

# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 23, 2005



The hummingbird moth visited our flowers on 7/16/05 about 9:30 in the evening.

Submitted by the Lacys

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The weather was different this weekend but we did get out there and enjoy the lake. Beautiful during the day and rain at night.

Thursday Nyla and two of the boys got invited to go out swimming and tubing with Patty, John, Katie Luecht and Ilene Golden. She had a great time. The kids tubed and the girls got to chat. Again, Nyla has decided again she needs a Pontoon boat. It is a perfect speed for her.

The boys want speed but she like the leisure speed.

Friday night we joined our friends from Klinger lake and went to dinner at the Inn Between right by Klinger Lake and then we went to see Charlie and the

Chocolate Factory. I will tell you Willy Wonka is Nyla's favorite movie of all times. She did NOT like Charlie and the Chocolate factory. Saturday evening during the big rain storm we decided to meet our friends again and take the boys to the Silver Hawks game. It was a great time. I wanted the boys to learn something from the pitching but they were too busy playing.

Our baseball season ended on Wednesday and Nyla was excited to be able to be at home in the evenings. Well I got a phone call Thursday and we are going to play in a tournament in Sturgis this week. Sorry honey. She may miss a game as she is having surgery on tuesday morning to repair a torn rotator cuff. She is tough she will try to make it to the game though.

Don't forget to get signed for the golf

### BLYC Calendar

July 23 .....	BLYC Spaghetti Dinner
July 29.....	Men's Golf Outing
July 30.....	Garage Sale & Great Tube Float
July 30 .....	BLYC Mardi Gras Party
Aug. 5.....	Ladies Golf Outing
Aug 6 .....	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 20 .....	Fall Dinner

outings they will surely be a great time. Also get your tickets for the Spaghetti dinner tomorrow night. You can bet it will be the best pasta dinner you have had in forever.

I will get back to the water and let you go too. Have a great weekend and we will see you on the water.

Splish Splashin' Away!

John Erhardt  
Commodore 2005.

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com), or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), mail to Phil Vitale, 120 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax your items to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

# Birch Lake Notes

## Ladies golf info

The ladies golf outing is still looking for donations for the auction at the luncheon. Anything you have would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off at the Erhardt's or give Nyla a call at 269-744-7082 and leave a message she will return your call. Also ladies please get your reservations in soon.

## Line Dancing

Line Dancers continue to have a great time. Feel free to join us at the Yacht Club every Monday morning 10:30 am Indiana time.

## Newberg EMS Ambulance Department Port-A-Pit BBQ

August 13th the Newberg Ambulance Department will be sponsoring a Port-A-Pit chicken and rib dinner fund raiser at their Fire Department on the corner of M-60 and M-40. They will be serving savory roasted chicken and ribs starting at 11 a.m. until they are gone.

Chicken dinners are only \$6 per person and rib dinners will be \$7. Come on over and support your local Fire Department on Saturday August 13th and have a great dinner while your at it. Carry outs are available too!

## Marine Division phone

At last Saturday's BLYC board meet-



*This solitary swan visited the lake Saturday morning 7/16/05.*

Submitted by *the Lacys*

ing, several people expressed concern about bad and illegal boating practices. If you witness a crime, you are urged to call the Cass County Marine Division at 445-1225 to make a report.

## Corn & Sausage

Mark Your Calendar! The Corn and Sausage Roast will be held on Saturday, August 6, serving food from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm.

Once again we will be serving grilled chicken breasts on a limited basis, so

come early if brats aren't your thing. Our combo meals include your meat choice, corn, four sides, cookies and one beverage. The donation canister will be out for additional canned drinks.

Prices are: \$5 for a hot dog meal, \$6 for a bratwurst meal, and \$7 for a chicken breast meal. Hope to see you there.

## Weesner memorial planned

There will be a memorial service on Aug. 27 at the Birch Lake Yacht Club for Berneil Weesner. It will be at 10:30 AM.

