

History on Fernwood, Happy Hour Hitching Post
Gary R. Cashmore Letter
4/29/01

Dear Leslie and Bob,

Here is what info I have on the various subjects that you requested in the Clark Lake annual letter.

CAT ISLAND – Apparently more of a point than an island on the east side of the lake at the end of Weiderman Drive.

BLUE MOON – On the west side, may have been the name of a tavern that was located on Butts Road as it went down the hill to the lake.

GRASS HOPPER – Fernwood Gardens and now Mr. G 's. My mother Bertha Oram of Sturgeon Bay, who recently passed away at age 91, recalled attending dances there as a young woman.

HAPPY HOUR – There were several enterprises located here before it burned in the 50's and was replaced by the present building. It (and the Sunrise in Jacksonport) were stage stops when my family the Orams of Sturgeon Bay and the Worths and Janishs of Baileys Harbor traveled between the two towns. At times it housed a grocery store, barber shop, rooming house and had a hall on the second floor. Some of the past owners have been Al Volkes, Harv Junion, Benny Hanson (owner when it burned) and Gene and Sharon Kessen after it was rebuilt. It was the scene of countless wedding and Kermis'.

HITCHING POST- In the 1920's Glidden built an 18 hole golf course behind the HP. I can recall outlines of tees and greens in the 50's before they became overgrown. The course opened for a very short time just before the crash of 28 after which it was apparently left to fall into disrepair. Sometime after, Ewald Schmock (sp?) purchased much of Glidden's property. He sold off some of the course to the County for its readily available source of gravel. In 1950 he built the HP as a clubhouse for the remaining 9 holes. I don't know if it all actually ever opened as a golf course. In 1956 my sister Marney (Marilyn Marr) and her husband Buggs (Bill Koepp Jr.) purchased the HP and the corner lot. They added the living quarters on the left end and later the walk in cooler. They lived there and operated the business while raising 2 daughters Sue and Nancy. In the 195 they sold it to Jim Stewart of Chicago and moved to Valmy. Stewart leased it to a succession of proprietors until Hugh Daubner purchased it and still operates the business. The Koepps were well known for their fish chowder, fish fries and chicken with Marney's light fluffy dumplings and secret salad dressing.

CLARK LAKE – Apparently named after John Clark, a commercial fisherman in the 1800's who had a cabin somewhere in the vicinity of Cave Point – Whitefish Dunes. I can get more info on this upon returning to the lake in mid June. I have a fairly detailed book on the history of Door County and Clark is mentioned in it.