

Druce Lake: A Community Memoir

2nd Edition

June 2024



Cover

Michael Kolar and Randy Bork playing at Wedge's pier at the end of W. Cottage Avenue (Courtesy of Sue Winkowski)

Sources

Many current and past residents, local history museums, websites and newspapers. See Acknowledgements for details.

Hyperlink Addresses

Website addresses for all hyperlinks in this document appear on the final page of this document.

June 2024

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Introduction

Lake communities revolve around residents, friends and families enjoying all that the lake has to offer. Through those interactions, stories of the past are shared and stories of the future are created.

In 2010-11 Carrie Sanders collected pictures and documents, using them to write the first version of this community's story, affectionately known as the "Druce Lake Hysterical Society." She kindly gave copies to many neighbors in the Druce Lake community. On January 17, 2023, she and Marianne Semrad organized a gathering of neighbors (current and former) with the purpose of updating and documenting the many stories of this beautiful lake community. The people present were those who grew up here in the 1950s, 60s and 70s (some who still live here and some who are moving back) plus a few who have become residents during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

The jovial and overlapping conversations took this group on a merry journey around Druce Lake itself and into the surrounding area. This document, and many subsequent conversations and research trips over the next 18 months, resulted from those gatherings.

Join us as we relive the memories of those who have lived and played in this community over the years. We hope that you will add memories and pictures of your own by following "Druce Lake" on Facebook and sharing your stories and memories there.



Debbie Schoonhoven, Kathy Plath, Carrie Sanders



John Sanders with Kim Brya Sadauskas on Zoom



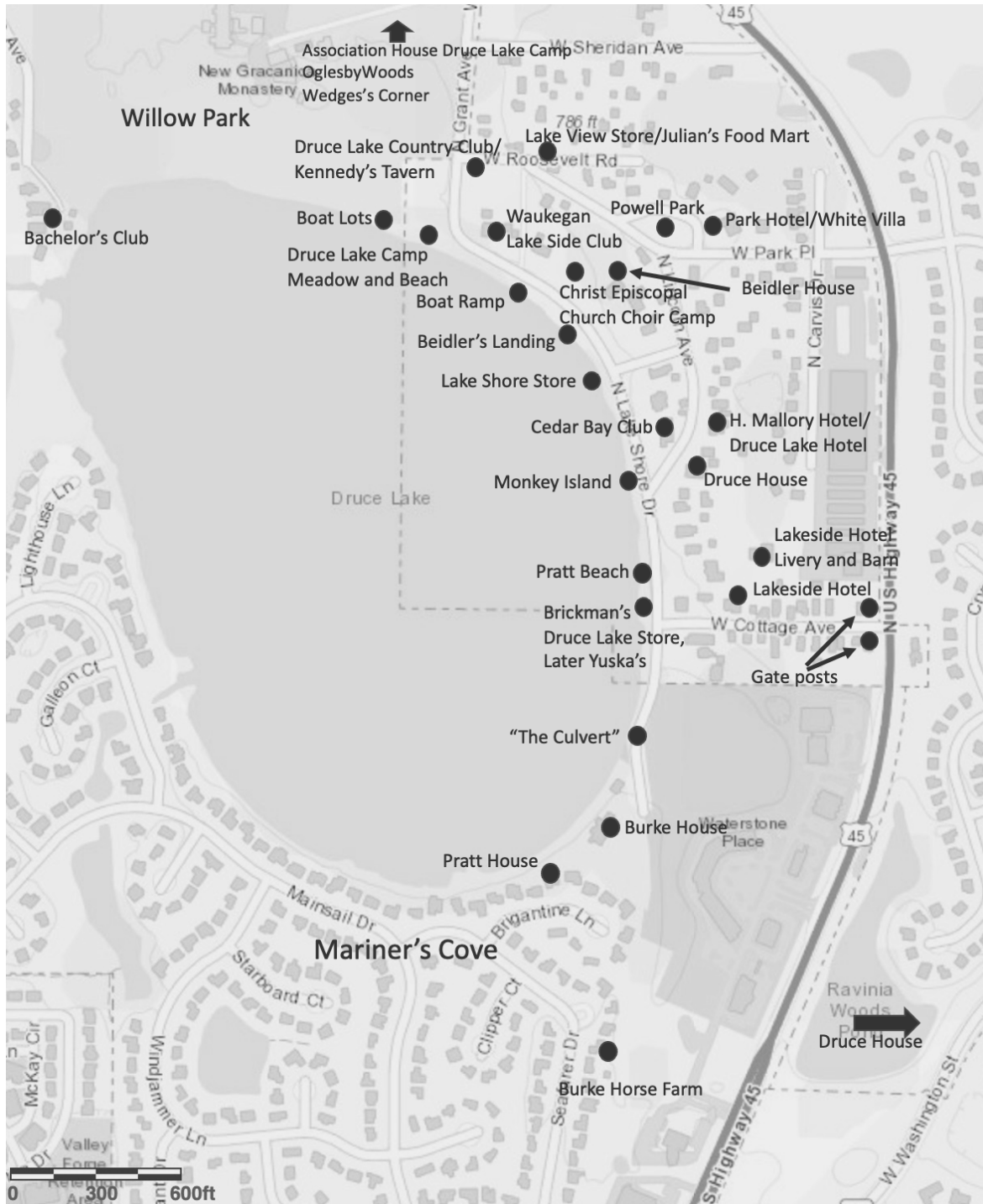
Linda and Lee Mateja, Paul Brya and Dawn Schoonhoven-Suchy



Corey & Kathy Plath, Noreen Dowdall, Ed Semrad
(All pictures courtesy of the Semrad family)

Maps

Druce Lake (the lake itself) was originally part of unincorporated Lake Villa. Most of the lake is currently part of the Village of Third Lake. Surrounding residential property is split between Village of Third Lake (most of the west side) and unincorporated Warren Township/Lake County (most of the east side). This story focuses on the neighborhoods and communities on the shores of Druce Lake. The following maps highlight the places where many of these stories took place.





Location of Oglesby Woods, Myers' property and Druce Lake Camp properties (Courtesy of Lake County, Illinois Maps Online and Knute Nadelhoffer)

In its entirety, the following article describes a one-day trip in 1908 from Waukegan to the western part of Lake County. The trip starts with a train ride from Waukegan with stops in Lake Bluff and Libertyville and ending in Grayslake where a horse and wagon is procured for a 12-mile, 60 cent

(each way) tour to see sights such as the Sears estate on Gages Lake, several of the area lakes, summer cottages of prominent Lake County residents, and meals at local establishments.

Excerpt from “A Trip to the Lakes” (*Waukegan Daily Sun*, August 24, 1908)

Note: Grammar and spelling appear as originally written.

“A lean lanky lad approaches us (at the Grayslake train depot) and asks if we desire to take the trip to the lakes. Upon an answer to the affirmative he shouts to the curly headed driver of the buss who immediately backs up his team to the station landing

With a wave of the wip and a jerk of the lines, we find that we are riding in one of Vant Woods busses enroute for Druce Lake. The old gray mare pulling the buss a horse well known to excursionists with a little persuasion soon pulls us up into the city center. We pass directly opposite the boat landing at the popular resort.

We shall not tarry long in the city center. The buss may accidentally pull up at a refreshment resort while the driver or some passenger moistens his lips, but the stop is momentary.

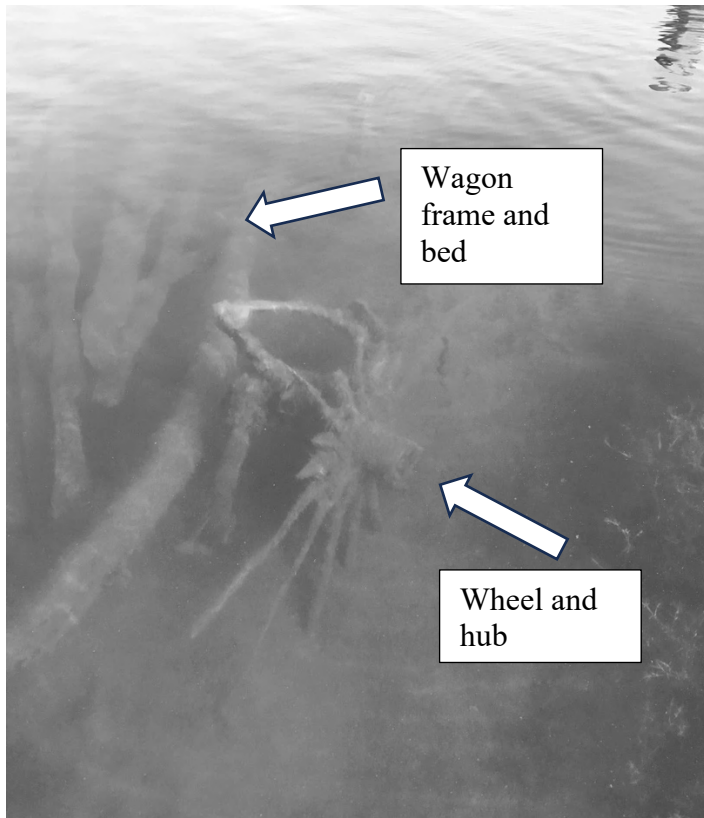
...The first hotel we see is the popular Vant Wood Lake Side Hotel, where one may obtain board and lodging for a nominal sum. The rooms at the hotel are airy and clean and the eatables are of the fresh country variety.

...We next stop at the Druce Lake Hotel. The jovial old proprietor Mr. E. W. Cuddy, of Chicago, we find standing at the entrance.

...The row boats at the near by boat landing are thrown at our disposal. We take a shore ride on the lake. We watch the choir boys in swimming. Other campers are enjoying a sail in some small boats.”

The article paints a picture of life around Druce Lake in the early 1900s – resorts, gatherings, summer outings, lake activities and small community businesses – that made the area thrive during the warm weather seasons.

Other aspects of life around the lake are less clear. One mystery that remains unsolved is the existence of a sunken wagon off the Mariner’s Cove side of Druce Lake. Knute Nadelhoffer remembers “discovering” it around 1960 while ice skating with his friends on crystal clear, smooth ice. Based on the wheel type, it’s likely from the late 1880s or early 1900s. No one today seems to know how, why, or how long it’s been there. One possibility – an ice wagon used during ice cutting season, which was a common activity on area lakes for food storage before household refrigerators were common.



2018 Sunken wagon (Courtesy of the Mateja family)

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Chapter 1: Historical Background

“The famous Treaty of Chicago (1833) brought an estimated three thousand Indians, traders, government officials, army troops, land speculators, and adventurers to the small village to witness the dramatic proceedings whereby the Potawatomi ceded the last of their Illinois and Wisconsin lands and their last reservations in Michigan. Indians began the demanded removal to land west of the Mississippi river, or fled to Wisconsin and Canada before the treaty was ratified in 1835.”
(*Encyclopedia.ChicagoHistory.org*)

The Treaty of Chicago forced Potawatomi Indians from their native lands, which enabled settlers to safely migrate west and claim the lands in and around the Chicago area through land patents. Druce Lake was one of the areas settled in the years immediately following the Treaty of Chicago.

The Lake and Its Founding Family

Alexander Druce came from New York with his wife Magdalena and settled on the south shore of Second Lake in 1842 (or 1844 according to Lakelubbers.com). He died here in April 1877, preceded by his wife in November 1850. The familial spelling of the name was de Ruse, which became Druce and later morphed to Druce.



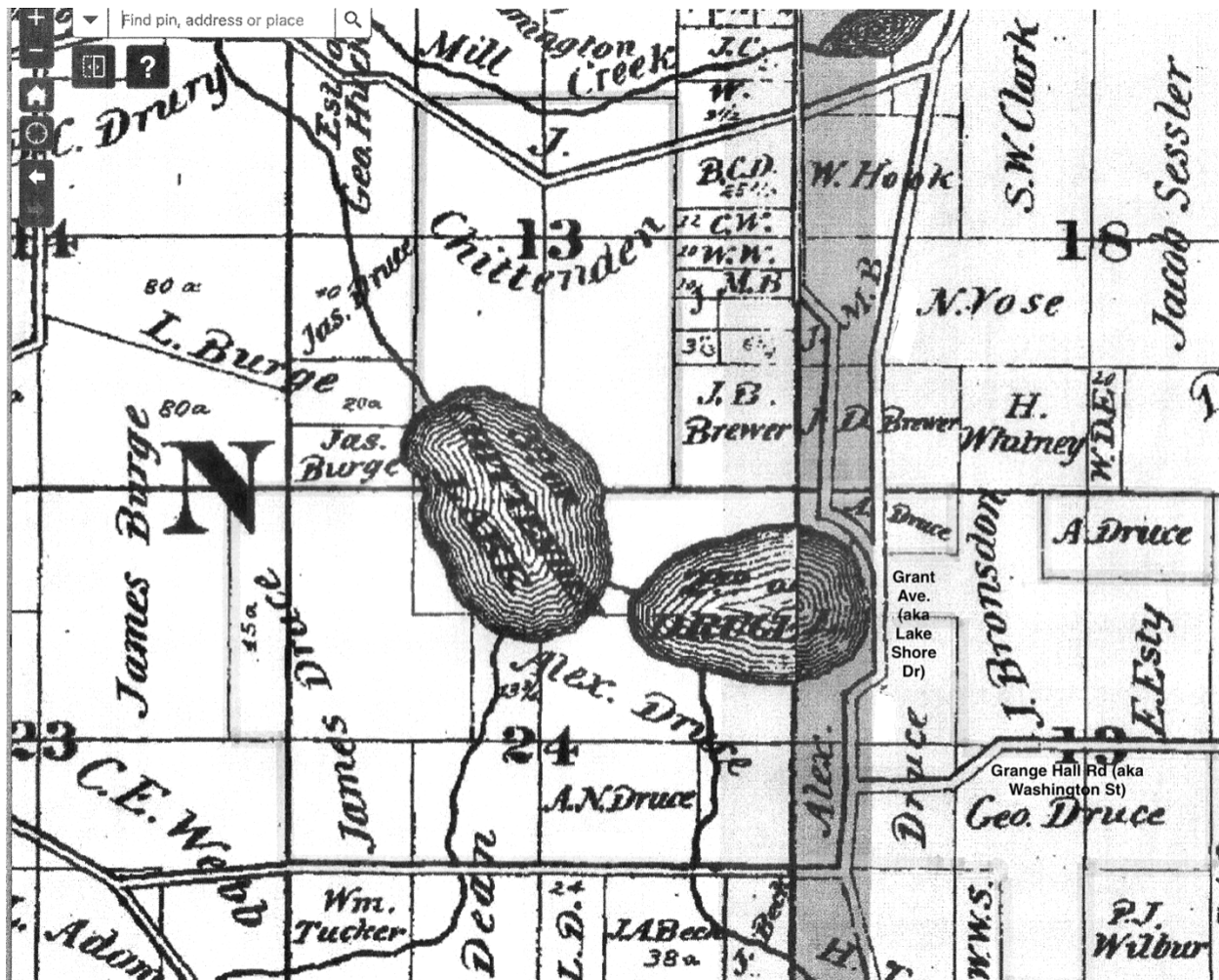
Druce Lake is named for Alexander Druce, who came from New York and settled on the south bank of the lake. On early maps, Druce Lake is often referred to as Second Lake. Part of Washington Street was once called Druce Lake Road.

