

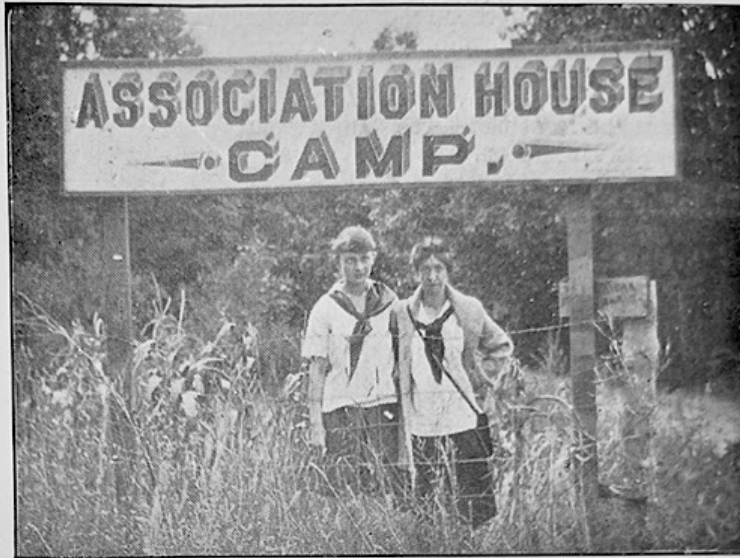
In the years of and following the Great Depression, there appeared to be a focus on sending city children to experience nature – something they had never had access to. The camp was intended to be affordable and accessible for families of modest means. Most, in fact, were in significant need. Parents who could pay, in part or in whole, did pay for their child to attend. Those who could not were subsidized or encouraged to work in trade for the cost of camp for their child. The target in those years was 100 children for a one to two-week period with a goal of improving nutrition, health (mental and physical), and instilling hope. Children were given a new view of America and for those choosing to, exposure to some religious education as well.

The children traveled by train (for many their first train ride) from the Milwaukee Railroad Station at Grand and Western. After a 40-mile trip, they arrived at the Grayslake Depot, traveling by car the last 4 miles to the camp. They were accompanied by leaders from the Association House that they knew plus knew many of the other campers from their time spent at Association House. This helped them feel at home from the first moment. The excitement was something to behold.

The days were structured into a broad range of activities intended to provide relaxation, exercise, and a sense of community. Those activities included art, handcrafts, sewing, manual training (exercise), cooking, storytelling, and dramatics. When the lake became too polluted for swimming (circa 1932), a swimming pool was added. For all, the experiences at Druce Lake Camp resulted in a series of “firsts,” things that today’s local residents see as common and take for granted:

- Seeing a red headed woodpecker
- Taking a hike through the woods
- Being on a lake in a boat
- Seeing animals like rabbits, snakes, muskrats and turtles
- Having clean clothes and dishes on a daily basis
- Rolling in the grass

Before attending, one boy’s picture of camp was “*a place with a big, high iron fence around it, where children sleep 6 in one bed*” (Association House records, Chicago History Museum). After attending, children realized that camp meant enough to eat, their own bed, and a world of nature around them that they never knew existed.



**ASSOCIATION HOUSE CAMP
Druce Lake, Illinois
(P. O. Gray's Lake)**

Any girl or woman member of Association House who has not yet visited our own beautiful all-year-round Camp should certainly do so before the summer is gone. It will be finer than ever this summer because of the new pleasures offered.

Miss Wilson, Director of the Camp, was for many years Head Resident at Association House, and she wants to get acquainted with the "new girls" as well as having her own "old girls" coming out for occasional visits and feasts of good things. Many of the older members will also remember Miss Allen who lived at the House four years ago and taught Arts and Crafts as well as having the Camp Fire work. She is with Miss Wilson now, and is planning some delightful craft work for the girls this summer. We are also going to have some one to supervise the gardening and preserving of fruits and vegetables, as well as some one to direct the outdoor recreation.

Some of the attractions are—
Big screened porches to sleep on

and sit on when it is hot in the sun, big fireplaces to gather around when the occasional chilly, rainy days come; tennis, bowling, baseball, rowing, swimming, hiking for athletic girls; books, quiet nooks, shade trees, flowers and "comfy" chairs and couches for the tired girls; gay good times and "awfully good eats" for everybody, with handicraft, Red Cross work, nature study, inspiration talks, and music.

The cost: Railroad fare 60 cents each way.

Bus fare *40 cents each way in Camp auto. 50 cents each way in public auto.

Board \$2.50 per week for children five and under. \$3.50 per week for girls six to fifteen. \$4.50 per week for all who are sixteen or over who will share in the camp duties. \$5.50 for the few who wish to be exempt from all work except the care of their own sleeping quarters.

\$1.00 per day for transients.

Guests should bring their own sheets, pillowcases, towels and soap.

May 1918 Association House publications, The Mingler
Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)

We in America have been put to the test time and again, and never found wanting. We are at present engaged in a war as just as men ever fought. As to the final, ultimate outcome there can be no doubt. But the time has long since passed when it is necessary only to have men at the front in order to win. The aid and co-operation of every individual in the nation is needed. And so let all true Americans, let you and me, and everybody else with common interests and common dangers, let us all get together! Let us do our duty by a nation that has always done its duty by us! Let us combine our efforts to win this war, to preserve justice, and to restore just peace among men.

"OVER THE TOP."

Oh the road to fame leads upward,
And its path is blocked and
barred,
But you're sure to reach the climax
If you work both long and hard.

Oh it's not so very easy,
And it takes a lot of work,
But you're sure to get there some-
time,
If you do not stop and shirk.

Oh obstructions, there are many,
In this road that leads to fame,
But to top them all is easy
If there's grit behind your name.

Now your future is before you,
Opportunity holds the sway,
Buckle down and work your hard-
est,
For that is the only way.

If despair tugs at your shoulder,
And it seems that you must drop,
Buckle down and work still harder,
And you'll go right O'ER THE
TOP. Bernard Harris



DRUCE LAKE CAMP.

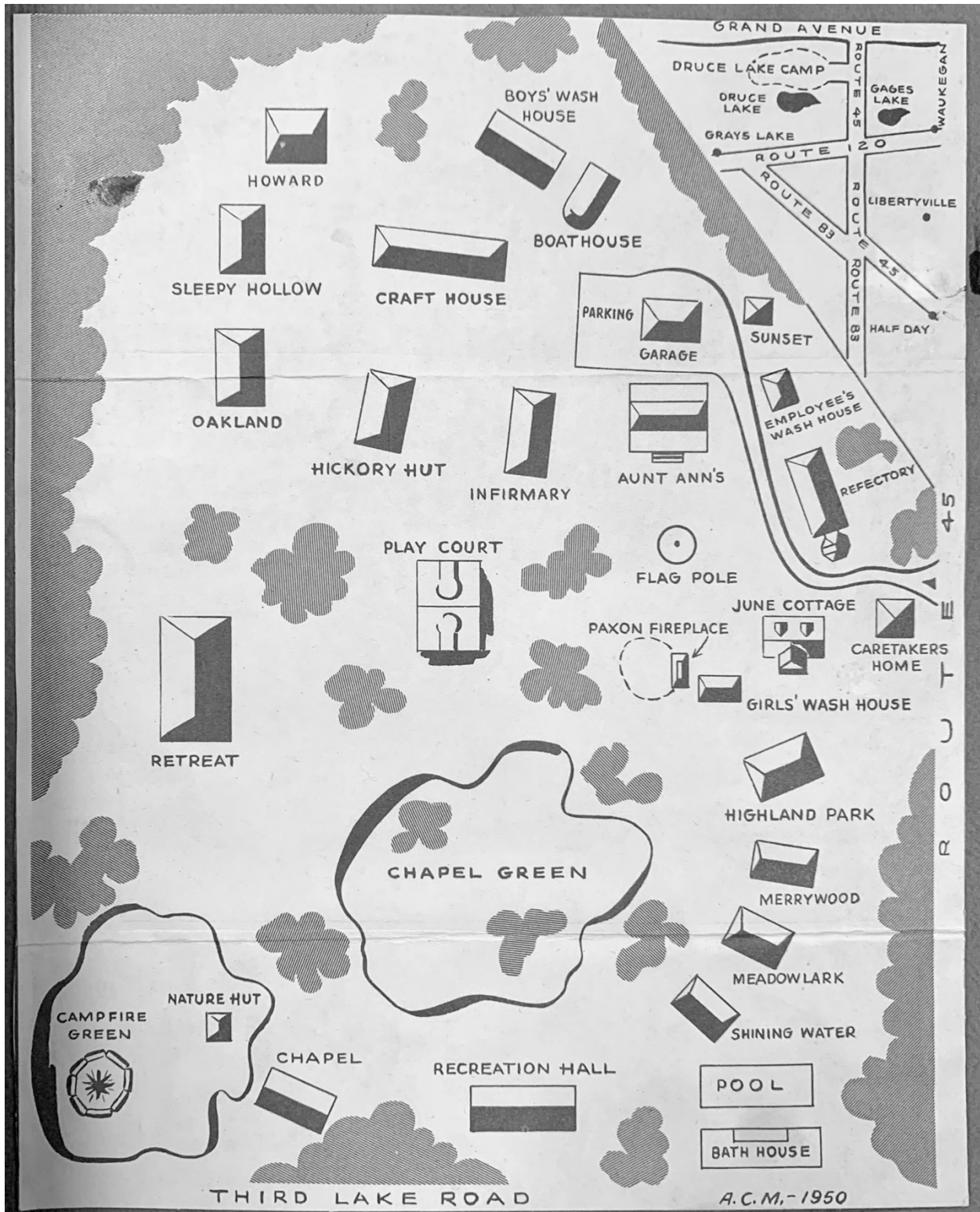
Have you ever been to Druce Lake in winter? If you have not, you have little knowledge of the beauties of the snowy woods, the sparkle of the ice on the lake, and the cheerful warmth and comfort of Aunt Ann's Cottage with a snapping wood fire in the bog fireplace and all the cold shut out. It's the best place yet discovered for rest and frolics and pleasant companionship. Every one who goes says that they forget their troubles there faster and more completely than in any other place and so come back really rested and ready for work again.

A masquerade party at Aunt Ann's on December first was attended by a few young women from the city and nearly forty from the community. The neighborhood young people are much interested in Red Cross work and expect to have an Auxiliary of their own with headquarters at Camp.

Every one will be glad to know that Miss Wilson has practically recovered from her injuries incurred in the automobile accident in October. The faithful Ford, however, has not yet been discharged from the hospital where it has been undergoing treatment.



Camp Entrance
Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)



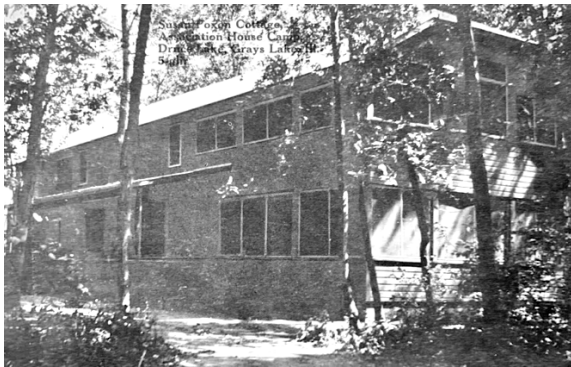
Map of Druce Lake Camp (not to scale) (Grayslake Historical Society)



Circa 1940 Druce Lake Camp Cabins
(Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake
County Forest Preserves)



Circa 1940 Entrance to Druce Lake Camp
(Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake
County Forest Preserves)



Susan Poxton Cottage,
Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)



Rest Cottage
Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)



Aunt Anne's Cottage
Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)



Rest Cottage
Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)



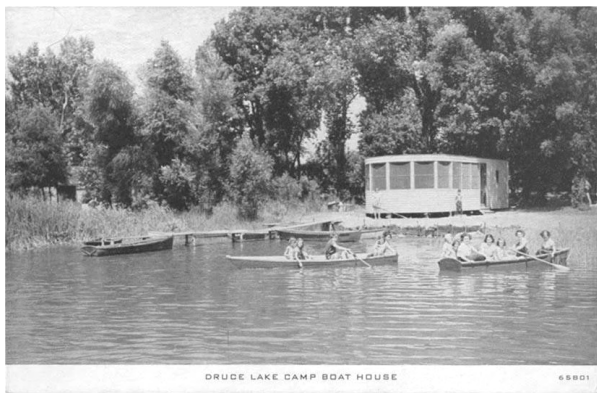
Fireplace at Aunt Anne's Cottage, Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)



Druce Lake Camp Refectory (Lakes Region Historical Society)



1938 Pool at Druce Lake Camp (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)



1939 Boat House for Druce Lake Camp (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)



Channel between Druce and Third Lakes Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)



Druce Lake Camp Refectory (Lakes Region Historical Society)

By 1932, the camp may have been shared with or leased to other charitable organizations. A May 24, 1932 article in the Waukegan News-Sun described Camp Merry Days at Druce Lake sponsored by the YWCA and Highland Park Association. Based on the detailed description of the facilities, it appears to be the same as Druce Lake Camp, including a newly built swimming pool.

There are some delightful copies of the Druce Lake Voice, which are Druce Lake Camp newsletters dating from 1936 to 1937, at the Lake Villa Historical Society.

The Bachelors' Club

“In 1891, a group of Waukegan businessmen formed the Waukegan Bachelors' Club for social and “improvement” purposes. They purchased property on Third Lake and erected a clubhouse with eight bedrooms, a large gathering room and kitchen. Members and their friends spent a great deal of time at the clubhouse in the summer. Their activities were reported in the local newspapers. Activities included boating, hunting and fishing. One person recalled, “It was a difficult place to get to. It was the only cottage at Third Lake and you had to go through the Brewer farm to get there.” Mrs. Brewer would cook meals for the bachelors for a cost of 25 cents each. By the 1920s, most of the members had married and presumably became busy with family matters and the club declined. The remaining five members bought the property and subdivided it, calling it the Bachelors' Club Subdivision.”

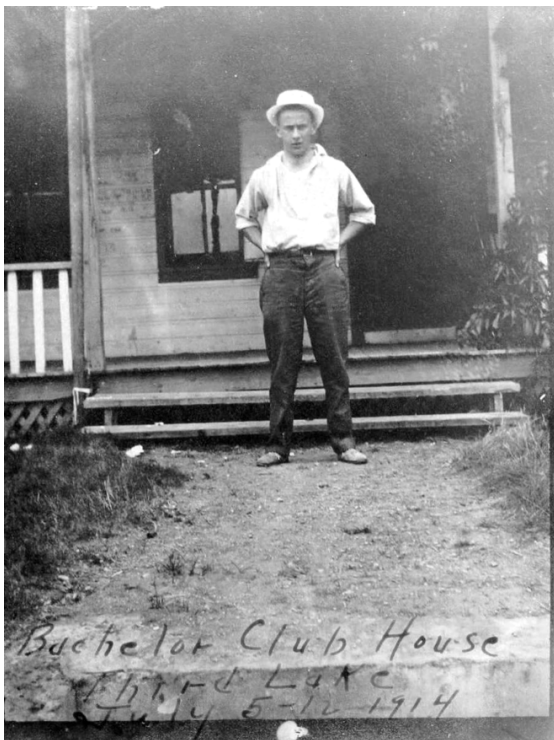
(Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)

The 1891 certificate of organization with the State of Illinois lists the purpose of the organization as “social amusement and improvement.” By the filing of the 1902 and 1903 annual reports, the purpose was listed as “pleasure.” What could be more sociable and pleasant than time spent on the lake?

As a side note about close relationships between landholders, it is believed that Mrs. Brewer was the sister of Dr. R. E. Lewin for whom the Lewin Park subdivision (north and west of Powell Park) was named.



