

The
"delights,
comfort
and sport"
of the



. . . "no summer resort or outing can contain the delights,
comfort and sport that a . . . sojourn in the social camp
affords" From an early club publication.

**A
History
of the
Sharon Social Fishing
Club**

1891-1981

By
G. A. Harshman

Produced by Whitehead-Eagle Corp.
whose founder, Walter Whitehead, was
an early club member

FOREWARD

My recollections of the founders' stories of the early days, a sojourn at camp in 1931 — now 50 years ago — and participation in many encampments since, had, I thought, given me a special feeling for the Sharon Social Fishing Club.

But it was not until beginning work on this history that I came to fully appreciate the significance of this unique organization. We are fortunate that the present secretary has in his keeping the original minute book, dating back to the founding in 1891. Transcribed in long hand, it is remarkably legible (penmanship having been a valued art in those days.)

To spend time poring over its entries is to relive the history of the club, to visualize those early experiences and to get to know the men whose names appear so frequently, Henlan, Williams, DeForeest, Phillips, Printz, Reyer, Carley and, in the latter days, MacMillen, McDowell, Warren, Murray, Sass, Aye and many, many more.

Roll Call of Leaders

Another treasure, of course, is the registration book we all sign at camp, with the names of all members and guests who have ever been there. It, too, contains a wealth of information and in its pages the record of the men who have enjoyed Muskoka over the years. It is a roll call of the business and professional leaders of Sharon (and Salem) over nine decades. Since the days of P. T. Davis, Clearfield, Pa. also has been represented.

It is unfortunate that we did not talk to them more and get their stories. We know so little, for example, about the trip to camp by train, as was the custom until the early 30's.

We have attempted to list each former member by years of membership but in some cases the record is incomplete. Thus the history is not perfect but as accurate as we could make it with the material at hand.

We have made no attempt to include all the stories that might be told about life at camp. No book could contain them all, even if the author knew them all. Their telling is left for the time when Fishing Club men get together, whether on the shores of "Old Musköky" or elsewhere.

That this poor attempt to record our history may bring to present and future generations an understanding and appreciation of what has gone before is the hope of

. . . The Author

*Dedicated to:
the Founders, who brought Muskoka Fever to Sharon
and thereby started something.*

"Muskoka" has been well-known in certain quarters of Sharon for 90 years.

Muskoka Lake gives its name to the beautiful region in Ontario some 120 miles north of Toronto, and has been the mecca of Sharon men on holiday since 1891.

It all started when 16 men were guests of The Solid Comfort Club of Mercer on Tondern Island.

They were:

M. Zahniser, William Henlan, S. Marsden, Enoch Filer, P. F. Davis, John McClure, John Elliott, Walter Palmer, Frank Clark, C. A. Hazen, T. D. McFarland, James Claffey, John P. Neiler, A. L. Beck, H. G. DeForest and M. L. Williams.

The experience was described in this manner:

"... so much enjoyment was had and so much physical benefit derived that it was resolved to organize a party of Sharon gentlemen for an annual encampment."

Founded — 1891

On October 13, 1891 a preliminary meeting was held at the Sharon National Bank and the club, to be called the Sharon Social Fishing Club, was organized with the following officers: William Henlan, president; C. A. Hazen, secretary and M. Zahniser, treasurer.

Those who had been at Muskoka, with the addition of George L. Williams, were listed as the organizing members.

Membership was limited to 31 (now 45), the membership fee was set at \$20 and dues at \$5 per year. Later it was reduced to \$2.50. It goes without saying that these have increased in the intervening years.

Look for Land

Later, H. G. DeForest and M. L. Williams — members of whose families are still active in the club — were appointed to go to Muskoka to find land as a location for a camp.

The land, purchased from Edward Prowse — a name long connected with Tondern Island history — is that in use today. We are not told the

price but in 1896 there was a proposal to sell it for \$2,000. Fortunately, nothing came of it. At another time one acre was bought for \$100.

The original by-laws were adopted in 1892 and the charter of incorporation issued.

First Camp Planned

With a site secured, the coming of summer saw arrangements for transportation by way of a Pullman car on the Erie Railroad. (Later the Pennsylvania was used.) The cost was \$55 for a sleeper and \$13.55 each for rail fare. The train took members to Gravenhurst with the remainder of the voyage to camp by steamer.

Committees necessary in those days were transportation, baggage, commissary, grievance and bait. The latter received great attention since fishing was the major activity. Arrangements had to be made for as much as 40 to 50 quarts of worms. Sometimes they were obtained in Canada, sometimes boys were employed to gather them from wet-down Sharon lawns.

The grievance committee was "empowered to adopt and post rules to govern the party while in camp and have power to settle any disagreement which may arise."

Tents Precede Clubhouse

In that year also, a committee was appointed to arrange for "kitchen, tent floors and bunks." Soon four boats were purchased, at \$40 and \$42 each.

Twenty new members were taken in.

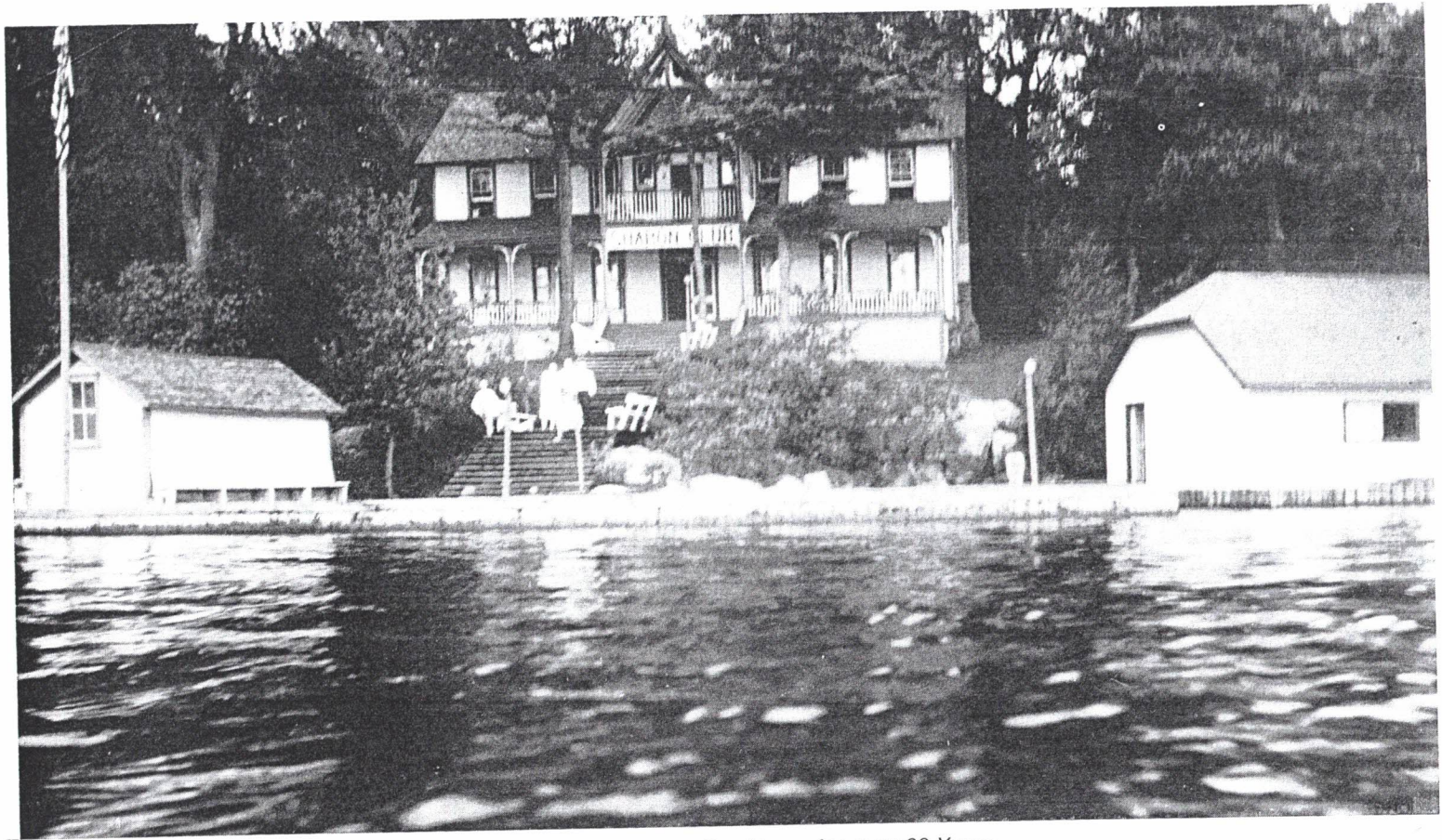
Plans were made for erection of a clubhouse. Until it was ready tents provided shelter.

