

## About "A Lake Where Spirits Live"

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### INTRODUCTION

A major publishing event in the 1890's was *The Earth and its Inhabitants*, a set of 19 books covering 3 feet of shelf space. Volume III, on the United States, contains 504 pages; for Wisconsin there is a total of 6 pages of text and 3 illustrations, one of which is of a place called "The Devil's Lake."

Rand McNally's *Tourist Guide to the North-West* in the late 1880's was saying of Devil's Lake: "Here, in a tremendous gorge . . . hemmed in on all sides by frowning rocks, of prodigious size, piled up in every conceivable form, nestles one of the loveliest sheets of water in the whole world." *The Standard Atlas and Gazetteer of the World*, which was published in Chicago in 1890, made the lake even more alluring by prefacing the Rand McNally description with a reference to "the weird beauty of Devil's Lake, which in the mystery of its origin rivals Lake Tahoe . . ."

This lake of "weird beauty" is located in southern Wisconsin. It is 3 miles south of Baraboo, with its Circus World Museum; 15 miles south of Wisconsin Dells, with its Wisconsin River boat trips; and about 40 miles northwest of Madison, the state capital.

Nowadays it can be reached by automobile in a few hours from several big cities, notably Milwaukee and Chicago, but years ago it was the railroad that made the lake accessible. It did so for tourists who came to look and relax and also for geologists and their students who came to study the rocks and landforms.

Both the tourist and the scientist could appreciate the scenery. The lake's mountainous setting has always been the big attraction. Here is a body of water about a mile long and a half mile wide, located between three 500 foot bluffs.

Even before regular service was started on the railroad in 1873, pleasure parties were visiting the lake nearly every day, and for 1872, William H. Canfield, the pioneer historian, could report: "there

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were probably 20,000 visitors to this lake from regions outside of its immediate neighborhood."

Devil's Lake State Park was established in 1911. The earliest estimate of park attendance that we've seen - more than 100,000 people - is for 1919. For 1924 the attendance was estimated at about 200,000, and in the 1930's it topped a half million for several years. Since 1952 it has been more than a million per year. This is the most popular park in the midwest and one of the most popular in the nation.

Here is its story, as we've recorded it. We've been continually reminded of the boy in the nature center some years ago who, after studying the exhibit on the mammals of the park, commented: "Man's a mammal and he lives in the park, but I don't see him here." Then for good measure he added: "It says, 'Mammals of the Park.' " Children have a simple, beautiful way of getting to the heart of things; if that boy, now a man, should ever read this history, we'd like him to know that we've been thinking of him.

### **GEOLOGY**

First let's look at the "foundation" - the rocks.

Imagine that we're flying above the Baraboo and Devil's Lake area. Below we can see the city of Baraboo in about the center of a canoe-shaped depression - the Baraboo Valley. Three miles to the south of Baraboo, in hills that are called the South Range, we notice a lake -Devil's Lake. It is located in an opening or gap in the rocks called the Devil's Lake Gap, which is bordered by the west, east, and south bluffs. We also notice hills to the north of Baraboo; they're called the North Range.

Let's fly over the North Range. Do you see the opening in these hills about 6 miles east-northeast of Baraboo? This is called the Lower Narrows Gap; state highway 33 carries traffic through it.

For a final air-view, let's fly higher. Now we see that the Baraboo Valley is more or less enclosed by the North Range and the South Range, and that they meet to the east of Baraboo (by Cascade Mountain just west of Interstate 90-94) and to the west of Baraboo (by the village of Rock Springs). It is about 25 miles from Rock Springs to Cascade Mountain, and up to 10 miles across the Baraboo Valley from the South Range to the North Range.

The North Range and the South Range form what is called the Baraboo Hills. Also known as the Baraboo Bluffs, these tremendously ancient outcrops of hard quartzite rock dominate the landscape for miles.

Geologists believe that an ancient river or rivers cut the Lower Narrows Gap and the Devil's Lake Gap.

This would be today's landscape (a river flowing through the Baraboo Bluffs and no Devil's Lake), except for one thing - the Wisconsin Glacier, which forced the river to flow elsewhere (outside the quartzite hills), and dumped a dam of rocks and dirt in each of the 2 open ends of the Devil's Lake Gap. These dams are part of the terminal moraine of the glacier, a ridge that marks the farthest advance of the ice.

This lake of "weird beauty" is here because of such happenings as ancient upheavals which formed the Baraboo Hills, a river which cut through the hard rock to form the Devil's Lake Gap, and a glacier which shifted the river and plugged the Gap. Devil's Lake is fed by springs and from 45 to 50 feet deep.

### **THE FIRST PEOPLE**

It is provincial and misleading to speak of America being "discovered" or even of a particular area being "settled" without acknowledging the Native Americans. After all, they were here long before we came, and during this time they developed complex and meaningful ways of life.

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One of the oldest sites for people known in the midwest is a rock shelter 12 miles southwest of Devil's Lake. On the basis of radiocarbon assay, geochronology and stratigraphy, it is believed that people were living at this site from 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, when the Wisconsin Glacier was melting by the Devil's Lake Gap. If we accept the lesser figure and take 20 years as a generation, and assume that Indians have been residing here continuously since this time, then Native Americans have lived here for 500 generations.

This is a terribly humbling statistic. White people, in contrast, have resided here for only 6 generations, yet they have changed the land far more than the Indians.

Native Americans that we call "Effigy Mound Builders" were active in this region about a thousand years ago. They piled up earth to form 3 basic types of mounds: those in the form of animals, the "true" effigy mounds; those which look like ridges, the linear type; and those in the shape of cones or half circles, the conical type.

No one, not even a modern Indian, has any direct knowledge of the Mound Builders. We do know that they used their mounds for burials, as human skeletons are found in them, especially in the conical and linear types. Probably they also used the animal mounds for special rites or festivities, but we'll never know for sure - the answers are gone forever, blown away on ancient winds.

Several animal mounds in the park are still in good shape; they're marked with plaques. One resembles a lynx - it's located near the nature center; another looks like a bear - it's near the north shore of the lake; and there's a bird mound by the southeastern corner of the lake.

The Winnebago was the most important tribe in this area in historic times. We know that in summer they had a fishing village along the north shore, as this was where Dr. Charles Cowles, a pioneering physician in this part of Wisconsin, saw it in 1846. These people must have used this site for some time, as a number and

variety of artifacts have been found here. A group of Winnebagos also camped at the lake in the winter, but by the southeastern shore, near the bird mound. Native Americans camped by the lake at least until 1900, and lone Indians occasionally visited the Devil's Lake bluffs, well into this century

The lake with its rocky bluffs has inspired a number of Winnebago myths and legends. Generally they involve a battle between thunderbirds and water spirits; sometimes people are involved, sometimes not. One such fight continued for days: the thunderbirds, flying above the lake, threw their weapons, symbolized as eggs, into the water and onto the bluffs, and the water spirits hurled rocks and water spouts. The cracked and tumbled faces of the bluffs that we see today are mute testimony to this great battle.

Another Winnebago story describes a great meteor striking the area with such force that it penetrated far into the earth, throwing up rocks on all sides. Heat waves radiated from the hole for several days, then it rained. When it was safe for the people to approach, they found a great gap in the earth and in the bottom a beautiful body of water. It's interesting that some white pioneers had an explanation for the area much like this Indian legend - they thought that the gap had been formed by a volcanic eruption.

### **THE NAME OF THE LAKE**

Why is it called "Devil's Lake?" We believe that this is a white man's name and that it is a misnomer. The Winnebago name for this lake, "Da-wa-cun-chuk-dah," also rendered "Da-wa-kah-char-gra," translates as "Sacred Lake" or "Holy Lake" (some would say "Spirit Lake") - there is no bad meaning. Another name (Sioux?), "Minni-wau-ken," is said by some to mean "Bad Spirit Lake," but others claim that "Mystery Lake" would be a more accurate

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translation, and we wonder if this name was even used for the lake by Indians.

There are stories describing battles between rival tribes and also ill-fated love triangles (a white man, an Indian man and an Indian maiden) that supposedly explain the origin of the name, Devil's Lake. Central to all these tragic tales is the contention that the Indians ever after shunned the lake. But as we've seen, this wasn't so. We suspect that some of these stories originated in the publicity of this area by the railroad company, and others in the fanciful but alluring accounts written by certain newspaper correspondents. An 1872 account, for example, is subtitled, "The best description yet ... A splendid mass of adjectives." Also revealing is a comment by a correspondent in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* for 16 April 1868: "A good many legends about the lake have been set afloat on the sea of literature; and I don't know but I have as good a right to start one as anybody else." Commodore Brown, a pilot of one of the early touring boats on the lake, contributed to the storehouse of imaginative stories. One person, in an 1880 letter, expressed the hope that the Commodore had been rehired to sail the launch "so that the guests . . . may have an opportunity of hearing 'the legends of the Lake' as only the Commodore can relate them."

The myths and names of any culture are bound to be affected when they are transferred to another people. And an authentic story, or part of it, can be embellished almost beyond recognition in just a few tellings.

