



Birch Barken

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club 1994
August 20, 1994
ISSUE: 13

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

My blasphemous remarks last week about our "dear, wonderful" Birch Lake Weather God sure got me in trouble. Rain, rain, rain makes mud, mud, mud. On Sunday morning, after the Corn and Sausage Roast, the Yacht Club floor looked like the Sands of Iwo Jima.

But a little rain and mud didn't stop the Birch Lake faithful from coming out for a delicious treat - fresh grilled sausage and even fresher grilled corn-on-the-cob. The (succulent) corn was perfect. Three cheers for the cooks and for all the wonderful volunteers who helped out in many ways.

On the following Sunday morning, several devoted people chose to walk, jog, run or in my case - plod around the lake in the Fun Run/Walk. As usual, Dan Reynolds did a splendid job making all the arrangements. There were people to talk to, bridges to move and paths to clear. Thanks Dan.

Sue and I are lucky enough to be able to spend this week at the lake. It's Monday afternoon and instead of poring over blueprints I'm on the deck again letting my view of Birch Lake inspire these words. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

Extra! Extra! There is a new Vice-commodore! We have just received a communique over the wire that the selection committee has finally made its choice of soon-to-be Commodore Linda Curtis' successor. You'll have to attend the Fall Dinner to be among the first to know who was chosen. Linda has also informed us that a new caterer will be used this year and that she expects a lot of improvement over last year's dinner. If you plan to attend please inform any officer or director soon.

After next week, this page will be filled with the prose of another budding journalist, Commodore Linda. It's difficult for me to believe that my term is almost over. Next week I'm sure that I'll bore you again with my blatherings about how I wish it could go on forever. Not true. It has been a great deal of fun. I have gotten to know many good people a whole lot better. And it has been very satisfying. Sounds like a good year to me.

Bob Waddle, Commodore 1994

SUMMER "1994" EVENTS

(all times Indiana)

Aug. 21st - Sailboat Races - 10:30a.m.
Aug. 27th - Fall Dinner - 6:00p.m. - BLYC
Sept. 4th - Sailors' Season Ending Cocktail
Party - 5:30p.m. - BLYC

CORN & SAUSAGE ROAST REPORT

Ahh! The Corn & Sausage Roast of Summer 1994 is over and what a success it was! Heartfelt thanks go to Earl Troeger for securing the wonderful sausage and great corn. As always, Bullard Farms donated what proved to be some of the best corn we've ever eaten! We appreciate the Bullard family's generosity.

Of course, the corn and sausage was ably cooked by Gary Swartz, Tim Lauver, John Gableman, Terry Curtis, Bob Waddle, Al Cover, Tim Steffens and Buzz Rasmussen. Dan Reynolds kept the boys going by telling them his repertoire of jokes! Thanks to all of you for the great effort on behalf of the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Also, the BLYC grounds looked so neatly trimmed and cut due to the beyond-the-call-of-duty skills of John Gablemen, Gary Swartz, Tim Lauver and Bob Waddle.

The kitchen crew was very ably staffed by Bruce and Sue Wagner, Maryann O'Neal, Nancy Dobosiewicz, Janet Reynolds, Sue Waddle, Margie Trybus, Linda Curtis and me. With such talented assistance, the serving portion of the evening was a joy!

An additional word of thanks to Ron and Staci Whiteman for the butter donation and to Bob and Louanne Morrison for the cookies! And to Mike and Katha Machalleck for handling the finances and distributing the new Birch Lake Directory!

Thank you again to all who attended and supported this annual event! We had a great time and look forward to next year's!

Linda Rasmussen, Buzz Rasmussen, Linda Curtis & Bob Waddle

SAILING NEWS

What a change from last week. Strong winds gusting to over 30 MPH greeted only the hearty sailors last Sunday. Rick Harman was able to hold his boat down and sail well in the high winds to win both Sunfish races. Our current Sunfish Season leader, Tom Howard was close with 2 seconds. Scott Troeger, Dave Olson, and John Gableman sailing with his son, Ross were the other finishers. John and Ross tipped over in each race, but went on to finish. That is a real test of endurance and determination and our hats go off to them.

Dave Troeger won both MC races even tipping over in the second race. George Iams was the only MC sailor who stayed up right in both races. Harold Cranmer after finishing 2nd in the first race had the misfortune of turning turtle between races and missed the second race. Don Harman had 2 thirds as he tipped over in the second race.

Thanks to all those who participated and lets all get out and sail as our season is rapidly drawing to a close.

Thanks again Marty Sante and Earl Troeger for starting us.