Also of great importance to the forefathers was a barber. Pains were taken to see that one was engaged, either American or Canadian, and mention is made of a shop on the premises. Until the fire (of which more later) an old-fashion barber chair was in evidence in the club house.

Barber Important

In 1892 the minutes show the employment of Joe Daus as cook's assistant with wages to be board and expenses. Mr. Daus was later a barber in Sharon and perhaps took care of tonsorial needs together with his other duties.

Alton Heutsche, who was a camp boy in the 20's, tells of shaving one of the members each morning for which he got the then-munificent sum of \$5 each day.



Original Clubhouse — Our Home for over 60 Years

Until the death of George Williams in 1925 meetings were held in the Williams shoe store, now a part of McDowell Bank.

As now, the annual meeting was held in October, with frequent meetings prior to and in preparation for the encampment.

In 1892 was held the first banquet. A copy of the program is displayed in the club house. It was held at the Carver House, Sharon's leading hotel of that day. The price was \$1.25 per person.

In that same year docks were constructed and members voted to adopt a uniform — blue flannel shirt and corduroy pants.

Williams Veteran Secretary

M. L. Williams was secretary for most of the life of the club until his death in 1941. It is thanks to his fine script that the material is accessible to us. Later he was secretary of the Sharon School Board, where his books won wide praise for neatness and accuracy. His salary in the early years was \$5 annually. He was a trustee for 40 consecutive years.

When in his 80's, he promised Mrs. Williams he would give up his habit of a morning plunge in the lake ("But I didn't say the bath house," he confided to a friend.)

Although the encampment never took place over the Fourth of July (starting as now in late July) fireworks were always an item of the purchase list, possibly for a Canadian celebration.

Receipts \$698

Report of the audit committee in 1896 showed camp receipts of \$698.14 with \$623.31 spent. Present members may wish to compare.

At about this time authorization was given for the building of a cottage on the grounds, probably the present help quarters.

Mention of the first orchestra at the camp was made in 1896.

In 1899 a wood-burning stove (six-lid) was purchased . . . This was to be a means of cooking for many years.

At this time first appears the mention of the Walker name when it was moved to engage Mr. Walker (Harper's father) and his "yacht."

The ice house was built at a cost of \$35. It has since been remodeled as a room for the boys.

In the minutes of 1900 there appears this resolution:

"Any physician who has been recently exposed to smallpox and who has been elected a guest of the coming encampment be requested not to accompany the club to camp."

Members voted to donate \$10 to the prize fund of the sailing regatta sponsored by the Muskoka Lakes Association.

Improvements Come Fast

The Beaumaris Hotel, which burned in the 30's, flourished in those early days and in the quaint language of the time was described thusly:

"It is truly a delightful place for a summer vacation for the ladies but for the gentlemen, who have been for eleven months absorbed in business and confined to their offices or other indoor employment, no summer resort or outing can contain the delights, comfort and sport that a four-week sojourn in the social camp affords."

By 1901 stock sold for \$75; Dudley Taylor was employed as cook for \$2 a day and plans were made for a bath house.

Members felt the need for other added facilities by 1902 and sought bids for an outside privy. Specifications were exact, even to the diameter of the holes . . . (Custom made?)

In that year J. M. Stoner, of Pittsburgh, who was to be a leading member of the club for many years to come, was a guest for the first time. The price of a share of stock had risen to \$100. Such a sizeable sum in those days must have been a reflection of the desirability of membership.

In 1904 we have the establishment of new rates. They were:

	1st Week	2nd	3rd	4th
Member	\$15	\$10	\$ 5	\$ 5
Guest	18	12	10	5

The first proposal for use of the camp at a time other than August, (a common practice today) was first heard in 1907.

Sale Considered

Again came the temptation to sell. The price mentioned at this time was \$15,000. There was no thought of disbanding the club; other property was to be considered. Again, we hear no more of it.

Bill MacMillen, an officer for many years and a longtime president, was first a guest in 1908, as were such well known Sharon men as Fred T. Fruit and S. H. Hadley.

In 1909 appears this amusing resolution:

"Resolved, that in electing guests to our encampment, no one shall be eligible for election who is in such a state of health that he is unable to enter into the recreations enjoyed by the members." (No weaklings need apply.)

The next year the club acknowledged the gift of a piano from J. M. Stoner. This instrument was a club fixture until the fire.

Garvey, Hadley Guests

Hugh J. Garvey and again, Mr. Hadley, were guests in 1910.

At that time guests might be elected as late as on the train en route to camp or at the camp itself.

In 1910 golf is mentioned for the first time as of interest to the members and a contribution of \$50 was made to the Beaumaris Golf Association.

In 1912, H. B. McDowell, second of four generations to become active members, was first a guest.

The year 1913 was known as "the smokey camp." Smoke from forest fires filled the sky, causing boats to be laid up and obscuring Squirrel Island from view. No doubt members helped to fight that fire as they did on many occasions.

