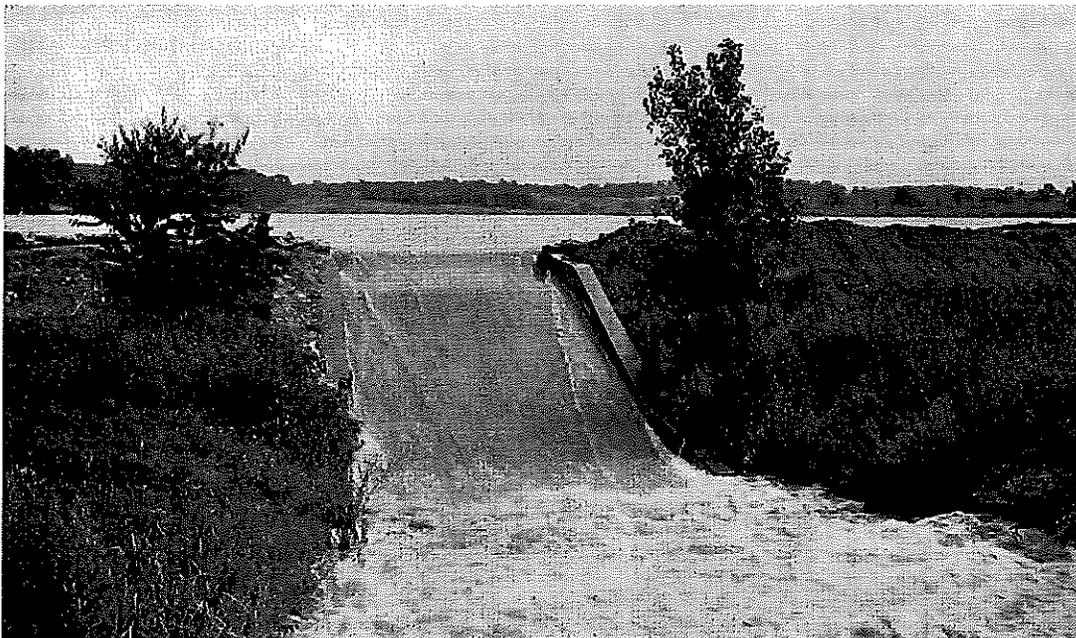




HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISLAND LAKE NEWSLETTER *SUMMER 2017*

ISLAND LAKE HISTORY

This vintage postcard, photographed in about 1930, was featured in our Summer 2011 Newsletter. The article explained that there wouldn't be an Island Lake if it wasn't for the dam located on Route 176 at Gate 3. Construction of the 265-foot dam, located on Route 176 at Gate 3, made news in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1926. The farmland subdivisions that make up



THE SPILLWAY - ISLAND LAKE ESTATES, WAUCONDA, ILLINOIS

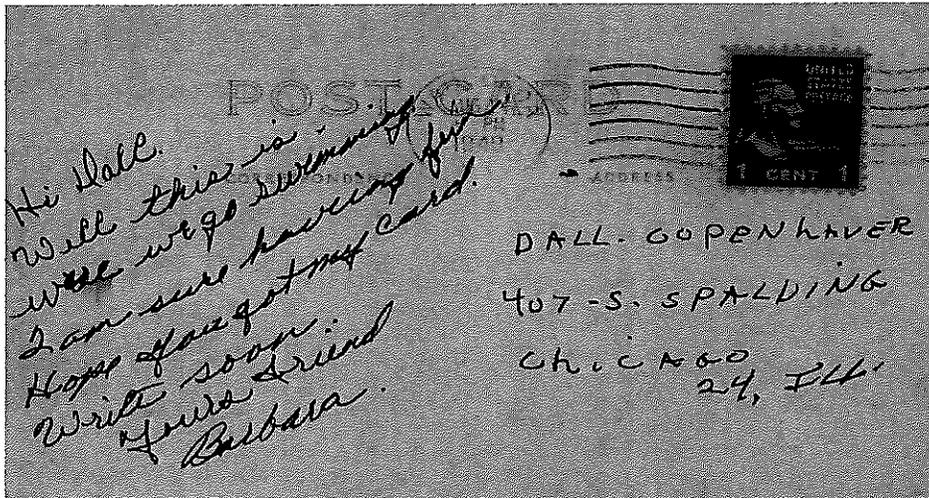
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the area of Island Lake were laid out by Wauconda pioneers Homer Cooke, Ray Paddock, George Stroke and D.L. Putnam on land purchased from several pioneering farmers, including the Hale and Smith families. The dam construction took about a month to complete and has seven footings and is 13 feet in height. Today, even though it is mostly hidden by vegetation, the dam remains a milestone in the origin of Island Lake. The lake, fed by Mutton Creek and several springs, was originally dug to a depth of twenty-five feet, with a gradual slope to the shore, making it ideal for swimming.