On Increase A. Lapham's 1850 map of Wisconsin, one of the earliest of the state, Devil's Lake is called "Lake of the Hills," a name that was being used for this lake when Lapham visited it in 1849.

In a geological survey of several midwestern states, published in 1852, the lake is called "Devil's Lake," whereas in the geological survey of Wisconsin by Hall and Whitney, published ten years later, the name used is "Spirit Lake." We'd guess that this

reflects the influence of the *Baraboo Republic*, because in an editorial in 1858 this newspaper stated its preference for the name, "Spirit Lake." They believed it to be a correct translation of its Indian name, and they didn't like the connotations associated with a name like "Devil's Lake."

The *Kilbourn Mirror* suggested "Wild Beauty Lake" in the same year. At least one other name was proposed: in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* for 5 September 1871, a correspondent expressed "a desire to expunge the dissonant appellation of Devil's Lake from every map, and call that sheet Juniata Lake instead."

But "Devil's Lake" it is. The "dissonant appellation" won't go away. As the *Baraboo Republic* in 1866 had to admit: "Legends have been invented for it; poems have been written on it; gentler names have been conferred on it by those who thought the Old One . . . uncouth, but Spirit Lake and Lake of the Hills failed to displace the title by which it was best known."

The entire story may have been expressed best by the *Green County Republican* for 24 September 1872: "Had the lake been christened by any other name, it would not have attracted so many people . . . Had it been called 'Paradise Pond' fewer would have cared to visit it."

### EARLY VISITORS

The first non-Indian to visit Devil's Lake for which there is any record is John T. de La Ronde in 1832, around the end of July. This was during the Blackhawk War. La Ronde talks of going from Portage to Walking Turtle's village; he must have canoed up the Baraboo River to reach it, as this village was located where Baraboo now stands. Here La Ronde must have heard of the "Spirit Lake."

Imagine yourself to be this man (Isaac Gibbs): "I crossed the river at Sauk the 3rd of July, 1839, and came up to the bluffs. I learned from an Indian that there was such a place as Devil's Lake, so

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the morning of the 4th I thought I would find it. I took my fishing tackle and started out and caught a pickerel that weighed 20 pounds." These reminiscences were written fifty-two years after the actual event and what came to mind after all that time was the fine fish that he'd caught, not the personal discovery of a mountain lake.

Another visitor in the summer of 1839 was James S. Alban. It was announced in 1838 that the Winnebago had relinquished all their lands east of the Mississippi River and in December of that year Alban and his family settled in a spot that became part of Sauk City, the first white family to live in this county. About six months later, while roaming the bluffs north of the Sauk Prairie, Alban came upon Devil's Lake. To the north he glimpsed a large valley and it was to this valley that later he guided Eben Peck of Madison, who then proceeded to mark a claim within the limits of present-day Baraboo.

Increase A. Lapham was one of Wisconsin's outstanding naturalists and scientists. Sometimes called the father of the weather bureau, his interests also included plants and animals, geology and paleontology, and Indian mounds. In 1849, as part of a geological tour, he and several others visited the lake. "A large body of broken fragments has accumulated along the edge of the water rendering it very difficult to walk along shore: yet two of our party made a circuit of the lake, jumping from rock to rock as best they could."

A few years later, in the 1850's, a building was erected on the north shore by A. G. Tuttle, George Newson and Jonathan Hatch - it was a bathhouse.

### **EAGLE CRAG**

One of the first settlers at Devil's Lake was Louis J. Claude (1825-1893); his property, which was located along the north shore, was called Eagle Crag.

Claude was an Englishman from the Lake Windemere country in Westmoreland. He was educated as a civil engineer. Being the youngest son, his family gave him money and told him to make

his place elsewhere. In his younger years, he worked as an engineer in India. When he first came to this country, he settled in Kentucky, where he practiced his profession, but his anti-slavery convictions caused him to leave the South and come to Wisconsin in 1851. Claude settled along the north shore of Devil's Lake in the spring of 1857. He wanted to be near water and he wanted a place that he could farm.

Claude influenced three other families from Westmoreland - the Thomas Thompsons, the W. Gowans and the A. Withingtons - to settle in this area.

The Claude house was a landmark by the north shore until 1953, when it was removed by the state. It was of Tudor style and in designing it Claude apparently incorporated some of the ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing, America's first important landscape architect. It had a timeless look, in that it was in style in virtually any period. In building it, Claude was assisted by Thomas Thompson. This dwelling was made of pine beams, with boards about a foot in width as the fronting; the joints were wood pegs. The interior was richly decorated and there was an elaborately carved mantelpiece of butternut.

Below, on the flat, there was a barn, a work house, and a house for hired help. Claude built and rented 2 cottages on his property.

He was referred to as a fine draftsman, who delighted to be in his shop, which was attached to the north side of the house. Parlor furniture from his hands was described as quaint, with curved designs, and fitted together without brad, nail or glue.

Claude married an American lady, Elvira Ward (1834-1929). They had a daughter, Louise (1865-1951) and a son, Louis Ward (1868-1951). The son and Frank Lloyd Wright attended the University of Wisconsin at the same time, and both worked for the well-known architectural firm of Alder and Sullivan in Chicago.

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L.W. Claude later settled in Madison, Wisconsin, and designed several buildings in Baraboo, among them the library. The daughter, educated by her father, continued to occupy the homestead after her mother died. Miss Claude never married. Her main loves were birds and flowers. She had several gardens and some of these plants, including violets that she obtained from England, still bloom today. Miss Claude would not ride on the north shore road, as none of the family approved this route; apparently she did once, but with her eyes closed! The funerals for the daughter and son were held in the park, and Miss Claude's procession exited via the road to the east of the railroad tracks, as she had requested.

### **THE MINNIWAUKEN HOUSE AND THE CLIFF HOUSE**

"The want of a commodious and well-appointed hotel for the entertainment of many visitors . . . has long been felt, and is at last to be filled. The Minni-waukan House will be opened on the 22nd instant." At the grand opening, "A most excellent supper was served," and the people danced to two bands. And so, on 22 February 1866, the "hotel era" began at Devil's Lake. It would last into the early 1900's and be comparable to the resort developments in such places as the Adiron-dacks of New York.

The Minniwauken House was located near the northeastern shore by the north end of the east bluff; it faced the lake. Up to 20 guests could be accommodated.

It was built by Edward N. Marsh, an early real estate dealer and promoter in this area. A year and a half after the grand opening, Marsh sold the building to Samuel Hartley.

Hartley was described as "constant in his attention to visitors," and A.L. Simpson, who wrote the following in 1868, probably would have agreed: "you can take a run out to a neighboring prairie and bag a score of young prairie chickens, which mine host. . . Sam. Hartley will serve up for you in choice style."

Another source described Hartley as "crusty" and "quick-tempered." This author told about the time that Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, as a widow, visited the lake. After looking at her room, she returned to the office and complained to landlord Hartley that it wasn't suitable, adding, "I suppose you do not know who I am. I am no ordinary woman, I am Mrs. Abraham Lincoln." Hartley is supposed to have replied, "I don't care in purgatory who you are. The room is the best I've got and I cannot give you a different one."

Moored near the hotel were rowboats and a sidewheel steamer, the Capitola. Hartley bought the steamboat in Madison, the state capital, hence its name. The boat was placed on one wagon and the boiler and engine on another and in this way the Capitola journeyed to Devil's Lake, where it was launched in 1869. On the maiden voyage the pilot circuted the lake in about an hour. The Capitola carried 100 passengers "comfortably," and its shrill whistle could be heard in Baraboo, 3 miles away. Not all approved of this addition to the lake: the launching of the Capitola caused one person to remark that Hartley had ruined the lake scenery for him.

The management of this property is difficult to trace in the 1870's, but in 1879 Hartley sold to William F. Vilas of Madison, who at one time was a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin.

In 1873, the year that the railroad tracks were completed for regular service into Baraboo via the east side of Devil's Lake, the Minniwauken House was enlarged into a new structure - the Cliff House. L.J. Claude designed it, using the previous building as a wing, in Swiss chalet style, "like a bit of Swiss scenery transplanted to Wisconsin." Verandas and galleries extended around the main part of the building. It had about 50 rooms, with accommodations for some 200 guests.

The Cliff House featured a large dining room (40x80 feet) with a spacious view of the lake. In this dining room guests wore

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proper attire: Suits for men and dinner dresses for women. "Elegant" would be an apt description of this resort.

There also was a telegraph, ticket and baggage office, a post office, a grocery, a barber shop, a billiard room, and a bowling alley. According to the *Baraboo Republic* in 1879, "the bowling alley has doubled fun at the Lake. It would make your sides ache with laughter to see the boys at the lower end of the alley dodging the wild projectiles."

William B. Pearl (1836-1914) managed the Cliff House for Vilas, the owner, from 1878 until it was closed in 1904. In the off seasons he went to such cities as Madison, Chicago and St. Louis to advertise the lake and the hotel.