That year also it was stressed "that we can hardly do without Capt. Walker and his Bertha May." Later we were to say: "What would camp be without Harper?"

Band Enlivens Camp

In 1914 members of Cave's Orchestra were invited to camp, a custom that enlivened encampments for several years.

Charles E. Bundel, whose drug store was a popular stopping place on the corner since known as Hyde's, died in 1916. He had been a member since 1902. After reference to his "character and worth" and the "affection and esteem in which he was held", the resolution said he "was a true lover of the rod and line. He was the first on the water in the morning and the last to leave in the evening."

The club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1916. A total of 77 members had been on the rolls; 20 had died.

There is no evidence that World War I interfered with the encampments of those years. The writer remembers that in World War II many of our members were in the service, food and drink were rationed in both countries and most young Canadians were away at war.

In 1919, William MacMillen, son-in-law of George Williams, became a member. He later served as president for 13 years.

Members were then paying \$65 for the four-week encampment; guests \$85.

Steve Appears on Scene

Members of more recent vintage will remember Steve Doyle. He was first a guest in 1921 and later a member. So was A. W. ("Dude") McDowell, later to become vice president, then president.



Members of the Vintage of the 1920's

A rule was adopted at that time that no one living further than five miles from Sharon could become a member. Obviously this was never enforced or was soon rescinded.

Harper Walker's name appears in the record for 1925 when he was suggested as caretaker. It is a safe assumption that he was known to the club long before that as helper to his boatman father.

In 1926 a contract was awarded for installation of an electric light plant but it was not installed until some years later.

Bycroft, Forker Guests

John S. Bycroft, Jr. ("Bike"), so much a part of future encampments, officer and trustee for many years, was first a guest in 1927. Henry ("Chick") Forker also was introduced to Muskoka that year.

I have many happy memories of Henry in Canada and elsewhere but one that stands out was when I was first invited to camp and didn't know him as well as I did later. Telling me he was glad to know I was going he said: "I am giving a tea dance Sunday at Baycliff Manor (now Inn on the Bay) and would like you to come". I was flattered and thanked him profusely. It was only when I saw Baycliff for the first time that I knew I had been spoofed.

There was a party at the clubhouse back in 1927, however, that rated mention in the minutes. Invitation was extended to residents all around the lake and the secretary reported "the crowd was immense."

Repairs to the clubhouse and construction of a boat house was ordered in 1930.

In 1931 the practice of submitting names of proposed guests to the membership in advance was adopted. It remains in effect.

Memories of 1931

It was that year that the writer was privileged to be the guest of Bill MacMillen after the camp closed.

Memories of that visit:

The hotel still graced the landscape near the present golf club; at camp, lighting was a carbide system, the only electricity being a single line to serve a small radio; no inside plumbing but a faucet at the back of the clubhouse where one might wash (if the lake was not so utilized) and brush one's teeth; ice was brought in from the nearby ice house (now a remodeled room for the busboys) its contents being cut from the lake in the winter; Mills Store delivering to the dock by steamboat where the cook selected provisions.

In 1934 the board of trustees was expanded to five. At that time the board consisted of President Printz, W. W. MacMillen, C. H. Pearson, J. M. Stoner and Secretary-Treasurer Williams.

Electricity — 1934

Electricity came that year, wash stands the next and a year later a septic tank.

First mention of a club motor boat came in 1936.

In 1937 the club voted Bert Fenstermaker an honorary member. J. H. Wilson was elected to membership, thus beginning "the Salem connection."

By that time members were unanimous in seeking estimates on inside toilets. Modernization was coming fast.

In 1939 it became necessary for members and guests to inform those in charge of the dates they expected to be in camp because of the numbers.

Minutes of the meeting of 1941 tell of the death of J. M. Stoner, who had served as trustee, commissary, master of boats, construction expediter and helped the club in many ways. He had been a member since 1909.

Stoner's Memory Honored

A resolution to his memory said in part:

"His interest in the welfare of our organization was untiring and continually manifested in many ways and it was due in large measure to his personal leadership and attention to all matters which were in the best interests of the club that it reached and maintained its present status and became so important a part of our social and recreational life."

At about this time the by-laws were revised by a committee headed by John H. Evans.

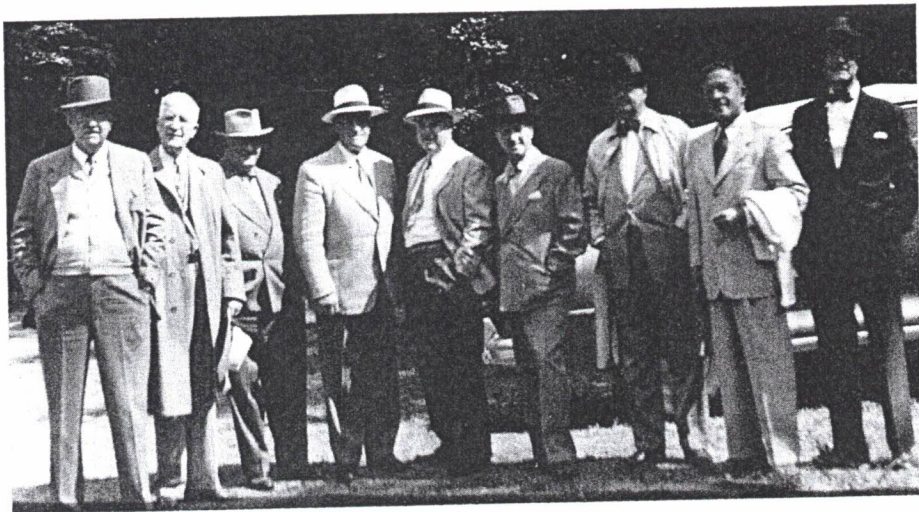
Record snow was reported in the winter of 1943 — a total of 17 feet, 3 inches.

The year 1945 saw the introduction of shower baths and a new stove.

"Punch" McDowell Dies

A resolution in 1947 mourned the death of H. B. (Punch) McDowell which speaks of the place he held in the hearts of his fellow members over a long association. It reads:

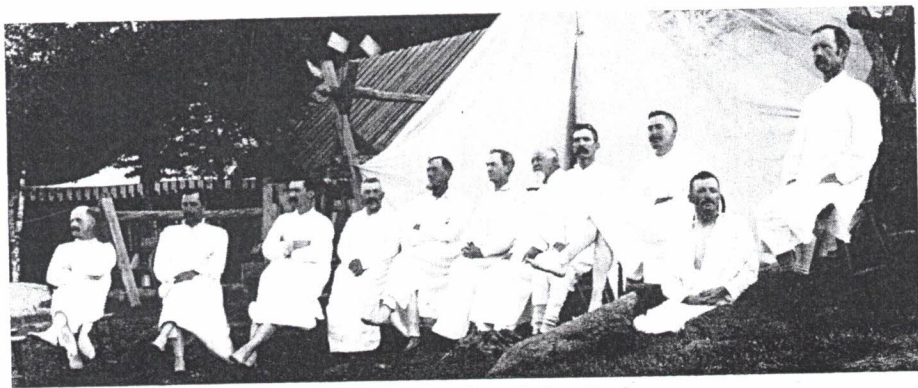
"Three generations of Sharon men have gone to Beaumaris, Ont., each summer to enjoy the fellowship and recreation provided in the Sharon Social Fishing Club.



