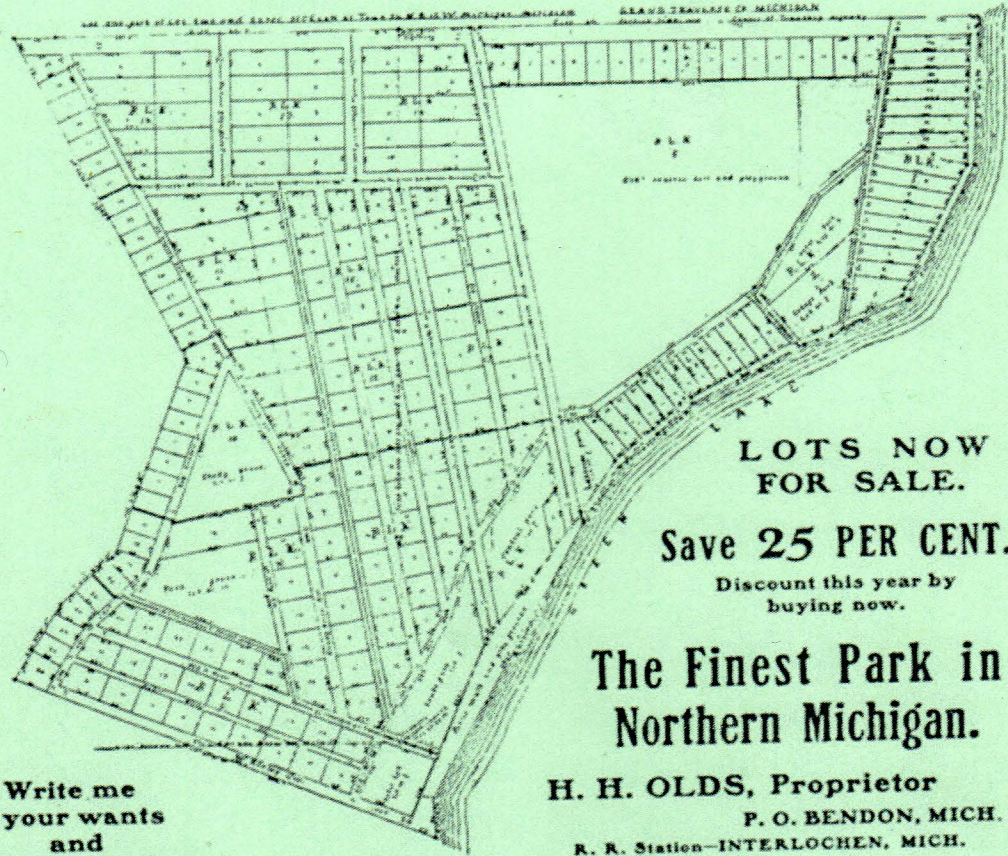


History of Diamond Park

DIAMOND PARK.



**LOTS NOW
FOR SALE.**

Save 25 PER CENT.
Discount this year by
buying now.

**The Finest Park in
Northern Michigan.**

H. H. OLDS, Proprietor
P. O. BENDON, MICH.
R. R. Station—INTERLOCHEN, MICH.

FIRMIN GENEAX, Agent

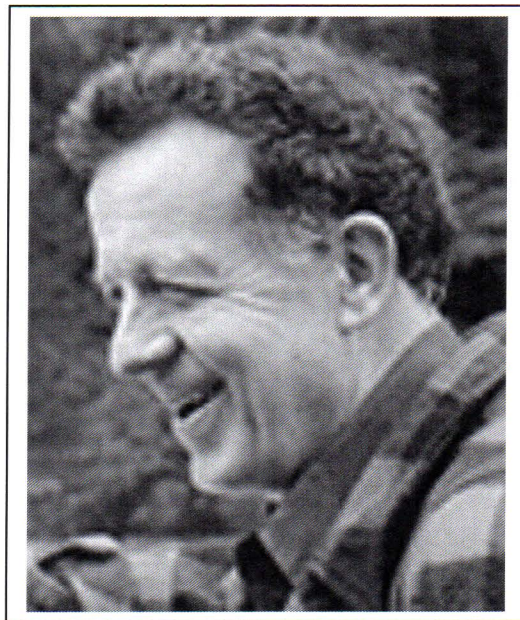
Write me
your wants
and
Keep Smiling.

&

**Diamond Park Property
Owners Association**

HISTORY OF DIAMOND PARK
And
DIAMOND PARK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Published August 4, 2016



By
SAMUEL HAYS
&
JOHN AND MARY MELVIN

CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	3
Diamond Park Sign	4
Names & Addresses on Diamond Park Sign	5
Early Land Transactions	6
The BW Griffin Years	7
Diamond Park Property Owners Association formations	8
The Land, Buildings and People	10
DPPOA Late 20 th Century	14
Oral History Interviews	17
Early Property Owners in Diamond Park – properties sold	37
Notes by Mrs. James Veen, 1967	38
List of Property Owners 1946-1952 and 1965	40
History of Properties and Property Owners	44
Diamond Park Road	44
Main Street	44
Euclid Avenue	45
Indiana Avenue	49
Central Avenue	50
Shady Grove Avenue	50
Linden Avenue	51
Griffin Avenue	51
Supporting Documents	52
Historic Photos	61

Acknowledgements

Special gratitude to Samuel Hays for his dedication in pursuing the documentation of the history of Diamond Park and the Diamond Park Property Owners Association (DPPOA). Samuel P. Hays is University Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Pittsburgh. Sam is also a very accomplished author. He wrote: Wars in the Woods, Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency, and co-authored Environmental Politics in the United States.

Also, special recognition is extended to several residents of Diamond Park for participating in the oral interviews and sharing photos, experiences and memories of the early days “roughing it” in the north woods; making this document possible. These residents are listed below:

Lila Krause

Martha Dowswell (Daughter of Hugh and Hattie Sherman)

Alice Faulk (Daughter of Samuel and Lena Rabkin)

Rosemary Coohon (Daughter of James Veen) & the Veen family

Sasha Stolley (Son of Misha Stolerevsky)

Hugo Carle (Nephew of Albert & Elsie Conkey)

Tony Muir (Nephew of Albert & Elsie Conkey)

Joe Trachy Sr. (from the Detroit area; purchased the Melvin Resort in 1955)

John and Mary Melvin (Son of Dale & Margaret Melvin, Grandson of John & Charlotte “Lottie” Melvin)

Fred A. Braden (Son of Fred P. Braden)

The Mygott family

Gail Benson

Carolyn (Veen) Boger

Kathleen Millross



Names & Addresses on Sign

A.F. Antzak
10275 Diamond Park Rd.

V. Bakaleinikoff
4082 Mane Street

O.E. Brendel
4255 Euclid Ave.

A.D. Conkey
10623 Griffin Ave.

H.E. Cook
Unknown

Mike Corneillie
4049 Euclid Ave.

Dave Cromar
4063 Euclid Ave.

Don Demorest
10593 Griffin Ave.

C. L. English
4171 Euclid Ave.

Mrs. E. Griffin
4067 Main Street,

Morris E. Grover
4337 Euclid Ave.

Geo. F. Howard
4074 Main Street

C.V. Jones
4075 Euclid Ave.

Wm Loudon
4133 Indiana Ave

Dale Melvin
10435 Diamond Park Road

L.A. Merickel
North side of 4190 Central Ave.

W.F. Morofsky
10263 Diamond Park Rd.

B. Perutz
4253 Euclid Ave.

L. Pulikowski
4161 Euclid Ave,

Samuel Rabkin
4175 Euclid Ave.

Don Sherman
Across from 4150 Central Ave.

Hugh Sherman
4295 Euclid Ave.

J. Lewis Small
4265 Euclid Ave.

J.C. Veen
4343 Euclid Ave.

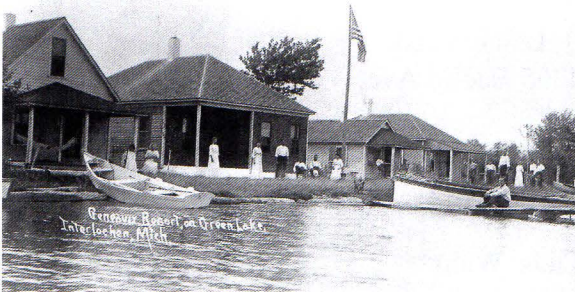
Chas. Wahl
4230 Euclid Ave.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF DIAMOND PARK ON GREEN LAKE AT INTERLOCHEN, MICHIGAN

EARLY LAND TRANSACTIONS, 1871-1922

The land that is now Diamond Park has two separate histories, one for the northern part and the other for the southern part, which did not come together until acquired by Burdett W. Griffin (B. W.) in 1922. The northern part was entered from the U. S. government by Maurice Brown in 1871, and then went through a number of transfers, most of which involved failure to pay taxes. The land would revert to the county for failure to pay back taxes and then was re-sold to new owners. This happened several times. Finally in 1906, Jennie E. Johnson sold the northern part to Homer H. Olds of Copemish, who platted the land on April 15, 1908. This plat map contains the first known use of the name, Diamond Park, to describe the area. Olds sold several lots to his family and associates, almost all of them involved in the lumber business, either as former lumber workers or as workers in a wood processing plant in Copemish. Then in 1913 it was acquired by Frank Reynolds who held it for a number of years when it was acquired by B. W. Griffin of Toledo, Ohio, who continued to sell lots primarily in accordance with the Olds plat of 1908. At the same time Griffin acquired the land in the southern part of Diamond Park down to the cove, as part of his real estate transactions. The history of this tract of land is not as well documented as is the Olds tract.

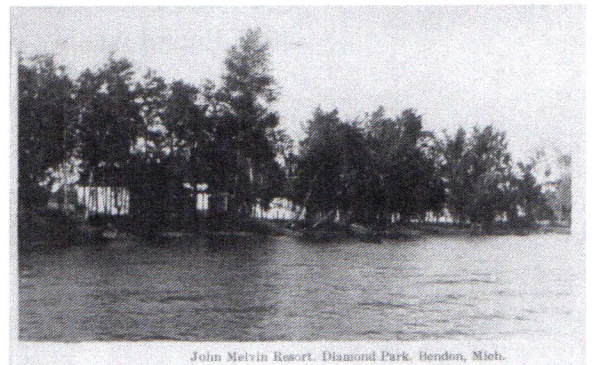
Among the first purchasers of lots from Homer Olds were two families each one of which acquired several lots on the lake, south of the current public launch site at the bend on Diamond Park Road. These were Firmin and Bertha Geneaux and John and Charlotte (Lottie) Melvin. Both Firmin and John shared backgrounds in the lumber industry as well as various activities in the Interlochen area associated with that industry. Both had the idea of catering to people who wanted to fish and vacation at Green Lake during the summer. They built summer cottages for this purpose. Both the Geneaux and Melvin cottages served as the initial entry point to a variety of people who acquired property in Diamond Park in later years. They would stay for a summer in these cottages and then become interested in a place of their own.



Geneaux Resort; first cottages on Euclid
Avenue on lakeside

Main Street, was to his daughter and her husband, George Howard. The house was owned by Ann Kimball during the 70's and 80's. Olds built another house, on the Lake, which was acquired by Lila Krause in 1939. Lila had visited the area in 1913 with her parents. The cottage north or next door, known as the "Honeymoon Cottage" was built by Mr. and Mrs. George Howard

Homer Olds also sold several lots to his family. One of the first lots he sold on



(Old's son-in-law and daughter) for their daughter Margaret's honeymoon when she married a Leslie. Lila Krause acquired "the honeymoon cottage" at a later date.

Frank Reynolds, the owner from whom B. W. Griffin bought the property, incorporated into his deed of sale some conditions which establish the tone and tenor of the community he sought to influence. It read as follows: "It is expressly agreed and is made a part of the consideration of this deed that neither the aforesaid land or any buildings that may be erected thereon shall at any time thereafter be used for saloon property or for mercantile or any commercial purpose, and that in the case of the violation of this provision by said party of the second part, legal heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, assignees or lessees, said land and buildings and improvement that shall be placed thereon, shall revert and become the property of said Will N. Dibble, Trustee, his heirs and assigns. The second party not to build nearer than 2 feet on said Diamond Park, and no barns, sheds or stables to be erected on said lot as above described. The above lands to be used for cottage purposes only."

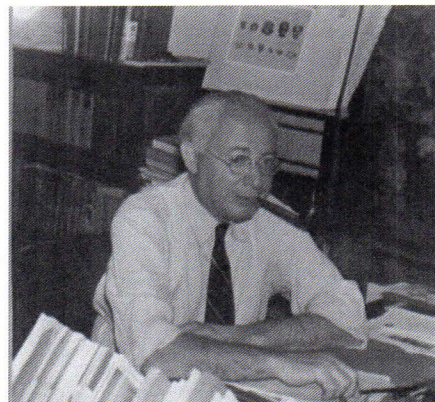
THE B. W. GRIFFIN YEARS

In 1922 this northern part of what is now Diamond Park was acquired from Frank Reynolds by B. W. Griffin. Not much is known about Griffin. He was associated with a manufacturer of burial vaults in Toledo, Ohio. Just how he came to know about upper, lower Michigan is quite a mystery. However it is clear that he fell in love with the place for its natural beauty and set about advertising it in order to sell lots within the general scheme established by Homer Olds, but including the southern part of Diamond Park as well. The letterhead on which he conducted his affairs was titled with the following: "Have you dreamed of a camp, a lodge or a cottage in some beauty spot off in the wilderness? Let us plan and build for you the place of your dreams, in the woods, on the shores of Green Lake." The address on his letterhead read: "B. W. Griffin, 2940 Fulton St., Toledo, Ohio.



Lorin Maazel & Vladimir Bakaleinikoff

The sales went slowly, but over time a diverse number of families were attracted to Diamond Park, many of whom were attracted to the fishing opportunities in Green Lake. A group of people from southern Michigan purchased lots in the southern part of this section, and came to be quite influential in Diamond Park affairs; most prominent among them were James Veen and Albert D. Conkey.



Dr Samuel Rabkin DDS

Several families of another prominent group were associated with The National Music Camp. Among them a group from Cincinnati who were artists associated with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and who taught

summers at The National Music Camp. Joining this group were friends from Cincinnati; among them Dr. Samuel Rabkin, D.D.S. Misha Stolerevsky and Vladimir Bakaleinikoff and young protégé' Lorin Maazel. Still a third group had associations with the railroads. Ethel Griffin's husband, a brother of B. W. Griffin and Charles "Cap" English were associated with the Pere Marquette Railroad.

Samuel Rabkin, D.D.S. built a cottage on the lake at 4175 Euclid and Charles English built a lake cottage next door to the north. (South Park is next door to the Rabkin residence.) Two of B. W. Griffin's step children, sons of his second wife, the Sherman brothers, Don & Hugh were associated with B.W. Griffin in this land venture, and as a reward Griffin let them pick out lots for themselves on which he built houses for them.



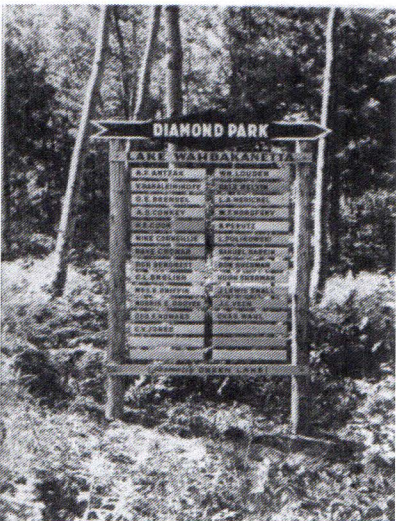
Lena & Samuel Rabkin Cottage
4175 Euclid

This comprised the main group of this second wave of residents, who came to Diamond Park after Griffin acquired the tract, and most of them looked upon their arrival at Diamond Park as part of the "Griffin years". These could be called the pre-World War II newcomers who came to Diamond Park in the 1920's and 1930's. More extensive details of these years can be gleaned from the oral interviews conducted with older resident's sharing their memories of that time period.

THE DIAMOND PARK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Diamond Park Property Owners Association, The Early Years, 1944-46, written by Noreen Bennett who in the 1970's and 1980's was the Associations' keeper of historical records.

Initial Proposal for Association: The Diamond Park Property Owners Association was first discussed and planned in the summer of 1944. Mr. B. W. Griffin suggested that a group of property owners form an association "to benefit the community". This being done he would deed the plot of land known as "the Commons" to the association to be used primarily for recreational purposes. The matter was discussed with Mr. James Veen, Mr. Don Demorest, and Mr. Albert Conkey. They approved of Mr. Griffin's proposal and made



Sign erected in the
summer of 1948
Diamond Park Rd & M137

the following suggestions:

1. The primary purpose of the Association would be to acquire title to the land being donated by Mr. Griffin, and to maintain and improve this land for the benefit of all property owners.
2. The secondary purpose of the Association would be of a more general nature and consist of projects that only an organized group could carry out.
3. The original suggestions were as follows:
 - a. Improve and maintain roads.
 - b. Survey and establish property lines.
 - c. Change post office address from Bendon to Interlochen; and perhaps change the location of mail boxes.
 - d. Install a telephone, electric lights, road signs, and owner's names*.
 - e. Suggest regulations for power boats, floating rafts, etc.
 - f. Planting, care and removal of trees on group property.

- g. Cooperate with other similar groups for state planting of fish, as well as the removal of unwanted species.

* Bob Woodcock gathered the names of residents of Diamond Park for Jim Veen, who had the signs made at Klise Manufacturing in Grand Rapids.

INCORPORATION:

At this time it was decided that it would be best to incorporate, and then try to interest all Diamond Park property owners in joining the organization. In April of 1945 Mr. Veen contacted Mr. R. S. Tubbs, a Grand Rapids lawyer, and made arrangements to acquire Articles of Incorporation. The fee would be \$50.00 plus \$17.00 for filing the document. Mr. Veen agreed to underwrite these expenses. Mr. Conkey was to be listed as President of the organization, Mr. Demorest as Vice-President, and Mr. Veen as Resident Agent. These men would also be considered a temporary Board of Directors.

Briefly, the Articles of Incorporation stated the name to be Diamond Park Property Owners Association. The purpose to be the provision of recreational facilities for "the greater pleasure and enjoyment of the owners of property in Diamond Park, located on the shores of Green Lake in Grand Traverse County." Also, to improve and maintain highways, parks, and recreational areas.

In July of 1945 Mr. Conkey drew up a set of By-Laws and sent them to the temporary Board of Directors for their consideration. Briefly these By-Laws stated that any owner of property adjacent to Diamond Park could become a member of the Association upon written application and payment of \$5.00 membership fee. The annual dues were to be \$2.00 and the annual meeting would be held the second Saturday in August. Notices were to be sent to all members at least 10 days before each meeting. The Board of Directors would consist of seven members for a term of three years. The annual meeting of the Directors was to be held following the meeting of Association members. The Directors were to select a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer from the Board. The final article stated that by a three-fourths vote of those present at a meeting the by-laws could be amended or altered.

