

History of Diamond Lake

By, Marge Homer

A beautiful lake of three hundred thirty square acres, Diamond Lake is bounded by the Chequamegon National Forest on the north end and across the road from Crystal Lake on the southern end. Before 1922 many acres on the northern end of Diamond Lake were owned by Cash Coburn, who established the hunting and fishing resort that came to be known as Diamond Lake Lodge. There is a tiny lake in the Porcupine Lake area north of Diamond Lake known as Coburn Lake.

In 1922 he sold his resort to Nettie Fox and she sold it to Arthur and Margaret Hartman in 1940. The Hartmans sold a parcel of lake frontage on the west to Mrs. Vera Wilmann and on the east to Howards and Merle DeHate. Then, in 1969, they sold the entire resort to their daughter and her husband, Marge and Howard Homer. Marge and Howard had three children – Diane, Jessie and Daniel. Daniel died the day after Christmas in 1975. Diane married Ray Klump and they reside at Lake Owen; Jessie met and married Stan Meschievitz when Stan pitched for the Grand View Tiger baseball team in 1972 and they now reside in North Hudson, Wisconsin.

Diamond Lake Lodge is seeing its third and even fourth generation of guests, families who feel this area is their second home and whose lives in other parts of the country revolve around when they can come here to vacation.

Starting east and going south around the lake from DeHates is the Elmer Westgate property now owned by their daughter, Dorothy Melling and her husband, Jack. This family was here many years, fine, gentle people from Ashland. There are two daughters and son.

Next is the property of Letty Goeltz of Ashland, then Earl Goeltz. Then started the vast lake frontage of Howard Betting, a prominent Ashland family. This was sold to James Chapin and his wife, Katy. The Chapins are from Illinois and dearly love their Diamond Lake home where they spent every summer and fall. Mr. Chapin died a few years ago.

Bounding the Chapins was another large property belonging to Harris Palmer for many years and sold to Walter White.

Another good-sized property originally owned by French's, who sold to Marge and Jim Filbert (French built a farm towards Cable, daughter Grace played the piano at the dances at Trappers Lake, Triangle, and around Namakagon) who then sold to Bob and Shirley Byrd in May 1972. This property was called Twin Pines Cottages and is still called that. In May 1977 a fire took the main house, and for the next six months Bob, Shirley and their four children – Steve, Sheree, Scott and Stuart lived in one of their two cottages while their new log home was being built. They moved into the basement November 1977 and lived there for one year while the upper floor was being finished.

There is also the property owned by Ed Ziener, who sold to Siebert, then to Bud and Mary Wagoner (who named it Little Bear) and now owned by Donald J. Scott. Taylors became Diamond in the Rough.

In between those were the longtime, well known families – the Hoffingers (a surgical tool maker), Langs, Bud Raw, Ivan Fay. What is now Chris Mellands belonged to Dr. Conklin who owned a private racetrack. There was Lester and Mabel Parkhill, now Robert Kimball. And the Jim Witts becoming Bennetts and then Heppard.

All these old names are so rich in lore and excitement and contributions?

Other longtime residents: Bill Haigh (deceased); wife Virginia (now remarried) property now owned by Bert Sipple; John Mehl (wife passed away this year); Gift; Wildman; Knapp; Fall. Carl and Carolyn Wahl lived on the Porcupine Lake side on land once owned by the Hartmans. Carl became a renowned wildlife photographer, having two of his photos accepted by the National Photographic Society. He suffered a stroke and became an invalid but did not want to leave his beloved secluded home but finally had to do so for health reasons and moved to Ashland.

How I wish Cash Coburn, Nettie Fox, the Hartmans, Ed Zeiner, Howard Betting and Dr. Conklin were here to tell the story.

All names on Diamond Lake in 1973:

Howard and Marge Homer
Vera Wilson
William Haigh (now Bert Sipple)
Marcus Fay
Kasten and Sebarman Jacobs
John Von Holtum
Lawrence Vorlicky
Thomas Stavrum
John Mehl
Lester and Mable Parkhill (now Robert Kimball)
Harry Francis
June Olson
K. Gift
C. McNerny
W. James and Patrick Weege
Wayne Nelson
L.A. Bensand
Louis Sasman
Ivan Fay
Prank
Frank Raw
Donald Buehler and Grover Peterson
Chris and Dorothy Melland
G.N. Dowell
William Harrington
Donald Scott
Mrs. D.V. Knapp
Paul Haffner
Eunice Isaacson
Hubert Fall
George Lang
Thomas Goltz
William Doonan
A Griffin
R.T. Tobin
Nicholas Rasmussen
Rosemary Volinska
Elsie Radke
James Matthewson
Dorothy Ingalls
Robert and Shirley Byrd
DL Hyndman and Seddie Cosgrove
Alma Hunt
Harris Palmer (now Walter White)
James Chapin
Earl Goeltz
Howard DeHate