A Happy Group in the 50's



Another Happy Group



Early Tenters Ready for Bed

"For more than 30 years H. B. McDowell was an active member and enthusiastic participant in its activities. Our hearts are saddened by the thought that because of his untimely passing April 14, 1947, he will not again be with us.

"None will be more sincerely missed and mourned than Vice President H. B. McDowell."

An editorial in the Bracebridge Gazette said:

"He was one of the most popular and dearly loved of all the great Americans who came to our country and he died as he would have wished, enjoying a full life down to his passing." (Death came in a sudden heart attack as he was putting his clubs in the car after golf at French Lick, Ind.

Back at camp, temperatures that next summer broke new records but we are not told how hot it got.

MacMillen is President

Meetings which for some time had been held at the Sharon Country Club began at the Sharon Herald offices. Bill MacMillen became president in 1948 and George Warren was a guest.

The practice of investigating and reviewing applications for membership was begun in 1950 with appointment of a membership committee. That year your present president, Dr. Robert E. Sass, was a guest.

The winter of 50-51 took out the dock and caused other damage.

In 1952 George Warren was elected secretary, beginning a period of outstanding service to the club.

It was at that time that the by-laws were changed to require mailing the list of proposed guests to the members not later than June.

Minute Book Retired

These are the last minutes recorded in the 60 year old minute book and the secretary was authorized to buy a new one. Neatly done type-written pages serve the researcher from here on.

The minutes deplore the presence of only 13 guests and action is urged to correct the situation. (A contrast with recent experience.)

Camp manager in 1953 was George Hoelzle with Jack Shilling as his assistant.

Hurricane "Hazel" did some damage to the property in 1954. During the encampment of that year and the next John Lyons was manager.

Officers were authorized to contract for rewiring the clubhouse in early 1956. Ironically, on June 3, only two weeks later, the building was destroyed by fire when President MacMillen threw the main switch only to have it receive a full surge of power due to damaged transformer. Vice President McDowell, second member of the annual inspection team, went to Milford Bay for assistance but firemen were unable to save the building. Ancient timbers burned like tinder.

New Building Planned

Quick action followed after the shock of the loss of our 73-year-old home had subsided. On June 15 a meeting was held and a building committee appointed consisting of W. J. McCune, chairman, J. H. Wilson, W. W. MacMillen, George S. Warren, Jr. and Edward F. Resch.

Arrangements were made for encampment at Tamarac, now Tamwood Lodge. It proved to be an enjoyable experience with 26 guests and 21 members taking part. The Taylor property adjoining the camp was offered for \$25,000 and some thought was given to its purchase. But sentiment to rebuild on our own land prevailed and in January of 1957 the contract for the building was awarded to William Muddiman.

The story is told in a pair of telegrams on display in the clubhouse. From Warren Jan. 7 is one reading: "Proceed". Muddiman's reply on July 31 "Completed."

Modern, New Club

So that summer we were greeted by a new club, on modern lines and of modern materials but following generally the layout of the old. C. H. Banse was architect.

The next year (1958) was the election of such members as Bob Sass, Hank Forker and Don Hittle.

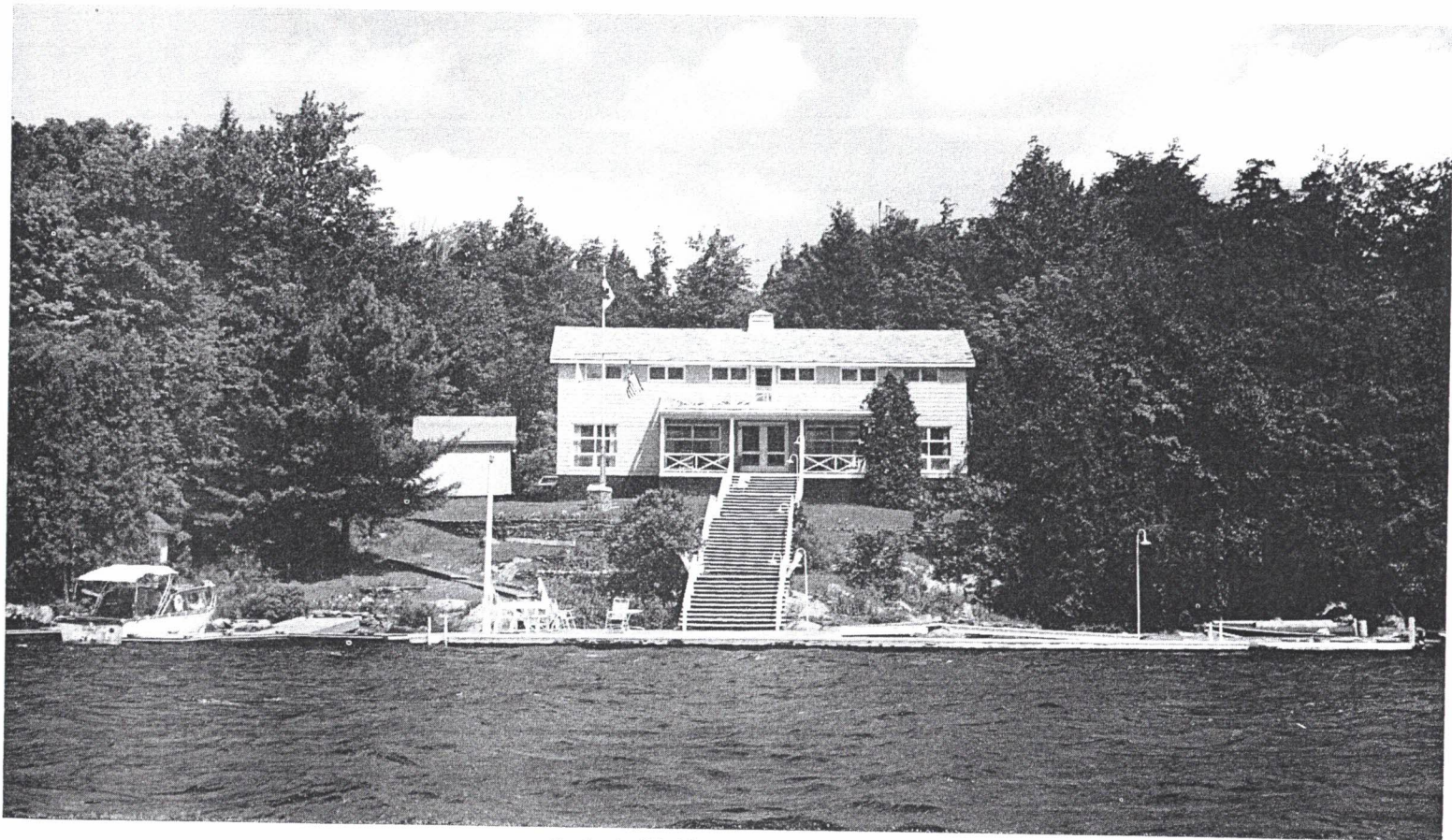
The by-laws were revised, as they were on several other occasions, this time by a committee headed by T. H. Armstrong.