In July 1945 a letter was sent to all property owners inviting them to a meeting to be held at the Griffin house on August 25, 1945. The following people attended this first meeting of the Diamond Park Association: Mr. Don Demorest, Vice-President, Mr. J. L. Veen, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Julian Pulikowski, Mr. Lorin Maazel, Mrs. Julia Bakaleinikoff, Mr. and Mrs. Roblish, Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Dale) Melvin, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Griffin, Mrs. Ethel Griffin, Mr and Mrs. Charles English, Mr. Samuel Rabkin, Mrs. Beatrice Perutz, Mrs. Bertha Geneaux. Mr. Conkey, President, was unable to attend this first meeting so the Vice-President, Don Demorest, called the meeting to order. Proxies were presented for Hugh Sherman and Albert Conkey.



Mr. Demorest explained the purposes of the Association and what might be done to improve the area in the coming years. Mr. Veen explained the present status of the Association and read a list of known property owners. The suggested By-Laws were discussed and following minor changes were accepted by the group. Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Griffin and Mr. And Mrs. John Melvin were made Honorary Members. The first Board of Directors was then nominated and voted upon. The Board consisted of Mr. Conkey, Mr. Robert (Dale) Melvin, and Mr.

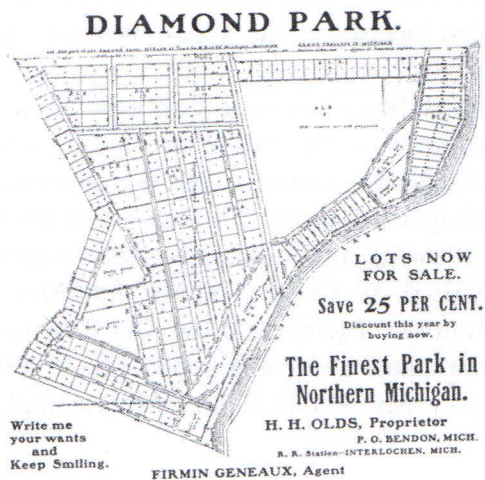
Veen for three year terms; Mrs. Ethel Griffin and Mr. Demorest for two year terms; and Mr. English for a one-year term. Mr. Griffin addressed the meeting and thanked the group for this "good fellowship" and expressed hope that the park would continue to improve.

GIFT OF COMMONS:

The newly elected Board of Directors held a meeting after the property owners met, and Mr. Griffin presented them with the deed to the Commons property. A description of the area was to be worked out with Robert (Dale) Melvin and would then be recorded. An article announcing the gift was to be sent to the Record Eagle and the Toledo Blade newspapers. Mr. Veen read the Treasurer's Report which showed a balance of 88 cents. Money received from the dues would be used to pay the outstanding bills and maintain a balance of \$10.00. Several possible projects were discussed, among them the placing of a bench near the mailboxes "to accommodate persons waiting for mail delivery".

On August 10, 1946 a Board of Directors meeting was held at the home of Mr. James Veen. Mr. Robert (Dale) Melvin, Mr. Charles English, Mrs. Ethel Griffin and Mr. James Veen were present. Mr. English offered the use of his home for the Annual Meeting to be held on August 17. Due to the illness of several members the Annual Picnic was not planned for this year. However, a committee was to be appointed to plan for one to be held in August of 1947. The Board decided to invite all property owners to become members of the Diamond Park Association. Mr. Anzak was asked to fill a three year vacancy on the Board. Issues concerning road maintenance, planting of fish, and support for an airport were discussed before adjournment.

At the Annual Meeting August 17, 1946, the President, Mr. A.D. Conkey, reported the membership had increased from 11 to 24 members. The Grand Traverse County Road Commission had done some work and would cooperate with further road improvement. During the year four letters had been sent to all members concerning work being done for the Association. Many members wrote to the Federal Post Office Department asking that Mr. Buller be retained as local postmaster. It was believed that this interest helped him retain his position. Mr. Melvin arranged for the delivery of ice and the collection of garbage and tin cans. The planned telephone installation could not be completed due to a wire shortage. However, the telephone company promised to complete this work in 1947. Information was received that the Association property would be exempt from all local, state and federal taxes. The President's Report was accepted. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$29.86. Dr. Anzak stated that he believed the taxes on the Diamond Park properties were not uniform due to faulty descriptions in the county records. This was to be discussed with Mr. Pennington, the township assessor. It was also suggested that a list of property owners be sent to Mr. Pennington so he could send our tax bills to these people instead of their having to write and request a billing.



THE LAND, BUILDINGS AND PEOPLE

The first plats of Diamond Park, including both the 1908 plat by Homer Olds, and the south part of the area by the Cove, provided for 221 lots and "park" areas. It was apparent that he thought of the area as a potential residential community in an attractive natural setting. B. W. Griffin continued this. Over the years the development of Diamond Park led to the reduction of the potential for 221 homes to 85 home sites, the number existing in 2004. Home owners often purchased two or more lots for their homes, or purchased land nearby to keep

it as undeveloped land. At the same time residents resisted pressures toward more intensive development. It is apparent that they preferred the relatively uncongested natural setting of the community. There are several aspects of the evolution of this story.

The original Olds plat of Diamond Park had provided for several different park areas. The largest was the “Ball Field” which later was known as the Olds Ball Field and still later as Griffin Park. Then there was Lakeview Park at the lake end of Main Street, Hotel Park further down the lake, and South Park on the east side of the lake between Lakeview and Hotel. Griffin retained these areas as park areas in his plans. However, in some cases he reduced their size. In the case of the Olds Ball Field, for example, he moved Euclid Avenue west some 20 feet, reducing the size of the area, later called Griffin Park, adding that land to the cottage lots along the lake to give them more space for their septic fields. He also added land to the south end of the lots along Diamond Park Road, reducing the size of the Olds Ball Field even more. In the case of Lakeview Park he carved out a lot on its north side which he sold to Julian Pulikowski. For the most part these changes in the original “park” areas were confined to the early lot sales. South Park, a notable exception, was retained without reduction in size as provided in the original plat. Griffin built his house on the southwest side so as to provide for an extended view of the lake from the house. This landscape view was an integral part of his personal property.

In later years some residents took action on their own to prevent natural land from being developed. In one case Mary Gonzales and her two neighbors on northern Euclid Avenue took action to conserve land on the west side of Euclid through some sort of joint ownership with the agreement that it would not be developed. In another case the Labiners, on Indiana Avenue, acquired land from David Milarch in back of their property with the idea that it would not be developed. A third protective action of larger scale was carried out by Alex Stolley, owner of a cottage on the north end of Main Avenue. Alex acquired several lots between his house and Diamond Park Road and also purchased the Ethel Griffin property just south of his cottage and tore down the old cottage that existed on the property. Another acquisition of two non-lake lots with no lake access on Griffin Avenue was made by Tony Muir’s two grandsons. There was also an eight-foot strip between Tony Muir’s property and that of Roger Dirkse that Muir was able to extinguish as public right-of-way through a joint petition, deeded over to Muir to prevent development.

Most of Griffin’s earliest sales, as well as those of Olds before him, were lakefront properties. Buyers seemed to be either those who wanted to build and rent for summer visitors or those who wished to build summer cottages for their own use. Lakefront properties were far more attractive to buyers than the woods on the other side, an area known as “the woods” where Griffin built a house on Indiana Avenue known as the “house in the woods.” Prices charged for the lots in the woods were far less than those on the lakefront. Alex Stolley relates that his father built at the upper end of Main St. because he could not

afford one of the lakefront lots. The lakefront lots were also attractive to buyers because they were on relatively high ground and since the property was not swampy it was buildable property. This was quite different from the land above the lake intake on Diamond Park Road, just north of the tract known as “Diamond Park” which



The Geneaux Dock at the corner of Euclid Ave & Diamond Park Road shows “The Swamp” in the background.

was lowland and known to the earlier residents of Diamond Park as “the swamp.” Here some land filling and walling was essential to build a home. Along the lake there was continual damage and erosion from wind and waves, but this was reduced considerably by placing rocks along the banks and installing plantings and land fill.

In the pre-Griffin years most of the houses were of simple construction with minimal facilities, no electricity, outhouses, hand pumped water and wood stoves for cooking and heating. Few of these survived into later years; some were torn down and others extensively remodeled. Most were built only for summer occupancy. In later years they often served as the first introduction to Diamond Park for those who when they experienced the attractive residential setting during a summer visit decided to develop more permanent living quarters. So in the Griffin years a number of more permanent dwellings were built. This was the case with the Veen and Sherman houses on the high ground at the southeast corner of the community and also the case of the Rabkin purchase in 1930. Both of these new more substantial houses were on the higher ground on the lakeside. Even these houses, however, had only primitive facilities.

Among these new residents of the 1920's and 1930's was the beginning of a community which comprised largely the family and friends of Griffin, staff of the National Music Camp and their friends from Cincinnati, and people searching for good fishing, as was the case of James Veen. Having built their houses they were in search of better facilities, such as electricity, gravel rather than sand roads and septic systems. These facilities had to wait until after World War II, but it was this group of residents who took the lead in bringing the community together into an organized association in the mid 1940's through the mid to late 1940's around the growing set of common interests. B. F. Griffin facilitated this when he agreed to give the old Olds Ball Field to the community if they organized an Association to care for it. And this was added to in later years when Don Sherman, a member of the Griffin Family, also gave the South Park property to the Diamond Park Property Owners Association that had by that time been formed and was functioning on a permanent basis.

The years following World War II found the Diamond Park community consisting of a number of residents from the 1920's and 1930's who had come to consider the Park as their “summer home” and a number of newcomers, who both bought and built. Some upgraded their houses now that the roads were more substantial and access easier by automobile. Electricity with its associated modern conveniences and telephone service was now available. Many of these “newcomers” came from downstate Detroit and Lansing not any at this time from Chicago. They seemed to be attracted to Crystal Lake, in Benzie County. Some newcomers continued to be associated with Interlochen Center for the Arts (formerly the National Music Camp). All seemed to be interested in lake recreation; some fished and almost all had boats of one kind or another, such as small motor boats which replaced the formerly more common rowboat, many had float boats, and as time went on a variety of more modern watercraft, such as sailboats, canoes, kayaks and jet skis appeared. It was in these years that the modern consumer society began to appear in Diamond Park.

After about 1975 all these tendencies in residential construction and consumer living seemed to increase steadily as more people with more expendable funds found Diamond Park and real estate agents advertised it along with other North Country properties to larger audiences to the south. Homeowners, both summer residents and permanent ones, added rooms to their houses, upgraded their facilities, and real estate values rose. Lakefront properties always brought higher values than did properties away from the shore. The value of Diamond Park properties often did not differ much from similar properties “back home” in the cities from which the new owners came, and new owners often looked upon their properties as an investment, either as a rental property or as a secure source of rising real estate values.

The attractiveness of Diamond Park on Green Lake brought the full force of modern lake-access real estate development to the Park. That influence appeared on the Diamond Park scene in the late 1980's in the form of a developer by the name of David Milarch, who announced that the community was substantially under priced and that he would change that by buying up properties, most of which already had houses on them, tear down the existing houses and build log houses on the sites. Most of these properties were located away from the lake with no lake access, but he announced also that he would create access by using the old rights-of-way between Euclid Avenue and the Lake that were in the original Plat. At this same time, Mr. Milarch sought to use South Park, owned by The Diamond Park Property Owners Association, as a lake-access point for his new houses. While the Association had long owned and served as caretaker of South Park, it had not exercised any control over docks placed on the waterfront leading out from South Park and about nine owners had put up their own docks. Mr. Milarch proceeded to put up an additional new dock for those who would reside in his newly constructed houses.

Mr. Milarch's actions represent a typical example of what has come to be called "funnel development" whereby owners of property near but not on a lake front acquire access to a body of water allowing the builder of houses or homeowners to place higher values on properties. This action created a prime opportunity for developers with such a goal in mind, and "funnel access" was a continued subject of controversy in the Green Lake Township Planning Commission Meetings. Mr. Milarch's proposals created a sharp resistance from many residents in the Diamond Park Community who feared that he would increase markedly the number of potential Diamond Park residents accessing Green Lake via rights-of-way within Diamond Park. In response to Mr. Milarch's claims on the rights-of-way, adjacent landowners along those rights-of-way had long considered them to be a "de facto" part of their property and his venture posed a threat to that customary usage and aroused a vigorous resistance. Some landowners took action to close the right of way to public usage by dividing ownership of the properties between the landowners on either side of the right of way.

These development fears led to several actions on the part of the Diamond Park Property Owners Association. One was to establish a firm boundary on the west side of the area where potential development appeared to be a real threat. The boundary was to be placed at Shady Grove Avenue on the west side, with properties west of it then being situated outside of the Association's boundaries. With the use of South Park confined to Association members and their renters, this precluded a development threat from that quarter. The second was to revise the Association's management over South Park waterfront by proposing that a single Association dock be erected and that the owners of the nine docks maintained by individual property owners relinquish their individual docks and use the Association dock. The Association dock was constructed with a series of finger docks creating individual slips to accommodate boats, with use of these docks limited to Diamond Park Property Owners Association members.

Mr. Milarch constructed six log houses in Diamond Park, resulting in substantial increases in housing prices and property values in the area. In later decades of the 20th century lakefront properties, always in limited supply, faced an increasing demand from urbanites with rising incomes. Prospective buyers of Diamond Park properties came primarily from "downstate" Michigan. Diamond Park residents experience this new market for their properties through the frequent receipt of inquiries from real estate agents in the area searching for prospective properties of receptive sellers. Those who might have realized \$20,000 for an unwinterized cottage away from the Lake now were asking over \$100,000 and lakeshore property owners with modernized 3-bedroom houses up to \$300,000. Those who had come in the 1960's and 1970's now found a remarkable increase in the value of their properties.

ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY

These changes in the community's properties also led to changes in the Diamond Park Property Owners Association. For years since its beginnings in the late 1940's, the Association had been rooted in families that had come even before World War II and in the two decades thereafter. Community relations for many years had been relatively stable with long-respected individuals taking important leadership roles in the Association. By the beginning of the 21st century, however, this critical mass of established leaders was no longer, and the Association found itself struggling to obtain the support of new residents. Many of the new residents were preoccupied with managing and maintaining their newly acquired properties or had jobs which filled most of their time. Only slowly did a new cadre of community leaders develop, who like the early members of the Association, were drawn to the Association by their common interest in maintaining the community facilities of Griffin Park, South Park, docks, boating facilities, swim area, road maintenance and snow removal. The County Road Commission insisted Diamond Park roads were private and therefore not subject to public maintenance. Fortunately, the Association was able to increase its earlier nominal annual dues to \$50 a year for riparian and \$100 for non-riparian property owners, plus establish separate funding for docks and roads, enabling the Association to meet the cost of services. Although Association Membership is encouraged, non-members are requested to contribute to the Road Maintenance and Snow Removal Fund, because they share the benefits.

GRIFFIN PARK. One of the main incentives for the initial organization of the Diamond Park Property Owners Association was B. W. Griffin's offer to give the Olds Ball Field to the Association at the time it was originally incorporated. As a result the management of what became known as Griffin Park came to be one of the main activities of the Association. Issues such as planting trees, maintenance of the grounds, and establishment of play equipment all were items on the agenda of meetings. Individual families held picnics there and it was the location of the Association's Annual Picnic and Business Meeting. A shed to store picnic tables and other Association property was erected at the northeast corner of the Park and a stone fireplace was built nearby. Volunteers kept the Park mowed and little other maintenance was required, save the occasional removal of a dead tree. The Association drew up a few stipulations for use of the Park, such as prohibiting its use for parking. At the same time it provided that boats, usually float boats, could be stored along the northern side of the park during the winter, under a permit system that required a disclaimer of liability, removal by a specific date in the spring, clean up and a fee.

A continuing issue over the years was and continues to be the problem of taxes. Association members agree that since Griffin Park and South Park cannot be built upon, the taxes should either be minimal or none at all. On several occasions the proposal to eliminate taxes has been taken to the county government and the petition had been denied. The reply usually stated that while the "no building" provision had been customary there was no guarantee that it would not be sold and developed by the Association at some future time. Over the years the Association attempted to find ways to make sure that "no development" was permanent, but had not been able to convince the tax authorities that this was the case. The least that can be said is taxation of these properties is an ongoing issue.

SOUTH PARK WATERFRONT. After the South Park area was conveyed to the Diamond Park Property Owners Association by Don Sherman a number of home owners who lived away from the lake began to moor

boats offshore of the Park and to install docks to get to them. This was done without any system of providing for or management of docks by the Association. Out of this situation there arose the general feeling by those who installed the docks that their dock was their personal property and that they had a property right to install them on Association property at the Park shore. They felt that they could convey all this to those to whom they sold their homes, a claim that was continually used by real estate agents in their attempts to buy and sell property off the Lake in Diamond Park.

By the 1980's about ten or twelve such docks had been installed and the renewed pressure for development raised the possibility that even more docks would be installed. This would greatly overload the use of the South Park shoreline as well as increase the unsightliness of docks with varied descriptions. There was also the problem of liability by the Association in case of accidents on the docks. The entry of Developer, David Milarch into Diamond Park, with his plans to build additional houses in the area with "funnel" type access to the Lake via South Park, aroused even more fears from the residents. They feared that South Park would be degraded and realized the Association had to take action to establish control and supervision over the South Park dock situation. Milarch installed his own dock for the residents who purchased homes from him or their renters, which increased the need for Association action.

The initial steps taken to do this were an effort to require permits from the Association for each dock, with proof that those who installed and maintained the docks would have to demonstrate that they owned property in Diamond Park and that they had liability insurance on their home and property which along with the Association liability insurance would be available in case of dock related accidents. A committee was established to work out this permit system with Sam Hays as Chair. While some who had docks complied a number did not and the complaint arose that the reason was because the system was in charge of those who had no direct interest in the South Park waterfront. Then the proposed system was given to a committee of those who had a direct interest; however, this committee took no action and, in fact, did not even meet. The permit proposal system, therefore, never materialized.

This stalemate then led to the idea that the Association should establish an Association dock to replace the docks which individuals had installed and those with existing docks would be asked to give up their docks and use the Association dock. There was widespread support for this idea; however, the Braden families that maintained two of the docks on the waterfront declined to participate. It was the general feeling of the Association members that support for the project by everyone except the Braden families justified moving ahead on the Association dock and steps were taken to implement the plan. The plan involved several elements: (1) the Association dock would involve a single dock out from the shore with arms reaching out at right angles to form the finger docks for storing boats. Owners would provide their own boat hoists that would not be attached to the docks. (2) The complete dock system would be owned and managed by the Association and no private ownership by individuals would be permitted; this provision was added to the Association By-Laws. (3) Financing the initial dock system would be provided partly from Association funds and partly from contributions from residents. Residents who wished additional access to the dock system through more "side extensions" would be required to pay for them by making a contribution to the Association and these docks would be added to the Association owned dock system. (4) When residents whose boats were accessed through the dock system sold their home properties or were no longer residents, their dock access would revert to the Association which could then assign use of that access to another resident.

Conflict between boaters and swimmers arose as soon as the Association dock system was established. People often used the boat docks from which to swim and this gave rise to the possibility of injury to swimmers from

the boats. As a result the Association took up a project to mark off a swim area to the north of the Association dock, and obtained a swim area permit from the state Department of Natural Resources. This required that the Association establish buoys and floats to identify the area within which swimming was permitted and boats were excluded. Considerable effort was required to make this system work, especially because renters of residents were often not informed of these arrangements and tried to swim off the boat docks. A separate dock was erected to allow swimmers safe access to the swim area.

