

**THE  
STORY  
OF  
PARADISE  
FALLS  
LUTHERAN  
ASSOCIATION**



**1922 — 1972**

# The Story of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association

## *Vignettes of a Pocono Cottage Colony on its 50th Anniversary*

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The  
Story  
of  
Paradise  
Falls  
Lutheran  
Association

*Foreword*

Paradise Falls Lutheran Association is now fifty years old and looking forward to the next fifty years. We are publishing this record of our past and a look into the future in the hope that we will be able to acknowledge the contributions of many people from the past and to aid in setting the direction for the future.

Paradise Falls Lutheran Association started as a place for Lutherans to enjoy the beauties of the Poconos at a moderate cost and a Lutheran tang to its way of life.

Paradise Falls Lutheran Association has changed and evolved over these 50 years. We are recording some of these changes. We are thankful for those many people who have made PF the place we know and love today.

Herbert F. Meyer, President

Excerpts from

## Facts About Paradise Falls

by Rev. Clifford E. Hays

*Pastor Clifford E. Hays, first Secretary of P F L A has given permission for the following excerpts from his promotion booklet, "Facts About Paradise Falls". (1927)*

Some years ago, one of our Lutheran laymen, Mr. A. Raymond Raff of Philadelphia, went to Henryville, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, broken in health. In a short time the invigorating atmosphere of the Poconos and the charming beauty of Paradise Valley (which inspired Joseph Jefferson to dramatize Rip Van Winkle) restored his health.

As he travelled about he fell in love with this wonderful region and finally purchased several tracts in Paradise Valley which he named Abend Ruhe Farms. For years Abend Ruhe proved a delightful retreat, until the thought came to Mr. Raff that as other church groups had resorts in the Poconos it would be splendid if the Lutherans had such a place. He decided to offer his grounds for such a purpose out of gratitude to God for the restoration of his health.

So in May 1922 "The Lutheran" carried in an editorial the offer of Abend Ruhe Farms for the establishment of a Lutheran resort. Several became interested in the offer and gathered a group of Lutherans from New York and Philadelphia and Easton who met with Mr. & Mrs. Raff at the bungalow on the farm on October 17, 1922. The Paradise Valley Lutheran Association was then organized.

This Association having received a gift of ground from Mr. Raff purchased three more tracts adjoining. Later another tract of one hundred acres was purchased. This gave the Association three hundred acres situated along the Henryville State Highway with the Cranberry Creek flowing through it in a narrow valley which offered an excellent site for an artificial lake.

Early in 1925 the farm, including over a half mile of the Paradise Creek and the renowned Paradise Falls, one of the region's beauty spots, within its area, was purchased. At this time the name of the

Association was changed to the Paradise Falls Lutheran Association and was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania. The grounds were named Paradise Falls after the beauty spot on the newly acquired ground.

In order that visitors might have accommodations while looking over the tract and members might be able to be on the grounds while their homes were under construction, a barn on the grounds was thoroughly cleansed and remodeled into a community house, named Nestledown. At first seven bedrooms, two bath rooms, a living



Gate Lodge - 1926



Nestledown - Barn to Community House

room, porch across the front of the building and a large room equipped with several kitchenettes were constructed. Although this work was not completed until the middle of August and the accommodations were very primitive, there were many guests who enjoyed Nestledown until late September 1924.

When Nestledown was opened in 1925 there were ten bedrooms with three baths in operation and running water in the kitchenettes. Board was served in the adjoining farm house. Almost half the summer's accommodations had been reserved in Nestledown before the house opened. We expected from ten to twenty boarders per week, but there were from thirty to fifty-five during the season. A large number of the guests prepared their meals in the kitchenettes. There were more guests than accommodations in Nestledown so the cottagers opened their houses to roomers who ate at the boarding house.

As soon as the survey had been completed in 1924 three members erected cottages, Miss Nora R. Ohl, Mr. Frank W. Mueller, both of Philadelphia, and Mr. Wm. F. Buckner, President of the Association, of Hollis, N. Y. They were followed by

Rev. H. S. Kidd, Souderton, who purchased a small farm house from the Association and remodeled it, then were built the cottages of Mr. M. L. Koons, Philadelphia, Miss Florence Z. Logan, Trenton, N. J., Mr. John R. Lemmert, Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Emma L. Kuntz, Mauch Chunk, Pa., Rev. J. D. Jaxheimer, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Miss Marie Roeth, Philadelphia. Mr. Wm. H. Jenkins and Mrs. Clara P. Rossman, both of Philadelphia, have arranged for the construction of their houses early in 1927, and probably six others will build during the season. These represent an outlay of from \$40,000 to \$50,000 which are not assets of the Association, but which increase the value of the Association's property.

The Association desires that those who build at Paradise Falls shall have the enjoyment of God's wonderful gifts of air, light and natural beauty. Therefore lots are 100 by 125 feet and but one dwelling may be built on a lot. One can see what this means by thinking of a city street 400 feet long where there are from ten to twenty-five houses (city congestion) on the one side and but four cottages (Paradise Falls condition) on the other side. There are few places where the character of the people is restricted and so many opportunities and privileges are offered for such a moderate charge as at Paradise Falls.

Three quarters of a mile of water main has been laid which serves Nestledown and many lots.

A new store where staple groceries and refreshments are offered has been built at the entrance to the Falls, a picnic pavilion accommodating 120 picnickers, and tables has been constructed at the Falls.

The Association's buildings have been repaired, painted and equipped with modern plumbing and lighting, and a great amount of cleaning up has been done.

Two tennis courts have been constructed and croquet grounds have been laid out.

The survey of roads, lots, athletic grounds, lake and hotel sites have been made.

On January 1, 1927 the assets of the Association totaled \$68,000. The members have invested \$40,000 to \$50,000 in their cottages, not included in the Association assets.

The Association has in addition to the annual Dues (see under membership) the income from the Entrance Fees to the Falls, profits from the store and Nestledown with which to pay taxes, interest and overhead expenses. The operating profits in 1925 amounted to more than \$2300 and in 1926 to over \$5100. There can be no division of profits according to our charter. This money together with the Dues is used for maintenance and development after the expenses have been met.

We want to keep in mind this most important fact - Paradise Falls exists because of one man's gratitude to God and desire that others should enjoy this lovely, healthful country. Those who accepted his offer of ground also adopted his ideal. This development is being made for the physical, social and spiritual benefit of of its members and guests.

Here our people can learn to know those of their own church from neighboring districts. These friendships will create that unity which is so desirable. Here our young people can come and enjoy themselves to the full without encountering risks that are met with elsewhere. Here our people will have the opportunity of hearing and knowing our leaders both clerical and lay.

A study of similar resorts conducted by other church groups was made. This led the Association to adopt two principles: (1) to hold the tract intact as a possession of the Association and to sell memberships therein which granted the perpetual use of a lot to each member, and (2) to restrict the sale of memberships to members of the Lutheran Church (of any synod) in order to keep the resort loyal to Lutheran life and practice.

As a further precaution to prevent speculation, but one membership is granted to an individual. However, each member

of a family, who is a member (baptised as well as confirmed) of the Lutheran church, may hold a membership. Churches or church organizations, such as Brotherhoods, Luther Leagues, etc., may hold several memberships in order to enable them to have a larger plot of ground for the use of their groups. There are families which hold as many as six memberships. At present one church and one Luther League have memberships.

There are many and worthwhile privileges. Besides granting the holder thereof the choice of a lot to be used for the erection of a house, membership makes one a joint owner of the whole of this beautiful and valuable tract in one of the finest of the resort sections of the East. The Poconos are full of resort colonies, hotels, boarding houses and cottages which are patronized by many thousands who seek the beauty and invigoration of this hill country both in winter and summer. For here one can enjoy not only a great variety of sports and the restfulness of mountain fastnesses, but a large system of modern highways lure the visitors to motor about and enjoy the indescribable scenery which has caused the region to be called the Switzerland of America.

In addition to such ownership the member, together with the members of his family, enjoy the free use of the grounds which offer excellent opportunities for numerous sports such as bathing, hiking, tennis, quoits, croquet, horse-back riding, nature study under capable leadership, fishing, hunting and boating on the lake. We also expect to have a golf course on or adjacent to the grounds. The followers of Isaac Walton find brook trout in our streams and pike, perch and bass in the lakes of the region. The hunter has a wide variety of game to lure him to the field - deer, elk, bear, raccoon, fox (red and gray) pheasant, woodcock, rabbit, hare and squirrels.

The affairs of the Association are managed by a Board of Directors of fifteen members who answer to the annual meeting of the members. The annual meeting instructs the Board for the next years' ac-

tivities. The annual meeting also levies the dues. Every adult member has equal voice, vote and right to hold office. Guardians exercise these rights for minors. Absent members may be represented by proxies.

Members are also given a 10% discount from the rates at Nestledown, the community boarding house.

Membership may be sold or given to Lutherans with the approval of the Board of Directors in accordance with the method established by the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

The only expenses connected with membership in addition to the membership fee mentioned are:

(1) A survey fee of five dollars (\$5) is charged when the lot is selected. This is paid but once.

(2) Annual dues are levied by the annual meeting. Our plan is to keep the dues within ten dollars (\$10) per year per member. We believe this to be practical because of the amount of money available from the operation of the property during the summer in addition to the sum received from the payment of the annual dues. The dues for 1925-1926 and 1926-1927 (the year is from June to June) have been but five dollars (\$5) per member.

These two charges of survey fee and annual dues are paid by all members. There are two service charges against those who build. A water rent is charged to maintain and operate the water system. But as our pumping will be done by water power the charge will be moderate. The water rent for 1926 was \$4 per cottage.

A moderate charge is also made for the removal of rubbish and garbage from the cottages.

The taxes are paid by the Association out of the monies received from the annual dues and the returns from the operation.

Where can you get so much for so little and at the same time do so much for the good of yourself and your church? For a membership will be a good investment financially and you will help to develop this Church centre.



Primrose Cottage - First Cottage Built

*Paul Ohl is a Charter Member of PFLA and is retired, living in Wynnewood, Pa.*

### Prologue

Primrose Cottage was - and I rather hope may still be - the personification of my dearly loved Aunt Nora (Miss Nora Rebecca Ohl). It was her dream come true and its wonderful story cannot adequately be told unless you, Gentle Reader, know something about my Aunt Nora before her love affair with Paradise Falls.

She was born in 1855 in the tiny country village of Cherryville in Northampton County. For some 19 years she had a most happy association with the old Lan-kenau Hospital and Mary J. Drexel Deaconess Home, opposite Girard College, working in the office and as an anesthetist for the famed surgeon, Dr. John B. Deaver. Having always possessed a great love of nature - flowers, plants and all growing things - and a deft hand and eye for flower arrangements, she decided at age 53 to open a flower shop in 1908 on north Broad Street, just a block below the Metropolitan

## The View From Primrose Cottage

by Paul W. Ohl

Opera House. She chose the unique name, Primrose Flower Shop, and to many of her friends and business acquaintances she was ever afterwards known as "Miss Primrose". In 1911 the business was moved to Ardmore and in 1922 was sold to Albrecht's, which still occupies the original site at 12 W. Lancaster Avenue.

My own first view of beautiful Paradise Valley came one Sunday in July 1924 while I was working as a bellhop at the old Meadowside Inn, which is located a couple of miles below Mt. Pocono between the Lackawanna Trail and the State Highway which bisects PFLA. Ever since our family had moved to Ardmore I had been hearing about the wonders of the Poconos, particularly from our neighbors, the Goulds, who lived directly across Cricket Avenue from our house and who usually spent their vacations at Meadowside. Their youngest son was to be the bellhop at the Inn that summer but suddenly had a chance to go to Europe. I was his willing and most fortunate substitute! While sitting on the huge veranda, which ran the entire length of the Inn, that beautiful Sunday afternoon in July, a Ford runabout heaved itself up the steep driveway and, to my delight and surprise, I saw its passengers were my Aunt Nora, Rev. Hays, and the two Heid sisters. Although the four passengers already constituted the maximum capacity of this vehicle, somehow room was found for me. Just before we reached the entrance to Paradise Falls, Rev. Hays turned off to the left on a dirt road (Township Road) and, shortly thereafter, to my amazement turned right into a hayfield. At first I could detect no sign of a road or habitation. Then suddenly the old Dietrich house (later dubbed "Gulplitdown" by Rev. Hays), where the Hays family was residing, came into view.

We all piled out and walked over to the barn where I first noticed the yellow old city-type water wagon which, it was explained to me, provided the one and only source of water for the three summer residents at the rear end of the barn. My Aunt and the Heid sisters proudly showed me their individual kitchenettes all in a neat row on the ground floor and their very simple and modest accommodations on the floor above. It was delightfully apparent that they were all having the time of their lives!

In the late afternoon Aunt Nora and I walked across the fields to the highway and over into the fields behind the only building in that area, the house which was soon to become "Kiddnap". I shall never forget that view. Due north was the entire stretch of The Giant's Coffin without any trees or buildings obstructing the view. For all the fields down to the Falls House had been laboriously cleared years before and cultivated. Westward down the Swiftwater Valley towards the setting sun was Pocono Manor (before the addition of the huge tower portion). Aunt Nora remarked that she was considering either the lot with the house already on it or the vacant lot where we were then standing. I urged her to choose the latter because of the incomparable view and also to get farther away from the highway's traffic noise, even then rather objectionable at times. She agreed. And to this day we all feel it was the best choice that could have been made then or at any time later on as the grounds of PFLA subsequently expanded to include Paradise Falls and other adjoining tracts.

At Rev. Hay's suggestion, Aunt Nora got together with Mr. Hulbert who prepared a set of simple plans for a modest and

inexpensive cottage. It was completed on schedule and for exactly the estimated price. There were no "extras" such as the inevitable "cost overruns" on most jobs today.

On some historic but unrecorded date in late May or early June 1925 Primrose Cottage was opened. Thus began one of the happiest periods in the lives of the Ohl family. It was the first cottage to be built at Paradise Falls. Lest I might disturb some ghosts in the Kidd family I make haste to admit that Kiddnap was occupied a week or so before Primrose - long before all the necessary renovations had been completed. Kiddnap had never benefited from a single coat of paint since it had been built an undetermined number of years before and, as Rev. Kidd found to his dismay that summer and the next, it absorbed paint like a sponge. But even on this point of "original settlers" I may counter with the fact that my Cousins Fred and Mabel (the Frederick W. Ohls of Germantown) were Nestledown's first paying lodgers during the previous summer of '24.

Primrose's first guests, according to the old green Guest book, were my Father, Mother, and sister Helen on June 5, 1925, sister's birthday. I arrived on the 15th to spend the entire summer at Primrose while working on Mike's surveying crew with Albert Hanschumaker (later simplified to Shumaker).

It was a rather wet summer and often I returned from the fields and woods soaking wet to dry my clothes in front of Primrose's warm and inviting fireplace. The names of 28 guests are recorded in the Guest Book that first glorious summer. And there were probably more. The last guest was my brother Raymond who surprised me one evening, having just returned from a summer of study at the American Academy in Rome. Aunt Nora made the final entry for the year: "Closed bungalow Sept. 30, '25. Sept. rather cold, frost in the beginning of month".

The following summer (1926) we couldn't wait to get back to Paradise and my Father and Aunt Nora opened Primrose on May 17th. Again I joyfully spent the entire summer at Paradise and again served as a roddman and chainman on Mike's survey gang. Others, I trust, will fill you in on the details of our work, social activities, and other delightful events of those halcyon summers of seemingly not so long ago. I could easily write a book (other than this one!) about those frigid but oh, so invigorating dips in Paradise Creek at the end of the day's work; the fantastically delicious meals (and our equally fantastic appetites!) served up in Gulpitdown and then in Nestledown by that chef of chefs, Percy; the dash to the tennis courts to get in a set before sundown; hayrides; corn boils at Primrose (Janet Kuder held the record for number of ears consumed at one "boil" - she must have skipped supper that evening!); the unforgettable rides in Leaping Lena, Particularly those on Sundays down to the little Parkside Chapel in Henryville where we first held services, morning and evening. And, of course, there was ROMANCE!

I doubt that it is possible today for anyone to have as much fun - and at virtually no cost! - as did all of us, young and old, in those early "pioneer days". Parties were usually completely impromptu and entirely informal gatherings at Kiddnap, Koons Hollow, Primrose, or Nestledown.

But the summer of '26, as I recall, was also the summer of the terrible, disastrous fire which other writers, I am sure, will describe. This was the only occasion in my life when my habitual procrastination ever worked out in my favor. I was supposed to have moved down to the dormitory on the second floor of the old blacksmith shop, next to the Falls House, several weeks before. But "the livin' was easy" at Primrose Cottage. So

easy in fact, what with my Aunt Nora's fabulous cooking and the other ways she had of spoiling me, that I was in no hurry to leave. Then, one morning when the surveying gang was deep in the woods near the D.L. & W. R.R. tracks, the blacksmith shop - and everything in it - went up in one of the most spectacular fires ever seen in the Poconos (so I was later told!). We knew nothing of the disaster that had occurred until we came back to the Falls House for lunch to find the still-smoking pile of ashes.

Often through the years we are all wont to comment on the vagaries of the weather. 'Twas ever thus! In July 1926, Aunt Nora recorded that the temperature was 95° at 5:00 PM on both the 10th and 11th. On the 12th the temperature dropped to 46° at 7:00 AM - "Tops of beans frozen in garden".

There were even more guests the second summer. Aunt Nora was so delighted by the unexpected visits of many friends of her younger days. It seemed that soon almost everybody in southeastern Pennsylvania - and parts of New Jersey and New York too - knew that Aunt Nora had a cottage at Paradise and they would surprise her by dropping in while on their summer travels. Even the U.S. Post Office knew specifically just who Aunt Nora was and where she resided. For, once when Aunt Nora mailed a card (signed only "Aunt Nora" with no return address) which the Post Office was unable to deliver, the card was returned to Cresco and eventually back to Aunt Nora's box. "Closed bungalow Sept. 27, '26. Summer weather during all of Sept. Am still cutting corn, cucumbers and squash. No frost so far."

In an old worn photograph album of faded snapshots entitled "Who's Who and What's What in Paradise" Aunt Nora had written - but, unfortunately, not dated - some observations about those early days at Paradise which I feel should be in-



cluded in this record. I may not be presenting her accounts in the order in which they were written as some of the pages had come loose and pictures and all were in disarray. But I'm sure she won't mind!

"Rev. Clifford E. Hays stands at the head of the list, for it was he who braved the hardships of the first few years to make a paradise for future generations.