Thinking  
Pizza?



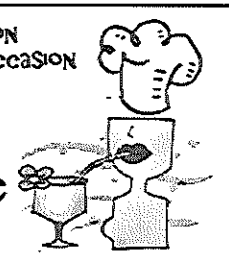
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# Birch Lake Notes

## Birch Lake Garage Sale

The BLYC all-lake garage sale will be Saturday, July 30 from 8 am to Noon, Indiana time. Please call Charlene Sheetz (476-2604) if you are planning to participate. This yacht-club event will be advertised in the Elkhart Truth, and garage sale signs will be placed around Birch Lake. Also, advertisements will be posted at Mills Grocery and Union Market.

Last year we had repeat customers from around the area. They know we have the sale on the last Saturday in July.

-Charlene Sheetz

## Safe boating reminders:

Capacity plates are located in the vessel for your safety. Remember each person weighs 150 pounds according to the law (but not your tailor). Do not exceed this number or pound value. Failure to do so may be viewed as "careless operation".

Other Important Reminders:

- PFD's cannot be stored in plastic bags.
- All boats must stay at least 200 feet away from a diving flag. A diving flag is a red flag with a diagonal white stripe. It may be seen on a floating buoy or even displayed on a boat.
- The operator of the vessel must have the registration on board.
- Intoxicated vessel operators go to jail!
- You are liable for damage caused by your wake.

● It is illegal to ride on the side (gunwale) or covered bow of the boat, unless the manufacturer designed the boat for that use.

● Children 12 to 16 years of age must have a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a motorboat of six horsepower or more. The certificate must be in their possession while operating the boat.

● Some insurance companies give lower rates to skippers who have completed safety courses.

● When towing a skier or tuber it is essential to let your observer observe while you pilot the boat.

## Lake stuff for sale

Sun Visors, foam with coil back in royal blue - \$4; Canvas Totes, navy blue in color imprinted in white - \$12

Bib Aprons, great for the kitchen or outdoor grilling - \$15; Fleece Blankets, navy blue with a sailboat in color circled by a gold rope and birch lake text, all embroidered in the lower right corner - \$30 To buy or order any item, call any of the committee people: Denny Weesner 476-2569; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383.

## Porter Sewer Board

The Porter Township Sewer Board members are available to help. If you

have questions or concerns, call a member or attend one of two monthly meetings, Monday nights at 7 pm MI at the town hall. Members of the committee are Steve Holtz (chairman), of Long Lake, 641-7008; Carl Klappauf (vice chairman), Birch Lake, 476-2663; Herm Kruggel, Birch Lake, 476-2169; Gert Temple, 476-2773 and Pam Bryant, Shavehead Lake, 641-2001. For information see <http://www.wightmanassoc.com/porter/porter.html>

## What I like

One of the things I enjoy most about being at the lake is taking my coffee and my Birch Barker out to the end of the pier on Saturday mornings and enjoying the quiet. As one who contributes regularly I am very familiar with deadlines and pressures involved with a weekly publication. Imagine having to put together the whole issue each week. With that said I'd like to recognize the terrific job that our editor, Phil Vitale has done for the last several years. We've all been able to watch the Barker evolve into a first-class weekly publication. One that I'm sure everyone looks forward to. How about a big round of applause for our editor Phil. We appreciate all your hard work. Thanks Phil.