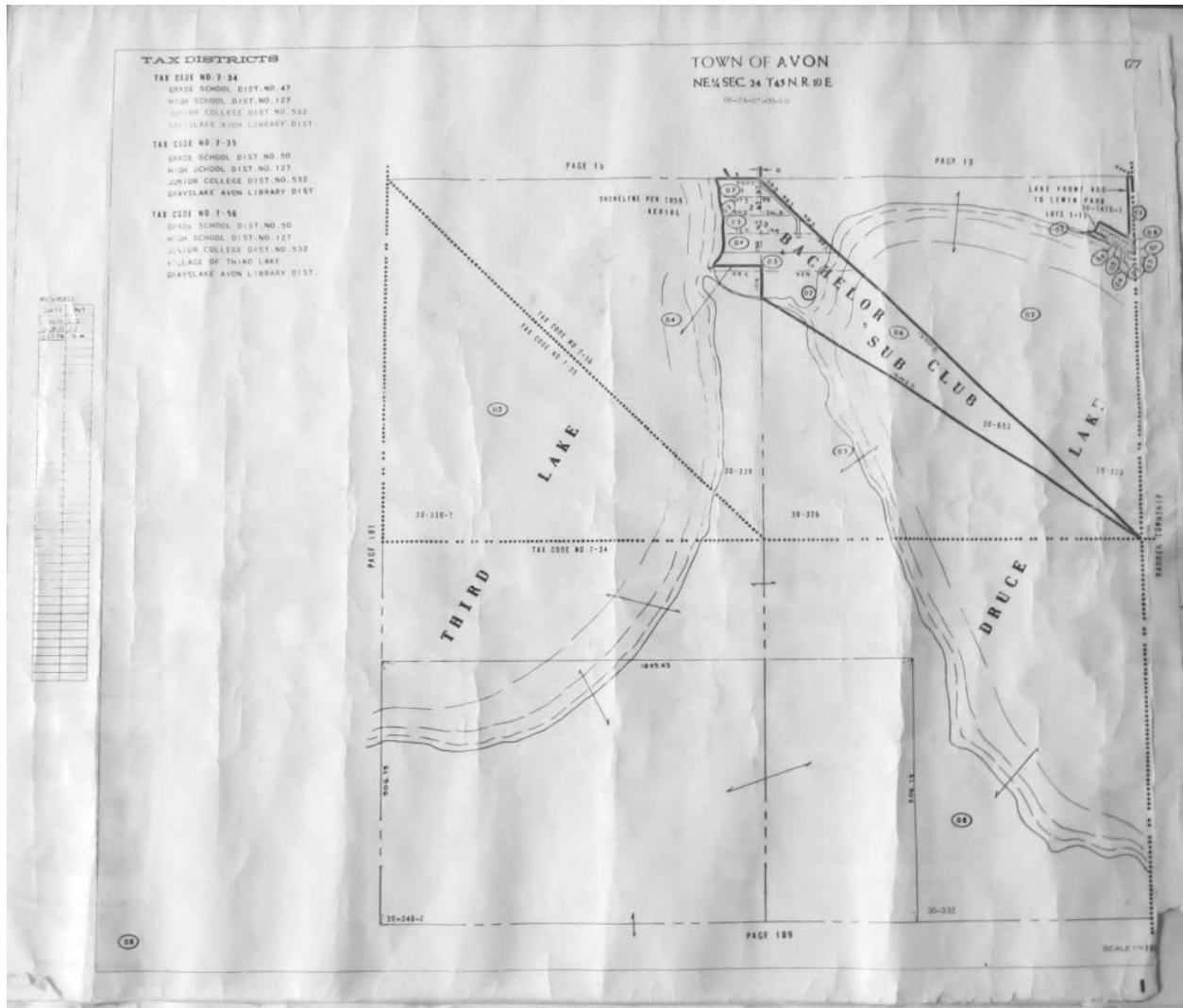
Bachelors' Club Opening Day: July 20, 1908 (Waukegan Historical Society)



John Tidy, Marianne Semrad's grandfather, at the Bachelor Club House in July, 1914
(Courtesy of the Semrad family)



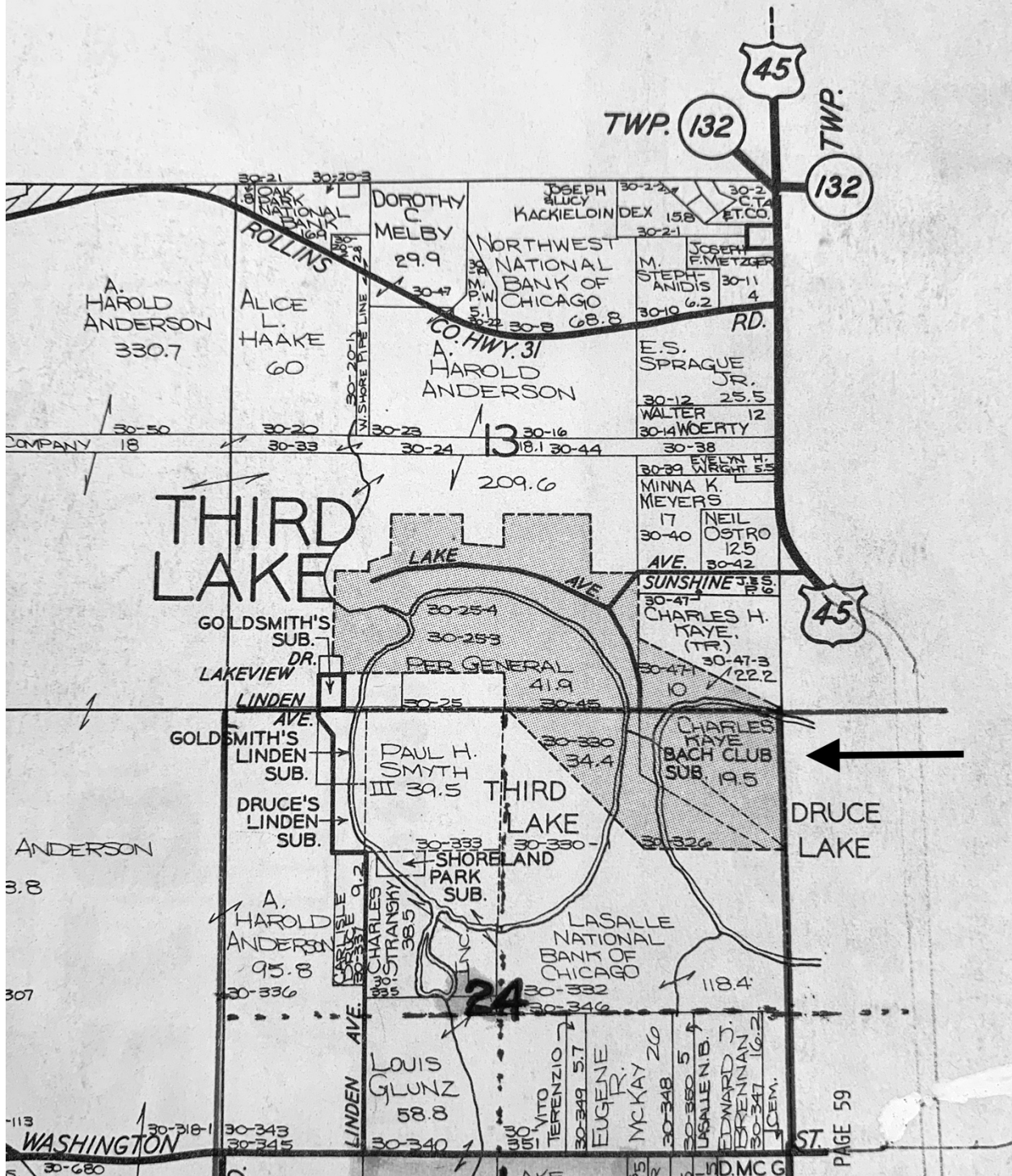
1909 Bachelors' Club Gathering (Source unconfirmed, believed to be Lake County Genealogical Society or The Past and Present of Lake County, IL published by Wm. Le Baron & Co 1877)



Plat of the Bachelors' Club Subdivision including Druce Lake riparian rights, circa 1920
(Courtesy of the Semrad family)

In 1915, as the process of dividing and selling the property began, it was discovered that the Club's property line ran on the northeast side ran 1900 feet into Druce Lake. The diagonal line at the southern boundary ran 1600 feet into Druce Lake. This gave the Club several acres of previously unknown riparian rights in addition to their physical land holdings on Third Lake.

AVON



Plat Map of Third-Druce Lake Area, showing the Bachelor's Club Subdivision
 (Lake County Illinois – Plat Book, Index of Owners, City Street Maps 1979 Edition Compliments of Russ Gwaltney
 Real Estate, Gages Lake, IL Copywrite: 1979 Town & Country Publishing, LaPorte, IN)

Willow Park

Based on property plats from the late 1800s and 1907, the Willow Park land was originally part of the farmland holdings of the Druce family and later the J. L. Brewer farm. Bette Brya remembers getting paid to detassel corn at that farm as a teenager in the 1940s, and the owner of the land at that time is believed to be J. L. Brewer.

Around the early to mid 1950s, George “Judd” and Mary Derer bought the farm that was located at what is now the southwest corner of Grant and Sunshine. Their name, German in origin, was pronounced like “deer.”

The Derer family developed the land into Willow Park on Druce Lake with the farm’s barn becoming the first pavilion. It had a beautiful beach and, for an entry fee (\$2/car in the 1960s), guests had access to the beach, concessions, a bumper pool table, ping pong table and pinball machines. There were at least 30 row boats for rent. Judd built and maintained them in winters. On the weekends in the summer, hundreds of people would drive out from Chicago and the suburbs (no car air conditioning back then) and spend the day at Willow Park. Several residents who live in Mariner’s Cove today remember coming to Willow Park as kids to swim and fish. By the mid 1960s, the willow trees were fully grown and the likely reason for the park’s name was clear to all.

During the off season (after Labor Day and before Memorial Day), George and Mary would host community gatherings in the original barn. By 1966 or 1967, that barn was replaced by a metal pole barn.

Many of the local kids worked at Willow Park. Knute Nadelhoffer and Danny Wedge started working there in the summer of 1965 on the cleanup crew. Jack Nadelhoffer started the following year. Knute remembers making \$286 the summer of ‘65, according to his Social Security earnings statement, which was about \$1.10/hr. Mondays were the busiest days for cleaning the grounds. Mr. and Mrs. Derer insisted that not only paper cups and trash be picked up and hauled away, but also cigarette butts were to be removed with 3-pronged wooden sticks used as spears. Kim Brya and Mary Jo Wedge worked in the pavilion and Bill Elsbury worked for George and Mary during summers from high school through college as “kitchen boss.”

The neighborhood kids, always up for a bit of mischief, would wait for families to leave the picnic grounds and head for the beach. Once the “coast was clear,” they would steal picnic baskets, watermelons, drinks, and cigarettes. The lifeguards would pay the kids to get them snacks and cigarettes and sometimes they would hide their stash under the boat houses near the beach.

Paul Brya remembers the Derer’s being very frugal. If a customer asked for “everything” on their hamburger, those working the concession stand had to make them ask for every condiment by name. And yet, they were generous. Dawn Schoonhoven-Suchy remembers the Deere family was one of the only houses in the neighborhood to give out full-size candy bars on Halloween.

Bill Elsbury remembers that Judd and Mary put records on the record player every Saturday night and danced together, mostly waltzes. Judd continued to do so with his imaginary partner, Mary, after she died. It’s a sad but beautiful memory of a couple’s love story. Judd died in 1991.

New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery

Due to conflicts with the communist-dominated mother church in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Bishop Metropolitan Irney and his followers left St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Monastery near Libertyville in 1979. Members of the church donated funds to purchase Willow Park's 64 acres and build a new monastery, which was annexed into the Village of Third Lake in 1980.

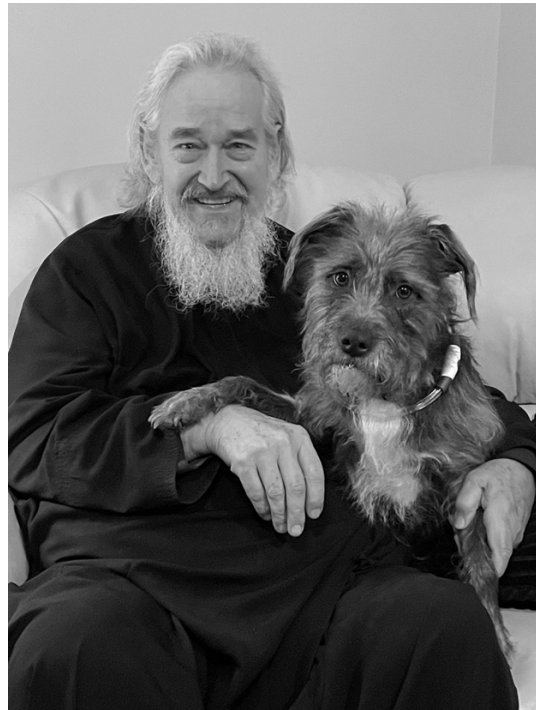
Construction took three years to complete and was built as an 18% scaled up replica of the original Gracanica in Kosovo, which was built in 1310. The original appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List as an endangered example of medieval monuments. The interior is decorated in traditional iconic fresco painting in the Byzantine style by Polish American artist Fr. Theodore Jurewicz. The artwork covers almost all interior surfaces and the carved wood doors depict the 23 monasteries and churches in areas of Serbia.

In addition to the main cathedral, the property includes a bishop's home, a house belonging to the bishop's deputy, a banquet hall, and a cemetery. Prior to 2020, outdoor festivals featuring Serbian music wafting over the lake were common on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. Although not as often, private parties and church festivals continue today.

Father Tony, formally known as Bishop Savaurich or Bishop Sava, is now retired and living on the property. It's common to see him motoring down N. Lake Shore Drive on his scooter as he takes his "daily constitutional." All the neighborhood dogs know him well – he always has a stock of dog biscuits on hand.



2023: Father Tony with Marcia Erker, Marianne Semrad and Brian Erker (Courtesy of the Semrad family)



Father Tony with Lance Erker (Courtesy of the Erker family)

For those interested, a more detailed account of the property's history appeared in the Chicago Tribune on November 3, 1991 and can also be found on Lakelubbers.com.

In August 2017, a recording of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (composer Dr. Kurt Sander, conductor Maestro Peter Jermihov) was made in the main cathedral. It is the first and only complete setting of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in English and was nominated for a 2020 Grammy for Best Choral Performance and Producer of the Year, Classical.



2023: Exterior of the New Gracancia Serbian Orthodox Monastery (Courtesy of the Mateja family)



2024 updated mosaic (Courtesy of the Mateja family)



Monastery exterior circa early 2000s (<https://www.serborth.org/newgracancia>)



2013 Monastery interior (<https://www.pinterest.es/pin/general-draa-mihailovich-video-marking-the-30th-anniversary-of-the-consecration-of-new-gracancia-serbian-orthodox-monastery-in-th-1135470124804451956/>)

Boat Lots

John Brewer began developing part of his farm as residential property in the late 1800s. It appears he named the Lewin Park developments after his wife, Mary Lewin Brewer. The first development was the Lewin Park Subdivision, which was created in March 1895 and contained 12 residential lots. This was followed in May 1898 by the lake front addition to Lewin Park, which created 12 small lakefront parcels. Last was the first addition to Lewin Park which added 14 residential lots in September 1922 immediately east of the initial 12 lots.

The lakefront parcels became known as the “boat lots” because that’s about all that can be done with a 12.5’W x 25’D lot – put a boat on it. Right of way access was set up to run west from N. Grant Avenue, south along the western edge of 34960 N. Lake Shore Drive and then west along the upper inland edge of all the boat lots. As best it can be tracked through property records at that time, the lots were a \$100 option for those who purchased a Lewin residential plot. It appears they got their choice of which lake lot on a “first come, first serve” basis. Not all residents opted to purchase a lake lot.

By the 1980s, all 12 of these lakefront parcels were put up for tax sale and were purchased by Jim Dowdall. He retained 4 of the lots to provide lake access to four area houses he was rehabbing and offered the remainder through sale to local residents. Today the lots are seldom used due to drainage issues and easier access to the lake via the boat ramp.

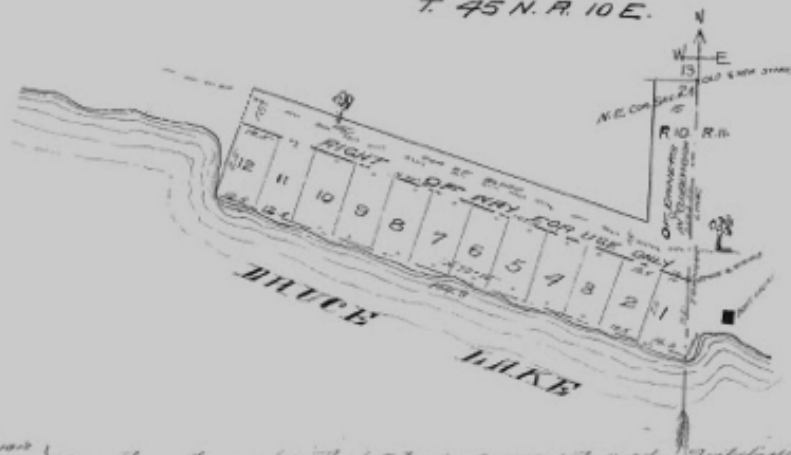
For many years, you could spot duck hunters standing in the lake in front of these lots during hunting season. They had to be in the water (outside the Village of Third Lake limits in unincorporated Lake County) rather than on land (within Village limits) to be legally able to hunt. In 2021, the Village of Third Lake purchased the lake bottom in front of these lots as part of their lake weed management strategy, bringing an end to duck hunting days on Druce Lake.