In 1883 Pearl wrote to Vilas, "Will you please send me the plan of the new house. I want to send it to Chicago to get my carpets made ..." This "new house" came to be known as the "Annex", although it was not attached to the Cliff House. The Annex was completed in 1884 - it had 30 rooms. With the 63 rooms in the enlarged Cliff House, the 2 buildings could lodge up to 400 people.

If visitors didn't like these accommodations, there were others: family cottages, a log cabin, or in the adjacent sugar maple woods, tent camping.

What could guests do? Rent fishing tackle and a rowboat for one thing. Go swimming for another. Climb the bluffs. Play croquet or quoits. Test their archery skill. Take an excursion in a rig ("reasonable rates") to the Dells ("this is a full day's trip") or some closer place of interest.

There were activities that appealed to all interests. A group of geologists from the University of Chicago spent about a month in field work at Devil's Lake in 1894. After they had been there a few weeks, one of them, R.D. Salisbury, gave a public lecture; he talked about the origin of the lake, stressing non-volcanic forces. Once there was "an interesting exhibition of mind reading." Then there was

Zenia, "the noted palmister of Chicago," who lectured on her specialty and then examined the hands of "those wishing ... in a private parlor." One evening the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* was presented "to a large and enthusiastic audience."

Often these activities were concluded with a dance, and nightly dances were more or less a regular feature once the orchestra arrived for the season. The orchestra consisted of 2 violinists, a cornet player and a pianist, at least in 1889.

Almost every evening some of the guests would walk to a place called. Shadow Town to listen to cylinder records played on an Edison phonograph and drink pop and eat Cracker Jack. This was one of the first phonographs in the area, so Shadow Town was also popular with local people - they came via horse drawn wagons. This attraction was directly across the road from where the Devi-Bara resort would one day be located, between the park road and the railroad track. The phonograph with its large horn was in a screened shed on a raised platform, and people sat on benches around the platform. These concerts were given from 1899 through 1903 (1904?); when the Cliff House closed, so too did Shadow Town. In the *Sauk County Democrat* for 4 July 1907, there's this note: "The Shadow Town Co. has removed the buildings from the old ground and used the lumber in the construction of a boat house on the Claude shore."

Another sidewheel steamer, called the Minniwauken, was launched in 1874. It was constructed by Thomas Thompson, who had built boats in his native England, to carry 100 people "with safety." This woodburner was still being used on the lake in 1895.

Band picnics were held at the lake in those years and one time, on a moonlit night, the Spirit Lake Band of Baraboo and the Baraboo Choral Society went to the middle of the lake on the Minniwauken, "and there discoursed sweet music with charming effect. ..." On another moonlight band excursion, all the rowboats

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were rented because so many people wanted to follow and be near the music.

In 1880 the Minniwauken had an illustrious passenger - Ulysses S. Grant. On the trip around the lake, the pilot stopped at Kirk's resort on the south shore, where native wine was made. A daughter of Pearl's, 15 years old at the time, was also a passenger; when she declined a glass of Kirk's wine. Grant is supposed to have said, "Well, I'll not take any, if the little girl doesn't." The visit was unexpected and brief, so only a few local people were able to pay their respects to Grant. This visit by such an historic figure (Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army in the Civil War and President of the United States for 8 years) was noted by the *Baraboo Republic* in less than 100 words in 14 lines - no captions, and by 18 words in 4 lines in the other Baraboo paper of the day, the *Sauk County Democrat*.

As soon as gasoline launches became known, Landlord Pearl bought one. This was in 1900, the same year that the Minniwauken burned on the beach.

Nowadays an automobile is our usual transportation, but in those years America was dominated by the train. Up to 9 passenger trains whistled and smoked through Baraboo and past Devil's Lake each day and each way. It was a different world. People also came to the lake via carriage or omnibus, but most took a train.

There were special trains to the lake from Baraboo and Chicago in the summer, but most exciting, as we look back, were the train excursions. Although Pearl in a letter to Vilas once wrote, "There is no money in feeding excursionists," he continued to encourage train excursions in the hope that they would be profitable for the Cliff House. Mainly from Illinois, they became especially popular in the 1890's. Sometimes Pearl was forced to send a message to Baraboo "to forward at once all the eatables that could be procured at the bakeries." One excursion in 1894 consisted of 2 separate trains

pulling a total of 22 coaches; both trains stopped at the Cliff House, where around 2000 people emerged and stretched, "and then began gazing in wonder at the sights." Another 1894 excursion is the largest on record: it totaled 34 coaches arranged into 3 different trains, and the people "lined the beach from the Cliff House to the end of the Claude shore," a distance of a half mile. So imagine if you will, these steel monsters breathing fire and smoke and uttering strange noises as they screech to a halt by the north shore and disgorge several thousand cramped tourists.

The rates were such that low income families could afford to go. In 1906, for example, an excursion from Chicago cost \$2, from Milwaukee \$1.50, and from Madison \$1.

The railroad company was doing fine, but the Cliff House wasn't. Pearl's correspondence with Vilas is sprinkled through with such comments as: "I am just paying expenses," "I will be lucky, if I pull out this season with a whole skin and pay my debts," and "We are one thousand dollars behind last year for the month of July."

Landlord Pearl was said to have been "an unmerciful charger" and the guests spoke of him as "a Pearl of great price." This really was unfair criticism, since the rates were barely enough to cover expenses. The season was short, as June often was rainy and cold, and the Cliff House was in constant need of repair. Pearl was also diligent in modernizing the resort and this took more money. He had inside toilets installed, there were Franklin stoves in the lobby and sitting room, and there were a few kerosene heaters that the guests could carry into their bedrooms. In the last years of the Cliff House, the rates were \$2.50 per day or from \$10 to \$14 per week, depending on the location of the room; children under 12 were half price.

Also involved in the closing was the railroad company's decision to reduce the number of passes and their refusal to give a lower rate on a round trip from Chicago.

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And so, in 1903, W.B. Pearl advertised the Cliff House, including furniture and equipment. Although the resort was closed that year, one group, the North Side Singing Society of Chicago, prevailed upon him "to take care of them as best he can." Pearl decided to try it once more -he opened in 1904, but in the fall of that year the Pearls left the lake and a year or so later the Cliff House was demolished by order of the owner. The Annex stood until 1914.

Today one searches in vain for any sign of the Cliff House, but in the lawn immediately to the north of the 2 spruce trees across from the boat landing are a few flat stones. They are part of the foundation of the Annex. This is all that remains of that "elegant" resort.

### **KIRKLAND**

Canfield, writing in 1891, remarked: "At the south end of the lake we have N.C. Kirk, a rural rustic, home man." Noble C. Kirk (1827-1895) was born in Ohio; he came to Baraboo in 1850 and four years later bought several hundred acres of land by the southeastern corner of Devil's Lake. In 1882 he married a school teacher, Sarah Warner (1839-1921). There were no children.

The Kirk's had Whitney crab and apple orchards, and he made cider, but the specialties of Kirkland were currant wine and grape wine. The wine cellar was located to the north of the bird mound, near the Kirk pier. Above the door was a rattlesnake carved from wood. A wagon road led from the vineyards to the wine cellar, where the juice was seasoned for a year before being bottled. When he was single, Kirk lived in the building over the wine cellar; after his marriage, he had made it into apartments. In the 1920's, during prohibition, soda pop was served in the wine house, and during these years the building was also a storehouse for boats and oars. It was removed in the winter of 1928-29.

Kirkland in the beginning consisted of the wine cellar and also croquet grounds, arbors and rustic seats, and picnic grounds.

Kirk added to his park over the years. The pavilion came first, in 1876. It was a place where people could cook and eat, and dance. Parties rented it as a temporary home for several days. Thirteen years later this pavilion was replaced by a larger one; the new pavilion stood on the tip of the tail of the bird effigy. Attached to it was a two-story building: the lower level was for cooking and the upper level had 4 rooms for guests. A post office was established in this building in 1897.

Kirk had a dozen or more cottages built in the 1880's and 90's. Most of them had 3 rooms and could accommodate from 6 to 8 people. Each had a screened porch facing the lake, its own swimming beach, and a dock with a rowboat. A lady who stayed at Kirkland for 14 summers in the early 1900's remembered that: "No.1 cottage with open grounds at the east end nearest to the dining rooms afforded a good stump for fish fries, fish caught on our own hooks . . ."

This woman also recalled that the pavilion was the focus of life at Kirkland. In 1898, Mrs. Kirk, now a widow, had a dining room built into the pavilion. "Our family, as most others, enjoyed regular meals at the pavilion dining room, Sally Lum and other delectable's on the regular menu; this aspect of the resort afforded Mother a vacation as well as the rest of the party."

The entertainment included dances or masquerades on Friday and Saturday nights for the guests and the help (which wasn't so at the other resorts). The people impersonated such characters as the members of the "Damm Family," a popular comic strip of the time. A local woman who worked there in the early 1900's once disguised herself as a bum by donning unwashed farm clothes and blackening her face to look grimy. She walked up to a group of people and stood by them without saying a word; gradually they edged away. After this was repeated a number of times, someone called the police. A policeman from Baraboo soon entered the pavilion, looked closely, recognized the "bum" as a friend and told her, "Ohh, you darn fool."