President MacMillen, by this time not in the best of health, was elected president emeritus in 1961, thus ending an active association with the club which had begun in 1907. He died in 1966.

In that year the by-laws were changed to provide for cancellation of membership certificates. William DeForeest, Jr. became a member.

New officers were A. W. McDowell, president; George S. Warren, Jr., vice president and Thomas V. Murray, secretary.

Another club stalwart, "Obie" Cricks, began his membership in 1962 followed a year later by present secretary, Tom Aye.



Today's Clubhouse, Built in 1957

Fish Become Scarce

It was in that year that Steve Doyle reported that for the first time in the many years of going to Muskoka he had not had a single strike all summer and urged calling upon the fish commission to restock the lake.

In 1964 Salem members donated \$200 for a cupola on the club.

Guy Walls will be remembered as the manager that year and George Singer in 1965.

At the annual banquet at Sharon in 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Harper Walker and Bob Muddiman were guests.

On October 6, 1967 Harper Walker died and the club was never to be the same again. William DeForeest, Jr. was appointed head of a committee to prepare a suitable memorial.

The year also marked the passing of H. B. McDowell, Jr. and James H. Wilson and in 1968 President "Dude" McDowell died.

Officers that year were the following:

T. V. Murray, president; J. S. Bycroft, Jr., vice president; Robert E. Sass, secretary, William P. Goodrick, treasurer.

The following resolution was passed upon the retirement of George Warren as vice president:

Warren's Effort Praised

"Whereas George S. Warren, Jr. has contributed his time over the past 16 years and a large amount of effort for the betterment of the club and in 1957 was instrumental in formulative plans and carrying out their construction for our present improved clubhouse, it is resolved that he be duly commended with the appreciation of the membership in this matter."

In 1969 Bill Goodrick retired as treasurer and was given a vote of appreciation for his service to the club. Bill DeForeest succeeded him as treasurer. George DeHoff was club manager.

In 1970, an official flag, designed by Louise Munsch, was adopted and reproductions made to be worn on members' jackets.

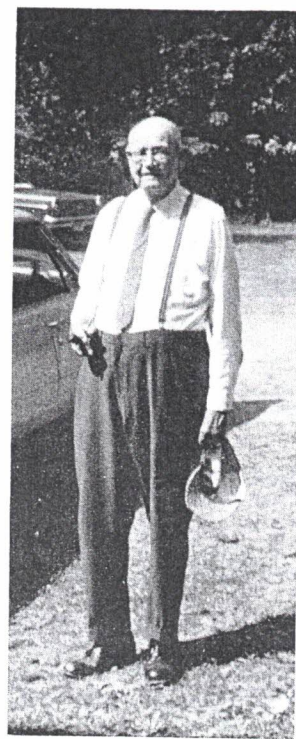
George DeHoff managed the encampment.

Memorial to Harper

An August Sunday of that year saw the dedication of the handsome flagpole erected on the front lawn to the memory of Harper Walker. Its base is of Muskoka stone in which is imbedded a cast aluminum plaque bearing this inscription:



Muddiman, Warren Plan Building



Harper Walker



Hank Forker



Sass, Bycroft, Murray, DeForeest on Walker Day.

"Dedicated to the memory of Harper Walker, 1893-1967. Our faithful boatman, who plied the waters of Muskoka for more than 60 years. He was guide, companion and friend to three generations of the members and guests of the Sharon Social Fishing Club."

And across the bottom appears this familiar plea:

"Hold the boat, Harp. We're all coming."

The impressive ceremony was attended by club members and guests and family, neighbors and friends of the Walkers. Matt Mawhinney gave this prayer:

"In the infinite mystery of life on this earth may our Father in Heaven permit Harper to look down on this humble memorial to him and may He help us all to guide our lives with the same simplicity and honesty that was Harper's. In the name of our Saviour. Amen."

Sass Elected President

Bob Sass was elected president and Tom Aye secretary in 1972. It was the year Bill Muddiman, our neighbor, builder and faithful maintenance man died.

A rule was passed that members failing to attend encampment for three consecutive years will be dropped from membership unless excused by special action of the board.

Ray Hittle managed the camp in 1973.

A provision permitting inactive members, in force for several years, was eliminated in 1974.

It was in July of 1975 that John (Bike) Bycroft, one of the club's most enthusiastic members, a former officer and with many friends throughout the Muskoka region, died. An eloquent tribute to him, written by Hugh Clairmont, Gravenhurst columnist and bandsman, hangs on the clubhouse wall.

George Tomko will be remembered as the manager in 1977.

Progress Continues

Damaged by winter storms, the boat house was torn down in 1978.

President Tom Murray died in that year and George (Jig) Warren III, a fourth generation member was elected to membership.

In 1979, David DeForeest became a member, also the fourth of that family.

In the last two years, the board has continued with needed improvements to the clubhouse. These include new steps to the dock, two new stoves, a new septic tank and shower rearrangement.



*Directors Stafford, Mortensen, Stigliano, President Sass,
Treasurer DeForest, Secretary Aye.*

During the year Summer Island, which the club had owned for three years, was disposed of at a favorable price. It was at the site of the old-time fishing grounds at the mouth of the river.

The 1981 encampment was reported successful in terms of the number enjoying camp and financial returns. There were 38 members and 63 guests listed.

Newest members to enjoy the club were Harry B. McDowell, fourth generation McDowell to belong to the club and also to be associated with the bank bearing the family name and founded by Alex McDowell, a charter member; Don R. McCamant, Country Club champion, dentist and nephew of a longtime member, Ansel, and Wally Thompson, steel salesman and sportsman of Sharon.

This, then, is the story of the Sharon Social Fishing Club to date. We hope you will forgive errors and omissions. It is to be hoped that the club, started in that now distant past, shall continue for many years to come. But we would urge that a permanent historian be appointed, to keep the complete record every year, so that when the time comes for the writing of another history it may be more inclusive than this one.

By then the computer will have replaced the pen our ancestors used in scratching out the first record. But we hope that nothing shall have taken the place of "the delights, comforts and sport that a sojourn in the social camp affords."

Football Training Camp

One unexpected by-product of the camp was the return to Sharon High School for Alton Heutsche where he not only finished school but played center on the varsity football team, never missing a minute of any game.

