

Notes from Michael Dunn

11/3/06

Going through the book of mixed postcards from Nancy Patek, and jotting down notes.

Voss'

Palmer Hanson (father of Jon Hanson, town chairman in 2006) built the building where Ruth Gardner lives, and the hotel itself. Has rooms upstairs of dining room, along with individual cabins. Some cabins used to be on the other side of the bay, so the bridge was built. Some of the log cabins were older than the hotel.

The bar at Voss' was in the building near the highway, along with the gas station, and the "Rhythm Queens" were a popular feature there. (Members: Anna Mae LaPorte, wife of Lloyd LaPorte, mother of Chuck LaPorte who now lives on 51; Geraldine Andrews; Phyllis Andrews) They'd play the spoons, the gut bucket, and Anna Mae played the violin, and one of the Andrew's played the piano. The audience may have played the spoons along with them.

Picture F576: The bar building was remodeled at some point, and cars for the guests were stored inside.

Boat photo: The "Audrey Dee" was named after Mrs. Dickenson, and had an old outboard motor on the back.

Henry Voss is in the green book – p 727

Betzer's Alder Lake Resort

A small resort specializing in housekeeping cabins, probably accessed from Highway 51 because road around lake wasn't built until later (cranberry marshes). This resort active probably in the 40s and 50s.

Little Bohemia

The "Conference Room" was in the room the bar is in now. (Perhaps a Prohibition era photo?)

There was a shelter down at the lake front (Little Star Lake) and Emil Wanatka had a Criss-Craft or a Gar Wood inboard speedboat that he kept there. (Maybe gave rides?)

Then there's a pic of present day dining room... Shows that porch was added later.

The "museum" – After John Dillinger was shot, Emil got his father to come here and appear as an attraction at the museum. The personal belongings included items left behind when the gang ran out, including a lot of shirts. (The laundry woman at Little Bo was first suspicious about

them because they had so many new shirts that had never been washed – a habit of men on the run.) The shootout took place in 1934. The picture of Dillinger's father is probably from 1936-1937.

Steve and Marie Kolarchek (parents of Steve and Maribeth, current residents of MW) were a long standing institution at Little Bo – she in the kitchen and he as a bartender, always with a white shirt, open at the neck and sleeves rolled up to the elbows - a very well-liked couple.

At one time there were real logs at the Little Bo entrance, but they were replaced with the artificial ones that stand today. The artificial ones are bigger than the real ones.

There were once boat shelters at the water front, with dressing rooms for people using the beach. (Maybe they were green and white?)

Bob Loveless' Virgin Forest Park

A real enterprising entrepreneur – had a small sawmill with a steam engine from a logging company boat, and could cut lumber for any project. Had a tavern with gas pump, overnight cabins, housekeeping cabins, had a bear in a cage where you could buy bottles of soda to feed it, had a pavilion out by the lake. (Robt Loveless is on p482 of green book) Active as a resort into the 1950s.

Log building next to Fireplace Inn

Used to be a post office for MW. Frank Laundie was the postmaster. (See p482 of green book for his bio.)

Theilacker's Silver Dale

Now the "Rustic." Owned by Carl and Minnie Theilacker from the 1940s (?) to the 1960s. A bar and a café.

Background: the first competition for LaPortes in MW were 3 grocery stores in the area that is now called "Manitowish Junction" where MW meets BJ: VanDelden's Market (In one of the Loveless buildings, south of the tavern); Ehlert's Food Market (Had groceries, owned by Arthur and Anita Ehlert, and Arthur was a butcher, in what is now John McGraw's Laundromat and interior design shop. Anita later installed the Laundromat, and ran the other half of complex as a liquor store. Sold in the late 1980s or early 1990s.); and Harry's (Harry Caczmarek was owner, and his dad was Harry Sr. Was a "Red Owl" market. A larger store that effectually put Ehlert's out of business.)