Community Roads: Early roads in Diamond Park were sand roads, as was the road leading into Diamond Park from the state highway M137. Cars frequently got stuck and mired in the sand. Demand for better roads arose constantly from the community and the County Road Commission gradually agreed to provide gravel for many roads in Diamond Park. Maintaining the roads was a problem, as the roads frequently became potted and rough; therefore, the County limited its maintenance to Main and Euclid Avenues. However, over the years road maintenance by the county was cut back even further, and by the early 20th century the county was maintaining only Main Street and that portion of Euclid Avenue above its junction with Main. Residents continually made the point that a minimal amount of county maintenance was needed to provide access by emergency vehicles, mail delivery, and the delivery of customer goods; however, these pleas have not altered the services offered by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission.

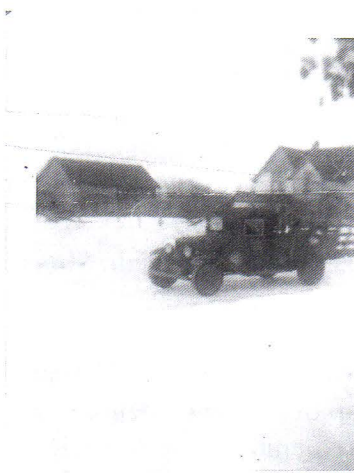
From time to time the community made inquiries about the roads and were told that the County would be willing to take over and maintain them but that this would require an extensive right-of-way which would cut a considerable swath of property from each lot, and the residents felt that this was unacceptable. In response there were a variety of efforts arising from the community itself. There were two major road problems, snow removal in the winter and grading during the year. Many residents paid for snow removal on that portion of the roads they required. By the early 20th century there was sentiment in favor of a community effort which would be much less expensive per person. So in 2003 the Association decided to establish a Road Fund, that would be maintained separately from the General Fund, and all residents would be asked to contribute \$60 a year which would be augmented by a contribution from the Association General Fund of \$500 annually. Then bids were sought for an annual contract for removing snow and this seemed to work for snow removal on the public roads. Residents could negotiate with the snow remover to clear their own driveways at an additional cost. For the first year of this arrangement a surplus was realized and it was decided that each year the surplus from the snow removal would be used the following year for road grading and maintenance.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

LILA KRAUSE. Widow of Louis Krause, who lived at 4143 Euclid Ave., was interviewed by Sam Hays in August 1994. At that time she was the resident with the longest memory of Diamond Park; she visited first in 1913 and purchased her house here in 1939.

The Krause family lived in Copemish and visited Diamond Park one summer in 1913 when Lila was 13 years old; they were here on a 2-week vacation. Her father worked in a woodenware factory in Copemish and a fellow worker was John Melvin, one of the earliest residents of Diamond Park. Lila had in her possession a rolling pin and an ironing board made at the factory. Lila's mother was a dressmaker. John Melvin had purchased four lots fronting on Green Lake along Euclid Avenue from Homer Olds, one of the first set of lots purchased in the Diamond Park tract. Homer Olds was also from Copemish; his daughter, Margaret, was the wife of George Howard, who purchased one lot from a man by the name of Roberts, along Main Street, 4084 Main where Ann Kimball lived in 1994. Mrs. Howard also owned the lot down the lake from the Melvin properties which Lila Krause owned when interviewed in 1994, one of which she purchased in 1939.

When the Krause family came in 1913 Mr. Krause and Lila came by horse and buggy while the rest of the family came by the railroad to Interlochen. Lila begged to come with her father because he said he would get here before the rest of the family, and they did; they then took a motorboat across to the current Interlochen Center for the Arts (formerly the National Music Camp) and picked up the rest of the family to bring them to the cottage where they stayed.



The Tuller Farm on Diamond Park Road approximately 150 feet west of the intersection of Diamond Park Road and Euclid Ave.

Lila's memories of that visit:

The horse and buggy was kept at the Tuller farm on the west side of the road between the bridge over the Little Betsie and the right-angle turn of the road just at the entrance of Diamond Park. The roads were all deep sand roads, no electricity in the house, pump in the kitchen, oil stove, tile chimney for heat in the living room, ice box with ice cut from Green

Lake in the winter by Mr. Melvin, with "outdoor bathroom facilities." The Melvin cottages were there, all except the one that Mr. Joseph Tracey built for himself at a later date, and the cottages were all close together. So also were the Geneaux cottages just to the south of the put-in at the bend of Diamond Park Road. Down the lake approximately where the Sherman's later owned, was an old dance hall, no longer used and with a dilapidated floor but which still had a



Bridge over the Little Betsie 1908 approximately 100 feet from the mouth of the river (the lake shoreline in the distance)

nickelodeon that played. They had a wooden rowboat for fishing and bought milk at Tuller's which did not appear to Lila to be very sanitary.

Between that visit in 1913 and 1939, the family made few visits to the area, but did so in 1939 and stayed in one of the Geneaux cottages. Lila was taken with the cottage she now owns and wanted to buy it. It hadn't been used for ten years. Mrs. Howard's mother, wife of Homer Olds, who had platted Diamond Park in 1908, was hard up and it was put up for sale, but no one would buy it because it was all run down, a shack; the only good part was the living room and much of the floor in the house had rotted. Lila borrowed money from her parents to buy it. After Lila bought it she had a carpenter spend the next summer fixing the floor and the room had a fireplace put in it. In later years she remodeled several times, had a clothes closet put in under the stairs, and fixed up the porches. It was always a summer place and they didn't stay in the winter. As she looked back on the purchase she said she bought it on a lark; she loved Green Lake. She used to work all day and then swim at night; during the summer the carpenter who lived in Copemish worked on the house and would go home at night. She would saw boards for the next day.

The house next door to the East had also been owned by Mrs. Howard, who got hard up and sold it to Mr. Van (Van Eman's) from whom Lila bought it. When Lila came in 1939, the Geneaux and Melvin cottages were already there and most other of the present cottages, although some were vacant lots, e.g., the place where the Gonzales own and (Morning Star 4075 Euclid Ave.) the house which the Howard's had built and where Margaret Howard died in a fire that burned the house down (1968). The next door house to the South was gradually added to on all sides and was not originally as close as it is now. The Underwood's (I believe this is next to the honeymoon cottage) she remembers, did much of the expansion there. Down Euclid Avenue, however, Lila was less certain; she knew that B.W. Griffin lived down there and the Sherman family.

Lila's memories: There was an ice house on the lake side of Euclid Avenue, about where Trachy's barn is now; Evelyn Bryant (Dale and Margaret Melvin's daughter) shared that her grandfather John Melvin planted the trees along Euclid Avenue in Griffin Park. Evelyn Bryan lived on Diamond Park Road and used to come and visit Lila every afternoon at 3:00. There was no electricity, and they used lamps. When she bought the house in 1939 electricity had just become available and she had electricity installed a few years later. Soon she got a refrigerator, and probably got indoor plumbing about the same time. They shopped for groceries at a store in Interlochen where they sold ice cream and the post office was in the same building; also at a store in Bendon. By 1939 the roads were graveled and she had a car at that time. The houses on Main Street, except for the Woodcock house at the corner and the house the Crampton's own, were all there, but not fixed up. Bakaleinikoff built the Crampton house for a musical practice place. He lived in the next house up Main Street. The next houses were owned by the Howards; the Griffins and then the Stolerevsky.

Lila first taught school at Honor for three years, then Oscoda and finally Jackson where she taught for 27 years. She has now been retired for 20 years. Once when she was teaching at Oscoda a group of school students came to the Music Camp and then came across the lake to Lila's house to surprise her; she remembers that she had been painting when they arrived.

MARTHA DOWSWELL. Martha Dowswell, the former Martha Sherman, and later wife and widow of Fritz Mygott, who lived at 4319 Euclid Avenue; was interviewed by Sam Hays in August of 1994. After Lila Krause she was the resident of earliest memory of Diamond Park, coming here with her parents in 1922 at age 3.

Martha was a daughter of Hugh Sherman who lived in Jackson, Mich. Hugh, brother Don, and a sister were children of a Sherman and his wife who divorced in the 1890's, followed by a remarriage of Mrs. Sherman to B. W. Griffin. Griffin purchased the Diamond Park area from Frank Reynolds in 1922 and as owner was the lead figure in Diamond Park throughout the rest of his life. When he purchased the property he asked his three step-children to go in with him to finance the purchase. The daughter did not but the two sons did. As a result, Griffin offered to give each of the sons a lot and to build a house on it for them. He asked Martha's father, Hugh, to come up and pick out a place.

They came up in 1922 and drove to the Griffin house just across from where South Park in Diamond Park is now, where they then took a boat down the lake and where Hugh Sherman chose a piece of property he felt was not too low in the water or too high above it. Here B. W. Griffin and workmen built a house in 1922 out of swamp tamarack. For many years there was no road into it and when the Sherman family came up for the summer, they had to park the Model T at Griffin's house and then carry things to the cabin. Martha's father was a purchasing agent for the Interurban Organization in Michigan; her mother, Hetty, was the fishing enthusiast who took people fishing while her father sat in the rocking chair on the front porch and watched.

Martha's memories: B. W. Griffin had an ice house on the property that he owned at the end of Main Street. Here he would store ice from the lake and deliver it to different people. [From other interviews I gather that this ice house was different from the ice house owned by John Melvin a bit further northeast on Euclid Avenue]. Martha would play in the Griffin ice house during the summer. There was no running water and they could bathe in the lake or, if it was too cold, in a tub of hot water at the fireplace.

Mr. Tuller who owned the farm just north of Diamond Park was an itinerant preacher and surveyor, and surveyed the original plat to Diamond Park. His sons, Cecil and Cephus, were still alive a few years ago. The Shermans got milk from him; it didn't seem very sanitary as usually there was sand in the bottom of each glass of milk and Martha wouldn't drink it down that far. Martha also told about the John and Sarah Sikorski family, who lived on Diamond Park Road; Mrs. Sikorski was a full-blooded Indian and raised 16-18 children in a small house that was immaculately maintained.

There was an old concrete floor that remained from the old dance hall, where the Chatfield house is now located, (4235 Euclid Ave,) a place that Griffin always referred to as the "old hotel lot" which is identified by the original plat map as providing space for a hotel.



Old Dance Hall

there was no relationship between him and either Griffin or the Copemish group. He had a launch with seats all around and a steam engine in the middle. On Sundays he would take people across the Lake to Hotel Pennington to have an ice cream cone. English didn't live there the year

The English cottage, which later was owned by Bob Woodcock, Jr., on Euclid Avenue, was there in 1922. Mr. English was referred to as "Old Cap English". No one can remember where he came from; most believed that



Cap English Cottage 1921
4171 Euclid Ave.

round, but when he died his widow did. After their deaths the English children were not interested in the property and sold it to Bob Woodcock, Jr. whose parents, Bob and Dietta Woodcock owned the house one door up the lake.

Between the English and the Sherman cottages were a number of houses that were built later. One was owned by Mr. Whittington, a pianist who, in turn, sold to Germaine Brie; she, in turn sold half of her lot to Mr. Carlut, who taught French at Ohio State University. The Buckner house was built by a close friend of Gerry Chatfield who owned the lot next door.

The Hugh Sherman family did grocery shopping at Sweet's Grocery in Bendon. B. W. Griffin had a car and drove to the store. Martha's most striking memory of Sweet's store is a dumbwaiter which went under the store floor and which he would bring up with items stored there to keep cool. The children would be as interested in the workings of the dumbwaiter as it brought up the "red pop sweet" which they would buy. There was also a store and gas station at the corner of US 31 and M 137 named Jack & Jean's (Bilo). The family got its mail at Bendon. The Shermans also bought farm vegetables from a truck that came around selling groceries.

Griffin did not have a steady income and so when taxes came due he would often simply sell a lot. One person on whom he could rely to buy them was Albert Conkey who was from Detroit and had funds which he could invest. In this way he acquired a considerable amount of property in the Cove. Tony Muir was Conkey's nephew and the current cottage which Muir owns was Conkey's guest cottage. Hugh Carle also comes from this connection; he and Tony Muir are cousins. Griffin also promised his grandchildren lots and two conveyances like this took place, one to Donna Dean Sherman who built where Frank & Shirley Griffin now lives, and a lot to Martha Sherman's brother who sold it to Nelson, a more recent owner. Griffin apparently forgot his promise and the rest of the grandchildren didn't get any. Griffin built the two story house at (4130) Indiana Avenue which burned and has been replaced in recent years. It is where Denise Delorme lives. He called this the "woods cottage." He also built the cottage on the lake called Shoral Gables (4171 Euclid Ave.) which he sold to Mrs. Bakaleinikoff, which Bob and Dietta Woodcock acquired later.

When the Shermans arrived, the B. W. Griffin house near South Park was here, and Martha's Uncle Don also had a house back of Griffin's house, a two-story house that is still there. He also had two cottages that he rented out, Elmdale and Maple Dale, with a pump in between, which have since been torn down.

Ethel Griffin who owned property in Diamond Park was the wife of B. W. Griffin's brother Glenn. He was killed in a train accident long ago. They lived in a cottage behind where B. W. Griffin lived. His son and his wife, Betty Griffin, parents of Frank Griffin, lived there. There was another cottage which they rented out behind their house. In later years this house was not occupied, fell into disrepair and about 1977 was purchased and torn down by Sasha Stolerevsky who owned the house next door up Main St.

The lot on the point between the cove and the main lake was high land. Griffin was proud of this high ground. He would show off his property by taking people there to see the lake and the "beauty of the park." Mrs. Bakaleinikoff bought the property from him and had it bulldozed down to make it level.

Martha played in the cove area, had a path through the woods to it and would take food out there to eat. She and the children thought that the "cove belonged to us" and hence they resented it when others, such as the Dirkses built there. One regular event that took place there was organized by her uncle Don Sherman, who was a Boy Scout leader in Toledo. Once a year he would build a fire on the beach with a pyramid of logs and have a

big picnic there. This was prior to the Association and its picnics. They would wind up the evening singing Russian songs.

ALICE FAULK. Interview of Alice Faulk by Sam Hays in 1994. Alice and Sylvan Faulk lived at 4175 Euclid Avenue in Diamond Park.

Alice came to Diamond Park with her parents, Dr. Samuel and Mrs. Lena Rabkin in 1929. They came as a result of suggestions by Misha Stolerevsky from Cincinnati who was employed at the National Music Camp. They built a cottage (4175 Euclid Ave.) where Alice and Sylvan Faulk still spend summers. When they came there were only two houses on Main Street, (4074) the one where Ann Kimball later lived that was where George Howard lived, and the house owned by Ethel Griffin, widow of the brother of B. W. Griffin, and next to the house owned now by Sasha Stolley. The Ethel Griffin house deteriorated and was purchased by Stolley about 1977 and torn down. It is now (1994) an open area without buildings.

Ethel Griffin had a Model "A" Ford and drove the country roads around Interlochen. She found places to pick blackberries and farms that grew corn. She would come back loaded with produce to eat and came around to the houses to sell it. All roads at that time were deep sand roads, even those to Traverse City. Frequently, arrowheads would turn up and were collected. Ethel Griffin's husband had died before 1929 and she was a widow. He and Mr. English had worked on the Pere Marquette Railroad and Ethel Griffin and Mrs. English were close friends. Ethel Griffin lived in Toledo. Her grandson, Frank, and Sasha Stolley grew up together in Diamond Park. She had one of the 3 year-round residences. The others were owned by the Geneaux family and by John Melvin. John Melvin goes back to the logging days, had been a farmer near Buckley and worked in the saw mill in the cove at the south end of Diamond Park. Geneaux had also been in the logging business. Both Genoux and Melvin made the first purchases of lots in Diamond Park from [these were purchased prior to the Griffin Era from Homer Olds who platted the land in 1908] and rented to summer visitors who came to fish.



John Melvin with block of Ice cut from Green Lake

Summer visitors brought to the Diamond Park area a new set of customers for which some people provided goods and services. There was, for example, ice. John Melvin kept an ice house across the road from where Trachy's cottages are now, and sold ice to summer people. He used sawdust to layer the ice and delivered it in 25 pound blocks with his Model A Ford. Melvin was a major source of labor for summer residents. He put out docks; kept gasoline and motor oil in his shed and mixed them for motor boats; he had the only local supply of kerosene. Alice had to clean the kerosene lamps and empty the ice box trays and hence knew about these consumer needs.

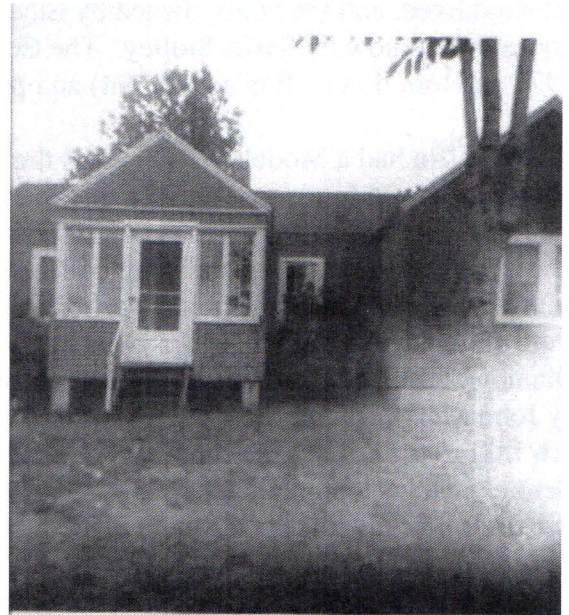
The National Music Camp brought the Post Office to Interlochen; prior to that time Bendon had been the Post Office for Diamond Park.

In the 1930's electricity came and caused much excitement; it was "magic" says Alice. The electrician was Jim Riley who lived on the corner of Riley Road and M137. He worked his way down the road in Diamond Park wiring each house. He carried heavy black cable over his shoulder and went to each room in each house, running the cable up the wall, then across the ceiling down the center of the room with a light. The first thing to be electrified was

the refrigerator, then a radio, even though the reception was horrible. Alice remembers the radio on Sept. 1, 1939 when Hitler marched into Poland when Julia Bakalienakoff and her husband listened; they were Polish and were shattered by the event. Then there was the Rabkin outhouse first in the back of the garage and then modified into a “flush” toilet in a room off the back porch. On top of the room was a metal flat galvanized pan and water was pumped up to the pan to serve as water to flush the toilet. Each user had to fill the pan with 10 strokes of the pump. Hand pumps were everywhere here and when electricity came it provided for motorized pumps.

The closest phone was Buller’s store in Interlochen, just south of Riley Road, with gas pumps in front. Buller sent his sons to people in Diamond Park to tell them there was a phone call. Then Veen, Conkey and Rabkin put up \$500 to have Michigan Bell put a phone in at Dale and Margaret Melvin’s in the house formerly the Geneaux residence. More general phone service did not come in until after World War II, the early 1950’s. Buller was a key person in providing groceries for the community. Each year when the Rabkins came up he would say that it was a “terrible year” for the community, and had given people food on credit which they would later pay off in the summer.