"In the spring of 1924 he, with his family, took possession of the Deitrich House. One of the first things he did was to have the old barn reconstructed into habitable quarters for guests - now the present "Nestledown". Only those who were first-summer guests know the happy carefree life that existed in the "old barn" - with its kitchenettes partitioned off for each family. Kartoffel-Klosse, fresh apple pie and blackberry pie which grew just outside the door - I mean the fruit, not the pies - were the order of the day.

"The only means of transportation in those days was "Leaping Lena" and Oh! how she did leap! Rest her weary bones. Occasionally one could ride on the water-wagon drawn by Nancy and Billy Coffman (the mules with the red headgear). They also have gone the way of their fathers.

"There was nothing that Rev. Hays couldn't do from A to Z.

"The first cottage to be built was "Primrose", not much of a house as you can see, but has all the comforts that are necessary. And it is "a place in the sun" and is surrounded by fruit trees and nut trees. Who can ask for more! Just imagine how the next generation and the squirrels will enjoy the nuts! Here we also have corn roasts and marshmallow roasts. In the spring of 1925 the cottage was occupied and has been a haven of rest every summer since. Fish stories are always on tap here.

"At the entrance to Primrose Lane stands the Kidd cottage, "Kidd-napp".

Not much napping is done here. The house is always open to guests and always there is room for one more. Needless to say it is one of the most popular places in the community. This is also the only house that can boast of having had a wedding - a double one at that.

"In 1925 the Buckner cottage "Wauhelu" was built. It is situated at the end of Primrose Lane with the whole panorama of the Poconos spread before it, one of the prettiest views on the grounds. Nor is the view in the rear (through the window of course) less interesting, altho a little more prosaic, watching the "sachet-pussies" romping around the garbage pail trying to pry off the lid. Can you imagine anything more interesting for the kiddies?

"Mr. Buckner served as president of the Association for ten years. The "Indian" name is derived from the family names: William, Augusta, Helen, Luther."

The summer of 1927 was my third and last full summer at PFLA. In some ways it was the very best of all because I was able to stay on through October, the most beautiful, glorious, golden October I have ever known. Finally everyone had left the grounds and only Clyde Hays and myself remained at the Falls House. During the daytime we performed such pleasant chores as picking apples and trimming trees throughout the picnic area down at the Falls. Finally I had to leave, ever so reluctantly. So reluctant in fact, that I didn't get packed as soon as I should have.

In those days the trains were usually on time and there was only one a day to Philadelphia that stopped at Henryville. The only vehicle available was the dump truck, completely open with a backless seat for the driver and maybe one passenger. With my suitcase on my knees and head ducked low we tore madly down the highway, making a terrific clatter, as the truck was otherwise empty. Yes, we made

it, even up that engine-killing steep road to the station. What a farewell to Paradise!

From here on my summer visits to Primrose were reduced by various factors to an occasional weekend, although my longing to be there every summer has never ceased.

Aunt Nora told me on her 80th birthday, January 29, 1935, that she had not wanted to live to be 80. The thought of ever being helpless and dependent upon others appalled her extraordinary independent and self-sufficient nature. She had done for others her whole life long and could not bear the thought that anyone might ever have to do for her! One day in late August of that year Father wrote me that Aunt Nora had suffered a mild stroke with partial paralysis, resulting from what had appeared to be only minor blood poisoning in one wrist, and that she was resting comfortably in the Rosenkranz Hospital in Stroudsburg. And then, just a couple of days later, one Saturday afternoon as I was still working at the Bank, I received one of the saddest messages that has ever come to me over the telephone. Aunt Nora had died that morning - almost as she had wished. A few days after the funeral Father and I returned to Primrose to close the cottage for the season. As we were about to leave I opened the Guest Book in the hope of making some record of our thoughts - some sort of tribute or memorial to my dearly beloved Aunt Nora. But I failed to even enter the date of our sorrowful leave-taking. It's hard to write anything with tears in your eyes.

### Epilogue

Of course nothing at Primrose Cottage or at Paradise could ever be the same again for me or for any of us, although we were always comfortingly conscious of Aunt Nora's pervading spirit throughout the cottage in all the years to come. Mother and our sister Helen had both died

## Recollections of Paradise Falls

by Winfred P. Elson

during 1931 and so the men of the family were now left all alone. Raymond, however, married in 1936 and he and his bride moved to East Lansing, Michigan. Father continued to come up to the cottage each summer until 1942. He often remarked that just looking forward each year to the next summer at Paradise kept him going and that the time between summers seemed to grow shorter as he became older!

My own visits came to an end after April 1941 when I entered the Army. Only once during World War II did I get back to Primrose Cottage - a couple of days in early July 1942 just after I had been commissioned a 2nd Lt. in AAA. But on many a tedious long drive changing Army posts I whiled away the miles with endless happy visions and fond memories of Primrose Cottage, Paradise Falls, Cresco, Pa.

There is still more to tell than you, Gentle Reader (if still with me!) would probably care to hear. Although I inherited Primrose Cottage after Father's death in Ardmore on June 19, 1946, my subsequent years in the Army prevented me from occupying the cottage at all. Then came another sad day in 1957 when I finally had to face the reality that my circumstances were such we (my wife and I) simply did not have the time (I had only one week's vacation!) or means to enjoy a summer home. But I was fortunate indeed to find in the new owner, Miss S. Marie Huppert of Wildwood, New Jersey, a kindred spirit to that of my Aunt Nora. Although she knew her own days were numbered, her whole concern was to provide a summer home for her nieces and nephews to enjoy in the years to come. In January 1958 the transaction was completed. Verily I felt as though I had lost a part of me. Certainly a part of my heart was gone forever.

*"Don't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot".*

Mr. Wm. F. Buckner, first President of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association was very much interested in the movie program at PF and was mainly responsible for the purchase of such equipment, first silent, later sound. I handled the early projectors, and rented many films from non-theatrical sources.

The first PF movie was produced by Rev. Clifford Hays. It was shown to congregations in the Philadelphia and New York areas. It was through his presentation at Rosedale, L.I., N.Y., that I became interested. Dad (Dr. Henry W. Elson) and our family made an exploratory visit to PF and wound up with two memberships, one in Dad's name and one in mine. The Elson cottage, "Hillverne" followed in 1927, with a "guarantee" by the builder, Earl Tygert, that it would last 400 years. It was (and is) a unique process -- hollow wall concrete.

Speaking of movies, when the management found selecting rental films and showing them was too much of a drag on the constantly changing personnel, the job was turned over to George Geiges, of Philadelphia and Willow Grove. Mr. Geiges continued serving PF as well as many other resorts, hotels, and camps in the Poconos for many years.

Under Mr. Buckner's guidance members living in the New York area held several rallies or dinners. These did not continue very long because commuter travel in the area put a crimp on evening affairs. We sang a number of songs, one of them based on the old "Gallagher and Shean" vaudeville act.

In the early days we had a young Japanese gentleman who did much of the work laying out the roads and lots before cottages were built. We had a young people's organization, using a name (which I have forgotten) which was Japanese for "Paradise Falls Club". One of our projects was to build a shuffleboard. I got literature from the Portland cement people, and we built it according to their specifications. It is the one nearest to the tennis courts.

I produced a second movie, promoting the glories of PFLA. When we were making this film, a young Norwegian pastor from Brooklyn, posed for a flower gathering scene. During the filming he let loose with a healthy sneeze. Of course this was edited out, for PF is one of the few places where hay fever is unknown!

Before the floods in 1955 Paradise Falls Girls Camp was one of the major attractions for visitors. And before the flood the upper bridge (concrete support still standing) was a beautiful rustic spot. The Girls Camp private bathing beach was also a feature, especially its high diving board.

Another project was the construction of a number of wooden benches. They were placed at the shuffleboard, near the putting green behind the store, and at Lake Crawford. A Stroudsburg lumber company built them to specifications, and painted them with ads for the various local businesses. I sold ads and guaranteed that the ads would not be painted over for two seasons. It was cheap advertising. The benches still carried the ads until they fell apart years later!

# Recollections of Paradise Falls

by Tadafumi Mikuriya

Life is unpredictable. When I was four years old my mother sent me to Dr. and Mrs. C. K. Lippard's kindergarten in Saga, Japan. This was the first Lutheran Mission kindergarten in Japan.

In 1923 Mrs. Lippard introduced me to the Rev. Clifford Hays' family. In the summer of 1924 Rev. Hays wanted me to help develop the Paradise Falls project. So I went to see the site with him. It was a clear summer day. We took a walk from one end of the area to the other. The tract extended east of highway 447 to the Lackawanna Railroad, plus a small piece, possibly four acres, on the west side of the highway. The first subdivision work was started on this small acreage.

There were two farmhouses on the grounds. One, located on the west side of the highway, became the Kidd family summer cottage. The other house was about 150 feet north of a barn (later to be known as Nestledown) in which the Hays family lived in 1924. In 1926 we workers occupied the upstairs as our living quarters and the downstairs as our offices. Here we planned and prepared maps and other engineering works until 1927.

I recall that in 1926 the west side of the highway, including Paradise Falls, Paradise Creek and the Reservoir Hill

*Tadafumi Mikuriya, now retired and living in Morrisville, Pa. was one of the surveyors of the early property.*



Map of Early Subdivisions

area, was purchased. This included hills, two creeks, gently sloped and level ground, waterfalls, woods and an ice pond. It had great potential for further development. On the east side of the highway there was a small dirt road which led to Cresco. Between this road and the Lackawanna Railroad there is a stream called Cranberry Creek. It was planned to construct a dam and provide a lake there initially.

On the opposite side of this road there was a high hill which extended to Harold Heydt's property. From this hill we could see the Delaware Water Gap. One day I went to locate the cornerstone of the property with an old gentleman who had been the previous owner. He pointed to the telephone line and said: "See that line? When I was young the telephone company came, cut through my woods, and planted telephone poles without my

permission. This made me so mad that I cut down about twenty poles. It was a job! A week later the telephone company sent a representative, asked my permission to put up their poles, and paid me for the right of way." This old gentleman was a great help, giving me much useful information about the area.

After going over the grounds and discussing the general plan with Rev. Hays and Mr. William Buckner (first president of the Association), we started the subdivision work with the help of Paul Ohl and Albert Shumaker, students at Haverford College and Mt. Airy Seminary, respectively. In the summer of 1925, with my knowledge and previous experience in surveying, everything started out smoothly. We first worked on the west side of the highway near Rev. Harvey Kidd's cottage. Mr. Buckner and Miss Nora Ohl, Paul's aunt, built the

first cottages. And so began the cottage building activity in 1925.

Before starting this, however, the members of the Board of Directors, especially Rev. Hays, made an exhaustive effort to make a proper beginning. Rev. Hays had many tasks to accomplish in publicizing the aims of the Association, planning for management and finances, and arranging religious activities. Rev. Hays was a very busy man indeed.

We also worked hard as deckhands, so to speak, to make our enterprise successful. I realized that it was not so easy to promote a new venture from scratch. During the summer months we worked in the field; during the winter months we contacted churches. I recall one snowy evening in 1926 when I went to the Rev. Fred Flothmeier's church to show slides. Our efforts brought a good response. Daughter Elsie worked as a waitress in our dining room during her summer vacation.

In June 1926 I went back to Paradise Falls to continue subdivision surveying. We started work on newly acquired ground on the west side of the highway including Paradise Falls, Paradise Creek, and Reservoir Hill, with my right-hand man Paul Ohl, and new helpers Ted Kuder and Harry Pfunke. We made good progress. More cottages were built, roads were improved, and Nestledown was remodeled.

It was an eventful year. One thing still remains in my mind very vividly. We had moved our living quarters to an old blacksmith shop adjacent to the gatehouse occupied by the Hays family as the office of the Association. One day about the middle of July we came in from the field for lunch and found that our living quarters had burned to the ground, leaving only ashes and smoke. It was a shock to all of us.

My biggest loss was the thesis for a Master's degree in Civil Engineering which I was reviewing in the evenings for final printing. All this had gone up in

flames. Fortunately for me our Lutheran student pastor at the University of Pennsylvania, the Rev. Robert H. Gearhart, who was taking a vacation on the grounds, immediately took the matter to my Dean who made arrangements for a scholarship. I rewrote my thesis, taking another year to develop the theory with more complete analysis under the title "Analysis of Indeterminate Structures with the Theory of Influence Equations." This theory is still much in use.

Nineteen-twenty-six was the year of more improvements, such as laying water lines, building roads and more cottages, tennis courts, a store across from the office, and improvement of the Falls area and Nestledown. The renovated old barn was called "Social Hall" where various activities, such as barn dances and masquerades, were held. Sunday Services also were conducted there every week with good attendance. The spirit of the community was congenial, cooperative and harmonious. Mr. and Mrs. Miller Ammon from Reading organized hiking parties. By the end of September our surveying work was done for the year. Paul Ohl and I went back to Philadelphia in Russell's Ford truck jam-packed with surveying equipment, personal belongings, and - apples!

In 1927 we came back with some new members in our crew. Paul Ohl, Leslie Tingle, John Harl, Harold Heydt and I worked on Reservoir Hill and mostly on the east side of the highway. By the end of August all subdivision work was done except planting concrete monuments. Many improvements to Nestledown were made, providing better accommodations and a larger dining room. Bus service to Henryville Railroad Station was provided. Carl Schoening, member of Rev. Jaxheimer's church in New York, was in charge of bus transportation and we had many visitors from New York and Philadelphia. There were busloads of visitors from all over; our membership increased and the Asso-



Surveyors

ciation made great strides. When I visited any of the cottages I was welcomed heartily. Especially did I enjoy Rev. Kidd's jokes (Samuel Kidd's father).

One Sunday afternoon in August 1927 I visited the neighboring Paradise Brook Trout Hatchery. While chatting with the manager, Mr. Stack, he mentioned that if he could find more clear water he could double the fish production of the hatchery. So I walked over the ground with him, examined the characteristics of the soil, suggested several spots, and left. In June 1929 I married and Anna and I spent our honeymoon in the Hays' cottage. During the stay at the Hays' cottage we paid Mr. Stack a friendly visit at the hatchery. He welcomed us with open arms and showed us the expanded hatchery (doubled in size). He said that he had dug holes where I suggested and found plenty of clear water which he needed. We were good friends. To show his appreciation he gave us a mess of delicious trout.

And so life's unpredictable pattern, begun for me in a kindergarten in Japan, led to beautiful Paradise Falls in America - a happy period of my life indeed.



The Old Swimming Pool

## Reminiscences on Paradise Falls Lutheran Association

by Rev. Harry P. C. Cressman

*Pastor Cressman, former cottager and a Secretary of the Association for many years is now living in St. Petersburg, Fla.*

On a nice clear day in May of 1928 I decided to drive northward into the hills to familiarize myself with the famous Lutheran resort that was being promoted in the Poconos, just beyond Stroudsburg. On my arrival I was welcomed by Pastor Hays with his usual enthusiastic pep talk, which was a marvelous combination of fact and fancy that painted the future of the Paradise Falls Lutheran Association in colors most glorious.

After having been told of all plans whereby man would greatly improve the beauty God had placed in this land most blest, I was taken on an inspection tour.

Thoroughly convinced that this project carried with it all the advantages I had wanted to find in a summer home, I signed up, paid my fees and selected a lot west of the concrete road, far away from the site of the proposed lake. Here in a stand of timber beside Paradise Creek I built my haven of refuge, an experimental double wall white concrete cottage. Little did I realize that ere many years the shift in lot selections and cottage building would move everything west of the original lake site. Lake Crawford, slightly smaller than the lake originally planned for the earlier site, brought all the water activities directly in front of my little white cottage!

As I travel memory's trail back over the years since 1928, I realize, as I read the annual reports and minutes of the Annual Meetings, that our problems of today are the same as the problems of 1928, finances and the lake.

Back in the early thirties, we were in a bad way financially. With interest payments on the big mortgage, payments on purchases of needed equipment and expansions and renovations balanced over against low income, bankers just were not in the least bit interested in making further loans without supporting notes signed by folks they considered financially responsible. To meet the emergencies it fell to the lot of our officers to do what pessimists said was a very foolish thing to do. Our President, Pastor H. Kidd, our Treasurer, E. W. Moyer, and our Secretary, myself, were so convinced that PFLA had a future that we signed note after note. When we three made a check, we realized that if PFLA failed and the mortgages were foreclosed we would be spending the rest of our lives trying to find money to pay off all those notes! I need not tell you how our optimism proved to be well founded.

Growth brought optimism as more and more members signed up, and our guest members increased encouragingly. But growth brought new problems and the major one was the demand for more adequate facilities for water sports. A simple small dam, thrown across the runway of Paradise Creek, seemed to be the easiest and most satisfactory solution. State inspectors, however, ruled that the planned dam was not strong enough, did not provide proper runways for migratory fish, and did not have control valves that would allow adequate water flow through to maintain proper water levels for Paradise Creek below the dam. Our hearts sank as we studied costs, but the day was saved when Mrs. Crawford offered to make a substantial gift to our Lake Fund. Before long the lake was a dream realized, despite many problems of silt deposit, flood waters and the trash they leave behind, and the necessity for cleaning.

Problems will continue, but we sincerely hope that growth and development will also continue as in the past, bringing enjoyment to its many members, as in the past.

# Chronicle of the Years

by Rev. George B. Ammon

The following chronicle takes an overview of the 50 years of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association by decades. A great deal of reading of the records of the past is distilled into this account. It was difficult to condense the mass of information received from available minutes of the Boards of Directors, annual and special meetings of the Association, plus interviews with scores of people. We are grateful to these people for reading and analyzing many pages of old records: Ruth Haase, Ruth Schaffner, Helen Seemiller, Mildred Maclean, Helen Miller and Bela Shetlock.

The very earliest years (thru 1927) are more fully covered in the excerpts from Pastor Clifford E. Hays' booklet, "Facts About Paradise Falls" beginning on page 3. Other articles in this book give fuller accounts of the Women's Auxiliary, the social and recreation program, the store, etc.

## THE FIRST DECADE 1922-1931

Paradise Falls Lutheran Association in its first decade was a composite of the efforts of many Christian people. It was building foundations, writing constitutions, holding endless meetings, selecting officers and leaders, expanding facilities, buying land, raising money and dreaming dreams.

If there were to be one person who was responsible for the decade's success, it would have to be the Rev. Clifford E. Hays. He came to PF after an auto accident which left him partially paralyzed, soon saw the great potential of the place and plunged in to work mightily for it. Great

credit also goes to Mr. William F. Buckner, the first president.

In the fall of 1922 the gift of 23 acres of farm land by a Philadelphia builder, Mr. A. Raymond Raff, set off a series of purchases of additional farm land, so that by 1928 PFLA owned approximately 500 acres of beautiful mountain property. For several summers a crew of young men surveyed the property, laying out subdivisions for cottages, a lake and 68 acres for a hotel and golf course. Barns and farm houses were soon turned into rooming and boarding facilities and a hall for social events and church services.