-Stu Spratt

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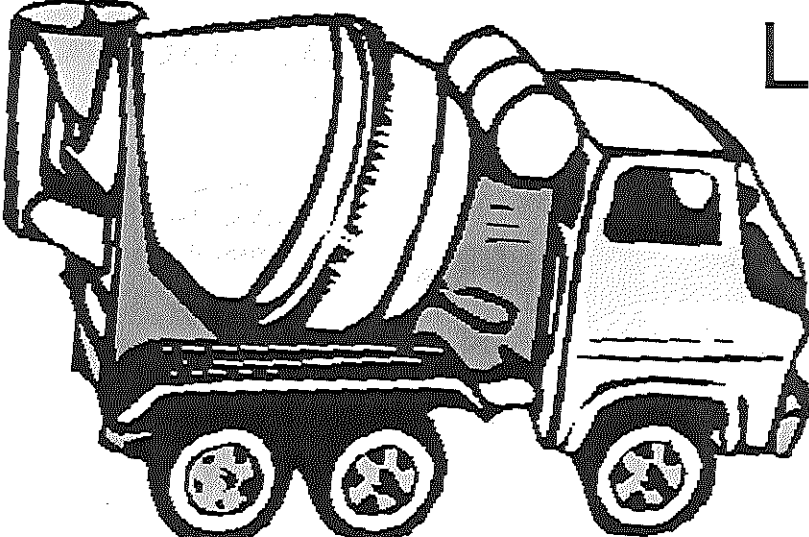
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*Congratulations to Marc Golden and Bill Luecht who were feted with a double surprise birthday party last weekend for their 60th and 50th birthdays.*

### Birch Barker Kid of the Week



*Greta Boecher, daughter of Lori and Dan, and granddaughter of Rick & Patti Russworm arrived Monday July 18th at around 3pm. Greta weighed in at 6lbs 7oz.; Everyone is doing fine. Congrats!*

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## BLYC MEN'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 29

Park Shore Golf Course  
Florida Scramble / Shotgun Start  
at Noon

\$60/golfer (with cart ... first 60 reservations with payment will get carts)

\$50/non-riding golfer

Prime rib dinner follows at 6 pm

### RESERVATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

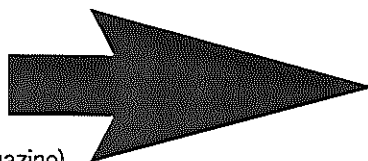
Payment Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Carts reserved: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservations to: Fred Freihofer, 50631 Deer Ridge Dr., Granger, IN 46350 (please include your entry fee for your team with your reservations ... make checks payable to BLYC).

## Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Safety Committee
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Other (non-party related expenses)



Mail to:  
Holly Troeger, Treasurer  
1516 Ash Drive East  
Elkhart, IN 46514

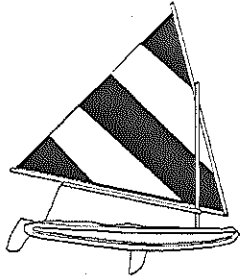
Drop off at:  
63696 Birch Road (call 591-1627)

Make checks payable to:  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# BLYC Sailing News

## Light wind, no sailing last Sunday



Afternoon, a slight breeze and building thunderstorms, we don't sail in those conditions. Aaarrgh!

Thanks to Deb Bolinger, Patty Luecht and Judy Olson for standing by to be the race committee.

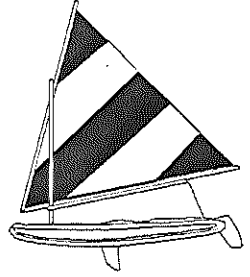
-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain 2005

Go figger. Wind on Saturday, not a lot but still wind. Monday morning 6:00 - good wind, all over the lake. So what happened Sunday? Morning, no wind; it'd take an hour to get to a starting line.

### Kids ... want to sail?

Details on the 2005 Kidz Regatta youth participation day will be announced within the next couple of weeks. The Birch Barker will publish the complete details as soon as they are solidified!

Watch this space!



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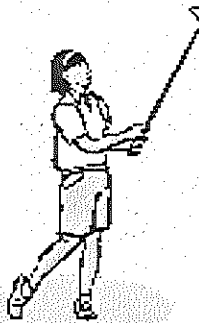
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## Ladies Golf/Lunch



**Friday, August 5**

Park Shore Golf Course,  
Cassopolis

9 am (IN) golfing  
Noon Lunch  
(at Lindy's, Dowagiac)

All levels of golfers welcome!