Doc. 71914
 AUG 30, 1898
 A.P.M.

LAKE FRONT ADDITION TO LEWIN PARK.

BEING A SUBDIVISION OF

PART OF N.E. 1/4 OF N.E. 1/4 OF SECTION 24
 T. 45 N. R. 10 E.



132
 Manifest Made
 at
 The Recorder's
 Office
 County Clerk's Office

State of Illinois }
 County of Cook }
 I hereby certify that I have surveyed and subdivided the lands shown
 on the annexed Plat and described in above caption, and that said Map by me made
 on a scale of 20 feet to one inch, showing all measurements in feet and decimals is a
 true and correct representation of said Survey and Subdivision
 Chas. J. Bongdorff
 Surveyor
 Waukegan May 10, 1898

State of Illinois }
 County of Cook }
 I, John B. Brewer of the State and County aforesaid, do hereby
 certify that I am the legal owner of the lands shown on the annexed Plat and
 described in the above caption, and that I have caused the same to be surveyed
 and subdivided as shown herein with a view of having the same recorded
 as provided by Law.
 John B. Brewer
 Done May 10, 1898

State of Illinois }
 County of Cook }
 I, John J. Bongdorff, Notary Public in and for said County in the State
 aforesaid do hereby certify that John B. Brewer, personally known to me to be the
 same person whose name is subscribed to the above certificate of ownership
 personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the same to be
 his free and voluntary act and deed for the purposes therein set forth
 Given under my hand and Notarial Seal this 10th
 day of May 1898
 John J. Bongdorff
 Notary Public



Lewin Park Lake Front Addition Plat (Lake County Property Records)

Oglesby Woods

Oglesby Woods was a popular 26-acre wooded private picnic ground in its heyday during the 1930s and 1940s. Based on articles in the Waukegan News Sun between February 1931 and February 1933, it was located south of Wedge's Corner (US Hwy 45 and IL 132) by ¼ to ½ mile. That would place it on the immediate south side of today's Rollins Road and is the most likely location. Confusion enters the picture with the ad shown below, which references Druce Lake Road. Being south of that would place it on the south side of today's section of Washington Street between US Hwy 45 and IL 83. Apparently, Rollins Road was referred to by many names in its early days. Druce Lake Road may have been one of the many early names for Rollins Road.

Oglesby Woods was the site of many picnics, dances, organization gatherings and more. Based on a Waukegan News-Sun article dated June 30, 1932, it was even the start and end of the parade that kicked off the annual Lake County Fair.

Based on a December 20, 1932 article in the Waukegan News-Sun, the Sportsman's Club of Lake County organized and planned to purchase Oglesby Woods for \$15,000 with plans to install baseball and indoor diamonds, horseshoe courts, and other recreational activities. The property came with a large dance hall, dining room, garage, clubhouse and refreshment stand. They hoped to purchase an additional 14 acres to the south to enlarge the playing field. Overnight cottages were mentioned for future development and rental. The anticipated closing date was March 31, 1933.

The Sportsman's Club began selling 2,000 memberships at a cost of \$2.50 annually, which also granted a single share of stock in the organization per membership. As of February 1933, they had sold 250 memberships. By July 24, 1933 the property had been officially renamed to Sportsman's Park.

The overall success of the endeavor is unknown, and it is believed to have closed in the 1940s.

O G L E S B Y W O O D S

Largest Picnic Grounds in
Lake County

Tables for a Thousand People

DANCING ON WED., SAT. AND SUN. NIGHTS

FREE LUNCH

Admission Fifty Cents

George Zediker's Orchestra

Located on Druce Lake Road 2 Blocks South of
Wedge's Corner

Fifty Cent Trade Coupon To Be Purchased at
Gate by Picnic Parties. No other charge

Waukegan News-Sun, June 27, 1932

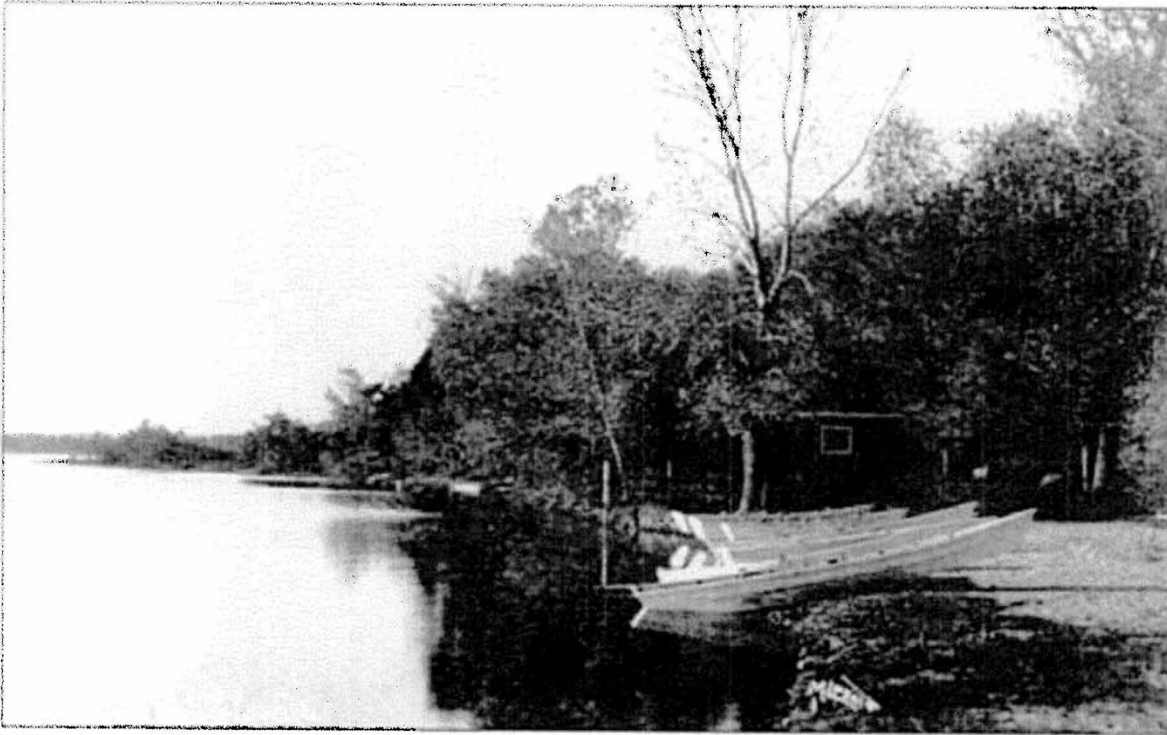
**MIDWEEK HOP AT
OGLESBY'S WOODS**

Another of the regular Wednesday
night dances and free lunch parties
will be held at Oglesby's Woods
dance hall tonight. This place is lo-
cated one-fourth of a mile south of
Wedges' Corners. A dance will also
be held Saturday.

Waukegan News-Sun, February 18, 1931

Chapter 4: Mariner's Cove

By 1954, Eleanor Pratt Burke owned the former Druse land that ultimately became Mariner's Cove and the shopping areas near Druce Lake off of US Hwy 45. It is about this time that Chittendon Lake became known as Third Lake. The west shore of Druce Lake at that time has some residences but was largely undeveloped and was used by the Burkes as a horse pasture. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, local kids used part of the property as a dirt bike track, complete with jumps and hills.



Druce Lake is bisected by a township line. The west shore, seen here, is in Avon Township. The east shore is in Warren Township. Some parts of Druce Lake have a Lake Villa address.

(Images of America: Grayslake and Avon Township, Grayslake Historical Society)

In the early 1970s, Lawyer-developer Lee Fry began plans to purchase the property that would become Phase 1 of Mariner's Cove plus property owned by the Brennan family (Phase 2) with hopes of developing it into a subdivision. In 1975, he annexed his property into the Village of Third Lake. In 1978, the remainder of what would become Mariner's Cove was annexed in. Fry had a waiting list of 33 buyers before interest rates skyrocketed in the late 1970s and early 1980s and the buyers backed out. Lee Fry lost all the property.

By 1985, Mercantile Holding, Inc. marketing through Quinlan & Tyson began Phase I sales, which went well. They subcontracted to a southern Wisconsin company and built custom homes with pine floors and cabinets plus unfinished second stories to make the property more affordable. They partnered with Lake County Area Vocational Center, which helped to build a small portion of the homes with student labor, as part of their high school building arts program.

"FROM THE OUTSIDE, Randy and Julie Leland's home looks much more spacious than anyone would figure a young, working couple of first-time home buyers could afford. The rambling, two-story, cedar-

sided Cape Cod in the heart of Lake County appears to be the type of four-bedroom; three-bath, two-dormer home that many would consider a worthy move-up property.

Appearances in this case are deceiving. Inside the Leland's new home there is no staircase to the upper level, which remains unfinished while the couple amasses both the money and the skill to complete it. In the meantime, the home is a cozy two-bedroom ranch, which includes a great room with a fireplace. In its incomplete version it is affordable for the Lelands, who made it more so by doing much of the flooring, staining and painting themselves.

Because no one can tell from the outside, the home also lends a more spacious and expensive air to the growing subdivision in which it is located.

Such is the concept behind Mariner's Cove, a planned 337-house development north of Grayslake in tiny Third Lake, where developers hope to build an innovative program with the cooperation of the Lake County Area Vocational Center to cater to the growing market of finish-it-yourselfers." January 13, 1985 area newspaper (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)

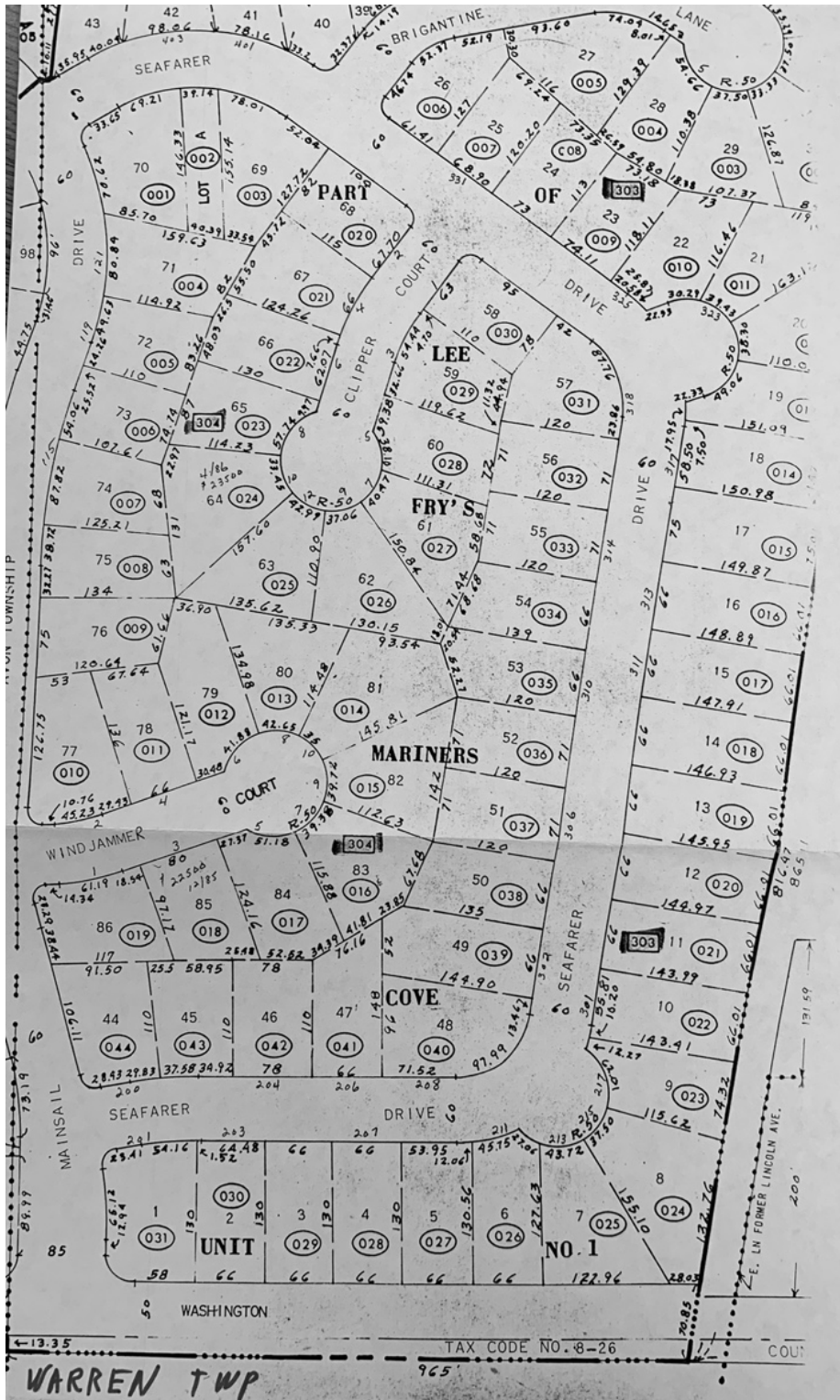
Lots were also sold to any builder who could provide a letter of credit to cover the purchase of a lot. Lakeside lots at that point cost about \$35,000. This resulted in many local builders and tradesmen buying lots and putting up "standard subdivision homes." Phase II sales began in 1989 with Phase III shortly after that. Many of the homes surrounding Druce Lake were built as part of Phase I.

In years to come, W.E. Build (Warren Edwards and his son, Chip) remodeled many of the lakefront homes to make them true lake houses with more lakeside windows and decks.

MARINER'S COVE PRICE LIST			
LOT NO.	APPROX. WIDTH AT BLDG. LINE	SQUARE FEET	PRICE
1	84	10,496	19,500
2	66	8,580	18,500
3	66	8,580	18,500
4	66	8,580	18,500
5	66	8,582	18,500
6	66	8,590	18,500
7	60	10,688	19,500
8	63	12,469	20,500
9	67	8,616	19,500
10	66	9,472	SOLD
11	66	9,536	19,500
12	66	9,600	SOLD
13	66	9,666	19,500
14	66	9,730	SOLD
15	66	9,794	19,500
16	66	9,859	19,500
17	75	11,282	SOLD
18	66	9,963	19,500
19	68	9,139	19,500
20	63	10,645	20,500
21	61	10,853	21,500
22	84	9,545	20,500
23	74	8,501	21,500
24	73	8,512	23,500
25	69	8,516	23,500
26c	75S, 110W	9,329	27,500
27c	80N, 140W	12,069	SOLD
28	70	8,503	28,500
29	64	9,119	28,500
30	63	12,333	28,500
31	62	9,193	28,500
32	67	9,535	28,500
33	70	8,364	28,500
34	64	9,673	29,500
35	67	12,979	32,500
36	70	16,119	SOLD
37	70	11,985	39,500
38	70	10,430	39,500
39	70	12,284	39,500
40	70	14,707	39,500
41	70	11,831	39,500
42	90	11,373	39,500
43	74	13,055	38,500
44c	68S, 118W	9,253	21,500
45	75	8,606	SOLD
46	78	8,580	SOLD
47	66	8,514	21,500
48c	75W, 122S	10,811	22,500
49	66	9,782	22,500
50	66	8,415	21,500
51	71	8,520	SOLD
52	71	8,520	21,500
53	66	8,926	21,500
54	66	8,547	21,500
55	71	8,520	21,500
56	71	8,520	21,500
57c	110N, 90E	10,068	23,500
58c	77W, 110N	8,532	21,500
59	80	8,501	21,500
60	74	8,506	21,500
61	65	10,375	23,500
62	66	11,109	23,500
63	65	10,579	23,500
64	69	11,409	23,500
65	70	8,615	21,500
66	70	9,269	21,500
67	74	9,864	22,500
68c	83E, 115N	9,422	21,500
69	110	11,359	23,500
70c	112N, 112W	11,139	23,500
71	79	10,559	23,500
72	76	8,724	22,500
73	78	8,500	22,500
74	81	8,966	22,500
75	69	8,656	21,500
76	72	8,508	21,500
77c	91S, 145W	10,833	21,500
78	66	8,487	21,500
79	67	9,771	24,500
80	70	10,007	24,500
81	67	11,650	25,500
82	71	10,367	23,500
83	68	9,929	23,500
84	77	9,735	23,500
85	80	8,842	22,500
86c	83W, 110N	9,445	22,500
87	84	10,551	22,500
88	67	8,500	21,500
89c	80N, 114E	9,743	22,500
90c	78E, 130S	9,162	21,500
91	66	8,514	SOLD
92	66	8,514	SOLD
93	66	8,629	21,500
94	66	8,918	21,500
95	66	8,909	21,500
96	66	8,759	21,500
97	70	8,708	21,500
98	82	8,756	21,500
99	81	8,773	21,500

1982 Mariner's Cove Subdivision Property Price List (Warren Township Assessor's Office)

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1982 Mariner's Cove Subdivision Plat
 (Warren Township Assessor's Office)



Druce Lake area in the 2020s
(Lake County, Illinois Maps Online)

Chapter 5: Druce Lake Cemetery

Our story of Druce Lake began with the settlement of the area by the Druce family and their descendants. This story concludes at the final resting place for some of the Druce family – the Druce Lake Cemetery on the north side of Washington Street and slightly west of US Hwy 45. It has been in existence formally since 1907 and earlier as a private family cemetery on part of the original Druce family estate.