Schroeder's Rest Haven

Originally built as a bakery, but after prohibition, the Schroeders bought it. Had rooms for rent upstairs, bar and food downstairs. Mike Dunn stayed there in 1937 when they were building the

cottage. In 1940s, Rudy and Garnet List bought it. Had a couple of rental cottages, but focused on restaurant and bar. Later became Ehrich's Bavarian Inn (~1970s or 1980s) – William Ehrich and wife.

From Joye Hurthle – a mynah bird, known as the “talking crow,” used to live there when Rudy owned it. Bird said “My name is Joe” (“What’s yours?”)

Rest Lake Dam

Colored pic in the 1950s, others in the 1940s.

Rest Lake photo is where the Koller park is now, and probably belonged to the Win-Mar.

Next pic is taken from Fire tower, shows the “Changing Waves” building.

The Tower Tea Room

Located at the fire tower, had a small tower as decoration. Operated by Josephine Zermuelen (sp?). Later became Garber's Tower Resort (~1940s.) owned by Bill & Martha Garber. As Garber's it was a bar and a dining room. Mr Garber died in the 1950s, and is buried here in MW. They had 2 daughters who worked in the bar with them : one was Nira, can't remember other name.)

The Win-Mar

The first one was a little frame building with gas pumps, succeeded by a newer building with a grocery store, dining room, bar and gas pumps, built in the later 30s by Emil Wysocki (contractor). It burned (later 40s or early 50s) in one of the largest fires that MW had seen, and were not allowed to rebuild because it was a non-conforming land use. The Win-Mar name came from two women Winnie and Marie (last names Young and Zimmerman, but not sure which was which). One of their father's had been the dam keeper for the lumber company. They had housekeeping cottages on the Dam Lake side, and the bar on the Rest Lake side. After the fire, they moved on of the cottages from the Dam Lake side up closer to the highway, and had a bar (and maybe sandwiches) there while they continued to rent the cottage. That became the Pea Patch – owned by Charlie and Inez Pea, in the 1950s or so. They left in the 1990s? Now owned by Barry and Lisa Hopkins.

The Oasis

A log cabin bar, owned by John and Emma Brikowski, built sometime in the 1930s. Emma was the sister of the Helen McElrone (mar to John) who had a Texaco station across the street. (Later Mumford's)

(Used to be used as a school bus stop for kids who went up to Hurley for high school, at least in the early 1950s.)

Hanson's Hardware

In the same location as today. Managed by Chello and Toni Dalleave, who lived upstairs. Palmer Hanson was the owner (Jon and Ralph's father.)

Post Office

Look in MD's "A Look Back" that the chamber has to find out the date.

The Pantry

A sandwich shop on the corner of 51 and Powell Rd, built by Edwin and Gertrude Pangburn in about 1946-47. Was run by Leland and Pearl (Buck) Allen. After them, Ed and Pat Cowles ran it. Later became a private residence.

Fish Hatchery at the Dam

Was operated by the town, not the state, which was very unusual. Probably stopped operating during WWII. The state gave it to the gov't in return for a building at the CCC camp, which was torn down and the lumber used to build the first building at the airport.

Northern Lights

Originally built (in the 1930s?) by Mr and Mrs Otto Oestreich (sp? – Oesterreich). They didn't operate it very long before it was sold to Mr and Mrs Henry Kuhnert in the mid-1930s. (He's in the green book, p315, but before they came to MW.) Later owned by Mr. and Mrs. Al Zigray, then later by two young couples who had it last. The building was very well built of concrete block or tile, stucco on the outside. Hotel rooms upstairs and dining downstairs. There was no bar on the property, but there was one across the road (now Pine Baron's). The bar building started as a real estate office (Lake Land's, Inc?) but became the bar in the 1930s or so. Henry Voss had it later, and then Ann Brunner had it. Ann was a veteran who often participated in the Memorial Day (etc.) festivities here in town.

Rest Lake Resort

Mitchell's – on Rest Lake opposite the airport.

Koerner's

Est. as Buck's (same owner as the Divide – George Washington Buck and his wife. They had the resort in Winchester and this one. Their 2 sons each later took one resort. Fayette took the one in Winchester.) The hotel building was built by Koerner's (probably), and was made of masonry blocks that were made right on the property.