(Images of America: Grayslake and Avon Township)

Alexander and his two sons, James and George, owned much of the land surrounding Second Lake as well as the lake itself and, with time, the lake became known as Druce's Lake or Druce Lake. The Druce land holdings were divided between several members of the family by 1873 and appear to have been inherited by or sold to additional children as time went on.

One of the sons, James, married Emily Chittendon. In the 1840s, the Chittendon family also held large land holdings on the north side of Chittendon Lake, renamed Third Lake in 1954.

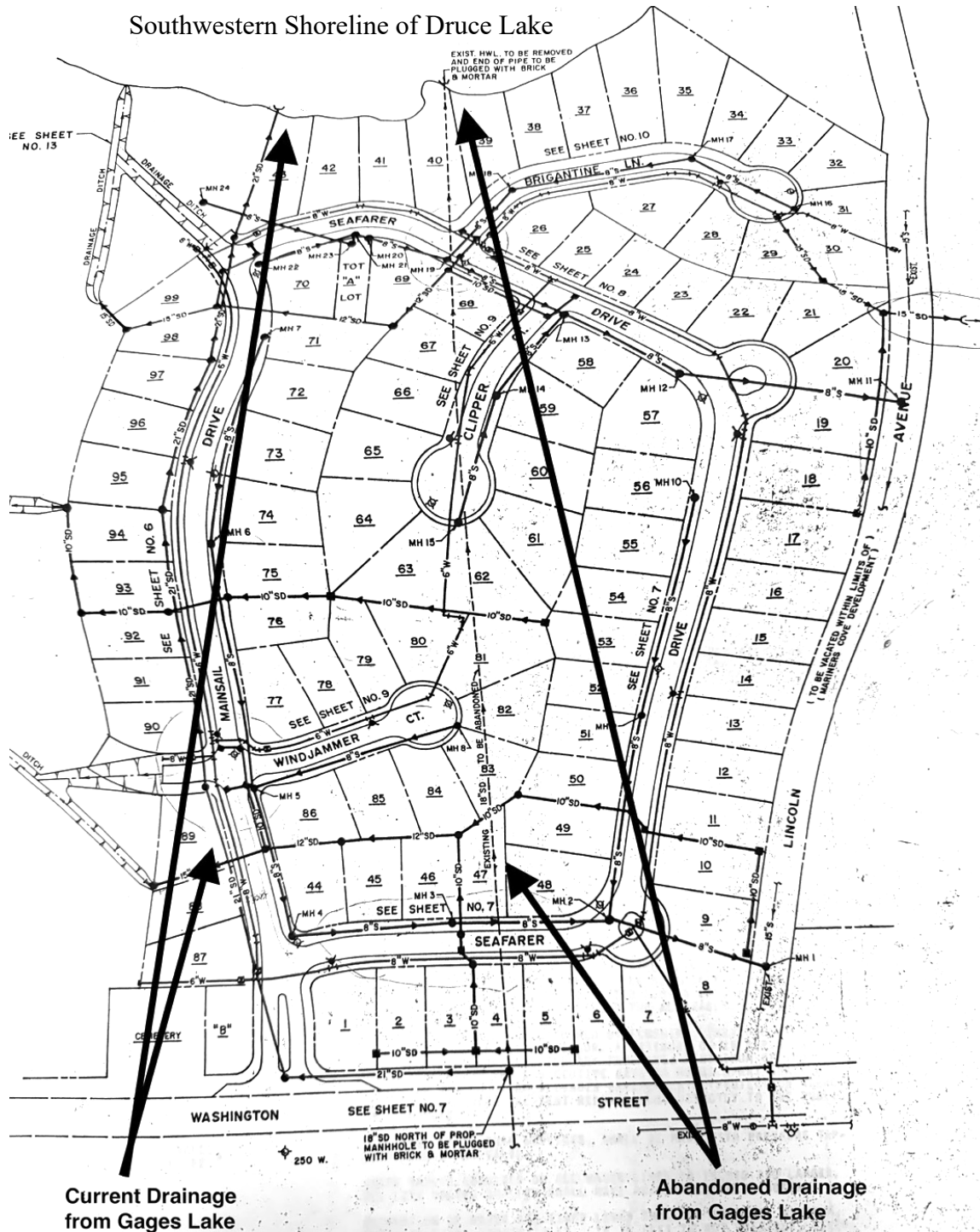
The two other lakes prominent in the immediate area are Gages Lake, originally called First Lake and renamed in honor of 1840s settlers John and George Gage, and Miltmore Lake (or Miltmore Lake). Based on historical and current plats, it appears that Miltmore Lake became divided at a narrow section on the northwest side by an island that later became a land bridge. The southeastern portion was renamed Fourth Lake.



1873 Atlas, Lake County, Illinois Maps Online

The four lakes in this area are connected, although those connections are not navigable. Water flows northwest from Gages Lake to Druce (now underground, to the east of the original connecting stream), then on to Third (via a small channel) and Fourth through a series of natural and manmade means. Those flowage areas enable aquatic life to move between the lakes as well. Catching or spearing carp around the Druce Lake drainage pipes and tossing them up onto the shore was one of the

often-recited activities by local Druce Lake residents. Apparently, at one time, there were so many carp they could catch them by hand! One year, some boys left a pile of carp on shore for a few days and returned to find the pile infested with maggots. They ran for the hills due to the smell and sight!



1979 Drainage plat from Gages Lake to Druce Lake
(Courtesy of Village of Third Lake)

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or used for commercial purposes.

Based on personal property records, it appears that several of the Druce family holdings were small farms with livestock, the latter likely used for working the land, transportation, and providing food for the Druce families. Based on Warren Township records, Alexander Druce owned 6 horses, 26 head of cattle, 100 sheep, and 8 hogs – a sizeable farm for its time. His sons, George and James Druce, had smaller holdings limited to horses and cattle.

in the

List of Taxable Personal Property in the Town of _____

Cutler, Pace & Horne.

IN WHOSE NAME ASSESSED.	HORSES.		NEAT CATTLE.		Mules and Asses.		SHEEP.		HOGS.		Value of domestic animals. Dollars.	Indeb'tness on domestic animals. Dollars.	Net Value of domestic animals. Dollars.	Carriages and Wagons.		Manufact. Clocks and Watches.
	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.				No.	Val.	
<i>2</i> Carpenter, Jas	5	285	7	44							329		329	2	20	
Clark, Cornelius	7	180	3	26			8	6	2	7	216	1	215	2	13	
Clearland, Giles	2	153	7	75					1	1	231	129	52	2	50	
Whitenden, John	4	130	3	26			8		8	13	169		169	1	12	
Druce George	4	125	4	26							187		157	1	13	
Druce James	4	115									115		115			
Doyle, George			5	45					2	2	51		51	1	3	
Dunning, Thomas	1	40	6	44					1	1	83		83	1	4	
Dunning, Robert	1	40	3	40					1	1	81		51	1	4	
Dovey, Samuel S	1	8	1	8							16		16			
Druce George A	3	130	12	121					2	3	254	93	159	1	15	2
Dondican, Patrick			9	62							62		62	1	6	
Dunham John P	5	115	22	128			17	13	4	3	261	7	254			1
Dunham Samuel P	4	183	12	89					4	3	279	23	234	2	25	1
Druce Alexander	6	190	26	153			100	75	8	11	431		431	2	30	1
Day Michael O			6	45					3	4	32		32			

1858 List of Taxable Personal Property (Warren Township Assessor's Office)

As was much of Lake County, the Druce Lake area was very rural for many years. The lake is a glacial lake that naturally filled with lily pads in the shallow areas along the shoreline and in a large shoal (referred to by locals as “the sandbar”) in the northwest part of the lake. Many businesses developed around seasonal visitors and the lake activities people were interested in. These included fishing, boating, swimming and the general enjoyment of nature. As early as 1896, fishing guidebooks referenced the excellent fishing in both Druce Lake and Third Lake.

In the mid 1800s, railroads were built and expanded in Lake County with stations located near or within easy access of the many lakes found there. The Rollins Depot (Wisconsin Central Line, located near today's intersection of Hook Road and IL 83) and the Grayslake Depot (C.M. & St. Paul Line, located in today's parking lot of Grayslake Feed Sales) were each only a few miles from Druce Lake. The railroads, in conjunction with daily buses that ran between depots and Druce Lake, provided easy access from Chicago to the resort hotels, beaches and other outdoor amusements that had been built around Druce Lake and Third Lake. By 1905, the Chicago Tribune had an entire

section of the newspaper dedicated to advertisements about summer resorts and hotels across the city and Chicagoland suburbs.



Grayslake Depot circa 1920s
Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)

As time marched on, so did development of the area. The roads known today as N. Lake Shore Drive and N. Lincoln Avenue. were the main roads leading north and south between Druce Lake Road (today's Washington Street west of US Hwy 45) and Grand Ave. (IL 132). That traffic supported a myriad of small businesses as well as summer tourists visiting Druce Lake.

By 1921, talks were underway about the construction of a road to the east that would bypass the Druce Lake businesses (what became US Hwy 45). The new plan also proposed closing that portion of N. Lake Shore Drive that ran from N. Lincoln Avenue. north to N. Grant Avenue. Year-round residents had long claimed that the public had no right to use the portion of today's N. Lake Shore Drive, considering it private property even though the public had been allowed to use that passageway for many years. The argument didn't get far and that portion of the road remains open and well used today. As a result, property owners along the lakeshore ended up with parcels split by that road (residential on one side of the road, lake frontage on the other).

Aerial maps show US Hwy 45 in place by 1939 and traffic did shift east. The addition of US Hwy 45 likely took with it some portion of the commerce that supported Druce Lake businesses, changing the character of the area significantly and reverting it to a more residential feel over time.

As the area population grew without the appropriate infrastructure to support it and farm runoff continued to flow into Druce Lake, the lake did experience a period of pollution around the 1930s. The exact date range is unknown, as are the steps taken to restore the lake to today's pristine condition. Today, water quality is monitored and managed by the Village of Third Lake.

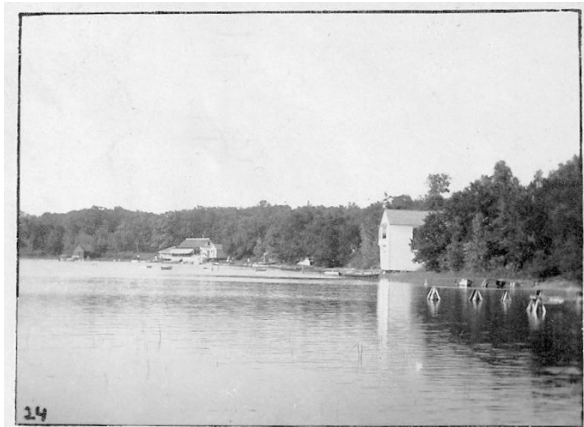


1912 N. Lake Shore Drive, looking north from W. Cottage Avenue (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)



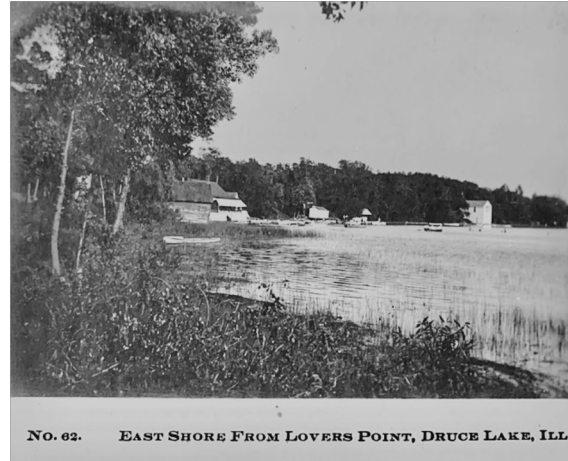
1915 Beach along Druce Lake (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)
Caption on postcard reads "Teasing Turtles at Druce Lake"

Prior to the new dam on Third Lake and the seawalls built on Druce Lake in the 1960s and 1970s, the eastern edge of Druce Lake was a narrow, sandy beach with bullrushes along the shoreline. As shown in the 1915 picture above, it was a wonderful and walkable strip of beach where kids tried to catch butterflies and searched for turtles and frogs.