As you walk through the cemetery, you'll see grave markers for some of the family of Alexander Druce, their spouses, and their descendants. Many of the older headstones are being replaced with modern versions and a monument showing what we assume to be the original Druce Farm has been erected. Based on the placement and configuration of the buildings, it's probable these are the farm buildings that became known in later years as the Burke horse farm.

The obituary of the oldest son, Alexander Near Druce, provides a sense of the family and their legacy. The cemetery remains an active family cemetery today.

Alexander Near Druce (1815 – 1898)

HistoricMillburn.org, from a loose clipping, source unknown 12 April 1898

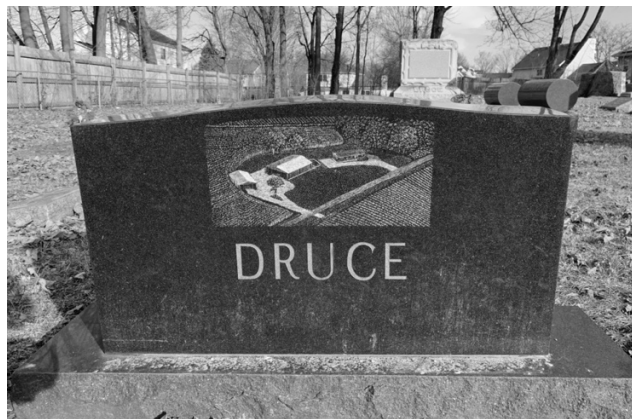
“Older Settler Gone.

Word was received here Tuesday that Alex Druce, who for a number of years has resided with Freeman Clow, near Druce’s Lake, died Monday night from brain fever. Mr. Druce had been ailing all winter having been confined to his home most of the time. Last Friday, however, he grew worse and was compelled to take to his bed where his condition gradually grew worse until for a couple of days his death was hourly expected. The deceased was one of Lake County’s oldest settlers having lived in Lake County since about 1837. He was about eighty years of age and was the oldest of a large family.

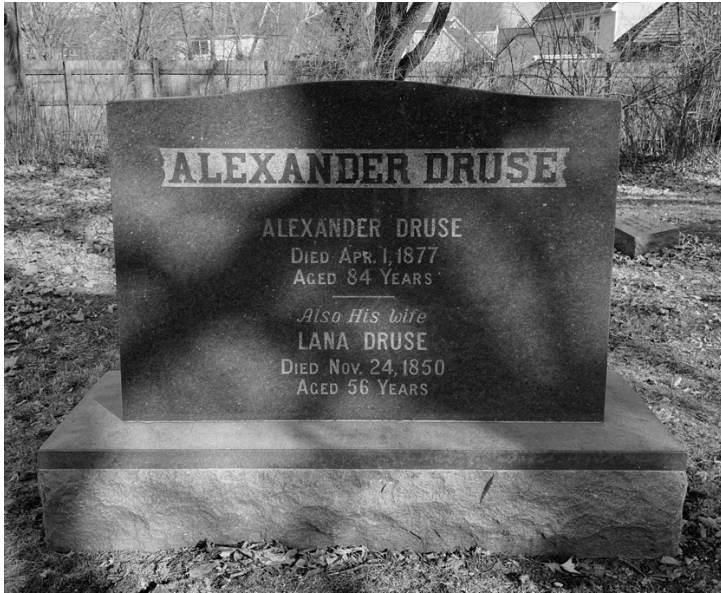
The funeral was held from home of Freeman Clow Wednesday afternoon at two o’clock interment being made in the private cemetery of the Druce family.”



Cemetery entrance, 2024
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)



Cemetery marker showing Druce Farm, erected 2023
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)



Grave of Alexander Druse, Sr. 1792-1877
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)



Grave of Alexander Near Druse 1815-1898
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)

Cemeteries are interesting places for all sorts of reasons. Kids, in particular, think of them as the playground of ghosts. The kids around Druce Lake were no different. In their pre-teen days (circa 1960s), John Sanders, Margaret Sanders, and Tommy Wilson arranged for some of their friends to bring the summer “cottage kids,” Maria Indurante and her brothers, to Druce Lake Cemetery one night. A member of the Druce family had just been buried and the grave was covered with lots of flowers. John, Margaret, and Tommy got to the cemetery first. Margaret laid under all the flowers on the grave and John and Tommy hid. Before the Indurante’s got there, a few of the Burke’s horses got spooked and scared John and Tommy. When the Indurante kids finally got to the cemetery, Margaret popped up through the flowers and the kids ran for their lives. John is still laughing about that ‘til this day!

Long live the stories and the memories that make Druce Lake a wonderful place to live.

Chapter 6: The Families and Their Houses

As support for the stories told in this document, understanding something about the background and where people lived for some of the “who’s who” in the local businesses, properties, and legends may be helpful. The information that follows provides brief histories and biographies of some of those families and their homes.

The Druse Houses

It is believed that Alexander Druse had his farm and many of its buildings near the location of today’s CVS store (corner of US Hwy 45 and Washington Street). As you’ll recall, the Druse family arrived in the mid 1840s and had significant land holdings in and around Druce Lake well into the early to mid 1900s. Over time, it is likely that Alexander Druse split off parcels for some of his children.

George Druse (died 1893), Alexander’s 6th child, owned land off Grange Hall Road (today’s Washington Street, east of US Hwy 45) and married Nancy L. Ray (died 1898). On that property, a house was built in 1916 and occupied by Mrs. Druse (possibly Stella Neil, the wife of George’s son, Frank) into the 1920s based on local memory. That house still stands as of 2024, although it has been significantly expanded and remodeled. The front brick portion is the original house and was accessible from Grange Hall Road in the early 1900s. There have been several additions on the back side since. It is now accessible via the Stoneridge subdivision.



34375 N Bobolink Trail in Grayslake (Zillow)



View from Washington Street (Courtesy of the Semrad family)

Mrs. S. Druse lived in the Grayslake house shown on the following page. It is likely she was Mary L. Druse, widow of Stephen Druse. The exact location of the house is unknown.



1913 house of Mrs. S. Druse (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)

Lana Marie Druse, daughter of Alexander Sr., owned property along the lake at 34789 N. Lincoln Avenue. By June 1890, this parcel was part of the Powell subdivision and later owned by George Ives. In October 1922, Dr. Ulysses J. Grim and his wife, Juanita (nee Forester), bought the parcel and occupied the house. Based on his obituary in 1938, Dr. Grim was a professor of eye, ear and throat instruction at Loyola University from 1913 to 1937. Property records show the existing house being built in 1924 so it is likely Dr. Grim either razed the original residence or built a new one near an existing cottage. That house, now remodeled, remains today.



34789 N. Lincoln Avenue in 1980
(Warren Township Assessor's Office)



34789 N. Lincoln Avenue in 2023
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)

There was a cottage on the property that burned in 1938. Based on a newspaper clipping, the nearest phone was at Wedge's Corner. Given the time it took to make the call and for the fire department to arrive, the cottage was completely destroyed.

Following Dr. Grim's death at age 72 in 1938, Juanita married Edward Druce in 1952 and the house returned to Druce ownership. Edward passed away in 1957. Based on local memories, Juanita Druce primarily lived in Highwood and used this property as a summer residence.



House Plaque (Courtesy of Nancy and Barry Amundsen)

Following her death in 1965, it's believed that Mrs. Druce left this property to a niece, and it was subsequently sold outside the family. In 1987, it was purchased by the current homeowner from the Dettenbacher family.

Rumor has it that Bette Brya (nee Wedge) bought a baby grand piano from one of the owners of the house – possibly Mrs. Juanita Druce.

The Pratt Family

Based on a June 11, 1909 article in the Lake County Independent, N. D. Pratt of Chicago was a lifelong friend of Stephen Druse, Alexander's second youngest son. They met on a summer day in 1881 on which N. D. and his son (possibly W. E. Pratt) decided to go fishing on Druce Lake. They noticed a farmer plowing a field on the west side of the lake and went ashore to chat. Thus began a nearly 30-year friendship.

Based on Lake County property records, Mary Druse, Stephen's widow, conveyed 8 parcels of property to W. E. Pratt in June 1911. This appears to be most of the property that eventually became Mariner's Cove and the commercial development along US Hwy 45 and Washington Street. They also had a 2-story house and boathouse located in the land that became Mariner's Cove along Seafarer Lane. That residence was likely demolished (or burned) in the 1960s in preparation for future development of that property. This latter property fell within the original land holdings of Alexander Druse.

Early land plats show that the Pratt family also had land holdings along the northeastern portion of Druce Lake.

Local residents remember the Pratts having lots of parties at their residence in the 1950s, as was the custom for many lakeshore property owners.

The Burke House and Horse Farm

Walter Burke and Eleanor Pratt were married on March 24, 1930. By 1954, Walter and Eleanor are believed to have owned the land that comprised the original land holdings of Alexander Druse and his family, which spanned from the northwest corner of Grange Hall Road (Washington St. east of US Hwy 45) and Druce Lake Road (Washington St. west of US Hwy 45) and US Hwy 45 around the west side of Druce Lake to the channel (Lighthouse Lane today) and used it for a thoroughbred horse farm.

In 1959 the Burkes excavated 2-3 feet of topsoil from the horse pasture northeast of the wetlands at 34570 N US Hwy 45 and used it to elevate the property at 34582 N. Lake Shore Drive. There they built a private residence and cottage, both overlooking the lake.



1961 Burke Horse Farm (partial), south end of Druce Lake (Lake County, Illinois Maps Online)

The house was torn down, and a new one constructed in 2016-2017. The excavation for the basement was used to elevate and level off the eastern portion of the lot, creating a berm and improving drainage. The adjoining cottage remains much as it was in 1959.



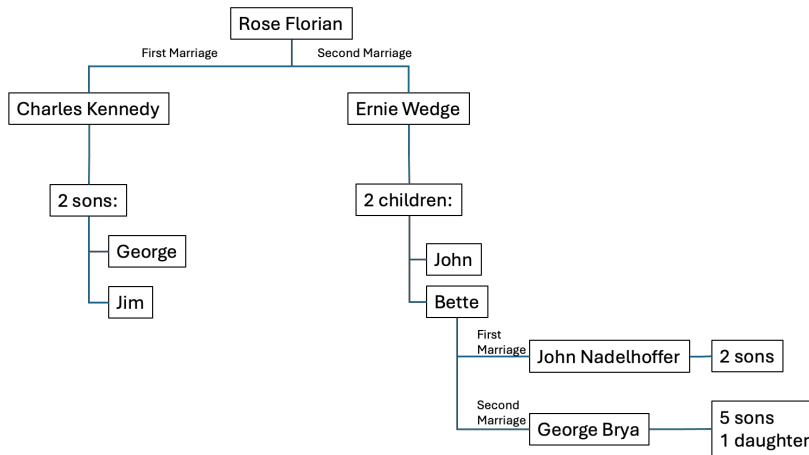
Burke house: front view in 2015
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)



2015 Lakeside elevation
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)

The Kennedy/Wedge Family

Rose Kennedy Wedge was a prominent figure in several of the businesses along the east shore of Druce Lake in the early to mid 1900s. A synopsis of her life provides some insight into the trials and tribulations of making a living and raising a family during that period of time. This family tree provides an overview of her marriages and descendants:



She was born Rose Florian on August 30, 1890, and was the oldest of John and Barbara Florian's 12 children. John and Barbara had immigrated from Bohemia (at that time, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, now the Czech Republic) to Nebraska and later to Indiana. John's family was from Suchdol (a municipal district of Prague), and he worked as a young man for a German-speaking overseer a long distance away from Suchdol under harsh conditions. He 'escaped' from what was essentially serfdom by telling his overseer he was leaving for a short visit to his family, but instead took a train to Hamburg, Germany where he boarded a ship to the US. Barbara (Cadek) Florian emigrated from České Budějovice (also known in German as *Budweis*, where the original Budweiser beer was brewed). They married in the U.S.

Shortly after Rose's birth in Chicago, the family moved to a rented farm in North Judson, Indiana where she attended school through 3rd grade. At age 10, Rose was sent to live with cousins in Chicago's Pilsen

neighborhood. Her first job in Chicago was in a slaughterhouse where she and other immigrant girls were tasked with carrying cattle livers from freshly slaughtered animals to be processed in a meat packing house. It was not a pleasant job. In fact, she said it was the worst job in her lifetime as the livers she carried often slipped off her shoulder onto the sawdust covered floor. Supervisors berated Rose for this, and she lasted only 3 days on this job. She was lucky to get a cannery job at Libby's, a vegetable canning company, which still operates today. Rose always told her grandchildren to buy Libby's canned vegetables because, in her words, "Mr. Libby was such a nice man!" Her young life was a page out of Upton Sinclair's 1906 novel, *The Jungle*, about child and exploitative labor conditions in Chicago's early 1900s.

Later, as a young woman Rose worked at the Western Electric Company assembling telephones. She told her grandchildren that she was paid \$5 a week (with a 5-dollar gold piece). She sent \$3 to her parents in Indiana, paid her aunt Clara in Chicago \$1.50 for room and board, and kept 50 cents a week for lunches and other expenses. The money sent home to her parents was saved and eventually was used to buy a farm (around 1910) near Grand Junction in southwest Michigan. This farm's soil was so sandy and poor that, according to Rose, Grandma Florian laid down and cried when she saw it. Later, the family had some success when they converted from raising turkeys, cows, and cucumbers, to high-bush blueberries.

Rose narrowly escaped the 1915 Eastland shipwreck when she decided, on the advice of a gypsy fortune teller who read her tea leaves, not to go on a Western Electric factory worker excursion to Michigan City, Indiana. Her grandchildren fondly remember Grandma Rose reading their tea leaves later in her life.

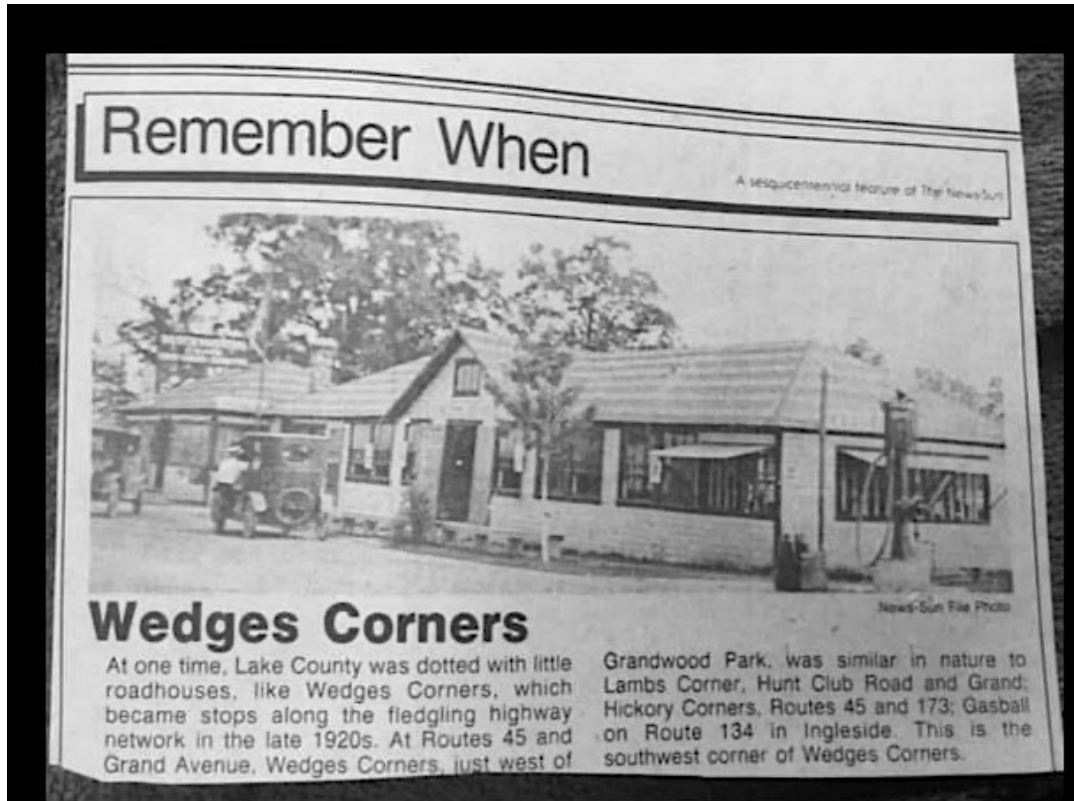
Rose married Charles Kennedy around 1915 and they first leased and, by 1918, bought the Lakeside Hotel. Druce Lake must have seemed like heaven at first sight to her after leaving the meat packing, cannery and telephone factory life she experienced in Chicago.

