



ONE WET & HAPPY LAB ENJOYS THE BOAT PARADE (PHOTO DON GRAY)

# LAKE LIFE

A  
Newsletter for  
The Residents of  
Lake Carey

Fall 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## President's Letter

by David Rinehimer

Well this Summer was one for the books! Even though Lake Carey Day (LCD) was scaled back, the Boat Parade drew eager participants and a lot of appreciation from people on their docks. We also received some great ideas for next Summer's LCD, so stay tuned for that!

Our new online store has been doing a brisk business, thanks to the talents and hard work of Debbie Tierney and Lewis Flynn.

Thanks also to the Eclectic Heart in Tunkhannock, which carries our merchandize as well. All profits from these sales go to the Lake Carey Dam Fund. That Fund is now a 501(c)(3) charity, so all contributions are fully deductible on Federal tax returns.

We recently completed a phone call with DEP (see p.4), and believe we can now move forward to gain approval for a new dam design. Then we can

### A Special Place

Members of two families return to the lake to visit the places they recall with great affection. p 2.

### The Bulletin Board

Announcements, old and new, for the lake community. p 4.

solicit bids for the work. The estimates likely will be much greater than the old dam's cost. So please prepare now to help out with annual donations. Gifts can be made to the Lake Carey Dam Foundation at LCDA, PO Box 637, Tunkhannock, PA 18657. You will receive written receipts for your records.

Continued on page 3

# A SPECIAL PLACE

by Walter Broughton



Figure 1 Bobby, Mildred, Maria & Robert Graver

Perhaps it was my book about the lake, and perhaps just chance. However it happened, several people for whom Lake Carey was a special place sought me out last summer. One brought childhood memories of long summer days filled with exciting lakeside pastimes. Another grew-up elsewhere with tales of her once noteworthy Lake Carey family.



Figure 2 Marion & Bob Graver

It all began in July when a car drove slowly by, stopped and then backed-up, while its passenger stared at my porch and

then at the lake. I watched, mildly curious, until the woman lowered her window. "I think," Nancy Graver D'Amico said, "my family rented a small cottage behind yours, back in the '50s. Is it still there?" She and her husband, Ned, had come prepared with old family photos. Sure enough, they had come to the right place. In one picture, her father and his sister stand on a dock with Careyview clearly behind them.

Nancy's grandfather, William Graver, had been a clerical worker for the Lehigh Valley RR (he got the job, the family joked, because his handwriting was so good). It may have been his association with the Lehigh that brought this Wilkes-Barre family to Lake Carey.

The rental cottage the D'Amicos sought had been torn down almost 25 years before. But Nancy's memories of boating on the lake with her father at the oars, of floating idly in an inner tube, and walking to the nearby Chambers store were still vivid.

That store was razed only recently, but descendants of its first owner, Eugene Martin, took the loss in stride. Linda Lambert and her mother Edythe Gantt had come to the lake specifically to see it and other family places. Sitting on my porch, they told me they were descendants of Eugene's step-sister, Ida. On learning that the east shore cottage built by Eugene's full-sister, Emma, had also been demolished just weeks before, they sat in silence for several moments. "I guess, we're a little late," Linda remarked.



Figure 3 Nancy & Ned D'Amico

From their car we visited the family sites: where the store once stood, the end of the nearby steamboat dock where Eugene's hotel guests had landed, the newly seeded lot where Emma's first, east shore cottage once stood, and her later cottage (now the Briers') that still graces the west shore. As we drove, they relayed tales of Eugene's and Emma's adventurous lives.

Born in Ohio, Eugene came to Tunkhannock as a boy of ten when his father married a second wife, after the death of Eugene's mother. At 17, he enlisted in the Union Army where he served in the Civil War as a typesetter; then he took the same job with New York's *Morning Telegraph*. He must have prospered. In the 1880s he bought several plots on an east shore ridge overlooking the lake.

Here he built three cottages, and then a grand, three-storey hotel he named Ferncliffe, evoking the site. It was too big, however, and so bankrupted him and later burned to the ground. Eugene and his English wife, Jane, retired to a little neighborhood store below the charred remains. On her death, their heirs sold the store to the Chambers.

In the meantime, Eugene's sister Emma married Addison E. Buck, the carpenter who built her modest east shore cottage. Now, as her husband, he built her an imposing, shingle-style cottage on the lake's west shore. There she held meetings of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, just across the lake from her brother's hotel with its well-stocked bar and sometimes rowdy patrons. Like her brother, Emma engaged in businesses, a Tunkhannock gift shop and some rental properties at the lake and

elsewhere. Clearly, she and her brother had led memorable lives at this lake.

As I met with the Gravers and the Lambert/Gantts I realized that Lake Carey's built environment matters not only to its current owners, but also to those who came before them. It is, for many, more than a memory, it is a tangible piece of their own and their family's history. Lake Carey is a special place for these visitors, as it is for us, and will be for those who follow. We are in a real sense more than owners of this richly historic and deeply loved place, we are also its stewards.



Figure 4 Linda Lambert & Edyth Gantt



Figure 5 Chambers Store Meets Its End

#### President's Letter from page 1

If you haven't paid your 2020 dues yet, please help us with that. At its most basic, the association works to preserve the lake we all enjoy. Our Alum treatments in the big lake seem to be working well and we're crossing our fingers that next summer's water quality will be even better! On the small lake the floating islands are reducing its phosphorous levels. Dredging three feet or more of the sediment as some prefer would be expensive; we will continue to search for grants that might fund this.

On a sadder note, I want to extend

our condolences to the family of Penny Farr Davis. Penny grew up on the lake with her sister Jane Farr Ireland and then, with her husband Jim and two children, Steven and Blair, summered there in the family cottage. A life-long member of the association, we will miss her bright smile and good cheer.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in the Spring of 2021. We'll be putting together some plans at our meeting then for fundraising and Lake Carey Day, so please come and share your ideas with your neighbors!

# LAKE LIFE

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### Association Website

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- Lake Carey Online Store** Lewis Flynn and Debbie Tierney announce that the store will be open through the holiday season, if not longer. They will be adding additional items to the stock normally available on Lake Carey Day at the Firehouse, including some great stocking stuffers. You can access the store on the lakecareypa.com website and the Friends of Lake Carey Facebook page. Check either for updates, and contact Debbie to suggest new items at lcwa637@gmail.com.
- The Dam** The beaver is still busy working on our dam at the outlet. He is now adding stone and mud to the brush he uses to reinforce the spillway boards. As fast as Ed Hetzel removes the mixture, this all-too-eager beaver replaces it.
- Dam Safety** This month Ed Hetzel spoke by phone with Randall Adams, a Water Program Specialist in the PA DEP office. Adams reiterated that the existing dam is, in their view, structurally unstable, lacks an adequate spillway, and does not meet current design criteria. Moreover, he stated, the association must complete a consent agreement, an application and provide evidence of financial responsibility (a \$50,000 bond) before a design can be approved. Ed hopes this can all be done before January.
- Sealing the Big Lake** Princeton-Hydro spread a layer of poly-aluminum chloride on the big lake on August 20 to hold in the sediments there. We await the results of the post-test Princeton-Hydro will conduct.
- Percival Service Project** Randy Percival has laid a concrete pad at the entrance to the dam site on which the gear and turbine from the old sawmill will be displayed.