Twice within the first decade large sums of money were procured through the sale of bonds, first \$40,000 in 1926 and an offer of \$150,000 in November 1928, only part of which was raised by membership subscription. The proceeds of the sale of these 1928 bonds were to be used "to refund the \$40,000 bond issue of 1926, to liquidate notes issued for purchase of properties recently added, and to provide funds for development of the lake, enlargement of the dining hall and kitchen, assembly room of Social Hall, construction of cottages for lodging guests, additional water lines, construction of roads and a bridge on the road to the Falls and hotel site, and the purchase of additional automotive equipment." (advertisement in "Lutheran" of March 7, 1929.)

During these early ambitious years some dreams never materialized. The promised hotel and golf course had to be abandoned and the lake was uncertain.

In preparation for the lake to be built by constructing a dam across Cranberry

Creek, trees had been felled and a road built. However, not enough bonds were sold by August 1929 to warrant letting the contract. Discovery of insufficient water flow, followed by the 1929 stock market crash and the beginning of "the great depression" forced the relinquishment of future plans for this project.

Later in the decade the Brown and White cottages were built to care for the many guests who continued to come for a week or more each summer.

Growth in membership was very rapid during this decade. The guest list at Nestledown and the list of persons purchasing early memberships read like a "Who's Who" of Lutherans in the twenties. Excursions by train and bus were arranged and hundreds of people came to PF from the New York and Philadelphia areas. Promotional ads appeared in "The Lutheran" Movies and slides depicting the attractions of PF were shown in many churches. Memberships were offered in those days to organizations and individuals. Thousands of tracts and leaflets were distributed everywhere.

Building Dam for Lake Crawford



## Chronicle of the Years

In 1927 the first "Spray" appeared. It was a printed bulletin and carried news of activities and plans for the summer. Originally it was produced in July, August, and in mid-winter. Later it became a mimeographed weekly.

By the end of 1929 PFLA showed receipts of over \$72,000 (Membership fees - \$4,900; Bonds - \$30,000; Dues \$3,400; Store - \$4,600; Rooming - \$6,000; Board - \$13,400; Gate House \$1,465, with the balance from miscellaneous sources.)

Suggestions were made in 1930 regarding the possibility of building a swimming pool. At the end of the decade such a pool was provided by building a dam across Paradise Creek below the Schuler cottage.

Near the end of the decade a Girls' camp was built and put in operation, accommodating 40 girls and counselors.

Space does not permit the chronicle of names of clergymen and laymen who labored diligently for PF in its first decade to appear here, but they do appear in other places in this book.

### THE SECOND DECADE 1932-1941

At the beginning of this decade our country was in a continuing severe economic depression. At the end of the decade we were at war with Germany and Japan, both disasters affecting PFLA, as they did the whole nation. The earlier ambitious plans of the founders necessarily had to be cut to more manageable size. It was a period of consolidation of gains, a settling down to the realities of paying off notes and of keeping operations going and shifting to new leadership.

A new name which appeared prominently during this time was that of Mr. Erwin W. Moyer, the manager-treasurer of the association. Following the death of the first President Mr. William F. Buckner,

Mr. John Borgstede and the Rev. Harvey S. Kidd served as Presidents consecutively.

Paradise Falls Girls' Camp was enlarged to accommodate 75 girls. The success of the camp led some to suggest that a similar camp for boys and later, for adults be provided. These proposals were turned down as financially impractical.

During this decade PF provided physical facilities for several annual functions of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, their Summer Schools and Inner Missions Conferences.

Complexities in administering the association, not foreseen in the original constitution and by-laws, led to the adoption of a new constitution in 1934.

In 1935 a tragedy occurred when the sister of Dr. J. A. W. Haas was burned to death in a fire which destroyed the original Mueller cottage. This made the community conscious of fire hazards.

Beginning in 1938 a series of Mid-winter reunion dinners were held at Strawbridge and Clothiers' in Philadelphia and at various places in the New York area.

Probably the highlight of this decade was the building of Lake Crawford. In 1938 ground was broken and the next summer the lake was dedicated. Mrs. Bertha Crawford, who had summered at the Hays Cottage, gave \$6,000 toward the total cost of approximately \$23,000, with the stipulation that the lake be named in memory of her husband, Mr. Alfred Crawford.

In 1938 a worsening financial picture becomes apparent. In an effort to keep the charges low, deficits developed in operations, causing great concern. Assessments of \$100.00 were levied against cottagers to help pay for a new bond indebtedure for original bonds falling due.

During this decade fewer cottages were built. Work which began with high



"Leapin' Lena"

hopes and zeal in the first decade now slowed measurably, but still many guests continued to come to Paradise Falls.

### THE THIRD DECADE 1942-1951

At the beginning of this decade the United States was still feeling the impact of World War II. Gas rationing caused the closing of our gas station, and some trees were thinned out for defense industries. Because people could not travel widely, rooming and boarding facilities at PF were filled to capacity.

The association paid off, by an annual drawing, the \$23,000 indebtedness for the dam, but because of tight finances, no new construction was begun. Road improvements were curtailed and needed additional play facilities could not be provided.

Many prominent leaders of PFLA died during this decade: Dr. F. H. Knubel, Honorary President; two Presidents, John Borgstede and Rev. Harvey S. Kidd; Wesley Ohl, Rev. Fred Flothmeier, Sr.; Wesley L. Blithe; Rev. Jacob Rudisill, first treasurer.

## Chronicle of the Years

In 1945 Mr. Erwin W. Moyer resigned as manager, having served 15 years without salary. He often pledged his own securities at the bank for spring operating funds. Mr. John Phillips became treasurer and served for many years. Names of persons who served the Association in various capacities are noted in Ruth Schaffner's article on "Administering Paradise Falls."

Paradise Falls Girls' Camp grew and thrived during the decade, but finally had to be closed in 1952 when it could not compete with the low rates and prestige of Camp Hagan, a neighboring Lutheran camp for girls on the Delaware.

### THE FOURTH DECADE 1952-1961

During the early years of this decade leadership on all levels changed hands rather often, reflecting a growing concern by the cottagers for the way PF was to best serve its constituency. President Samuel E. Kidd predicted the change from a "hotel operation" with its annual deficits, by which PF had grown so rapidly in its early years, to that of a cottage colony.

This decade saw the rise of concern for the cottager. More cottagers needed and used the store than ever before. Rooming and boarding facilities continued to suffer by comparison with other resorts and motels in the Poconos. People now could travel more widely, due to better automobiles and highways. The Women's Auxiliary became more active in raising money to help pay for Association projects and maintenance. The Gift Shop was important in this regard.

On August 18-19, 1955 a disastrous flood hit the eastern seaboard, caused directly by the hurricane "Diane." A great deal of property damage was wrought at PF. The disbanded Girls' Camp was

leveled. The Picnic area, the boat docks, the approach to the auto bridge over Paradise Creek, and the dam were extensively damaged. Debris and mud in Lake Crawford required draining and extensive cleaning. Tons of soil had to be filled in over exposed roots in the Falls' picnic area. A new bridge was built to replace the one washed away by the flood.

As a means of paying off other indebtedness which bore interest and had contractual dates, the Association in 1958 issued non-interest bearing certificates of indebtedness. A total of over \$66,000 worth of a possible \$74,000 aggregate was sold. Each cottager was expected to purchase \$100 each year and to hold \$800 worth of these certificates. (Note: In 1971 a plan to use these certificates toward additional memberships failed to pass at the Annual Meeting.)

Endless hours were spent by study and survey committees seeking ways to deal with the financial and administrative problems of an agency going through the throes of change. Nestledown and Social Hall rooms were both being phased out during this decade. Rooming and boarding facilities were then concentrated in the Brown and White Cottages and Gate Lodge before PF became completely a "cottage colony." An attempt was made to provide for building motel cottages and apartments, but this never occurred. Nestledown and the nearby carriage house were sold and converted to cottages. The Girls' Camp dining porch was removed and reassembled as the Rec Hall on the old Girls' Camp site.

At the end of this decade Rev. Alford R. Naus, who served zealously as President met an untimely death while travelling abroad.

One cannot read the minutes of the board and annual meetings of this decade

without feeling the anguish and the uncertainty at times, when crucial decisions had to be made. There were strongly held views which were hotly debated and finally settled by majority vote.

### THE FIFTH DECADE 1962-1971

The last decade of the 50 years of PFLA opened with a strong feeling that we were coming into better days. Many physical improvements were apparent, many cottages were re-sold, and a number of new cottages were built. There was a stronger vehicular bridge on the road to the Falls, a new porch on Gate Lodge, and new shuffleboard courts. The chancel in Social Hall was redecorated and the dam repointed. Much time and money were also spent on the maintenance of buildings, roads and equipment, and improving the tennis courts.

Bridge Above Falls





## Chronicle of the Years

When public rooming facilities were phased out cottagers rented their cottages more widely.

During this period there was a modest revival of plays put on by the young people.

In the fall of 1967 Lake Crawford was drained, several thousand cubic yards of silt removed (which was used to cover the abandoned dump) and the dam repaired, including 6' of concrete facing, repointing and rebuilding the apron, and over-flow basins to retard silt.

A new perimeter survey was completed and maps of the association duplicated for all members.

The year 1968 saw a major physical improvement, the new adult lounge, built at the cost of \$16,000. This required the removal of the combined store and gift shop and the adjacent storage building. The Women's Auxiliary contributed \$8,000 toward the building and furnished the lounge.

Since the earliest days members could build on one membership, which provided  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of ground. In 1968 Paradise Township began requiring that new homes be built on  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre or more. Thus a person wishing to build now has to hold two or more memberships.

By the end of the decade there were 85 cottages, 19 of which had their own wells, and many of which were winterized. An increasing number of members now live at PF the year-round. They are Ruth Haase, the Adolph Kleins, the Wyeth MacLeans, the Ernest Millers, the Fred Sauerweins, Ruth Schaffner, Anne Schuler and Helen Seemiller.

Five buildings are presently owned and operated by the Association, Gate Lodge, Social Hall, the Adult Lounge, the Rec Hall, and a large service garage for equipment. The present caretaker lives year round in an apartment in Gate Lodge.

By mid-decade the Association was free of debt. Annual dues were raised to their highest level with active cottage members paying \$300.00 per year. Budgets in the past several years have provided that money be set aside for capital improvements. Present financial prospects are good.

The Association noted with pride, as it ended the decade, that the physical assets of grounds and buildings were valued at nearly one quarter of a million dollars.

If this decade should have a person to symbolize its present accomplishments it would be Dr. John Schaffner, who worked long and hard to make PF debt free and to give it a new vitality through his vigorous leadership. The members of the Association were saddened by his untimely death.

Mr. Adolph Klein, who lives year-round at PF has provided vigorous, sacrificial leadership as President and Board member during half of the last decade.

As "The Story of PFLA" ends, there are feelings of thankfulness and confidence. Thanks that we have weathered some severe storms, that we are free of debt, and that the third and fourth generation of the founders are now enjoying the benefits of PF, confident that the resourcefulness, resilience and determination of the past will serve us in the future!

*Sources: Minutes of the Annual Meetings; Minutes of the meetings of the Boards of Directors; Minutes of the Women's Auxiliary; Minutes of the Cottagers Association; Guest List of Nestle-down; Minutes of the Dramatic Club (1935-1941); Sprays and Sprinkles.*

1955 Flood Damage at Girls' Camp





Masquerade

## Ode To Paradise Falls

Words by David Ziegler  
Tune - "Young At Heart"

Fairy tales can come true, it can  
happen to you at Paradise Falls.  
Every day you will say, what a  
pleasure to stay at Paradise Falls.  
You can sit on the beach or swim if  
you like.  
You can play shuffleboard or go on  
a hike.  
And life gets more exciting with  
each passing day.  
And worries are forgotten and your  
heart is gay.  
When it comes time to eat our food  
can't be beat at Paradise Falls.  
For as rich as you are, it's much  
better by far at Paradise Falls.  
And finally when your stay must end,  
You'll be happy to say, I'll come again.  
But here is the best part, you have a  
head start.  
If you stay at Paradise Falls in the  
Poconos.

*"The Spray" August 18, 1962*



Social Directors 1963

(L to R) David MacLean, Ernest Miller  
Darlene Westerman, Paul Teter

## What Paradise Falls Means To Me

by Edgar R. Trexler, Jr.

"We like it there."

That's my stock answer to friends  
who ask why we always go back to the  
same spot -- Paradise Falls -- for part of  
each summer. "The place is my sanity,"  
I sometimes add, and only half-jokingly.

There's a beauty at Paradise Falls,  
and quietness, friends, a slower pace,  
and a chance for over-advantaged children  
to get a new perspective on their values.  
At one time it had no television and few  
telephones -- a fact which gave it even  
greater charm!

But it would be a mistake to senti-  
mentalize the place. Its mystique runs  
deeper than that. A kind of fulfillment,  
in a religious sense, underlies Paradise  
Falls. For 50 years (and I've shared only  
the last few), it has provided the type of  
refreshment that most church people find  
comfortable. Nothing pretentious, nothing  
glamorous. Just a contentment and famil-  
iarity that comes from a quiet recognition  
of God's hand in daily life, a current of  
faith that runs silently and deeply through  
most of our lives. From summer to summer  
to summer, this recognition becomes a  
reflex action, as automatic as breathing.  
It's simply a part of all that Paradise  
Falls is.

Paradise Falls will change in the  
next 50 years. Higher property values will  
bring adjustments in expectations, clien-  
tele, and facilities. Fewer clergymen and  
more laymen will probably belong. But  
these projections need not be upsetting.  
As long as Paradise Falls maintains its  
underlying character and strength, it will  
endure as a distinctive mountain retreat.

At least we hope so. That's why "we  
like it there."



Devonian Coral Reef

*(from his book - The Poconos)  
Used with author's permission*

The Poconos are a part of the lake country of northeastern Pennsylvania, comprising an area of about 1500 square miles in Carbon, Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties. Two of these counties, Monroe and Pike, lie wholly within the Pocono region. This part of Pennsylvania is largely wooded upland interspersed with many lakes, and drained by rapid streams with numerous waterfalls.

The watershed between the Delaware and Lehigh is roughly the escarpment which crosses the Poconos in a northeast-southwest direction, and forms a prominent part of the Pocono topography. This escarpment is a pronounced cliff which separates the Poconos into two parts--the Plateau and the foothills, or folded ridges, both of which had their origin in the geologic history of this part of Pennsylvania.

From the standpoint of geology the Poconos are very old, being among the earliest upheavals of land in North America. The Poconos are a part of the great Appalachian chain which crosses Pennsylvania from northeast to southwest, a chain which extends northward into New York as the Catskills, and southward into Alabama.

Millions of years ago the Appalachians were formed by the shrinking and folding of the earth's crust (much as an apple wrinkles as it dries), producing high, rugged ranges not unlike the present day Rockies. With the passage of time erosion

## The Physical Features of the Poconos

by Thomas H. Knepp

wore down these high mountains, filled the valleys and reduced the great ranges to relatively level land. Then, because of the shifting of the earth's crust, accompanied by warping and upheavals, the Poconos and the eastern part of the United States were covered by the sea. During this time huge deposits of sediment were laid down, forming the Pocono sandstone which underlies the entire Pocono region. The evidence of the depositing of sediment in layers can be seen in many places where there are exposed rocks, such as in highway cuts.

Further evidence that the sea covered the Poconos ages ago is seen in the Devonian Coral Reef, 3.6 miles north of Stroudsburg. Here, on the open face of a cut on the west side of PA 191, there are thousands of fossils imbedded in rock. These are fossils of sea animals that lived some 300,000,000 years ago.

As the crust of the earth changed, mountains were again formed and the sea retreated. Some of these mountains may have risen to Alpine heights. Again erosion reduced the rugged outlines and filled the deep valleys, with the result that the mountains became rounded as they are today.

Other prominent physical features of the Poconos are Big Pocono Mountain, Delaware Water Gap, Wind Gap, and the tell-tale marks of the glacier which covered this part of Pennsylvania, during the Fourth, or last, Ice Age.

During the Fourth Ice Age the Poconos were buried under a tremendous mass of ice which left its marks here and there in irrefutable evidence of its existence. Within the last million years the northern part of the earth has been covered four times by an advancing ice cap. As the climate changed the ice retreated, and then after thousands of years advanced again. At least three of these ice caps covered parts of Pennsylvania. The Fourth, or Wisconsin Ice, extended as far south as the Poconos,

and when it melted left evidence of its existence. The last ice cap is referred to as "the Great Glacier," and the materials it deposited all over the landscape are called glacial remains.

The Great Glacier extended as far south as Belvidere, New Jersey, where the terminal moraine crosses the Delaware River. (A terminal moraine is a definite ridge of unconsolidated rocks and gravel marking the position of the farthest advance of a glacier.) From Belvidere the moraine swings northward and west around Bangor, crosses the Blue Mountain a few miles west of Delaware Water Gap, and then turns sharply westward to pass through Saylorsburg and Brodheadsville. Turning northward, and then east, it swings around the point of Big Pocono Mountain, crosses the escarpment and continues across the Pocono Plateau in a northwest direction.

It is generally agreed that the glacier did not cross the summit of Big Pocono Mountain, giving rise to considerable speculation concerning the relationship of the mountain to the glacier. If the glacier crossed over the mountain at the depression known as Dry Gap, about one and three-quarters miles west of the present fire tower, then the summit of the mountain was an island in a sea of ice. If the glacier did not cross at Dry Gap then Big Pocono was a peninsula jutting into the ice mass as it swept around the mountain.

All of the activities of Nature--the folding and shrinking of the earth's crust, erosion, the sea, and "the Great Glacier"--during millions of years have been responsible for the physical features of the Poconos, and have given to this part of Pennsylvania the scenic beauty that it has. The many lakes, Big Pocono Mountain, Delaware Water Gap, the Plateau, the rolling foothills, the streams that rush through gorges and drop over waterfalls, and the spectacular views--all of these are a part of the Poconos.

# The Flora and Fauna at Paradise Falls

by Arthur K. Leberknight

The animal and plant life at Paradise Falls is typical of that of the Pocono area in general. The terrain of the reservation, varying as it does, from low-lying wet situations to high, dry woods, presents a suitable environment for many species of animals and plants.

The presence of the white-tailed deer, the chipmunks, rabbits, squirrels and woodchucks is evident to even the most casual observer. Other mammalian species reveal themselves less openly and patience and persistence is required if one wishes to know them. Raccoons, skunks and opossums are a common sight to nocturnal strollers and one may get a glimpse of a muskrat or an otter if one is fortunate enough to be by the stream at the proper time. The elusive weasel and the wily fox do not permit themselves to be seen very frequently but are, nevertheless, indigenous to the area. The black bear is also present to a much greater degree than sightings of him would suggest.