No. 19. BEACH AT DRUCE LAKE HOTEL, DRUCE LAKE, ILL.

East shore of Druce Lake, date unknown (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)



No. 62. EAST SHORE FROM LOVERS POINT, DRUCE LAKE, ILL.

(Courtesy of Charlotte Renehan)

As more people gravitated to the lake, fishing expanded to boating and the lake vegetation was managed to facilitate both activities. The Druce Lake Homeowners Association held fund raisers at St. Gilbert Church in Grayslake circa the 1970s. The funds raised were used to buy chemicals to clear the weeds from the lake. The neighborhood fishing contest and fish bake were always held before the chemicals were added!

Lee Mateja, whose family owned a service station in Ivanhoe, remembers frequent requests from travelers for directions to Druce Lake in the 1950s and 1960s. The primary attractions were Willow Park (beach and picnic grounds) and Kennedy's Tavern. Traveler requests were so frequent that Lee bets there was a smudge mark by Druce Lake on the wall map they pointed to while providing those directions.

As travelers drove north, they likely saw the following sign, which was originally posted at the intersection of what is now Washington Street and US Hwy 45. For many years, it pointed the way to Druce Lake for those living around and traveling to the area.



(Courtesy of the Brya family)

In 1958, a cement dam was constructed on private property between Third Lake and Druce Lake. It has since been opened and some remnants of that dam can be seen in the channel that exists today between the two lakes. In 2023-2024, a beaver took up where man left off and was actively working to build his own version of that dam. In the fall and winter of 2023, the beaver was more successful in rebuilding than the Village of Third Lake was in tearing down. The battle of man vs. nature continues as the dam was removed in spring 2024.

Today, Druce Lake remains both an excellent fishing lake and a lake that can be enjoyed for more modern-day sports: electric motor boating, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, and swimming. There's even the occasional wind surfer and sailboat!



Aerial view of Druce Lake (left) and Third Lake (right) in the mid to late 1970s
(Courtesy of Paul Grosnik, New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery)

Chapter 2: Local Businesses and Community Centers

Druce Lake has always been a family community. Many families made their living from local businesses that supported both residents and seasonal visitors, forming a foundation for the local community. The following copy of a local newsletter, edited by John Wedge and likely from the summer of 1941, gives a peek at some of the goings on at that point in time. In it you can see the intertwining of community life and business.

**PAY 3 CENTS
NO MORE**

THE DRUCE LAKE POST

CAN YOU TAKE A HINT MOTORIST'S?

ALL MOST ALL THE ROADS ON THE LAKE HAVE SIGNS TO SLOW DOWN THE TRAFFIC. YOU ARE ASKED TO PLEASE CO-OPERATE TO MAKE WALKING SAFE FOR THE CHILDREN.

THE CHILDREN OF DRUCE LAKE GAVE A PLAY LAST SUN. AFTER-NOON. THOSE TAKING PART WERE BOBBY MEAD, BETTY WEDGE, ALICE BEBE, JEAN LUSK, AND PATSY SULLIVAN. THE PLAY WAS GIVEN IN LUTZ'S BOATHOUSE.

MRS WALLACE PAYNE OF DALLAS, TEXAS AND TOPEKA, KANS. IS THE GUEST OF MRS A. J. DONOHUE AND HER MOTHER AT THEIR DRUCE LAKE HOME. MRS PAYNE, MRS DONOHUE, AND MRS GRIMM WILL BE THE GUESTS OF MRS RUTH FAXON IN HIGHLAND PARK FOR LUNCHEON AND BRIDGE.

WE WISH TO THANK MR BREWER FOR MOWING THE PARK SO THE CHILDREN CAN PLAY BALL.

THE DRUCE LAKE ASS'N IS HAVING THEIR NEXT MEETING JULY 5TH AT YUSKA'S.

ALICE AND DOROTHY BREMER HAD THEIR TONSILS TAKEN OUT LAST MONDAY.

WEATHER REPORT
JUNE 29 DRY
JULY 1 WARM

MR WRIGHT ELLIS HAS BEEN VERY ILL ALL WINTER AND WE LEARN THAT HIS HEALTH HAS SO IMPROVED THAT HE WILL SPEND SOME TIME AT THE LAKE. WE LOOK FORWARD WITH PLEASURE TO HAVING HIM WITH US AND HOPE HIS HEALTH CONTINUES TO IMPROVE.

MR AND MRS WHITE ARE SPENDING A FEW WEEKS ON THE LAKE OCCUPING MR ELLIS'S HOUSE.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE BARTON FAMILY IN THE LOSS OF THEIR WIFE AND MOTHER AND TO THE TROUT FAMILY IN THEIR LOSS EARLY FRIDAY MORNING.

WE ARE GLAD TO SEE THAT DR HAZES IS SO IMPROVED IN HEALTH.

DANCE EVERY SAT. NIGHT AT WEDGISTORE.
EVERY ONE WELCOME
GROCERIES, MEATS, DINNERS
AND BOATS TO RENT.

WE EXTEND CONGRADUATIONS TO JOE MEAD AND JIM KENNEDY ON THEIR GRADUATIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS. WE HOPE THEIR FUTURES WILL BE VERY SUCCESSFUL.

ALSO CONGRADUATIONS TO JIM ARCHER ON HIS SECURING A LETTER.

NANCY AND JOAN HOSS SPENT A FEW DAYS WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS DR. AND MRS HAYES.

DUE TO THE COLD WEATHER OUR SWIMMING THIS WEEK HAS BEEN SPOILED.

MRS WALLACE PAYNE OF DALLAS, TEXAS AND TOPEKA, KANS. IS THE GUEST OF MRS A. J. DONOHUE AND HER MOTHER AT THEIR DRUCE LAKE HOME.

MRS PAYNE, MRS DONOHUE, AND MRS GRIMM WILL BE THE GUESTS OF MRS RUTH FAXON IN HIGHLAND PARK FOR LUNCHEON AND BRIDGE.

THE EDITORS OF THIS PAPER HAVE WORKED HARD TO COMPLETE THIS ISSUE ON TIME.

USE OUR LOST AND FOUND COLUMN FOR ALL MISPLACED.

WISECRACK - UP

AIRLINE PASSENGER:

MY HEAVENS WHAT ARE WE FLYING UPSIDE DOWN FOR?

STEWARDESS:

THINK NOTHING OF IT. I ACCIDENTILLY GOT THE UPSIDE DOWN CAKE RIGHT UP TODAY AND THE PILOT'S MAKING SURE THERE ARE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE MENU.

THIS PAPER IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

JOHN WEDGEL
CHARLES GILBERT
JEROME GILBERT
AND
BOBBY MEAD

WORST JOKE OF THE WEEK

HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT QUART AND A HALF LANDING I JUST MADE?

WHAT IS A QUART AND A HALF LANDING?

A THREE - PINTER

Newsletter courtesy of Mary Lyons

Community groups grew as the area became more populated and expanded from social to educational. Many prominent Lake County residents, whether they lived full time at Druce Lake or not, were members and leaders of these organizations. There were PTAs, women's groups, men's social organizations, and 4-H clubs all providing opportunities to socialize, educate, and support local businesses.

In the 1950s - 1970s the families living on Druce Lake were often large, which meant there were lots of kids roaming freely throughout the eastern shore area. Several of these families have remained, raising their children and their grandchildren around Druce Lake.

On area lakes that attracted seasonal visitors, small hotels and stores were common. These establishments provided lodging but also functioned as community centers, often hosting dances, weddings and other social activities.

Lakeside Hotel

William D. Vant Woud (aka Vanwood, Van't Woud, Vantwood, and Vant Wood) was a farmer, although the location of his farm is unknown. The Lakeside Hotel (also listed as Lake Side Hotel) was established by William and his wife, Clara, of Chicago circa 1897 following their purchase of the property from Nancy L. Druce, widow of George Druce, on August 29, 1896. It was located on the east side of N. Lake Shore Drive and north side of W. Cottage Avenue, up the hill and behind where Rose Kennedy Wedge's son John and wife Lois (nee Lodesky) lived in later years (34707 N. Lake Shore Drive). By 1909, it was advertised as offering excellent bathing, boating and fishing plus a livery.

The concrete stairs and steel posts that remain today across from the end of the driveway led down to the beach near the west end of W. Cottage Avenue and were used by guests to get to the lake. The hotel also had a garage and livery behind it, located roughly where 18784 W. Cottage Avenue is today. The garage doubled as a dance hall for the hotel.

On April 23, 1912, the property was auctioned off by the Lake County Sheriff for the failure of payment of outstanding mortgages made between William D. Vant Woud and Fred C. Wilbur of Grayslake, IL. The highest bidder was Fred C. Wilbur at \$6,131.82.

The hotel was initially managed by Walter Stromski. By May 1923, Charles Kennedy had taken over management of the hotel. Prohibition (1920-1933) was in its early years and in May of 1923, the hotel was raided by the "sponge squad." A small amount of liquor was found according to the May 28, 1923 Waukegan News-Sun. The presence of illegal liquor in this community and many throughout the country was not an uncommon event.

On October 19, 1923, Fred C. Wilbur and his wife, Josephine sold the property to Rose Kennedy, wife of Charles Kennedy. Since 1918 (possibly earlier), the Kennedys had been residing on the property and managing the hotel and cottages. It is believed that Charles spent most of his time in Chicago and came out on weekends, leaving much of the management to Rose.

On March 6, 1924, the Lakeside Hotel was completely destroyed by a fire. The fire also consumed an adjacent laundry and damaged an icehouse and a cottage. Twenty other cottages were saved from the fire by the actions of the Grayslake Fire Department. Rose's daughter, Bette, was told by her mother that the fire was started by a short in the electric trains that Rose's boys – and maybe their older cousins – were playing with.

The property either remained in the family or was later reacquired. Descendants of Rose and Ernie still reside on a portion of this property today.



Entrance to the Lakeside Hotel in 1910
(The Images of America, Gurnee and Warren Township)



1908 Lakeside Hotel (Bess Bower Dunn
Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)



(Courtesy of Charlotte Renehan)

Lakeside Hotel and Cottages :: :: Good Home Cooking

Good Bathing
Boating Fishing
Fine Lawns
Shade Trees and
Flowers

A Quiet, Restful
Place
Good Water, Air
and Congenial
People

Plenty of Boats Free
to Guests

Water Front, Lakeside Hotel

Pier and waterfront of the Lakeside Hotel (Warren Township Historical Society)



Lakeside Hotel waterfront (Courtesy of Charlotte Renehan)



Circa 1920. Left to Right: Charles Kennedy, baby George, young girl, Rose Kennedy (nee Florian), Mamie Sullivan (possibly worked for Charles and Rose) on the steps of the Lakeside Hotel. (Courtesy of the Brya family)



Livery at the Lakeside Hotel, circa early 1900s (Warren Township Historical Society)



Garage and dance hall of the Lakeside Hotel, circa early 1900s
(Source unknown)

Brickman's Druce Lake Store

Brickman's Druce Lake Store was located along the east shoreline of Druce Lake (west side of N. Lake Shore Drive), just north of W. Cottage Avenue. The land was originally owned by William Vant Woud and was likely acquired by Fred C. Wilbur as part of the 1912 Sheriff's auction. Lew Brickman leased the

store from Fred and managed it. The store was associated with the Lakeside Hotel (managed by Charles and Rose Kennedy), which was also leased from Fred Wilbur until 1923 when the Kennedys purchased it.

Brickman and Kennedy were often at odds with the Sheriff's department for operating a "blind pig" operation and selling illegal liquor. In January 1919, Lew Brickman was caught. He was tried, convicted, sentenced and jailed in a matter of a few hours for selling intoxicating liquor without a license in 6 separate instances. He served 120 days and paid a fine of \$300 plus costs. It was his first offense and *"he was ready to take his medicine. He paid his fine immediately and asked to be placed in the county jail immediately so that he would lose no time in getting started on the serving of his sentence. In this respect the case was one of the most unusual of the kind ever tried here."* (Libertyville Independent, January 30, 1919)

Brickman's Store was later bought and run by the Yuska family based on the memories of Bette Brya.



Brickman's Druce Lake Store
(Courtesy of Al Westerman)



Wedge family residence and driveway that led to the hotel as it appears today at the corner of W. Cottage Avenue and N. Lake Shore Drive (Courtesy of the Mateja family)



Druce Lake Subdivision Beach Access at the end of W. Cottage Avenue (Courtesy of the Mateja family)

Forest Home/Mallory Hotel/Druce Lake Hotel

Harrison H. Mallory (1838 – 1910) of Waukegan served in the 45th Illinois Infantry and the 65th Illinois Infantry (Scotch Regiment) during the Civil War. In February 1894, Harrison purchased lots 5 and 6 in Powell’s Subdivision on Druce Lake for \$300. Mallory constructed a resort hotel to be open during summer months and named it the Forest Home.

On October 1, 1897, Emily C. Ormsby Mallory, wife of Harrison Mallory, purchased an adjacent lot in the subdivision for \$550. The Mallorys used this additional land to increase the size of their hotel and provide rental cottages. The hotel property was then able to accommodate 60 guests in the dining room, hotel rooms, and cottages.

With the additions, the name of the resort business was changed from Forest Home to the Mallory Hotel. On March 17, 1901, Harrison and Emily Mallory sold the property and hotel to Edwin T. Malone and Carlos J. Ward of Oak Park, Illinois, for \$4,000. The name of the hotel was then changed to the Druce Lake Hotel. Following the sale, Harrison and Emily Mallory retired to Oklahoma and lived with their son and his family.

By 1907 it was managed by W. H. Cuddy. From 1908 through 1911, it was advertised as Cuddy’s Druce Lake Hotel, offering fine fishing, bathing and boating.

