

Lydia's Housekeeping Cottages
Hutter's Lakeview Resort
Hutter's-Nystrom Lake View Resort Bed & Breakfast
Nystrom Bed and Breakfast
35 Park Rd.
on
Manitowish Lake

Interview from Brunhilde Nystrom on 7/13/10

Lydia's Housekeeping Cottages opened in April 1941 and was owned and operated by Eugene Karl and Lydia Aichele Hutter. The property was purchased from "Cap" Smith. The property had two fisherman's shacks (#3 & #4), a central well, and no electricity. "Cap" Smith family to used #4 cabin as an ice house when they lived up here.

Eugene and Lydia Hutter had both emigrated from Germany after WWI and made their life in Chicago. In order to move to the United States, Lydia's had to have a sponsor(someone that was already living in the U.S.). Their sponsors were two uncles, August and Gottloebe Aichele. After they made their life in Chicago, the opportunity came up to buy the land and cabins in Manitowish Waters. Against Lydia's desire, they made the purchase and moved to the northwoods.

At first, the cottages were mostly rented out to fishermen from Illinois and Wisconsin. The same people would come back every year. Later, wives came and families. Some folks were also from Chicago. Cottages #1, #2 and #5 were built as new cottages. Cottage #8 was an existing small cabin which was purchased and moved back on the entry road and became the office and home in the summer to Lydia.

Cottages #6, #7, #8 were moved in- cabins (cabins that were built, sitting on other property, and physically moved to the new property) and added on bedrooms. #7 was a moved- in house with 3 bedrooms.

Electricity came in after World War II, about 1946. Until then, they used kerosene lamps, Bunsen burners or propane gas burners. Boats were rented with the cabins because most people did not drive up north; they took a train. Or, they did not have boats. Plus, the speed zone was 40 mph in those days.

The additional cabins at the resort were built between 1946 and 1960, as Eugene died in a car accident – a runaway horse ran into his moving car in October, 1961.

Brunhilde, Lydia's niece, had the opportunity to help with the cottages when she was 14 years old. She came up for 2-3 summers before getting a job in Chicago. Brun was very happy to get out of Chicago to come up to the resort because it was so hot in Chicago. After working at the resort, Brun worked at Woolworth's for 28 cents an hour.

When she was up here at age 14, Brun met Cal Laporte, as well as Elaine Hanson, John Hanson's sister. They rode bicycles a lot. They rode up to the town of Manitowish *on a gravel road*, to get the mail at the post office, since the town of Manitowish Waters did not have postal service. They rode up once or twice a week it was a long bike ride

(about 6 miles!). They did not have access to an automobile so they had to ride a bike or walk.

For fun, Brunhilde and her brother went to Koerner's Resort on Manitowish and Spider Lake where they had a big boat house, soda fountain and dance floor. This is where they would go dancing on Friday nights. They would meet other kids. To get there, they followed a deer trail through the woods, at night, and got on to Manitowish Road, which led them to Koerner's Boat Ramp.

When the work was done at Hutter's Resort, Brunhilde would use some of her afternoon time to read books. Other fun afternoon hours were spent on a kayak built by her brother. But riding in that made her aunt worry. They also played croquet. Or they made their own fun. There were few kids to hang out with because everyone was working.

When Lydia got away from her work, she taught Brunhilde how to get a chipmunk to feed out of her hand. They also did a lot of blackberry, blueberry and mushroom picking.

When there wasn't time for fun, Brunhilde and her aunt Lydia did a lot of work. The cottages were rented for \$1.00 a night so the renters were given the best. New customers always had fresh sheets. Sheets were washed in the lake and hung out to dry. When the sheets were dry, they were pressed with two flat irons, which were heated up on Bunsen

burners. Doing these sheets was a very hot and sweaty job! Brunhilde STILL has these very thick sheets, about 40 of them.

Another big job was outhouse duty. There was a 3 hole outhouse which was cleaned every year and all “stuff” was taken to the landfill, which was an open pit. The bears would be out there digging around.

One of Brunhilde’s strongest memories comes from her first summer at the cottages. Sometime in July, there was a big storm. This storm lasted 3 days straight, with a lot of thunder and lightning and heavy rain on the tin metal roof. There were no customers at the time, just Brunhilde, Lydia and her brother. Brunhilde’s aunt Lydia and brother stayed in bed, too terrified to get out, while Brun did the work cooking meals. It was all very frightening. Fortunately, no damage was done by the storm.

Lydia’s husband died in 1960 and it was not until 1971 that she sold her first two cabins to the Chryst family, cabins #6 and #7.

In 1980(?), cabin #5 was sold to Harold Gross, but repurchased in 1988.

In 1980, cabins # 1 and #2 were sold to Small.

#4 cabin was sold to Jim Beck in 1985.

Brun came up in 1989 and held on to the resort, cabins #3, #5, #8. In 1990-91, cabin #5 was gutted and remodeled. She opened it up to run a Bed and Breakfast in 1991-1998.

This was done after the death of Leonard, Brunhilde's husband.

In 1990 she opened up the last 2 cabins for rentals until 1999, when #3 and #8 were sold to the Bob Friedel family in June of 1999.

Lydia Hutter died July 3, 1999.