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When the policeman was asked why he wasn't doing anything about that "loafer," he replied, "Never mind."

A "Looking Backward" party was also popular. The men and women wore masks on the backs of their heads and a light fabric through which they could see on their faces. "Their appearance as they went through the movements of the dance furnished much amusement . . ." In the summer an orchestra was assigned to permanent quarters by Kirk. All day hay rack rides for guests were also a feature of Kirkland.

Kirk always kept his property open to the free use of the public, and one summer day in 1885 around 300 local people had a benefit picnic for him at the lake to acknowledge "their obligation . . . for favors and courtesies extended to them during his satisfactory reign at Kirkland." A band played "good music and plenty of it," and the afternoon - they arrived around two - "was pleasantly passed in boat riding, tub racing, card playing, quoit pitching, swinging, cliff climbing and burning the girls . . ." In the evening there was a dance in the pavilion, and the grounds were illuminated by Chinese lanterns. The spokesman was moved to say, "The tourist or every day citizen can get more for his money at Kirkland than at any summer resort on earth ... A poor man can live there and never miss a meal."

The Cliff House was deluxe but Kirkland was rustic, a place where lower income families were apt to visit and return. One's personality can be impressed on an area and this certainly was the case with Kirk. Once he hired men to put out a fire on one of the bluffs. This was a man who grieved over a tree uprooted in a windstorm and who fed the squirrels so much that they became quite tame.

His funeral service was held at the lake in the pavilion, which was richly decorated with cut flowers, ivy, ferns, leaves in fall color and pine branches. A special train from Baraboo brought about 200 people. Kirk was said to be strongly attached to his intimate friends

and one of them, in tribute, recalled the tenderness of his old friend. In historical research the dead can begin to take on form again, and for us this has been especially true of Noble C. Kirk, the kind and gentle squire of Kirkland. Harry Otto Terwilliger, a nephew of the Kirk's, managed Kirkland for the widow Kirk. He was tall, hence his nickname, "high pockets."

Mrs. Kirk in 1906 had a hotel built on her property - it was located by the left wing of the bird mound and faced the lake. This was a two-story building, with a lounge and 14 sleeping rooms. Sometimes it was called the Terwilliger Hotel, but the usual name was Kirk or Kirkland Hotel.

Mrs. Kirk sold the property to the state as part of the original land area of the park. The Terwilliger's then secured a lease from the state and ran Kirkland until 1921, when the lease was acquired by I. Thiemann, a music instructor and pianist, and Arthur Murphy, his son-in-law; they operated Kirkland through the summer of 1927. The state did not continue the lease after this.

Various groups sheltered in the Kirk Hotel in the 1930's and 40's. The state tore it down in 1946, the last hotel in the park to be removed.

Before the days of the diner, trains stopped for breakfast and supper at the Cliff House. There was a flag stop at this resort, but the train station was at Kirkland. Devil's Lake was so popular that the railroad company had an agent on duty 24 hours per day in the summer. The station was moved in 1908 to a site 1200 feet south of the original location, where it was kept open until the automobile became widespread. It was removed in 1938.

A ceremonial train came to Baraboo in 1871, and fifty years later a man reminisced: "nearly every boy in town often hiked out to Devil's Lake, and then on to the big cut ... where we could watch the steam shovels at work loading up the flatcars with dirt for grading the tracks from Kirkland around the lake." The "big cut" was along the

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south bluff, east of the lake. Two years later, in 1873, regular service began for Devil's Lake and Baraboo. The line was made into a double track in 1896, in some places on a new bed. One of the tracks was removed in 1964, so again there is only a single track, and passenger service was eliminated in 1963. This is a Chicago and Northwestern main line.

Louis T. Martin won the bid in 1928 to remove designated buildings from the south shore. Several relatives helped. Martin sold a number of the Kirkland cottages to the Silverdale resort just north of the park, where they can be seen today.

The only material evidence of Kirkland today is the foundation of the hotel, but the Kirks, who wanted a park at Devil's Lake, had their wish fulfilled.

### THE LAKE VIEW

"Mr. Kirk owns but about half of the valley. The other half has changed hands several times and for many years there has been a hotel kept there ..." (Canfield, writing in 1891).

A "public house" was first erected next to Kirkland in 1870 by H.B. Sheldon. Variouslly called the "Sheldon House" and the "Fountain House," the property was eventually purchased by Edmund T. Hopkins in 1882. The *Baraboo Republic* reported: "We are informed that the property is to be improved."

Some of that "improvement," it turned out, consisted of blasting away part of the south bluff. Hopkins leased 40 acres at the base of this bluff to the "Devil's Lake Granite Company" (the rock is quartzite, not granite), and this company worked this site into the early 1900's. Then in 1907 the American Refractories Company leased the quarry from Hopkins. This company was interested in making fire brick from quartzite, but the rock at this site proved to be inferior for this purpose.

In this area, near the railroad track, there's a small quartzite building. Quarry explosives were stored in it, and to a woman who worked at the south shore in the early 1900's this was the "dynamite building" and she was told to keep away from it. During the Civilian Conservation Corps years it was used as a tool shed.

The last use of the Hopkins quarry was in the 1930's, when the CCC's and Works Project Administration obtained rock from it for the park headquarters, the bathhouse by the northeast shore, and the north shore garage.

Hopkins (1838-1924) was from Davenport, Iowa. He was a businessman with considerable experience and quite a different person than his neighbor, Noble C. Kirk. A woman who worked for Hopkins said that he was more relaxed once the busy season was over. Along with other girls, she worked for him at his resort into the late fall on such tasks as sewing bed sheets and quilts. Occasionally Hopkins would announce: "Come on girls, you've worked enough, let's go skating," and then they would ice skate on the lake for a break in their routine. She described him as "a good scout."

Hopkins married Lind Enos (1842-1917). They adopted 2 girls, Alta Belle (1875-1898) and Jessie Lynde (1877-1963). Alta Belle played piano, and Jessie Lynde became an opera singer, achieving her greatest success as a contralto soloist. She studied music in this country and in Italy. The family lived in a building known as the Hopkins house - it was just to the east of where the south shore store is now located.

Like Kirk, Hopkins had orchards and a vineyard, raised corn and hay, and had stock. There were 2 barns, one for cattle and one for horses.

The "public house" was enlarged and renovated in the early 1890's. Called the Lake View Hotel, it was just to the west of where the south shore store now stands. It was a three-level building, with sleeping rooms on the uppermost levels. All that remains *are a few*

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foundation stones. This resort also had 5 cottages, each with 5 rooms.

The rates at the Lake View resort in 1891 were \$1.50 per day; later they were \$2 per day or \$8 to \$12 per week.

There were dances on Friday and Saturday nights at the hotel, but not as often as at Kirkland and they were for guests only. The Lake View had a pleasant atmosphere, but it was more formal. Musicals were frequent, undoubtedly due to the influence of the daughters.

Sometimes the people from the Lake View and those from Kirkland got together. Once they united for a concert, which consisted of vocal solos, including 2 numbers by Jessie Lynde Hopkins, one of them from Faust; a whistling solo, "with variations" - "Blue Belles of Scotland;" piano solos and duets, including the "Ben Hur Chariot Race;" a violin solo - a Schubert medley; and readings. On another occasion they joined for an evening of singing and storytelling around a big bonfire, with a "Dutch lunch" at 9:30.

In those years, climbing the bluffs was always popular, and in the evening there might be a dance or corn roast or marshmallow roast. Sometimes at one of the resorts there was a benefit concert for a local church.

Hopkins, like Mrs. Kirk, sold to the state for park purposes. The Hopkins' cattle were loaded on a train and shipped away, but Mrs. Hopkins was afraid that their horses, a pair of sorrels around 25 years old, would be mistreated, so Hopkins shot them, as L.T. Martin held their reins.

Like Kirkland, Lake View was leased by the state in the early years of the park.

The contract between the state and Louis T. Martin in 1928 was for removing the following structures: all the Kirk buildings, except the hotel, pavilion, and residence, and also the Lake View Hotel and 4 of the Hopkins cottages. The remaining cottage, called

the Pines cottage and located on the bluff side of the south shore road, was removed in 1944 by Emil Roznoz. The Hopkins house was used as a residence by Civilian Conservation Corps foremen in the 1930's (so was the Pines cottage and the Kirk residence), and by park employees in charge of the south shore in the 1940's and 50's; it was removed in 1952.

### MESSENGER SHORE

The southwestern shore, across the lake from Kirkland and Lake View, is called Messenger shore, after a family that lived there. The first Messenger to do so was Lyman C, a man who mounted rattlesnakes;

reportedly he caught the reptiles by "hypnotizing" them.

Oscar Messenger, his son, resided here with his wife, Emma, and their 3 children, LeRoy, Alvah and Dorothy; he died around 1900. Mrs. Messenger outlived her husband by a number of years.