Charles was an architect or city planner in Chicago. They had two sons, George and Jim. Charles spent most of his time in the city, taking the train on the weekends to Grayslake depot, which was the closest rail stop to Druce Lake at the time. Rose ran the Lakeside Hotel until it burned down in 1924.

One of Grandma Rose's best stories concerned the birth of her first son, George (1920). George was born at home, in the hotel, and father Charles took it upon himself to invite a large crowd of friends and acquaintances to his son's baptism. Normal for the times, Grandma Rose, who had just recently given birth to George, was expected to oversee the celebration, along with hotel employee Mamie Sullivan. Forty or so years later, when George was preparing to marry Joan Thomas, he went to Saint Gilbert's Catholic Church in Grayslake to retrieve his baptismal certificate (needed for a Catholic marriage). No baptismal record was found, however. When George asked in his typically direct manner, "Ma, where the hell is my baptismal certificate?" Rose replied (in her characteristically salty words), "George, sit down. When you were born, Kennedy was so excited that he invited every drunken Irishman he knew in Chicago to come up to the lake and celebrate your christening. The party went on so long and wild that no one ever got around to taking you over to Saint Gilbert's for baptizing." As George's fiancé, Joan, came from a devote Catholic family, George had to undergo baptism in his early 40s before the marriage could take place. As a proud, but non-church-going Catholic, George was a bit humiliated and embarrassed by this requirement!

Around 1924 when the boys were still quite young, Rose and Charles divorced, likely due to Charles' drinking habits, and perhaps also because of the trauma of losing the family business when the hotel burned. Rose and her sons moved to an apartment above a grocery store in Waukegan and lived there until her marriage to Ernie Wedge on September 5, 1927. She wouldn't consent to the wedding until he promised never to drink.

The Wedges were an English-Scottish American family from the Millburn area and had material land holdings. Joshua Wedge was granted a land patent for 40 acres in Sec 30 Twp 46 Range 11 (Millburn area), which was acquired on July 10, 1844. (Lake County Property Book F, page 14). Ernie's extended family owned at least one farm and the general store shown below at the southwest corner of what is now Grand Ave. and US Hwy 45 in Warren Township.



(Warren Township Historical Society, Waukegan News Sun, circa 1989)



1924 Wedge's Corner (Courtesy of the Wedge family)

Rose and Ernie moved to a house on the southwest side of Wedge's Corner following their wedding and had two children, John and Bette, who were both born at home. Ernie and Rose commuted daily to run the Lake Shore Store until it also burned down, most likely in the late 1920s. You can still see the concrete footing and basement floor of this store on the lakefront property near the intersection of Pleasant Place and N. Lake Shore Drive. In the early 1930s, they moved into the back rooms and upstairs of their relocated Lake Shore Store, formerly known as the Druce Lake Country Club.

In the words of one of her grandchildren, Rose "loved music, was a reader, a great seamstress, and an all-around entrepreneur and businesswoman. Most importantly, the world never knew a more kind and down to earth grandma." She died March 1, 1980, near Druce Lake where she lived with her daughter, Bette Nadelhoffer Brya.

Ernie, who was a WWI veteran, died in 1959 following a long battle with "shell shock," today known as PTSD. Ernie and Rose are both buried in the Millburn Cemetery.

Children John and Bette also raised their families along Druce Lake. In the 1950s, John, along with Jim Kennedy (John's half-brother) and Don Paquette, owned and ran a hardware and building supply store called Pyramid Tools & Cabinet Shop. It was located on the west side of US Hwy 45, east of the Wedge family homestead (34707 N. Lake Shore Drive). The two buildings of this business still stand.

Many of John and Bette's children and grandchildren remain in the immediate and neighboring areas today. In the summer, you'll often see them at the beaches along the eastern lakeshore, enjoying the lake with their children just as their parents did many years ago (five generations and counting).

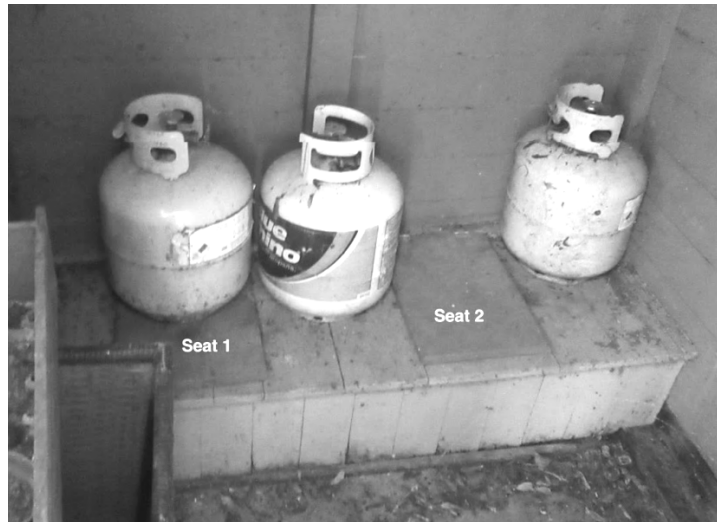
The Winkowski Family

Sue Winkowski and her family moved to W. Cottage Avenue in 1973. There she raised her family with dreams of one day living on the lake. With years of patience and a keen eye on foreclosure proceedings, she was finally able to realize that dream with the purchase of her current home on N. Lake Shore Drive. The cleanup and repair of the long-neglected house was difficult and time consuming, but it's been worth the effort!



Early picture of 34755 N. Lake Shore Drive (Courtesy of Sue Winkowski)

Its primary claim to fame is a 2-seater outhouse that still stands in the rear of the property. It's now used as a storage shed but the original purpose is still recognizable.



Outhouse at 34755 N. Lake Shore Drive, exterior and interior views (Courtesy of Sue Winkowski)

The Young Family

The Young house remains a landmark in the neighborhood, often referred to as long term residents talk about the location of beaches, community stores, and other items of interest around the intersection of Pleasant Place and N. Lake Shore Drive. When asking about a location, you often get a reply that starts with “near Young’s house...”

From the 1960s through the 1980s, Patsy Young had a dance studio in the house. There she gave dance lessons to many of the neighborhood kids. With time, it also became a popular gathering space due to the big open area and Patsy’s welcoming nature.

The Rose (Rosen) Family

During the 1960s, Sy Rose (Seymour Rosen) owned a summer home at 34885 N. Lake Shore Drive. Sy was a CPA (and possibly an attorney) in Evanston and his daughters were both Montgomery Ward catalog models. The family was remembered for “dressing the part” as they were often seen with cashmere sweaters tied around their necks.

Mrs. Rose was a sculptor and would dig down below the sand for sculpting clay. The family owned an Airedale named Duffy who loved to run down to the beach and roll in the sand, which infuriated Mrs. Rose. Hmm... was she worried about the dog or the clay?

Son Bobby took an active part in educating the neighborhood kids on what a CPA was/did as well as providing information about Judaism. For most of the kids, he was the first Jewish friend in a neighborhood that had very little diversity.

The Carvis Family

Long before the Carvis family followed US Hwy 45 from Chicago to Druce Lake, two Polish young people left their familiar homeland for America. What was historically Poland at that time had its national identity under harsh attack. There was no unified state of Poland in the late nineteenth century. It had been conquered and divided up by three imperial powers: the Russian, Prussian, and Austro-Hungarian empires. Despite the division by borders and governments, Poles remained unified by a belief in their own independence, their freedom to worship as Roman Catholics, and their distinct identity as a people. However, life became more difficult, and many Poles sought opportunities overseas.

Marcel Karwowski was born in Poland on January 16th, 1866, and was the second of two sons. With two strikes against him (being the second son and living in Russian Poland), he saw no realistic chance for success at home, so he chose to emigrate to the United States in 1877. Based on recommendations from other immigrants with similar backgrounds, he moved to Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania for some time, where he became engaged to Emilia (Emilja) Anna Ciborowski. Emilia was born in Kulesza, Poland on March 21, 1871, the daughter of Joseph Ciborowski and Anna Rafalowski. Their local priest found it

impossible to marry Marcel and Emilia at their church. Another of her suiters had told the priest that she was going to marry him, and that Marcel was no good. The priest advised Emilia and Marcel to go to New York where he knew a priest there that would marry them, which they did. This began their journey to Chicago where they were told that Polish families settled well and could prosper. Together, they had 13 children and lived in Chicago until they first ventured to and fell in love with Druce Lake shortly before the Roaring Twenties.

According to family lore, the Carvis name started with son Joe's military service during World War I. His sergeant had little luck pronouncing the name Karwowski and found it easier to order around "Carvis". The name stuck but was not fully adopted until Joe's father, Marcel, changed the name legally in 1923. The family was told that the Polish community in Chicago was strong and supportive, but that Poles were looked down on in the broader population. Thus, the name was changed with an eye towards enabling a brighter and less discriminatory future.

Following the death of Marcel in 1923, the family primarily lived in Druce Lake, but spent the cold winter months in various rental apartments in Chicago. The family had several businesses in the Druce Lake area. Emilia owned the Park Hotel from roughly 1920-1940. Her son, Leo, operated the hotel as well as the Lake View Store. It is family legend that Leo would light up the room at the Park Hotel in the evenings with his singing and piano playing. Son Joe ran a boat house along the lake shore and rented bathing suits to tourists.

1927 property records show that Emilia purchased land in the Druce Lake area that ultimately became N. Carvis Drive with 21 residential lots. In 1939, sons Ray and Ted began and finished construction of a house for their mother at what is now 34888 N. Carvis Drive. She lived there year-round until her death in 1963 at the age of 92.

Weekends were centered around family get togethers well into the 1960s with the children and grandchildren of Marcel and Emilia coming regularly from Chicago, Waukegan and surrounding communities. One favorite weekend was always the Fourth of July picnic in the park, which is known today as Powell Park.



Emilia Carvis, 1915
(Courtesy of Ted Carvis)



Marcel Carvis, 1915
(Courtesy of Ted Carvis)



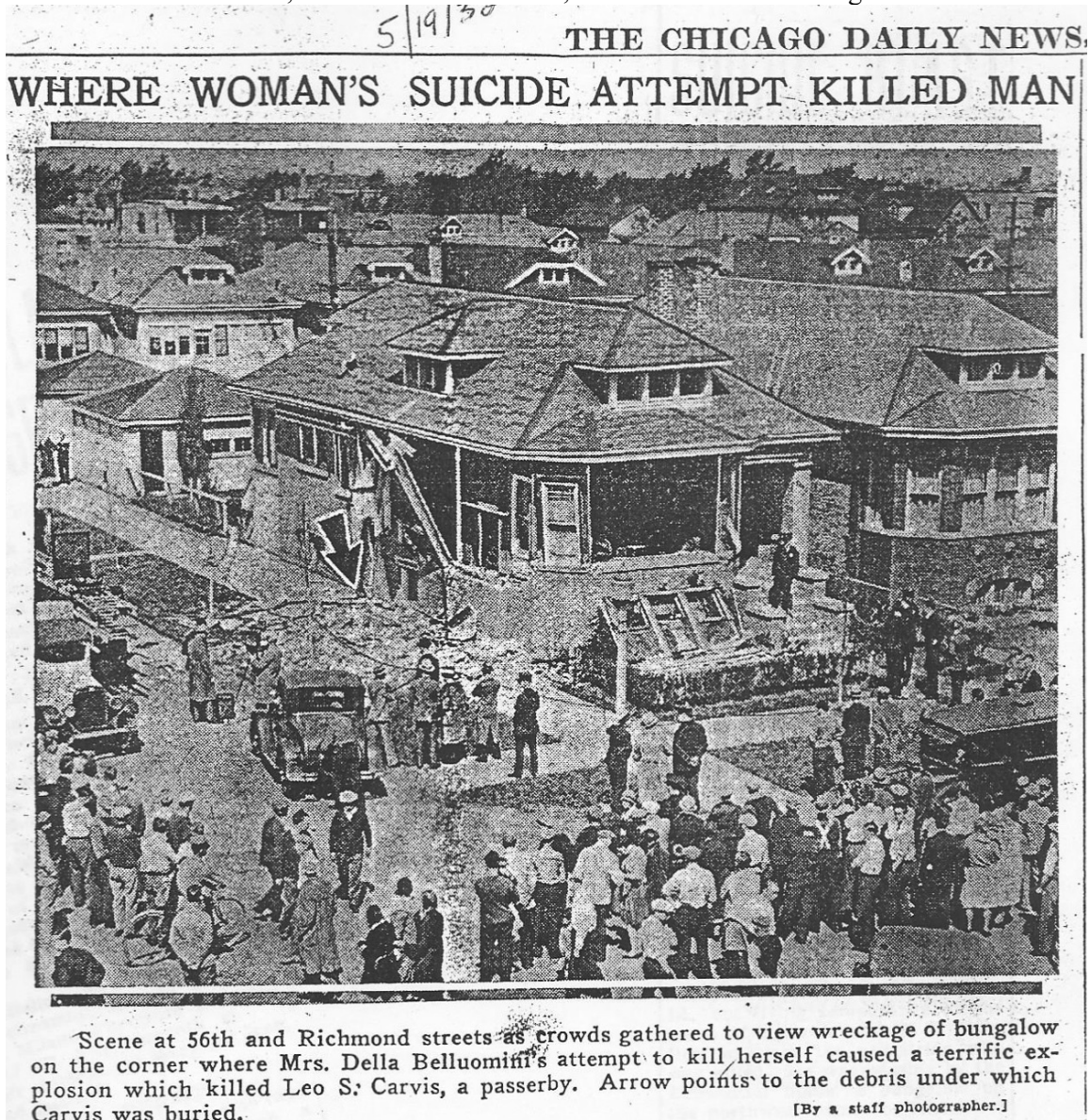
34888 North Carvis Drive in 1939 and 2024 (Courtesy of Ted Carvis)

Marcel and Emelia had 13 children, several of whom remained in the Druce Lake and Lake County areas into adulthood.

- Joseph was born on June 4, 1890, never married and died June 16, 1951. Joe had no children and, outside of visits to Druce Lake when the family decided to run the Park Hotel about 1920, lived

his life in Chicago. At one time or another, Joe, like most of the Carvis children, worked at the Park Hotel or the hotel's boat house.

- Mary was born October 1, 1891, and was married to John Piech in 1908. Mary and John had four children: Paul, Richard, Genevieve and Cyril. The Carvis family has no current recollections of Mary Piech and her family.
- Leopold (Leo) was born October 9, 1893 and likely stepped in as the head of the family following the early death of his father. Leo died in 1932, leaving his wife Severine (nee Malacina) and three children: Leo, Jim and Dorothy. Leo was the victim of a freak accident in Chicago when a building he was walking by exploded and covered him debris. His wife was active in all communities she lived in, outlived three husbands, and died in 2002 at the age of 98.



Chicago Daily News, May 19, 1932 (Courtesy of Tim Carvis)

- Estelle was born November 9, 1897, and married Robert Dilger in 1923. Emilia hosted the wedding party of Estelle and Robert (Bob) Dilger at the Park Hotel. Bob owned Dilger's Florist

in Waukegan. Estelle was self-employed as a beautician. They never had children but stayed close to the family while living in Waukegan.