Golf Entry Fee- \$27/per golfer  
Fee covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's

Interested in joining us for Lunch only? No pre-pay is necessary, but reservation is requested.

Send check (payable to BLYC) and reservation for golf and/or lunch by **Mon, Aug 1 to:**

Nyla Erhardt  
15214 Birch Lakeshore Dr.  
Vandalia, MI 49095  
**Attn: Golf Outing**

Name.....	Golf.....	Lunch
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

# Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report

submitted by Dan Reynolds

BIRCH LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM July 18, 2005 Report to Residents  
BLYC Water Quality Committee

Birch Lake has built up an historical record, which is extremely valuable to promotion of effective resource management. Part of the collected information is aquatic plant surveys

- June 18, 1978: The near shore waters were surveyed for significant growth of submerged and emergent macrophytes (water weeds).
- June 1986: Recent aquatic plant distribution surveys indicate significant increases in lake phosphorus levels and near shore aquatic plant growth have occurred since earlier surveys.

• 2001 Aquatic Plant Mapping: Moderate plant populations  
Septic upgrade program from 1985 to 1994. "No phosphorus" fertilizer program: Controllable sources of phosphorus loading were eliminated. CLMP phosphorus results classified Birch Lake oligotrophic (top quality) in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004. It is meaningful to have phosphorus level data and a map of aquatic vegetation in order to recognize an increase in plant growth from negative impact of gravity sewer construction. Below is a page taken from CLMP Annual Summary Report. The map of Birch Lake and 18 pressed and mounted plants are available for your review at the Temple's house.

(Note: Copies of reports are given to Diane Konneck, liaison to represent Porter Township Board in meetings with contractors, engineers, etc.)

## 2001 COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM AQUATIC PLANT MAPPING

Three lakes participated in the 2001 CLMP aquatic plant mapping pilot project. They were Corey Lake in St. Joseph County, Birch Lake in Cass County and Gunn Lake in Mason County. All three lakes have similar productivity, with TSI values in the high 30's to low 40's. The CLMP plant mapping project revealed that all three lakes had moderate plant populations consisting of a good diversity of species, none of which dominated. Additionally, none of the lakes had Eurasian milfoil and only sparse populations of curly-leaf pondweed were identified in any of the lakes. As an example of the work completed in the CLMP aquatic plant mapping pilot project the whole lake reporting data sheet for Birch Lake is presented below. In addition to the data sheets each lake monitoring team produced a map of the lake showing aquatic plant distribution and density for each plant type identified.

Plant Number	Plant Name	Distribution (# of sites where observed)	Average Density
20	Stonewort	49	2.13
40	Native milfoil	20	0.79
34	Wild celery	17	0.47
36	Waterweed	11	0.44
32	Thin-leaf pondweed	10	0.44
43	Floating-leaf pondweed	13	0.41
33	Flat-stemmed pondweed	11	0.40
46	Illinois pondweed	12	0.33
48	Bladderwort	9	0.25
52	Sago pondweed	10	0.22
9	Arrowhead	4	0.22
47	Water marigold	6	0.18
45	American pondweed	2	0.05
51	Curly-leaf pondweed	3	0.04
37	A small leafed pondweed	2	0.02
12	White water lily	1	0.02
7	Bulrush	2	0.02
21	Bushy pondweed	1	0.01

# BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR SALE

**For Sale** — Two-person Sea-Ryder Pedal Boat with sun canopy, flag holder, staff and cover. \$350 or best offer. Call Bruce Wagner, 476-2090.

**For Sale** — Recliner Chair — \$75. See Becky at Tom's Garage.

**For Sale** — Cedar pier sections; approximately 48 foot with approximately 10x10 platform — plus hardware and a ladder. \$500. 476-9658 or (219) 464-4268.

**For Sale** — 20" White Electric Range, approximately 7 years old. In perfect working condition, we just prefer a gas stove. \$100. 476-9000 Fri-Mon, west side.