The summer residents provided a market for a variety of items made by the farmers who were subsistence farmers with meager incomes. They would appear at the door with chickens and butter; they brought bread to sell. Some, especially the Smith family, Native Americans, would bring baskets to sell; one lady came with fresh eggs and when asked about the price, “is a penny apiece too much?” One man from Copemish who came with produce raised gladiolas and would give them away if you purchased food. He liked Alice’s red hair (in two braids) and asked her father for her hand in marriage. He came with an ox cart with squeaky wheels and when Alice heard him coming she



Dale & Margaret Melvin home at the corner of Main & Diamond Park Rd. The Telephone was on the front porch accessible to everyone.



Local Native American Ladies selling their baskets to Mrs. Geneaux

would run and hide. The young men in the

neighborhood were a constant source of labor; they were hired to get trees from the woods to plant, to obtain rocks from Lake Michigan to control erosion on the lake front, to paint and fix pumps. Many of the boys took part in the CCC camps where they planted trees.

During the War when Alice had married, she and Sylvan lived in Syracuse, New York, and couldn’t come to Diamond Park because of the gas shortage. Her father, however, could, since he was a medical professional and could get gas. The

family, including Alice’s sister, Bernice, came up to the cottage. One feature of the War years was the shortage of young men who went to the War, and the call came for summer people to help bring in the cherry crop. Bernice and her mother picked cherries, mostly on the Old Mission Peninsula.

John Melvin came originally from Buckley where he was a farmer. He also worked in the lumber mill on the Cove, and after that worked at the Copemish Woodware Factory which also made wicker furniture. His knowledge of the area brought him to Diamond Park where he was one of the early owners of lots along the lake. Both he and Geneaux were from the lumbering business and found an opportunity to get some income from summer visitors who were mainly fishermen.

In the 1930's the main other summer residents were from the Music Camp. Stolarevski, a violinist, came in 1928. Julia and Vladimir Bakaleinikoff came in 1929-30; he was assistant conductor of the Cincinnati orchestra and became the first violinist and conductor of the Pittsburgh Orchestra; he taught viola and conducting at the Music Camp. Bakaleinikoff built the Green House on Main Street. There was a larger group of Music Camp musicians on Duck Lake, a half dozen or more, e.g., a harpist, Williams, from Minneapolis.

Along with this group at Diamond Park was the Jim Veen family with four children who mixed well with the children of the Music Camp people into one group that did a lot of things together. There was nothing between the Don Sherman house in the woods and the Rabkin house. Don Sherman also had a cabin they rented; he was one of the few summer residents who rented to other summer residents. Albert Conkey lived where the Muir house is now. His wife, Elsie Conkey had siblings who inherited the property, especially Muir and Carle. After he died Elsie continued to come up to Diamond Park for awhile. Bakaleinikoff built the house where the Cramptons live for Lorin Maazel and his parents, a California family that "Bak" had come to know there. The parents asked Bak if he could teach Lorin conducting. Lincoln Maazel was the father; the mother, Marie, was a singer; they were a musical family.

The Association was organized at the start to "get things done" such as telephone, roads, etc. and other facilities. Martha Sherman's cottage was called "Journey's End." B. W. Griffin's wife was Martha Sherman and Ethel Griffin was his sister-in-law. Griffin was always a bit loose in his lot boundaries; if a prospective purchaser wanted the lot a bit wider he would comply and move the stakes. Many later disputes over boundaries and a Traverse City lawyer by the name of Running was called in regularly; his specialty was in untangling those arrangements.

The first year the Rabkins came up Stolarevsky rented for them the house that Lila Krause later bought. It was owned by George Howard's wife's father Harry Olds and was rented in the summer. The lot next to it was taken up by Margaret Howard the daughter and built as their honeymoon cottage when she and Mr. Leslie married. Later they were divorced and she built a house where Morningstar now lives, but it burned down and she died in the fire.

Up the lake from Melvin's property was Van Emmons, from Findley, Ohio, who was a fisherman. [Melvin and Griffin were always at odds]. Up the lake from Van Emmons was the first property which was said to be an Indian burying ground. On the rise was the Leslie home; then Lofstrom's and then Gonzales. Robert Buller was next, where the Murphy's currently live and above the take-in were the "swamps." After World War II some small log houses went up there with summer people, e.g., Antzak. All had problems with swampy water as the ground was too low.

Tuller had the only farm around here, from the Little Betsie up to the Gardner house. During the War when Bud Veen was in India he came in for R&R and the first person he saw was Cephus Tuller. Tuller did a good business of pulling cars out of the sand with his two white horses. Tullers also provided milk. When Rabkin

came one summer he found his wife was buying milk from Tuller and he went to Tuller and said, "I'd like to see your pasteurization." That was the end of Rabkin purchase of Tuller milk.

After World War II there was an influx of new people into Diamond Park. Fred B. Braden Jr. arrived then; His father Fred Sr. lived at the corner of Riley and Gonder roads.

RUTHMARY COOHON. Ruthmary was a daughter of Jim & Mary Veen and the Veen family came to Diamond Park in 1926. Her parents lived in an apartment house on Jefferson Avenue in Grand Rapids and Glenn Griffin, father of Frank Griffin, lived in the same apartment. He knew that Veen liked to fish and hunt and Veen brought his family up and stayed with Ethel Griffin. The second year, he bought the Griffin property (4343 Euclid Ave,) from B.W. At the time Ruthmary was four years old. Veen managed a furniture factory in Grand Rapids. His uncle built the cottage for him in 1933. Before this Veen had rented cottages on Silver Lake near Grand Rapids and on Lake Michigan, but didn't like them and found Green Lake a better place. And before the Veen house was built they rented the cottage called Swastika behind the B. W. Griffin house, behind Church and Irwin which Zimmerman's owned. Church built where the Griffin house was torn down.

Ruthmary's memories: She played with David Dewey. Mrs. Bak bought the piece of land at the end, leveled it and filled the wetland. It was done during the winter and when the Veens came up the next summer they were quite surprised that it had been done. The Veen family came up and stayed all summer and Mr. Veen would drive up each week-end, fish on Saturday and then shop and on Sunday go to church. They had kerosene light and stove. They had maids come up as well, high school girls from Grand Rapids. At times they rowed to the peninsula where there was much swamp land, but also a clearing. They had a grocery man, a vegetable man, an ice man, John Melvin, a butter, cheese and milk man. Ruthmary played with Berniece Rabkin and her brother played with Sasha Stolley. Ruthmary confirmed two stories about Sasha's car. One involved running out of gas at Bendon when the people in Bendon were away in Traverse City and pushing the car up the hill to get it started by coasting down the hill. They tried twice and it didn't work, and then went over to the main road, now US 31, and got a container of gasoline. When they got back the people had returned. Then there was the story of the flat tire at Sweet's and Mr. Sweet said he would fix it if Berniece would play while he did so. Ruthmary has many memories of the car and the gang and family activities.

Ruthmary says that her two brothers summered elsewhere, at Grand Haven and Harbor Springs, and the boys got the factory and she got the Green Lake house. She remembers a Serge Kreptovich, whose father was a Russian count, and who stayed in the Griffin (Woodcock) cottage. He knew Mr. Koneiss, Berniece's piano teacher and was from Cincinnati.

The Veens had a hand pump in the kitchen and an ice box; they were here 3-4 years before they had electricity. She got a telephone in her cottage when she acquired it about 1975. At first, mail was from Bendon; then they walked to the commons, the park, where the mail boxes were; then mail came to the home.

Conkeys lived where Muir lived; Louise Muir was his niece and Hugo Carle his nephew.

SASHA STOLLEY. Sasha Stolley's Interview was conducted by Sam Hays in July 1996.

Sasha Stolley first came to Diamond Park in 1929 with his father, Misha Stolerevsky, when Sasha was seven years old. His father was a violinist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and came to teach at the National Music Camp. They lived that summer in the second of the Geneaux cottages. The following summer they purchased a lot toward the end of Main Street. since they could not afford a lot on the lake and began building a cottage. When it had some livable space, they moved there. Although there was some connection between Mr. Maddy at the Music Camp and Stolarevsky, Sasha does not know what it was. At any rate his father was the first of a number of musicians from Cincinnati who came to teach at the Music Camp, some living in Diamond Park and some living at Duck Lake. His family was the first of several from a Cincinnati music group that came summers to Diamond Park.

The Stolarevsky family came to Diamond Park before the end of the spring school term and left after the beginning of the fall term. The family stored the household furniture and gave up their rented apartment in Cincinnati and came to Diamond Park because it was cheaper; then in the fall they went back, got their furniture and found a new rental. But this meant that Sasha and his sister, Susan, attended school in the Diamond Park area some several weeks in the spring and again for several weeks in the fall. The school was at the north east corner of Diamond Park Road and Gonder Road where there is a residence now and it was mostly local students, with the majority being Indians and most of the rest being Bohemians. It was a one-room school of eight grades (Green Lake Elementary School).

As a young boy Sasha spent time with the activities of both the Melvin and Tuller families, the first with the Melvin ice business and the second with the Tuller milk business. John Melvin cut the ice off the lake with a hand saw in 18-24 inch square blocks and stored it in a building in the woods on the west side of Euclid Avenue opposite about where the Trachy cabins (at that time the Melvin cabins) are now. The ice was stored in layers with sawdust between, and Sasha helped to remove the blocks which Melvin then cut into pieces for delivery and then went with him as he delivered it to the cottages in Diamond Park. He transported it via an old Model T Ford.

With the Tuller family Sasha was involved mainly in Tuller's milk business. He tried his hand at milking but didn't take to it and mainly helped in separating the milk and putting it in quart bottles and then delivering it to various homes, including the Music Camp. It was fresh, delivered less than three hours after it was milked.

Sasha also helped with the plowing and the horses, taking them to the Lake to drink. The Tuller farm went west along Diamond Park road. He was an itinerant preacher who preached at the church, still there, at the southwest corner of the Bendon Road and US Highway 31.

Next door to the Stolarevsky house was the house of Ethel Griffin, widow of the brother of B. W. Griffin and grandmother of Frank Griffin. Behind her house was another small house that Ethel Griffin rented out to others. She left it to Frank Griffin's parents and they lived there. Often in the winter she lived in Traverse City. The George Howard house was the next house



John Melvin & his son Dale cutting Ice on Green Lake

south down Main St from Ethel Griffins when the Stolarevskys arrived. Bakalienakoff built the "green cottage" (4028 Main Street) about 1931; he followed Stolarevsky to the Music Camp. Misha Stolerevsky's coming to the Diamond Park area was the first of a group of people with musical connections from Cincinnati,

including one Don Kreisler. This included Dr. Rabkin and his family (father of Alice Faulk), a man by the name of Pulikowski who built the house that is now the first house up the lake from the Main Street entrance to the Lake, and a man by the name of Robert Perutz who lived in the first house down the Lake from what is now South Park. The construction of this house was actually supervised in its planning and building by Stolerevsky. Later it was sold to Wittington whose wife was a ballerina, a step-daughter of Wittington. Sasha does not believe there was a barn on the Griffin property that was later the cottage of Bakalienikoff and then the Woodcock cottage. Then later, when both Stolerevsky and Bakalienikoff were in Pittsburgh [Stolerevsky went there in 1942]; they brought the Maazel family to Diamond Park and built the house for them that the Cramptons later owned. Lorin Maazel launched his musical career from Interlochen.

Sasha's Memories: When Sasha was 14 he found an old 1921 Model T Ford which he persuaded his father to buy for him for \$7.00. Each Friday Sasha would take the children from Diamond Park for a ride and in the process usually ended up with a flat tire and came home late, worrying the parents to no end. He remembers one of these when they ended up with a flat at Bendon and knocked for help at a house where the owner of the Bendon lumber mill lived. He agreed to give them what they needed for repairs if they would have Berniece Faulk, Alice's sister who was a talented pianist play for them while they carried out the repairs. This was done and they came home to meet anxious parents.

When the Veens came to Diamond Park they had a son, Bud, about Sasha's age and they did many things together. One was to take the Veen canoe and go down the Big Betsie and climb the tallest tree they could find to see if they could see Lake Michigan. They couldn't. But once they set out on a five day trip down the Betsie until they got to Lake Michigan. The Veen daughter, Ruthmary (Coohon) drove to Frankfort to pick them up.

Sasha has a memory that the Krause house was one of the neatest and cleanest around, always looking spic and span. He also does not remember any building up the lake from the Main Street right-of-way, the building which Martha says was Griffin's barn and ice house. But the house Sasha remembers there was owned by a Mr. Pulikowski, with whom Misha Stolarevsky studied in Kiev before coming to the U.S. and who was another Music Camp connection with Russian musicians. Sasha also doubts that the point, which others say Julia Bakaleinikoff bulldozed wasn't bulldozed at all; he does not remember that, says he explored every inch of the area even before she bought it and that although she cleaned it out a bit did not do extensive landscaping; Sasha used to fish there in the cove quite a bit and knew the area quite well.

HUGO CARLE. Hugo Carle was interviewed by Sam Hays, Aug. 13, 1996.

Hugo Carle and Tony Muir were nephews of the wife of Albert Conkey one of the early associates of B. W. Griffin and a major landowner at the time of the formation of the Association. His family first came to Diamond Park in 1938, for a summer visit as guests of the Conkeys. Their guest house was not built until 1941. At that time the Conkey house was the original, old structure, no electricity, and water from a hand pump, no indoor plumbing, and no dock. Hugo fished with his father and his uncle. Conkey had a rowboat and an Old-Town canoe. The Carle family lived in Grosse Pointe, and as time went on he stayed there in the summer

Conkey was a professor at the University of Michigan where Mrs. Conkey met him and he helped Griffin with his finances by buying lots on the cove and back of it. He eventually owned 42 acres, 47 lots, and when the estate was divided up, the daughter, who married Tony Muir, took the guest house on the property as her share of the estate. The two sons were not interested in the property and rarely came to visit and so they turned their

share over to a real estate agent to sell. This turned out to be owned by Dirksie, and areas to the north by Provenzano and then Dave Mills. Most of the ownership of this interior part of Diamond Park on the south side, then, stemmed from the Conkey ownership. Some lots across the street were purchased by several different people; Bradens were some of these people. But the two Muir sons were interested in the Muir property and acquired the two lots just across the road. Tony Muir came up here since his mother and Mrs. Conkey were especially close. The Muirs lived in Detroit and they came up with their boys rather regularly.

Carle's father died in 1957 and after that his mother and the Carles came up frequently, staying in the log cabin and doing repair work on it, if needed.

Carle remembers Griffin only slightly, meeting him only once or twice, and remembers him as walking through the woods inspecting his property. He doesn't know how Conkey and Griffin got together, but has also heard that Griffin often relied on Conkey for funds to pay taxes and would sell land to him to get more from him. (Mrs. Muir has Conkey's old scrap books).

Carle came up to the Conkey property only rarely. He worked in the Detroit area, as sales assistant and in the customer service division in the industrial division of General Motors with industry customers. He got interested in the area when the Muirs got the guest house; he would come up with Tony Muir and this got him re-interested. He remembers that other houses here were the Veen cottage and the cottage of Francois Demorest's parents, later Swingle. [The Demorest family was from Columbus, Ohio, and Francois took violin lessons from someone at the Music Camp during the summer while she was here]. Carle did not buy property until much later. Mrs. Conkey had sold a lot and cottage to Jennifer Cudney who had Fred Braden, Sr. tear the cottage down. Cudney built another house on the property. In the summer of 1976 when Carle and his wife were here visiting they found out that the Cudney house was for sale. They came back in October and it was still for sale and they bought it, finishing up the paper work the following spring; they considered it as a retirement home since Carle was going to retire in a couple of years but almost as soon as he bought it he took early retirement.

According to Carle the First Addition to the original Diamond Park plot came only about 1948.

TONY MUIR. Interview conducted by Sam Hays on Sept. 1, 1996 at Diamond Park.

Muir's wife, Louise, is the daughter of a sister of Elsie Conkey (Hugo Carle's mother was another sister), wife of Albert Conkey. Conkey came from Benton Harbor where his father owned a grocery store. Albert Conkey went to the University of Michigan, taught there, perhaps in business or journalism since he later was in advertising, a partner in a firm, Wolf, Chickling, Dow and Conkey, in Detroit; before that he worked for the G. L. Hudson Co. Tony does not know how Conkey came to know B. W. Griffin, or how he came to be interested in the Diamond Park area, but the two had close connections. However, Muir believes that Conkey first rented here before he bought, but he doesn't know if the Music Camp played any role in their coming here, although they liked the music. Tony confirms the idea that Conkey helped Griffin financially by purchasing lots.

Tony says that he has some scrapbooks of Albert Conkey, which are mainly about his years at the University of Michigan and that he will leave them up here after he leaves for the summer.

In 1942 in the early part of World War II, Conkey feared that at some point Detroit would be subject to bombardment. He made arrangements with Fred P. Braden (who built the Conkey cottage) to build a house where Mrs. Conkey and the children could live in case of emergency. This then became the Conkey Guest House, and when Conkey died about 1970 and the estate was settled; Mrs. Muir obtained the guest house and

property as her share of the estate. The Muirs have two children, one with two children and the other with eight; the children all like the place very much; one was an adopted Peruvian child who loves to fish.

The sister who married a Muir and her family came to Diamond Park first about 1935, at first staying in the Conkey cabin. Conditions were "primitive" with pump in the house and no running water, no electricity. Her two brothers weren't interested in Diamond Park and so they arranged to have a real estate agent sell their part of the estate which was on the side of Griffin Avenue away from the lake.

JOE TRACHY. This interview was conducted by Sam Hays in Joe Trachy's back yard in the summer of 1997.

Joe worked in an auto factory in Detroit. His son had asthma and when his doctor suggested that he go north to see if it would help, he did and it did help. The family stayed in one of the Melvin cabins. When he found that Melvin wanted to sell the resort cottages, he bought them. He has managed them as summer cottages ever since.

From Trachy I learned more about the location of Euclid Avenue from Diamond Park Road and Main Street. It used to go straight north much closer to the lake-shore properties, but at some point Euclid Avenue was moved about 30 feet west, taking land off of the "Olds Ball Field" so that the lake-shore owners would have more land between their property and Euclid. The reason for this seems to have been to give the lake-shore lot owners a wider strip of land on which to place septic tanks. If one goes to the back yard of the Trachy cottage the farthest down the lake and looks north, one can see the line of trees that used to border the road where it was originally.

JOHN AND MARY MELVIN. Interview with Mary and John Melvin by Sam Hays at Diamond Park on August 20, 2004.

Mary Melvin: Mary was nine years old when she discovered there was a Diamond Park. She visited the Park with her father, Fred P. Braden. He was a mason, a carpenter and specialized in brick and block construction. He built Conkey's Guest House, Woodcock's cement block house, a cottage for Kay Loudon, the Demorest's brick fireplace, the vaulted ceiling in the Rabkin cottage and other construction projects throughout the Park. Mary's Mother, Sadie Braden worked for the Conkeys and Demorests to make their cottage clean and ready to move into each summer.

Mary recalls playing with her friend Judy Wahl, daughter of Charles and Hazel Wahl. Charles was a carpenter and window maker with a woodshop in Grawn, and Hazel was a nurse at Munson Hospital. The Wahls lived where Mike Irwin once lived, in the house Debbie Stokes bought in 2003 on the corner of Shady Grove and Euclid.