Oscar Messenger managed the Lake View resort for Hopkins for a few years in the early 1890's, but then he erected his own buildings, including a hotel, by the southwestern corner of the lake. The hotel had a lawn where people relaxed, played croquet and lawn tennis, or pitched horseshoes. Meals were prepared and served in a pavilion, which also functioned as an entertainment house. By the lake there was a refreshment stand, which was also used for storing oars and bathing suits. The rates in the early 1900's were \$1.50 a day or from \$7 to \$8 a week.

The Messenger's ran a paddlewheel steamboat, "Alvah," named after their oldest daughter, in the 1890's, and LeRoy Messenger used a gasoline launch to meet the passenger trains at the Kirkland station in the early 1900's.

The Messenger's had a vegetable garden near the lake and one of their hired help was a gardener.

This family and also Edward Martin, a local farmer, were cutting marsh hay by Messenger shore before the park was

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established and this activity was continued after 1911. Some of the hay was stored in the Messenger barn. These were horse and buggy days and the people who journeyed to the lake from places to the west and south, intending to picnic at Kirkland, left their wagons by Messenger shore and rented a boat for 25 cents. If they wanted their horses to feed while they were at Kirkland, they put the animals in the barn for 10 cents and the horses could munch on hay cut from the lakeshore.

This took place mainly on Farmer's Picnic Days, when up to several thousand people converged on Kirkland. There were all sorts of activities: individual and community singing; baseball and volleyball; a number of races, such as boat, tub, and relay races; the standing broad jump; and sometimes a tug of war. There were also speeches. One year the speaker at the Grangers picnic at Kirkland was an assemblyman from a nearby county; the *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported: "He read his little piece, or big maybe it was called by some. Our informant was of the opinion that he spread it over a great amount of time for so thin a piece. But it seemed to be understood that the speaker was satisfied."

There was talk in the early 1900's of a vacation on Messenger shore being a cure for hay fever, and people were buying lots along the south shore. By 1910 there were 31 cottages at this end of the lake and eventually there were 43 parcels of private land along the south shore. Most of the cottagers sold their property to the state (a transaction of \$1) in return for rent-free leases with expiration dates of 1970-1973.

Mrs. Messenger sold to the state in 1911. Lucius D. Prader, who secured the first concession in the park, tore down some of the buildings (not the hotel, pavilion, or barn) for the lumber, which he used for concession buildings along the north shore. The first park manager and his wife lived for a while in the hotel, and there was a

grocery store in the pavilion for a few years after the park was established.

### WILLIAM H. CANFIELD AND THE O.S.A.

One of the most interesting characters associated with Devil's Lake has been William H. Canfield (1819-1913). At the age of 23 he walked from Madison to Baraboo by following blazes on trees - the road had been surveyed but not improved. He and his wife then lived in a "dry-goods box" until a log cabin was finished six weeks later.

Canfield was a civil engineer and the first county surveyor - he must have surveyed in nearly every township section in the county and he also surveyed and mapped many Indian mounds. He was also Sauk County's first historian: as he worked around the county, he asked old-timers' "endless questions," as one person put it, and he preserved their answers.

On his 80th birthday he finished surveying seven 40 acre parcels on the rugged south bluff by Devil's Lake; he returned home to discover that friends had been there in his absence and left a present - a rocking chair! Canfield said that he was sorry to have missed them, but he appreciated their gift and hoped that he would be able to use it - in his next decade! He was a Seventh Day Adventist and he would never touch beer or wine, saying that he thought they were unhealthy. Canfield also credited his longevity to leaving the table "a little hungry."

He was the perennial secretary and guiding force of the Old Settlers' Association (O.S.A.). It was his desire to establish a retreat for this group, and so he bought a total of 3 acres of land near Messenger shore from Emma Messenger in several transactions in 1903 and 1904. In descending the twisting road to the southwestern corner of the lake, the property is on the right and about half-way down. A log cabin, called the Old Settlers' Cabin, was erected there,

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and also a tree house, in which Canfield lived "for certain periods," and an assembly hall.

The property proved to be too small for the O.S.A. and it never became popular. After Canfield died, the land changed hands several times and then in 1943 the state acquired it. A trace of a road leads to the old meeting place, where the only sign of the O.S.A. is the circular foundation of the tree house. There are also spruce trees and a circular garden, but these date from more recent occupancy.

In the early 1900's the O.S.A. declined and was replaced by a more vigorous group, the Sauk County Historical Society. Canfield then worked "with characteristic enthusiasm and helpfulness" to promote this new group. One wonders if he ever used that rocking chair!

### PALISADE PARK

Devil's Lake by the 1890's had been a resort hotel area for 30 years and a place "to see" for even longer. In 1853, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* was saying, "The lake is well worth a visit, and no one should pass by without stopping to examine it." Similar statements were made in the following publications: the 1861 *Transactions of the State Agricultural Society*, an 1874 history of Madison by Daniel S. Durrie, a book on Wisconsin published in the centennial year of the nation, an 1879 *Guide to Immigrants*, which was published by the State Board of Immigration, an 1880 number of the *Graphic*, an illustrated weekly newspaper published in London, and the 1883 *Sportsman's Gazetteer and General Guide*.

For many years this has been a popular place for picnics, graduation parties, family reunions, and especially from the 1880's into the early 1900's, wedding dances and honeymoons.

A big event in the park's history was the Grand Regatta of 1877, when several thousand people lined the shores to watch the races, as two bands from Baraboo "discoursed music."

An annual railroad picnic at Kirkland attracted up to several thousand people. The German Glee Club of Sauk City and the Baraboo Maennerchor (Men's Chorus) each had picnics and festivals at the lake, and so did the Grand Army of the Republic and the Baraboo Valley Veterans' Association.

The 4th of July was an exciting day at the lake. In 1878, for example, 2000 people were there: they listened to speeches and watched a horse race between a Republican and a Democrat (it was won by the Democrat) and a race between a hiker and an oarsman (the oarsman won), and in the evening there were fireworks, and a dance in the Cliff House.

It was almost inevitable that someone would appear with the idea of promoting a summer resort city on the bluffs overlooking the lake. Someone did. His name was Arthur R. Ziemer (1871-1895).

Ziemer was born in Milwaukee, and in June 1893 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. In May of that year he was a member of a geology party that visited Devil's Lake, Rock Springs and the Dells. As a university student, Ziemer was active in politics, and as the president of his class he gave an oration at graduation.

The development was planned for an area of 90 acres on top of the west bluff, the idea coming from similar enterprises in New York's Catskill Mountains; the west bluff was said by Ziemer to be "a counterpart of the Palisades on the Hudson river."

For about a year, beginning in the summer of 1894, there was much activity: the area was platted into lots, parks and a hotel site; a road was constructed of crushed stone from the Hopkins quarry; a reservoir of several acres was installed; several cottages were built; and a tower, 85 feet high, was erected. In June 1895, the *Baraboo Republic* reported: "A telescope is to be placed in the tower and the observatory will be open to the public ..."

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Then, in October 1895, tragedy struck - Ziemer died of typhoid fever in his west bluff cottage, presumably from drinking contaminated water from the Palisade Park spring. The word spread and with a few exceptions people stayed away from what had been advertised as "the most prominent summer resort in the northwest."

In Ziemer's obituary in the *Baraboo News*, there's this note: "Mr. Ziemer was a civil engineer by profession but preferred business as being more remunerative." And on a circular of the Palisade Park Company there's this quotation: "On the heights of Palisades there lies repose."

In the early 1900's, in the springtime, local boys would climb to the "ghost city" and clean out one of the cottages - pick up the plaster and other debris, then play marbles and tell stories inside the building.

A plat of Palisade Park was still being shown in the county atlas during the 1920's; in *The Standard Atlas of Sauk County, Wisconsin*, for 1922, the plat shows 88 lots and, near the edge of the bluff, the hotel site.

Look around today and you'll find stone steps and the remains of a sandstone chimney; the foundation of one of the cottages; and 8 stones arranged in a square 24 feet on a side - the foundation of the tower.

Another man with business ideas for the west bluff was Benjamin Shew. He bought several Palisade Park lots and in 1927 set up a stand at this locality, where for several years he sold water, soda pop, candy, and walking canes made from pine branches. Shew was talking about building a lift for carrying people from the bottom to the top of the bluff, but failing eyesight and age forced him to abandon these plans and the concession stand. It was Shew who named the top of the west bluff, "Prospect Point."

A nephew, Roy Meyers, with the help of his children, then operated the stand until the Second World War started and park attendance dropped. Meyers ran the stand for a while after the war,

but hikers were using the other trails more than before and the venture was no longer profitable.

### DEVIL'S LAKE BECOMES A STATE PARK

Officially Devil's Lake was Wisconsin's third state park, after Interstate (1900) and Peninsula (1910). Wisconsin had a state park of about 50,000 acres in the northern part of the state in the 1890's, but it only survived until 1897 when the land was sold and the timber cut.

The state park movement wasn't really launched until the automobile and good roads became widespread. State parks established before this time usually had been created to preserve an outstanding scenic area. As a rule, public attention was focused on only one project at a time, although Wisconsin's first state park board, which was established in 1907, employed a well-known landscape architect, John Nolen from Boston, to evaluate several areas for park sites. One of these was Devil's Lake.