Any season of the year the bird watcher may find subjects for his interested attention. In the winter one may observe such species as the great horned owl, the wild turkey, the ruffed grouse and juncos. Even the mockingbird, the cardinal, the chickadee, the titmouse or robin may elect to winter in the north together with the starling and sparrow. It is in the spring and summer, however, that the abundant bird life at Paradise Falls contributes so enormously to the charm of the area. The colorful tanagers, woodpeckers, flickers, orioles, goldfinches, grosbeaks, blue jays, red-winged blackbirds, warblers, buntings, towhees, hummingbirds, and many other species brighten the environment with their presence. Other species such as the wrens, thrushes, song sparrows, mourning

doves, phoebes, and whip-poor-wills are as much valued for their calls as for their appearance. Fish hawks and herons may be observed seeking their food by the lake.

The flora of the area has much to offer anyone who has the interest to observe it. Among the trees the majestic white oak and the stately hemlock dominate. An especially beautiful stand of these two species surrounds the falls area. Other oaks, several species of maple, the tulip tree, the beeches, the ashes, sweet gum, sour gum, black birch, white birch, hickory, walnut, locust and linden constitute a forest cover for the numerous shrubs and ground plants that thrive beneath them.

Before the foliage appears on the trees the wild azalea opens its buds to reveal its beautiful pink flowers. They are followed throughout the season by sheep laurel, mountain laurel, rhododendron and other flowering shrubs.

Each season of the year brings an abundance of its own wild flowers to Paradise Falls. Even while traces of snow remain in shady areas the skunk cabbage begins to push its way through the soil in wet areas, soon to be followed by jack-in-the-pulpit and hellebore. In drier areas the familiar fragrance of trailing arbutus calls attention to its existence among the dry leaves on the forest floor. The exotic wild columbine, the blue hepatica, the saxafrages, spring beauty mayapple, dog-toothed violet and the pink lady's slipper are all familiar spring flowers at Paradise Falls. Summer brings Joe Pye weed, monkey flower, turtle head, fringed orchis, bottle gentian, giant lobelia and the cardinal lobelia, to mention merely a few of the many species that occur in abundance. In autumn the many species of golden-rod and asters

help to keep the landscape bright and colorful until killed by frost.

Throughout the spring and summer a large variety of attractive ferns lend their special charm to the total surroundings. The Christmas fern, the common polypody and the shield fern even remain green throughout the winter. The most common is the bracken fern which covers many acres of the woods at Paradise Falls. More appreciated for their beauty are the cinnamon, the interrupted, the royal and the sensitive ferns. Less common, but equally appreciated for its beauty is the maiden-hair fern. The wood fern, grape fern, hay-scented fern, the spleenworts and numerous others constitute a representative distribution of this type of plant life at Paradise Falls.

The ground is covered at many places at Paradise Falls with club mosses. In addition to those we know as "ground pine" a number of the less well known species are to be found here. True mosses also are well represented on the reservation and a hand lens and guide book can provide the vacationer many hours of pleasure in the study of these interesting plants.

Many species of mushrooms, often brightly colored and varying in size from tiny inconspicuous ones to large showy ones may be seen when proper conditions of temperature and humidity prevail.

Paradise Falls is a rewarding location for the naturalist.



Rhododendron

## Recollections About the Store

Within five years of the beginning of Paradise Falls a small but well stocked store was operating under the genial and accommodating management of Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Koons. Supplied regularly from Stroudsburg by "Leapin' Lena," the store became a practical necessity for the early cottagers. The store sold everything, recalls Alberta Ardell, daughter of the first managers. And Alberta's husband, Bill Ardell helped in the store, delivered ice and collected the garbage. Not only was the store important for what it supplied, including fresh vegetables and fruit in season, but it was a gathering place for people, an ice cream emporium, and a place where you waited for the mail and exchanged the latest gossip.

A small utility building, about 12' by 12', near the store was used for storage of automobile oil and kerosene. There was no electricity in the earliest days, so heat, light and cooking was done with kerosene.

Near the Paradise Creek there was an ice house, about 15' x 20', where ice, cut from a pond in winter by Harold Heydt and his father, was stored in sawdust. Throughout the summer it was washed clean of the sawdust and delivered to the early cottagers.

Mr. and Mrs. Koons also collected fees from tourists arriving to see the falls.



The First Store

Another long-time manager of the store was Mrs. Anna Jacobs, who served in this capacity for 12 summers. She also collected fees from sight-seers coming to visit and picnic at the Falls. She recalls taking in over \$500.00 in one summer in this manner. She also remembers Mr. A. Raymond Raff the donor, of the original gift of land to Paradise Falls Lutheran Association coming into the store one day.

The earliest small building serving as a store was just north of Gate Lodge and had a delightful attached and covered porch. Long Benches lined the sides. Later this porch was enclosed and became the gift shop.

The store lasted until 1969 when it, along with the utility building were torn down. In the same general area the beautiful new adult lounge was built.

During these 50 years others helped in the store including - George Ney, Mrs. Caroline Dollner, John Ranto, Frank Johnson, David Jentsch, Edye Harrison, Richard Price and Walter Wrede.

## The Post Office

by Hilda Heydt

Paradise Falls seasonal post office was established July 22, 1946. Hilda Heydt was the acting Postmaster, and on December 6, 1946 was appointed Postmaster.

The post office was discontinued May 31, 1956.

Things I remember:

-How the girls' camp girls would bring box after box to be sent home when they were ready to leave.

-Mrs. Alwine Flothmeier would send packages to Europe.

-The people who could never remember the combinations to their post office boxes and I would try time and again to teach them their combinations, always ending up the next day giving them their mail!

When I wasn't busy, friends would come to the back door of the post office, some to the window and we would talk.

They were great days and there were great friends.

# Religion at Paradise Falls

by Rev. Bela Shetlock

It was people with deep religious convictions who formed the nucleus of those who came together and developed Paradise Falls. These Christian people felt the need for a resort where they could spend their summers in an atmosphere which was healthy, happy, relaxed and not marred by commercialism. The religious impulse which launched PFLA was the gratitude of Mr. A. Raymond Raff upon recovery of his health in the Poconos. Christian people received the gift of farm land and set up a constitution, by-laws and received a charter -- all of which reflect their religious convictions. The corporation was to carry "Lutheran" in its title, and it was for Lutheran people and their guests. Sunday was to be strictly observed. "As an association of Christian people we obligate ourselves to preserve the sanctity of the Lord's Day. Therefore all trafficking, (except that which is necessary to maintain life) gaming and sports are not permitted on the Lord's Day within the bounds of the Corporation's property" (By-Laws, Article II, Section 3.

To carry out such purposes, the early leaders provided for a variety of Christian experiences. In general the religious ideals were carried out in three ways:

First, worship services were provided. Until Social Hall was available, cottagers and guests worshipped at the Parkside chapel at Henryville. After the assembly room in Social Hall was available Sunday services were held there, morning and evening. Initially the guest pastors served for a month. Later, a different pastor preached each week. Some of those who thus served during these years were Dr. Emil E.

Fischer, Dr. Abdel Ross Wentz, Dr. G. Morris Smith, Dr. G. Elson Ruff, Dr. Paul C. Empie, Dr. Harold S. Miller, Dr. Paul J. Hoh, Dr. William O. Moyer, Dr. Dwight Putman, Dr. Carl A. Honeycutt and Dr. Robert Marshall.

We recall also the accompanists for our church services, Mrs. Frederick Rossman, Mrs. David Jaxheimer, Mrs. Virginia Warburton, Mrs. Grace Spielberger and others who served as substitutes.

Offerings are given to worthy local and church wide causes. At one time the church offerings were being accumulated to build a chapel, although this never materialized.

In the second place, from time to time well known Bible Teachers were invited to conduct devotional Bible study sessions. At times pastors who were vacationing at Paradise Falls were called upon to conduct these studies. Bible scholars were among those who taught these classes. Among them were Dr. Paul I. Morentz, the Rev. Phares Beer, Dr. Henry Gehman.

From time to time reports were brought to Paradise Falls by those who attended Lutheran World Federation Assemblies, national and synodical conventions of the church.

The third area in which Paradise Falls provided religious service was in hosting special Christian conferences. These events brought to the association unusual enriching experiences to members and also to others who happened to be guests. Two such conferences which stand out are the Inner Mission Conferences and the Bible School Institute and

Christian Education Conferences, both a part of the program of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States. Beginning with the year 1940, the Inner Mission Annual Summer Conferences came to Paradise Falls annually, except years 1943 and 1944 when there was gasoline rationing, to and including 1954. During this period approximately 2900 people attended. The annual Summer Conferences of Christian Education were held at Paradise Falls from 1931 to and including 1940. During this period approximately 2500 people attended.

Many people helped make religion a vital part of Paradise Falls. There were those who superintended and taught in the Sunday school, notably Oscar Wilde, Adolph Klein, Mrs. Louise Shetlock, Mrs. Esther Bonnet, Mrs. Anna Mary Ammon.

Lutheran piety and morality of the day are clearly reflected in the documents and actions of the early years. The church was important. Prominent Lutheran clergymen and laymen were enlisted to add support. Dr. F. H. Knubel, President of the United Lutheran Church in America became Honorary President of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association. Dr. E. Clarence Miller, treasurer of the church was on the Board of Directors.

Paradise Falls has become a cottage resort and there are no facilities available for hotel guests, but we are happy that the same religious spirit which led to the establishment of this resort still lives. A strong Christian atmosphere exists amid healthful, relaxing, and beautiful surroundings. We can thank God for our religious heritage and work for its continuance.

# Deaconesses at Paradise Falls

by Anna Mary Ammon

In 1926 the Philadelphia Deaconess Motherhouse was the recipient of a gift of land (a part of the Abend Ruhe Farm) from Mr. A. Raymond Raff, adjoining the land which he had given to the Paradise Valley Lutheran Association.

Previous to the building of their house on this land the community was given the use of one room in the Jenkins cottage, which was set aside exclusively for their use. After the death of Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. Jenkins offered the house to the Deaconesses but they were unable to accept it.

A few years later Mr. Wm. P. N. Braun, then president of the Board of the Mary J. Drexel Home and Deaconess Motherhouse assisted in the building of the present building on the ground given by Mr. Raff.

During those early years, deaconesses were required to spend two weeks of their vacations at one of the cottages

of the community, either the one at Paradise Falls or the one at Cape May.

From those early days the sisters were always a part of the life at Paradise Falls. They loved the shady walks through the woods, the Falls and enjoyed the programs offered in Social Hall. Their faithful attendance at church services was an inspiration to all.

A most pleasant time was spent reminiscing with Sister Elizabeth Huen, now an alert 94 years young but in those days was sent to the Motherhouse at Paradise Falls to recuperate from a serious illness. She remembers that one year the sisters kept a cow at the Abend Ruhe Farm barn. It was Sister Elizabeth's duty to milk her each day. The cow had a calf, which became the pet of the cottage. One of the sisters felt that the barn was too confining for the calf, it should have more freedom. One could not walk a calf like a dog so it was decided to let it run. The next thing they knew the calf was on the Swiftwater road stopping traffic, the little that there was at the time, but a calf on the road could be rather trying. The calf was confined to a long rope tied to a stake. When the season ended (1935) the calf was sold for \$18.00.

Sister Elizabeth also remembers the summer when they had one hundred baby chicks, so well cared for that they only lost three of them to natural causes. When the chickens were old enough they provided many meals at the cottage, and some were canned for future use.

Times changed and rules changed, fewer deaconesses spent less and less time at the cottage. The smaller cottage which was a gift of Mrs. Frederick Brezinski to the Baltimore Deaconess Motherhouse, is a more popular house for a smaller number of occupants. Sister Martha Hansen, formerly director of the Baltimore Motherhouse tells about this smaller cottage.

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by Sister Martha Hansen

In February, 1950 the Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse, Baltimore, Maryland was notified that in her will, the late Mrs. Frederick Brezinski of Troy, New York had remembered the Motherhouse with the gift of her summer cottage, including furnishings, on the grounds of the Paradise Falls Lutheran Association, Cresco, Pa.

The Board of Deaconess Work of the United Lutheran Church in America acknowledged the gift. Since no Board or Institution can hold membership in the Paradise Falls Lutheran Association, only individuals can do so, Mrs. Brezinski held two memberships in the Association, these, therefore, the Board of Deaconess Work transferred to the Directing Sister of the Motherhouse to hold as long as she remained in that position.

Before the ownership and use of the property could be settled, the Board of Deaconess Work had to have a definite understanding with the Good Shepherd Home of Allentown, Pa., as in case the Board of Deaconess Work did not accept the cottage for the Motherhouse, it would then revert to the Home. The Good Shepherd Home waived all claims to the cottage and the sisters could now consider the cottage their summer home.

The sisters have enjoyed many summers at that lovely spot, and have appreciated the fellowship with other members of the Association.

When Sister Martha Hansen retired from office at the close of 1957, Sister Anna Melville, the new Directing Sister, became the person to hold the membership in the Association and to supervise the property.



Morning Worship Service in Social Hall

Wesley Ohl, Fisherman



## Fishing The Beautiful Paradise Stream

by Harold E. Heydt

The Paradise Creek which flows through about one mile of the Paradise Falls property has been known for a long time as a famous trout stream. Many famous fly fishermen, some of whom were authors of books on trout fishing, fished in the Paradise Creek, dating back to 1880 or longer. The Paradise and Swiftwater Creeks have a junction about one mile below Paradise Falls. From this junction the streams then flow past Henryville and on to the Brodhead Creek, the stream being referred to most of the time as the famous West Branch of the Brodhead. Some years ago all these waters were leased to private fishing clubs and this is still true with most of the stream.

Most of the artificial flies which were used for trout fishing about 1920 when I started fishing with flies, are still used today, although many new and improved patterns have been developed over the years.

I was very fortunate to have had the privilege, over the years, to meet, and talk with and fish with some of the famous and fine fly fishermen, one of whom was James Leisenring, famous wet fly fisherman. Others were John Alden Knight, Ernest Schwiebert, Ray Bergman, Walter Conner, Lewis Shauer, Don Stogsdell,

Gardner Grant, Preston Tolman, Charles J. Hook and many others.

There were very few fishermen among the first cottagers at Paradise Falls. Mr. Wesley Ohl was one of the first. He loved the fishing and being along the stream where he spent most of his time.

Beginning about 1933 more cottages were being built by members interested in fishing and the number has increased since that time. The year 1939 Lake Crawford was built and the lake has provided excellent fishing each year. Lake fishing is quite different from stream fishing.

Some of the old timers, and the later arrivals were wonderful fishing buddies. They were Linford Stevens, Dr. John Schaffner, Dr. Samuel Kidd, Oscar Bernd, Dr. Grant Eisenberg, Dr. Philip Ehrig, John Ehrig, Dwight Johnson, Dave Miller, Ernie Schmidt, Bill Ardell, and possibly others whom I might not remember. These fellows were all fine fishermen and sportsmen and enjoyed many pleasant weekends on the stream.

There are also a number of good fishermen among the younger group who enjoy fishing at Paradise Falls. We are all hopeful that our children and their children's children will have the privilege and joy of trout fishing at Paradise Falls.

Gude Fischeing.



# Administering Paradise Falls Lutheran Association

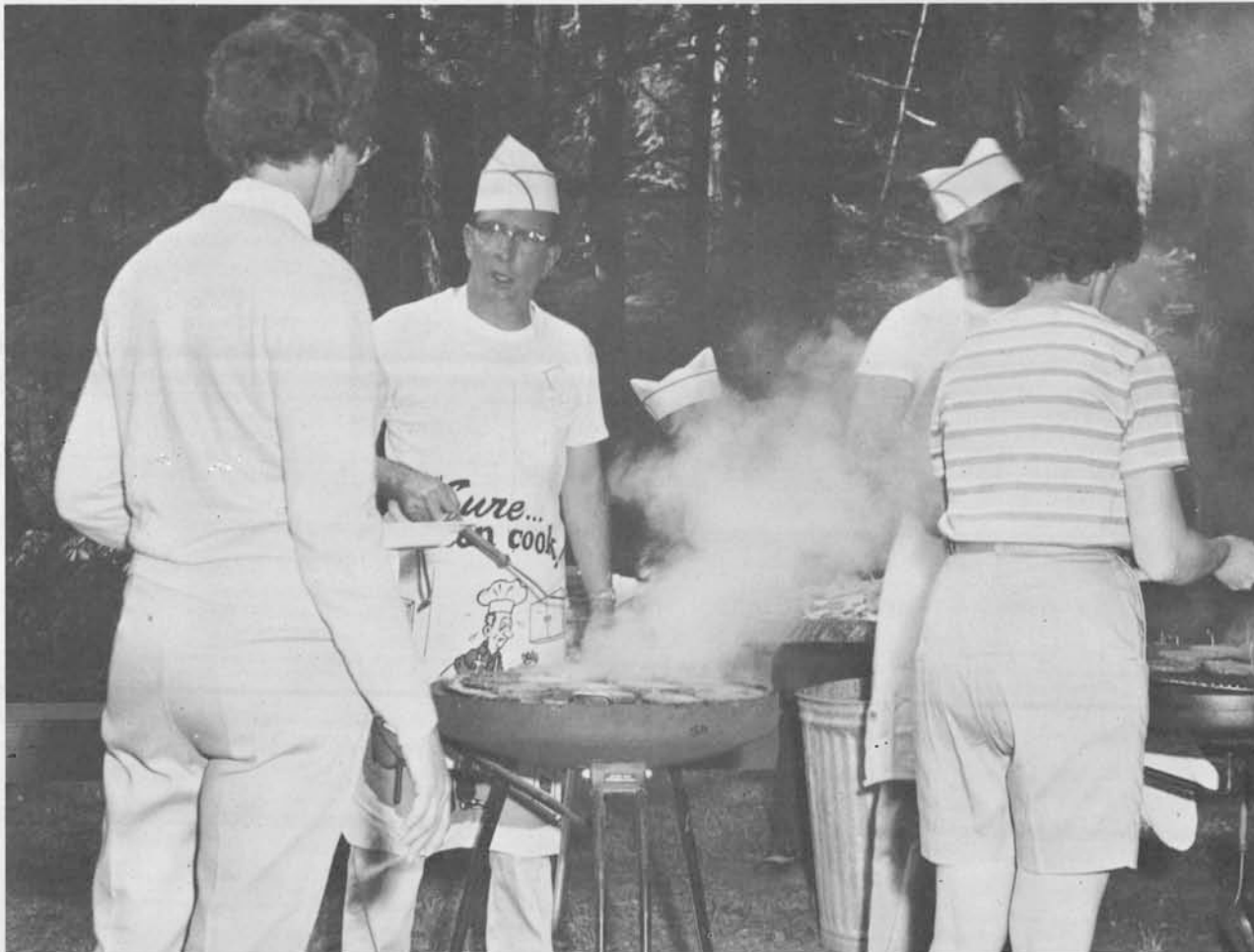
by Ruth B. Schaffner

From the very beginning Paradise Falls Lutheran Association has been governed by a Constitution and By-laws, which have been amended from time to time.