**For Sale** — 21" Toro rear bagger, self-propelled lawn mower. 5 HP Briggs & Stratton 4-cycle engine. Asking \$100. Call (269) 476-2461 or (574) 255-8126

**For Sale** — 1992 Yamaha

Waverunner - Good condition - includes 2 place trailer \$ 1,000 Ball # 104, 476-9775

**Sale boat for sail:** 14' day sailer w/ trailer. yellow and white. has competed in kids regatta. self baling; does NOT sink if tipped. good learning boat. \$300 OBO contact Lu 476-2652

**For Sale** — 1994 Dodge Caravan SE with hitch. Asking \$500 or best offer. 1989 Yamaha Wave Runner with lift, \$600. Float with aluminum pontoons \$200. Contact Charlene, 476-2604.

## FOR RENT

**For Rent** — One week, aug. 6 - 13 at Broadway Sheraton Plantation in Myrtle Beach, So. Carolina. 2 bedrooms; sleeps eight with full kitchen. Also Lazy River, swimming pool, tennis court, weight room and daily activities for adults and children. Sheraton Broadway Plantation is close to Restaurant Row, the Atlantic Ocean and the Palace Theatre, Alabama Theatre and Legends in Concert. There are

many golf courses, also. Call for particulars, 476-2604. Ask for Charlene or Harold. Other dates are available. Please call for those dates.

**WANTED:** Croquet set. Contact Beth Olson at jeffandbeth1@sbc-global.net or 317.259.7540.

Wanted: Queen Sized Mattress in

good condition. Call Heather at 574-243-8367.

## GOT A CLASSIFIED?

Birch Barker classifieds are free for members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members must pay \$5. Put your ad in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Road (east side), or e-mail it to the Barker at: sailorphil@philvital.com

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	Holly Troeger.....476-9898	
	Scott Troeger.....476-9898	
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	Bruce Wagner.....476-2090	
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Mardy Miller.....476-9226

## WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman.....476-8877
Terry Dugan.....476-2814

## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2005 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, Phil Vitale and Rick Russwurm. There are quite a few members of the homeowners Association; contact any officer for more information. Homeowners Association meetings are publicized in the Barker and open to members and prospective members.



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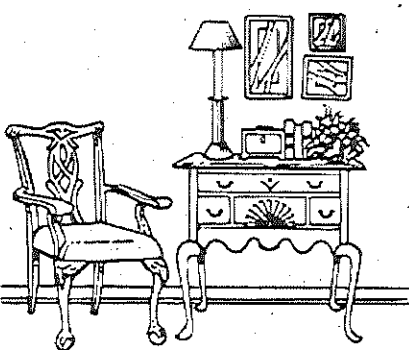
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fax (269) 476-9555

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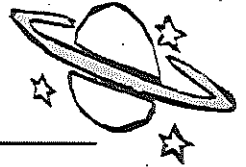


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*'on our knees to please'*





# Stu's Star Stuff



## Geography in heaven

**T**he big, bright Moon changes addresses tonight. As darkness falls, it's at the southeastern corner of the constellation Ophiuchus. By the time it sets over the western states, it'll be in the northwestern corner of Sagittarius. And as it makes the switch, it'll just miss the corner of Scorpius.

This crowded little patch of sky illustrates the complicated "geography" of the heavens. Like political boundaries here on Earth, the sky is split by a series of precisely defined lines. These lines insure that every star and galaxy has a constellation to call its own.

That hasn't always been the case, though. The first of the constellations that we recognize today were drawn thousands of years ago. But they consisted only of "connect-the-dot" patterns of bright stars. These patterns depicted common animals, or honored important gods or goddesses. Any star between these patterns was pretty much an orphan.

As the science of astronomy began to develop, though, astronomers needed a common reference frame to describe the positions of all the stars. So the classical

star patterns were extended to encompass the space around them.