- Harriett Barbara was born December 29, 1899. She married William (Bill) Henry Delle in 1921 and had their wedding reception at the Park Hotel. William grew up in Cicero of German parents. During their early married years, they lived in Chicago and Bill worked at Kilgen Organ Company. Depression years were a struggle. About 1939 Bill formed his own company, Delle Organ Company, where Harriett worked at his side as his office manager and factory worker. At least one of Harriett's brothers, Ted, worked for Bill at times in the early days. Harriett and Bill both maintained the business until 1970. While living in Chicago they had a summer place on Carvis Drive. They had five children: Lorraine Alice, William Henry, Ralph, Dolores and Arlene.
- Jean was born March 9, 1902, and married Everett Ritz. They had three children: Donald, Mary Alyce and Margaret. They lived at Druce Lake on the corner of West Park Place and N. Carvis Drive at least until the 1960s. The address is now 18776 West Park Place.
- Alice Dolores was born May 17, 1904 and married Charles Edward Raasch. They had four children: Robert M. (Bobby), Charles Edward (Chuck), Richard Raymond (Dickie) and Gerald John (Gerry). They lived in Waukegan but kept close ties with the family during frequent visits to Alice's mother, Emilia, at her home on N. Carvis Drive.
- George was born April 21, 1906, and married April 28, 1934. He served in Navy during the Second World War and continued living in California until later in life when he returned to Chicago. He and his wife, Bette, had no children.
- Raymond J. was born January 10, 1909, and married Marrie Lillian Weber. They had three children: Raymond W., Thomas and Joan. Ray Sr. lived his life as a house painter. Despite living in Chicago, they kept up with the family through regular visits with his mother, Emilia. Tragedy struck the family in 1987 when Ray, Jr. was murdered ([Ray Carvis Murder News Report Channel 7 and 5 Chicago \(youtube.com\)](#)). It was notable because he was a school friend of one of Mayor Daley's sons and was a local politician.
- Thaddius Joseph (Ted) and Marcel were born as identical twins on April 27, 1911, but Marcel lived less than two years. In contrast, Ted lived well into his 104th year. Ted married Dorothy Willetta Jahnke on November 18, 1933. They had four children: Dorothy Lee, Joann M., Sandra and Thaddius James (Ted Jr.). Tragically Dorothy Lee drowned in Druce Lake at the age of four. As best reconstructed, she walked out of the fenced yard, crossed N. Lake Shore Drive and fell on some rocks in the water.

Ted Sr. was mechanically inclined, which led to his work with his brother-in-law Bill Delle as a pipe organ installer and technician, as a clock and watch repairman and in service at Outboard Marine Corporation. Family visits to his mother's house at Druce Lake were a regular part of his routine. Even after his mother's death in 1963, Ted would visit Druce Lake regularly to see his brother Bill, who lived in his mother's house until Bill's death in 1983, and his sister Jean who lived on the corner of W. Park Place and N. Carvis Drive. until her death in 1968.

- Regina was born April 30, 1914 and married Bernard Krieg with whom she had two children, Gretchen and Anthony. They built a house adjacent to her mother's and was separated from her mother's property by a large garden. The address of that house is now 34856 N. Carvis Drive. Bernard was a salesman.



Ted, George and Ray Carvis, circa 1918 (Courtesy of Ted Carvis)



Ted Carvis with Regina Carvis, circa 1920 (Courtesy of Ted Carvis)



1924 Severine and Leo S. Carvis in Florida (Leo F. Carvis Collection, courtesy of Tim Carvis)



Bobby Raasch and Dorothy Lee Carvis the day before her death, circa 1938 (Courtesy of Ted Carvis)

The Sanders Family

Tom Sanders and his wife, Marge were living in Chicago in the early 1950s and were friends with the Murray family, who owned a summer cottage at 18775 W. Park Crescent. Tom and Marge had 7 children. There are many fond memories, including Marge and Tom using a dresser drawer in the cottage as a crib for infant John.

The friendship with the Murrays and time at the lake led the Sanders family to buy a summer cottage at 34891 N. Lincoln Avenue in the late 1950s. There Tom built his home. During construction, his family lived in another summer cottage on the lot adjoining to the north, which was heated by a pot belly stove. The new home was completed in 1960 and the summer cottage was torn down shortly after that.

Sons John and William still live along N. Lincoln Avenue. John's wife, Carrie, was the author of the first version of this history ("The Druce Lake Historical Society History") which inspired this second edition. John's many stories of his life in this community prompted much of the research in this edition.



The Murray cottage prior to tear down
(Courtesy of the Sanders family)



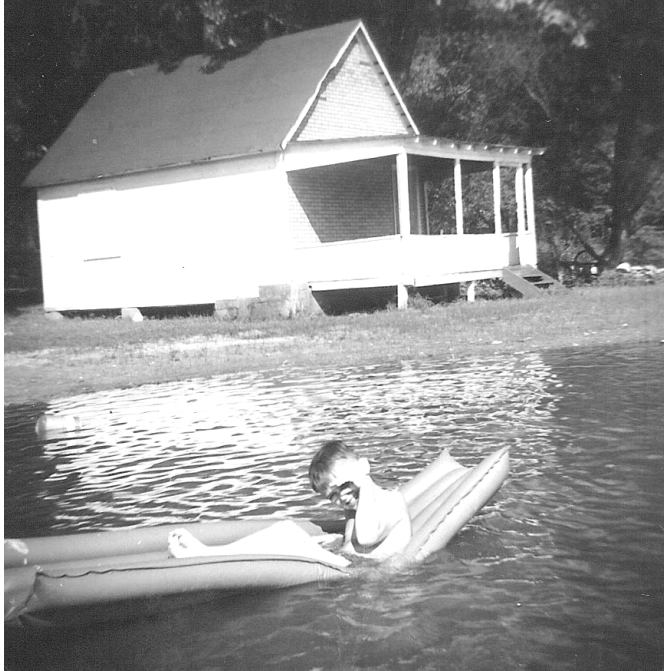
1950s: Sanders' summer cottage
(Courtesy of the Sanders family)



1957-58: Tom Sanders framing new home
(Courtesy of the Sanders family)

Barnett Family

The beach areas along the lake shore were generally known by the family name of those who owned them, changing as the properties were bought and sold. The boat house on the next page below belonged to the Barnett family and was located around 34924 N. Lake Shore Drive, just south of today's boat ramp. They inherited it from their landlord, Mr. Kostylo who died childless and clearly saw the Barnetts as family. Later this became known as Schultz's beach.



Early 1960s: John Sanders at Schultz's Beach (Courtesy of the Sanders family)

Beidler/Hollenbeck House

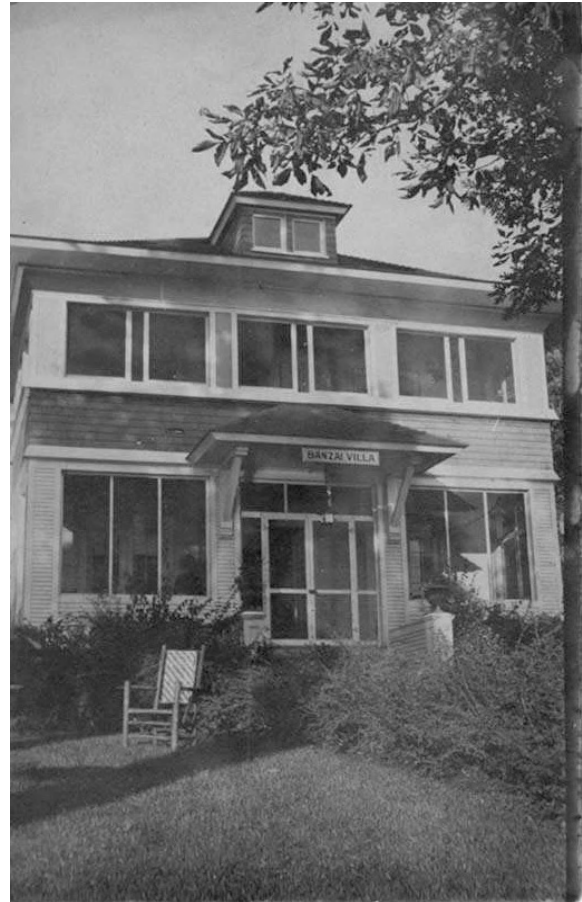
Francis Beidler was the co-founder and owner of the Santee River Cypress Lumber Company in Ferguson, South Carolina. In 1901, he purchased the property that is now 34987 N. Lake Shore Drive and built a luxury summer cottage for his son, David, in 1902. It complimented his large mansion on Old Grand Ave. in Gurnee.

In 1909, he began discussions to sell his lumber business which was out of business by 1920. The lumber company property remained in the Beidler family. Part of it was flooded to form Lake Marion and the remainder became the core of the Congaree National Park and Francis Beidler Forest, a wildlife sanctuary of the National Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy.

In 1913, his son, David, sold the Gurnee mansion to the Swedish Order of Vikings who turned it into an "old people's home" for members of their order. Francis died at his home in Chicago in 1924. The building was later sold to Gurnee Village and razed in 1973. Today, the site is owned and operated by the Gurnee Park District as Viking Park – a testament to the Swedish-American organization that once called it home.



Mr. Beidler and his house (Courtesy of the Schoonhoven family)



Circa 1907 (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)

By 1913, David Beidler and his wife had relocated to California, returning to the Lake County area for short visits. The Druce Lake property was up for sale and the Beidlers were considering adding a summer home on property they owned on Deep Lake.

In June 1913, Charles Hollenbeck, a Chicago meat market owner, bought the Beidler property.

The Schoonhoven Family

The Schoonhoven family bought the Beidler/Hollenbeck house around 1951 from the Todd family. Local rumor (apparently just a rumor) was that that home was a hotel or orphanage at some point in time. The origin of that story may well be based on the history of a property dispute over the road widening, the sale of the Gurnee Beidler property to the Order of the Vikings, or the decorative numbers on the doors of the bedrooms in years past.

Pete Schoonhoven was a Dutch immigrant who was known for coming home from work in his big, beautiful Lincoln and stopping to play ball with the kids in the park. He would hit the ball out of the park and the kids would then either have to find the ball or go get a new one, usually from the Elsbury house.

One evening in the late 1960s or early 1970s, Pete discovered his boat missing. After a police report, it was located over by the channel with several boys in it. The boys were horsing around and attempting to hunt ducks, motoring about to get a better shot (gas motors were allowed back then). Over the sound of their motor, they failed to hear a policeman shouting at them from shore and continued shooting. Finally, the policeman was able to catch their attention and get them back to shore with the threat of ducks not being the only thing that might get shot. Turns out they just “borrowed” the boat and “forgot” to ask Pete for permission. In the end, all was well, and the names of the boys have been omitted to protect the guilty.

Today, the house is owned by one of Pete’s daughters and has been recently renovated, keeping the original look from the early 1900s. In June 2024, it was the site of a family wedding, complete with folding wooden chairs brought out of the barn just like they were back in the 1960s for community gatherings.



The Schoonhoven house in 2023
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)



June 2024 wedding
(Courtesy of the Davis family)

Lyons Family

Bee and Richard (Dick) Lyons had a residence in the 1950s located on what had been the Episcopal Church Choir Camp property (34909, 34910, and 34921 N. Lake Shore Drive plus 2 lots on N. Lincoln Avenue). The house was known for being large and beautiful with a wrought iron fence on the western side facing the lake. The lot was heavily wooded, so much so that one tree grew through the porch roof of the barn/guest house. One son was known to frequently camp out in a tepee he had built on the property. The house and property had a reputation with local kids for being a family place and lots of fun.

The two lots south of the boat ramp were known as Lyons Beach. Both were gathering places in the “old days.” A group of the older boys (likely the Lyons, Warren, and Wedge boys) had motorcycles and spent time there. They often dressed up like Native Americans with loincloths and headdresses.

The residence was torn down, and the property has since been subdivided into 5 undeveloped lots by the current owner.

The Meyers Family

Augie and Minna K. Meyers lived and ran a business on a parcel of land on the north side of Sunshine Ave., which is now part of Rollins Savannah. Augie was a tremendously colorful character that the local kids thought looked like Popeye the Sailor Man. What follows are some of the boyhood highlights remembered by local residents now grown.

Bette Brya often told the story of Augie's pre-arrival to the Druce and Third Lake area. Before moving in, Augie made a summertime visit to the Druce Lake School. He told the teacher that he and his wife would be moving into that school district and that they had 12 children, so the school had better get some more desks for the classrooms (2 room schoolhouse at the time). The teacher(s) frantically visited the surrounding schools (Gages Lake, Stearns School, Avon School, etc.) collecting spare desks. When Augie and his wife arrived, no children arrived with them. They had none! This was the first known Meyers prank in Druce Lake.

Augie's businesses were garbage collection; sand and gravel sales (he provided sand for the public beaches on Druce Lake, likely even for the Willow Park beach); and earthmoving. He and Minna also had a junkyard on their property and maybe a sand and gravel pit. He likely did the excavation in Burke's horse pasture for the soil that raised the elevation of the Burke's house. His trucks and machinery were all old and rusty, but he'd sometimes let the local kids ride along with him on his trips around the lake and surrounding areas.

Augie's wife, (it's assumed he and Minna were married), referred to him only as "Meyers," never Augie or August, or whatever his name really was. Local kids never knew her name and only ever saw her on rare visits to their property when she would give Augie orders. "Meyers, move that truck away from my garden" or "Meyers, it's time for dinner. Get off that tractor and into the house!"

In the mid 60s, the Brya family acquired a stray dog that they named Bruiser. He was extremely friendly with kids. This big shepherd-like dog was also fiercely protective of kids in the neighborhood, especially the younger Brya kids. One day after collecting their garbage at the end of Bette and George Brya's driveway, Augie stormed up to the house. Bette answered the door sheepishly as it seemed that Augie was upset. He was, sort of. According to Bette he barked out, "Bette, is that your goddamn dog?" She answered (hoping she wouldn't get sued for a dog bite), "Why yes, Augie, he is. Did he bite you?" Augie replied "Yeah. How much do you want for him? I need a dog like that for my junkyard!" After that, Bruiser was Augie's dog. Problem solved for the Bryas and the Meyers.

Augie once told Bette to keep her young kids out of the road, where they always played. His reasoning: "I'd hate to hit one with my truck and cripple them for life. If I did, I'd have to back up over them and put them out of their misery." Somewhat crude on the surface, but that was Augie. A kind soul beneath a grumpy veneer as he was also known for buying those same kids Slim Jim's, Beer Nuts, and pop from Kennedy's bar (mostly Squirt, in green twisty bottles).

John Sanders remembers that Augie would always spit his tobacco chew at the kids who were playing ball in the streets when he was driving by in his truck or tractor. The kids would scatter when they saw

him coming. They figured they weren't safe from tobacco flying out the window until the truck was parked and Augie was gone.

Knute Nadelhoffer's first car was a 1960 red Ford Falcon and, like most 16-year-olds with a car, he loved it. On this particular day, he had meticulously washed it and it was spotlessly clean for his date that evening. He was driving south on US Hwy 45, about a quarter mile north of the Washington Street intersection when he saw Augie's northbound big rusty dump truck approaching. As Augie's truck got closer, Knute saw a huge gob of chewing tobacco launch from the driver's side of the truck and tragedy struck as it splattered across his windshield. It was a mess and there was no choice. He had to stop at McCann's gas station on US Hwy 45 to clean up the windshield. He was a little late for that date...

Augie was banned from Kennedy's Tavern in its "neighborhood bar" era, which was after the restaurant had closed and before the establishment became a college hangout in the 1970s. The reason? George Kennedy banned him from the bar for spitting tobacco on the floor and refusing to stop. Augie's tobacco legacy lives on in local legend.

There are other families with equally interesting histories in the area. With time, it's our hope that those stories will be recorded as part of the memories associated with Druce Lake.

Addendum 1: More Stories of the Area

During our research, we heavily relied on early local newspapers for both facts and “flavor” about Druce Lake, its properties, and those who loved and visited the lake. Snippets about who was visiting who, who was ailing, conventions, dances, outings, etc. were plentiful. So were some delightful tidbits that weren’t particular to any key part of our journey through Druce Lake history but do provide a delightful picture of what life was like “back when.”

We have provided the text as it was printed to reflect the spelling, grammar, punctuation, and tone of the times.

Lake County Independent Register and Waukegan Weekly Sun, January 22, 1915

George Lonergan of Round Lake who for the last ten weeks has been a patient at the Jane McAlister hospital as a result of fracturing his leg while executing a dance at Druce’s Lake, was able to return to his home today.

Note: Jane McAlister was the benefactor of today’s Victory Memorial Hospital in Waukegan, which opened in 1904. She was Ernie Wedge’s aunt. George must have been some dancer!

New York Herald, March 17, 1921

An infant pig, suffering from porcine croup or some similar ailment to which juvenile porkers are subject today was put forward by Wilmer Brewer, wealthy bachelor farmer of Druce Lake, as his chief defence in the \$20,000 alienation of affections proceedings against him now being tried in Waukegan, just north of Chicago.

The suit was brought by Raymond Clarke of Grays Lake, who charges that Brewer filched the love of his wife, Mrs. Mabel Clarke. He was able to do this, Clarke alleged, because of his valuable presents to Mrs. Clarke.

Brewer denied he had made gifts to Mrs. Clarke and then introduced the pig.

“It was a sick baby pig,” he said. “I had Mrs. Clarke take care of it. Through her ministrations the pig was restored to health. Therefore when I sold it later for \$22 I felt that she should have half, and gave her \$11.”

Waukegan Daily Sun and the Waukegan Daily Gazette, July 18, 1927

Two raids on the Robert Haley chicken coops at the Pratt farm, Druce Lake, July 11 and 14, netted 210 chickens for the thieves it was reported today at the sheriff’s office. Deputy Edward Dunne stated that there were no clues left by the thieves. The value of the flock was placed at \$315.