The organization is incorporated according to its Charter and operates under

the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The purpose of this organization is to provide healthful retreat and recreation under its auspices for members, their friends and guests of the Association.



Membership in the organization is limited to members in good standing of an Evangelical Lutheran Church. Those holding memberships own the whole tract and all the buildings except those erected by the members. Each member has the perpetual use of a lot and access to all facilities of the Association.

Membership also gives one voice and vote in the business meetings of the Association at which all decisions are made and members of the Board of Directors are elected.

The Board of Directors are the Board of Trustees and consist of fifteen members of the Association in good standing, elected by the Association.

The Board of Directors shall have power to make rules and regulations for the operation, maintenance, management and control of the Association's property, equipment and its affairs of every kind; and they shall have power to prescribe and enforce all penalties for violations or infractions of the Association's Constitution and By-laws, or resolutions adopted by the Association or by the Board of Directors, or of any rules or regulations made in pursuance thereof.

The Corporate Seal shall be a round disc, consisting of an outer circle bearing the words: "PARADISE FALLS LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION", within which shall appear the Coat of Arms of Martin Luther, with the numerals "1925", being the year of incorporation.

The following members have faithfully served as officers of the Paradise Falls Lutheran Association:

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Board Members at Work in Picnic Area

**The Presidents**

William F. Buckner	1922
Rev. F. H. Knubel, DD LLD Honorary	
John Borgstede	1933
Rev. Harvey S. Kidd	1936
Rev. David Jaxheimer	1943
Rev. Samuel E. Kidd	1952
Rev. Alford Naus	1954
(J. Curtis Hoyt was acting president during part of 1954.)	
Dr. John Schaffner	1958
Herbert F. Meyer	1965
Adolph Klein	1968
Herbert F. Meyer	1971

**Vice Presidents**

Luther F. Hoffner	1926
Rev. Harvey Kidd	1931
George Haag	1936
Arthur K. Leberknight	1943
Robert P. Peterson	1952
Theodore W. Scheidt	1954
J. Curtis Hoyt	1955
Clarence C. Dittmer	1957
Herbert F. Meyer	1958
Adolph Klein	1965
James W. Morentz	1967
Dr. Albert H. Niebaum	1968

**Secretaries**

Rev. Clifford Hays	1922
William Jenkins	1930
Frank W. Mueller	1931
Rev. H. P. C. Cressman	1933
Arthur K. Leberknight	1952
Mrs. Martha Fry	1954
Theodore Scheidt	1954
Rev. Edgar D. Ziegler	1958
Vernon Stover	1959
Frederick Sauerwein	1963
Jay P. Moyer	1966

**Treasurers**

J. E. Rudisill	1922
E. W. Moyer	1930
William Angerman	1946
Clarence C. Dittmer	1949
Richard Haag	1951
V. W. Meng	1951
John M. Phillips	1954

**Board of Directors - 1962****Treasurers (cont'd.)**

Ramon Naus	1967
Frederick Sauerwein	1968
Alvin Pederson	1970
John Lindholm	1971

**Managers**

Rev. Clifford Hays	1925
Erwin W. Moyer	1932
Arthur K. Leberknight	1946
Louis Metz	1951
Philip Shadle	1952
Harold Heydt	1954
Stanley Benallick	1957

**Caretakers - Superintendents of Grounds**

Harold E. Heydt	1926
Cleo Saunders	1949
Kenneth Harrison	1951
Walter Harrison	1967
Stanley Smith	1969
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Galavitz	1970
Richard Kise	1971



Paradise Falls Girls' Camp Cabins

## Paradise Falls Girls' Camp

by Arlene C. (Ulrich) Sauerwein

At a Paradise Falls Lutheran Association Meeting, April 25, 1930, a motion was made to start a Girls Camp to be erected near the edge of the woods, by the creek on the left side of the Athletic field. On June 23, 1930, it was authorized to build 3 cabins which would house 7 girls and one girl in charge. It was agreed to dedicate the camp on July 4, 1930 with Rev. Peter Wohlsen to deliver the address at camp site. Mr. Brockelhurst presented the American Flag to be used at the camp.

At a meeting of the Association on June 29, 1931, Mrs. Laura Miller Blithe reported a total of 11 campers with the prospect for more in the next week. Mrs. T. Mikuriya was engaged as Camp Directress and Miss Norma Wolf as the first Volunteer Counsellor and two more to report as soon as more reservations were received. The Camp opened July 1, 1931.

My memories of PFG are many, having been a camper during the early years of the camp. We had many activities, such as tennis, crafts, horseback riding,

swimming. When the camp first started we had our swimming instructions at the base of the falls, later other accommodations were made, and finally a lake was built in 1939. We were known as the "sister-camp" to Camp Miller, the boys Ministerium Camp, at Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, and we often had exchange programs with them. This was a "highlight" of the Campers' experience.

It was fun to walk each meal-time over to Nestledown (the Bradleys' cottage, now) and we were always hungry. One meal which was my favorite was "creamed ground beef on Parker House rolls, for breakfast!!

My memory is rich with companionship of the girls and the leadership of the Counsellors, particularly Miss Helen Buckwalter (Miss Bucky).

PFG grew each year and was enjoyed by many girls. However after Camp Hagan was started near Camp Miller, our attendance was so small that it was decided to close the camp in 1952.

# To Paradise Falls

by L. Romaine Gross

O Paradise, thou art well named,  
For 'neath the sky so blue  
Kind nature played her prettiest pranks,  
Made many a glorious view.

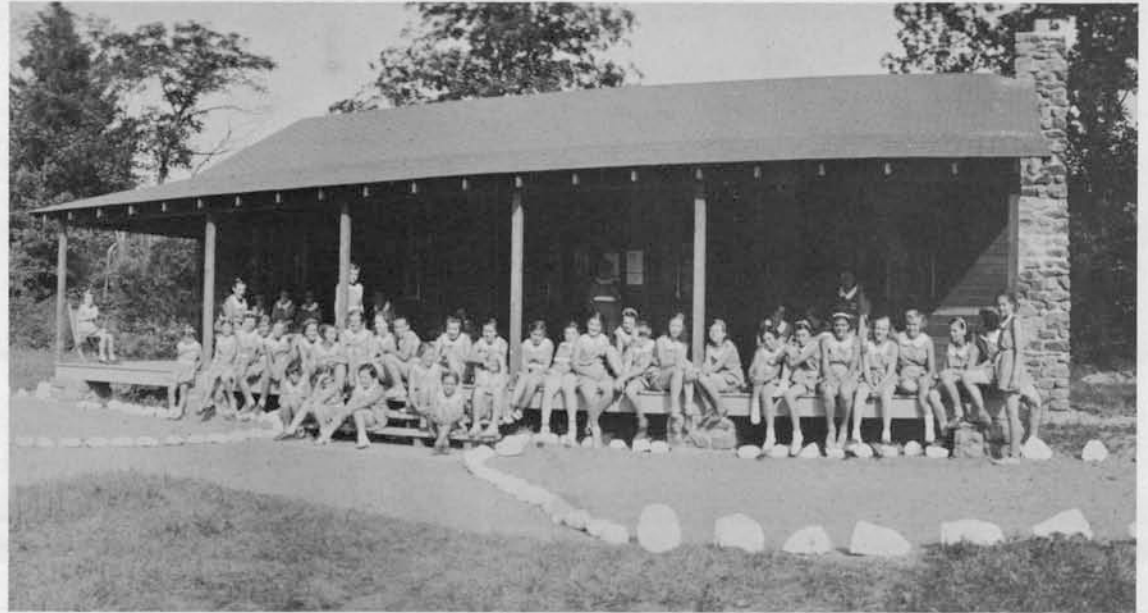
The nature-lovers carefree, stroll  
In answer to thy calls,  
They gaze enchanted at thy streams,  
They love thy water-falls.

They love thy towering, stately pines  
Whose cooling shadows drop  
Where dancing, playful sunbeams flash  
Among the moss-grown rock.

They love thy tree-clad hills to climb,  
Thy flowery glens t'explore.  
They love thy many changing moods,  
Thou could'st not well give more!

Peace and quiet thou dost give  
To those of tired mind.  
Thou bidst them come and be refreshed  
And leave dull care behind.

Thou art well named, O Paradise,  
The air and golden sun,  
The hills and vales and bright, clear streams  
Are loved by old and young.



Paradise Falls Girls' Camp Lodge



Hayride



An Early Lawn Fete of the Women's Auxiliary

## The Women's Auxiliary

by Ruth Haase and Louise Shetlock

Early in the history of PFLA a need was felt for a women's group to help in developing fellowship among cottagers and in raising money for special projects and general support of the whole enterprise.

The Women's Auxiliary was formed in 1929. Since then it has provided a continuous flow of money to all sorts of projects and has provided many fellowship functions.

The minutes of the Women's Auxiliary is most interesting reading. It gives a detailed account of many meetings. It tells of hosts of events which were used to raise money. We read about lawn fetes and garden parties, bazaars, bingo parties, progressive luncheons, and koffee klotches. There were fashion shows, covered dish suppers, apron shows, bake sales, band concerts, auctions, parcel post sales, food sales, talent shows, dessert socials, theatre parties, benefit suppers and white elephant sales.

Nestledown was one of the earliest recipients of help from the auxiliary. In 1932 Nestledown lobby was repainted and refurnished.

A soda fountain was installed in Gate Lodge in 1933.

Ecclesiastical furniture was provided in 1934.

The old swimming pool was improved in 1937 through the auxiliary.

In 1947 a filmstrip projector, a record player and two large horns were purchased for the recreation program.

From 1953 on Lake Crawford was improved by efforts of the Auxiliary. The same year playground equipment was added and the tennis courts improved. The auxiliary began an enlarged gift shop operation in 1954.

Following the damage to Lake Crawford caused by the hurricanes of 1955 the auxiliary aided in repairing the dam, repairing the stairs to the Falls, and draining and cleaning Lake Crawford.

In 1960 a retaining wall on the beach was paid for by the auxiliary.

A beautiful new adult lounge was erected in 1968. It was furnished by the auxiliary and a large portion of the building costs also paid for by the auxiliary.

Upkeep and management has been the responsibility of this group of active women.

As early as 1931 a gift shop was in operation. Miss Bertha Heid enlisted volunteers to man it in the tea room. The full story of the gift shop appears elsewhere in this book.

The auxiliary has supplied the altar flowers for the church services for many years. Road improvements including asphaltting around "The Center", were provided, also many shrubs and trees to make our entrance more inviting.

Old timers will remember gratefully the excellent concerts and lectures arranged by the auxiliary and Mrs. Bertha Crawford. Beginning in 1942 we enjoyed Miss Pina La Corte, soprano and Marcella Decray, harpist, in annual concerts. In addition the auxiliary sponsored Jack Irwin in a Sacred concert, numerous band concerts, a Barber Shop Quartet and the world renowned bird photographer, Edward A. Hill.

The auxiliary has hosted special parties for visiting church dignitaries including German Bishop Hans Lilje, and Bishop Rajah Manikam of India. It also sponsored an open house on the occasion of Adolph and Mae Klein's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Recently the adult lounge has been the site of demonstrations of adult hobbies such as dried flower arrangements, making burlap flowers, stained glass ornaments.

Presidents throughout the years have been:

Mrs. David G. Jaxheimer	1929-1930
Mrs. Carrie Kreckman	1931-1932
Mrs. George W. Haag	1932-1935
Mrs. Harvey S. Kidd	1936-1940
Mrs. Bertha Crawford	1941-1949
Mrs. Wm. G. Voit	1950-1951
Mrs. Harold C. Fry	1952-1953; 1956
Mrs. Harry Klausewitz	1954-1955
Mrs. Bela Shetlock	1957-1958, 1964-1966
Mrs. Paul I. Morentz	1959-1960
Mrs. Fred Sauerwein	1961-1963
Mrs. John E. Jacobsen	1967-1968
Mrs. Wyeth MacLean	1969-

# The Story of the Gift Shop

by Rev. and Mrs. Bela Shetlock

The credit for the success of the Gift Shop sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary must go to the imagination of Miss Elsie E. Hines. She was responsible for the idea and managed the entire project. All her service was given freely and only from 1957 until the shop closed was she given a small yearly honorarium.

Very early in the history of Paradise Falls Miss Bertha Heid, in addition to her office duties operated a small gift shop in the tea room.

During the summer of 1953, Miss Hines noticed that visitors and members of the Paradise family made inquiries about where gifts could be purchased. It occurred to her that it would fill a real need to have a gift shop on our grounds.

Miss Hines spoke to the president of the Women's Auxiliary about the feasibility of such a project. The auxiliary consented to sponsor the gift shop and was willing to advance \$300.00 as a loan to purchase merchandise. (Incidentally, this

loan was repaid out of the profits of the first year!) This project was then presented to the Board of Directors. They approved the idea in 1953 and offered the porch next to the store as the location for the gift shop. The only obligation to be assumed by the auxiliary was to make an annual donation of \$50.00 to help pay for the electricity.

The auxiliary appointed Miss Hines as manager, and committed itself to provide sales personnel.

The gift shop opened in the summer of 1954. It soon became apparent that there was need for more space. The Board of Directors approved an addition which cost \$1500.00. It was built in 1955. The total cost was paid out of the profits realized in 1955 and 1956.

In the beginning Miss Hines as manager, together with members of the auxiliary, served as sales persons without pay. The contribution of volunteers was most important. When the sales load increased



The Gift Shop

rapidly it became necessary to add paid employees to work together with the volunteers. Miss Florence M. Hines was the first paid employee, followed in subsequent years by Miss Katherine Fry, Mr. Russell Sauerwein and Miss Anna Schuler.

During the existence of the gift shop it was a real help to the life and development of the association. The gift shop served as a social center in addition to providing money which enabled the Women's Auxiliary to give substantial financial help toward the betterment of the physical facilities of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association.

Early Gift Shop in Tea Room





Foot of Falls in Early Years

## Renaissance

by Josephine B. Jacobsen

"Paradise Falls?" "Where is it," someone asks. "Well, it is about ten miles from Stroudsburg, on Route 191," I reply. Come to think about it, it really is not on any map. Then I recall that Herman Melville in his Moby Dick said, "True places never are."

I do not believe that I think of Paradise Falls as a place. It is more than that; it has personality with voices and laughter, and tremendous activity.

In this nowhere are nestled eighty-five cottages, each lending its individual structure to a family bent on enjoying a respite from the normal pursuits of life and loving it.

PF as it is affectionately termed by its members, young and old, is a family of families on a holiday in one of the most delightful spots to be found anywhere. As I traveled around the world, seeing some of the celebrated areas, I would be reminded of the unsurpassed beauty of our own PF. What can compare with the gracious, spreading pine and spruce trees looming against the robin-egg blue sky, or lovely Lake Crawford falling over the dam and babbling on down over the rocks to the falls below?

One day a friend and I, sitting on the bridge at the base of the Falls, were commenting on the beauty around us. She made an observation that further awakened my appreciation of PF when she said, "Really, you did not just acquire a cottage here; you gained so much more, a whole world of beauty to enjoy at will."

Of course this small world of ours is not, nor has it ever been, as serene and simple as the reader might assume. There have been tears, hard feelings and clashes of personalities brought about by changes. Such are bound to happen in any family, but in a community a change can cause an upheaval. Indeed it is a miracle that PF

has withstood these crises over the fifty years, and that it emerges a strong organization in today's world. One had to conclude that there has had to be a strong underlying purpose to put his own feelings second to the needs of the organization itself. Perhaps this has been a welding power, causing roots to take a firmer hold. However, one just needs to attend the church services on any Sunday from June to September to realize that there is more to this whole idea than just a basic purpose, as important as it is. The Service is well attended, almost 100% cottage attendance, the message is given by an important Lutheran clergyman, people are dressed appropriately, and the congregation sings lustily. All this adds up to the fact that this is a colony of Christians, who love and serve God. This common denominator inspired the founders of PF to develop this colony has helped to give it adhesion.

And now as I write this about what Paradise Falls means to me, nostalgia overtakes me just as it does every spring when I think of June not far off and with it the prospect of spending another summer in this world of beauty and simplicity. Then we will experience a rebirth in the cool pine washed air, in the cool waters of Lake Crawford, and live the simple life close to nature. Each year we learn that one of the second or third generation has become a member, bringing his family there to grow up as he did.

We know that changes will continue to take place, and we hope they will. But we also hope that those who make them will remember the wisdom and sacrifices of the founders, who looked to God for guidance and praised Him for His eternal goodness. Have I sounded sentimental? Well, I am and I do not mind being so. And each June will find me returning to PF for my renaissance.

## Sameness and Change

by Dr. Samuel E. Kidd

Sameness and change are the peculiar marks of Paradise Falls. The hills are the same and many of the trees but the fields are gone and so is the moss from the rocks in the stream. Swimmers in the lake paddle across the shaded lane that was the haunt of lovers. Generations of bridges with their carefully carved hearts and letters have yielded their standing place to high waters and new bridges. Roads have grown wider and noisier and oilier. Huckleberries and the wildest of the wild flowers have disappeared from the roadside. Nature has had its glory reassembled. Who would say it has been destroyed?

The reassembly of nature is paralleled by a reassembly of people. The dowagers of the first summer are no more. They were frightening to a small boy and demanding. The reputed wealth of some who came never became the wealth of Paradise. In their place came hundreds for a week who never thought of settling for the summer. They stayed in primitive rooms serviced by remote baths. Sixty staff persons served their needs and heard their groans. Schools and conferences had their day and there was a continuing debate about what they gave to Paradise or took from it. Limousines stopped for an hour at the girls' camp and left the young fry for eight weeks while the oldsters sped off to more lavish

accommodations. It was not the flood that closed the camp but social dissonance.

The experiment in communal living at Paradise Falls was settling down. The dream of a major hotel disappeared when the real estate promotion proved more harmful than helpful. The illusion that a fourth class hotel could make it through the twentieth century faced a rude awakening and Nestledown was closed. The back-breaking debt, through sacrifice and the contributions of some dedicated members, was cut in half and the other half bonded with paper. Paradise Falls by a process of addition and elimination became the cottage colony it is today.