Over the centuries, various astronomers added more constellations to fill in the gaps. And they created even more new constellations to divide up the southern sky, which was charted by European explorers.

But this created a jumble of overlapping, competing constellations.

Like the maps of Earth's countries, maps of the stars have changed a lot over the centuries. New constellations have come and gone, old ones have changed borders, and some just never caught on.

More than half of today's constellations were passed down from ancient Greece. A scientist named Ptolemy compiled a catalog of 48 Greek constellations almost 2,000 years ago; that's where we get the signs of the zodiac. But the Greeks had adopted many of these constellations from older cultures.

Ptolemy's catalog didn't account for every star in the sky, though. There were gaps between the constellations, and the southern sky wasn't cataloged at all. In 1687, Johannes Hevelius filled in some of

the gaps with seven new constellations. Nicolas de Lacaille added 14 more in the next century.

Other astronomers tried to add to the list, or to rework it entirely. Edmund Halley tried to add a constellation in honor of King Charles the second, while Father Maximilian Hell tried to add one that honored King George the second. Both failed — as did many others.

Even so, by the beginning of the 20th century, the system of constellations was a mess. Different experts listed anywhere from about 76 of them to more than a hundred. And individual stars could appear within two different constellations drawn by two different astronomers.

Astronomers finally ended the confusion 75 years ago.

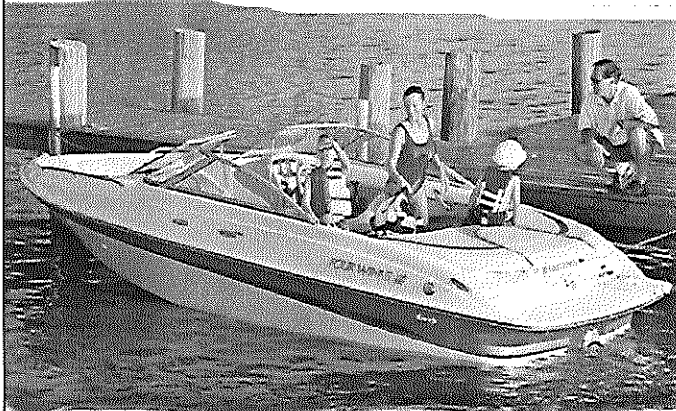
Get out there and enjoy the show and we'll talk about that another time.

-Stu Spratt

### The Moon tonight:

The moon for July 23, 2005 (at Midnight):  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.879  
2.8 days after full moon

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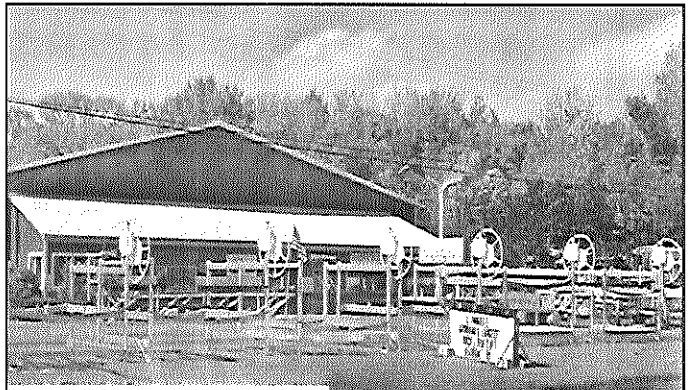


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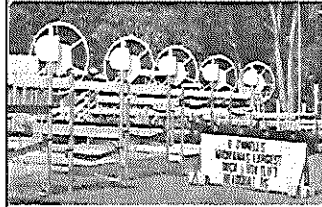
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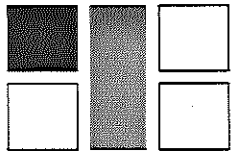
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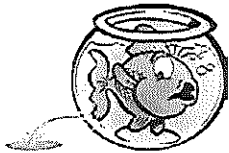
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