Sometime before 1958, the hotel closed and the hotel and cottages were torn down. The lots were sold and private residences were built.

Park Hotel/The White Villa

The Park Hotel is believed to have been located at 18810 W. Park Crescent on the northeast corner of Park Place and W. Park Crescent. Early ownership is unknown although several historical picture captions refer to “Van Woud’s Park Hotel” so it’s probable that it was owned for a period of time by a

member of the Van Woud family who also owned the Lakeside Hotel. It was magnificent in its day and clearly a destination spot for seasonal travelers.

The hotel passed through many hands over the years. By 1916, C. Bailey was listed as the proprietor. The Waukegan Daily Sun advertised dances, piano and violin music with tickets costing 25 cents.

By 1923, the Park Hotel was owned by Emilia Anna (Emelia, Amelia) Carvis (aka Karwowski), and she hosted the wedding of her daughter to Mr. Robert Dilger of the Waukegan Dilger's Florist there that year. By 1926, advertisements listed the proprietor as Leo S. Carvis, Emilia's son. Leo had a bright and self-confident personality. It was widely known that he would light up the room at the Park Hotel in the evenings by playing the piano and singing. Per Ted Carvis, the Carvis family owned the Park until roughly 1940.



Leo Carvis in 1932 (Courtesy of Tim Carvis)

Between 1907 and 1928, Emilia had purchased J. Bronsden's estate and turned it into N. Carvis Drive with 21 lots platted along that street. Property records show 1928 taxes at \$1.53 per lot. It's possible that these lots housed the Park Cottages referred to in advertisements.



Front view of the Park Hotel circa early 1900s (Courtesy of Ted Carvis)



Rear view of the Park Hotel circa 1920s (Courtesy of Ted Carvis)



Road to the Park Hotel (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)



Pier at the Park Hotel, probable location northwest of Beidler's Landing (Courtesy of Charlotte Renehan)



1921 Fishing contest at the Park Hotel Boat House (Courtesy of Ted Carvis)

Bill Bianco and his wife owned the property in the 1940s and 1950s. By the 1950s, the property was run as a bar and boarding house that catered to anyone needing housing or a room for a short period of time. It was quite run down and the porches had been removed. It's believed that the volume of tenants was quite low by then. Around that point in time, it had been renamed and was known as the White Villa.

Ownership of the property continued to change as the years marched on. It was sold to and run by the Smith family through the 1960s. The Nixon family ran it (ownership is unclear) until it burned down in 1970.

The Nadelhoffer, Brya, Kennedy and Wedge kids used to go into the White Villa bar room in the early 1960s to buy bottles of Glen Rock cream soda. This was "sort of treasonous" as the kids generally got treats like cokes and Slim Jims at Kennedy's Tavern or Julian's Food Mart, establishments that were either owned or worked at by family members. The White Villa was closer to Powell Park where the kids played games – convenience becoming the driving factor in their purchases.

There was a summer cottage adjoining the White Villa on the northeast corner of the property (34919 N. Lincoln Avenue) which belonged to the Lahucik family. Late one night in the early 1960s, Mr. Lahucik arrived at his summer cottage and lit a cigarette as he was walking through the back door. He didn't know there was a gas leak and was blown all the way to the back garage.

Mr. Lahucik was burned badly and staggered to the White Villa for help. Mr. Lahucik walked in the back door of the White Villa and was confused to find a completely empty bar. It took him a few minutes to realize that while he was staggering to the back door, everyone else was rushing out the front door to see what the explosion was.

When the Sanders family woke up the following morning, they were 'blown away' (pun intended) to realize that the Lahucik cottage was gone. They didn't hear a thing.

On a May night in 1970, John Sanders remembers waking up and wondering why there was a yellowish light dancing on the walls of his bedroom. John grabbed his camera and ran outside.

Earlier in the evening, Joe Jones had had a fight with his wife. He decided to get a room at the White Villa, a few doors down from the Sanders' home, to let things cool down between them. When he realized the building was on fire, he rose to the occasion and helped several people out of the building, suffering burns on his feet in doing so. One woman was pronounced dead at the scene. A second man, rescued by Joe, later died at a Milwaukee hospital. Joe was told by the nurse that the man didn't die from his burns...he died from alcohol poisoning.



1955: Virginia Sanders-Hammer in front of the White Villa (Courtesy of the Sanders family)



1970 White Villa fire (Courtesy of the Sanders family)

The Lake Shore Store

Rose and Ernie Wedge began running the Lake Shore Store, located on the lake lot that is now 34851 N. Lake Shore Drive, where Pleasant Place meets N. Lake Shore Drive. The store offered boat rentals, gas pumps, ice cream, and an assortment of groceries/sundries. It burned down by the early to mid 1930s and was not rebuilt. If you look closely along the lake shore today, you can still see the concrete footings from this store.

Following the fire, Rose and Ernie operated gas pumps and a store on the lakefront lot at the end of N. Lincoln Avenue in the mid to late 1930s. It's unknown how long they ran this store.



Rose and Ernie Wedge's Lake Shore Store at N. Lincoln Avenue (roadside view), circa 1930s
(Courtesy of Eleanor and Patsy Young)



Rose and Ernie Wedge's Lake Shore Store at N. Lincoln Avenue (lakeside view), circa 1930s
(Source Unknown)

Druce Lake Country Club

The Druce Lake Country Club was located at 34989-34999 N. Lake Shore Drive. Based on a Waukegan News-Sun article dated November 3, 1916, we know the following about the property's early history:

"The Druce's Lake Country Club. That's the name of a new club organized at Druce's Lake which has already started work on a beautiful country club house, which is to be erected on the road leading to Druce Lake from the north. A cottage 50 by 40 feet is being erected just north of the old Lake Side cottage, in fact, on the spot where the barn for said cottage used to stand. This cottage will have a floor space of 40 by 40 feet and certain parts of it will be retained for a kitchen and in one end a stage will also be erected.

The plan of the country club is to have entertainments, dances, etc., and their expenditure will represent between \$3,000 and \$3,500.

The lot is 60 by 200 feet and was bought from Mr. Harper and the Bairstow estate, who own the whole Lake Side property.

The foundation is already in, the contractors for the foundation being Chisem and Algom. The contract for the remaining work has not yet been let, but the plans are to push the work through as fast as possible. The erection of a country club of this kind at Druce's Lake will be a big thing for the hustling little community, which during the past year or so has demonstrated that though they are in the country, they have a great deal of civic pride.

The way they have improved things about Druce's Lake shows that they are feeling an interest in their community welfare and this, their latest move, will surely be a big thing for their property along the lake."

It's unclear if the property was owned by an individual or group, but local residents did have some involvement in it as evidenced by this short article in the July 6, 1917 Daily Sun (Waukegan):

The Druce Lake Country Club held its annual meeting Saturday evening and elected the following officers:

- *President – W. T. McCanley*
- *Vice President – R. C. Harper*
- *Treasurer – W. E. Pratt*
- *Secretary – H. C. Chisholm*
- *Directors – D. W. Ellis, Charles Hollenbach, R. A. Brunson, F. H. King, W. K. Reese.*

Once up and operating, the Druce Lake Country Club became a community meeting place with a wide variety of organizations holding meetings, dances, benefits, etc. there through the 1930s. Not unusual for the time period, it was also rumored to be a speakeasy.

As a community gathering place, it was a site that local police were called to at times to "maintain order." This Lake County Register article dated August 23, 1922 provides some insight into the goings on in and around the Druce Lake Country Club at that time. Seems like the Roaring 20s were roaring here as well.

"One of the most daring holdups perpetrated in Lake County recently was staged in the little store of Leo Riley at Druce's Lake Sunday night, while two deputies from the Sheriff's office were maintaining order at the Druce Lake Country Club not 500 feet away.

Mr. Riley had left his store to go to his home at the end of the lake for a few moments. His wife remained at the store to count the proceeds of the day's business. She counted out receipts of over \$30 and was just turning to lock up the store after turning out the lights, when a revolver was thrust into her side and a man's voice commanded her to "hand over the money."

Believing the man to be in fun, Mrs. Riley started to light a match when the man grabbed her roughly by the arm, put out the match, and seized her by the shoulder, still holding the gun at her side.

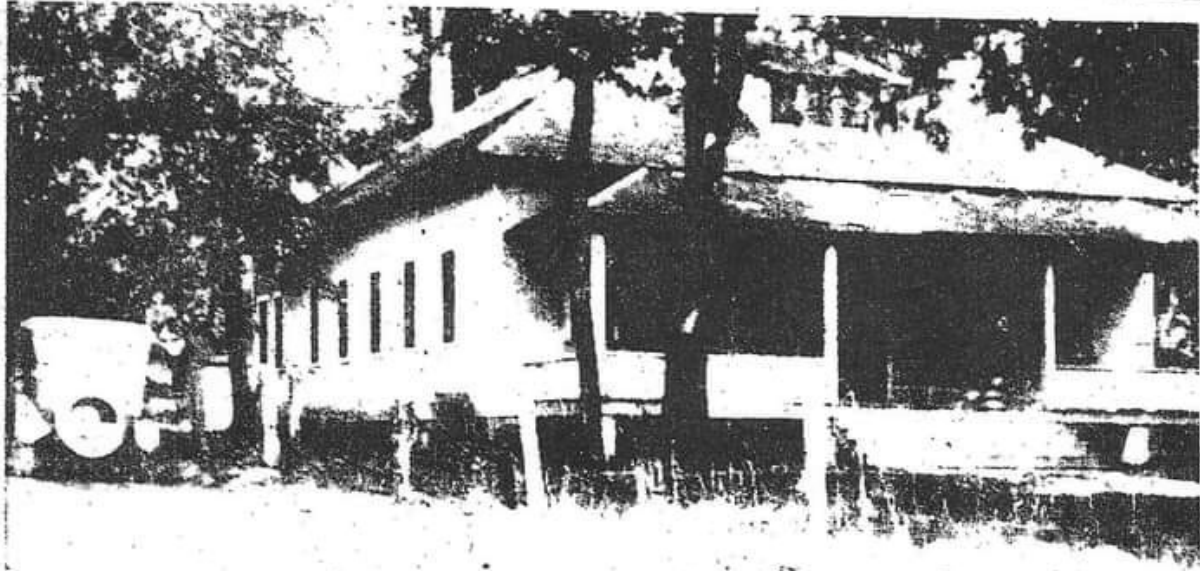
Mrs. Riley immediately handed over a small bag containing some change, but the man was not satisfied and demanded the bills. She gave him everything. He tore open her waist to see if she had more money concealed about her clothes. Then he dashed out of the door into a waiting Ford touring car and drove madly down the road. He passed the club where Deputies Gray and Doolittle were stationed.

Mrs. Riley called her husband who immediately called Sheriff Green at Waukegan. Gray and Doolittle were notified and started on the chase, but no trace of the hold-up man could be found."

Sometime following the fire that destroyed the first Lake Shore Store, Ernie and Rose Wedge purchased the Druce Lake Country Club. That enabled them to move from Wedge's Corners, with their four children, George (Kennedy), Jim (Kennedy), John (Wedge), and Betty (Wedge), to several back rooms and the upper story of the building.



(Courtesy of Brya family)



1917—This was the Druce Lake Country Club when it was erected in 1917. Building is now called Kennedy's Tavern. Operated by Jack McKee of Third Lake, Kennedy's has changed its personality several times in its long history.

1917 Druce Lake Country Club (Courtesy of Sue Cox/Gages Lake History Buffs and Tony Marsala/Chain of Lakes History Group)

E. Wedge's Store and Tavern

Rose and Ernie Wedge lived on the Druce Lake Country Club property and ran the business as a grocery store and gas station (E. Wedge's Store). Despite Rose's strong feelings against alcohol consumption, it also had a bar. Neighborhood bars were often the community gathering places and this business was no exception. The availability of ice cream made it "family friendly." There are wonderful stories told about kids playing around the pool table and running around the store.

Business was good in summers, fueled by the majority of visitors who came from Chicago and surrounding areas to Druce Lake for the lake activities. Business was scarce in the winters, so much so that they closed up for two winters in the late 1930s and spent that time with son John and daughter Bette near Clearwater Florida in hopes of improving John's health. Rose's older sons, George and Jim Kennedy stayed in Illinois. George worked locally while Jim was still in high school and lived with the Warren High School principal's family in Gurnee while his parents were in Florida.



Wedge's Store & Tavern, 1930s
(Courtesy of the Semrad family)

Kennedy's Tavern

When George and Jim Kennedy returned from WWII in 1946, they turned Wedge's Store and Tavern into a bar and nightclub, renamed it Kennedy's Tavern and upgraded with a rebuilt bar. Their younger brother, John, was the chief cook and Bette Nadelhoffer Brya (nee Wedge) waited tables. Jim and his wife, Hunna, lived in a house on what is today 34931 N. Lake Shore Drive, immediately south of the store.



Kim Brya-Sadauskas and cousins Mark and Sam Kennedy and their half-sister Rocky, believed to be taken in front of Jim Kennedy's house on the N. Lake Shore Drive curve.
(Courtesy of the Brya family)



Interior of Kennedy's circa 1948
(Courtesy of the Wedge family)

Kennedy's was a popular place with locals as well as tourists. There was a performance stage behind the bar with live music, most likely on the weekends. Bette's son, Paul, remembers playing with the microphones and banging on the piano as a kid. Many of the family's kids would play at Kennedy's during the day (when the nightclub was closed) in the big red leather dining booths that lined the outer walls. At one point in time, there was an outhouse in the back.

