difficult than it sounds!), and Betty Wegener, who plays the "gut-bucket" (washtub bass). Betty also plays with the New Frontier Band.

When they're not making music, Joyce operates Joyce Realty from the couple's Birch Lake home. She got her real estate sales license in 1974, and her broker's license in 1978. A business in her home made sense because "that's where every-

one knew to find me."

Matt mans a permanent booth at the Shipshewana Flea Market. A World War II Army Air Corps veteran and B-29 crewman, he participated in the battle for Tinian Island in the Pacific. A unique twist to his military service is that while in the Air Force, he sailed twice around the world. After his service stint, he worked for Hammond Organ Co. until his retirement.

Matt and Joyce met at Willowood, the old O. Henry ballroom, and danced their first dance together to the music of Wayne King.

SONG OF A PEACEFUL NATION

Good morning good evening good night
Words as those cannot start a fight
A hand shake a smile in exchange
Much better than guns on the range

Wherever you look are green pastures
Skies above you of blue
So are the people around you
Honest upright and true

Instead of blood flowing of red
Sweet true kinds words are said
Dancing music and laughter
No regrets no hard feelings left after

We love this country of ours
For its good to be here alive
Here rich and poor are equal
Each have a chance to survive

We all praise the Lord as we please
Speak in the langue we know
Here in this land of liberty
Hatred will never grow

A song of a peaceful nation
Born to be sund by all
In this land of opportunity
United States we call.

By Matthew Klimek, World War II Veteran

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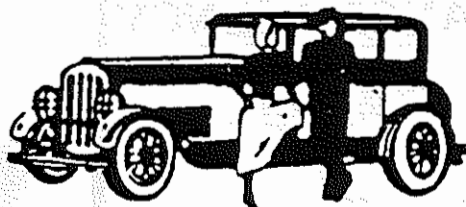
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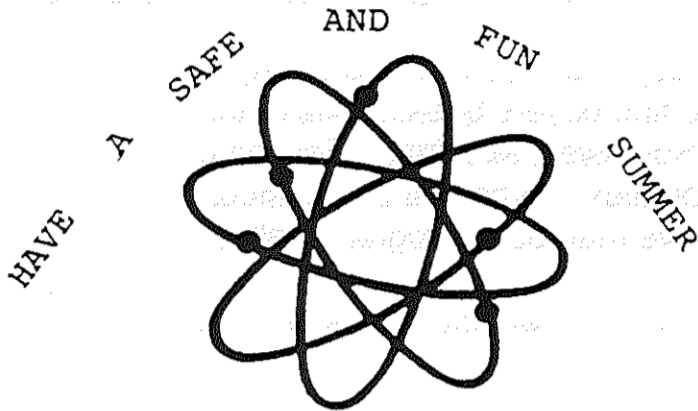
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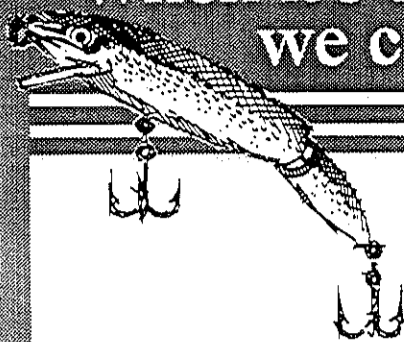
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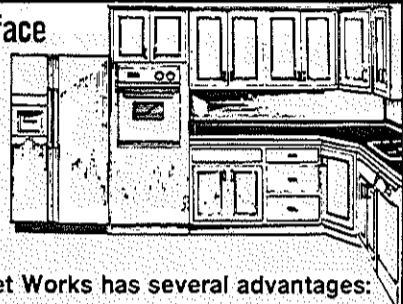
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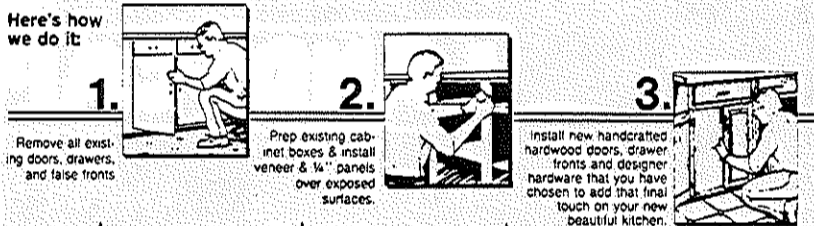
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