

Clark Lake History

2/1/05

Letter from Jane Ries 4/28/01

Dear Mr. Defaut

You are an ambitious man to do a history of Clark Lake. Thank you.

I have not answered before because I do not have a directory, which I thought I could use in talking about the cottages on Butts Road. So, until I receive one, I'll just tell you about the cottage I own (5558 Butts Road).

It was built in 1919 by my great uncle Edward Bohman. He used the dance floor from the resort behind our cottage (and it's still our living room floor in good shape). He built it as a hunting cottage 24' x 24'. After his wife died, he sold it to my father, D. M. Hall, and my uncle-in-law George Kosek. I heard the price was \$1500 (1927). In the early 50's, George Kosek's widow (my mother's sister) sold their half to my father. He had the electricity and well put in and made the front porch area part of the living room and the side porch area into a bedroom. Later he added a bathroom, dining area and bedroom on to the back of the cottage. In the 60's, he gave the cottage to my sister, Mary A. Hall, M.D., and me. Then, when my sister died in 1983, I inherited her half. I have been enjoying the place since 1927 when our Hall and Kosek families came up from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In 1945, my dad sold his factory in Cedar Rapids and moved to Casco to run an apple orchard. Since then, the Hall and Ries families have continued to enjoy it. My husband, Peter J. Ries, died in 1993, but my sons Peter M. Ries, M.D., and John H. Ries, and my daughter, Ann Ries Harrison (Mrs. Kent) and their families still use and love the place. Fortunately, my son, Peter, has the same home address I do in Casco and the other 2 families live in Door County.

I may be able to find some pictures taken on the beach during the 30's and 40's and maybe I can fill in some background about the cottages near mine. To the north were the Meyers and Niblocks and Butts, and to the south were Moreau's, Pfeffers, Beduhn and Schinemels. Let me know if you want me to "dig" a little more and I will look for some pictures. Good luck with this enterprise!!

Sincerely,

Jane Ries

P.S. I remember crossing the bridge in Sturgeon Bay from Sawyer to Sturgeon Bay. It was a toll bridge when it was first built and we paid the 10¢ when we crossed it – and never crossed it again until we had to go home. My mother wasn't going to waste a dime to shop in Sawyer!