



BASS PLAYER PRACTICES BEFORE A BABES' PERFORMANCE

LAKE LIFE

A
Newsletter for
The Residents of
Lake Carey

Fall 2021

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President's Letter

by Lewis Flinn

There is a large sofa in the living room of our cottage that Doug Beane's grandparents had custom-made to fit a bay window. When I arrived, we reupholstered it, but we've kept it there, in its place. It's become "the spot" for pictures; whenever guests and family come, we pose them there to commemorate the visit. We also have albums full of similar photos chronicling the growth of our kids – from babies in the arms of their grandparents, all the way to the past summer when, as teenagers, they lay on the that sofa absorbed in their iPhones. As time marches on, I take comfort in the sofa's constant presence.

I have a similar feeling about Lake Carey. When we look at old pictures of the lake, there are changes to be sure, but the views that people enjoyed back then are still much the same today; and so is the experience. The beautiful sunsets, the family reunions on front porches, kids riding bikes around the lake, are all constants past generations enjoyed and that I hope we can pass down to those of the future.

The Lake Carey Welfare Association exists to maintain that continuity, to work toward the shared goal of keeping the lake and its community healthy and strong. We want to make sure that Lake Carey remains a place where neighbors look out for each other, kids enjoy the "old fashioned" pleasures of jumping from docks and fishing for sunnies, and where we can escape the craziness of the enviroing world to enjoy the peacefulness of nature. While we look forward to the

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completion of the long-awaited sewer system in mid-2022 (I'll provide timely email updates), I hope that the promised benefits of cleaner well and lake water will be achieved and that our lake community will not be faced with unwanted new development. In any case, rest assured we'll do our best to preserve the Lake Carey we all love. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the LCWA's Fall Newsletter.

The Lost Playground

by Jerry Robison*



Fig. 1 Carolyn Robison, Helen Dunn, Jerry Robison & Paul Clemow ca.1939

As a youngster, I considered Bob and Betty Stevens the luckiest kids alive. I envied them their lakefront cottage with a dock where they could swim, boat and watch the weekly sailboat races. Our cottage, Shawnee, had been built in 1920 by my grandfather Fred Clemow on a lot fronting the dirt road to the Chapel; so we had no dock. But what really made the Stevens the envy of all us kids was their playground.

Once part of Camp Carey, the playground occupied three lots across the road from the lake, behind what is now the LaBar cottage and the Steven's garage (now DePolo's). It went back 150 feet on gently sloping land along the dirt road beside our cottage to a stone wall. Across that road from us was a wide entry gate. From there a center path led across the lots, dividing them in half.

*After 33 years of teaching world cultures in PA high schools, Jerry is retired and living in the Masonic Villages, Elizabethtown, PA.

To my friends and me, it was a wonderland. First, on the left of the center path was a pool for water plants. It looked like a swimming pool except there was no deep end. Next there was a full-size croquet court with professional-looking wickets. Then there was an exit gate to a fenced path that led to the Steven's cottage on the lake. Beyond the path to the Steven's was our favorite feature, a swing set and teeter totter with a chinning bar where teen-age boys like Paul and I could 'work out.'



Fig. 2 Shawnee in the 1920s

All of this was exceptional, but the playground's fairyland feature, occupying most of the right side of the center path, was the pony stables. Bob and Betty often rode the ponies they kept there, up and down the playground's paths and on the nearby dirt roads.

I have no idea how long the playground remained. I left for the War in 1943 and then for Penn State. When I took possession of Shawnee with my wife and five teen-aged boys in the 1970s, the playground's lots were overgrown and abandoned.

Today's world seems very different. Perhaps kids now have too many opportunities to get into serious trouble to run loose as we did. No-one ever bothered us as we used the playground or ran up and down the nearby cottage lakefronts. It was wondrous.



Fig. 1 The Music Director Pauses in Rehearsal

For four August nights, audiences in Lake Carey's Old Carter Barn enjoyed a revival of Rodgers & Hart's, 1937 musical, *Babes in Arms*, with new script by Lake Carey's playwright/director Douglas Carter Beane. It went well, Doug remarks with evident satisfaction. The barn was packed. They came from all over NEPA—Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Tunkhannock. And the cast was amazing.

The actors, five from Catskill's Forestburgh Playhouse and six recent graduates of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, were thrilled as well. For most, this was their first professional engagement (no mean feat during the pandemic), as well as a welcome opportunity to escape to rural PA. Once here, they made the most of it. Working hard at their craft and playing just as hard—swimming, boating, tubing, hiking the woods and fields of the Carter farm.

Doug, an alumnus and trustee of the Academy, believes he and husband, Lewis Flinn, were able to provide an important opportunity for these young men and women. During their two weeks at the barn, they mastered a classic Broadway musical, Doug notes. And, he adds, they witnessed what it takes to put on a show: how to work with its managers and directors, and with one another. And they were paid to do so, thanks to the generous support of Concord Music, owner of the rights to Rodgers & Hart musicals. Concord also paid for their food and lodging.

After the show closed at Lake Carey, the production moved to the Forestburgh Playhouse for another 13 well-received performances. Now Doug and Lewis are laying plans for the 2022 season. They're brimming with ideas: some Shakespeare, Dorothy Parker, more Rodgers

I Have A Barn Let's Put On A Show

by Walter Broughton

and Hart, even Noel Coward? Perhaps some music: popular songs of the '30s with aspiring singers or songs of Aaron Copland with Met soprano, Susanna Phillips? Whatever the offerings, they hope to continue providing an opportunity for more, talented young performers to master their craft and forge relationships that will sustain and enhance their budding careers.

The barn awaits.



Fig. 2 Cast, Cake & Barn

LAKE LIFE

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We Pulled Out All the Stops

By Deb Tierney

We could not have asked for better weather for the return of Lake Carey Day! This year's festivities included something for everyone.

The day's events began at the Lake Carey Fire Hall and continued at a new venue, the Old Carter Barn. Local artist Michele Brown donated a painting of Frank's Marina to be auctioned off. Our basket raffle was a huge success with 125 baskets! There were also some large ticket items that really wowed the crowd.

A "Walk & Find" where participants had to locate landmarks around the

lake was new this year. Due to its popularity, it will be continued in the future. At the Old Carter Barn, the North Branch Art Trail hosted an art festival that featured local artists and crafters, food and beverages, and music. That evening, the Lake Carey Fire Company offered their traditional BBQ chicken dinners, and Jim Perry and The Mighty Optimistic String Band provided music for an old-fashioned square dance.

All in all, Lake Carey Day 2021 was a huge success, raising a little under \$14,000. I would like to thank every-

one who donated money or raffle baskets, as well as those who helped run events during the day; we could not have done it without you.

The online store is open once again with exciting new holiday merchandise to include fleece jackets, t-shirts and hats with both our new and old logo, a print of the watercolor of "Frank's Marina" auctioned on Lake Carey Day, and much more. Due to popular demand, we also will have a 2022 Lake Carey Calendar for sale.

All profits from Lake Carey Day and the store go directly to the Lake Carey Dam Association (LCDA) to underwrite the cost of the new dam. If you would like to donate to this project, checks can be made payable to LCDA at PO Box 637, Tunkhannock, PA 18657. Donations are tax deductible on your Federal return.