Theodore (Ted) Koerner bought it around 1916. (Son was Alvin.) (See p630 of green book for info on him.) The coffee shop and a couple of cottages were on the Manitowish Lake, but most

was on Spider Lake. Had dining room, cottages, motel. Was an "American Plan" resort, like Voss'. They had a garage on the Spider Lake side where they would store guests' vehicles, and would sell tickets and show movies in that garage. They had a "hokey pokey" night in the coffee shop.

Coffee shop was later remodeled (in the 1950s) and an oval bar added, still in the Koerner era. Had bad financial times and closed, was later the Virgin Timber Inn which also closed, then was the Sidney Hill Camp for Boys – a Jewish camp – for a short time (the mainland property, not the coffee shop), and wasn't very successful as anything until recent times as the Blue Bayou.

Highway 51 used to go through the resort itself (can be seen in one of the aerial photos).

Koerner's owned the telephone exchange at the time of the Dillinger shootout, and probably kept it through the 1940s.

Pictures of the bridge in this section was the old Highway 10 bridge, which is where the current Spider Lake bridge is today.

Musky Country

First owners were probably Kimmel, probably in 1945 or so. It was called the "Tackle Box" for a long time, and later Musky Country.

Manitowish Waters Community Church

Was originally non-denominational.

Wager's Fireside

Was about where Betty Koller's real estate property is now. A very small (6 or 8 tables) dining room, and 8 or 10 overnight cabins. Mr & Mrs Louis Wagner owned it, and the deer farm was in back of the dining room. Mrs. Wagner made very good goulash, and it was a very nice place to eat. The little buildings were moved to other places or torn down.

Red Feather Camp

Still in business as Red Feather Lodge off of Highway K. Original owners were Nichols.

Balaty's Northwood Lodge

On Little Star Lake on the land between Little Bohemia and up to (and including) Friar's Tuckaway. Operated by Roy J. Jorgenson around the 1930s and 1940s. Jorgenson built the building that is now Friar's Tuckaway as his retirement home. Later owned by Andy Sindberg and wife. Then a couple named Bunn, Ernest Meinel and wife, and the Townsends (? on the order of those owners). Later broken up, and now has been condoed.

Hunger's Cedar Lodge Resort

Around 1921, M Dunn's mother came up on a vacation to the island in Spider Lake, which was then Hunger's. Later became Belter's Island, a popular spot for underage drinking in it's day.

LaFave's

An island resort first, and then added the mainland area later. Est by Abraham LaFave (p 464 in green book) and his son John later took over the resort.

Manito Lodge

Mr and Mrs William Hintz and daughter Mildred Oberg operated it. 5 or 6 housekeeping cabins. On Little Star Lake, on shore near Highway 51. Main personal house was a big log house, one cabin was log, but the rest were frame. Cottages in order from main lodge to far end: Red Wing (also boat house), Hiawatha, one in between, Wanatah, Minnehaha, and Nokomis. Millie sold the cottages off one by one (Michael Dunn's family bought 500 feet of frontage, and she probably had another 1000+ feet), and the property has stayed in the family to today, and main house was recently remodeled. (2006)

Deer Park Lodge

Deer Park Lodge dates from the early 1900s, probably one of the earliest resorts in this area. (Probably LaFave's, then Buck's, the Deer Park and Voss') An American plan resort with a bar, motel units on the water, hotel, outdoor swimming pool glassed in against the wind, stable with horses. College students worked as entertainers all summer long.

Early owner: a man called "Dad" Paine (Payne?), a man named Max Engmann (who also was the early school teacher at the school on the Deer Park site) who left the area around WWI time.

Doriot's took over in 1917- Charles Doriot in green book p440. The son of Calvin H. and Effie (LaPorte) Doriot. The green book has a long description of the lodge...

Series of following owners: Morris Holzman; Ben and Ruth Epstein; Ben remarried a woman named Stella; they sold and it was broken up into Chippewa Retreat and other things in that area.

Zingsheim's

M Dunn doesn't know anything about this one... Could it be Manitowish, not MWaters?