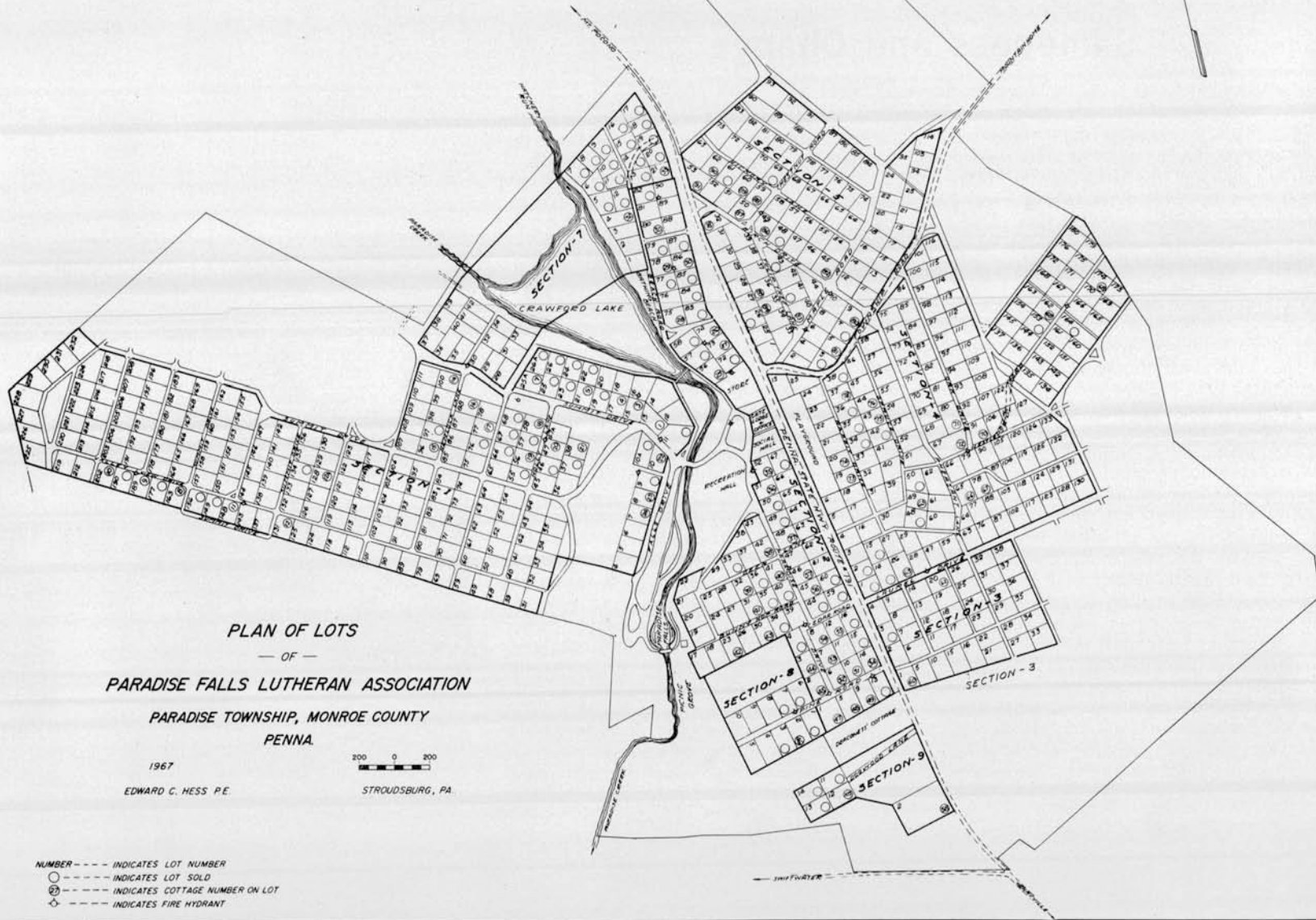
To reminisce about forty-seven years at Paradise is pleasant, but not always. I miss the wild strawberries and the bobwhites. I miss the quietness of lonely roads and the natives who talked with an earthiness that revealed their world and made it interesting. I miss those pioneers whose visions and sacrifice granted us our heritage without requiring that we honor them. What I miss is quickly forgotten with the first step on the soft ground in the spring. Paradise continues to be a place where nature and people meet and while both continue to change there is a remarkable sameness that hopefully will never be destroyed.



Social Hall



# 1967 Perimeter Survey



PLAN OF LOTS  
 — OF —  
 PARADISE FALLS LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION  
 PARADISE TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
 PENNA.

1967

EDWARD C. HESS P.E.

200 0 200

STROUDSBURG, PA.

- NUMBER --- INDICATES LOT NUMBER
- --- INDICATES LOT SOLD
- Ⓢ --- INDICATES COTTAGE NUMBER ON LOT
- ⊕ --- INDICATES FIRE HYDRANT

## Believe It or Not

by Mrs. Alwine Flothmeier

"Very Interesting" said Mrs. Flothmeier as she told the story of the "poor rusty horseshoe", and we all agreed with her. A couple of decades ago, the story begins, when Paradise Falls was just a stripling, and the locust tree behind the garage was just a sapling, a young lad found himself in possession of a horseshoe, with which he didn't know what to do. Naturally, the most convenient parking place for such an unwanted article was a tree limb, and the most convenient tree limb at that particular moment happened to be one of the twigs on the locust sapling. Time marched on as is its way of doing; the lad grew up, the sapling grew up, Paradise Falls grew up, but the horseshoe remained the same. It could not protect itself against the smothering growth of the locust tree. Year by year, bit by bit, the locust tree swallowed up the poor rusty horseshoe into its trunk until it was almost completely covered.

"Almost" and that is what makes this story very "interesting". If you look closely in the trunk of the second largest locust tree to the right of the garage, you will see just a bit of the poor rusty horseshoe still fighting a losing battle against nature's growth. Ten years from now (1958) you won't see anything, and the story will be over until some day some lumberman utters censored sentences as his saw bites deeply into the poor rusty horseshoe, which into the locust grew, when a small lad didn't know what to do with it.

"The Spray" July 11, 1948.

## The Chipmunk

by Rev. Herbert N. Gibney

A striped thing, a wee one  
Never seen, but mission bent you are.  
What fervent forays these can best  
Be noted by the upright tail,  
The short, quick step,  
And then as quick a freeze.  
For there is danger in the woods.  
It circles high on hawk's wing  
And crouches low,  
Behind a bush,  
A stone,  
A tree.  
Hidden it is in that long, silent thing  
Which sometimes speaks when it seems most serene.  
Yet urge and instinct you cannot deny.  
It wells within;  
Sharp throbs of hunger,  
The cry of mate or whelp,  
The coming winter which you cannot know is coming  
And yet you surely know.  
And so you venture forth, a tense and wary  
Striped thing.

I see you thus,  
And yet I do not see you so  
For sometimes we have eyes and see not  
As He said who saw it all, and knew, and understood.  
So as I watch you from my cottage porch,  
Making the stone wall your private  
Game of hide and seek,  
Or larking through the tall grass  
I've left uncut,  
With one excuse piled on another,  
Or crouching cutely on your haunches  
Nibbling the oak tree's fallen fruit,  
I envy you!  
You are a sprightly thing,  
A wonder of God's beauty,  
Free, fast and fair.  
These are your woods forever.  
To me they are but lent,  
Two days quickly snatched, the summer's swift vacation,  
And then gone.  
I envy you, and I forget that you,  
Like me,  
Have two sides to your life.

Or is there only one  
And we must see it in full montage  
Lest we stratify ourselves, and life, and God?  
What cried thee Bartimaeus,  
That thou might have thy sight restored?  
Return not mine, O Lord, for I have seen  
Thy creature,  
And yet have not.  
Give me Thine eyes instead.

*"The Chipmunk" was written by Pastor Gibney while recuperating in the hospital in 1963.*



Men's Fashion Show - 1955

## The Social and Recreational Program

by Rev. George B. Ammon

The earliest By-Laws of PFLA (March 9, 1923) spell out the founders' concern for recreation and social activities:

"The object of this corporation is to offer healthful retreat and recreation for Lutheran people, their friends and guests." (Article II, Section I)

"Athletic and other privileges are open to members, friends and guests according to rules established by the Board of Directors." (Section 2)

The conscience of the founders could not tolerate games and sports on Sunday. Strict adherence to this conviction even caused the donor to reduce the size of his land grant. The slow erosion of a "closed" Sunday in our culture led to

similar change in accepting a more liberal Sunday at PF.

One of the stipulations of the donor of the original tract of land was "that the organization construct a golf course of at least 9 holes." This was never carried out, although plans were drawn for a large hotel and golf course as early as 1927.

As early as 1926 a lake was proposed. Plans were made to build it by constructing a dam on the Cranberry Creek. This was subsequently abandoned in favor of a swimming pool (constructed in 1931) near the ice house and opposite the Schuler cottage.

Many snapshots of early days show bathing and swimming at the Falls especi-

ally during the building of the dam for Lake Crawford. Pictures and movies of the early years show horseback riding. Many people went on nature hikes, which were led by Mr. Miller Ammon of Reading, Pa. There is even a poem extolling his qualities as a hike leader.

The Falls picnic grove was the scene of marshmallow and doggie roasts followed by ghost stories, square dances and parties. Many visitors to the Falls (which was a big tourist attraction) held picnics there. Each year recently it is the locale for the opening social event of the season, a picnic sponsored by the Board of Directors.

There was great interest in the world of nature in the early years. A Professor Warren Horne of Quakertown, Pa. led bird observation hikes at 5 A.M. and in the early evening hours as well, botany hikes. Mr. Arthur Lieberknight led many a nature hike.

Very early in its history the management secured a bus, "Leapin' Lena," to be used for sight-seeing and for meeting guests arriving by train or bus. Scheduled trips to nearby points were very popular -- Big Pocono, the Delaware Water Gap, Buck Hill Falls, Shawnee, Camp Miller, Camp Hagan, Echo Lakes, etc.

In 1934 a Dramatic Club was formed. That same year the Club presented the play "Art for Art's Sake." Other plays presented in succeeding years included, "Skidding" (1935); Sound Your Horn (1937); Funny Phinnie (1938); and Apple Blossom Time (1940). Most of these plays were coached by George Ney.

The presence of the PFG Camp on grounds permitted sharing some of their fun and talent. From time to time the girls provided minstrel shows, swimming and aquatic programs and plays.

Ever since it began, PF has been a great place for romance. Under the spell of a summer moon, or at a square dance or at the Falls many a couple's romance began at PF. Some returned to PF to honeymoon and a few were married on the grounds.

## The Social and Recreational Program (cont'd)

In more recent years there have been soft ball games with neighboring teams, tennis instruction, a whole host of craft programs for children and adults, beach parties, volleyball, badminton, and evening games and contests for the younger children.

Lake Crawford and its beach have been the locale for hours of sun bathing, socializing, beach parties, swim meets, swimming instruction, water pageants and candlelight services at the end of the season. Beach guards often help with elements of the recreation program for the children.

In recent years there has been a declining interest in movies, and a growing interest on the part of some adults to attend the excellent stage plays and musicals at the Pocono Playhouse.

In the fifties there was a surge of short plays put on by young people, including "Sno Use and the Seven Tramps", "Mind over Mumps", and "High Window."

Surveying the old "Sprays" brings back a flood of memories. As first Social Director (1934) it was my task to arrange social and recreational activities for all ages. In addition, I was superintendent of the Sunday School, read service for the visiting clergymen, and often drove the bus to Cresco or Stroudsburg to pick up guests. The weekly "Spray" had to be prepared and mimeographed, movies secured and projected and hikes, hay rides, square dances and tournaments arranged.

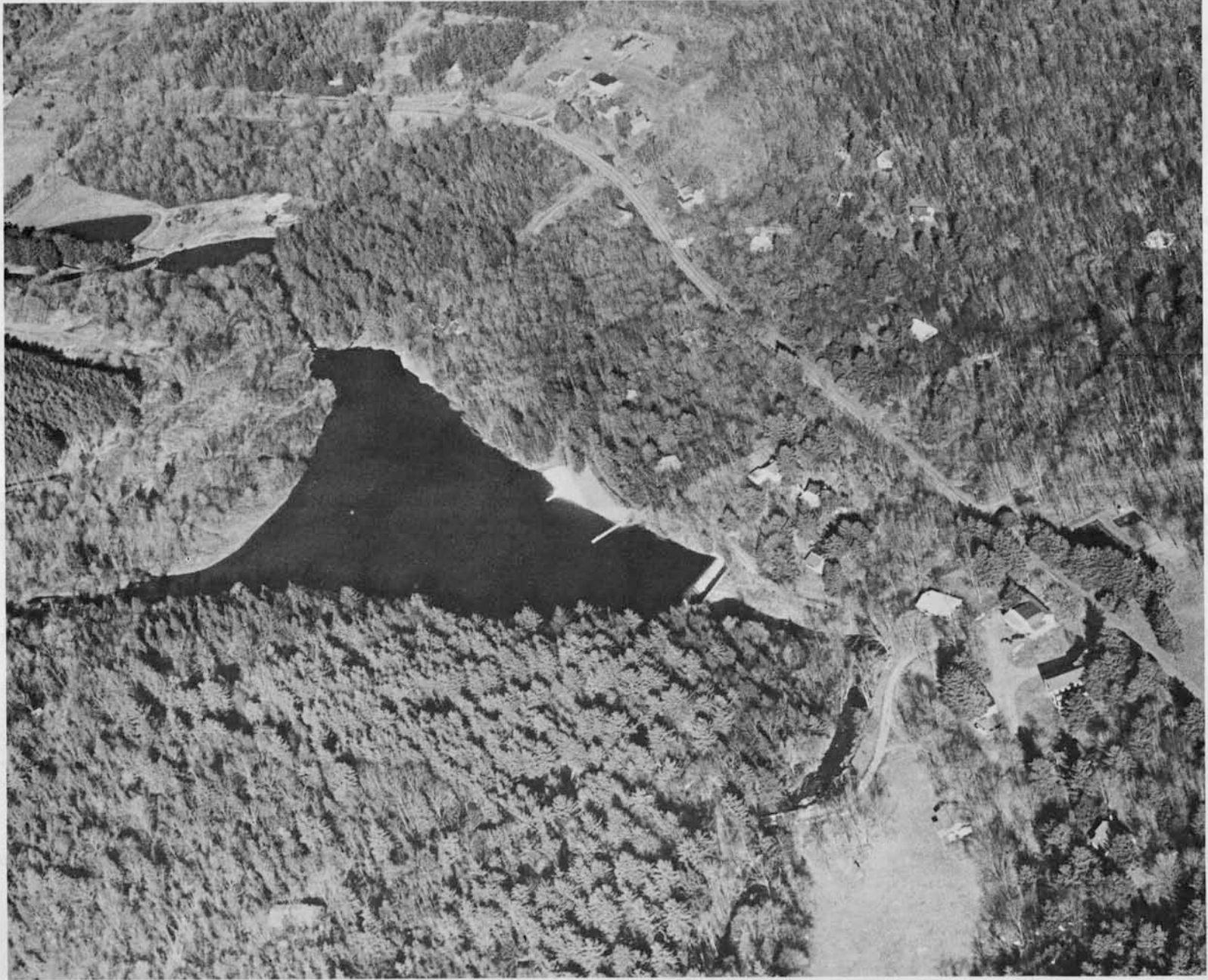
Since 1934 there have been regularly employed Social Directors. They have been seminarians, college students and college professors and sons and daughters of PF cottagers. They have served as program planners and leaders and have brought a wide variety of skills to their tasks. A recreation committee of the Board of Directors has supervised their work. The Social Directors have been:

George B. Ammon	1934-35	Richard Acker	1956
Luther Schlenker	1936-37		1957
	1938	Mrs. and Mrs. Norman Melchert	1958-59
Fred Hollenberg	1939	Mr. and Mrs. John Dreisbach	1960
William Read	1940	Carole Ammon, Linda Haag	1961
	1941	Freda Ammon, Paul Teter,	
	1942	Ernest Miller,	1962
	1943	Darlene Westerman,	
	1944	David MacLean,	
Rev. and Mrs. George B. Ammon	1945	Ernest Miller, Paul Teter	1963
Arthur Greenawalt	1946	Mr. and Mrs. Roger Turnau	
Miss Marie Fischeles	1947	Susan Hergenhan, Assistant	1964
Billy Rutrough	1948	Gail Cramer, Linda Voehringer,	
Werner Ortman	1949	Robert Long	1965
Ham Muus	1950	Mr. and Mrs. James Smith	1966
Walter Wrede	1951	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bowman	1967
	1952	James Morentz, Kenneth Teter	1968
Martin Scholl	1953	Mr. and Mrs. Barry B. Bealor	1969
David Jentsch	1954	Lynn Kuhnle, Douglas Johnson	1970
Charles Metzger	1955	Janis Ramsden, Douglas Johnson	1971

The Annual Picnic at the Falls



AERIAL VIEW OF PARADISE FALLS – WINTER - 1971-72





On The Beach

## Reflections on the Lake

by Virginia Warburton

Come sit at the beach and enjoy the scene and the memories.

It is during the very quiet times, especially in the spring and fall that the true beauty of our lake is appreciated. See the gently bending birch arching over the water on the far shore. Think of the rhododendrons in bloom framed by the hemlock forest. Picture the still water mirroring autumn splendor, the reflection disturbed now and then by jumping fish.

But it is on a sunny summer day that the lake takes on real personality! Our beachfront has something for everyone: shade for a sleeping baby, a fountain for the thirsty, two docks for divers and feet-danglers, a volleyball area for the ambitious and even a bench for those who come only to watch. This is the place of doggie roasts and candlelight swims. Many a romance began and blossomed on these shores. Many a family has watched its children and grandchildren play in the sand and frolic in the water.

It is a "must" place to visit for first-time guests. Old friends make it a point to drive by to see and be seen. How appro-

priate it is that our current traffic pattern has us approach the beach through the sunlight-dappled fern forest - a favorite spot for many of us.

Listen to some afternoon sounds: "Don't you dare throw me in!" "How many laps can you do?" "How's the water?" "Where's your buddy?" "Anyone for cards?" "I can't find my other flip-flop." "Mommy, watch me!" "Look at all the tadpoles I caught?" "Let's get all muddy and jump off the dock."

See the afternoon sights: The passing parade displays every imaginable type of beachwear revealing varying shades of suntan. Sand and water are strewn with play and swim equipment. Thank goodness for the storage shed built recently to hold some of our beach gear.

The Ladies' sewing circle take up their needles and their conversation interrupted occasionally by a cool-off swim. Readers don sunglasses to relax with a book or magazine. Sunbathers cover themselves with lotion and recline. About the only time everyone is doing the same thing is when the lifeguard's whistle is blown.... instant attention!