It all came about because Alton was a camp boy, working under the direction of John (Doc) Taylor, center and captain at Carnegie Tech. Alton was given daily coaching in playing the center position and thus decided to get back in school and won the center job.

Later young men from Sharon to serve as help were Dick Booth, Ed Giegel, John Alter and Bill Applegate, the latter two becoming members when a dentist and doctor, respectively.

Dunn is Old Friend

Gerry Dunn, long a friend of the Sharon Club, was featured some time ago in the Muskoka Sun.

"The Mayor of Bala" came to that lake village in 1929 as a druggist and operated a small pavilion. A new building was erected in 1941 and the era of the big bands began, attracting crowds from far and near. Most of the big names played there in those days to capacity crowds. Onlookers were often members of the Sharon Club.

Gerry is retired now but spends his summers at his beautiful home across the lake and never fails to visit the club at least once during the summer.

Campbell was Gardener

Bill Campbell spent a lifetime on and near the lakes and was well known by members of the club. In recent years, when arthritis prevented more vigorous endeavor he was responsible for gardening at the club and kept it beautiful with his snap-dragons and petunias.

Frequent Guests

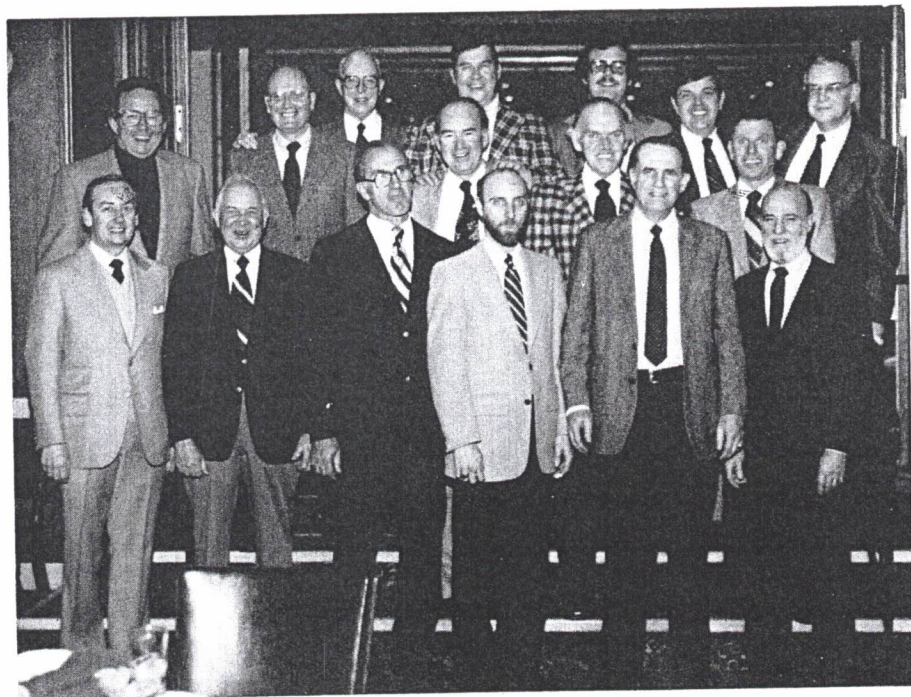
Frequent annual guests at the Sharon Club were Rufus Moses and Ted Buckley. Each goes back many years and was a close friend of our membership. Rufus, a former utility official, now lives in Youngstown and Ted is a retired Pittsburgh attorney.



Gerry Dunn, Bill DeForeest



Bill DeForeest, Sr.



Recent Gathering of Salemites

Many Have Cooked

Dudley Taylor is mentioned as one of the early cooks.

Later Joe Clayborn cooked, on loan from Sharon Country Club. Others were Clark and Davis.

Women have served capably in this position in recent years, among them Hilda Black, Vera and Janet Wright, Nancy Lloyd, Doris Love, Janet Gordon, Ann McEwen, and Sherri Sears.

FORMER MEMBERS

Adams, E. S.	1962-1981	Industrialist
Allen, George H.	1921-	Banker, Insurance
Ashton, C. A.	1895-	Insurance
Alter, John B.	1939-1965	Dentist
Applegate, Wm. A.	1945-1972	Physician
Armstrong, T. H.	1945-1962	Lawyer
Bachman, Chas.	1909-1923	
Bachman, Ellis	1912-1923	
Bachman, Jay	1910-	
Bachman, Morris	1902-1910	Industrialist
Bachman, Parke	1905-1945	Industrialist
Baughman, H. F.	1941-1954	
Booth, Arthur S.	1922-	Industrialist
Boyd, Edwin	1916-1923	Industrialist
Boyd, George	1902-1916	Industrialist
Brindle, Edward	1895-1939	Printer
Brindle, Harry	1931-	Industrialist
Brown, Oliver P.	1916-1939	
Bundel, Charles	1902-1916	Druggist
Bundel, Edward	1916-	
Burrell, L. A.	1891-	
Bycroft, J. S., Jr.	1934-1975	Banker
Camp, Harold	1941-1952	Dentist
Carley, Glenn	-1945	Builder
Carley, John	1891-1926	Builder
Carson, D. B.	1937-1962	Industrialist
Childs, Robt. W.	-1919	
Claffey, James	1892-1897	Liveryman
Clark, E. A.	1891-	
Davies, D. R.	1948-1954	Banker
Davis, Horace W.	1909-1926	Lawyer
Davis, P. F.	1891-	Hotel
Davis, P. T.	-1958	Banker
DeForest, H. G.	1891-1903	

Former Members (cont'd.)

DeForeest, Wm.	1939-1968	Automotive
Doyle, S. B.	1941-1967	Real Estate & Insur.
Down, R. R.	1934-1948	Merchant
Eagen, Dennis	1892-1893	
Eccles, James W.	1944-1961	Merchant
Elliott, J. H.	1891-1922	
Evans, John H.	1934-1957	Banker
Evans, Wm. T.	1968-1981	Water Company
Eyman, E. E.	1942-1951	
Fahnlne, John Jr.	1937-1959	Radio Station
Fawcett, M. L.	1934-1948	Industrialist
Fenstermaker, B. E.	1921-Hon. 1937	Merchant
Filer, Enoch	1891-1906	Mining
Filer, Frank	1906-	Mining
Fischer, Gottlieb	1891-1904	Merchant
Fitzpatrick, John	1894-1922	Merchant
Forker, H. P. Jr.	1930-1962	Buhl Foundation
Forker, H. P. III	1958-1965	Buhl Foundation
Foster, C. W.	1916-	Automotive
Franklin, W. H.	1934-1958	Industrialist
Freeman, Brice	1951-1965	Automotive
Frey, James S.	1950-1981	Industrialist
Fruit, Fred T.	1921-1951	Lawyer
Fullerton, Louis	1892-1904	
Gibson, Chas.	1894-	Industrialist
Gillespie, Stanley	1948-1960	Insurance
Girdwood, A. R.	1934-1944	Water Company
Goodrick, W. P.	1957-1975	Accountant
Grimm, John E.	1892-1893	Professor
Hanson, H. H.	1953-1962	Insurance
Hart, Charles E.	1895-1914	
Hart, George A.	1919-1930	
Hazen, C. A.	1891-1894	
Heasley, James	1893-1897	
Heiges, George E.	1937-1947	Merchant
Heilman, Salem	1895-	Physician
Hendrickson, G. K.	1893-	
Henlan, William	1891-1899	
Hiatt, H. I.	1919-1937	
Hicks, E. John	1934-1939	
Hoban, W. P.	1942-1957	Dentist
Hoelzle, Fred	1891-	Merchant
Howat, John B.	1902-	Industrialist
Hyatt, M. R.	1944-1957	Automotive
Ingram, James	1948-1959	Merchant
Irvine, Chas. C.	1891-1894	
Irvine, Fred	1891-1895	