While visiting in Diamond Park Mary especially enjoyed meeting and getting to know Katherine Loudon "Grandma Kay", who taught Judy Wahl and her how to swim. Mrs. Loudon was an excellent knitter and teacher; she taught Mary how to knit when she was a young girl. Kay also taught knitting to women and girls in the Park; she started a Knitters Group named "The Knitwits" to enhance the long winter months. The Loudon's first house was a small log house built by Fred P. Braden, at the end of Central in the woods near Don and

Gertrude Sherman's house. Later, the Loudens purchased the two-story house, the "big house" on Indiana Avenue from the Bowermans, and rented their log cottage in the woods to summer residents.

Kay named the "big house" Bide-A-Wee, meaning, "come, stay a while". Kay was a summer resident while her husband, "Grandpa Bill" was employed as a Furrier at Annis Furs in Detroit. When William Loudens retired, Diamond Park became their year around home. Bill, a very quiet and kindly man fed all of the neighborhood cats that came to call and when he took his afternoon walks, the cats would trail along behind him. It was a beautiful site! A son of Kay and Bill built the house on Indiana Avenue next door to the "big house". After Bill passed, Kay continued to call her house in Diamond Park home, until she was in her 80s. She was also "Grandma Kay" to John and Mary's daughters Angela and Rebecca. They remember eating dinner at her dining room table under the Tiffany lamp with the beautiful fruit design. She was an excellent cook and one of her favorite meals was Sheppard's Pie. Bill & Kay grew up in Peterborough Canada.

In 1966, John and Mary Melvin purchased John and Lottie Melvin's former house on Diamond Park Road, located between the Marceaus and Randall houses. Mary remembers awakening in the night to see Margaret Leslie's home on Euclid (current location of Morningstar) in flames. The cat walk that had been part of the architecture of the house was a burning arch. The previous residents of the Leslie house were Clarence (employed at Cone Drive Gear) and Marjorie Jones (a school teacher).

John Melvin: John was the son of Robert Dale, known as (Dale) & Margaret Melvin. When he was very young, John lived for a short while with his grandparents John and Lottie Melvin. A neighbor, Mrs. Geneaux lived in a small house on the corner of Main and Diamond Park Road. Mrs. Geneaux arranged to give her house and property to the Melvins for taking care of her in her old age. When Mrs. Geneaux died John and his parents moved into the Geneaux house (north east corner of Main & Diamond Park Rd.) when John was 5 or 6 years old. John remembers the first community phone at this house in 1948. The phone installation cost \$500 and was paid for by three members of the Diamond Park Association who contributed \$200, \$200 and \$100. The phone was located on Melvin's front porch on the Diamond Park Road side of their house. The porch was always left accessible to the phone. John delivered phone message on his bicycle to whomever they were intended. He often got a tip for his service. This went on for 3-5 years, until phone lines were installed in individual houses in the park.

Many year-round residents in the Interlochen area often had difficulty making ends meet and would provide various services to summer residents to earn extra income. John's father was the plumber for the area, and helped open and close cottages, as did Fred P. Braden, Mary's father. John remembers his grandfather cutting blocks of ice from Green Lake and storing them in an "ice house" in thin layers of sawdust to keep the ice blocks from freezing together. The ice house had thick walls filled with sawdust for insulation, and was located approximately 75 to 100 feet north of Euclid Avenue across from the Van Emmons cottage where Dude and Kathy Stephenson now reside. His grandfather sold and delivered the ice blocks to summer residents of Diamond Park and the surrounding community. John's mother, who was an excellent baker, made and sold pies, donuts, Bismarck rolls, jelly rolls and cakes to summer residents. She also made and sold butter and cottage cheese. John and his brother Robert rode their bicycles through the Park to take orders and make deliveries. John's father housed his cattle on the Tuller farm across the street from his home by renting pasture and barn space from Mrs. Tuller. Melvins also raised and sold chickens. John's father milked the cows in the morning and John did the milking in the evening. Some of the milk was sold and the remainder was separated to remove the cream for making butter and skim milk for making cottage cheese. John did not know Mr. Tuller, but remembers Mrs. Tuller and sons, Coburn, Cecil and Cephas.

Charles and Sue Randall lived at 10379 Diamond Park Road directly across the road from the Tuller farm, where Dave Morse lived in 2004. Sue Randall and Robert "Dale" Melvin were the children of John and Lottie (Cook) Melvin. John and Lottie Melvin's third and final home at 10385 Diamond Park Road was located next door, west of the Randall residence. After Charles passed, his daughter Joyce (Randall) Mason and husband Jack Mason tore down the Randall house and built a new house on the site where they lived year around for several years, before moving west of Cadillac. Joyce (Randall) Mason and John Melvin are cousins. John remembers his Grandparents lived in three places in Diamond Park; in a cottage where Larry Smith's house is located on the corner of Indiana and Euclid Avenue from an earlier time until in the 1940s, in the northern most cottage of the former Melvin Resort on Green Lake (4109 Euclid Ave), and the Diamond Park Road 10385 home described above. During childhood,



John Melvin Painting one of the flat bottom boats

John played at the Melvin Resort Cottages which were built by his grandfather John. These were later purchased from his grandparents by his parents, Dale and Margaret and later sold to Joe and Lillian Trachy in 1955.

As a youngster, John spent many a spring and summer picking stones out of Green Lake that the ice had pulled out and putting them back on shore to prevent erosion, helping remove shutters and replacing screens, painting flat-bottom boats, helping put docks out and boats in the water and bailing out the boats until the wood swelled to seal the wood which stopped the leaks.

During WW II when John was a small child, his parents, Dale and Margaret Melvin moved to Detroit to support the war effort. They worked for the Packard Motor Company in Detroit. Dale was a plant guard and Margaret was a machinist, receiving a citation from the President of the United States for her job performance and innovative ideas while working in support of the war effort. While working at Packard, they met and became close friends with Mike and Rose Cornellie. Mike also worked at the Packard Plant. When the war effort was over, Margaret and Dale returned to Diamond Park to continue their lives. Mike and Rose soon followed and purchased the Geneaux Cottages. Mike and Rose built a year around house immediately south of the cottages they purchased from Mrs. Geneaux. The house they build (4049 Euclid Ave.) is the one that Harold and Evelyn (Melvin) Bryant lived in for several years.

Miscellaneous Items: Smalls and Brendel had the two cottages south of South Park, but just who owned which John does not remember. He remembers the Hugh and Hattie Sherman cottage, and the Veen cottage. On the cove was the Conkey Guest House, the main Conkey house, and then nothing but open space until the Demorest house. The Van Emmons owned three or four cottages north of the Melvin cottages. Charlie and Metta English were from Findlay, Ohio. Both held summer employment at the Interlochen Music Camp. Ward Swingle's wife was a Demorest. Before the Woodcocks came and bought the lots where Sam and Bobby Hays house sits, the property was vacant. Larry Merickel bought the house a bit south of Don and Gertrude Sherman back along Central which at that time curved around into Shady Grove. John had seen the name Swastika on the back of the Griffin House on the north side of Charlie and Hazel Wahl's house. It was the small house next door to the house that Debbie Stokes owned. Burt and Madge Fleming bought John's Grandfather's cottage which was located where Larry Smith now lives at the corner of Euclid and Indiana. Bert and Madge worked at the Interlochen Music Camp; they were from Columbus, Ohio. The house that Schneider's own now on Indiana Avenue was owned by Bowerman, a Traverse City dentist, with an office upstairs and across the street from

Horizon Books. John concurs that the area north of the turn on Diamond Park Road was called “the swamp”. John remembered when Wittington’s wife passed he then married his step-daughter who was a ballerina. John doesn’t recall the Griffin ice house that Martha Mygott spoke of.

John’s grandfather used to roll his boats on cedar posts, the boats were put in and out of the water on the vacant lot where Joe and Lillian Trachy built their cottage, which is the now the vacant lot between Harriet McDonald and her brother Joe’s cottage. John’s memory of the first motor he had seen on a boat was an Elgin, about a 1936. John recalls that his grandfather bought boats from a boat builder by the name of Haywood on the Benzie County Line Road. John also remembers that when the Association held the Annual Picnic, It was a highlight of the summer for many of the residents of Diamond Park!

FRED A BRADEN. Interview with Fred conducted by John Gary Melvin on July 9, 2016.

Fred P. Braden, Sr. moved his family from Traverse City to Interlochen in 1944. The very first property young Fred Jr. came to know in Diamond Park was the Geneaux property where he cut grass at their rental cabins at the age of 13. Mrs. Geneaux’s house was at the corner of Main and Diamond Park Road. At that time, folks from Grant Township were taking care of her cottages. Dale and Margaret Melvin took care of Mrs. Geneaux, and when she died they inherited her house. Mike and Rose Cornellie who were friends of Margaret and Dale arrived in 1948 and purchased the Geneaux cottages.

Fred recalled the first time he went into the Geneaux garage to get the yard tools, the highlight of that experience was seeing a 1914 T-Model with a little box on the back parked on one side of the garage; and on the other side of the garage was an REO. [John inserted that when Mrs. Geneaux died, the T Model was given to a nephew living in Detroit. At a later date, the nephew made an even swap with the Ford Motor Company for a new T-Bird. (At the time it was rumored that the T-Model was destined for Greenfield Village.)]

Fred did yard work for Julia Bakaleinikoff on Main Street, and his Aunt Mabel (Braden) Fuksa-Rak did house cleaning and helped with the parties Julia hosted. Mabel knew the Bakaleinikoffs before Fred’s family moved to the area. Julia Bakaleinikoff hired Fred’s father to install windows in her cottage; she was the first person he worked for in Diamond Park.

When Fred worked for Mrs. Bakaleinikoff, George Howard lived next door and they became acquainted and enjoyed conversations. Many a day Fred saw George walking across the Commons to his daughter’s cottage named the Honeymoon Cottage which he had built for her honeymoon. In the summer of 1950, George parked his car in his front yard. Fred saw the car and asked George if he had thought about selling it. George said he would sell it to Fred for \$65.00. Fred fondly remembers the 1928 Pontiac was “a real beauty”; dark green with a black vinyl top. After Fred was drafted into the Army he drove the 1928 Pontiac to his assigned base in Augusta, Georgia. He enjoyed cruising the streets.

Originally, the Demorest cottage was much smaller than it is now. Fred’s father was hired to build a lakeside addition half again the original size. Fred also recalls adding a bathroom and another addition to the North side of their cottage. It was necessary to drive to Bellaire for the logs. Later, Fred Braden, Sr. built a fireplace for the Demorests and Fred remembers mixing the mortar. Fred also built a roof over their back porch and installed a kitchen sink for Mrs. Demorest which she brought from Ohio in the backseat of their 1935 Chevy. Fred remembers Mrs. Demorest was a very nice lady to work for and that Mr. Demorest had a boat and loved to fish. He was a nice man, as well.

Fred helped his father build the Woodcock Cottage at 4170 Euclid Avenue, presently owned by Sam Hays. When the cottage was finished, he remembers Bob and Dietta Woodcock driving up from Lansing and moving into their new summer home. It was their first house in Diamond Park.

Fred met Beatrice Perutz and worked for her.

Mr. Veen hired Fred Braden, Sr. to re-roof the Veen Cottage and install new-style windows on the lake side. Fred Jr., also performed construction, maintenance and remodeling jobs for Mr. Veen; who he recalls as a very nice person. Fred knew Mr. Veen's two daughters; Ruthmary and Carolyn. On one occasion, Ruthmary told Fred her sister Carolyn was living in New York State. The Veens were here during the same time Francoise Demorest's family summered in the Park. Francoise studied the violin at the National Music Camp. Fred remembers Ruthmary and Francoise were about the same age.

Fred recalls his father and he were hired by Hugh Sherman to build a loft in their cottage for their grand children. He believes it would have been for Martha's children. The loft was built with ladder access for sleeping which solved the problem of limited floor space in the cottage. Martha Mygott was Hugh Sherman's daughter; she married Fritz Mygott. Mary Mygott is Hugh and Hattie's granddaughter. Fred believes Mary enjoyed growing up in Diamond Park.

Don Sherman had a daughter Donna Dean; she was married to Harold Maynard and they lived in the house located at 10575 Griffin Avenue, where Shirley Griffin lives now. Harold was from Interlochen and his family lived next door to Vlack's Hardware Store, on M137 in Interlochen. Donna Dean was B.W. Griffin's granddaughter. Donna and Harold Maynard lived in their Diamond Park residence for one winter.

Bill and Kay Loudon – Don and Gertrude Sherman introduced Bill and Kay Loudon from Detroit to Fred and his father when Kay wanted to build a small cottage on property she owned on Central Avenue. They built a log cabin where she spent summers. When Fred went to the Army in 1951, he had a layover flight in Detroit on the way to Augusta, Georgia. The Loudens invited him to spend the night and they had a nice visit. In 1954, Bill and Kay hired Fred to move them from Detroit to Diamond Park. The Loudens spent some years in the little cottage and then bought and moved into a larger house (two stories, sometimes referred to as "The House in the Woods"; a house previously owned by the Bowerman's). Fred remodeled the kitchen for Kay, and frequently, would have to repair and reignite their oil space heater.

The Conkey cottage on Griffin Avenue was constructed by Fred and his father using logs manufactured at the Delorme Woodworking Company in Karlin.

Fred bought his property from Don, Gertrude, Hugh and Hattie Sherman. Don, Salesman for the family property, approached Fred to purchased property in Diamond Park. Fred bought a parcel of eight - 50 ft lots which was previously plotted as a parking lot for the proposed hotel to be erected on the Lakeside of Euclid Avenue adjacent to South Park. Fred worked on various projects for Don. One project was building a retaining wall on the beach. Fred started construction of his house at 4250 Euclid in Diamond Park in 1955; completing it in 1956.

When Fred came to the Park as a teenager, he was in the Park to work for summer residents. He became acquainted with kids his age living in Diamond Park each summer but had little time to socialize with them.

However, winters afforded him a little bit of free time to fish with his friends. As a teenager, he would get off the school bus at home on the corner of Gonder and Riley Roads, where his friend Jerry Lassa, who lived on US 31 near the County Line Road, would walk to meet him. Together, they would walk to Fred's father's ice fishing shanty in the Cove of Green Lake. Another friend, Norbert Bush, would walk through the woods from his home on Bush Road and meet them on the Lake. Fred recalled one evening his friend Norbert encountered 45 deer in the woods on his way to meet them. The boys would fish until Fred's Dad got home from work and came to pick them up. The boys were about sixteen years old. The smelt were large and plentiful in Green Lake at that time; some as big as 10 or 11 inches long.

Additional Information submitted by Carolyn Coohon Boger

Jim Veen was introduced to Diamond Park by Glen Griffin of Grand Rapids. Glen invited Jim to join him at Green Lake to go fishing and they stayed with Glen's relative, Ethel Griffin.

Before the cottage at 4343 Euclid was built, Jim and Mary Veen and their children Ruthmary and Jim Jr. (Bud) age 4 or 5, spent a few weeks each summer at a rental cottage owned by Griffins named Swastika (a native American word meaning "good fortune"). The rental cottage named Swastika is located at 4229 Shady Grove. The Veen family swam at the Diamond Park Beach, since the rental cottage is not located on the lake but was "in the woods".

During the construction of the Veen cottage in the summer of 1933, Mary and her children, which by then included Ruthmary, Jim Jr., John and Carolyn, spent the entire summer at the Swastika Cottage and watched their cottage being built. Construction started in April, before they arrived, and was completed before the end of summer. The carpenters were Orrie Tanis (Jim Veen's cousin) and Nick Vander Wall, both master carpenters. The craftsmen slept in the loft of Ethel Griffin's barn/garage. Jim Veen designed the cottage and shipped the pre-cut wood by train from the factory of Klise Manufacturing in Grand Rapids.

Only the finest quality lumber was used in the construction of the cottage. Originally, the fir paneling on the walls was a lighter color; the kitchen is much darker nowadays than Jim Jr recalls it as a child. The bathroom is the only room with insulation overhead. This was done in an effort to keep that room warmer and quieter. The exterior siding is top-grade redwood.

The "facilities" were in an outhouse. Two planks made the way between the cottage and the outhouse. Mary would line up the children at night. Oldest child Ruthmary would frighten her siblings by saying, "There are bears in those woods"! Baby sister Carolyn would be frightened all the way out and back. The present garage was built around the original outhouse in the summer of 1946.

A well water pump was by the kitchen sink. Without electricity, light was provided by kerosene lamp. The stove was heated by kerosene also. Without electricity, an ice box was used to keep food cool. Dale Melvin would cut ice blocks from Green Lake in the winter and store the blocks, in a special building, covering and layering the blocks of ice with insulating sawdust to delay melting. Every few days, the blocks of ice were delivered by truck, carried into the house and placed in the icebox. There was a tray under the ice box that caught the water from the melting ice. It had to be emptied regularly.

Mary and the children would stay up north all summer without electricity, a telephone, or a car. The children were in the water most of the time. They loved hiking and walking around.

When the fishermen stayed with Ethel Griffin, Sasha Stolley lived next door and was their guide. Sasha's father taught violin and viola at the music camp. Jim thought a lot of Sasha because he was just a kid and yet somehow knew the fishing holes. When the children came up, Jim introduced Bud to Sasha and the two boys hit it off very well. Sasha was about 9 and Bud was about 7 when they met. They became pals and hung out together every summer.

Bud was not a fisherman, so he didn't go fishing, but he'd run the motor for his dad while he fished. In the early days, Jim had a Caille boat motor that made a lot of noise. The shaft was on an angle and the propeller didn't go down into the water very deep, so the noise of the engine was not the least bit muffled. Jim would row the boat out into the lake before starting the motor in an effort not to bother those still in bed; however, many a morning Bud was wakened early by the sound of that motor starting out in the lake.* Eventually, Jim got an Evinrude motor.

**Bud: The motor was a Caille, pronounced "Kay-Lee"; the motor was a monster. The long prop shaft and rudder ran straight out from the two opposed cylinders. The flywheel was on the front (top) and to start it you had to stand in front of it and pull upwards on the cord with all your might and not fall backwards out of the boat. After many attempts it might start popping. The exhaust was at the back of the motor, not under water, so there was no muffling of the sound of the motor. The racket on early Saturday and Sunday mornings would wake up half of the residents of Diamond Park. My recollection of that motor goes back to the late 1920s or early 30s when it was stored for years on the floor of our garage on Francis Avenue in Grand Rapids when it was not in use. In fairness, it was considered a fisherman's motor which could operate in very shallow water; the prop could easily be raised out of the water, if necessary.*

Sasha discovered an old Model-T Ford in a farmer's field and talked him into selling it to him. He and Bud had great adventures. One time Sasha and Bud had the Model T full of kids (including Bernice Rabkin, a piano protégé and concert pianist), and they were out near Bendon. It was nighttime and the Model T had a flat tire or was out of gas. They went to a farm house for help. The people living in the farmhouse owned an upright piano and the kids had Bernice play the piano for them. In the meantime, the fathers were out looking for the long overdue motorists.

Another fond memory is when Sasha would try to drive the Model T Ford up the Bendon hill the clutch band would slip so he would turn the car around and back up the hill. After that Mary Veen worried the old gasoline engine would catch on fire so she wouldn't let the little kids ride in the car. Bud remembers that the Stolley's drove the Model T Ford back to Cincinnati for the winter.