Late afternoon brings the jingle of a bell, a signal that it is time for dinner. Some will load up their canoe or rowboat and paddle to their dock on the opposite shore.

When the beach is almost empty, up the road comes a fisherman hoping that the trout are biting.

Later still come the bull-frog songs and the katydids' dialogue. It is a good time to be nostalgic.

Do you remember when the raft was "off-limits" while the girls campers were swimming? The saddest day of the season has always been the day the raft is towed in to shore, --- for soon thereafter the beach will be abandoned to one forgotten sneaker, some grimy towels, a deflated inner tube.

Do you remember the navy rafts? We lined up on the sides and rocked like mad until one got dunked. That rocking and rolling provided the only "breakers" our shoreline knew.

Can you recall the "sea serpent" that was only a tree trunk jutting up out of the water?

Another recollection is of the sand bar which afforded a safe, shallow, "other" place to horse around, goof off. Beyond that was a cove, a shady inlet of clear water rippling over rounded stones.

It is said that one of our boys could throw a stone across the lake. All of our boys love to send pebbles skipping over the water.

The years have seen lots of fun and "accidental" upsets in row boats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboats and sailboats.

Some of us remember diving from the lock box at the dam. Some of our mothers can relive their panic at the sight of us walking across the top of the dam! For others the ultimate achievement was to dive off the high board on the girls' camp dock.

We've looked back with pleasure. Now let us have the foresight to see to it that our lake will not be spoiled by pollution, or neglect, that it will be clean - not green! It simply would not be Paradise Falls without Lake Crawford.

## What Paradise Falls Means to Our Family

by Wilma Kuhnle

Paradise Falls, better known as PF, is a place where people go to find peace, fellowship, and relaxation, an escape from the hustle and noise of the city, a place where you can sleep late, take long walks through woods echoing with the sounds of birds and animals, visit with friends by a refreshing, secluded lake, or do anything your heart compels you to do. Here, people of all ages, be they small children, teenagers, parents, or grandparents, can find happiness and a sense of oneness, bound together with a heart-filled faith in God.

To me as a parent, PF means a place where my children can go to meet and associate with children from different places and backgrounds. For them it is a learning experience as well as a place to go for a carefree, fun-filled summer.

There is an overwhelming feeling of security here. A feeling that your children are safe no matter what time it is, and that you can leave for hours without locking your house and worrying if all your belongings will still be there when you return.

In all, Paradise Falls means a place where everyone is as one big Christian family, spending one wonderful summer after another together, in happiness and many unforgettable good times.

I am looking forward with pleasure to many more years here at PF and I am sure everyone who either owns or rents, feels the same way I do.

Happy Anniversary, Paradise Falls.



Old Pavilion at Falls



Playing on the Raft

## What Paradise Falls Means to Our Family

by Rev. Elton P. Richards, Jr.

Paradise Falls has meant more to the Richards' Family than can easily be reduced to words. Our cottage on the hill is much more than a fringe benefit or a summer second home. We have lived in parsonages for my entire ministry and enjoyed the experience, but what a lift it gave our spirits when we bought our little bit of Paradise from the Teters.

We're so thankful to have had the opportunity to join the association while our children were small because their early years at Paradise Falls have been a constant delight to all of us.

Our association is part of us in thought and word much more than deed, for we actually spend a very small portion of the year at Paradise Falls. Yet our experiences and relationships there serve to keep life in perspective. It is so easy to become myopic and ingrown in our attitudes and actions. Even in the church I find myself confusing busyness with the real business of the Kingdom. Jesus had to make people consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air to shake them out of their own feverish activities and put life in perspective. When I consider the tall trees, peaceful lake and relaxed fellowship at Paradise Falls it brings a perspective to my life and ministry that has been salutary in so many ways.

With a deep sense of debt and gratitude we thank all who have given so much of themselves to make our Paradise Falls what it has become in these fifty years. In a society fraught with problems and pettiness and prejudices we shall do all we can as one family to make our association the microcosm of Christian community. We look forward to celebrating a 50th anniversary with so many of our friends.

# What Paradise Falls Means to Me

The Bradley Family

*Marguerite – Napoleon .*

*Nadine – Lenny*

*Our Poodle "Beau-Beau"*

Paradise Falls has come to be a wonderful, rewarding and thankful period in our lives. Though our beginning was - needless to say - a painful one, we as others have found the beauty that comes with sharing and we truly love our vacations at Paradise Falls.

It goes without saying, we think, that we are proud and fortunate to be the owners of Nestledown cottage. What joy, we, our children and many guests have experienced in our cottage and with the membership. We wondered if the old walls and floors would take the stomping and running of little feet, the strange faces and the energetic dancing of the teenagers! We are sure, however, that the walls of the rooms seem to ring back with gladness that "Nestledown" is alive again as it was in the restaurant days with many people coming and going.

Over the past three years our guests from the East coast to as far as the Phillipine Islands, have enjoyed the beauty and restfulness of Paradise Falls. We hope that others are sharing our experiences.

We have kept the name of "Nestledown" not only because of its past history but also because it is truly such a place for us to nestle-down away from our hectic daily lives during the winter.

We are proud of our membership in the association. Paradise Falls Lutheran Association, we salute you and we thank you for your ability to change and for the beauty that is all of ours to share.



Nestledown Dining Room

In our plans of the future, we hope to have a "Hall of Memories" from any old newspaper clippings or pictures that we can find. We invite all at Paradise Falls to "enjoy the old" and "ring in the new" at Nestledown.

Nestledown Lounge







Winter Scene

## What I Would Like Paradise Falls to Become

by Janis Ramsden

In this age of complexity, tension and confusion, it has become more and more difficult to find a place where one is able to retreat from the busy life and take time to get away from it all to nature's beauty and serenity. In the past, Paradise Falls has been this to many of us: a place where parents can take their young children to play and have fun; where teenagers can gather and grow with the exchange of their thoughts and beliefs while at the same time appreciating part of God's beautiful creation; where the elderly can retreat to live in peace; and where we all can come closer to God.

It is difficult to imagine beautiful Paradise Falls in any other way. When I look at Paradise Falls and all it means to me I find it hard to ask for more.

My wish for Paradise Falls is that it will remain a secluded place. I hope that in the years to come, people with the common bond of Christianity can continue to retreat to the hills, to relax, and to ease their minds from the hustle and bustle of the city.

I hope that future generations and families will have the same love for Paradise Falls as our generation does now.

## The Future of Paradise Falls

by Rev. Frank Flisser

Paradise Falls is situated in the center of activities of the Eastern Pennsylvania Pocono area, for years the heart of vacationland, honeymoonland, and now becoming a place for all year round living.

To think that in a matter of minutes one can be in Stroudsburg, the county seat of Monroe County, and one of the finest shopping centers of the Poconos. Paradise Falls is surrounded by attractive and beautiful resort hotels, just to mention a few – Sky Top, Buck Hill Falls, Pocono Manor and Mt. Airy Lodge with its championship PGA courses.

For years tourists have been attracted to the Poconos because of these facilities, especially the great Wallenpaupack Lake which has brought visitors from all over the nation. It is known for its boating, fishing and wonderful swimming facilities. In recent years the Poconos have become an all year round resort with its winter sports, the beautiful Camelback skiing area which is just minutes away from Paradise Falls.

What makes the future even brighter for Paradise Falls, is the wonderful highways that run through the Poconos, and many of them are six lanes in width. The scenery is some of the most beautiful in the nation, since much of the timberland is still untouched.

Developments have sprung up overnight, bringing thousands of people to build homes for relaxation in summer or winter.

Yes, Paradise Falls has a great future, again only minutes away, the turning of the Tocks Island region into one of the largest national parks in our nation, 60,000 acres of land being made available for recreation and conservation purposes. This will attract about 10 million visitors yearly from metropolitan areas.

Can one visualize the future of Paradise Falls? The potential for the whole area of the Poconos is unbelievable. One cannot contemplate the dramatic future of Paradise Falls. We look to the future with eagerness, with opportunities that one cannot imagine. Truly a paradise away from the busyness of our daily life. Certainly it is an exciting journey that lies ahead for the membership at Paradise Falls.

This year, as we review the past 50 years, let us pause for a moment and give thanks to God for the men and women who had the foresight and the courage to build a dream that has come true.



The Rec Hall

## The Future of Paradise Falls

by Adolph Klein

One cannot predict the future unless one glances to the past. I have spent close to thirteen active years on the Board of Paradise Falls and experienced many changes. One thing that concerned many members at that time was the debt. Many were skeptical for the future.

Since that time the debt has been absorbed by the cottage owners who today own outright the 437 acres of land. Many improvements since have been made.

Major repairs to the dam, the dredging of the lake, liquidating sunset cottage, farm house, carriage house, nestledown, brown and white cottage. Most of these buildings were empty and deteriorating.

They have been turned into income for Paradise Falls. The demolition of the store and gift shop and replacing of same with the adult lounge was a step forward. I have seen old equipment re-

placed with new, so at the time of this writing I can say that all our equipment is in good shape. Roads, due to the gravel type have to constantly be maintained. Much money has been spent on them in the past with one thing in mind, the future.

With these improvements one cannot help but feel optimistic as to the future of Paradise Falls. This optimism has been so felt by the members that many are now making Paradise Falls their permanent home and many more are planning to do the same. It is common to see improvements being made to all the cottages, summer cottages turned into all year round homes with wells being drilled for permanent living.

Changes and improvements have been made for the good of Paradise Falls and the future looks great.

Many new faces appear on the grounds and they feel very optimistic for the Falls.

So far I have dealt only with the material things. The grounds will continue to give us beauty, shade and clean air. The water in our stream will continue to run.

You can neglect the beauty; the roads, the buildings, you can destroy.

So the future depends on the people (the members). As a member I must have my heart and soul in Paradise Falls. I must build and not destroy, keep the gift of God beautiful and keep it as God has meant it to be.

The future of Paradise Falls is great! It is no longer principally a summer resort but it is becoming a year round colony.



Adult Lounge

## The Future of Paradise Falls

by John V. Lindholm

John Galsworthy stated the case so well in the Swan Song as

"If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one".

So it is with Paradise Falls Lutheran Association which, according to a banking friend, is better known in the valley as "PF". Rather than describing what types of future might face the association in 2022 AD with a scenario dealing in the extremes of -

PF will be an oasis in the sea of swirling humanity with members commuting daily from Cresco (now a metropolis of high rise compartments) to the city of New Philadelphia which consolidated the major cities of NYC, Philadelphia, Newark, Allentown and all intermediary points of interest into one of the three regional megopolis' stretching from Maine to Virginia. The future? - perhaps; reality? - no.

Or --

we could spin out a scenario which deals only with the internal changes such as June, 2000 - the board today voted into membership the first family in 20 years who does not intend to live on the grounds year around...Or - after a 7 year debate with local, state, regional, federal, and international environmental authorities Lake Crawford was declared habitable for humans with acceptable algae level.

Let us turn our attention to the more basic question of Why a future for PF? If we - together - are able to see the forest on this point, then we might tackle the next step of what the future might hold from perspectives including changes from both within and without. Some strands to this question might be found in our past. Patrick Henry in a speech before the Virginia Convention in 1775 said:

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past".

In casting a backward view at PF's history, one is attracted by those central values which are evident across families and generations and play a role for extending life into the future. These values ebb and flow around the following:

- \* Sanctuary - from the busyness and busyness of our daily pressure packed, crisis laden, over-extended, under-productive lives.
- \* Community - in the variety and uniqueness of our friends and friendships formed, extended and strengthened across families and generations. The true extension of the past into the now into the future.
- \* Reflection - in the closeness of nature to life through relaxing walking with chance meetings of friends in the budding spring or crisp autumn dusk.
- \* Relationships - in and among families which are nurtured when time and distance bring back memories of the BIG reunion at PF or the fashion show when Mr. so and so did such and such...and on and on.
- \* Renewal - in the spiritual fiber through private meditation at the falls and Sunday worship experiences during the season which linger and are recalled during the long dark winter's evening.

If we - as a community who are as similar as dissimilar, unique in our differences yet united in our concerns, might identify and invest in these values of sanctuary, community, reflection, renewal, and relationships - then a future for PF appears worthy of our investment not of financial means necessarily, but of self, remembering the words of the writer of Proverbs:

Man plans his journey by his own wit, but it is the Lord who guides his steps

Proverbs 19:9

# Sunset on Lake Crawford

by Mrs. Fullmer

Ere the shades of night are falling,  
Ere the sun is sinking low,  
Then upon the Lake the sunset,  
Fills the valley with its glow.

Full upon its placid waters,  
Trees and shrubs reflected there,  
Broken by its gentle ripples,  
Frame a panorama fair.

"The Spray" August 11, 1950

Herman and Gladys Mariano are our newest cottagers and are building near Lake Crawford.



Mariano cottage under construction

# Property and the Cottages

by George S. Teter

Paradise Falls began as a hotel-cottage complex, financed by memberships sold to Lutherans. Membership certificates entitled the members to the use of a lot on which a cottage could be erected.

In addition to the 85 private cottages on the grounds, the Deaconess community operates two cottages, one provided for them by Mr. A. Raymond Raff, the original donor of Paradise Falls, the other a bequest of Mrs. Frederick Brezinski.

The early plans envisioned a hotel "on the hill", a golf course, and a lake near the D. L. and W. tracks. After these plans were abandoned the lake at the present location was built.

In 1958, after financial reverses and the flood of 1955 the entire concept of PF as a hotel and cottage operation changed. Paradise Falls became a cottage colony.

The 1955 flood came closest to being a major disaster. The dam held, with water rising ten feet above its top. The bridge below the dam held, but the road adjoining it was washed out, taking with it the buildings of the then discontinued Girls' Camp, the two bridges at the Falls and the picnic pavilion. It was necessary to rebuild the road and one of the bridges, the picnic pavilion at the Falls, and tons of earth were required to cover exposed roots of trees in the Falls area. In addition, a major clean-up of the lake was needed due to heavy silt accumulation. The basic water supply held.

Presently, our water supply is provided by two wells and a reservoir at the top of the hill. In addition, there is provision for emergency water supply from the well at Gate Lodge.

Many buildings presently used as cottages were formerly farm houses or barns, or PF property.

Present or Former Name	Present Owner	Formerly
Gate Lodge	PFLA	Farm House (Harvey Dietrich)
Social Hall	PFLA	Barn (Harvey Dietrich)
Nestledown	Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Bradley	Barn (Dimmic Dietrich)
Dietrich House	Rev. and Mrs. Robert Bauers	Farm House (Dimmic Dietrich)
Carriage House	Rev. and Mrs. John Mangum	Garage for Autos
Sunset Cottage	Mr. and Mrs. Gennaro Ruggiero	Boyhood Home of Harold Heydt
Abend Ruhe	Rev. and Mrs. James Christ	Farm House (Abend Ruhe Farm)
Kidd-Nap	Mr. and Mrs. John Lindholm	Farm House (Lasher Farm)
Frank Schmidt Cottage	Mrs. Frank Schmidt	Barn (James Heydt Farm)
Brown Cottage	Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Ehinger	Built for Guests
White Cottage	Mr. and Mrs. William Gilbert	Built for Guests



**ACKER, Rev. Martin Luther & Irene E.**  
**"Deer Woods"**  
 Harold Heydt  
 Paul F. Holloway  
 Misses Magda & Frieda Kretschmar  
 William H. Jenkins  
 Built by Harry Hulbert in 1927-28

The cottage pictures on the next 17 pages have been taken by Rev. George B. Ammon over the years. Information about the cottages is arranged as follows:

1. Present owner(s)
2. Name of cottage (if there is one)
3. Predecessor (from most recent to original owner)
4. Date of building and builder's name

The 1967 perimeter survey on page 32 shows how the present 437 acres are divided. It also gives location of fire hose connections, new road names and new cottage numbers.



**ARDELL, Mrs. M. Alberta**  
**"Koons Hollow"**  
 Mrs. Martin L. Koons  
 Martin Luther Koons  
 Built by Harvey Hoffman in 1925



**AMMON, Rev. George B. & Anna Mary**  
**"Lanco Pines"**  
 Mrs. Gertrude Messner  
 Built by the Messners in 1931

**ACKER, Richard T.**  
 Rev. & Mrs. Martin Acker, Sr.  
 Built by Harold Heydt in 1946



**BATES, Harold O. & Annete D.**  
**"Bateswood"**  
 Mrs. Laura Miller Blithe  
 Built by Wm. Shiffer in 1929





BAUERS, Rev. Robert M. & Dorothy W.  
 "Hill House"  
 PFLA Dietrich House  
 Dimmic Dietrich Farmhouse  
 Builder unknown



DE PAUL, Dr. Robert & Anna R.  
 "DePaul's Trip's End"  
 Rev. David C. Burnite  
 John Kuehner  
 Marie Roeth  
 Built by H. S. Hulbert in 1927



CHRIST, Rev. James B. & Maxine M.  
 "Abend Ruhe"  
 PFLA  
 Mary J. Drexel Home  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Braun  
 A. Raymond Raff - Abend Ruhe Farmhouse  
 Builder unknown

BRADLEY, Napoleon & Marguerite  
 "Nestledown"  
 Burton Mitchell  
 PFLA Nestledown Inn  
 Dimmic Dietrich Barn  
 Builder unknown



DITTMER, Dr. Luther A. & Dr. Ingeborg  
 "Ingedell"  
 Clarence & Marie Dittmer  
 Built by Clinton Keller in 1931





**EHINGER, Wendell & Elizabeth**  
Robert R. & Margaret E. Dorn  
PFLA Brown Cottage  
Built by William Vernoy in 1929



**EISENBERG, Dr. H. Grant & Carolyn W.**  
"The Birches"  
Dr. & Mrs. George Fisher  
Built by builder from his area  
near Reading, in 1926



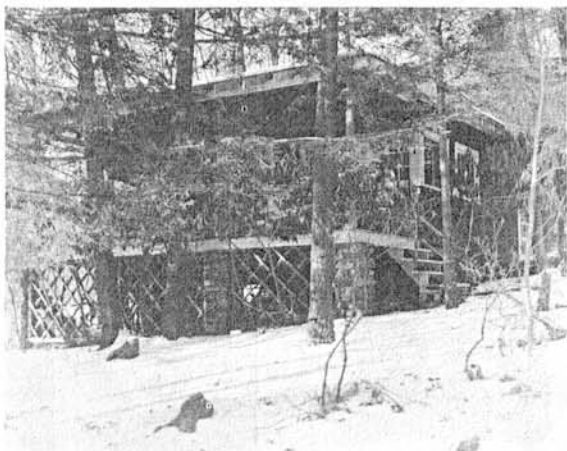
**EHRIG, John P. & Ida**  
Oscar Bernd  
Built by Floyd Cortright in 1932