Waukegan Daily Sun and the Waukegan Daily Gazette, July 29, 1927

Joe Carvis, 30 years old, who runs the boat livery and who handles bathing suits for those who go to Druce’s Lake for recreation purposes is quite the hero of the Druce’s Lake district due to the fact that he saved a man from drowning on Wednesday of this week.

A young man about 24 years old came out from Chicago with some friends. He rented a bathing suit from the Carvis place and went out quite a distance from shore. Apparently he was taken with cramps for he went below the surface and when his friends looked his way he was struggling and shouting for help.

His friends had left him and gone toward shore therefore he was out in a precarious position himself.

Carvis heard his screams and leaped into a boat rowing to the scene as fast as he could. By the time he had arrived the young man had gone down twice and Carvis knew that if he got him he would have to get him on his next appearance. Accordingly he grabbed him by the hair as he came up and the young man, almost unconscious, was pulled over the side of the boat where Carvis held him with one hand and rowed to shore with the other.

The young fellow was most appreciative and insisted that he realized that Carvis had saved his life for he said, "If you hadn't arrived just when you did I was going down the last time. I felt sure I would never come up again. You certainly saved my life and I appreciate it."

Friends of Carvis are loud in their praise for his valiant rescue but he himself thinks very little about it. He thinks it is just in a day's work.

Waukegan News Sun, August 1932

Note: the intent of the following event was clearly to show respect for and create an understanding of Indian culture and ceremonies in 1932. No disrespect is intended by its inclusion here.

The World Wide Guild of the First Baptist Church held their first annual house party at the choir cottage at Druce Lake last weekend. Since their study this year is to be devoted to Indians, the party was carried out in the Indian motif. Quaint, gaily-colored programs in the shape of papoose cradles outlined the events of the weekend.

Saturday night the girls gathered around the campfire, and as the flames roared skyward in mute invocations to the Great Spirit, "squaws" and "braves" in bright colored blankets and head dresses gathered in a circle and performed an Indian wedding. The ceremony was carried out according to the ancient traditions of the red man.

The girls then adjourned to the cottage where a novel Christmas tree has been set up. Around it were the gifts donated by the girls which will be mailed this month to a missionary field to brighten the Christmas of children in some far-off land.

Grayslake Times, May 18, 1944

The monthly meeting of the Druce Lake P.T.A. was held Friday evening, May 12. Two patriotic selections were played on the tonette by Wilbur Lindgren, Johnny Hojeem and Martin Henry. Betty Jean Kaiser and Illa Jean Vanderspool played accordion solos.

The new officers for the coming year were installed. They are:

President – Mrs. John Hojem

Vice-President – Mrs. John Haisma

Treasurer – Mrs. Al Dunikas

Secretary – Mrs. Groves

A social hour of cards and refreshments followed.

(Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserve)

Grayslake Times, June 29, 1944

The Druce Lake School Women's Club ended a very successful year Tuesday by entertaining 25 members at a luncheon at Brachers at Druce Lake. Cards followed winners being Mmes. Austin Norling, Al Denikas, Arthur Cooper, Ernest Wells, Miss Nellie Connellan and Mrs. Robert Hibbard.

(Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserve)

Grayslake Times, July 20, 1944

The seventh meeting of the 4-H girls was held at the home of Mrs. J. Kaiser. Betty Jean Kaiser talked on "How to Help Fight Fire."

Donna Kroll demonstrated "How to Thread a Needle."

The girls then practiced their programs for the joint Home Bureau and 4-H meeting July 12.

The meeting was closed and games were played in the yard. Mrs. Kaiser served refreshments later.

The Druce Lake 4-H girls met at Mrs. Severson's home near Antioch for the joint Home Bureau and 4-H meeting. Only one of our girls was absent. Refreshments were served and the girls presented their program as follows:

"The 4-H Pledge: - By the group.

A Skit, "The Peanut Song" – Patsy Nelson and Patsy Davis, accompanied by Betty Jean Kaiser on the accordion

Talk, "Practices Which Will Conserve Clothes" – Suzanne Groves.

Talk, "Report on My Four Days at Camp" – Betty Jean Kaiser.

Song, "America the Beautiful" – by the group, accompanied by Illa Jane Vanderspoo on the accordion.

Mrs. Helen Volk then talked about "Seeing Your Job and Then Doing It" and "Every Motion Counts." Later Mrs. Volk took the 4-H girls and their leaders outside for a discussion group.

- Reporter, Betty Jean Kaiser

(Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserve)

Grayslake Times, September 14, 1944

Mrs. Bess Bower Dunn of the Lake County Historical society traced the early history of the county for members of the Druce Lake P.T.A., at their meeting Friday evening. In addition she showed many interesting articles and pictures from the early days of this vicinity, and presented a history of the school to the P.T.A., written in 1918 by Ina Hibbard Barnsmith and Norman Christensen when the state of Illinois was celebrating its 100th anniversary. The history is of particular interest to the Druce Lake organization. Mrs. Dunn told us of several incidents of interest to the people of this vicinity. In 1844 the women of Third Lake sold eggs for 3¢ a dozen to buy sugar for 25¢ a pound so they could bake cookies for a picnic. The early schools of the county were held in private homes.

The Druce Lake School was built in 1915 with Fred Wright as the first president of the school board. President of the Druce Lake P.T.A. is Mrs. John C. Hojem.

(Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserve)

Hendricks Murder

"On August 2, 1974, Jean Hendricks, the deceased, was found murdered in her yard outside of her home in Lake Villa, Illinois. She had been brutally beaten and raped and had been last seen at the Kennedy Tavern, which is approximately 200 yards from her house." (Quote from a news clipping from a local paper)

Mrs. Hendricks lived across the street from Kennedy's at what is now 18924 W. Roosevelt. A young man who was in the bar with her that night killed her. She was found the next morning in the front yard by her son.

The killer, Neil Varney, was checking IDs at Kennedy's. He left Kennedy's to look for the keys to his truck, which he found on the ground near the front door after 15-20 minutes.

Following an initial discussion with police, a polygraph test and further interrogation over a series of several days, Neil confessed to the crime. He was convicted by jury trial and sentenced to a term of 50-99 years.

He appealed the verdict based on having been denied his right to have an attorney present at his interrogation. It was determined, however, that he had voluntarily waived his rights prior to confessing to the crime during his interrogation and had been read his rights in a timely manner. The facts of the killing were not in dispute and the appeal was denied.

For those wanting more details, here's a [link](#) to a court case appeal (The People Vs. Neil Varney). The content of this appeal provides excellent insight into the protocols used during investigations in that time period.

Addendum 2: Nature's Force

The Palm Sunday Tornado of 1965

Living in and around nature is not without its dangers. What was to become known as the Palm Sunday tornado outbreak occurred on April 11, 1965. It was part of a devastating weather event that affected the midwestern and southeastern United States, producing 55 confirmed tornados over a 30-hour period (April 10-12). The worst part of the outbreak in Illinois occurred during the afternoon hours of April 11 into the overnight hours going into April 12. Druce Lake was one of the communities impacted.

Lakeland Publications, April 12 or 13, 1965

Excerpts from article titled: Druce, Third Lake Reels Under Impact of Storm

A bomb-like tornado April 11 crushed many homes and commercial establishments in the Third Lake and Druce Lake area like they were made of tissue paper.

The explosive giant hit suddenly and without warning. It began at 3:35 p.m. in Crystal Lake and continued through Island Lake at 3:50 p.m. The funnel turned the community to rubble in seconds.

The destructive force was headed for Grayslake but bypassed the area in favor of Druce Lake and Third Lake.

Two Third Lake residents, Robert Michalek and Ronald Andrews, were saved from death by Michalek's car when the tornado struck the community at 4 p.m.

They were inside Michalek's garage on Lake Ave when the funnel blew out the sides of the garage and the roof caved in and landed on the car.

From Druce Lake the destructive storm moved to Gurnee, arriving at 4:05 p.m.

....

In Druce Lake, residents were enjoying the Sunday afternoon with their families, not realizing that in a short time possible death and destruction was on its way to their community.

Proprietor of Julian's Food Store, Mrs. Oscar (Tiny) Julian reported that she grew up with tornadoes and knew a twister was headed in the direction of Druce Lake around 4 p.m.

Her husband, sitting on the front porch of the store, was not easily persuaded. He finally came inside just before the funnel hit the area.

George Kennedy, tavern owner, said that glass was flying all around and the upstairs family, with four children, evacuated the premises by the back entrance in order to get into the basement. By that time, the tornado had passed.

Many people thought the noise of the twister was a jet plane or a plane exploding in the air, though many (unreadable) until the funnel-shaped storm hit the community.

Workmen and residents immediately began clean-up procedures to clear the roads of fallen trees and burning debris and rubble that cluttered the area. Firewood was plentiful in the wooded community, but no one seemed to care.

The two hardest hit communities by the tornado, Crystal Lake and Island Lake, reported six dead and 141 injured. Estimated damage to the two areas was over \$4 million.



The Barnett family home
(Courtesy of the Barnett-Tokarz family)



The Barnett family home
(Courtesy of the Barnett-Tokarz family)



Topped shed near Kennedy's
(Courtesy of the Schowalter family)



34941 and 34927 N. Lake Shore Drive
(Courtesy of the Schowalter family)



The Schultz Home, 34927 N. Lake Shore Drive
(Courtesy of the Schowalter family)



The Barnett House, 34974-34982 N. Lincoln Avenue
(Courtesy of the Schowalter family)



The Schoonhoven House, 34890-34897 N. Lake Shore Drive
(Courtesy of the Schowalter family)

Storm of 2007: Circa June 8

Carrie Sanders has vivid recollections of this 2007 storm. Her husband, John, was on a fishing trip in Canada and missed this round of neighborhood excitement.

“It happened late at night. I was getting ready to go to bed, probably around 9:30-10:30pm. It had been raining hard for a while, and I could hear the storm intensifying. The thunder was very loud, and the

wind started to sound like a train barreling down the tracks. I was headed for the basement when a tree from across the street fell and ripped the power lines off our house.

While in my basement, I could hear wood splintering, which was probably the trees going down next door and across the street. The weathermen said it was straight line winds, not a tornado. Thank goodness, our house was spared!”



Three photos of 34871 N. Lake Shore Drive (Courtesy of the Sanders family)

Storm of 2017

In early July 2017, the greater Gurnee area, including Druce Lake, was hit by a storm that dumped 7" of rain in an hour overnight. Record flooding occurred in the streets and for weeks after, the roadsides were filled with wet carpet, furniture and other "victims" of the flood.

N. Lake Shore Drive flooded at the culvert and was not passable for half a day following the rain. One pier, with pontoon boat still attached, was seen floating lazily across the lake the next morning. Residents spent days retrieving stray boats and beach equipment that had been carried by water currents to other parts of the lake.

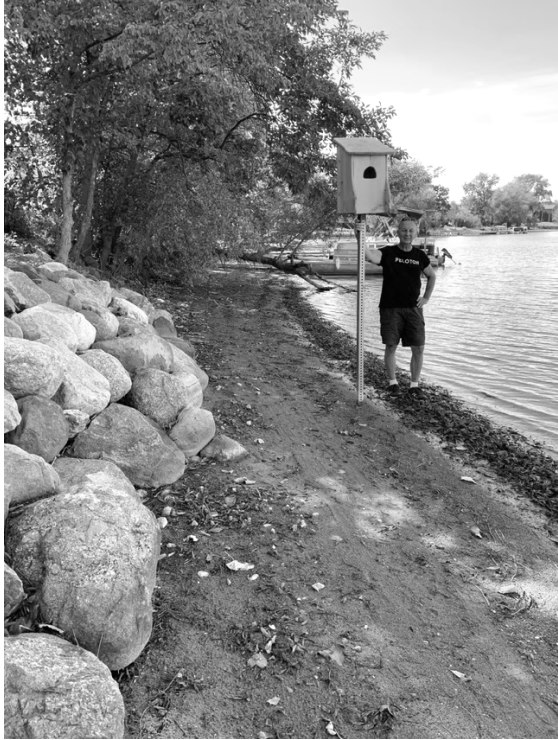
Drought of 2021

2021 brought one of the worst summer droughts in the memories of current residents. There was virtually no rain between May and September. The Druce Lake shoreline receded and exposed approximately 20 feet of the lake bottom. Residents were frequently seen ankle-deep in the water pushing boats away from piers and the Mariner's Cove boat ramp was virtually unusable until early October when some rain finally returned.

In the pictures below, the normal water line comes up on the rock shoreline about 7-8 inches vertically.



August 2021, 12" below normal water line (Courtesy of the Mateja family)



September 2021, 18" below normal water line (Courtesy of the Mateja family)

Addendum 3: History of Avon and Warren Township

As small settlements like Wedges Corners ebbed and flowed, towns began to form around the more populated areas and more formal roads began to be developed to link those communities and ease travel and commerce between them.

According to Lake County, Illinois Online Maps - Base Maps, in 1907, Grant Avenue ran right along Druce Lake from what is now Grand Avenue (Rt. 132) to Washington Street. The next map available (1939) shows the addition of US Hwy 45 east of what was renamed from Grant Ave. to N. Lake Shore Drive. In 1926 US Hwy 45 was paved so the construction of US Hwy 45 as we know it today must have taken place between 1907 and 1926. In the historical pictures along the lake, N. Lake Shore Drive appears to be unpaved around the late 1920s.

The following Excerpt from *The Past and Present, Lake County IL* (Wm. Le Baron & Co., 1877) provides a brief history of how Warren Township got its name.

TOWNSHIP OF WARREN.

This, as a Congressional Township, is known as Township 45, north Range 11 east.

The first settlement of this town was commenced in 1835, in the vicinity of the Des Plaines River. Much of the early history of this town is a part of the general history of the county, which is hereinbefore related under the head of the county at large.

Among the early settlers were Samuel Brookes, Thomas McClure, Amos Bennett, L. W. Craig, Ezekiel Boyland, Leonard Gage, George Gage, George A. Drury, Avery Esty, Moses Esty, William Lovejoy, Abram Marsh, William Ladd, George A. Drury, Willard Jones, Orange Smith, Orin B. Smith, David Gilmore and Amaziah Smith.

The name of this town was given by the Commissioners in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants as expressed at a public meeting called for that purpose, a copy of the proceedings of which is here given, as best showing the circumstances attending the selection of the name :

"At a meeting held pursuant to notice, at the school house in School District Number One, Township Forty-five, Range Eleven (11) east, third principal meridian, for the purpose of selecting a name for said town. Amos Wright was chosen Chairman, and Phillip Blanchard, Secretary. The meeting being organized, it was resolved that the name that should receive the highest number of votes should be the name for said town as the first choice, and that six names should be selected as the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth choice.

"The meeting then proceeded to vote for names, whereupon the name of Warren was chosen as the first choice. Leroy was chosen as the second choice, Milton was chosen as the third choice, Lebanon was chosen as the fourth choice, Genesee as the fifth choice, Hudson as the sixth choice. Motioned and carried that Asa Pratt convey the proceedings of this meeting to the Commissioners."

Amos Wright and Alexander Druse, who lived in the western part of the township, were from the town of Warren, in Herkimer County, in the State of New York. They were solid in their demand for this name. Mr. Druse was an old-fashioned man, of comprehension and ideas in proportion to the stages of his surroundings. He had spent most of his days in the town of Warren, from which he emigrated, seldom going beyond its limits during the time. To him, the town of Warren was nearly the whole world, and its name possessed a peculiar charm. He canvassed the township in the interest of the name with as much zeal as if the destiny of the country had been at stake.

It will be noticed that the name was carried in the meeting, not by a majority vote, but through the ingenious plan devised in determining the result.

it being agreed beforehand that the highest out of six names voted for should be taken as the choice of the meeting.

The town of Warren, in the State of New York, was so named in honor of Gen. Joseph Warren, who fell at the Battle of Bunker Hill, in the beginning of the American Revolution.

Ancient mounds are found in this town, along the Des Plaines River, like those alluded to in Newport and Wauconda.

The first school house in this town was built about 1838, a log building, in the northern part of the town, near where Peter Strang now lives. James Alcock taught the first school in town in this house, about the year aforesaid.

This township was the home, in early days, of three individuals who are remembered for occurrences attending each. It was the home of William Lovejoy, who drove the first mail stage through the county, between Chicago and Milwaukee; of Ezekiel Boyland, who was the first man in the county on whom judicial process was ever served, as has before been related; and of Amos Bennett, a colored man, who declared on a certain occasion that he was "the first white man that ever planted corn in Lake County."