Williamson's

Now Tellefson's Lor-Wood.

Blue Spruce Resort

Dick Hill's place was in the Chamber of Commerce book for just a couple of years, but M Dunn doesn't know it.

Joe Ilg's Camp

Later "Log Cabin Lodge" – a big private family house and housekeeping cottages. Operated into the 1980s or so under Joe Ilg, Jr.

Joe Sr. was an employee of the railroad in Chicago, and moved up here to raise his family. He worked in Chicago and would ride the train up on weekends, and wore a 10 gallon hat. ☺ His children were Joe Jr., Bob, and a couple of daughters (Francis and Vivianne who was an eye doctor.) The whole family is buried here in Mani Waters.

Francis Ilg was part of the Giselle group that published many parenting books.

Rest Lake Resort

Mr & Mrs E.J. Mitchell had the resort, and it was just opposite the airport. Hotel and cottages, American Plan. Taken over in the 1950s or so by their niece and her husband, Mr & Mrs James Bart, who also acquired the Manitowish Waters Telephone Company. They also built the house almost directly across the road from the library as the telephone exchange and their home.

Sinning's Cottages

Relatives of the LaFave's. Their housekeeping cottage resort was right next to the LaFave's resort on Island Lake. Olive Sinning was a daughter of Abraham LaFave.

Birch Bay Cabins

The Michaelis family. A resort built around 1945-1950 from scratch on the Manitowish River, behind the Catholic Church. Many of the children have the cabins now, and some was broken up.

Sunset Lodge

On Manitowish Lake, on the Highway 51 side. Operated by Phyllis Andrews until the 1970s or so, and was broken up. She was the postmistress at Manitowish Waters for a while, after her grandmother and then mother was.

Olivida Cottages

Captain ("Cap") Smith – a retired sea captain from merchant marine. Cottages (1920s or 30s until the 50s) on Manitowish Lake near channel to Little Star. On Park Rd.

Circle Lily Lodge

On Highway 51 at Circle Lily Creek, just into Iron County. Bar, small dining room, gas pump, housekeeping cottages. Buildings were all made of upright logs. Cabins were on one side of highway, bar on the other. Operated by Clara and Louie Laffin. Their kids had Trail's End for a while.

Happy Wanderer

On Highway 51, close to the Manitowish River bridge. Operated by Marie LaPorte, who had run the Soda Grille (known as "Marie's Soda Saloon") before it burned.

Papoose Lodge

On Papoose lake. Perhaps run by Mr & Mrs Bill Berry??

Gateway Hotel

Land O' Lakes. Built between 1937 and 1940. Gateway Lodge was build first.

Thrappoose Lodge

Mr & Mrs Howard Thrapp ran this on Papoose Lake.

Tony's Pier

Tony Machiniak (sp?) had a house on a hill top overlooking Papoose Lake, across Papoose Lake rd from the lake, and it was a fishing camp type establishment. Became Green's Fishing Camp after that. Railroad employees would often stay overnight here.

Knotty Pine Resort

Frank Tichy – probably post WWII era, into the 1960s.

Little housekeeping cottages on the river, close to the Iron County line, just off Hwy 51. Had a small sandwich shop in the building with the office.

The Chateau

Right across the street from library. Bar with some food, a small number of housekeeping cottages. Build by Mr & Mrs Carl Christensen. Was sold to Walter Strum and wife. Then became Zagers', Copeland's Cove, then Cozy Cove (the Jack and Joan Alonso).

Holiday Lodge

Off Highway 51 towards Iron County. On the river (or possibly on Dog Lake) in the 1940s.

Rupena's Lodge

Green building – bar and hotel rooms on Highway W in Winchester, opposite Chicago Pub today. Later owned by Willie Kruschinski.

Buswell

On the SW tip of Papoose Lake – a little sawmill town. Peaked between 1905-1912. (See the Chamber of Commerce book for a little history of this)

The mill burned during the week of 4th of July, 1910.

Camp Manito-wish YMCA

Still exists on Highway K. Nash Lodge was named after Charles Nash, of the automobile company, who used to own the property that is now Camp Jörn.