

BLIND LADY'S BROTHEL

We purchased our summer home and 44 acres from a Finnish bachelor's heirs. Back then it wasn't so popular to have a lake home, so there were very few cabins around the lake. We learned that the third story of our new summer cabin had been a well-known "brothel" just prior to the Finnish bachelor's ownership. My Dad decided to remove the third floor, which was a major project. After we moved in, we still had an occasional gentleman drive up to see if the "Blind Lady's Brothel" was still here. The story we heard about her blindness, was that she was standing in the kitchen doorway, and someone meant to shoot her in the temple, but missed, and shot her in the eyes. So, our summer home goes a long way back into history.

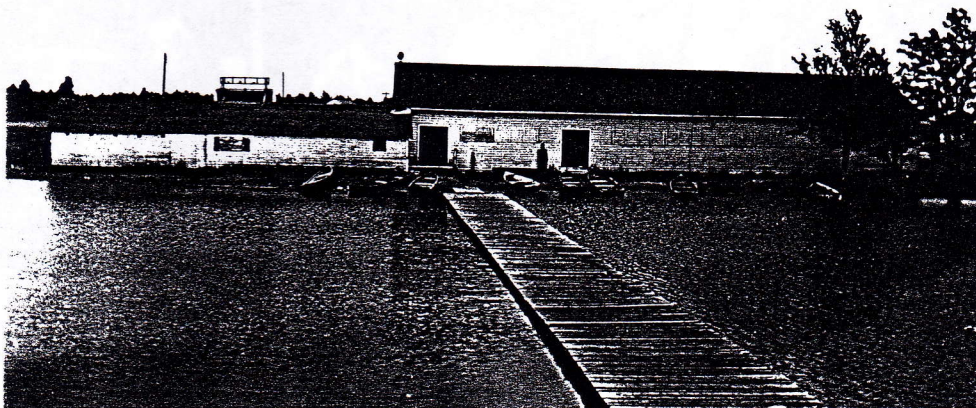
I remember that Chief Nahgahnub lived just across the bay from us. We used to go and visit him. My Mother would drive him to town to buy groceries occasionally. Many of the Native American houses were just small buildings with no doors or windows, but heavy carpets hanging over them. I wondered how they ever survived the winters. They had harvest pow-wows every August/Sept. even back then. We listened to the drums and singing drift across the lake for days at a time.

I remember taking the school bus out to Big Lake Resort for swimming lessons every summer. There was a big building there with many change rooms to change into ones' swimsuit. They sold pop and candy bars, etc. there, also.

In 1947 one of the churches in Cloquet asked if they could have a Bible Camp on our property. They set up a large tent for the Dining Room, and another for the boy's dormitory. The girls (25 of them) slept on bunk beds in our cabin. They had many baptismal services at our beach. We had this camp for several summers. It was on the property that is off Berg Road now.

Story submitted by Carol Bergquist Nelson

Address Bergquist Road on Big Lake



BIG LAKE (CARY'S) RESORT

1970