Former Members (cont'd.)

Johnston, Carl	1941-1949	
Jones, C. L.	1963-1975	Industrialist
Jones, P. A.	1940-1941	Educator
Klingelhofer, Edw.	1937-1950	
Krist, Steve	-1973	Newspaperman
Langdon, W. L.	1952-1965	Transportation
Leachm Byron	1941-1948	Distributor
Leighton, G. C.	1891-	
Leslie, W. O.	1910-	Real Estate
Lewis, W. H.	1903-	
Leyshon, John	1942-1955	Industrialist
Lomax, C. S.	1909-	
Maitland, Wm. A.	1930-1954	Insurance
Marshall, C. C.	1891-1894	Physician
Marsden, S.	1891-life 1922	
Massey, H. E.	1925-1950	Physician
Mawhinney, M. W.	1954-1968	Industrialist
Mehler, N. R.	1939-1957	Industrialist
Miller, D. K.	1957-1968	Industrialist
Miller, Harry A.	1916-1923	
Morgan, E. E.	1959-1975	Industrialist
Mornes, A. C.	1937-1958	Distributor
Murchie, John	1891-1896	Merchant
Murray, T. V.	1954-1978	Physician
Murstein, M. M.	1950-1957	Dentist
Musselman, F. L.	1912-	
MacMillen, W. W.	1920-1966	Industrialist
McCleery, Fred M.	1937-1943	Industrialist
McClure, Samuel	1910-1922	Industrialist
McCulloch, R. S.	1951-1968	Merchant
McCune, Wm. J.	1951-1978	Industrialist
McDowell, A. W.	1922-1968	Newspaperman
McDowell, Alex	1891-1914	Banker
McDowell, H. B.	1913-1947	Banker
McDowell, H. B. Jr.	1954-1967	Banker
McIntyre, Ronald	1931-	Builder
McIntyre, Wm.	1903-1931	Builder
McMunn, Wm.	1955-1974	Industrialist
Neiler, John	1896-1903	
Norton, Ben W.	1957-1962	Industrialist
Orchard, Harry	1891-1930	Merchant
Owsley, Chas.	1948-1953	Architect
Palmer, W. S.	1899-1933	Fraternal Insurance
Pearce, Harry C.	1944-1959	Industrialist
Pearson, C. H.	1914-1943	Banker
Perkins, S.	1891-1893	

Former Members (cont'd.)

Phillips, John	1891-1906	
Phillips, S. M.	1918-1951	Industrialist
Porter, Ed	1926-	Automotive
Printz, B. H.	1891-1945	Merchant
Purdie, Geo.	1959-1978	Automotive
Ramsey, Wm. B.	1930-	Newspaperman
Reed, J. H.	1891-1897	Physician
Reefer, Jules	1897-1902	
Reyer, John	1909-1929	Merchant
Rice, Dale A.	1962-1964	Physician
Roberts, J. L.	1921-	Postmaster
Robertson, Mott	1930-	Manufacturer
Rose, J. V.	1891-1897	Manufacturer
Rowney, Ray W.	1966-1975	Industrialist
Russell, A. D.	1957-1963	Distributor
(only Canadian member)		
Sample, L. T.	1956-1977	Mortician
Sargent, James A.	1937-1957	Industrialist
Seidel, A. E.	1951-1958	Merchant
Service, Chas.	1894-1904	
Sharp, J. Smith	1930-1948	Mortician
Shilling, D. C.	1937-1953	Banker
Shilling, W. W.	1891-1926	Industrialist
Shontz, J. M.	1925-1953	Merchant
Short, George	1934-	Industrialist
Sinclair, P. J.	1941-1951	Merchant
Sizer, Edwin	1963-1980	Builder
Slater, James A.	1916-1953	Industrialist
Smith, C. J.	1919-1948	Merchant
Snyder, M. W.	1965-1981	Physician
Spearman, J. J.	1891-	Industrialist
Stewart, J. H.	1898-	
Stockton, C. T.	1925-1951	Banker
Stoner, J. M.	1909-1941	Banker
Tennis, T. E.	1937-1943	Industrialist
Waldo, Arthur	1934-1956	Merchant
Wallis, T. J.	1912-	Builder
Wallis, W. L.	1891-1912	Builder
Wengler, Frank	1921-	Jeweler
White, Thos. J.	1913-	Distributor
Whitehead, Walter	1897-1926	Printer
Williams, G. L.	1891-1925	Merchant
Williams, M. L.	1891-1941	Merchant
Williamson, C. H.	1950-1954	
Webber, John	1896-1903	
Woolridge, H. E.	1941-1963	Mining
Wilson, J. H.	1937-1967	Industrialist

Former Members (cont'd.)

Wilson, L. H.	1953-1967	Industrialist
Wright, J. H.	1937-	
Wright, L. S.	-1934	
Willman, John	1891-1896	Barber
Yeager, C. H.	1893-	Merchant
Yeager, H. E.	1944-1957	Industrialist
Zahniser, M.	1891-	Banker

OFFICERS OF THE SHARON FISHING CLUB

President

William Henlan	1891-1894 1895-1896
Enoch Filer	1894-1895
John Phillips	1896-1907
Philip F. Davis	1907-1908
John Carley	1908-1925 (17 years)
John Reyer	1925-1929
B. H. Printz	1929-1941
W. W. MacMillen	1941-1961
A. W. McDowell	1961-1968
Thomas V. Murray	1968-1971
Robert E. Sass	1971-

Vice President

Philip F. Davis	1892-1895 1896-1907
George L. Williams	1895-1896 1908-1912
John Carley	1907-1908
John Reyer	1912-1925
W. S. Palmer	1925-1936
W. W. MacMillen	1936-1942
H. B. McDowell	1942-1947
R. R. Down	1947-1948
A. W. McDowell	1948-1961
George S. Warren, Jr.	1961-1968
J. S. Bycroft, Jr.	1968-1974
Wm. DeForeest, Jr. ...	1974-