FACEBOOK FEED

Our diligent postcard searcher, Elizabeth Willard Gorsline, has found another goodie on e-Bay, and it is currently posted on our Facebook cover page. This one, as you can see, was mailed from Wauconda to an address in Chicago in 1948.



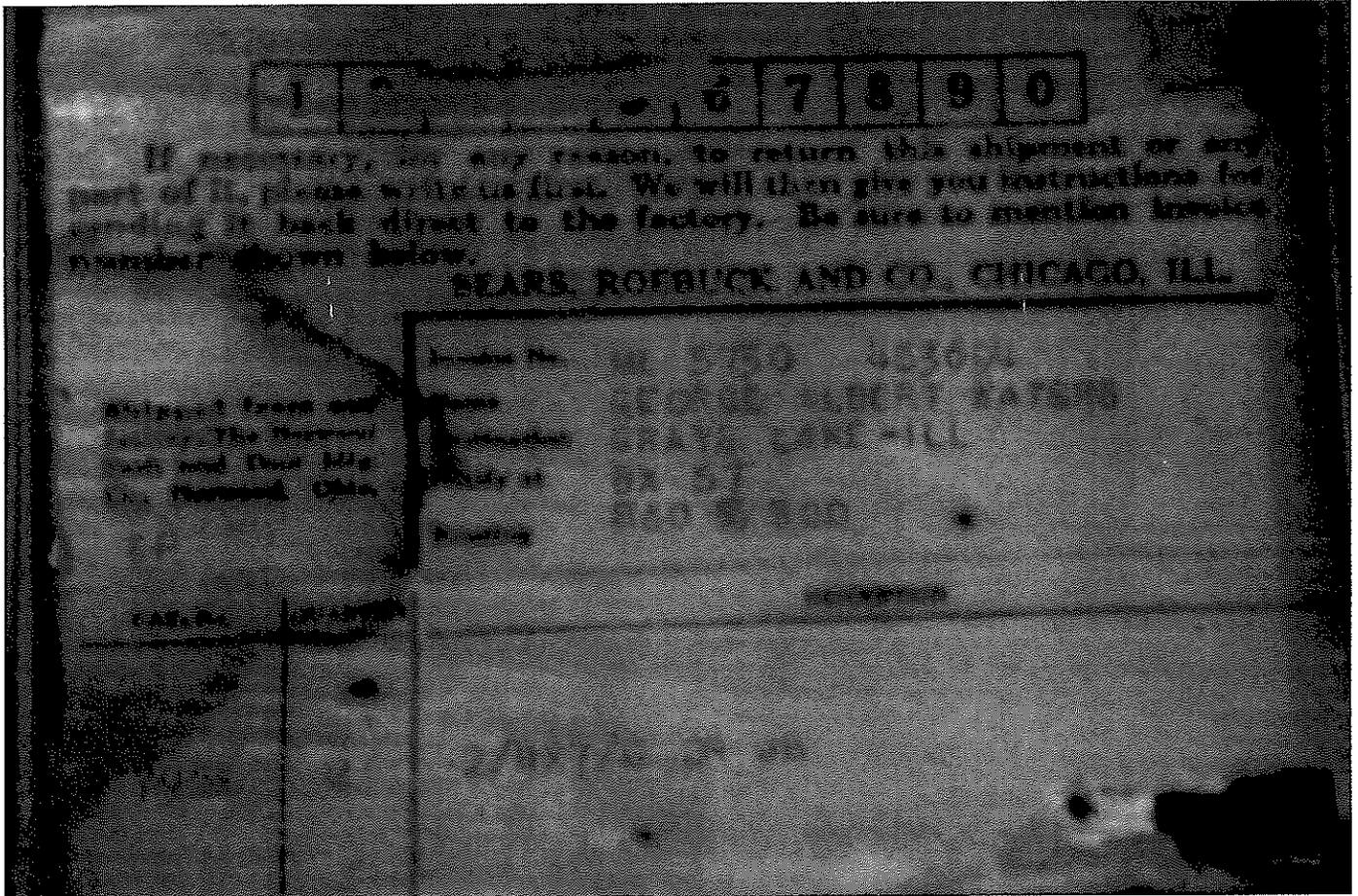
Comments:

Mary Waldron Wow that's super cool!

Tony Schmidt Yep, old beach 3, spent most of my summer days looking out at that view, very cool!

Larry Thompson Spent many days on that raft in the 50's

Dona Willard Right on! Used to count heads of all the kids.