An early proposal made in 1903 envisaged a sort of gigantic zoo. The *Sauk County Democrat* expressed the idea this way: "If the undertaking develops to its fullest possibilities a high fence will be constructed to enclose cliffs and water - a two mile area, more or less, with suitable cattle guards at the points where the Northwestern railway enters and leaves the tract to curtail the range of deer, antelope, buffalo and other animals of harmless nature that may be secured. Bear pits and cages for the more savage beasts and for winged creatures and the open lake where on shooting will never occur, for the web-footed, and for fish of all varieties are a part of the pleasing project." Three years later the Baraboo Lodge of Elks "voted its intention of installing a pair of Elks." One person then decided that he didn't like the idea of a state park at Devil's Lake because, as he put it, a man had once been killed by an elk which had jumped out of an enclosure. Many people wondered if the state would lay out cement walks and flower beds.

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The concept of a state park was different and strange to these people, but most liked the idea of making choice tracts public property.

Both aesthetic and financial reasons were given for establishing the park. There was general agreement among the proponents that it was a unique place and that more people would come if it was public.

The managers of the hotels and cottages allowed visitors to occupy their grounds at no charge and also supplied such free accommodations as ice water, but they found it necessary to continually admonish non-guests "not to strew victuals promiscuously upon the grounds, nor annoy the innkeepers and their guests by indulging in boisterousness and indiscretion," this being most pronounced "when boys are in bathing." Landlord Pearl probably was speaking for the people in general when he said: "the ones who did not receive a warm welcome were those who desired to use the grounds for picnicking."

The resort people certainly were being reasonable and fair in these admonitions, yet one can understand how friction and charges of elitism arose. Also, some of the resorts were for gentiles only.

A committee of 8 local people, with W.H. McFetridge as chairman, was organized in 1906; its purpose was to influence the state legislature to pass a bill providing for an annual appropriation of \$35,000 for 3 years for the establishment of a state park at Devil's Lake. The committee advertised the project by means of a pamphlet which was titled, "An appeal for the preservation of the Devil's Lake region;" 2000 copies were printed. The reasons for preserving open spaces outlined in this publication haven't changed - they are the same today.

McFetridge was a sparkplug in the movement to establish a state park at Devil's Lake, and he hoped that all the land in the Baraboo Bluffs from Durward's Glen on the east to around Leland on

the west would eventually become public property. This Baraboo businessman also wanted to see "the entire Baraboo valley as one great park system."

The pastor of the First Congregational Church in Baraboo (Louis A. Goddard) pleaded for the park in a talk early in 1907. There was also outside support: the *Milwaukee Journal* in 1906 editorialized for a state park at Devil's Lake - "It is a worthy project which ought to be carried out."

State legislators and guests had a May Day picnic at Devil's Lake in 1907: there were speeches; the Baraboo Marine Band "discoursed some choice airs;" a luncheon was served by the Terwilliger's in the Kirkland pavilion; and many of the people climbed the bluffs, where residents pointed out choice views and rare plants, and the work done by a quarry which had located at the north end of the east bluff in 1906. As it turned out, blasting continued at this site until 1921. This was becoming a major concern - would Devil's Lake become a state park or "the home of quarrymen?"

The Devil's Lake Park bill lost by one vote. Some of the property owners lobbied against it, and according to the *Sauk County Democrat* (4 July 1907), the park proposal was defeated because the legislature decided that the state would not be able to obtain all land bordering the lake without "undue expense." This newspaper added: "Friends . . . should open the campaign now to insure favorable action by the next legislature. . ."

They did. More people began to speak and write in favor of a state park at Devil's Lake. Women were much involved: Mrs. Eliza Mulcahy wrote a poem pleading for the preservation of Devil's Lake - it appeared in a local newspaper in August 1907; Mrs. H.A.J. Upham, in 1908, read a paper to the Women's Club of Milwaukee in favor of a "public reserve" at the lake and later that year talked to the Wisconsin Natural History Society in Milwaukee on the importance of preserving Devil's Lake and the Dells of the Wisconsin River; and

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the State Federation of Women's Clubs saw the need for parks and worked for them.

Lack of money continued to plague the state park board. The breakthrough came in 1910 in the form of a legislative appropriation to the board of \$100,000 per biennium. Earlier that year the board estimated that a park could be established at Devil's Lake for \$125,000, and as it turned out, this was highly accurate (the initial park holdings cost approximately \$128,000), except for unforeseen troubles with the company that was quarrying the east bluff.

When the park was being established, the state park board consisted of the following people: Thomas E. Brittingham of Madison, the chairman; L.C. Colman of LaCrosse; and Gustaf R. Egeland of Ephraim. Like McFetridge, Brittingham had a dream of a public park at Devil's Lake and worked long and hard for it. His world travels convinced him that the lake was a very special place, and he also came to believe that local people didn't appreciate the area because of familiarity. He and Colman made themselves directly responsible for certain Devil's Lake properties by agreeing to hold them for the state for 5 years; if the state didn't take the land then the owner could repurchase it, with no compensation (but a chance of loss) to the two men.

After some misunderstandings had been settled and certain appeals satisfied, the state park board controlled about 1100 acres, the amount that it deemed essential for the park. In June 1911, newspapers were announcing that there really was a Devil's Lake State Park - "The Devil's Lake Park bill was passed in the legislature this afternoon by a vote of 69 to 9."

But the quarry was still there and still blasting. In the minutes of its meeting dated 13 July 1912, the state park board commented: "It was found impossible to purchase the . . . quarry ... at a price which the board considered reasonable as compared with lands nearby equally suitable for the same purpose." This was the

American Refractories Company, the same company that had found the rock at the Hopkins quarry unsuitable for fire brick. But here, at the north end of the east bluff, the quartzite was satisfactory for this purpose, and at this quarry the rock was also used for paving blocks. The scars from this operation are still visible.

The workers and their families lived away from the quarry in the Cliff House Annex until 1912. A woman reminisced: "I remember my father clearing off a garden space and planting lettuce and radishes - and the deer coming in the early morning and eating the tender lettuce." When the state park board refused to renew the company's lease on the Annex, these people moved into an area across from Shadow Town, where the Devi-Bara resort now is located. The quarry workers were mostly Italians and so this place became known as the "Italian village."

The company had an option on the west bluff from the Claude's and wanted to build a spur from the railroad tracks to the property, but the Claude's refused; they preferred the natural setting.

Finally, in 1919, the state legislature authorized the Conservation Commission to remove the quarry from the park; if it proved necessary, the Commission could purchase lands for exchange. In the following year, American Refractories sold its property in the park to the state for \$75,000, plus a small tract of land at the south end of the east bluff. The company then purchased a farm adjoining this tract and moved there in 1922. This was just outside the park boundary, near the group camp. The company worked this site through 1967; the cut that can be seen there is from a total of 45 years of quarrying.

### **PARK CONCESSIONS**

The new park was promoted in a number of ways.

The railroad company ran a special train from Baraboo to the lake on Sundays in the summers, as in the 1800's. There were also

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excursions, although not on a scale comparable to that at the turn of the century. Visitors could also come to the park in a White Steamer bus from the Dells. There were 2 of these 12 sealers, bright red in color. In the park they took on water from the creek by the north shore. After an hour or so, they returned to Wisconsin Dells. Local businessmen also advertised the park; they did so via brochures and promotional trips, much like Landlord Pearl had done in the hotel era. The Wisconsin Motor Coach Association in 1926 produced a film on Wisconsin, with scenes of Devil's Lake, for distribution throughout the United States. It was possible in the 1930's to take an aerial tour of this region or a motorbus tour to Portage, the Dells and Devil's Lake. The bus tour started in Madison and ended at the lake, "with a wiener roast and Indian pow-wow around the campfire," where the guide presented "the romantic history of the country, with its mystic Indian lore and fascinating legends." This tour, according to the flyer, was "open to men and women."

Lucius D. Prader (1880-1963), a jeweler, ran the first park concession. The help was given 50 cents a day, plus a meal and a coke; they stayed in small tents along the lakeshore. One man recalled that at night he filled, pumped, and hung lanterns on posts, so that strollers could see the path.

The concession was located at the north end of the lake. It consisted of a pavilion, a store, a canvas bathhouse, boathouses, an icehouse, a laundry, and Army tepee tents.

The Cliff House obtained its water from a spring in back of the east bluff and it was from this same spring that the state piped water to Prader's pavilion in 1919. "A hydrant will be placed in the street so that visitors may have a drink of spring water just by turning the faucet," as a local newspaper put it.

The pavilion was alive with dancers on summer evenings. During July and August a band played once a week and a jukebox furnished the music on the other nights.

Prader installed a 20-foot tower with a chute of linoleum at an angle of 45 degrees in 1914, and soon afterwards the *Baraboo News* was saying: "Have you ever gone down the chute? What chute? Why at Devil's Lake ... Hundreds of people are daily indulging in the sport at the north end of the park. Merchants and young men employed in the city . . . are taken to the place in auto trucks, automobiles and carriages every evening ..." A dangerous sport was to dive from the top of this tower, as it was in only a few feet of water. One time a woman sitting on the beach became disturbed by a youngster diving off the tower and said to a lady nearby, "Who is that crazy fool diving off the chute? His mother should give him a good lecture." The woman replied, "Don't you know who that boy is? That's your son!"

