

Grand View Beach

on Mullett Lake, Michigan

It was in the summer, 1908, that Lee L. and Sadie Woodard went to Birchwood on Mullett Lake and rented a cottage of Mr. Rolle of Cheboygan. They had their two-month old son, Joseph, with them. They had a motor and took a ride on the lake and steered for the prettiest wooded spot they could find. They came to what is now Grand View and tied their boat to the roots of an old pine tree projecting out of the water from the bank. There the dense forest came down to the water on the southwest shore between Topinabee and the Indian River which provided an ideal spot for camping and fishing. The trees were filled with black squirrels and the woods had an abundance of berries. The mosses and fern were luxuriant and beautiful. In every direction it was a beautiful location and exquisite in landscape beauty.

It happened that at this particular shore, four men from Owosso had been there before them, for in 1905, Messrs. Alton and Scott Rundell, Bert Westfall and Henry Schellenbarger had been scouting for a hunting site and found this shore near the Michigan Central railroad, and decided to purchase it if possible. They visited the M.C. officials in Detroit and bought this tract from them. This consisted of a fractional 40 lots no. 5, 6, and 7. (This authority is from Mrs. Scott Rundell.)

A year later found several camps here and a carpenter, Ed Cherry, helped to build a house for Scott Rundell which stood on a back lot and was later moved to a lake front where he was living when Mr. William Henry Pier purchased it from him in 1912. This later became the Openo cottage and is now the Lurie cottage.

The cottage, now owned by the Manders and Chiavaras families, was the first building erected on this shore. Mr. Cherry helped the Rundell Bros. build it for a hunting cabin. It was painted green with red trim and was at one time owned by Thane Neal for several years.

A lot owned by Scott Rundell next to the Neal property was traded to Lee Woodard for a boat. In the summer of 1909, he built a log cabin on it, and his little family lived in a tent nearby facing the lake. Mrs. Woodard had a young maid helping her, and her mother Mrs. Frank Greenman was with them that summer. Lee built a cradle for Joe cut out of a hollowed out



three Harryman sons built a fine pirate cabin back in the woods that stood intact for years. Mrs. Harryman came up here to live among the pines for her health and lived in a tent until their cottage was built. She was cured of all lung trouble. Mr. Harryman died in 1940 and in 1942 the property was sold to James Quaylee of Corunna. It is now owned by the Bachakes family.

Mr. Cherry built five cottages along the beach during the years of 1909 and 1910. Among them was the Peter McKain cottages later owned by the Binders.

The Schellenbarger's sold their cottage to Mr. and Mrs. Hartle of Owosso who owned a notion store there. They were fine people with a family. They sold it to Hohlers who kept it until the passing of Mrs. Hohler. Her heirs sold it to Mr. Alton Rundell.

Grand View was heard of to be such a wonderful spot, every summer new cottages were found, many of the owners from Owosso. Mr. and Mrs. O.B. Estey, Mr. and Mrs. Parker and their two sons Leslie and Harry, and Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Peru and two children were among them. Mr. Peru build on the lot on which Arnold's guest cottage stands and he brought Mrs. Peru up here as soon as school was out as she was in poor health.

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Calkins built south of the Harryman cottage. A few years after the passing of Mrs. Calkins, Mr. Calkins sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Clare Hall of Convoy, Ohio in 1934.

Eventually cottages were built further north along the beach, one by Ed Zimmerman which was sold to Archis Beebe in 1930 and now is owned by the Stowers. Another cottage was built by Mr. Elmer Underwood who sold to the George Millers; it later burned down. George Stanton was another to build and chose the spot near the public landing now owned by the Palmers.

Dr. Les Arnold bought lots from Ed Fillinger and built in 1922. They are now the Jack Arnold's. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith built their cottage next to the Arnolds; it is now owned by Martha Sheerin. This was south of the log cabin owned in those days by Dr. Ray Mahaney and now owned by the Kus family. Karl Welte was another to build and after a few years, he sold to Dr. Bates from Durand; it is now owned by the Lehs. Messrs. Scott and Alton Rundell built two cottages very similar in construction where they spent the summers with their families for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Patee bought the one owned by Scott Rundell in 1930 which later burned, and the lot is now vacant. At an early date, the Fred Cook's of Jackson bought the Lee Woodard log cabin for \$275. Upon their deaths it became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell of Jackson, who in turn sold it to the Alfred Huards of Detroit. It is now owned by the Nagels. Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Cadwallader bought the Fred Woodard cottage in 1922 which is now owned by the Hahns.