In the spirit of the former Druce Lake Country Club speakeasy, they had a back room for poker games (hidden!). The slot machines were removed in the late 1950s with the election of a new Lake County Sheriff and tightening of the enforcement of gambling laws. Knute Nadelhoffer remembers long lines of customer cars parked nearly all the way out to US Hwy 45 on weekends, so it was a busy place.



Kennedy's Tavern: Ernie Wedge and Jim Kennedy circa late 1930s-early 1940s
(Courtesy of the Brya family)



Circa 1946: John Wedge, George Kennedy, Jim Kennedy, Hunna Bliss Kennedy (Jim's wife),
Rose Florian Kennedy Wedge, Betty Wedge Nadelhoffer Brya
(Courtesy of the Brya family)

Kennedy's closed about 1960 as a bar/nightclub when Jim Kennedy and his family moved to New Mexico. George Kennedy then ran it as a neighborhood bar. It was a small business and didn't provide much of a living at that time... just enough to get by.

That all changed in the late 1960s when the College of Lake County was built on Washington Street. Kennedy's became a student hangout and the business started turning a good profit. Kennedy's provided employment for some of the local kids. Almost all the Wedge, Nadelhoffer and Brya boys worked there at one point or another cleaning the bottle chutes, washing floors, unloading beer trucks, and doing whatever else Uncle George needed. They were paid in cash and Uncle George was generous, so it was a great place to work – especially since not many questions were asked about a few beers that went “missing” now and then.

Eventually, George sold Kennedy's to Sam and Ed (last names unknow). They subsequently sold it to Bill Gregory, who unfortunately ran the building and business into the ground. In 1980, Kennedy's attempted to annex into the Village of Third Lake but was denied (reason unknown). Now nothing remains but an empty lot and many fond memories for the kids who hung around there in the 1950s-60s of the slot machines and cool basement used to store apples and liquor. .

Julian's Food Mart

Shortly after the Korean War in which her husband and naval aviator, John D. “Jack” Nadelhoffer, was tragically killed in January 1952, Bette Nadelhoffer Brya and two of her children, Knute and Jack (named after his dad and born a month after he was killed in action), lived across the street northeast from Kennedy's in a two-story house with wrap around porch known as “The Big House” that was attached to a small country store (18954 W. Roosevelt Road). It was owned by her mother, Rose Wedge. Rose also owned a smaller house (“The Little House”) on the same property (now 35021 N. Grant Avenue) that she lived in during the 1960-1970s.

Bette and the kids remained there until 1954-55 when she moved to her current residence on the south end of Druce Lake and married George Brya in 1956.



2023: the abandoned Big House/Julian's Food Mart
(Courtesy of the Mateja family)

After Bette moved, Rose Wedge rented out the house and store to Oscar and Anita “Tiny” Julian, who continued to operate it as a food mart. Today, the restored sign from Julian’s Food Mart can be found in John and Carrie Sanders’ yard.

Oscar was very nice to all the neighborhood kids. He would let the kids come into the store in the wintertime to sit on the cooler and read “Archie and Jughead” comic books and just hang out. He was also a skilled coin collector, and many of the kids consulted with Oscar to manage their own coin collections. Tiny and Oscar had a great deal of patience with and tolerance for local kids. They would hang out on the store porch for hours, pitching pennies on the sidewalk and spinning yarns.

As you entered the store, the cash register was directly in front of you. To the right of the cash register was a large display case with curved glass. Behind that glass were rows and rows of penny candy – another big attraction for local kids.

Oscar sold sling shots once a year, likely in the springtime. All the kids would buy slingshots at Julian’s and then head to “Monkey Island” where the fun really started!

In the late 1920s or early 1930s, it’s possible that Julian’s Food Mart was the Lake View Store run by Leo Carvis, who also managed the Park Hotel. Little is known about the establishment during that time. It’s also possible that it was Leo Riley’s store in the 1920s.



Tiny and Oscar Julian
(Courtesy of the Sanders family)



Julian’s Food Mart sign, restored in 2022 by John Sanders
(Courtesy of the Sanders family)

BOLOGNA	59
HAM	180
HARD SALAMI	169
SOFT SUMMER	109
BEER SAUSAGE	89
FAMILY LOAF	109
LIVER SAUSAGE	89
MINCED HAM	109
CORNER BEEF	79
LUXURY LOAF	109
AMERICAN CHEESE	50
WISCONSIN BRICK	99
WISCONSIN LONGHORN	69

This sign was at Julian's store.
 (Courtesy of the Sanders family)

Chapter 3: Gathering Places

“In our last we spoke briefly of a Harvest Home Pic-Nic, which our farmers and others of the County should get up. Since then, we have conversed with many on the subject, as to time and place, and the impression seems general that one must be had. The place designated is Druce’s Lake, a mile or so north of John Gages where plenty of good shade and water can be had, and Tuesday, September 18th pitched upon as the time.” (Waukegan Weekly Gazette, August 25, 1860)

As early as the 1860s, Druce Lake was a favorite place to gather. There were several camps and clubs dating back to at least 1877 and still in existence through the 1960s. By 1905, there were annual “yacht races” held on the lake as described in the July 17 edition of the Waukegan News-Sun.

“Sunday at Druce’s Lake was held another, the second yacht race of the season, the Navajo again winning the honors by defeating the strong Emma B., which, in past years has seemed to hold the supremacy of the lakes thereabouts.

The Navajo made the course first which consisted of three legs. The B. was second while the Wachespa was third.

A large crowd saw the race which was close from start to finish and in which some good seamanship was displayed in each boat.”

Cottages and Beaches

Cottages and beaches were the draw for those wanting to get away from the city life in the summer months. Many cottages, either privately owned or leased as rental properties, were found in and around Druce Lake and often named after current or past owners: Bullwinkle Cottage, Harper Cottage, Pee Wee Cottage, etc. Exact locations of most are not known but the memories of time spent at the lake remain through photos and stories.



Beach probably near Pleasant Place and N. Lake Shore Drive (Images of America: Gurnee and Warren Township)



Summer afternoon at Druce Lake (Courtesy of Charlotte Renehan)



Circa 1910 (Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Lake County Forest Preserves)



1907 Toyama Tea House in Druce Lake (Chain of Lakes History Group, Tony Marsala)

Burke Properties

By 1954, some of the original land holdings of Alexander Druse and his family had been acquired by the Burke family and turned into a thoroughbred horse farm. All the neighborhood kids loved feeding grass and apples to the horses and remember some horses wading into the lake at times. The biggest thrill was trying to catch the horses and ride them. As kids will, it's try, try, and try again. To this day, none are admitting that they actually caught a horse and got a ride.



1962 Kim Brya watching Burke thoroughbreds (Courtesy of Kim Brya Sadauskas)

The pasture in the above photo was an informal playground for neighborhood kids in the 50s and 60s. If the horses weren't there (or sometimes even if they were), they would use it for flying kites, catching garter snakes, shooting bows and arrows, flying model planes, etc. They even once made a makeshift ballpark with home plate at the northeast corner where the Goddard pre-school is now located. Fortunately, the Burkes never seemed to mind the kids' use of that pasture.

The portion of the property east of the Burke's residence also contained a marsh, which would freeze in the winter. The middle of the marsh was used as a skating pond and makeshift hockey rink. Knute Nadelhoffer remembers having great fun checking an opposing player into the cattail "wall" surrounding the hockey "rink."

A small spring that still exists east of the marsh feeds both the wetland and Druce Lake through a culvert under N. Lake Shore Drive. It's unclear if the spring is natural or part of drainage tile that drains from the east side of US Hwy 45. Water moving through that culvert is like a "kid magnet" and there are many great memories, especially from the Sanders family, about time spent there. The kids would find any stick, leaf, flower or weed to send through the culvert and run to see it come out the other side. If the object didn't show up lakeside, that called for a bigger object to be sent through. In a kid's logic, "bigger" fixes any problem and it usually did!

Today, John and Carrie Sanders bring their grandkids for walks to the same spot to "float boats" and watch the blue herons and egrets that fish there for minnows. Local fishermen also find that a favorite spot for bait, especially in our "100 year" rainstorms and floods, when the wetlands have been known to overflow, creating a creek across N. Lake Shore Drive directly to Druce Lake.



"The culvert" (Courtesy of the Mateja family)

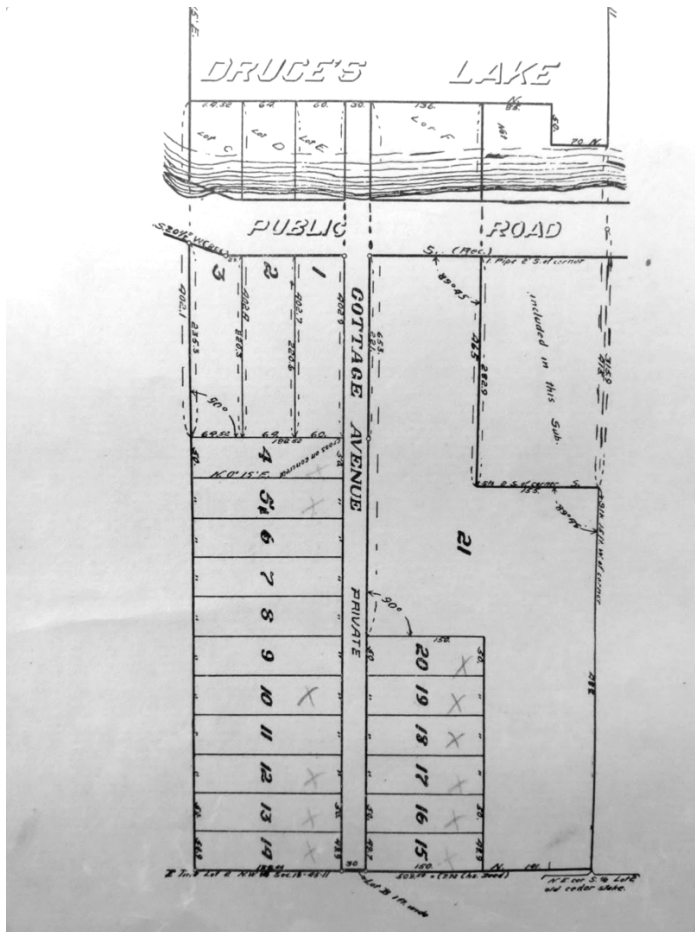


(Courtesy of the Sanders family)

One of the Burke daughters, Mary Anne, grew up and became a 5th grade teacher for 34 years at Woodland Elementary School. Although neighborhood kids were seldom invited inside the house, they fondly remember Mrs. Conlin (nee Burke) inviting them over for 5th grade field trips and picnics on her parents' property.

W. Cottage Avenue

Alexander Druse received his land patent in 1844 and retained that land until 1914. The following plat shows the original W. Cottage Avenue community which started as vacant land between the current US Hwy 45 and Druce Lake. It was subdivided into residential parcels with W. Cottage Avenue down the middle.



1914 W. Cottage Avenue Plat (Courtesy of Sue Winkowski)

W. Cottage Avenue likely got its name from the development vision of many seasonal and rental cottages to be built on this land. In years to come, there were many families who lived in and around the city of Chicago that would vacation here and other families who lived in the immediate Druce Lake area and owned rental cottages on and around the lake:

- The Normile family. They owned a home at 34845 N. Lake Shore Drive plus several cottages on W. Cottage Avenue.
- Archer family. Williamina and David Archer plus their extended family (James H. Archer, Jr., sister Grace McKechnie, and Harry/Elsie Sparks) owned four cottages on W. Cottage Avenue.
- A Kennedy family, possibly related through Charles Kenney's first marriage owned property on W. Cottage Avenue.

Ken Normile provided this description based on a discussion with his brother:

"He said the first house of W. Cottage Ave was Kennedy's and he played with a Kennedy kid. Next door was David Archer and across the street and down one was his father. Down further were two other families of ours. I heard from someone who told of coming through the Kennedy entrance and past a horse to pay to get into that private beach. My brother is 9 years older and remembers much more than I do. His first time driving, he told us today, was when Mr. Young let him drive a block to that little park."

W. Cottage Avenue was little more than a path from the lake to the cottages for foot and light car traffic. A private road was created when every homeowner along the path donated 15 feet of frontage to create a 30-foot-wide road.

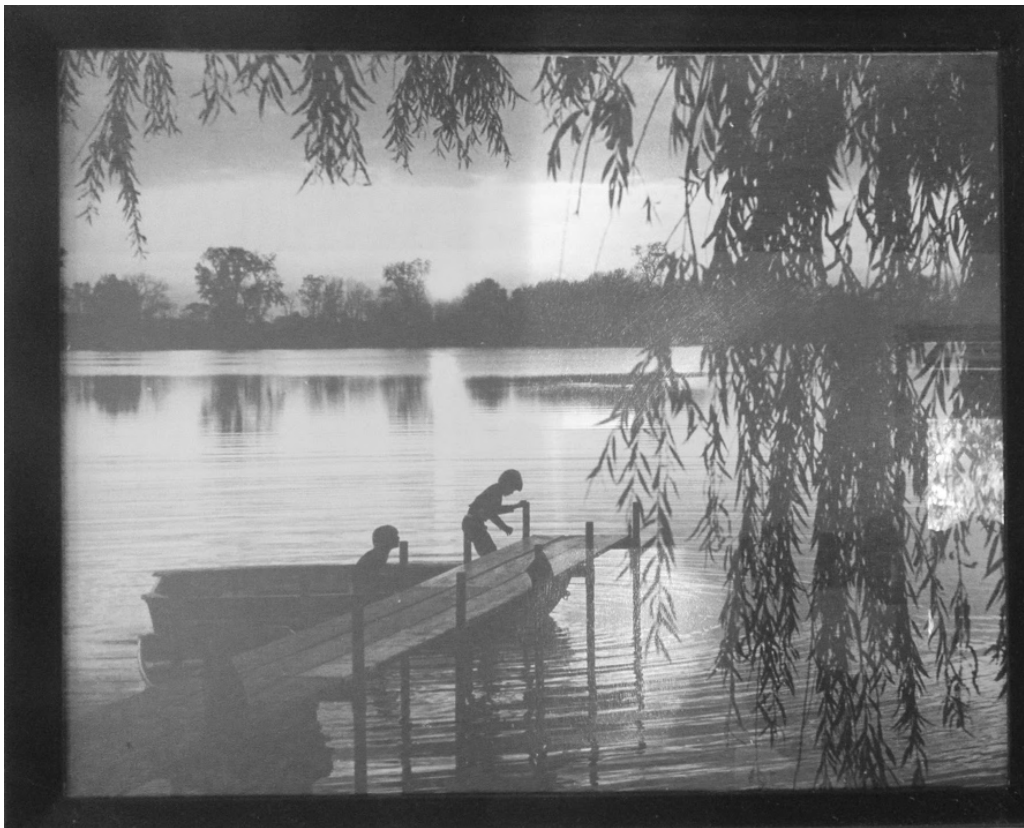
As late as the 1970s, the road was closed off with a gate for 6 months of the year to allow the children to play safely in the street. May 1st there was a big neighborhood picnic to close the road, and October 1st another neighborhood celebration to reopen the road. In the late 1980s, Warren Township agreed to take responsibility for the road and the gate was removed. Today at the corner of US Hwy 45 and W. Cottage Avenue, the two metal posts that once held the gate with 8 locks are still visible. It's rumored, but not confirmed, that Augie Meyer, the local garbage collector, may have been responsible for hitting and bending the north pole.