Five trapezes were installed on the same raft as the tower. Prader also had a revolving barrel - you tried to stay on it, and a canvas and cork "floater," 14 feet square.

There were 2 piers, one of concrete and one of planks. A teahouse was located on the plank pier.

Prader rented boats and he had a launch called the Wisconsin, which the state bought from him in 1922. The Wisconsin was piloted on the lake from about 1915 to 1936; it made regular trips carrying people to and from trains and it also could be chartered for special trips. The pilot was envied by many of the local boys, since "he could ride on the lake all day and be paid for it." After the state sold the Wisconsin, it was used on Madison's Lake Mendota for awhile.

A paddlewheel boat with an inboard engine was operated on Devil's Lake in more recent years. This venture began in 1957 and several years later the boat was replaced by another of safer design, which was piloted on the lake through 1965. Both boats were called John Muir.

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There was a zoo at the north shore in the early years of the park: it included a black bear called Jane, a raccoon known as Rastus, and a deer.

One year, for the 4th of July celebration, Prader had a telephone pole erected, on top of which was placed a hat with a 5 dollar bill in it. Carl Robinson, the fellow who climbed up there, greased the pole on his way down. No one was able to retrieve the money, but a few days later, at night, Robinson did so by putting wet sand on his hands and sewing sandpaper to his pants legs. When Prader noticed that the hat was missing, he wondered if the person had used a ladder, little suspecting the actual way in which the money was obtained.

Buildings were moved across the lake when it was frozen, and one time 2 outdoor toilets were transported across the open water from the north shore to the south shore. Prader was the engineer; he built a log raft to hold them and used the Wisconsin for power. The toilets unfortunately proved to be tippy, so Prader had to swim alongside the raft and steady them. The job took about an hour and afterwards Prader said it had been a cold swim.

When the concession changed hands, Prader and his wife moved to Wautoma, Wisconsin, where he developed a resort on Silver Lake.

Louis G. Roche and Lancelot A. Gordon acquired the concession in 1925; Roche secured sole managership four years later. Benjamin Jones managed the concession for a creditor's committee from 1931 until 1939, and then he ran it on contract for 6 years. James E. Halsted was the manager from 1945 to 1951, and then the Baraboo - Devil's Lake Concession Corporation was formed from a group which was operating a golf course in the park at the time. This group had rented the Claude cornfield at the north end of the park in 1922, and had a 9-hole course built on it soon thereafter. It was used

into 1961 when the lease was terminated and the club had a 9-hole course installed between the park and Baraboo.

The Concession Corporation is a non-profit corporation of 7 members; only the manager and secretary are paid. The state receives 5 percent of total concession sales and all the remainder (after salaries and operating expenses are paid) is for park projects. The Concession Corporation has the distinction of being the first group in the nation to receive the award of merit from the National Association of Parks and Recreation; previously this award had gone to individuals.

The park concession now consists of a building at the north shore, called the Chateau, a store at the south end of the lake, and the Ice Age Store in the Ice Age Campground. The Chateau was erected in 1925 and remodeled over a three year period from 1939 to 1942; it replaced Prader's pavilion and store. Many people objected to this building, calling it "an architectural monstrosity."

People also complained of high prices, poor service, and the burning of rubbish on the beach. "New Concessionaire Ruining Devil's Lake" was the title of an article in the *Milwaukee Journal* for 18 July 1925. Fortunately this didn't continue.

Roche also built and operated the original Panoramic resort by the north shore entrance to the park. Sometimes he hired Indians: they dressed in native attire and entertained nightly in the Panoramic, and occasionally they gave a program in the Chateau. These native Americans, (they were Chippewa's) staged a pageant in 1931 along the lakeshore; it depicted their history. They were assisted by local boy scouts and more than 2000 people attended.

Concerts were given at the north shore in the 1930's by the Baraboo American Legion Band and also the Reedsburg American Legion Band. Sometimes the Baraboo Men's Chorus, directed by Benjamin Jones, the concession manager, gave a concert in the Chateau.

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This building, like Prader's pavilion, was alive with dancers on summer evenings; an orchestra played six nights a week. Many people recall those bands of the 1930's and 40's headed by Earl Morse, Carl Effinger, Jerry Barnhart, and Glen P. Johnson. The last named was an eight-piece band with a female vocalist.

Times change. After the Second World War, the concessionaire hired bands which were comprised of younger musicians, and eventually there weren't any bands at the Chateau.

Roche and Gordon had tents with wood floors and more than 20 cottages built by the northeastern corner of the lake; the area came to be known as "Vest Pocket Park." The cottages had 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms; they were electrically lighted; they had screened porches; and they accommodated up to 8 people. Halsted bought these Chateau cottages in the mid-1940's and had them moved to his property in the lower end of the valley in back of the east bluff, where he rented them through 1967. Some people used them every year, but they had seen better days: paint was peeling, the window curtains were drab, and the beds were old iron frames; the bed spring in one cottage was on 2 railroad ties. A man came into the park headquarters in the last year that these cottages were rented, and exclaimed, "You wouldn't believe it. You wouldn't believe it." He shook his head, and then repeated himself a few more times. It turned out that he had rented, unseen, one of these cottages.

The state acquired the property in 1968 and in the following year the cottages and furnishings were sold at auction.

### RECREATION IN THE PARK

The *Baraboo News* in 1930 reported: "one of the entertainments of permanent campers is checking up on unusual places represented in the traffic parade." What else did campers do for recreation? There was always the concession, but to a great extent

these people, like those before them in the resort years, made their own entertainment.

They had masquerade balls. Once during a masquerade dance in Prader's pavilion it was announced that there would be a ballet dance by members of the "Chicago Grand Opera;" 10 men and boys of various sizes and shapes, costumed in crepe paper, then appeared, and amid much laughter, danced "individually" and "collectively."

They had campfire programs. Over the years these were organized by a number of people, but mainly by Caesar DeVogelear of Chicago. This man was born and raised in Belgium, where in his youth he was associated with carnivals. In the summer when he was at the park, there was a program from 8 to 10 every night, except Sundays. When he returned to the park after an absence, the campers alerted one another, "DeVogelear's back. Campfire program tonight!" The programs were held at the north end of the park into the late 1940's, first on a platform and a stage by the northwestern shore, and in more recent years on a stage near the Chateau. There were all kinds of activities: musical skits (when he was a boy, George Gobel, the comedian, was one of the performers - he played a guitar), community singing, tap dancing, poetry reading, storytelling, movies, contests for the kids (such as races in the sand or blowing balloons), in short, a two-hour program arranged and presented by amateurs of varying talents. DeVogelear awarded prizes, such as food or shoes, which were donated by Baraboo merchants, and candy bars from the Chateau. One time a large group of Germans, carrying musical instruments and flags, rode the train to the park; DeVogelear contacted them and they gave a program of native songs and dances that lasted until midnight.

Once a fellow drove into the park with 2 alligators in his truck; he wanted to stage a wrestling match with them in the lake and thereby make some money. The request was refused!

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Another fellow in the 1930's sculptured sand figures on the beach. People threw down dimes and quarters as they watched him form such figures as a deer in a reclining position.

There was much competition among swimmers for the fastest time in crossing from Messenger shore to Kirkland or some other distance in the lake. Devil's Lake was also the place in past years where students from Baraboo high school took their swimming tests. The Young Men's Christian Association camped along the north shore in the early years of the park - the boys were taught to swim; if they could swim, and then there was training for the exam of the U.S. Volunteer Life Saving Association.

The Young Women's Christian Association also had a camp here; the ten-day program in 1920 consisted of swimming, boating, first aid, woodcraft, "outdoor activities in general," and bible study.

The Madison Girl Scouts Council leased a small area near Messenger shore from about 1948 to 1971; the Council stopped using it in 1966 and served notice the following year that it didn't wish to continue the lease. The camp, which had 4 buildings, was called "Cho-Taka-Tipi." Included in the activities were outdoor cooking, swimming, hiking, campfire programs, dramatics, treasure hunts, sketching, archery, knots and lashing, and flag procedure.

There was a baseball field by the north shore in the early years of the park; this area was paved for a parking lot and a new diamond installed at the south end of the lake in the 1930's. Games were played regularly on these lots.

In more recent years there were other activities at the south shore, such as evening programs organized by and for campers.

What did visitors do in winter? The railroad company, beginning in 1938, ran "snow" trains on weekends for several years. They left Chicago early in the morning, arrived at Devil's Lake about 8 and departed about 4:30. The Devil's Lake Recreation Club, which was formed by a group of local people, leased some land just to the

north of the park in 1940 and had a ski area built on it. The Club arranged for a "snow" train from Chicago on Sundays, but in order to make the run profitable for the railroad company, the promoters had to guarantee a full train - several hundred people. Trying to guess snow conditions in advance made this a risky financial venture. A group in Chicago, the Windy City Ski Club, secured the lease in more recent years. The area is deserted today - only the run and part of the tow remain.