COCKTAIL PARTY

The sailors will host a season ending cocktail party this year on Sunday, September 4th, at 5:30p.m.(IN). Cocktails, cheese and crackers will be the order of the day. Plan to come out and help everyone close another fine season at Birch Lake.

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FALL DINNER

DATE: August 27th
TIME: Cocktails - 5:30p.m.
Dinner - 6:30p.m.
COST: \$9.50 - adults
\$5.00 - kids

Catered by: Bonnie & Clydes

Please contact Linda Curtis (#2431) or Bob Waddle (#2239) for reservations as early as possible. Thanks Linda.

P.S. Come to meet the new Vice-commandore.

BIRCH LAKE COOLERS

A limited number of coolers (hold nine cans) with Birch Lake design (same as this year's shirt design) are still available. The cost is \$10.00 and proceeds will go to the Yacht Club. Contact Bob Waddle at #2239.

BALL STATE GRADUATE

Congratulations to Beth Davis who earned a B.S. in Telecommunications from Ball State University. After an internship at WSBT-TV this summer, she is searching for a job in broadcasting.

NEWS FROM THE COVE

Bunches of birthdays:

Loretta Drolet

Bill Lloyd

Randy Rogers

Happy birthday, friends.

Howard and Beth Blackwood took one look at the long-range weather forecast and headed for Arizona, land of vitamin D. They didn't even send postcards with hot desert scenes to their depressed, sunshine deprived lake friends who had to settle for basking under 80 watt light bulbs.

Next weekend John and Loretta Drolet will be feted at a celebration honoring their 50th wedding anniversary.

John "droll" Drolet quipped, "It isn't always easy being married to a saint." He doesn't specify which spouse wears the halo. Our heartiest congratulations, John and Loretta.

Miss Meddle reports to us from London where she is attempting to repair dysfunctional royal marital strife. She says, sneeringly, "This guy is a real prince."

Next week: exciting news updates and previews of coming events. Now isn't that something to live for? Have a good week!

MOVING SALE

Saturday, August 20th - 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.
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For Sale: 2 single wave runner shore stations - \$375 each.
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Editor's Note: Over a year ago I approached Helen Weesner about writing her history on Birch Lake. She was so kind to submit the following to me for the Birch Barker. Thank you Helen.

EARLY REMEMBRANCES OF BIRCH LAKE
BY HELEN WEESNER

In 1926 my parents, Chester and Louise Hemminger, bought a lot on Birch Lake and built a small week-end cottage, which is now the summer home of my sister, Thelma and her husband, Leo Koontz (E116).

This was the beginning of many happy and wonderful years for our parents, Thelma and me.

Our early memories of watching Birch Lake grow from just a very few unoccupied cottages and 1 farm to the successful recreational area it is today has been a very, very special experience which we will always cherish!

I will attempt to recreate what I remember of this beautiful place from 1926 until now.

Traveling to the lake from Elkhart, Indiana in our Oakland Touring car, we would pass thru, as we do today, Williamsville.

The grocery store (that still stands today) was open and stocked well with staples, home grown vegetables, penny candy and etc. It was owned by a Mr. & Mrs. Jones and they lived in the house now owned by the Fergusons' (S101). Later they sold the store to Lanky and Lavon Breece, who many of us here knew and liked so well. There was a very old wooden building on the curve which was right out of the "Old West" era. We were told by the old-timers that this building had been a stage coach stop in the late 19th century. I wanted very much to believe this story, but I have never been able to figure out where the stage would be coming from nor where it would be heading but as we passed the old building it was fun to imagine the horses, with their stage coach passengers, resting from a long, weary trip.

Standing at the bottom of the hill on the South side of the lake, where the Powell cottage (S100) is today, was an ice-house. It was built to store ice cut from Birch Lake, and then sold to area farmers for their ice boxes. Later on, when enough people warranted it, they delivered the ice to us here at the lake. One of our delivery "boys" was Ed Lowe the "Kitty Litter" entrepreneur!! From one summer to the next, the ice house disappeared and only recently have I learned (from Louise Rieth) that it was moved across the ice that winter and became part of what is now Louise and Bud Rieths' lovely home in the Cove.

The Ron and Linda (Larson) Witchie (E106) home was a 2 story, tenant farm house that had been moved - or rather rolled down the hill on wheels from the Henry Sears farm, now the Lyle Manning Farm. This elder Henry Sears was Linda's great, great grandfather and he with his 15 year old bride came to this area and started "house-keeping" on 300 acres. An important part of this acreage started at the bottom of Birch road on the South-east side and ended with the Clem & Annie Haines' property. The road ran right along the lake in front of the newly plotted properties. Henry Sears traded what is now the boat landing in exchange for the County changing the road to where it exists today.