Secretary

C. A. Hazen	1891
M. L. Williams	1892-1895 1899-1905; 1906-1941 (46 years)
John Murchie	1895-1896
B. H. Printz	1896-1899
G. K. Hendrickson	1900-1904
C. A. Ashton	1904-1906
D. C. Shilling	1941-1949
J. S. Bycroft, Jr.	1949
Harry Pearce	1949-1950
D. R. Davies	1950-1952
George S. Warren, Jr.	1952-1961
Thomas V. Murray	1961-1968
Robert E. Sass	1968-1971
J. Thomas Aye	1971-

Treasurer

M. Zahniser	1891-1894 1900-1911
Harry Orchard	1892-1900
M. L. Williams	1911-1919 1925-1941
George L. Williams	1919-1925
D. C. Shilling	1941-1949
J. S. Bycroft, Jr.	1949-1952
J. W. Eccles	1952-1957
W. P. Goodrick	1957-1971
Wm. DeForeest, Jr.	1971-

Note: Any discrepancies are caused by the fact that in some years minutes are missing, or the offices were not filled and from 1925 to 1949 the offices of secretary and treasurer were combined.



Members at 1981 Annual Banquet at Shenango Inn

Active Members

Name	Year	Address
Albright, M. C.	1975	Sharon
Albright, C. H. Jr.	1954	Sharon
Albright, C. H. III	1975	Brookfield, O.
Aye, J. Thomas	1963	Sharon
Black, James	1980	Sharpsville
Campbell, Wm. B.	1977	West Middlesex
Clepper, William	1968	Sharon
Cricks, Charles	1979	Sharpsville, Pa.
Cricks, Graaf O.	1962	Sharpsville, Pa.
Davis, Wm. T.	1962	Clearfield, Pa.
DeForeest, David	1979	Sharon
DeForeest, Wm. Jr.	1958	Sharon
Diven, Charles	1957	Sharon
Garrett, Gary	1981	Sharon
Harshman, G. A.	1954	Naples, Fl.
Hittle, D. E.	1958	Sharon
Heatley, T. E. L.	1968	Sharon
Levine, Merle	1975	Sharon
Lowry, Raymond	1968	Salem, O.
McCamant, A. R.	1957	Hermitage, Pa.
McCamant, D. R.	1981	Sharon
McCulloch, R. S.	1960	Salem, O.
McDowell, H. B. III	1981	Sharon
Mortensen, Peter	1973	Sharon
Murdoch, Charles	1968	Sharon
Myers, F. L.	1967	Sharon
Neil, James	1970	Sharpsville, Pa.
Null, Walter	1968	Salem, O.
Resch, E. F.	1951	Pepper Pike, O.
Sass, R. E.	1958	Sharon
Snyder, W. Alton	1975	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Stafford, Harold	1965	Sharpsville, Pa.
Stigiliano, Richard	1967	Sharon
Thomas, William	1974	Masury, O.
Thompson, W. R.	1981	Sharon
Timblin, T. R.	1957	Dunedin, Fl.
Warren, G. S. Jr.	1948	Sharpsville, Pa.
Warren, G. S. III	1978	Sharon
Weller, Jack	1978	Hubbard, O.
Wettick, R. S.	1955	Sharon
Willson, J. R. III	1964	Sharon
Wilson, Jack	1975	Sharon
Wilson, J. H. Jr.	1959	Salem, O.
Woolridge, H. R.	1964	Clearfield, Pa.
Young, W. Eugene	1966	Salem, O.
Inactive		
Bartlett, Chris	1958	Highland Beach, Fl.

Muskoka Fever — Sharon Style

In the month of August every year
A fever hits the town
And it always has to run its course
Before the bug dies down.
It doesn't pick and choose its prey
It hits them one and all
And every year about July
You start to see them fall.
The doctors are the hardest hit
They never take the cure
The steel men follow close behind
You'd think they'd fight it sure.
There are presidents and treasurers
And chairmen of the board
There are lawyers, there are dentists
And there's even one from Ford.
And that fever when it grips them
Seems to take them by the hand
And drag them 'cross the border
Into God's own promised land.
To Muskoka in a country
Where the days are always fair
Where there's lakes and streams and forest
And the purest kind of air.
And they drive for hours to get there
For they know the only way
To rid themselves of this disease
Each year is go and stay.
A week — ten days, it all depends
On just how hard they're bit
It doesn't really matter though
There's no sure cure for it.
They sing and joke and eat and drink
And have themselves a ball
And their laughter echoes through the lakes
Way on into the fall.
For they leave their worries all behind
When they cross the line each year,
And Muskoka opens up its heart
For she holds them all so dear.
Yes, the fever has to run its course
At the club up in the pines
A fever cured from deep within
For there are no outward signs.
But no matter how they fight it
Back in Sharon in the fall
Though it's dormant in the winter
In the spring they hear its call.
Call it fever, call it madness,
Call it good or call it bad
That Muskoka-Sharon fever
Is the finest to be had.

Written by Mrs. Wally Wheaton, neighbor
and longtime friend of the club.

Community Relations Good

Member Don Hittle has interested himself in Muskoka history and has contributed some interesting items to the history, as had George Warren.

The Bracebridge Herald-Gazette of July 24, 1945 reported that the club was the scene of a reception held by the Beaumaris and Milford Bay communities for 16 returned servicemen and women. It was attended by 150 persons.

Minutes show that the clubhouse was loaned to local groups on many occasions, particularly for the annual bazaar of the community ladies.

Which brings to mind that the club has enjoyed cordial relations with its Canadian neighbors over all the years. Such names as Walker, Muddiman, Schell, Freemantle, Peacock, Ecclestone, Murphy, Wilmot, Mills and Prouse come to mind.

Old Scenes of Interest

A recent issue of the Herald-Gazette contains reproductions of several old photographs which show how Bracebridge looked at the time of the club's founding. The town had board sidewalks.

Those who saw the town in those days would have to go by boat, several of which are shown. There was no road.

Those present at the 1981 encampment saw the Segwin, refurbished excursion steamer, going up and down the lake once again as it had in the early days.

Captain Walker was Pioneer

In L. R. Fraser's "History of Muskoka", Captain Harper Walker, father of the faithful boatman most of us knew, is cited as an early figure in pioneer days. The family name is carried on in Walker's Point, with a marina and several homes, with a few members of the family still living there.

Captain Walker maintained a hotel on his farm and one of the boats he built and operated was named "The Sharon". The history continues:

"The steamer Sharon was for a number of years used as a fishing boat and it could be seen in the morning with a string of rowboats starting off for the mouth of the Bracebridge River and returning about sundown."

Reference to the steamer is also made in "The Years Gone By", by Joyce L. Schell and to the Sharon Social and Fishing Club in "Early Days in Muskoka" by George W. Boyer, Bracebridge publisher.