HISTORIC BOAT TOURS

Despite the unfortunate recent area flooding, we are planning to continue the boat tours for the remainder of the season. The one-hour tour features a Historical Society guide and will reveal interesting facts about the properties and dwellings connected with the history of Island Lake, and information about the wildlife and ecology of the area. Passengers will enjoy a boat ride around one of the most scenic lakes in the area. Tours are scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays at 4:00 P.M., weather permitting. We can arrange private tours for groups at a time convenient to you if possible. Information is available on the Village website and community signs, and on the Historical Society Facebook page. Reservations are required since seating is limited and can be made by contacting Liz Nelson at 847-609-9050 or e-mail at lizznelson@me.com. A \$10 donation is suggested.

Here's a picture we received recently by e-mail from Ray Leninger, whose parents, Roy and Elsie Leninger, lived on Burnett Road in the 50s. This is the back of the house. A lot of vacant land back then, huh?

ACQUISITIONS

Thanks to member Betty Reckwerdt for her donation of a portable scanner, so helpful in scanning large photographs and newspaper articles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In thinking of a topic for our Fall program, we have decided to showcase some of the objects and pictures we have obtained from the early days of Island Lake. So we have gathered together some of our long-time members, and new members with old-time memories and will present a program on "The Good Old Days in Island Lake." We have picked the date and time of Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 2:00 P.M. As always, our program is free, refreshments are served, and all are invited to share in our reminiscing. Watch for more program information in our Fall issue, and watch for updates on our Facebook page.



ISLAND LAKE MEMORIES

We acquired a new member last year, Mary Ann Barra Ohsol, after she saw our display at the annual picnic while visiting her family here. With her permission I will quote her memories of Island Lake, as I think they are typical of many of our members:

"I lived down Ivy Road from the school and often brought friends home for lunch. I was part of the first group to ever be in that school. I did 4th, 5th and 6th grade there. We neighborhood kids resented it when it was first built as it cleared our woods that we loved playing in. There were still plenty of woods behind it, though, and a cow pasture next to it. Clearing the woods made a huge pile of branches and logs, and we made forts in that. Someone finally burned it, and I was glad I was in Chicago that day and therefore, not blamed for it! Hahahah We sledged and tobogganed in that cow pasture, and we would hit frozen cow pie lumps and flip over and get hurt. Didn't stop us from doing it again, tho. One time I landed on Sammy Cicero and he lost his watch, and we found it the next spring, still running.

I grew up on that lake, swimming, ice skating, fishing, building rafts, and finally a tiny row boat with a 1.5 HP motor on it. It was painted pink and black and named Yogi. When I visited on the 4th of July, teenage girls were walking on Eastway Drive, listening to their music and it reminded me of my teen years and doing the same thing. We carried our little radios then. No earphones or cell phones back then. We rubbed ourselves down with baby oil, burned every spring and peeled each other, and now we are at risk for melanoma, which my husband died of.

I have visited about 4 times since I left in 1965 for college, then moved for good in 1967. Each time I feel very sad and miss my parents and my carefree childhood days. It was a great place to grow up, and I didn't truly appreciate it until much later in life. I am glad to see people still enjoying it, caring for the lake and the older homes, and now having a historical society."

Thanks to Mary Ann. We often receive memoirs or old photos from our members, and old-timers who see something on Facebook that sparks memories, and we treasure them all, and put them in our archives.



MEETING DATES

The Historical Society of Island Lake normally meets on the first Monday of the month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 11, October 2, and November 6, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Island Lake Village Hall. Please come and join us if you can. Many times we have some items from our archives to review.

FALL PROGRAM "THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN ISLAND LAKE" WILL BE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017 AT 2:00 P.M. AT THE ISLAND LAKE VILLAGE HALL.

CONTACTS

Have a picture you'd like to share? Or an Island Lake memory you'd like to hear more about? Contact President Connie Mascillino at 847-526-5049 or @ mccm46@att.net, or Editor Dona Willard at 847-526-3408, or @ donawillard@comcast.net., or visit us on Facebook.



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new member Tane Howland, who joined after taking our historical boat tour with her family. We continue to keep our dues at a nominal rate to encourage membership and depend upon our loyal members to renew promptly. We actively seek new members to share our enthusiasm for preservation and history. If you would like to become a member, or have not renewed your membership for 2017, please cut and fill out the membership form below and mail it with your check today.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISLAND LAKE
ANNUAL DUES for 2017**

YES, I would like to renew my membership and continue to support the
Historical Society of Island Lake!!!

Regular Membership\$10.00/year
Family Membership (husband, wife & minor children)....\$15.00/year
Senior Membership (65 years or better) \$5.00/year

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **MOBILE:** _____

E-MAIL: _____

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*Please return to Historical Society of Island Lake
3706 Lakeview Drive, Island Lake, Illinois 60042*