W. Cottage Avenue looking east (Courtesy of Ken and John Normile)



W. Cottage Avenue looking west toward Druce Lake (Courtesy of Ken and John Normile)



Michael Kolar and Randy Bork playing at Wedge's pier at the end of W. Cottage Avenue (Courtesy of Sue Winkowski)

William Pratt Bathing Beach

The exact location of the Pratt bathing beach is unknown but, based on the information in the following flier, it likely was the small public beach at the foot of W. Cottage Avenue Fourth of July and Labor Day events were held there into the mid 1960s.

W I L L I A M P R A T T
B A T H I N G B E A C H
D R U C E L A K E

will be dedicated to the members, their relatives and friends,
At 10 O'CLOCK, FOURTH OF JULY MORNING.

***** BE SURE AND BE THERE! *****

LOCATION: Directly in front of Sovereign Carvas' home just north
of Yuska Store.

After the dedication, we will celebrate and food will be avail-
able from 11:30 until 8:30 at night, when the fire-works display
will start.

***** PROGRAM *****

- 10:00 - Music and parade.
- 10:15 - Dedication ceremonies.
- 11:00 - Aquado display by our girls and boys.
- 11:30 - Sandwiches and coffee.
- 1:00 to 5:00 - Beach is officially open and celebration
will continue.

***** EVENING *****

Fourth of July Celebration.

If you think we are not going to have a real beach for our kids, members,
relatives and friends on this lake, I say, go down to the beach and see
what we are doing. I guarantee you that by 10 O'CLOCK, FOURTH OF JULY
MORNING, we will have a beach second to none on any of the lakes around
here.

Bear in mind, this beach belongs to the people on DRUCE LAKE and is to
be used anytime by themselves, relatives or friends.

DRUCE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SAM B. LUTZ

Chairman of Beach and Roads Committee

BEACH AND ROADS COMMITTEE
Raymond Todd
J. Yuska
Eric Franklin
Sam B. Lutz

Newsletter courtesy of Mary Lyons

Monkey Island

“Monkey Island” was the name of the small strip of land on the lakeside corner of N. Lincoln Avenue and N. Lake Shore Drive. There was a huge oak tree on the lake shore that was perfect for climbing and all the kids would head there to play. It was by far their favorite climbing tree with a rope tied high up by an unknown fearless and skilled tree climber. Someone joked that the monkeys were playing in the tree and the name Monkey Island came to be.

Monkeys – and kids – are known for mischief. The kids of Druce Lake were no exception. When Oscar Julian (Julian’s Food Mart) got his annual shipment of slingshots, the kids would buy him out in no time and head to Monkey Island. They would swing out over the lake on a rope tied to the oak tree and try not to get “shot.” Since the lake is so shallow near shore, dropping off the rope was not an option. Parents reading this are likely very glad that the tree, the store, and the slingshots are things of the past!

Monkey Island adjoined property owned by Mrs. Juanita Druce who was famous in the area for her butler, Mr. T., and her deliveries from Hawthorn Melody containing milk (in a glass bottle), orange juice, and big cakes that came every few weeks. The temptation was simply too great, and one delivery “disappeared.” It “reappeared” at Monkey Island as the contraband of several of the neighborhood kids, names omitted to protect the guilty.

The oak tree died around 1976 when the root system was severed during sewer installation along N. Lake Shore Drive. The sewer installation also spurred interest in the lakefront property along the east shore of Druce Lake and several local politicians began buying parcels for personal use and investment.



Oak tree on Monkey Island as seen from the Druce house in 1980 (Warren Township Assessor’s Office)



Land above Monkey Island in 2023 (Courtesy of the Mateja family)

The Chicago Cedar Bay Clubhouse

The Chicago Cedar Bay Club of Chicago was created as a Chicago-based corporation in August 1890 for “social enjoyment and for social purposes” by Henry Jensen, F. C. Irwin, F. V. Voorhees, Elmer C. Jensen, W. W. DeVol, W. H. Powell, and P. V. Troup. It appears that an annual report for the corporation was never filed. The State of Illinois started dissolution proceedings in 1902 and the corporation was officially dissolved in April 1920.

The Club’s summer clubhouse was located on Lots 2, 3, and 4 of Powell Subdivision (34819 and 34845 N. Lake Shore Drive) plus a portion of the point of land at N. Lincoln Avenue and N. Lake Shore Drive from 1890 to 1914. The land for the clubhouse was bought from John Powell and his wife. Officers of the club named in the title report were Charles Smale, Perry Lee Voorhees, and P. V. Troop.

“The formal opening and housewarming of the Chicago Cedar Bay clubhouse, at Druce Lake, ILL., took place July 3 (1891), at which time the club entertained about seventy-five persons, principally from Chicago. The following have been guests of the club for the last week: Mrs. A. Ghislin, Mrs. J. C. Snow, Mr. and Mrs. R. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. William Irwin, W. V. Ghislin, G. H. Powell, R. C. Snow, James Voorhees, Miss L. Brunton, Miss E. Vorhees, Miss C. Dryer.” (Chicago Tribune, July 12, 1891)

The club was likely not an “open to the public” establishment as evidenced by periodic announcements of openings. According to a July 6, 1902 article in the Chicago, Tribune, “*The Chicago Cedar Bay clubhouse will be opened on Friday by a party of fifteen.*” Later Chicago Tribune articles talk of dancing parties and other informal affairs. The names Ghislin (Park Ridge), Powell, Vorhees appear frequently.

The obituary of Charles Smale’s wife mentions that the family had a cottage at Druce Lake where she and her children spent summers. It’s possible that this cottage could also have been on the same property.

When the Semrad family bought 34819 N. Lake Shore Drive in 2004, it was rumored that the house had originally been a hunting club and research has validated that. The left 1/3 of the house, including the 2nd story and fireplace, formed the original building. In later years, additions to the right, back, and 2nd story were made.



34819 N. Lake Shore Drive in 2024 (Courtesy of the Mateja family)

State of Illinois,
Cook COUNTY.

1st 6/16/90
2nd 8/21/90

To Isaac A. Pearson
~~Isaac A. Pearson~~, Secretary of State:

We the Undersigned, Henry W. Jensen, F. C. Brown, F. V. Voorhees, Elmer C. Jensen, W. W. De Vol, W. B. Powell, and B. V. Troup.

Citizens of the United States, propose to form a Corporation under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled, "An Act concerning Corporations," approved April 18th, 1872, and all acts amendatory thereof, and that for the purposes of such organization we hereby state as follows, to-wit:

1. The name of such Corporation is the Chicago Cedar Bay Club of Chicago.
2. The object for which it is formed is for social enjoyment and for social purposes.

3. The management of the aforesaid Chicago Cedar Bay Club shall be vested in a Board of Three Directors, who are to be elected annually First Monday in May of each year.

4. The following persons are hereby selected as the Directors to control and manage said Corporation for the first year of its corporate existence, viz: Henry W. Jensen, W. W. De Vol and J. M. Pashley.

5. The location is in Chicago in the County of Cook State of Illinois.

Signed:

Henry W. Jensen,
F. C. Brown
F. V. Voorhees
Elmer C. Jensen,
W. W. De Vol
W. B. Powell
B. V. Troup

(Courtesy of the Semrad family)

Druce Lake Boat Ramp

The easiest access to the lake was via the boat ramp, still in use today and located at the end of Lake Street for use by subdivision residents only. It is not open to the general public. The ramp remains a hub of boating activity in the fall and spring.

In 2022, a clean-up day was held. Potholes were filled, gravel was spread, and a new sign marking the Powell and Morgan Subdivisions Boat Ramp was erected. Lots of sunken treasure in the form of abandoned boats was removed as part of the clean-up. Today, it's standing tall as it has in years past.



2022 clean-up day at the boat ramp at the end of Lake Street. (All courtesy of the Sanders family)



2004 Lyons-Warren Beach and Home (Courtesy of the Sanders family)

Powell Park

Powell Park and subdivision were named after John F. Powell, who was the mayor of Waukegan in 1881 and again from 1886-1887. As did many wealthy people from Waukegan, he owned land in the Druce Lake area.

“The Park,” as it was known, was a popular gathering place for all residents of the adjoining subdivisions in the 1950s and 1960s. There they held Memorial Day and Labor Day parties as well as neighborhood baseball games and any other activity the local kids could dream up.

The holiday parties were like mini carnivals. Tom Sanders, Tom Young, and Pete Schoonhoven would go into Schoonhoven’s barn to get out the wooden folding chairs and the bottle toss stand for one of the games. Dawn Schoonhoven-Suchy said there are still wooden folding chairs in the barn that were used at these parties. In fact, they were used in 2024 for a Schoonhoven family wedding. There were kids’ bike parades and a treasure hunt for candy that was buried in piles of sand or sawdust. Lenny Lahucik would set up his sound system to call out the foot races and bingo. Rose Wedge and other senior women ran bingo games.

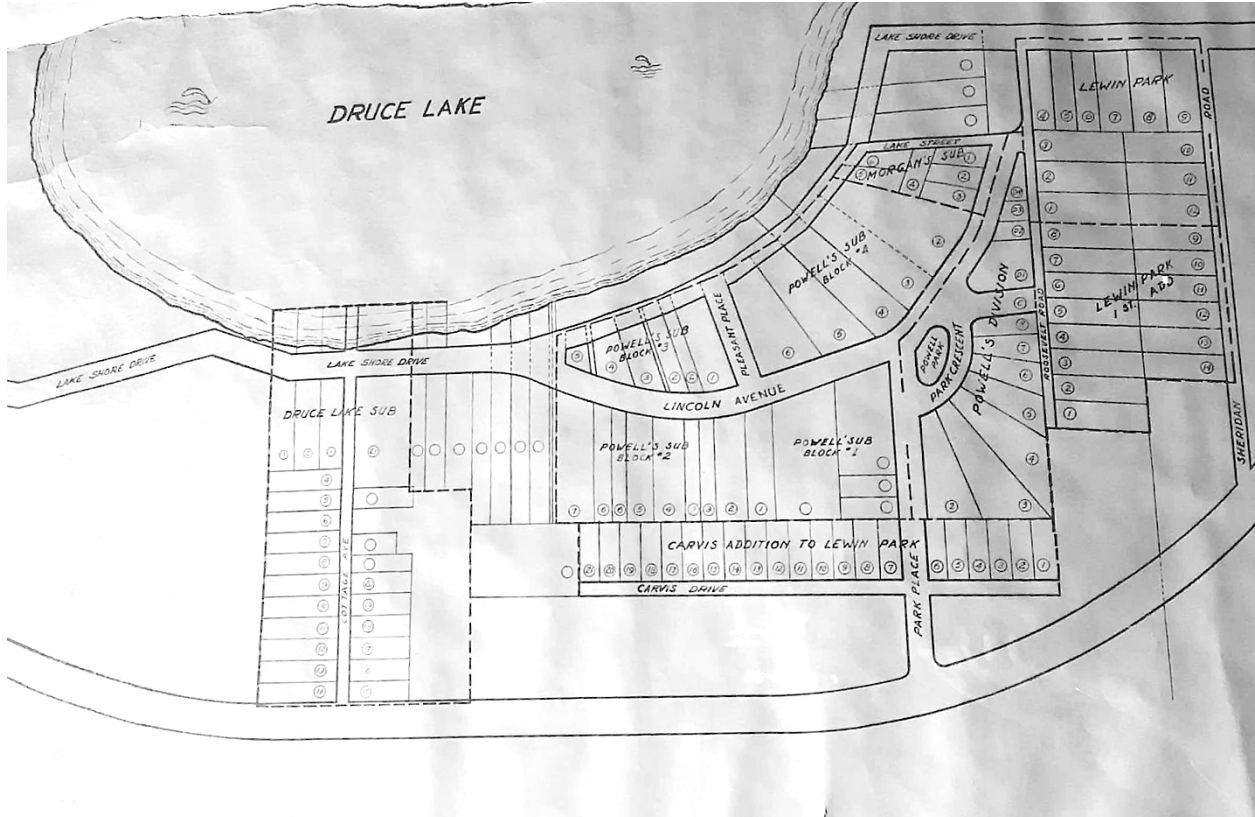
A summer highlight was the fishing contest that started at the neighborhood beach at the end of Pleasant Place. One year, Tom Sanders, son John Sanders, and George Schultz were fishing together in the Sanders’ rowboat. While George was holding his fish by the tail and the judges were measuring it, the Sanders’ dog, Buddy, jumped through the air and snatched the perch out of George’s hands (perch was Buddy’s absolute favorite!). Surely George would have won the contest if Buddy had not snatched the proof but no proof, no prize! In the end, Tom Sanders won the prize for the biggest fish (a gar), and John Sanders won a yellow rain jacket and hood as a prize for the fish he caught.