Other cottages were built on the far south end of the beach by C.C. Wright. Mr. and Mrs. Trudeau built the last two cottages at the south end and sold to the Oldanis of Detroit (Barbara Forbes family). The first is now owned by Tom and Mary Lynch and the second by John and Helen Vala. Mr. Oldani also owned the property south of Valas to the point where Indian River flows into Mullet Lake. With the approval of the Conservation Department, Mr. Oldani filled in 7 lots. He was told he could not fill any further due to the spawning of muskies.



These lots are in north to south order. The first lot was owned by Bob and Dorothy Oldani. The present owners are the Howell/Lynch families. The second lot's original owners were Bob and Bernie Leithauser. The present owners are their daughter Louise Hopson and son-in-law Darrell D'Aagostino and their families. The third lot's original owners were Stan and Mildred Opalka who sold to the present owners, Ben and Marie Thibideau. Lot # 4 was purchased by Emerick Gasparovic and sold to its present owners Jack and Barbara Couture. The next lot's original owners were the Webbs. Al and Barbara Mangum are the present owners. Lot #6 was originally owned by the Arthur Blakeslees. Now the owners are Virginia and John Morris. The last lot of this parcel of land are first time owners, John and Delores Karpach. The original owners of the last lot south of Karpachs are Patrick, Barbara and Dennis Forbes.

Mr. Nicholas Verlac built the modern log cabin at the bend of the road (now the Kinna cottage), and later bought the O.B. Estey cottage from Mrs. Trudeau which is now owned by the Braceys and Molly Giles who purchased from the Grosses. The cottage north of this was originally built by Harold Bunting who sold to June Zink. It is now owned by the Boyers who purchased from the Lynch/Kendrick families. North of them is a cottage originally owned by Mary Catherine Binder. It then passed to Allan Binder, Felix Planza and the Delaneys. This property is now owned by Walt and Roxanne Czapiga. Mr. Tom Mitchell built the cottage now owned by the Wesleys of Oakley, and Mr. Linsey built the one directly across the road which Mr. Wesley also owns. A few years later, Messrs. Scott Rundell and Arthur Gordon built their cottages across the road from Palmer's and Walsh's.

For many years, Grand View was reached by way of the Michigan Central Railroad. Mr. Scott Rundell and Mr. Schellembarger obtained permission of the R.R. officials to erect a small shelter or station beside the track close to Neal Corner. They bought the lumber in Cheboygan for \$40. and built it themselves. For twenty-five years Mr. Rundell paid a \$1.00 a year rental for the structure to Mr. Vandewater, the ticket agent for the Michigan Central Railroad in Owosso. After many years, the engineers refused to stop their trains at Grand View as they argued that they had just left Indian River and would be in Topinabee around the bend.

It was a long tiresome ride up from Grayling on the afternoon train, the Cannon Ball, a mixed train which moved very slowly and made innumerable stops to either load or unload freight or perhaps take on another passenger. Upon arriving at the little station and walking over to the farm, George Noka could be engaged to drive over after the luggage and the rest of the family.

The first car that drove into the beach was a two passenger car, driven by a salesman of the Owosso Casket Company who called at the Fred Woodard cottage. A large group soon gathered to hear him relate his experiences.

Little by little others ventured to make the trip by auto. It took two long days to make the journey from Owosso to Grand view, much in contrast to the three hours in the comfortable cars over the fine roads of today.

For several years the only source of water supply was from a very shallow well put down by the Rundell brothers between what is now the Nagel and Mandalanis properties. It was close to the road and rather centrally located to accommodate the cottages along the beach. It was



a great event when the first power drilling machine was brought in and drilled an artesian well. In the summer of 1924, Mr Shadbolt put down several such wells. The first one was drilled for the Neals just behind their cottage. The temperature of the water was taken at that time, and it tested 40 degrees.