Genevive (Parker) Lagoni's home had also been moved down to the lake -- it had been the summer kitchen of the Henry Sears Farm. Gen's mother and father, Edith (Sears) Parker and Wallace Parker resided there for many years loving Birch Lake just as Genevive and Pat Lagoni did. These 2 cottages were unoccupied the first year or two we were here.

Genevive as her mother before her gave us permission to walk in their woods (behind us) anytime we wanted to. It was beautiful and we loved going up there - our dog loved it even more but once as she chased some little animal she got caught inside a fallen tree trunk where she chased the critter. Thelma ran for Dad while I stayed by the tree - he brought a saw and we were panic stricken thinking he would saw our beloved best friend in half! Happy ending - she managed somehow to free herself and crawled out unscathed: my father and sister found several arrowheads made of stone by the Potawatomi Indians, who occupied this area, prior to any of us. I still have these

Early Remembrances of Birch Lake cont.

arrowheads along with a basket made by the Indians. This basket was received in a trade for chickens and some eggs by Leola Kollar's mother, who lived in Jones many years ago.

Ora and Leola Kollar were long time residents of Birch Lake. In 1927 they built and lived in the home that was eventually next door to Bernie and me. It is now owned by Sue and Duffy Dufour (E120).

In the 1930's Jean and Harry Deman built a log cabin that is now the Gableman Cottage (E122), behind our home. On many a hot summer day Jean and I would sit on the pier watching our 6 children swim together. As we watched, we figured if we only counted 4 heads, everything was O.K. because at least 2 of them were always under water!

On the hill facing what is now Kinsey Street was a very old log cabin standing all alone in a field. The doors and windows were gone and the cabin was empty except for an old hand made cradle.

Thelma and I would venture there to play and would fantasize about the people who once lived there so many years ago.

Clem and Annie Haines' (E124) home (also built in the 1930's) is the last house on Birch Shores subdivision.

Moving North beyond Birch Shore there were no cottages until the Ruehl Harvey house, now belonging to Kenneth Bernaciak (E157). The Harvey's were very early settlers in this area.

The farm house and barn we know today as the Terry and Linda Curtis' place (E182) was unoccupied when we first came here but later was up for sale for \$4,500.00 (what a deal)! It didn't sell for quite a while but eventually, the Howard Andersons bought it and they had many a great party in that beautiful barn! On the last property along the East side of the lake (at the very North end) stood a large old house with a few small cottages across the road. This was called Lazy Lodge. In 1943 Wanda Winiarski and her husband, Peter, bought the property (E200) and in 1947 made this their permanent home. In 1926 there was also a large pavilion on this property. We were told by the "old-timers" that much earlier it was used to hold puppet shows, square and round dancing, etc.

Sometime after Winiarskis' moved year 'round to the lake, Wanda opened a little restaurant and served the best hamburgers, hot dogs, malted milks and milk shakes. She also sold candy, bubble gum, etc. What a popular place that was!! Fisherman, all the children on the lake and many of the adults loved it. Later Peter and Wanda tore down the older house and built the nice brick home she lives in today.

On the North side of the lake there was just one old abandoned house and like the log cabin in the field it held great fascination for us. With its doors open and a few broken windows, the house invited us to come in. In the kitchen the table was still set with dirty dishes. It appeared that someone had eaten a meal and left, never to return again. It was its mystery which was so fascinating to 2 young girls.

Thelma and I walked around the lake often and we would also row across the lake to the channel and then pole our way over to the mill pond, row over to the road and walk to Lanky's store in "Billysville" to buy candy. It was really beautiful and fun for us but no doubt it would be real boring for the kids today!

Woodland Cove had been deeded to the county and was the nesting place for our herons. It was also a place that many tent-campers would come and spend a week-end or a week. Later, relatives of the original owners took the county to court to seek possession of this property and won as the county had never made any improvements or had never kept it up. The new owners then subdivided and sold lots.

I do not remember any cottages on the west side of the lake, perhaps someone on that side could give us more information about that area.

There were several small, unoccupied cottages on the South side in 1926 and there was also a substantial marsh area that was unbuildable until a farmer living on Sears Road, behind this property, eventually filled it all in, subdivided and sold lots.

Early Days cont.

As I sit here dreaming of yesteryear (soft music) and all the wonderful times my parents, my sis and I had way back then my dreams move forward a few years to 1944 when Bernie and I had a very small real-estate office moved from the corner of Ewing and Michigan Avenues in South Bend to the lake. Lance was 5 and Lynn 2 years old. Leslie Ann was born 5 years later. We all shared so much happiness in that little, easy to care for cottage but over time that cottage grew and grew with more rooms, sliding glass doors and lots of windows.