Grandpa Jim road on the train from Grand Rapids to the cottage on the Pere Marquette Railroad during World War II. The train was always late because the Grand Rapids train had to wait for the train from Chicago. When the train came through Bendon, it would blow its whistle and we would hurry with the car to pick him up at the Interlochen station about noon on Saturday. He'd take the train back Sunday night and it would be crowded. The family drove the car up at the beginning of summer and he would take the train back and forth all summer. As the train arrived at Interlochen, they would throw out the mailbag on the swing-out hook and pick it up on the way back through. The train trip from Interlochen to Grand Rapids took 4 or 5 hours, stopping in towns along the way. The passenger cars were made of wood as metal was needed for the war effort. One time he brought a bike up for me in the baggage car and I had to ride it back to the cottage. It was not easy because of the graveled roads.

There was gas rationing during WWII and Jim Veen had a "B" level card for Business, because he had government contracts. Many people had "A" cards. At Diamond Park, the neighbors would save up their cards and take turns going into Traverse City once a week for supplies. One week it would be Shermans, another Demorests, another Veens, etc. Veens would save their cards to get enough fuel to come up and save them to drive the car home at the end of summer. It was during this time that Jim was commuting by train.

Francoise Demorest was a summer friend of Carolyn's. One time it became very windy and the wind caught the canvas of the snipe sailboat, the *JIB SUE*. Francis joined John (called Jib) and Carolyn in adjusting the canvas but cut her finger in the process. Her mother was very upset because Francoise was studying violin at The National Music Camp at Interlochen. A happier memory of the *JIB SUE* is the moonlit evening Jib took Carolyn and Francoise for a sail down the length of Green Lake. The wind was blowing out of the southwest so that they could turn around and "run with the wind" back to the cottage, a beautiful, peaceful sail with the jib one way and the main the other; "wings".



Mary Veen
Photo taken in 1969



Jim C. Veen, Sr.
1897 - 1958

EARLY PROPERTY OWNERS IN DIAMOND PARK

List of "Lots Sold", (list produced by B. W. Griffin, undated).

To Tyrell	191 acres	\$2500
To H. K. Sherman	80 ft. x 175	350
James Veen	50 ft.	950
Albert D. Conkey	159 ft,	950
Mrs. Perutz	50 ft,	825
Dr. Rabkin	150 ft.	1050
Mrs. Bak	1 ½ lots	200
Ethel Griffin	2 lots	150
Mrs. Tewksbury	1 lot	50
John Melvin	2 lots	100
Frank Reynolds	3 lots	125
Mrs. Allen		50
Phil Benhiemer		100
Dr. Evans		150
Gertrude Sherman	10 lots	50
Mrs. Travis		60
Van Emmons		10
Tieth	1 lot	350
Bowerman	1 lot	50
Rent of Cottages		3500
Sales of Cottages and Rents		8070

Notes by Mrs. James Veen (written about 1967).

English built in 1911. Other owners: Griffins, Shermans, Adams, Geneauxs, Melvins.

Reynolds next to English.

Park on each side.

Rabkins in 1930.

We bought in 1930 and build in 1933. We rented Swastika from Ethel Griffin in 1926-27, 40 years ago. Ruthmary and Bud were little, 4 and 2.

Demorest came in 1940. Rented John Melvin's collage in August 1940; in 1941-2 rented Hugh Sherman's cottage. Bought a lot in the cove and build in 1943.

Veen rented Swastika, Ethel Griffin's cottage in 1926-27 two weeks each year; bought a lot in 1930 and built in 1933.

Rabkins came up in 1929, rented Reynolds cottage (next to the pink one). Bought two lots in 1929 and build in 1930.

Bakalienikoff built in 1931 and Stolerevsky built in 1932; Perutz built in 1932.

Don Sherman came in 1921. B. W. Griffin came in 1920; she died in 1946. Mapledale and Elmdale were built in 1947 and the BW Griffin cottage was here and 2 rooms of Don Sherman's cottage.

Spaulding sold to Merickel who remodeled; later sold to Canes.

B.W. sold next door to Huffman in 1934. Huffman's son bought Mrs. Bowman house across from Rabkin. His son will build on the back road.

Mrs. Bowman built in 1949.

Conkeys bought several acres in the cove. Built about 1945; built a guest house in 1950. He died in 1961.

Mike Corneillies bought Geneaux cottages and built a home in 1948.

Lichts sold to Jones and Leslie (Margaret Howard).

Don Sherman sold to Woodcocks in 1955 who bought Serenade on the Lake in 1956 which B. W. Griffin built and Julia B. bought in 1940.

Erma and Fred Braden built in 1956.

Dunham bought next to Bradens.

Wahls bought in 1947 a permanent home between Griffin and Braden, also bought Swastika.

Melvins, Tullers and Mrs. Geneaux were natives here. Sherman and English and Reynolds are old timers, and Buller and Howard and Ethel Griffin.

Lichts built on the hill; also Kromar and Lofstrom.

Ethel Griffin had a cabin, cottage and loft above the garage. She also had Swastika back of B. W.'s house, also a cottage on the road between Howards and Stolleys. Sold Swastika to Walls in 1947.

B. W. Griffin bought from Frank Reynolds who bought from Olds.

Sold two lots to Brendel and Small – the log cabins built in 1940 now owned by Chiskof from Lansing and from Buckley. Brendel sold to Al Kalmer. Killeman and Kremer near K. Loudon.

John Melvin had a house and cottage's on the lake. Sold to Son Robert Dale Melvin who later sold all to Trachy. He had a cottage in the woods which he sold to Fleming in 1950. He died in fall of 1947 ; she in January of 1965.

Mrs. Geneaux owned a few cottages down by County Road. She left her property to Margaret and Dale Melvin who live on the County Road. Old man John Melvin lives near them on County Road.

Reinings bought corner lot by cove in 1956.

Gertrude Sherman died Oct. 1966; Julia Bak died March 1964; Bak in fall of 1950. Veen in May 1958.

Whittington came north in 1946 and build in 1956. He bought Mrs. Perutz's cottage and remodeled it. This year, 1963 bought Mrs. Pulikowski's lots next door and sold 75 ft. to Mr. Carlut who will build next year. Whittington built a garage next to his house. Sold to Miss Brie in 1965.

Grovers bought lot next door to Hugh Sherman's and built in 1953.

Loudons came in 1950 and built a cottage near Don Sherman's in the woods. Bought Bowerman cottage in 1955 and live here year round since 1962.

List of Property Owners (date uncertain, but about 1946 to 65, compiler not known).

Block 1, Lots 1 to 9: Martin W. and Ethel M. Light, 404 N. Main St., Romeo, MI.

Block 1, Lots 10 to 16: Michael and Rose Corneillie, 25659 Fern, Roseville, MI.

Block 2, Lots 1 and 2: Martin and Ethel Light, Romeo, Mich.

Lake View Park, Block 3, Lot 1: Lot 1: Vladmir Bakaleinekoff.

Block 3, Lot 2: Julian and Elizabeth Pulikowski.

Block 3, Lot 3: Mrs. Louis Krauss, 1112 W. Morrell St., Jackson, Mich.

Block 3, Lot 4: Hazel M. Howard, Bendon, MI.

Block 3, Lots 5-7 Robert D. and Marguerite Melvin, 6485 Craig St., Detroit, Mich.

Block 3, Lot 8 Mrs. Gussie E. Thompson, 1387 Roosevelt Ave., Fresno 4, Cal.

Block 3, Lots 10-14 Wm. E. Van Eman.

Block 4, Lots 1, 2, 4, 6-7 Robert and Marguerite Melvin.

Block 4, Lot 3 Bertha Geneaux, Rt. #1, Bendon, Mich.

Block 4, part Lot 3 Bertha Geneaux and Robert and Marguerite Melvin, Rt. #1, Bendon, Mich.

Block 4, Lot 5 B. W. Griffin.

Block 4, Lots 8-9 Robert and Marguerite Melvin

Block 4, Lot 10 and 1/2 11 Dale Melvin, 6485 Craig St., Detroit, Mich.

Block 4, Lot 12 and 1/2 11 C. P. Randall.

Block 4, Lot 13 Retha Randall.

Block 4, Lots 14-15 John Melvin.

Block 4, Lots 16-17 Robert D. and Marguerite Melvin.

Block 5, Part	Michael and Rose Corneillie.
Block 5, Part	Diamond Park Property Owners Association.
Block 6, Lot 1 and 2	Lena Rabkin
Lake front, 120 feet	
Block 6, lake front	Charles F. English
Block 7, Lot 1	B. W. Griffin.
Block 7, Lot 2-3:	Lester J. and Velma R. Guyberson, 403 E. Dubail Ave., South Bend, Ind.
Block 7, Lot 4:	Dale and Marguerite Melvin.
Block 7, Lot 5:	Harley M. Baldwin, 1210 Fischer Ave, Detroit, Mich.
Block 7, Lots 6-11, 13	B. W. Griffin.
Block 7, Lot 14:	Carl and Rose Huffman, 1024 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI.
Block 7, Lots 12,15	D. C. Sherman.
Block 7, Lot 16:	Lawrence Alvin Merickel, 1222 Page St., Toledo, Ohio.
Block 7, Lots 17-18	D. C. Sherman.
Block 8, Lot 1	Wayne Deadman, S. Union St., Traverse City, Mich.
Block 8, Lot 2:	Mr. and Mr. Fike.
Block 8, Lot 3-4	Carl and Rose Mary Huffman, 1024 E. Front St., Traverse City.
Block 8, Lots 5-6	B. W. Griffin.
Block 8, Lots 7-8	Don C. and Gertrude Sherman, 3234 Monroe St., Toledo, Ohio.
Block 8, Lots 9-20	Albert and Elsie Conkey.
Block 9, Lot 1	Dr. Brendel.
Block 9, Lots 2-5	B. W. Griffin.
Block 9, Lots 6-15	Albert D. and Elsie Conkey.

Block 9, Lots 16-19 B.W.Griffin.

Block 9, Lots 20-30 Albert D. and Elsie Conkey.

Block 10, Lots 1-9 Albert D. and Elsie Conkey.

Block 10, Lots 10-11 B.W.Griffin.

Block 10, Lots 12-14 Carl and Rose Huffman.

Block 10, Lots 15-16 B.W.Griffin.

Block 11, Lots 1-7: B.W.Griffin.

Block 11, Lot 8: Carl and Rose Huffman.

Block 11, Lots 9-10 B. W. Griffin.

Block 11, Lots 11-18 Albert and Elsie Conkey.

Block 12, Lot 1: Edward and Gladys Bowerman, 422 W. 12th St., City.

Block 12, Lots 2-3: B.W. Griffin.

Block 12, Lot 4: Carl and Rose Huffman.

Block 12, Lots 4-12 B.W. Griffin.

Block 13, Lot 1: B.W. Griffin.

Block 13, Lots 2-4: D.V. Bakaleinehoff.

Block 13, Lot 5: Edward Bowerman.

Block 13, Lots 6-8 B.W. Griffin.

Block 14, Lot 1: George F. Howard, R #1, Bendon, Mich.

Block 14, Lot 2: George Howard.

Block 14, Lot 3: Ethel Griffin.

Block 14, Lot 4 and 5: Tatiana and Mikail Stolarevsky.

Block 14, Lot 6: Glenn Griffin.

Block 14, Lot 8; D.V.Bakaleinekoff.

Block 15, Lots 1, 2, 4-12: B.W. Griffin.

Block 15, Lot 3: Ethel Griffin.

Block 16, Lots 1-10: B.W. Griffin.

Block 17, Lots 1-10: B.W. Griffin.

Block 18, Lots 1-10: Burdett W. Griffin.

Block 18, Lots 11-17: Albert and Elsie Conkey

HISTORY OF PROPERTY AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Diamond Park Road

House on corner of Diamond Park Rd. and Euclid Avenue, owned by Belinda Fischer, PO Box 65, Interlochen as a permanent residence; mailbox on Euclid Avenue.

10379 Diamond Park Rd. House owned in 2002 by Dave Morse as permanent residence.

10385 Diamond Park Rd. House, owned by Charlotte Bryant, of family of Harold Bryant who owns property at the north end of Euclid Avenue.

10393 Diamond Park Road. House, owned by Charlotte Bryant, of family of Harold Bryant who owns property at the north end of Euclid Avenue.

10423 Diamond Park Road. House owned in 2002 by Jack Mason as permanent residence.

10435 Diamond Park Road. House owned in 2002 by Kirk and Toni Nostrant as permanent residence.

10595 Diamond Park Road. Property purchased by Anthony and Linda Alessio in 2004.

Main Street

4060 Main Street. This house was built under the direction of Misha Stolerevsky who came to the Music Camp in 1929 and the first year lived in one of the Genoux cottages. He did not have the funds to buy on the lake, but instead bought this lot from Griffin and had a cottage built here. He came with his family during the summer; Sasha and his sister, Susan came along and at times Sasha lived in a tent in the back yard. After the death of his first wife his second wife, Betty, also came to Diamond Park regularly. Sasha and his children were mainstays of the Diamond Park community and his children and grandchildren came to Diamond Park in the summers for many years. He not only purchased the Griffin property but also a number of lots along Diamond Park Road between Main and Indiana Avenue in order to prevent their development.

Between 4060 and 4074 Main St.: On this lot was formerly the house of Ethel Griffin, whose husband was a brother of B. W. Griffin. He had died much earlier in a railroad accident, and in the 20's and 30's Ethel Griffin continued to live in this house. She was a very active participant in Diamond Park affairs, including the Association, and had a second house, just behind hers, on the property which she rented out to summer visitors. She lived in her main house year-round, and her grandson, Frank Griffin, lived in the second house at various times. After Ethel Griffin's death the house remained unoccupied and fell into disrepair. It was bought by Sasha Stolley in 1977 and torn down and it remained as a vacant lot.

4074 Main Street. This lot was the first lot off the lake that was sold by Homer Olds from the original plat drawn up in 1908. It was owned by his daughter Margaret and her husband George Howard; George Howard in particular was a rather legendary figure in Diamond Park who was sure that the country and especially Diamond Park, with Russian speaking residents on both sides of him, were Communists. He was also known to be rather mean to his family and overly strict with his daughter. In later years the house was owned by Mr. Baker, who also owned the next two houses down Main Street, and was purchased by Ann Kimball, a divorcee from Chicago who was persuaded by her brother, Jay Thompson, a singer who taught at the Music Camp to come to Diamond Park to live. She did so, brought their mother here, and stayed until after he mother died in 1996 when she sold the house and moved to Florida. She sold the house to Otilia Elmasian, whose son worked at the Music Camp and lived on Diamond Park road near the Camp. The property was bought by Tom Martin in 2004.

4082 Main Street. This lot was purchased from BW Griffin by the Bakalienakoff family, in which the wife was known as Mrs. Bak. He was associated with the Cincinnati, and then the Pittsburgh symphony orchestra and came to teach in the Music Camp. He supervised building the house for a summer place. In later years Mrs. Bak purchased the house on the Lake that the Woodcock's owned but did not live there; they rented it out. However, when the Woodcocks acquired the Bak house on the lake, Mrs. Bak reserved ten feet on the side toward the right-of-way to provide for a right of way for the 4082 Main Street house to have access to the lake. In later years the Baks sold this house to Mr. Baker and him, in turn, later to Larry Hurst, who was an instructor at the Music Camp. In still later years Larry Hurst sold this house and Sasha Stolley bought it and, along with it, the right of way to the lake. In still later years this house was owned by a Trust for the Stolley children.

4116 Main Street. This house was constructed originally by the Bakalienakoffs for the Maazel family. Mr. Bak had got to know them in California and the Mazell parents asked him to teach their son, Lauren, music and conducting. They went to Pittsburgh when Bak did and then came to the Music Camp with Bak to continue the instruction. To facilitate this Baks bought this lot and built this house for the Maazel. In later years it was purchased by Mr. Baker, who then owned all three houses in a row on Main Street, and then in 1977 was purchased by Tom and Endrene Crampton from Minneapolis. The Cramptons had grown up in Manistee and she was a cousin of Jay Thompson at the Music Camp. The family, with three children came regularly in the summers to Diamond Park and Tom worked at the Security branch of the Music Camp each summer for many years.

Euclid Avenue

The group of five cottages on the lake just south of the Diamond Park Road intake was, along with the Melvin cottages lower down the lake, the first "vacation" cottages in Diamond Park. The land was acquired by the Geneaux family, who had been involved in the lumber business, from Homer Olds.

Three of these houses on the lake owned in 2002 by Steven and Mary Fasel of 2512 Five Mile Road, Traverse City, MI, 40686; two houses owned in 2002 by Mark Parrish of 1974 Crozier, Muskegon, MI, 49443.

First house, no number, with sign "Fasel Cottage."

4009 Euclid Ave. No information.

4021 Euclid Ave. No information.

4023 Euclid Ave. No information

4033-4045, Mailbox, house to which it belongs not clear, but appears to be one of the "Geneaux Cottages."

4049 Euclid, house on the lake owned by Harold Bryant.

4055 Euclid Ave., house on the lake owned by Robert Murphy, P. O. Box 18, Interlochen, MI, 49643. He was an organist at the Music Camp and died in 2003 and the house was owned by his sister.

4063 Euclid, house on the lake owned by Mary Gonzales, 506 S. England St., Williamsburg, VA, 23135.

4069 Euclid, house on the lake owned by James Reinke, 33768 Hunters Point, Farmington Hills, MI, 48331 (formerly owned by Lofstrom?).

4075 Euclid, house on the lake owned by Beth Morningstar, 24370 N. Palm American Park sp. 354, Hemet, CA, 92543. The original house on this property was owned by Margaret Leslie, daughter of George Howard; she died in a fire when the house burned in 1966/67?

4083 Euclid, house on the lake owned by C. E. and Kathy Setphensen, 5159 Bixel Drive, San Diego, CA, 92115. "Dude" Stephen for many years was on the staff of the Music Camp.

4089 Euclid, house on the lake owned by Leala John and Charles Apsey, 7821 Outer Drive, Traverse City, MI, 49684. This house underwent major renovations in 2003 under new ownership.

4101 Euclid, house on the lake owned by Barbara and Emily Sandys, PO Box 457, Interlochen, MI. Barbara Sandys was a member of the staff at the Music Camp.

4109 Euclid, four houses on the lake owned by Joe Trachy, 216 Janet Lane, Lakeland, FL, 33809. These cottages were built originally by John Melvin. Joe Trachy died in 2002 and his children obtained ownership of the four cottages and were by 2004 in the process of renovating them. One of the children, Harriet MacDonald acquired two of the properties with the intention of tearing them down and building a larger house in their place. The other two properties were acquired by Trachy's two boys, Joe and Doug.

4129 Euclid, house on the lake owned by Douglas and Karen Roether, 334 South Centennial Rd., Holland, Ohio, 4528.

4143 Euclid, two houses on the lake owned in 2002 by Gail Benson, 31099 Rutland St., Beverly Hills, MI, 48025. The main one of the two houses, the most southerly one along the lake was acquired by Lila Krause in 1939 from Margaret, widow of Homer Olds who developed the first plat for Diamond Park. At that time the house was a mere shack, had not been lived in for ten years, but was improved and made livable by Lila. She lived here for many years thereafter and in 1995 sold it to Gail Benson. Next to the house on the north side was a small cottage which the Olds daughter, Margaret, who married a Leslie, had built as a honeymoon cottage. Lila occasionally rented it for summer visitors, and it was sold with the main house as a package to Gail

Benson. While a few of the early cottages were torn down completely over the years, this was one that had been remodeled and improved over the years.