2022: Park clean-up day, planting of flowers around the flagpole, planting of a tree, and the new Powell Park sign (Courtesy of the Sanders family)



Powell Park in 2023. In the background, the Campanella home (left) and Potts' home (right) (Courtesy of the Sanders family)



Plat of Subdivisions (Courtesy of the Sanders family)

The following list provides the date each division/subdivision on the above map was created.

Year	Date	Division Name	Document Number
1890	July 11	Powell's Subdivision	#42411
1893	September 23	Powell's Division	#56472
1895	March 2	Lewin Park	#61185
1998	August 30	Lake Front Addition to Lewin Park	#71914
1914	September 9	Druce Lake Subdivision	#155153
1922	April 21	Morgan's Division	#210994
1922	September 23	First Addition to Lewin Park	#216235
1926	August 2	Carvis Addition to Lewin Park	#283871

Christ Episcopal Church: Druce Lake Choir Camp

In 1890, the Christ Episcopal Church purchased two lots (today's 34909, 34910, and 34921 N. Lake Shore Drive and 34946, 34954, and 34960 N. Lincoln Avenue) on the north side of Druce Lake and, over the years, developed them into a small camp used by the choir for their annual encampment.

David Beidler owned the property adjoining the camp to the southwest. As choirs will, they sang. Mr. Beidler apparently valued the quiet and serenity of his summer home on Druce Lake to such an extent that in June 1909, he decided to take action to preserve his solitude.

“Soprano, contralto, mezzo-soprano and alto voices singing “Rock of Ages,” “Lead Kindly Light” and other good old hymns that have been features of summer outings of Chicago church choirs at Druce’s Lake for several years are to be no more because David Beidler, a wealthy real estate owner of Waukegan, wants more peace and quiet near his summer home on the shores of the lake. Mr. Beidler has rented the picnic grounds near the lake, which in the past has been used by different church choirs for summer outings. Mr. Beidler declares that the singing from one night’s end to the other robs him of his sleep.” (Waukegan News-Sun, June 18, 1909)

Mr. Beidler took a five-year lease on the Episcopal church property and banned the choir until the lease expired at the end of the summer season in 1913.

Between 1915 and 1923, they drilled a well, enclosed the property with a fence, added electricity, and moved/remodeled the cottage. In 1924, one of their rectors proposed tearing down the dilapidated 2-story cottage and improving the property to include recreation and additional housing for summer use. In 1932, the cottage was vandalized. As interest in using and maintaining the facilities waned, the property was sold in 1950.

The following documents, provided by Christ Episcopal Church in Waukegan, give a more detailed history of the Choir Camp.

THE COTTAGE AT DRUCE LAKE

This building is familiar to many people in Christ Church and especially to those who have had work to do in connection with the choir. It is the cottage on the church grounds at Druce Lake (ten miles west of Waukegan).

In 1890 the church came into possession of this piece of beautiful oak grove of nearly three acres. Thirty-two years ago the above building was erected to house the choir during their annual encampment. Naturally a building which has been occupied but two months in the year would depreciate very rapidly in all those years. We have spent quite a little money in repairs during the last ten years, but the building does not lend itself to repair with satisfactory results and as a result is practically untenable. The entire proposition at the lake grounds needs to be modernized.

We have a piece of vacant ground on the hill back of the cottage large enough to accommodate four cottages. If the present one could be torn down and lumber used in constructing other cottages on the ridge, it would give us a wonderful recreational field between the cottages and the lake. Roque courts, croquet courts, tennis courts, tether ball courts, hand ball, outdoor-indoor baseball diamond and quoits (horse shoes) could be laid out. This would afford wonderful opportunities for recreation for the young people in the summer.

The cottage to be constructed would be built with the idea of making it an all-year-round cottage with a room large enough for a dining room for the choir during encampment and a recreational floor in the winter. Druce Lake affords one of the finest skating places in the county. It is easy of access by concrete road. Winter sports for the young people could be conducted here under the most wholesome surroundings. The world changes. We realize that youth today is the world's greatest asset. IF IT IS TO BE CONSERVED SO THAT IT CAN SERVE ITS DAY PROPERLY, it must be kept sane. The work of the Church today is not preparing souls to live in heaven, but training them to live right on earth. We have a wonderful opportunity toward doing this kind of work both in the Parish House and at Druce Lake.

Looking at the matter from a purely financial standpoint. (Understand I am not advocating this from a financial standpoint. It is too high and too worth-while a proposition to consider from that standpoint, but just to see what is possible in that line.) Our revenue from the cottage is about two hundred dollars a year now. If the above project could be worked out, it would yield us from Twelve to Fifteen Hundred Dollars a year revenue to say nothing of the immeasurable opportunity of rendering service to our youth.

The Vestry have had this matter in mind for at least five years. They feel that if the Parish will co-operate in this matter and contribute a generous Easter Offering of at least Two Thousand Dollars as a nucleus for this fund, the improvements would pay for itself in a few years.

Let us give the matter very serious consideration and plan to assist in this remarkable work. Your Vestry will undoubtedly write you further in reference to the matter.

I have written you at greater length than I intended, but my heart is so filled with a desire to help our young people that it is hard for me to curtail my words. I am much more a believer in preventing crime than I am in curing crime. In the slogan of the day "Let's go" enthusiastically for this work.

Sincerely yours,

Passion Week, 1924.

HOWARD E. GANSTER,
Rector Christ Church

1924 Church Newsletter (Courtesy of Christ Episcopal Church in Waukegan)

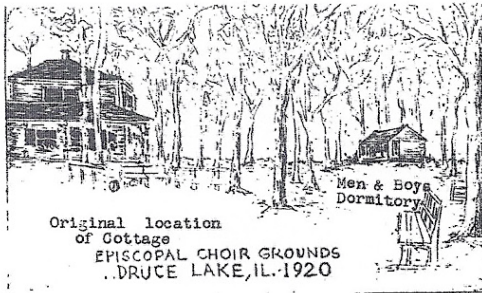
*** LOOKING BACK ON CHRIST CHURCH ***

October was the month that seven Rectors were installed for Christ Church, Waukegen.

MORE ABOUT DRUCE LAKE CHOIR COTTAGE:

Back in 1890, members of the Parish wanted to express their appreciation to the Choir members for the faithful service to the Sunday Services with music to Service of Worship, they purchased 2 lots on the north shore of Druce Lake, 10 miles west of Waukegen, for a Summer Encampment for members of the Choir.

In 1892 a large two story cottage was built. The first floor contained the kitchen, food pantry, and a large main room for all the activities to be enjoyed by all members at camp. The second floor was divided into three large rooms for the girls and ladies sleeping quarters. There was a large open porch around three sides. A Dormitory, or Bunkhouse as we called it, was built at a higher spot on the property at the northeast end of the property. This was where the men and boys slept.



7.

In 1932 vandals broke into the cottage and destroyed the piano, most of the dishes and mattresses.

Due to the lack of interest of some members of the choir for the use of the camp, the Parish sold the property in 1950.

George H. Hucker

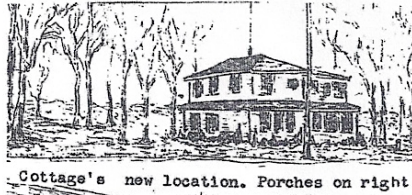
LOOKING BACK ON CHRIST CHURCH

In 1915, a 296 foot deep well was drilled between the cottage and bunk house and water was pumped by hand. Also at this time, the cottage was reroofed and painted. These improvements were paid by Mr. Keith, a member of the Vestry.

Another big improvement was the installation of a 5 foot high wire fence enclosing all the property. The fence was a gift from U.S. Steel, through Mr. Frank Blackmer.

In 1923, the cottage was moved to a higher spot, approximately 200 feet towards the north end of the grounds, opposite the bunk house. Electricity was brought into the cottage, and a tank was installed to the well and an electric pump was furnished.

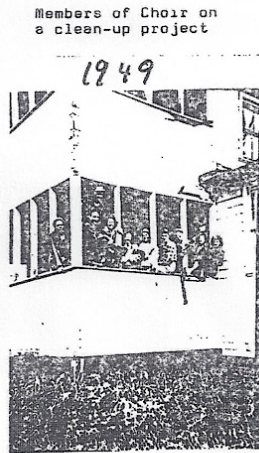
Some changes were made to the cottage, namely the large open porch on the three sides was removed, and a two story porch was built on the west side. This porch contained a large dining room, seating 40 persons and the second floor was a sleeping porch for the girls. The first floor still contained the kitchen, pantry and the main room was enlarged with a porch facing the lake and a fireplace was installed. It was in the large main room where all the activities were enjoyed by all.



11.



Choir Picnic at Choir Cottage, Mens Bunk-House in rear. Standing, right side, Dean Littleford. R. Front; Sadie Marsoobian



Members of Choir on a clean-up project

12.

1949 Newsletter (Courtesy of Christ Episcopal Church in Waukegan)

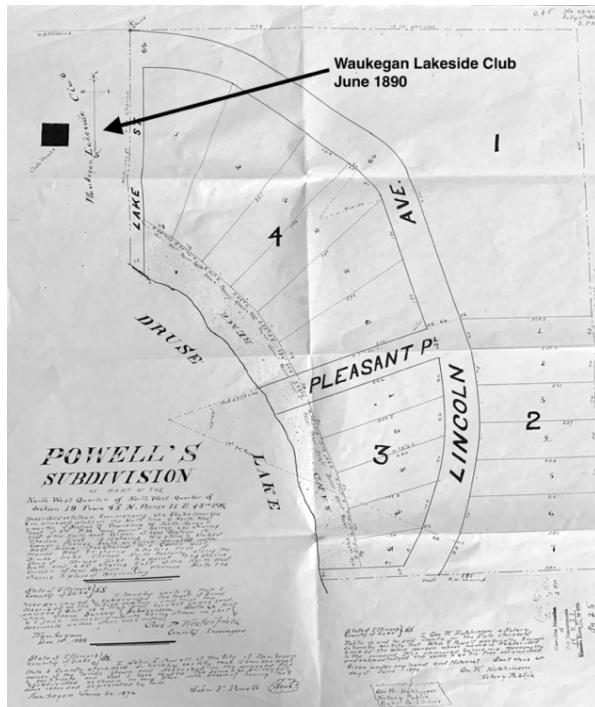


Choir Camp House (Courtesy of Charlotte Renehan)

Waukegan Lake Side Club

One of the earliest clubs was the Waukegan Lake Side Club. It appears on the Warren Township tax assessment in 1877 with an exact location found on the Powell Subdivision plat in 1890. It was created by some Waukegan residents who wanted a place to hold parties and summer outings. As interest waned over time, it passed from group to individual ownership. In January 1915, the club closed and was sold to outside investors.

It was located on the parcel of property between N. Lake Shore Drive, W. Roosevelt Road, and Lake Street which, in 1916, became the location of the Druce Lake Country Club and years after that, Kennedy's Tavern.



1890 Powell Subdivision Plat
(Courtesy of Barry Amundsen)



1907 Lake County Atlas published by Geo A. Ogle & Co

In June 1913, Charles Hollenbeck, a Chicago meat market owner, bought the Beidler property (several lots southeast of the Lake Side Club) for the unimaginable price of \$4,000. It was said that Mr. Beidler paid around \$15,000 and, in that day, it couldn't be duplicated for less than \$25,000. The house featured hot and cold water, 2-3 baths, and acetylene gas fixtures. The property included a barn, a boat house suitable for living, a sailboat, and shrubbery that made it "one of the prettiest places imaginable." It was considered one of the most beautiful and well-kept properties on the lake.

Local politics around property ownership, infrastructure improvements, and who had the right to do what were not much different in the early 1900s than they are today. An article in the Waukegan Daily Sun on June 22, 1917 describes just such a conflict between persona interests and local politics.

Note: The wording of the following 1917 newspaper article reflects the unabashed racism of this period in history. As with many other counties and regions in the Midwest, Lake County was segregated until recent decades with few if any Black people residing west of Green Bay Road or south of the Great Lakes Naval Base. A tragic result of this 'red lining' custom was that those growing up in the rest of the county, including Druce Lake, rarely if ever had the privilege of knowing or interacting with Black Americans. Thanks to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, we now live in more integrated and diverse neighborhoods, Druce Lake among them.

"Druce Lake, one of the most popular and fashionable summer resorts in the eastern half of Lake County, is designed to become the habitation of ex convicts and negros unless the commissioner of Warren Township desists in the work of razing flagpoles and beautiful hedges in the vicinity of what is generally known as the "Frances Beidler home" according to statements of property owners."

(Waukegan Daily Sun, June 22, 1917)

The road commissioner had apparently begun cutting down trees on the private property of the Waukegan Lakeside Club to widen the roadway. A neighbor, Mr. Harper, got an injunction to stop the tree removal.

On Memorial Day, the road commissioner ordered the removal of hedges and a flagpole in front of the Hollenbeck property (formerly the Beidler property) in connection with the road widening project. A feud ensued. Harper and his supporters insisted that the hedge and flagpole removal was retribution for the injunction. The road commissioner insisted that widening the road was needed for safety. Mr. Hollenbeck started negotiating for a parcel on Pistakee Bay to relocate his home and threatened to rent his property to persons that would have, at that point in history, been considered unseemly. Mr. Harper threatened similar action.