Good heavens! I have just come back to reality, as I look around there are windows to wash, rooms to clean and those pesky spiders to be "blasted" off the siding, outside and I'm sure not getting any younger!!

Right now, that small cottage sounds just great to me!

Thanks for listening,

Helen

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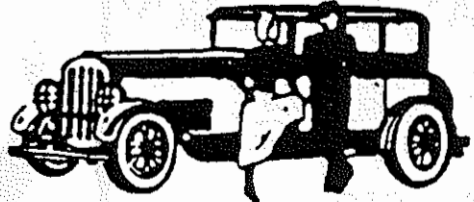
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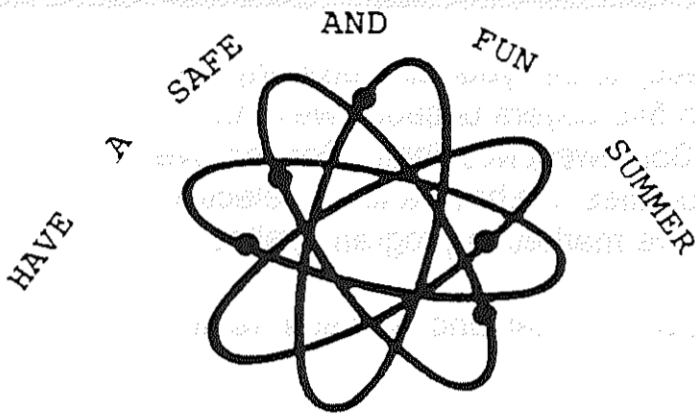
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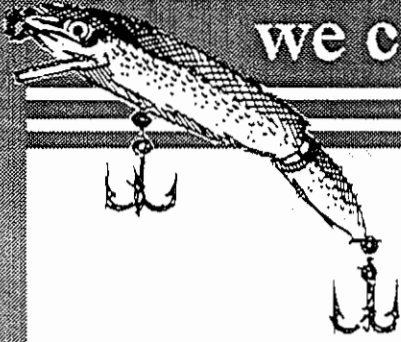
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PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

BIRCH BARKER EDITOR

Barb Zesinger

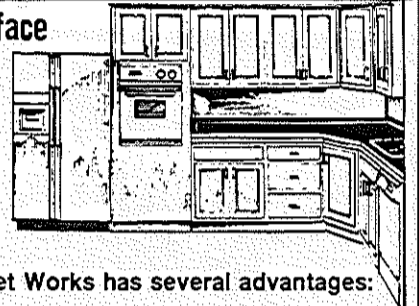
DELIVERY PERSONS

Terilyn Montague	S001
Brittany Gableman	S048
Waddle's	E141
Anne Torma	E172
King's	N263
Mullin's	N259
Wagner's	C294
Louise Rieth	W301
Bev Kruggel	W400

Birch Barker

Why Replace When You Can Reface

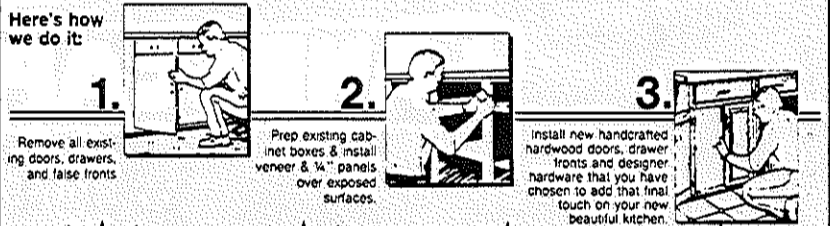
HERE'S A GREAT IDEA - LET US REFACE
YOUR KITCHEN CABINETS!
IT'S FAST AND IT'S ECONOMICAL!



Quality cabinet refacing by Cabinet Works has several advantages:

- ✓ Refacing is a high-quality technique that utilizes your existing structurally sound frame structure and will last the rest of the cabinets' life cycle.
- ✓ Refacing is quick, usually taking only 3-4 days to install, therefore causing less disruption.
- ✓ Refacing is a great investment, both visually and monetarily.
- ✓ Refacing saves you substantial dollars over total cabinet replacement.
- ✓ Cabinet Works wants your cabinets to look good!

Here's how we do it:



1. Remove all existing doors, drawers and false fronts

2. Prep existing cabinet boxes & install veneer & 1/4" panels over exposed surfaces.

3. Install new handcrafted hardwood doors, drawer fronts and designer hardware that you have chosen to add that final touch on your new beautiful kitchen.

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