**EHRIG, Mrs. Nora**  
Dr. & Mrs. Philip Ehrig  
Robert Peterson  
Mrs. Elizabeth Swing Taylor  
Miss Amy Strode  
Built by Harry S. Hulbert in 1929



**ELSON, W. Paul**  
Miss Delma Elson  
Dr. Henry W. Elson  
Built by Earl F. Tygert in 1928



FINK, George E. & Dorothy H.  
"Roads End"  
Dr. Erich Voehringer  
Mrs. Paul C. Whipp & Daughter  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1928

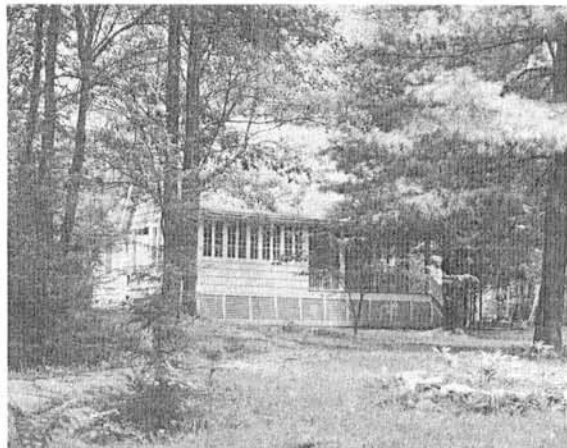


FRITZ, William & Sandra  
"Schnee Glöckchen"  
Alvin Pederson  
Vernon Stover  
Mrs. M. Frances Goeckel  
J. Constantine & M. Frances Goeckel  
Built by Clinton Keller in 1937



FLOTHMEIER, Rev. Ernest  
"Winfried"  
Rev. Ernest & Mrs. Alwine Flothmeier  
Rev. & Mrs. F. Flothmeier  
Built by Wm. Vernoy in 1931

FLISSER, Rev. Frank & Martha E.  
Rev. Asa Wohlsen  
Dr. Charles Bowman  
Built by men from Allentown area in 1932



FRY, Rev. Harold C. & Martha K.  
"Tranquil Timbers"  
Mrs. Etty Engel  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1946



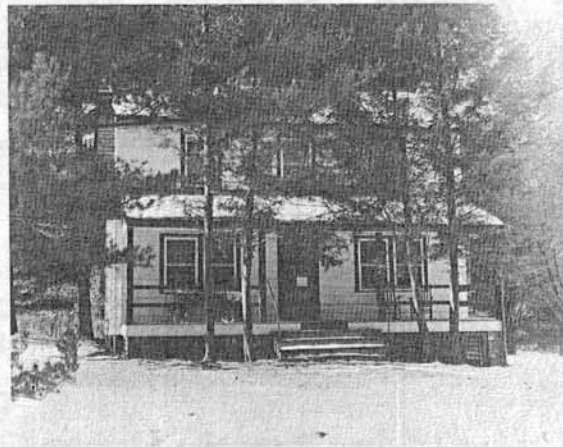




**GAUPP, Albert & Johanna**  
"Whispering Pines"  
Mrs. Hilda Downing  
Frederick . & Arlene C. Sauerwein  
Harvey E. Ulrich  
V. W. Meng  
Built by Floyd Cortright in 1933

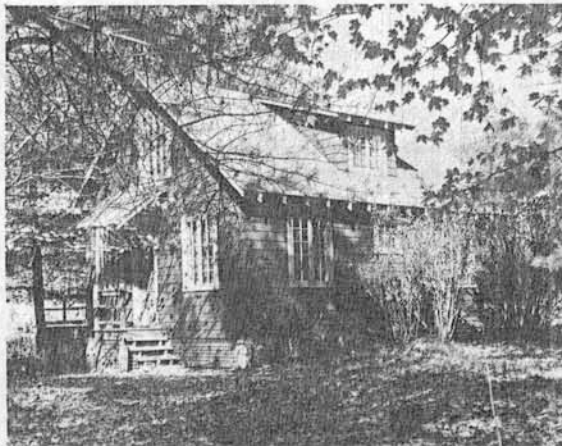


**HAAG, Richard W. & Edna S.**  
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Haag  
Built by William Vernoy in 1937



**GILBERT, William & Kathleen N.**  
PFLA White Cottage  
Built by William Vernoy in 1929

**GIBNEY, Rev. Herbert & Dorothy T.**  
"Schlupfwinkel" (Hideaway)  
Rev. David G. Jaxheimer  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1927



**HAASE, Miss Ruth E.**  
Mr. Adolph & Miss Ruth E. Haase  
Mrs. Adolph (Emma E.) Haase  
Built by William Vernoy in 1929

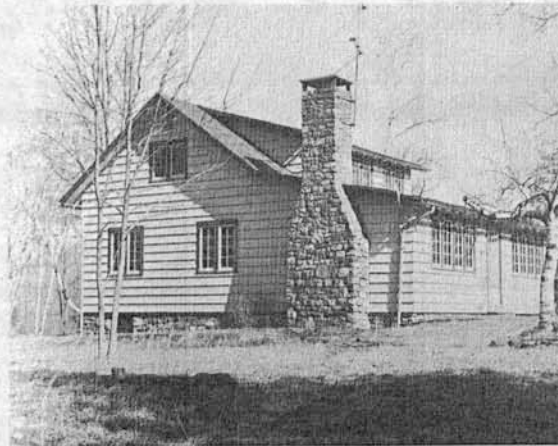




**HAUGLUND, Eskild & Christa**  
"Dania"  
Max & Lidy Pohl  
William Angerman  
Dr. Emil E. Fischer  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1929



**HEYDT, Harold E. & Hilda D.**  
"Cloud Nine"  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1964



**HERTZA, Edith B. & HENDRICKS, Helen B.**  
"Lakeview"  
Daniel Moyer  
Erwin W. Moyer  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1939

**HERGENHAN, Rev. Arthur W. & Mildred F.**  
Miss Anna Mahler  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1930



**HOYT, J. Curtis & Jean M.**  
"Eureka"  
Frank Mueller  
Original Structure built by  
Harry Hulbert in 1925, burned in 1934.





**JACOBS, Miss Margaret**  
**"Fallscrest"**  
Charles Jacobs  
Louis Walters  
Fred & Anna J. Fischer  
Built by Quakertown area builder in 1926



**KIDD, Mrs. Elizabeth**  
Dr. Frederick W. Meng  
Built by William Shiffer in 1928



**JOHNSON, Dwight L. & Florence M.**  
**"Suits Us"**  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1961

**JACOBSEN, Mrs. John E.**  
Rev. Alford Naus  
Mrs. Gomer Rees  
Dr. Spieker  
Built by Clinton Keller in 1931



**KLEIN, Adolph & Mae**  
Built in 1958





**KNAUS, Mrs. Elsie**  
"Wald-Eck Cottage"  
Carl Breischaf  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1927



**KUHNLE, Louis F. & Wilma B.**  
"Edelweis"  
Built by Harold Smith in 1966



**KUCERICK, Edwin A. & Doris E.**  
Arthur Leberknight  
Erwin W. Moyer  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1935-36

**KOENIG, Robert C. & Elsie**  
"Koenig Castle"  
Rudolph J. Hiller  
Max Moessner  
Harry M. Nofer  
Miss Florence Logan  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1925



**LINDHOLM, John V. & Ann L.**  
Mrs. Anna F. Kidd  
Rev. & Mrs. Harvey S. Kidd  
Lasher Farmhouse  
Remodeled in 1925 - Builder unknown





**LONG, Rev. Alfred L. & Marie E.**  
"Long Pines"  
Mrs. Alice L. Lucas  
Miss Florence Tienken  
Built by Earl Tygert in 1930



**MATHIAS, Rev. Charles A. & Evelyn J.**  
David Miller  
Mrs. Carrie Kreckman  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1927



**MANGUM, Rev. John M. & Margaret M.**  
PFLA Carriage House - Built 1926  
Rebuilt by local persons in 1961

**MAC LEAN, Wyeth & Mildred L.**  
Built by Harold Smith in 1963



**MATTHY, Edward C. & Roberta K.**  
Built by Harold Smith in 1967





**MELVILLE, Sister Anna (Deaconess Cottage)  
Mrs. Frieda Brezinski  
Rev. & Mrs. Frederick Brezinski  
Built by Earl Tygert in 1930**



**MORENTZ, James W. & Doris C.  
Mrs. Paul (Louise C.) Morentz  
Rev. & Mrs. Paul I. Morentz  
Built by William Vernoy in 1935**



**MILLER, Rev. Ernest & Helen K.  
Elmer F. & Claire K. Hermansdoerfer  
Mrs. Frederick P. (Clara) Rossman  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1927**

**MEYER, Herbert F. & Mildred M.  
L. W. & B. M. Bitner  
Built by Earl Tygert in 1928**

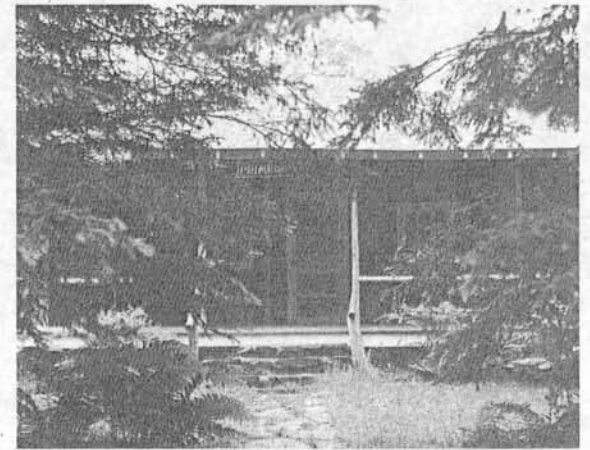


**MOSER, Joyce  
"Idle Ours"  
George & Esther Ney  
Miss Esther Koons  
Built by Harvey Hoffman in 1926**





**MOYER, Henry C. & Eleanor  
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Moyer  
Built by William Vernoy in 1937**



**NEFF, Charles K. & Noreen H.  
"Primrose"  
Miss S. Marie Huppert  
Paul W. Ohl  
Nora R. Ohl  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1925**



**NAUS, Ramon R. & Sonia H.  
Mrs. Bertha Crawford  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1939**

**MOYER, Jay P. & Beatrice R.  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1951**



**NEUHARDT, Sister Catherine  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hoehn  
Rev. Elwood Schwenck  
Built by Clinton Keller in 1931**





**NIEBAUM, Dr. Albert H. & Cora K.**  
"The Hemlocks"  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1963



**REISCH, Rev. Paul & Catherine**  
Miss Clara Klee  
Built by Clinton Keller in 1937



**RAMSDEN, David H. & Wilma S.**  
"Woodsedge"  
Rev. Edward O. & Elizabeth Lukens  
Percy Fell  
Clarence Ackerman  
Built by the family in 1930

**PHILLIPS, John M. & Eva K.**  
Rev. John Miller  
William C. Buckner  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1925



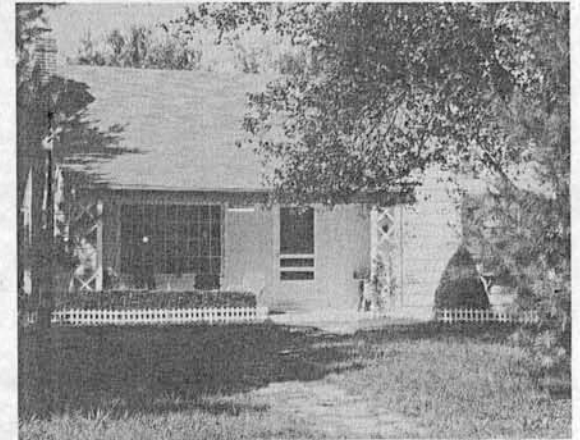
**RICHARDS, Rev. Elton Jr. & Anne S.**  
George & Irma Teter  
John K. & Edith Johnson  
Charles Roswell  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1937







**RUGGIERO, Gennaro & Elaine**  
**"Sunset"**  
**PFLA**  
**Builder unknown**  
**(Former home of Harold Heydt's Parents)**



**SCHMIDT, Rev. Ernst G. & Jane C.**  
**"The Last Resort" — "The Schmidt's"**  
**Rev. Ernst & Marguerita Schmidt**  
**Built by John Muntz in 1950**



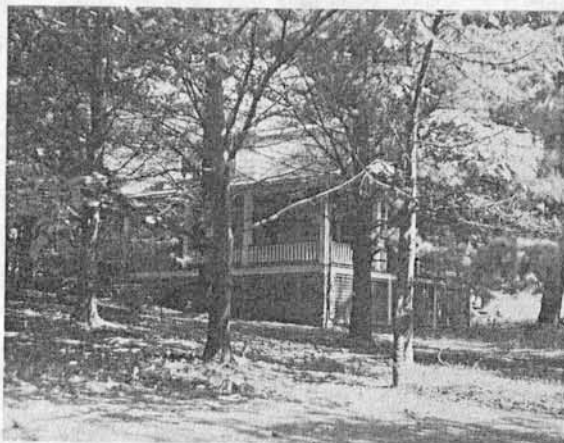
**SCHAFFNER, Mrs. Ruth B.**  
**"Wit's End"**  
**Dr. & Mrs. John Schaffner**  
**Frank & Elsie Hersh**  
**Rev. H. P. C. Cressman**  
**Built by Earl Tygert in 1928**

**SAUERWEIN, Frederick J. & Arlene C.**  
**"Happy Talk"**  
**Built by Harold Smith in 1967**



**SCHMIDT, Mrs. Frank (Elva S.)**  
**Milton Tallardy**  
**Mrs. Maud S. Feldman**  
**Rev. W. H. Stutts**  
**Barn - remodeled by**  
**William Vernoy in 1932**





**SCHOLL, Rev. Paul M.  
Rev. Paul M. & Dr. Violet Kidd Scholl  
Rev. Paul Hoh  
Herbert H. Faber  
Charles P. Faber  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1928**



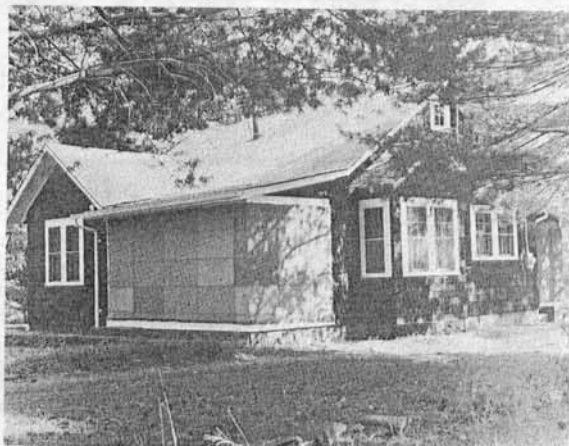
**SEEMILLER, Mrs. Helen  
Walter & Helen Seemiller  
William G. & Helen F. Voit  
Harrison & Mary Taylor  
Mrs. L. & Miss D. Hampfler  
Oscar & Margaret Heyen  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1929**



**SCHULER, Miss Anna L.  
"Schajawonge" (On the Side of a Hill)  
Built by Earl Tygert in 1928**

**SEGRAVES, John W. & Beulah A.  
Mrs. Hilda Van Natten  
James & Hilda Van Natten  
Rev. Charles Kern  
Walter Gordon  
Rev. August Pohlman  
John R. Lemmert  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1926**

**SCHROEDER, Martin G. & Margaret N.  
August G. & Rhoda Ries  
Miss Bessie Kleibacher  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1935**





**SHETLOCK, Rev. Bela & Louise W.**  
"Rualpa"  
Built by Harold Heydt in 1935

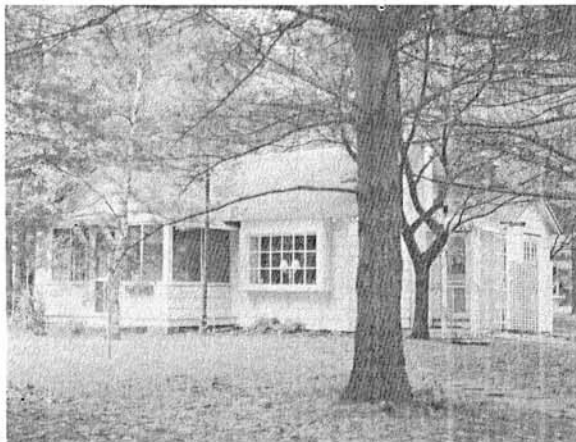


**STEVENS, Linford & Alice**  
"Woodland Echoes"  
Mrs. Stover  
Built by Floyd Cortright in 1933



**STEIN, Mrs. Russell**  
Rev. Ralph Hartzell  
Rev. H. W. Fitting  
Built by William Shiffer in 1928

**SPACHT, Carl E. & Dorothy**  
Rev. Rufus Kern  
Mrs. Charles Haines  
Built by Dr. Haines in 1931



**STIELAU, Edward R. & Lydia P.**  
John Hoyt  
Built by Floyd Cortright in 1932





**SWARTZ, Russell**  
 Rev. Bernard & Jeanne Thorpe  
 Rev. Erich Voehringer  
 Built by Rev. Voehringer and Friends in 1957



**TITUS, Mrs. Marion V.**  
 Miss Emma Van Gilleuwe  
 Built by Harold Heydt in 1934



**THORPE, Rev. Bernard N. & Jeanne L.**  
 "Stonehenge"  
 Joseph & Elizabeth Clifford  
 James & Hilda Van Natten  
 Rev. Clifford Hays  
 Built by Milton Storm in 1928

**TREISBACH, George J. & Frances M.**  
 Rev. Charles & Ruth C. Kerschmar  
 Rudolph & Catherine Burnett  
 Built by Harold Heydt in 1936



**TETER, George S. & Irma F.**  
 Rev. Jacob Flegler  
 Built by Clinton Keller in 1928





**VIKNER, Rev. David & Louise L.  
Joseph & Elizabeth Clifford  
Misses Elsie & Florence Hines  
Built by Frank Stanisci in 1951**



**ZIEDONIS, Rev. Arvids Jr. & Zigrida  
Rev. Klaus & Irene Molzahn  
Harry Klauswitz  
Rev. Dr. Henry Fisher  
Rev. Allen Fisher  
Builder from his area, in 1932**



**WESTERMAN, William E. & Alice B.  
Miss Anna M. Spachman  
Built by Clinton Keller in 1930**

**WERKHEISER, Linford A. & Pauline E.  
Mrs. Irene E. Kuntz  
Built by Harry Hulbert in 1926**



**ZIEGLER, Rev. Edgar & Dorothy D.  
Miles Keasey  
Built by Mr. Keasey, Foundation  
by Harold Heydt in 1935**