4161 Euclid Ave., house on the lake owned by Kurt and Kathleen Rennhack, address the same. The first owner of this property in the 1930's was a man by the name of Pulikowski.

Lakeview Park, a part of the original plat of Diamond Park, originally was a right-of-way extension of Main Avenue to the lake, and therefore township property. In the early 1980's after a storm which downed several trees the township offered to transfer jurisdiction over the property to the Diamond Park Properties Owner Association in return for the Association cleaning up the debris and taking care of it. The lake access is public but used only by the neighboring property owners for launching their small boats.

4156 Euclid Avenue, house on the land (west) side of Euclid. This house was built originally by Bob and Dietta Woodcock, who came to Diamond Park about 1955. Dietta was a granddaughter of a Sherman who was a sister of the Sherman who was the husband of B.W. Griffin's second wife, Martha Sherman. The Woodcocks owned several lots at the corner of Main and Euclid. They sold one on Indiana Avenue to Dick Milbert, and one at the corner of Indiana and Euclid to the Huffmans and on the remaining lot, 4156 Euclid, they had Fred Braden build a concrete block house where the Woodcocks and their children lived during the summer. The Woodcocks wanted to live on the lake and they knew that Mrs. Bak wanted to sell her house, but she would not sell to the Woodcocks, so Dietta arranged for a blind third party to conduct the transaction, and when the Woodcocks moved there, they then rented out 4156 Euclid on a summer, weekly basis. In 1977 Sam and Bobby Hays of Pittsburgh were looking for a place to rent for the summer, contacted the Woodcocks, and Dietta told them that she was tired of cleaning the rented cottage each week and would rent only if they rented for the entire summer. This was arranged. By the end of the summer the Hays were aware that the Woodcocks wanted to sell and they offered to buy. The Woodcocks set a price that was acceptable and during the winter the final arrangements were made. During the next summer the Hays occupied the house and did so for every July and August thereafter. From time to time they "modernized" the cottage but never winterized it. They had a new front porch added when greatly expanded the usefulness of the porch, substituted electric for gas hot water heat, and then replaced the diesel fired space heater with electricity and put in new wiring and a modern switch box. From time to time relatives and children of the Hays came to visit during the summer but they did not rent it out. In 2000 the Hays moved to Boulder, Colorado to be near two of their children and then came from there to Interlochen for the summer.

4159 Euclid Ave., house on the lake on which the first dwelling, called Shoral Gables, was owned by B. F. Griffin, who then sold to Julia Bakaleinakoff in 1940, and then was bought in 1956 by Bob and Dietta Woodcock, and after their death acquired by their grandson, Lloyd Glew who greatly improved the property and planned to live there permanently on retirement.

4162 Euclid Avenue, house on the land side of Euclid Avenue owned by Winston and Marilyn Budrow of 321 Compton Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27609.

4170 Euclid Ave., house on the landside (west side) of Euclid Avenue. Land along Euclid Avenue between Main and Indiana Avenues was sold by Don Sherman to Bob and Dietta Woodcock in 1955. This gradually became three properties, one along Indiana Avenue owned by Dick Milbert, one along Euclid Avenue owned by the Huffmans and on the corner of Main and Euclid retained by the Woodcocks. The first house here was a concrete block house in which lived the Huffmans. It was one of the acquisitions by Millarch in the 1980's,

torn down, and in its place a log house was constructed. In 2002 it was owned by Mark and Susan Sutton of 115 Mont Eagle, Milford, MI, 48381.

4171 Euclid Ave., house on the lake, owned in 2002 by Bob and Lil Woodcock, 304 Ferguson St., Lansing, MI, 48912. Bob was the son of Bob and Dietta Woodcock who owned the house next door at 4159 Euclid. The house as 4171 Euclid was formerly owned by "Cap" English, who had railroad connections and whose wife was a close friend of Ethel Griffin. The Englishs did not live there year-round, but when he died Mrs. English did live there all year round. At her death the house was acquired in 1977 by Bob and Lil Woodcock. It was remodeled over several years and greatly improved, with a shop added as an extension in 1984.

4175 Euclid Ave., house on the lake, owned in 2004 by John and Mary Melvin. This property was acquired by Dr. Rabkin, a dentist from Cincinnati who was closely associated with the Cincinnati musicians who also came to Diamond Park. Rabkin first came to Diamond Park in 1929 and rented the Reynolds cottage. He bought two lots in 1929 and then in 1930 built a house and later built a smaller office/study building nearby. Upon his death it was owned by his daughter, Alice Falck, and her husband, Sylvan Falck who continued to come to Diamond Park each summer with their daughter Neenah. Sylvan died in 1994 and Alice in 2003, this property was acquired by John and Mary Melvin of Traverse City in 2002. John was a grandson of John Melvin who acquired lakeshore land from Homer Olds prior to World War I and built several cottages for summer visitors.

South Park. Property deeded to the Association with the provision that if the Association were dissolved for any purpose the land would revert to the heirs of the donor. This property had long been reserved from sale for home building by B. F. Griffin because it provided a lake wide view from his house on the west side of the road adjoining the park.

4203 Euclid Ave., house off the lake on the west side of Euclid Ave., owned in 2002 by David and Jean Chesney of 541 Glenwyth Road, Brighton, MI, 48146. Earlier this property was owned by Mr. Huffman. His house became one of the Millarch properties, was torn down and a log house replaced it. In 2003 it was purchased Elisia Raymond and Christian Hansen from Marquette, Mich.

4222 Euclid Ave., house off the lake on the west side of Euclid Ave. facing South Park, in 2002 owned by Milton Church and used as a year-round residence.

House off the lake at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Shady Grove Avenue, owned by the Erwin family in 2002 and acquired by Debbie Stokes, resident of Diamond Park at 4142 Shady Grove Ave. in 2003. This property apparently was first purchased by a family by the name of Wahl in 1947 where they built a permanent home between the Griffins and the Bradens; they also bought the Griffin cottage behind his house that was called Swastika.

4250 Euclid Ave., house off the lake on the west wide of Euclid and at the corner of Shady Grove and Euclid, on property purchased by Fred and Erma Braden where they built in 1956. Owned in 2002 by Fred and Erma Braden, the house serving as their year-round residence.

4266 Euclid Ave., house off the lake on the west side of Euclid owned in 2003 by Joanne Braden as a year-round residence.

4253 Euclid Ave., house on the lake side of the road, owned in 2002 by Shelly Chatfield and Patrick Kerby of Interlochen, MI. The construction of this house initially was supervised in its planning and building by Misha Stolarevsky who had previously located at the north end of Main St. The house was owned by Robert Perutz. It was sold to a Mr. Wittington whose wife was a ballerina, a step-daughter of Wittington.

House next to the Chatfield's, on the lake side of the road, owned by Robert and Sandra Buckner of 11190 Verona Rd., , Battle Creek, MI, 49017. The Buckner house was built by a close friend of Gerry Chatfield who owned the lot next door.

4281 Euclid Ave. House on the lake side of the road, owned by Charles Carlut, of 2599 Woodstock Rd., Columbus, Ohio, 43221. This property was acquired from Germaine Brie, a professor of French at Ohio State University, who sold half of her log to Carlut. Brie, in turn, had acquired the property from a Mr. Whittington, a pianist.

4284 Euclid Ave. House off the lake on the west side of Euclid Ave., owned in 2002 by Elmer and Lucille Dunham, 2259 County Road 633 South, Grawn, MI, 49635.

4300 Euclid Ave. In 2003 a log house owned by Sheldon and Valerie Goodman of Chicago, Ill. who owned the property at 4355 Euclid Ave. as their personal residence.

4316 Euclid Ave. on the west side of Euclid Ave., in 2003 owned by Dennis and Susan Mrowczynski, year-round residents of Diamond Park.

4295 Euclid Ave. House on the lake side of the road, owned by Max Warren and Anita Plous of 274 W. Brown St., Birmingham, MI, 48009-1455. This was one of the older properties in Diamond Park, owned by the Sherman family, later by Martha Sherman Mygott, and then by one of her children.

4319 Euclid Ave. House next to the above, also part of the earlier Sherman properties owned by Mary Lynn Mygott, daughter of Martha Sherman Mygott, who on the death of her husband married George Dowswell.

Euclid Ave. House next to the above owned in 2003 by Mike and Kathy Rodgers of 520 Wildwood, East Lansing, MI, 48823, a property owned previously by Lorine Bennett Kathy's Mother.

4343 Euclid Ave. House next to the above owned in 2003 by Ruthmary Coohon of 2660 Ray Blvd., Traverse City, MI, 49684, a daughter of the Veen family who were one of the early owners of property in the south section of Diamond Park. The cottage was built in 1933 . The garage was added later.

4355 Euclid Avenue on the lake side of Euclid Ave., property owned in 2003 by Sheldon and Valerie Goodman of 950 North Michigan Ave., #3404, Chicago, IL., 60611. At this time this was a log house built by Millarch

Indiana Avenue

The owner of the house located at the upper end of Indiana Avenue is unknown.

4100 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 owned by Mike Nunn and Susan Snyder Nunn, IAA PO Box 199, Interlochen, MI.

4101 Indiana Avenue. The original house here was built by B. F. Griffin, a two-story affair which he called the "woods cottage." In 2002 it was owned as a permanent residence by Denise Delorme of Interlochen.

4129 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 owned as a permanent residence by Dick Milbert.

4130 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 owned by Eli and Joyce Labiner, 615 Greenfield, Flint, MI, 48503.

4133 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 owned by Betty Loudon, 134 Island Court, Algonac, MI, 48001.

4142 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 owned by Leroy and Rose Schneider, P.O. Box 68 Copemish, MI, 49625.

4150 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 owned, as a permanent residence, by Russell and Gail Brandt.

4166 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 this house was owned by Richard Amenson; it was purchased in 2002 by Larry Smith, owner of 4178 Indiana Avenue and torn down.

4178 Indiana Avenue. In 2002 owned, as a permanent residence by Larry Smith, PO Box 241, Interlochen, MI, 49643. This house was expanded in 2002 to occupy part of the 4166 Indiana Avenue property which Smith acquired and the house on the property torn down by Smith.

Central Avenue

4135 Central. In 2002 the home of Ashley Rose, address Interlochen, MI, 49643.

4157 Central. In 2002 the home of Ted and Laura Berg of Interlochen MI.

4161 Central. In 2002 home of Jim and Tina Bottorff of Interlochen MI.

Next house. In 2002 owned by Charles and Jackie Lader, PO Box 216, 235 Leaver, Vernon, MI, 4476.

4190 Central. In 2002 the home of Ron and Katharine Brakel, used as a permanent residence.

4191 Central. In 2002 owned by Lance Morgan, 7122 S. Rosinski, Cedar, MI, 49621; purchased by Richard Schneider in 2003.

4219 Central. Owned in 2002 by Donald and Linda Beattie; Purchased in 2003 by Amy Highstreet.

House next to 4919 Central, owner unknown.

Shady Grove Avenue

4033 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by Don and Ann Taylor.

4075 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by L.Howard as a permanent residence.

4103 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by Rick and Joan Hermann as a permanent residence.

4142 Shady Grove. In 2002 house owned by Debbie Stokes as permanent residence.

4143 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by Walter Jansen as a permanent residence.

4156 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by Ray and Sue Moore.

4202 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by Rudy and Verta Odziana, 1641 Rochester Rd., Oakland, MI.

4229 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by James L. Davis.

4237 Shady Grove. In 2002 owned by Debbie Stokes.

Linden Avenue

4215 Linden, but located on Shady Grove. In 2002 house owned by Brian Braden, but same address as his brother, Dewayne Braden.

4215 Linden. House owned by Dewayne Braden.

Griffin Avenue

10575 Griffin Ave. This property was conveyed by B. F. Griffin to his granddaughter, Donna Dean Sherman who built a cottage here. House owned in 2002 by Frank and Shirley Griffin of 239 Fearington Post, Pittsboro, NC, 27312.

Griffin. House owned in 2002 by Mike and Elizabeth Chamberlain, 15317 Aylsworth Rd., Thompsonville, MI, 49683.

10593 Griffin. House owned by Francoise and Ward Swingle, of 17 rue Carnot 02130, Fere-en-Tardenois, France.

House owned by Robert and Marjorie Lyons, 4318 Andre St., Midland, MI, 48640.

10617 Griffin. House owned in 2002 by Hugo and Mary Anne Karle, as permanent residence. Hugo Carle is a cousin of Tony Muir who owned the next house at 10623 Griffin Avenue.

10623 Griffin. House owned in 2002 by Tony and Louise Muer, 43063 W. Kirkwood, Mt. Clemens, MI, 48044. Tony Muer was a nephew of Albert Conkey who acquired a considerable amount of property from B. F. Griffin in the south part of Diamond Park. This house was originally Conkey's guest cottage.

10679 Griffin. House owned in 2002 by Roger and Mary Ann Dirkse as permanent residence.

DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO HISTORY OF DIAMOND PARK
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The establishment of the Association.

From James Veen to Albert Conkey and Don Demorest, September 29, 1944:

I have been trying to write you for the last several days because last week-end I was at the cottage and had an opportunity to discuss the Association idea with Mr. Griffin and several property owners.

Due to Mr. Demorest having broken the ground and his notes and comment on his conversations (as per copies mailed you on the 15th) helped considerably and am pleased to report definite progress. I spent some time with the Baks and some day will give you a detailed report on our conversation, but for the present believe she is friendly and, in fact, she will permit her name to be used on any corresponance we may have with prospective members. This will give us representation from the other end of the park.

However, I believe there is some misunderstanding as to the property Mr. Griffin will deed to the group. It was my understanding that this would include the entire area shown on the original plat as "Olds" playground, but he showed me two stakes giving the boundaries. Later we measured this and it is an area approximately 250' square. I will attempt to draw a sketch of this on the reverse side.

When I acted surprised that it would not include the entire "Commons" he said that he would not afford to give us all of it because he had an offer for the area marked in green, of \$500. He did say that he would much prefer to sell it to you or I or both of us for the same price and that for \$600 he will include the trees and the space in red. I did not make an issue of this because I could not have misunderstood him back in 1933 when I bought my lot. At that time, I understood that the entire area was to be set aside. Further, I do not know if the plat has thus been recorded, or if he is paying taxes on it, or if he has a right to sell lots in that area. Be that as it may, the plot he will give us is still worth the effort. However, I wish you would send me your print and the abstract. Then, if you two wish to go ahead, I will take it to the attorney Mr. Tubbs and get him started on it.

Mr. Griffin is entirely agreeable to our organizing in a small way, and I left him with the idea that some time in October the papers will be ready to sign and I will bring them up for signature.

This is all I have time for today, but will appreciate your comments on the above.

Yours truly,

James C. Veen

From: Albert D. Conkey to J. C. Veen, Oct. 3, 1944.

Dear Mr. Veen:

It was nice to get your note and to hear that you at the family are O.K. Sorry I wasn't along to take that ride over the high-bridge, it must have been quite an experience.

We did not hear from the Demorests so I suppose their connections here did not work out in such a way that they could call us. I think that between you and the Demorests considerable progress has been made and I am sure a better understanding arrived at than when we had the original re-action from the people down at the other end of the Park.

I must admit that I am just as surprised as you that the entire Commons is not in the offer Mr. Griffin made. Naturally, he would much prefer to sell it, but that would be far more of an issue to those immediately across the road from the property than to you and to me, and is an interesting situation since it brings up exactly the problem that we foresaw as one of the chief aims of this organization, namely: protecting the interests of all from unfortunate sale of property.

I am in the same boat as you are in regard to knowing whether the plat is recorded as a Commons or Park, or whether he is paying any taxes on it. I presume he has been, and I know he believes he has the right to sell lots in the area. I doubt very much that the plat he is now offering is, as you say, still worth the effort, but I think our other objectives are and I am therefore sending you the blue-print of the property and the abstract so that the attorney can go ahead with the articles. I am sorry I did not know about this before I left up there because I think that I could have been able to make Mr. Griffin see our side of this. Perhaps I will have an opportunity to do something about it before the property is actually deeded.

Thanks again for your cooperation and let me know when you need a check to cover costs.

Yours very truly,

Albert D. Conkey.

Letter Inviting Residents to Join the Association. Dated August 21, 1945.

Dear Property Owner:

We are addressing you as a property owner in or adjacent to Diamond Park, as we believe you are interested in learning recent developments and progress in forming the proposed "Diamond Park Property Owners' Association".

As you know, it was necessary for a group of property owners to incorporate, in order to accept Mr. and Mr. B. W. Griffin's kind and generous offer to donate a plot of land suitable for recreational and park purposes, for the use and pleasure of us all. Many property owners expressed interest and approval, and it was suggested that such an organization, group or association could also assume other projects and activities of a community nature

Therefore, to get started, several of us joined in filing the necessary papers with the State of Michigan, and have now received our Articles of Incorporation – as a Non-Profit Corporation.

We are now anxious to increase our membership, to hold a general meeting, and then to elect directors and officers for the coming year. Membership applications, copies of the proposed by-laws and proxies have been distributed to all known owners, and we plan to hold an open meeting on Saturday August 25, 1945 2 p.m. at the cottage of Mr. and Mr. B. W. Griffin. (Outdoors if weather permits, otherwise inside).

A general outline of the purpose of the Association will be presented and discussed. Applications for membership and dues will be received, and later, perhaps at 3 p.m. the same date, a meeting of the members held to elect directors, adopt by-laws and discuss matters of interest to the membership.

We welcome, invite and urge you and all property owners to be present or represented at this meeting and to join in the Association which should be of direct benefit to all, this year, next year and during the years to come.

If you wish more information, copies of the proposed by-laws, membership application blank, or questions – Mr. Demorest has kindly expressed his willingness to have you all on him at his cottage, prior to the date of the meeting, August 25.

Sincerely yours,

DIAMOND PARK PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

D. Conkey

Don Demorest

J. C. Veen

B. W. Griffin

Albert D. Conkey to Mr. J. C. Veen, Sept. 15, 1944.

Dear Mr. Veen:

First of all, congratulations from Mrs. Conkey and myself to the Veen family on the happy event in their family which we have all been looking forward to with interest for some time. Glad to hear that everything is going well and know what it will be a pleasant occasion for you this week-end.

I am glad that you liked and immediately acted on my suggestions that a relatively small group of us incorporated to get things started. I don't know why I should be president of this activity but I will so act for the time being if the others desire and until such time as we have a body of members which can gather and have a more general kind of election of officers. The job really ought to be yours since you were the spark plug of the activity anyway.

I am no more surprised than you are that some people would not be favorably disposed, but I do wonder what those same people would feel like if that park property should fall into some hands and be set up as a trailer camp, or otherwise used to the detriment of surrounding property. They would certainly suffer far more from it than we up at the other end of the woods. Anyway, I quite agree with your idea that whether all the others come in or not, those of us who are interested should protect our interest.

I am entirely in accord with your suggestions that we retain Mr. Robert S. Tubbs, and as you know I will go along on underwriting this venture even if it should get down to the point where you and I should have to handle the whole matter ourselves. Any time you wish the property plat and the abstract let me know and I will forward it. I do not believe Mr. Griffin has a later one but you might check with him.

I will be glad to hear what further news you got from Mr. Demorest.