By a July 5, 1917 article in the Daily Sun, it's clear that the road commissioner "won." The road widening was complete, Mr. Hollenbach had moved his furniture to Pistakee Bay, and many in the area viewed the widened road as an improvement. If only road construction today could be completed in less than two months...

Druce Lake Camp

John and Carrie Sanders recall the Druce Lake Camp being on the Rollins Savannah Forest Preserve property just north of the New Granancia Serbian Orthodox Monastery with an entrance off US Hwy 45. The trail spur off US Hwy 45 leading into the Rollins Savanna (newly constructed in 2019) runs through what used to be the camp property. The camp also owned property that provided lake access via the lot that is now 31960 N. Lake Shore Drive.

Many of the old camp buildings were still standing in 1985 and could be seen from Sunshine Ave. John remembers the pool there as well when the camp was in operation, which may have been built due to the pollution in the lake in the 1930s. The pool was in place and listed as "new" around 1932.

For more than a century, Association House of Chicago has played a significant role in Chicago's westside neighborhoods. Founded as a settlement house by Ellen Holt, a student of Jane Addams, Association House served as a landing place for new immigrants for decades.

Using a generous bequest from a founding organizer, Susan Poxon, Association House purchased 6 acres of wooded property and a boathouse on a half-acre lakefront lot in 1914 and opened Druce Lake Camp in 1915 as a summer escape from the city for young girls and boys. It operated into the early 1960s.

The following excerpts from Association House records (Chicago History Museum) provide a brief history of the camp and how it was used.

Druce Lake Camp

On Feb. 9, 1915, Miss Wilson reported to the Board on the purchase of a piece of property of 6 wooded acres near Druce Lake (near Lake Villa, Ill.) and half an acre on the water's edge, containing a boat house. Miss Wilson and another resident were acting as trustees for the will of Miss Susan Poxon. Miss Poxon had directed that her bequest was to be used for girls' work. The land, on which a girls' camp was to be established, was purchased for \$2,300. The memorial to Miss Poxon was deeded to Association House. Of the remaining bequest, \$2,200 was to be used to erect buildings and prepare the land for occupancy, and \$2000 was invested in bonds.

The Board accepted this gift with gratitude and appointed a committee to oversee the erection of the necessary buildings. A cottage accommodating 40 was to be built at once. By July, 1915, the Susan Poxon Cottage was completed and a portable house was also in use by the girls. By the end of the first

summer, 214 girls and young women had enjoyed the camp.

In 1916, camp opened on June 1917, a week earlier than scheduled. There were 301 different persons in camp from 3 days to 8 weeks, and a number of guests. A new building which was to be built before the camp opened was finally completed by October, 1916. The Susan Poxon Cottage could only be used during the summer, but the new one was an all-year-around building.

The permanent cottage was called Aunt Ann's Cottage and could accommodate 10-12 guests each week. The money to build the cottage was given by the daughter and nieces of Mary Ann Hubbard (1820-1909) in loving appreciation of her inspiring character and her love for young people. The cottage was used by young women and girls who were ill or convalescent, in need of a little rest, sunshine, and air, but no one with a contagious disease was allowed.

The house itself was wooden, 2-story, with a good furnace, a bath, hot and cold running water, lavatories, in addition to the sleeping rooms. The cost was \$4.50 per week if the guest brought her own sheets, towels, and pillowcases (or 50¢ more if these were furnished). Each guest had to share in the housework.

Druce Lake Camp was improved by the draining of a swamp, the making of a garden, and the addition of a new building. But these improvements, and needed repairs, had used up the money in the Poxon Trust in 1917, as well as special gifts from Miss Holt.

In April 1918 Miss Holt had 8½ acres adjoining Druce Lake Camp which she deeded to Association House, making the total land held 15 acres.

The land adjoining the camp was for sale in May, 1923, for \$8,000. Association House took an option on this land until it could investigate the possibilities of making a boys' camp on this land. But in June, the Board decided not to purchase this property, and the option was dropped.

By 1925 there were 5 cottages, with 2 screened sleeping porches, a refectory with screened outdoor dining room, with total accommodations for 100 guests. It was beautifully situated in a shady grove.

In October 1926, the Presbytery took over control of Association House property. However, Druce Lake Camp was controlled by a separate organization which Miss Holt had formed at the instructions of the Board of Directors and the Presbytery. An amount of just over \$2,000 was placed in an account for expenses for the camp. Although reports on the camp were no longer given at Board meetings, close liaison between the House and Camp remained for a number of years.

The camp in 1935 had screened wooden cabins, a dining hall, hospital, recreation hall, and a swimming pool. (Druce Lake had become polluted and unsafe for swimming by this time), as well as a boat house on the lake, large playing fields, a tennis court, a craft shop, and a nature library. At this time campers were grouped in cabins according to age and friendships, with a counselor for every 6 campers. Both a doctor and a nurse were in residence at camp, responsible for the health of the campers. The Board of health regularly inspected the water, milk supply, and other health areas.

Miss Wilson Changes Jobs

In March, 1916 the Board of Directors decided to keep Druce Lake Camp open all year. They asked Miss Wilson to take over this responsibility. She agreed, and so they began looking again for a new head resident.

In March 1917, the question was raised as to the role of the settlement in wartime. Should the work be curtailed, or expanded, or merely changed in character? The residents at Druce Lake were raising hens and in one month supplied 330 eggs from 14 hens. The House itself was carrying on its usual activities and also was helping the Red Cross with supplies, listing vacant lots for victory gardens. The staff felt they should be increasing rather than decreasing contact with the neighborhood people.

The workers organized 3 garden clubs - - 1 for the girls and 2 for the boys. Part of the small playground was used for the girls' garden and 2 vacant lots for the boys'. Forty boys and girls were involved. A study of the Jewish and Polish population was being made under government auspices. A study of the Jewish and Polish girls aged 6 to 14 years old and their play life showed that Polish girls were not allowed to movies or were not allowed out of the house after supper unless accompanied by a parent, while the Jewish girls of the same age went to movies two or three times weekly and in general did as they pleased.

1917

At Druce Lake Camp, 327 different people were guests, some returning for brief periods and others remaining longer than they originally planned. Besides the usual swimming, rowing, hayrides, and picnics, there was bowling and tennis. The large vegetable garden supplied the camp and also the House. Some of the camp leaders taught canning, and drying of fruits and vegetables.

The summer camp closed after Labor Day and on Oct. 2, 1917, Miss Wilson and 4 girls were in an automobile accident. The 4 girls were severely bruised, and Miss Wilson received a bad gash on her head, but she recovered with no aftereffects.

1918

Druce Lake Camp had more than 100 girls each week, and 92 boys attended Camp Channing. Many day outings for women and children were made possible through the Chicago and Northwestern Railway.

The boys once again went to Camp Channing. There were 4 periods of 12 days each, from June 30 to August 22, 1919. The total for the season was 344, which included 38 adult leaders. Only boys between the ages of 12 and 16 were eligible. As far as the boys were concerned camp was a success, but financially it was a failure.

For the entire year, a thousand girls and women were at Druce Lake Camp. From September 10, 1918 to June 10, 1919, the camp was for tired, rundown, and convalescent women and children. From June 10 to July 20, women, children, and girls over 16 who could not get a later vacation were scheduled. From July 20 to September 10, women and girls over 16, and such girls between 14 and 16 who worked and could get vacation at no other time used the camp. Weekend visits were discouraged, except where a woman could get a vacation only in that way.

1920

Miss Wilson was suffering from ill health (acute neuritis) and the Druce Lake Camp became the responsibility of Miss Ida Shaffer. Miss Wilson did not retire from her job until 1925, but she never again took full charge of the entire camp.

In 1922 the boys camp was again held in conjunction with Chicago Commons, presumably at the same location in the forest preserve, but no figures were available concerning attendance.

The girls' camp at Druce Lake was not quite as full as had been hoped for.

In January 1925, funds for Druce Lake Camp were low, with expenses running very high. Weekend

parties were being taken care of by the residents, but the camp was practically closed.

1932

At Druce Lake, 116 children had been served in the special nutrition department of the camp and had gained an average 1 pound per week. The general setup in the Health Education program proved very gratifying. The feature of having a boys' section in camp for the whole summer proved a very satisfactory arrangement. Entire families had gone to camp for the last 2-week period.

The camping at Druce Lake in 1939 was for two 14-day camp periods. August 3 and August 17, open to both boys and girls. Over 500 different people enjoyed camp with over 125 present on some occasions: 99 children were from the House.

1942

In cooperation with Druce Lake Camp (boys and girls), Salvation Army Camp (mothers and children), Camp Channing (YMCA camp for boys), Sunset Camp (older girls), Camp Kiwanis (Boy Scouts), and Camp Henry Horner (boys), a total of 185 persons attended camp in 1942.

1943

During the summer, groups of 25 and 43 were sent to Druce Lake Camp, and 18 went to Camp Channing.

1948

During the summer of 1948, day care continued, and campers went to Druce Lake Camp. The playground was for teenagers only, in the evening hours from 7:00 to 10:00 pm, Monday through Friday. They played volleyball and softball. They also enjoyed table games, dancing singing, and occasional trips to points of interest in the city or nearby suburbs.

The camp was built and supported over the years by donations and fund raisers. The following pages provide some insight into the early costs to create and maintain the camp.

ASSOCIATION HOUSE CAMP
 DRUCE LAKE, ILLINOIS
 CARRIE B. WILSON, DIRECTOR

P. O. GRAY'S LAKE
 P.O. BOX 80 W 1

Est - 21/18

COMMITTEE
 MISS ELLEN HOLT, CHAIRMAN
 MR. JOHN HORNBEAT
 MR. DAVID DANGLER
 MR. DONALD McPHERSON
 MR. FRANK WILSON
 MR. EARLE H. RICE
 MR. WM. FRANCIS

My dear Miss Holt -
 I have dispaired of being able to get into town to our safety box where all the papers concerning the first disposition of our funds are kept. I have no record outside of the office, nor of aid for our property and I am not quite certain of the figures. If I am right in my recollection I have paid out as follows -

Property decided to A.H.	2200.00
1915 - 6 1/2 acre, stake property -	2729.05
1916 - Paid on property & bridge -	5197.52
" 1917 " " "	
1915 - mitted Keenan Paper Cottage	1600.00
Rest Cottage	320.00
Total paid out -	13152.61

I have tried to make an estimate on buildings &c from the above expenditure - It will practically come out

ASSOCIATION HOUSE CAMP
 DRUCE LAKE, ILLINOIS
 CARRIE B. WILSON, DIRECTOR

P. O. GRAY'S LAKE
 P.O. BOX 80 W 1

COMMITTEE
 MISS ELLEN HOLT, CHAIRMAN
 MR. JOHN HORNBEAT
 MR. DAVID DANGLER
 MR. DONALD McPHERSON
 MR. FRANK WILSON
 MR. EARLE H. RICE
 MR. WM. FRANCIS

as follows, this includes improvements -

Property 6 1/2 acre (including drainage)	\$2200.00
Lake Property	800.00
Portable House	400.00
Keenan Paper Cottage	2000.00
Rest Camp Cottage	4800.00
Garage - (includes Mrs. Keen)	250.00
pump & engine	150.00
Barn	200.00
Covers	1250.00
Well - Water supply system	1250.00
Total	12400.00

The only estimate that may be a little too high is the barn - that might be reduced to \$1250 -

Miss Keen would like very much to see it as a gift shop -

I do hope you are getting - I understand that Mrs. Keen, toward 7 should have been appointed as an

Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)

Association House Camp

DRUCE LAKE, ILLINOIS

POST OFFICE: GRAY'S LAKE
PHONE GRAY'S LAKE 85 W 1

DIRECTOR: MISS CARRIE B. WILSON

Girls who work twelve months in the year need at least two weeks of the right kind of vacation. Little city children, who have the streets for a playground, need two weeks of fun in the country. That is why the Association House has a camp at Druce Lake.

Mothers need a rest, too.



"Oh me, Oh my, we'll get there bye and bye.
If anybody likes the Druce Lake Camp
It's L. L. L. L. L."

Who liked the camp last year? Everybody.

Who minded the rain? Nobody.

Who is going this summer? Everyone who can get in.

WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT THE DRUCE LAKE CAMP?

Fifteen acres of beautiful woods.

A convenient lake for boating and bathing.

Birds, flowers, shade, sunshine, quiet, peace.

Sleeping porches among the trees.

Good food and good appetites.

Congenial friends.

A Christian home, under the care of well-loved Association House leaders.

A life that makes every girl who comes to camp feel better in her soul and body.

Rates for board that a business girl can pay.

Special rates for children.

Free outings for those who can not pay.

SOMETHING NEW

A building goes up this summer for use the year around for girls who are tired, not strong, convalescent, or for any reason needing rest and fresh air.

Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)

Needs of the Druce Lake Camp

FURNISHINGS FOR NEW BUILDING

Can you send us

A Stove	China
Chairs	Tableware
Tables	Rugs
Desks	Bureaus
Beds	Sewing Machine

Anything you can spare for dining or living room, kitchen, bedroom porches.

A FORD CAR

(The camp is four miles from a railroad)

A CHILDREN'S BUILDING

A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDEN

A TENNIS COURT

SOME MONEY—About \$500 will do.

Please take a share of it.



GARDENING

CAMP COMMITTEE

MISS ELLEN HOLT, Chairman

MR. JOHN BROEKSMIT

MR. DAVID DANGLER

MRS. DAVID DANGLER

MR. DONALD McPHERSON

MRS. DONALD McPHERSON

MR. RALPH H. RICE

Association House Records (Chicago History Museum)