

Vacation Guide

Willow Grove Had First Entertainment House On Lake Wawasee

When Abram Jones and his family moved to Syracuse in 1875 the area was still being settled and when the family built the Jones hotel near the present site of Willow Grove it was the first public house for entertainment of any consequence at Lake Wawasee.

The hotel was built in 1881 and opened for business in September. It was a success from then on with many persons returning each summer to enjoy the hospitality offered by the Jones family as the hotel was comfortable and the food was good.

Abram Jones was born in Lancaster, Pa., in the year 1842. He was of Welsh ancestry. Moving to Mansfield, Ohio, he served in the second Ohio cavalry during the Civil War. After the war he worked as a mechanical engineer with the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. He was married to Mary Duff.

When they moved to Syracuse Abram and Mary were the parents of two sons — Jim and Paul. The family was blessed with a

third son, Wilmot, and a daughter, Anna, after arriving here.

Abram continued in his work with the B and O after arriving in Syracuse and was in charge of the company's pump house. He also operated the Syracuse Elevator.

After building the hotel Jones secured a boat which was christened the Anna Jones in honor of his daughter. However, after a few years the boat became too small for the growing clientele of the hotel and a larger boat which was also named the Anna Jones was purchased. It was the largest steamer on Wawasee and was run by Jim while Paul, also called Dot, became fireman and engineer.

The hotel was sold in 1920 to M. E. Crow of Elkhart and has since been torn down to make room for more cottages along the shores of the big lake.

Mrs. Jones died in 1929 and her husband followed her in 1930. They are buried in the Syracuse cemetery as are Jim and Paul.

Wilmot is still a resident of Syracuse.

Scenes from the past . . .



THE GAZELLE — Since writing about Vawter's park and the Gazelle some weeks ago we have acquired this photo of the park's famous boat.

The Gazelle was housed on the South Shore of the lake and ended its season each year when commander Vawter took the youngsters of the area on their annual cruise.



POPULAR SPORT — Ron Gruber of Syracuse is participating in one of the most popular sports of the area—skiing.

Ron's boat was in front of Willow Grove when our photographer caught him on Sunday afternoon. Bill Beemer was behind the controls of the boat.



FLYING HIGH — Steve Hay of Cleveland, Ohio, was flying high Sunday when this photo was snapped by a Mail-Journal photographer near the Willow Grove area of Wawasee.

The kite is being pulled by a speed boat and the sport is one that is fast becoming a popular pastime in the Lakeland area.

Steve's parents are residents of Goschen and have a summer cottage on the lake.

8TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Miller entertained a number of guests on Friday evening, Aug. 1, in honor of the eighth birthday of their granddaughter, Kimberly Kae Miller of Biloxi, Miss., who has spent the summer with relatives near Milford and Claypool.

Those in attendance were her mother, Mrs. Norman Miller, and her sister, Tammy of Biloxi; her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Pike, her great-grandmother, Mrs. Sherman Sausman, and guest, Mrs. Thompson, all of Claypool; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wilson and three daughters, Bernadine, Lori, and Jodie, of Warsaw; Mr. and Mrs. James Wolf and daughter Pam of Atwood. The hostess served a decorated birthday cake, ice cream, punch and coffee. Kimberly received a number of gifts and also a telephone call from her father Friday morning.

Mrs. Norman Miller and daughters spent the week with the Herman Millers, and on Wednesday visited in the home of Mrs. James Wolf and family of Atwood.

Miss Lydia Eisemann of Chicago is a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hoerr at Milford.

PICNIC SUPPER HONORS IOWANS

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Baumgartner and family, Milford, from Sunday until today were Mr. and Mrs. Omar L. Baumgartner, Jr., and children, Vicki, Mark, Sharon, Linda, and Michelle, of Agency, Iowa.

The children went swimming.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Chilcoate of Elkhart were guests Monday in the home of Mrs. Estella Swartz. Mr. and Mrs. Chilcoate recently purchased the Lake Wawasee cottage of Mrs. Swartz and they are doing some work on it.

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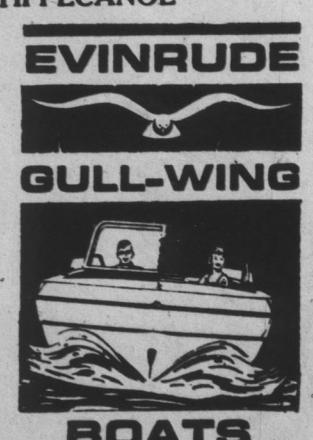
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