Sincerely yours,

D. Conkey.

Letter from James Veen to Albert Conkey, Apr. 19, 1945.

Mr. Albert D. Conkey
76 Adams Avenue, West
Detroit, 26, Michigan

Dear Mr. Conkey:

This morning, I received the "Articles of Incorporation" from Mr. Demorest and today returned them to Mr. Tubbs together with a check for filing fees.

He promised to take care of the filing promptly and will phone me some time next week when the certificate is received.

I asked him about by-laws and he agreed to give me a rough draft of the various matters to cover, explaining that this could wait until we have a meeting or two during the summer. Further, when Mr. Griffin is in a position to give us the boundaries of the playground plot, Mr. Tubbs will draw up the deed for recording.

Mr. Demorest suggested that we draw in other property owners, especially one to replace him but, again, this can wait until we can discuss this at the park.

We are pleased to have this matter so well under way and trust proceedings to date meet with the approval of all.

Yours truly,

J. C. Veen

Notes on Meetings Concerning the Organization of the Association, July 1-8, 1945

July 3: Conkey, Demorest and Veen met at Veen's cottage to discuss further business and procedure of the newly formed association. It was decided to meet with Mr. Griffin at his convenience and to discuss with him the boundaries of the area he has proposed to donate to the Association.

July 6, 8 p.m.: Conkey, Demorest and Veen met with Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Griffin at their cottage. During the meeting they offered the association the entire plot of land shown on blue print of plat, designated "Old's Recreation and Park Area", except for a portion that he has offered to a Mr. Robert Dale Melvin.

It was agreed that Mr. Conkey should contact and employ Mr. Coburn Tuller to survey the property and establish definite boundaries and measurements which could be incorporated in the deed of transfer or gift.

Mr. Griffin stipulated that Mr. Conkey be appointed as Trustee or Supervisor for a period of 5 years – as a protection in case the Association should decide to dissolve or members lose interest in the proposal.

General business of the association was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

July 7: Conkey, Demorest and Veen met with Mrs. Bakalienikoff and invited her to become a director of the Association. She agreed, but later asked to withdraw, expressing a desire, however, to become a member and give support to the Association as now organized.

July 9: Mr. Griffin talked with Veen (due to Conkey's and Demorest absence) relative to the possibility of including in the By-Laws an article pertaining to term of officers to include "that Mr. Conkey as president and Mr. Demorest as Vice President remain in their offices for a period of either three or five years. He explained that this would be of benefit to the Association because an early change in officers might endanger the purposes of the association, and it would give them an opportunity to complete the work as planned.

July 7: Conkey, Demorest and Veen met and discussed By-Laws. Mr. Conkey agreed to prepare a draft and present it at our next meeting. Also to prepare an application for membership. Veen agreed to have copies mimeographed for distribution to prospective members. The question of dues, assessments, etc. was also discussed.

Letter Inviting Residents to Join the Association. Dated August 21, 1945.

Dear Property Owner:

We are addressing you as a property owner in or adjacent to Diamond Park, as we believe you are interested in learning recent developments and progress in forming the proposed "Diamond Park Property Owners' Association".

As you know, it was necessary for a group of property owners to incorporate, in order to accept Mr. and Mr. B. W. Griffin's kind and generous offer to donate a plot of land suitable for recreational and park purposes, for the use and pleasure of us all. Many property owners expressed interest and approval, and it was suggested that such an organization, group or association could also assume other projects and activities of a community nature

Therefore, to get started, several of us joined in filing the necessary papers with the State of Michigan, and have now received our Articles of Incorporation – as a Non-Profit Corporation.

We are now anxious to increase our membership, to hold a general meeting, and then to elect directors and officers for the coming year. Membership applications, copies of the proposed by-laws and proxies have been distributed to all known owners, and we plan to hold an open meeting on Saturday August 25, 1945 2 p.m. at the cottage of Mr. and Mr. B. W. Griffin. (Outdoors if weather permits, otherwise inside).

A general outline of the purpose of the Association will be presented and discussed. Applications for membership and dues will be received, and later, perhaps at 3 p.m. the same date, a meeting of the members held to elect directors, adopt by-laws and discuss matters of interest to the membership.

We welcome, invite and urge you and all property owners to be present or represented at this meeting and to join in the Association which should be of direct benefit to all, this year, next year and during the years to come.

If you wish more information, copies of the proposed by-laws, membership application blank, or questions – Mr. Demorest has kindly expressed his willingness to have you all on him at his cottage, prior to the date of the meeting, August 25.

Sincerely yours,

DIAMOND PARK PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

D. Conkey

Don Demorest

J. C. Veen

B. W. Griffin

DIAMOND PARK PROPERTTY OWNERS ASSOCATION

For file and record purposes only:

In order to increase membership of the Association, a letter of invitation to the general meeting to be held August 25, 1945 was circulated by mail and in person, to all known property owners in and adjacent to Diamond Park. (per copies attached).

Accordingly, the following owners met at the cottage of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Griffin: (2. p.m. – 8/25/45)

Mrs. Julian Pulikowski
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. L. English
Mr. Lorin Maazel
Dr. Samuel Rabkin
Mrs. Julia Bakaleinkoff
Mrs. Walter F. Morafsky
Mrs. E. F. Antzak
Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Griffin
Mrs. Beatrice Perutz
Mrs. Ethel Griffin
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Melvin
Mrs. Bertha Geneaux
Mr. Don Demorest – who acted as Chairman
Mr. J. C. Veen – who acted as Secretary

Mr. Demorest opened the meeting and explained the purpose and need of an Association and what could be accomplished during the coming years. Mr. Veen explained the present status of the Association, and read his list of known property owners. It was reported that other owners were definitely interested but could not attend this meeting. Names of several new owners were added to the list.

Matters of interest, such as proposed by-laws, voting, dues, activities, etc. were discussed and several signed application blanks which were accepted. Several expressed interest, but wanted to consult with their husbands before joining the group. However, they were invited to remain for the annual meeting to follow immediately.

This meeting proved that there is considerable interest in an Association – that its activities would be of benefit to all, and that it would receive the support of a majority of present owners.

J. C. Veen, Secretary

Membership list – “DIAMOND PARK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION” – 10-10-45

Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Griffin – Toledo, Ohio (honorary)
Mr. and Mrs. John Melvin – Bendon, Mich. (honorary)
Mr. and Mrs. V. Bakaleinikoff, c/o Pittsburg Symphony Orchestra, Farmers Bank Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Conkey, 802 Pemberton Road, Grosse Point Park, 2 Mich.
Mr. and Mrs. Don Demorest, 422 East Lane Ave., Columbus 1, Ohio.
Dr. and Mrs. F. X. Dusseau, 322 State St., Traverse City, Mich.
Mr. and Mrs. C. L. English, 2383 North 4th St., Columbus, Ohio.
Mrs. Bertha Geneaux, Bendon, Mich.
Mrs. Ethel Griffin, Bendon, Mich.
Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Howard, Bendon, Mich.
Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Licht, 1086 Van Dyke, Romeo, Michigan.
Mr. Lorin Maazel, 6428 Darlington Road, Pittsburgh, 17, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Melvin, Bendon, Mich.
Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Merickel, 1222 Page St., Toledo, 8, Ohio.
Mrs. Beatrice Perutz, 2637 Bellevue Ave., Cincinnati, , Ohio. 19, Ohio.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Pulikowski, 2727 Euclid Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Rabkin, 1024 Valley Lane, Cincinnati, O
Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Sherman, 3620 Bellecrest Ave., Cincinnati, 8, Ohio.
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Veen, 2100 Francis Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids, 7 Mich.

PROPERTY OWNERS we hope will join soon:

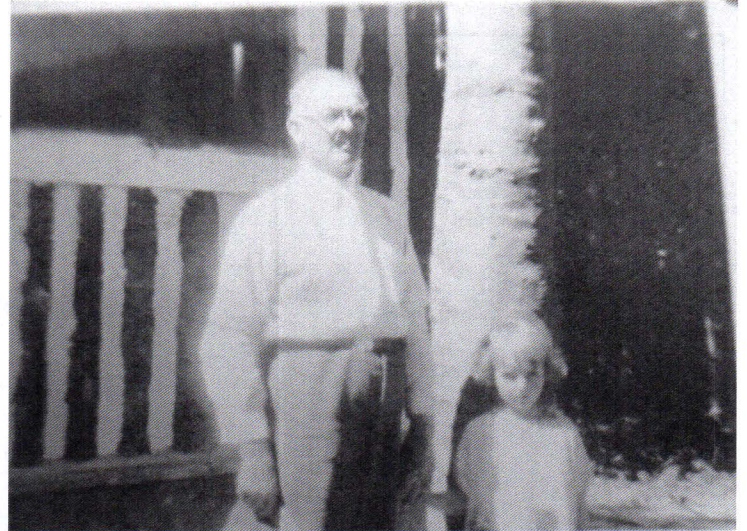
Mrs. M. T. Stolarevsky, 3435 Ruther Ave., Cincinnati, 20, Ohio.
Mr. and Mrs. Van Eman, Bendon, Mich. or Findley, Ohio.
Dr. and Mrs. E. D. Bowerman, Front St., Traverse City, Mich.
Mr. Don Sherman, 2514 Lawrence Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hoffman, Traverse City, Mich.
Dr. and Mrs... O.E. Brendel, Zionsville, Ind.
Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Morafsky, 603 E. Grand River, East Lansing, Mich.
Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Antzak, 508 Owen, Saginaw, Mich.
Mr. and Mrs. Coburn Tuller, Bendon, Michigan.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cook, Bendon, Michigan.
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Walters, Bendon, Michigan.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Dittrich, St. Louis, Missouri.
Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Corneille, 25956 Fern St., Roseville, Mich.
Mrs. K. C. Hale, 18610 Ferguson Road,. Detroit, 19, Mich.
Mr. Harley Baldwin, 1210 Fischer, Detroit, 14, Mich

We believe the above list is complete, but if we have overlooked or have not included someone you know who should be come a contacted and invited to become a member, please notify your Secretary, J. C. Veen, 2100 Francis Avenue S. E., Grand Rapids 7, Mich.

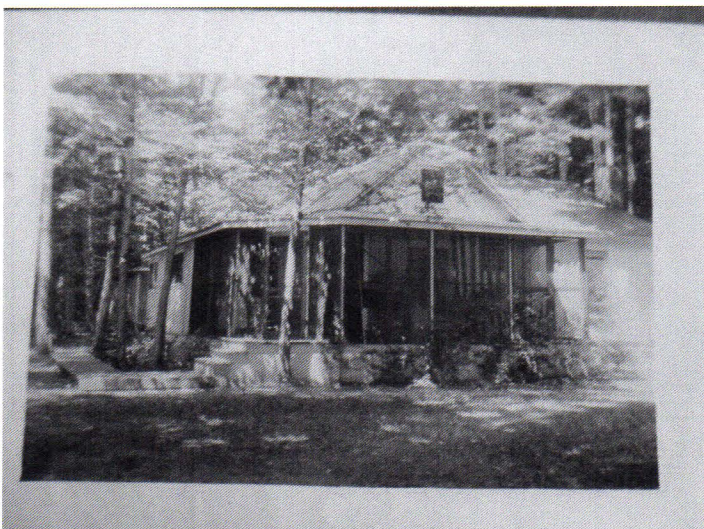
Historic Photos



B. W. Griffin in South Park



B. W. Griffin and Grand Daughter Martha



B. W. Griffins Home – Journeys End
4222 Euclid Ave.



Left to right Julia Bakaleinikoff, John & Lottie Melvin,
Lena Rabkin and Vladimir Bakaleinikoff

Historic Photos



John & Lottie Melvin
1946. Tuller Farmhouse
In the background



Firmin & Bertha Geneaux



Mike & Rose Cornelli. Purchased the
Geneaux Cottages in 1948

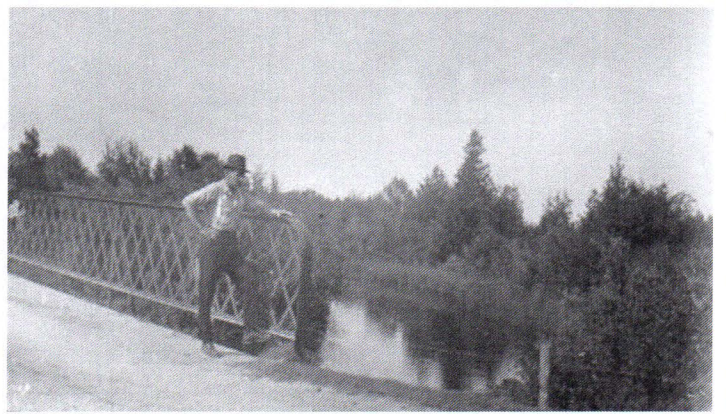
Historic Photos



4115 Euclid Ave owned in 2016 by Joe Trachy



A catch of Bass from Green Lake.
Bertha Geneaux third from the right

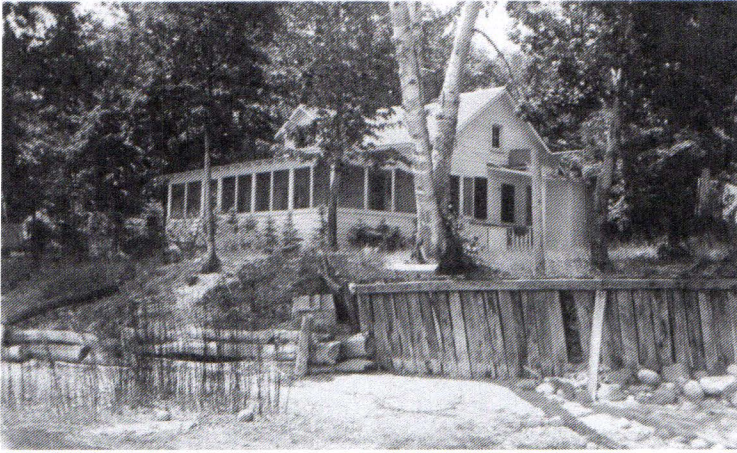


Bridge previous to the one in 2016 over the Little Betsie Looking North



The original Bridge over the Little Betsie

Historic Photo



The Rabkin Cottage 4175 Euclid Ave.

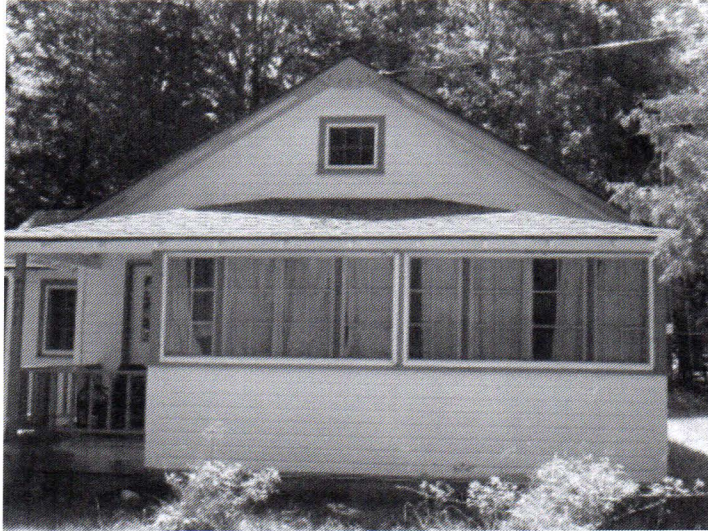


Alex (Sasha) Stolerevsky and wife Kay



4060 Main St. Built for Misha Stolerevskiy in 1930. In 2016 it is still used by the Stolerevski family.

Historic Photos



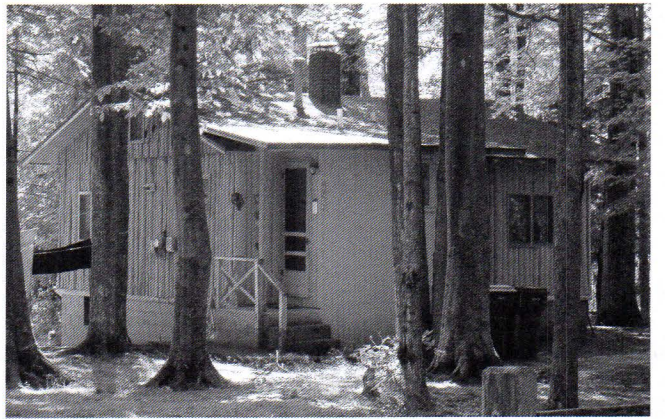
Vladimir & Julia Bakalienikoff Home (VIOLA)
4028 Main St. In 2016 it is owned and used in the
Summer by the Stolerevsky family.



4116 Main St. Built by the Bakaleinikoff's for the
Maazel Family. In 2016 it is owned by
Tom Crampton



Demorest Home 10593 Griffin Ave. Owned in 2016
by Francoise Swingle (Demorest's Daughter)



Conkey's guest house, 10623 Griffen Ave. Built
by Fred P. Braden & Son Fred A. Owned in 2016
by
Tony & Louise Muer

Historic Photos



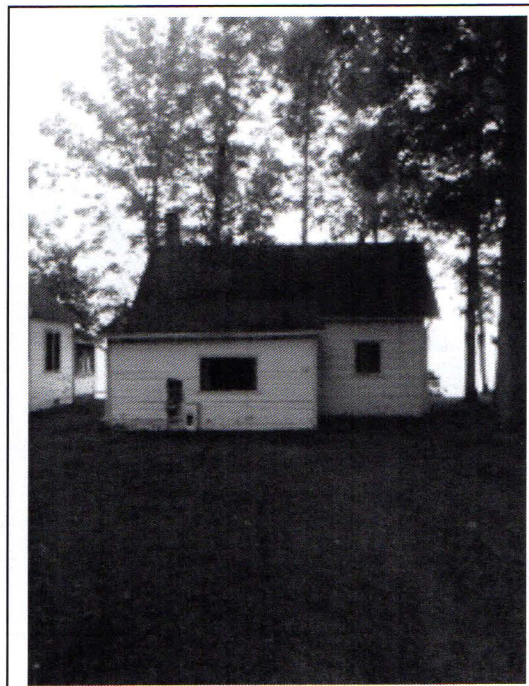
4142 Shady Grove Ave, owned in the 50's by Charles Wahl. In 2016 the Home is owned by Erwin Family



The Hugh Sherman Cottage
4319 Euclid Ave.



4135 Euclid Ave. The Honeymoon Cottage.
Built by George Howard for his Daughter Margaret



Doug Trachy's home at 4117 Euclid Ave.
before he built his new one in 2015

Historic Photos



1946 Honeymoon cottage in the background

4143 Euclid Ave. Presently, in 2016 owned by
Gail Benson
Note: Honeymoon Cottage in the background



The Veen Family Cottage, 4343 Euclid Ave.
In 2016 it is owned by Ruthmary Cahoon.



4255 Euclid Ave.
Originally owned by the Brendel's



4265 Euclid Ave.
Originally owned by the Small's



Bill & Kay Louden
4101 Indiana Ave,



Lila Krauss and her 3 Grand children 1946

4143 Euclid Ave.



Diamond Park Association Annual picnic. This was a highlight of the summer for many. Young man on left of table is John Melvin next is Muriel Howard, the man in background taking photos is Dr. Rabkin. Right side, Julia Bakaleinikoff, Julian Pulikowski and Vladimir Bakalienikoff end of table.