The first town meeting held in this town, under township organization, was convened at the school house, near the O'Plain House, on the first Tuesday in April, 1850. Nathaniel Vose, Esq., was chosen Moderator, and Benjamin Schlauber, Clerk. The following persons were elected the first town officers: Havelia Whitney, Supervisor; Benjamin Schlauber, Town Clerk; Nathaniel Vose, Jr., Assessor; George A. Drury, Overseer of the Poor; Levi Stafford, Collector; A. M. Pearsons, Alfred D. Whitmore and Marcus S. Marsh, Commissioners of Highways; Philip Blanchard and Havelia Whitney, Justices of the Peace.

In 1850, at the beginning of the township organization, this town, in point of wealth, ranked the second in the county.

The assessed value of property for the year 1850, including both real and personal, was \$114,989. The amount of tax computed on the same for collection was \$1,932.16.

The total assessed value of property for 1877 was \$304,612.

The first religious meetings in this township were held in the school house in the northern part of the township, before mentioned.

About twenty years ago, the Disciples organized a society in this town, and have since held their meetings for worship in the school house, at the Aux Plaines bridge.

In January, 1877, a class of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at Stafford's school house, under direction of Rev. A. Wakeman, of Evanston, comprising about seventeen members.

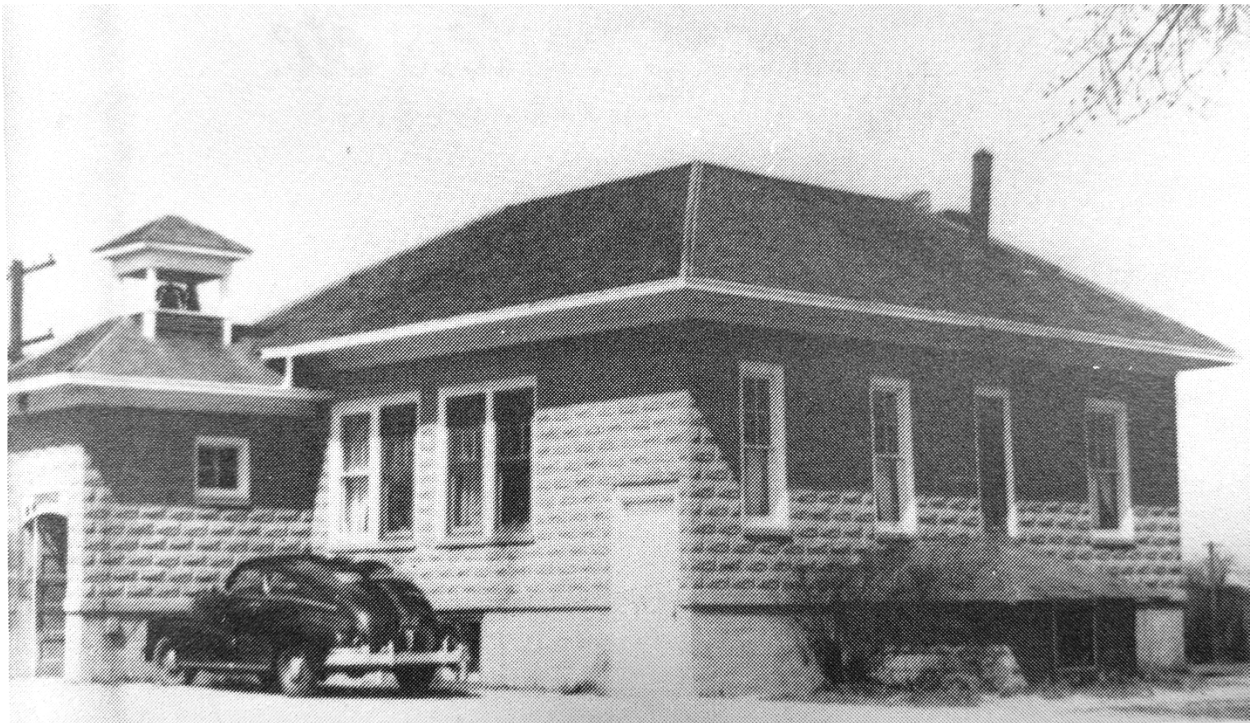
There is a prosperous Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in this town, who have a commodious hall, built about two years ago, at what is known as Whitmore's Corners.

Addendum 4: The Schools

Warren Township had quite a number of small schools scattered throughout the countryside to provide education for the children of the small rural communities according to this excerpt from **A History of Warren Township**:

“Not long after settlement started in the township, the first log schoolhouse was erected on a high level. The Second school was called O’Plaine, which became the Gurnee Grade School. These were followed by one-room schools in all the sections of the township: Stearns, Stafford, Vose, Druce Lake, Gages Lake, Dodge, Grange Hall, Saugatuck and Wilson (called Warrenton). Striving for quality education, a consolidation of seven schools took place in 1948 with the formation of Woodland Consolidated School District.”

Many of the Druce Lake children attended Stearns School from 1864 through the early 1900s. Druce Lake School opened in 1915 and was closed in the mid to late 1950s. Students were consolidated into the Woodlands school district at that time. The building was sold in 1958 and used commercially until it was torn down in 2005 during road widening and expansion.



Druce Lake School, 1948 (Warren Township Historical Society)



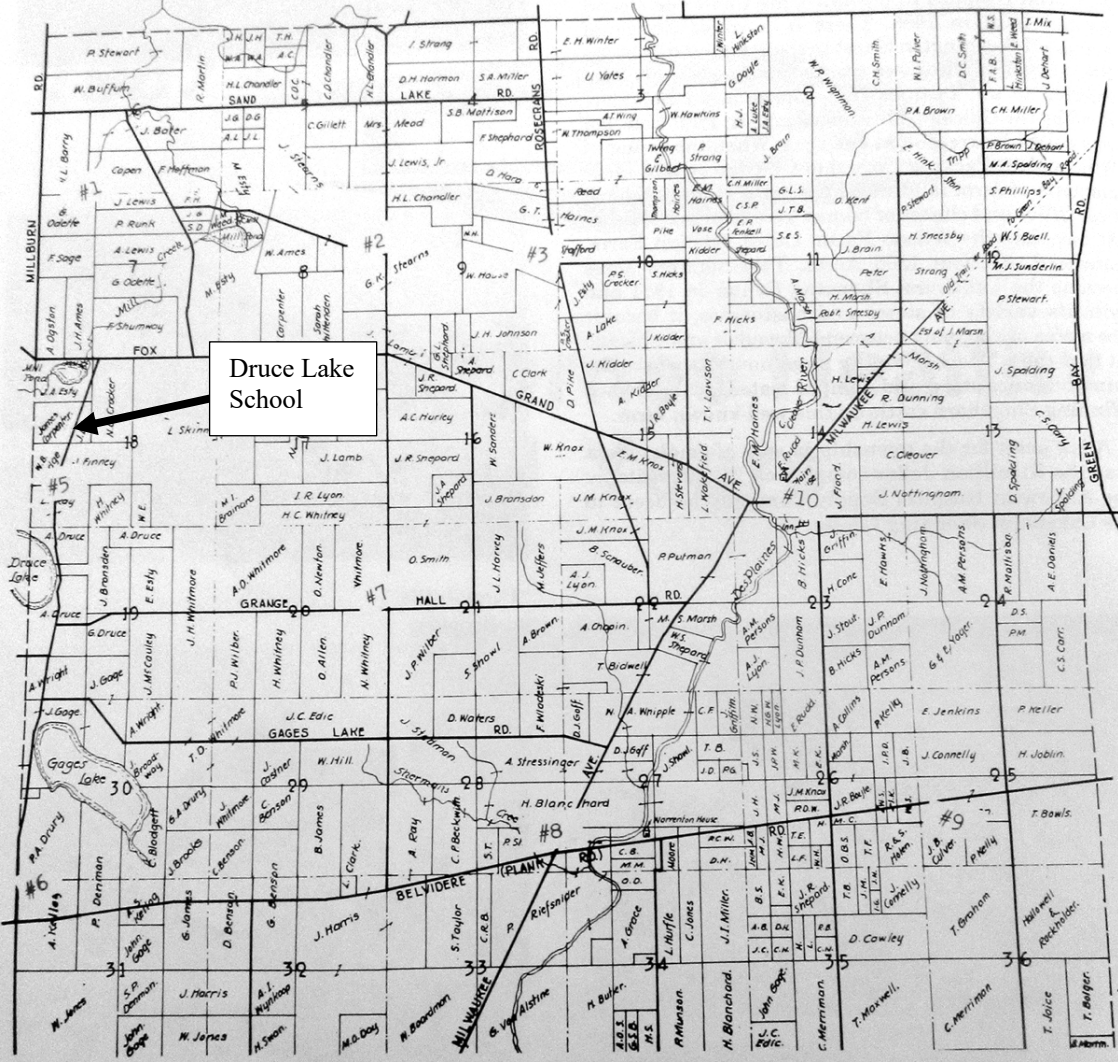
Location of Druce Lake School (Lake County, Illinois Maps Online, 1946 Aerial Map)

Warren Township Grade Schools—

The Town of Warren
 Being Township 45 North, Range 11 East
 of the Third Principal Meridian.
 Lake County, Illinois.

Prepared from a map delineated by George Hale, County Surveyor.
 in the year 1861

Scale 0 1/2 mile 1 mile
 0 1320 ft 2640 ft 5280 ft



#1—Dodge School; #2—Stearns School; #3—Stafford School; #4—Esty School (Vose); #5—Druce Lake School; #6—Gages Lake School; #7—Grange Hall School; #8—Saugatuck School; #9—Warrenton School (Wilson); #10—O'Plain School (Gurnee Grade).

Map of Warren Township Schools (A History of Warren Township by Edward Lawson, Warren Newport Public Library, 1974)



Druce Lake School Class of 1933-1934 (Courtesy of Grayslake Historical Society)

Kneeling: Arthur Slaven, Charles Wedge

Row 1: Lester Turnpaugh, Edward Walkup, Lloyd Geier, Ruth Turnpaugh, Jimmy Carvis, Billy Dall, Evelyn Dall, Patricia Daugherty Jack Vanderspost, Jimmy Kennedy

Row 2: Henry Behrens, Roy Turnpaugh, Dorothy Carvis, Virgil Turnpaugh, Lucille Clark, Juanita Clark, Louise Sheehan, Rita Glin, Thelma Clark, George Moer?, Walter Lucas, Howard Alwardt, Harold Lindgren, Leo Carvis

Row 3: Marjorie Geier, Betty Peterson, Willard Alwardt

Addendum 5: Aerial Maps from 1939 - 2011

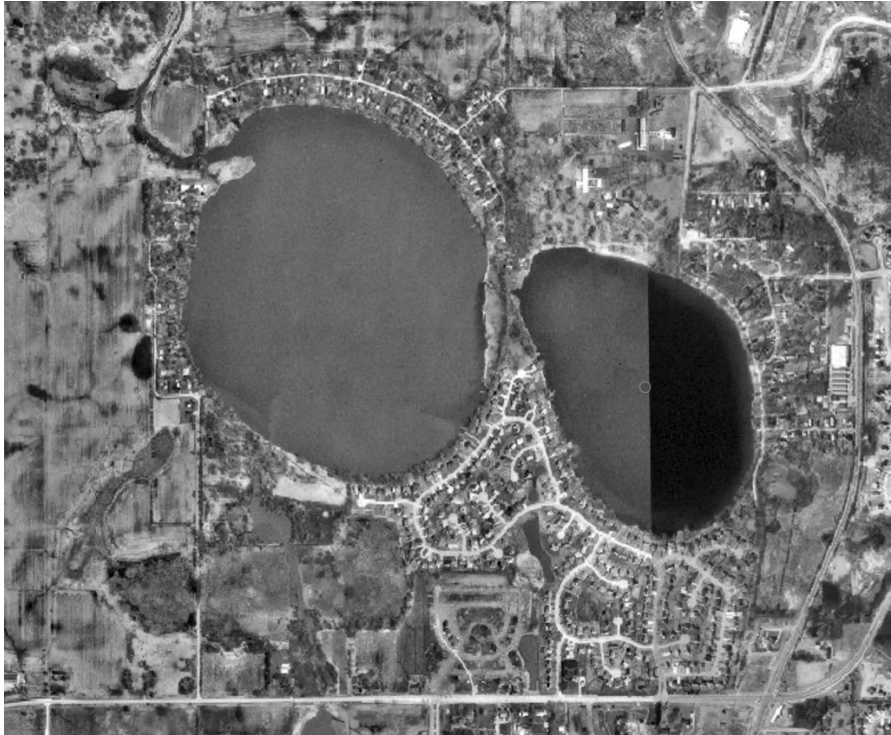
The following maps can be found in the Basemap Gallery on the website [Lake County, Illinois Maps Online](#). They show the development of the area between 1939 (earliest aerial available) and 2011. From 2011 forward, the aerials appear virtually the same.



1939
(Lake County, Illinois Maps Online)



1961 (Lake County, Illinois Maps Online)



1993 (Lake County, Illinois Maps Online)



2011 (Lake County, Illinois Maps Online)

Acknowledgements

Information for this book has come from a wide range of sources in “bits and pieces” that we have tried to compile into a history, of sorts. It has been compiled for personal use only and not for sale or any commercial use.

We thank the following sources for their help and research, which played a material part in compiling this document. When possible, verbal permission to use their materials was obtained from each source. Photographic media and published materials have been cited in the document.

- Linda Mateja for compilation and editing of this document, pictures, stories and research
- Marianne and Ed Semrad for extensive research, pictures, stories and historical knowledge of the area, Chicago Cedar Bay Club, and the Bachelors’ Club
- The Sanders family for pictures, stories and historical knowledge of the area
- Knute Nadelhoffer for a letter and memories describing the life of his grandmother, Rose Wedge and family stories
- The Brya/Nadelhoffer/Sadauskas family for their pictures, stories and historical knowledge of the area
- Historic Millburn Community Association: biographical sketch for Alexander Druce family
- www.MarinersCoveThirdLake.com: history of Third Lake, the Chittendon property, Druce Lake, and Mariner’s Cove development.
- Al Westerman and Diana Dretske for research via Newspapers.com, Lake County property records related to the Lakeside Hotel, Druce Lake stores, and pictures from Al Westerman’s personal collection
- Charlotte Renehan for use of her personal collection of Druce Lake memorabilia
- Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves for access to pictures, news articles and general history of the area
- Grayslake Historical Society for pictures and research
- Warren Township Historical Society for pictures and research
- Ainsley Wonderling and the Lakes Region Historical Society for pictures
- Dan Potts and the Lake Villa Historical Society for Druce Lake Voice newsletters
- Sue Cox and the Gages Lake History Group for pictures
- Tony Marsala and the Chain of Lakes History Group for pictures
- Sue Winkowski for pictures, stories and historical knowledge of the area
- Barry and Nancy Amundsen for stories and the Druce/Grim plaque picture
- Images of America: Gurnee and Warren Township by the Warren Township Historical Society for pictures
- Images of America: Grayslake and Avon Township by Charlotte K. Renehan for pictures
- Warren Township Assessor’s Office for property-related records and research
- Angling in the Lakes of Northern Illinois by Chas. F. Johnson for information on local rail depots and fishing
- Ken Normile for pictures and history of W. Cottage Avenue
- Ted and Tim Carvis for pictures and information related to the Carvis family and the Park Hotel
- Jim Dowdall for information related to the boat lots
- Chip Edwards for information regarding Mariner’s Cove development.
- Paul Grosnick for aerial map of Druce Lake and Third Lake
- Village of Third Lake for information regarding the development and annexation of the area
- The Erker family for pictures of Bishop Savaurich
- Newspapers.com and Newspapers by Ancestry for the majority of newspaper articles cited

Embedded Links

Lakelubbers.com

<https://lakelubbers.com/lake/third-lake-and-druce-lake-illinois-usa/>

Jane Addams

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Addams

Druce Lake Camp in the 1960s

<https://www.presbycamphistory.org/?sort=1960s>

New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery history

[\(https://www.chicagotribune.com/1991/11/03/domes-over-third-lake/\)](https://www.chicagotribune.com/1991/11/03/domes-over-third-lake/)

New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery grammy nomination

<https://patraminstitute.org/divine-liturgy-of-st-john-chrysostom/>

Hendricks murder case

<https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcasertext.com%2Fcase%2Fpeople-v-varney-2&data=05%7C01%7Ccarrie.sanders%40wba.com%7C87e3e566cdd7475e701408dafcee761c%7C92cb778e8ba74f34a0114ba6e7366996%7C0%7C0%7C638100398397699561%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y3e3u3qMe4ipL0Xnqwk05GZDIgOyKr0QHkqKlTbSXtw%3D&reserved=0>

Ray Carvis murder story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtpbR6GtbwQ>

Lake County, Illinois Maps Online

<https://maps.lakecountyil.gov/maponline/>

Mariner's Cove history

<https://www.marinerscovethirdlake.com/>