In 1928, Messrs. William Pitts, Ed Zimmerman, and Thane Neal bought a tract of land from the Nokas. A portion of it located between Grand View and Cold springs was cleared and subdivided. This section was called Wildwood. Those who bought lots and built in this new subdivision bordering the lake were the W.J. Bloods and Ray Halls (now the Hart/Filo cottage), the Notmans (now the Findley cottage), the Glenn Morses (now the Rossman cottage), E.J. Willman (now the Roush cottage), the Oliver Elliots (now the Fred and Robert Elliot cottage), and the Vossbergs (now the Huard cottage).

Cold Springs was first settled by two of the three Binley brothers. One settled in Topinabee and the remaining two in Cold Springs in the early 1900s. One Binley cottage was bought by Robert Fergus from the F.M. Ruppel family and torn down. The second Binley cottage was bought by the Hofstras from the Sampson family and also torn down and a new cottage built.

F.M Spenser bought a lot sight unseen in 1920. He and his son and brother cleared it and a cottage was built in 1921 by C.R. Conners of Topinabee. This cottage was torn down in 1986 and a new cottage built now known as the Bennett cottage.

Later the Wetherall family purchased several lots and built and bought several homes, some of which are still in the family. The main home now owned by the Liegls (a granddaughter) and another owned by the Andraes (a grandson). A daughter lived in the last house in Wildwood which was torn down and a new home built by the Wrights. Another daughter lived in a cottage now torn down and a new home built by the Jones. A third daughter owned a home north of these now owned by the Millers. The youngest daughter owned a lot which was purchased by the Dillinghams where they built a cottage.

Several other modern cottages were built, one of which was later owned by Don Notman and now owned by the Weavers. The Campbells built and a new cottage owned by the Lesperances stands there. The Luschs built and a new home owned by the Wilson family is in its place. Mr. Hart sold his property to Mr. and Mrs. Olney from Ovid. This property is now owned by the Hoshals. Mr. Hart and Mr. Olney were both fine resident builders at Grand View.

The Bonnis Fergus cottage was owned by the Butlers and occupied by Oscar Loeffler for many years. The Robert Fergus cottage was bought from the Millers in the late 1950's and is now owned by the extended Weller family. The Openo cottage was built by Lee Woodard, owned by Marks and Butlers until the Openo family purchased it. Lee Woodard also built a large stone cottage to the north which was sold to Dr. Ott, then to Butlers, Marks, and Pixleys. It is now owned by the Ritters.

In 1948 & 1949, C.L. Butler bought several lake front lots from John Spaller who at that time owned the woods behind us. On two lots he built his own home which Mrs. Butler lived in for forty years. This place was later owned by the Skogs who sold to John Gibson. He also at one



time owned the lots that both the Miller cottages are on. The Miller main cottage was previously owned by Roger Miller's parents. Eatons also own two cottages, one lot was originally owned by Butler and the other the Eatons bought and built on.

Verle Willet built several homes in this area, some for Butler and some on his own. Three of these are Marge and Jim Skog's cottage, which formerly belonged to LaVignes, Roger and Ann Harris's cottage, and John and Barbara Waggoner's cottage.

The Lutz's cottage was built by Nichols and was formerly owned by the Ashmans and Nichols followed by the Senger's which was formerly owned and built by the Risselages.

The same year that cottages were being built on Wildwood, a road was built to the east side of Wildwood and west of Grand View known as the Long road, named after Chester Long, our first caretaker whose small cabin was built on the west side of the new road. Later, James Rundell built a cottage across the road from the Long cabin. About fifty years ago, the caretaker's cabin was moved to Neal Corner and a small addition was made.

Mr. Floyd Hollopeter followed Mr. Long in the capacity of caretaker and served well for a number of years. Mr. Hartley Taylor proved himself trustworthy and faithful during the years he served, and Mrs. Taylor was accommodating and helpful at every opportunity. Harold Ordway was the last resident caretaker at Grand View. He also did an excellent job in every way.

I think it would be hard to find a happier or more congenial resort community than we have a Grand View. The writer begs apologies for personal mention, but I stuck to my subject of writing my experiences and Grand View history as I know it.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Woodard

August 20, 1948



MINOR EDITING.....Woodard Openo, July 1992

ADDITIONAL EDITINGDirectory Committee, July 2000
Joann Arnold, Ruth Bennett, Barbara Forbes, Marcia Monette

UPDATEDMarcia Monette, July 2003

*If you have historical information relating to Grand View Beach,
please give it to a Board of Directors member for inclusion in the next Directory.*