Ice skating was sponsored by the Works Project Administration and the Baraboo Chamber of Commerce in the 1930's. With suitable ice, the lake was used, or an area of the lake was flooded, and in some years there was an ice skating rink at Kirkland - the skaters used the Kirk Hotel for a shelter house.

A toboggan and bobsled run which extended onto the lake was located on the hill at the north end of the park. It was fitted with sideboards and iced; the state built it and the National Youth Administration maintained it. This was illuminated at night with lights used in Baraboo during the holiday season. People came rocketing down this hill at speeds of up to 65 miles per hour, and one day in January 1940, when the run was closed, several young people went down it, hit a snowdrift near the bottom and were thrown; one of them was killed. This tragedy didn't cause the run to be closed, although it was abandoned about a year later.

It's interesting that before a track was built in Baraboo in 1868 (it's no longer there), horse racing took place in a farmer's meadow, on an especially fine stretch of county road, on a village street when it was a special occasion, or sometimes on the frozen surface of Devil's Lake.

### **EDUCATION IN THE PARK**

Officially the purpose of state parks is to provide areas "for public recreation and for education in conservation and nature study."

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This is a marvelous outdoor research area and classroom. Geologists began coming here before the railroad was constructed, for example Lapham in 1849. The earliest reference to a class of geology students at the lake that we've found is one from the University of Wisconsin guided by R.D. Salisbury in 1892, but doubtless there were groups here before this. Charles R. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin included field trips in his geology courses before 1900 and Devil's Lake was one of the stops. He was definitely here with students in 1893. This is the geologist who once remarked of Devil's Lake: "I know of no other region in Wisconsin which illustrates so many principles of the science of geology."

The University of Chicago had a geology camp at the lake from the 1890's (the earliest reference is 1894) until about 1950. They stayed at the north shore at first, then in the 1920's they moved to Kirkland, and after the Second World War they used the Civilian Conservation Corps camp for a few years. Usually they arrived in August and remained for several weeks. J Harlen Bretz was the geologist in charge for many years.

A.C. Trowbridge of the University of Chicago and later of the University of Iowa began bringing geology classes to the lake in 1905. This geologist, in 1908, gave an informal address by the bird mound to the annual state assembly of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, which had included Devil's Lake in its itinerary that year.

It's possible that still another university - Northwestern - was having geology field trips to Devil's Lake by the turn of the century, although the earliest definite date is 1910. These classes came by train into the late 1920's; local travel was by carriage or (in more recent years) automobile. The instructors and their students stayed overnight in the park (in the Kirkland cottages) and in Wisconsin Dells (in a hotel). They began coming by chartered bus in 1928. Arthur L. Howland, a geologist at Northwestern, wrote us in 1973: "I doubt if there have been many students who took geology here over

the last 70 years who did not get introduced to the Devil's Lake area - probably between 5 and 10 thousand students."

A party of 50 geographers and geologists from America and Europe toured the United States under the auspices of the American Geographical Society in 1912. While in Wisconsin, the party was guided by Lawrence Martin, a geographer at the University of Wisconsin. After looking at Indian mounds on the university grounds in Madison, the scientists were shown various geological formations west of the city, then the automobiles returned to the capital where the party boarded a special train for Devil's Lake; after viewing the park, they traveled to St. Paul and points westward.

Nowadays about 100 colleges and universities have field trips in geology at Devil's Lake. With so many people, responsible geologists have become concerned about rock hammering and removing rocks from critical areas for samples.

The park has also been a popular place for biology field trips, and has been visited each year for nature study in general by a host of grade schools, middle schools, junior high schools and high schools.

The summer conservation course at the University of Wisconsin -Stevens Point for about 6 years in the 1950's and early 1960's included a stay of 2 weeks at Devil's Lake. The instructor was Paul Yambert. From 15 to 20 students took the course each summer; they studied various subjects (mainly forestry) and worked on such projects as repairing benches, maintaining trails, and installing a self-guiding nature trail (it was severely vandalized on the same day that it was completed!).

Another university camp which was located at the lake in past years was the University of Wisconsin summer survey camp. It was in Madison from 1896 to 1899, in Portage from 1899 to 1909, then in 1910 it was located at Kirkland; ten years later it was moved to Messenger shore, where it remained until 1956. Devil's Lake afforded the engineers ideal conditions for problems in triangulation,

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topography, hydrography, and the location of highways and railways. At first the camp consisted of 4 weeks in the summer; later this was changed to 6 weeks. Ray Sprague Owen was in charge from 1919 to 1940, and Eldon Wagner was in charge from the 40's until closing. Classes at Messenger shore were held in the Messenger barn, which was called Owen Hall. The camp also had a mess hall and a kitchen-commissary; both these buildings were erected by the engineers. The students were boarded at cost, and the camp ran its own mess hall with the help of a hired cook. The annual banquet was always a big event. Water at Messenger shore was piped from the Messenger's old spring until a well was completed in 1931. The camp bought ice from the Martin's, who farmed nearby, and in winter cut ice from the lake, which they stored in an icehouse next to the barn. Through 1948 the instructors and students camped in tents, then in 1949 they changed to trailers, which came from Camp Randall in Madison.

Look around this area today and you're apt to first notice a number of concrete slabs - they mark the campsites. Remains of the buildings, including the "Law School" (the camp privy), also are evident.

To the people who were coming to this area for educational purposes, the park was primarily an outdoor laboratory and classroom, not a playground. The instructors wanted to be away from the "dance hall atmosphere" at the north shore, and in 1928 the Conservation Commission responded by not renewing the leases for the hotels at the south end and arranging to have the buildings removed. Educational use of the park was also encouraged by the displaying of biological and geological material.

A nature guide service was started at the park in 1934 - the guide was Alonzo Pond, who later became a well-known explorer and writer. A Civilian Conservation Corps employee then conducted tours, and the Works Project Administration had "trail guides." Then the Second World War came along and it wasn't until the late 1950's

that nature hikes were started again; the seasonal naturalists in those years also gave evening programs. A permanent naturalist was assigned to the park in 1966. The naturalist program emphasizes guided hikes, movies and slide shows, and an exhibits building called the Nature Center. The Nature Center was built as a clubhouse for the Baraboo Golf Club in 1928. An amphitheatre for the naturalist program was completed in 1971—it is located on the site of the Claude house. This outdoor theater has also been the scene of programs given by the Badger Repertory Theatre for children (1971), a creative drama workshop (1972), and the Wisconsin Heritage Theatre.

**The original amphitheatre for the naturalist program was completed in 1971 - it was located on the site of the Claude house. This outdoor theatre was also the scene of programs given by the Badger Repertory Theatre for Children (1971), a creative drama workshop (1972), and the Wisconsin Heritage Theatre. Today's amphitheatre is located by the Northern Lights Campground.**

### **CAMPING IN THE PARK**

At first the lake was a camping area for Native Americans and then it became a camping area for modern Americans.

Many campers constructed tent platforms in the early years of the park, and since public use was relatively light in those days, portable cottages were permitted as substitutes for tents. A favorite type, with an L-shaped screened porch, was adequate for a family of four; it was built by T.R. Deppe of Baraboo and cost around \$500. A community of about 100 cottages thus evolved in an 11 acre area east of the railroad tracks at the north end of the park. These sites were leased from year to year. After public hearings, the Conservation Commission in 1954 decided that all recreational land leases would terminate no later than the end of 1964. It was reasoned that the 10-

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year period would give the leaseholders time to dispose of their cottages and also cover the costs of improvements by the lessee. But a number of the cottagers in the park didn't want to leave at the end of the 10-year lease, and for several years the case was in the courts. In June 1967 a settlement was announced - it was in favor of the state. By this time there were 73 cottages remaining; they were all removed in the fall of that year. Most were sold for lumber or bulldozed and burned in place, and about a third of them were sold and then moved out of the park. Flat land is scarce in this rough terrain, and the former cottage area is now a picnic and parking area.

People in the early 1900's also camped along the north shore right up to the water's edge. Many of these tents became excellent living quarters; they had wood floors and sides, with canvas covering and top. A park map from about 1919 shows 2 rows of campsites for this early campground. That old map also shows "parking areas," but they're not for cars - they're hitching posts for horses.

The *Baraboo News* in the summer of 1930 reported: "Evidently the fame of Devil's Lake is growing, for license plates of far distant states are seen in the park every day . . ." That year saw up to 300 tents being occupied daily, and by 1941 the park was often so crowded with campers that some of them finally gave up looking for a spot to squeeze in their tent and instead put newspapers over the windows of their cars and slept there. The park was relatively quiet during the Second World War, but by 1946 the crowds were back to pre-war levels and now the campers were squeezing together at the south end of the lake. When the campground at the north end in the woods to the east of the railroad tracks was opened in 1939, campers were told that they no longer could pitch their tents along the north shore. Many people continued to prefer camping by the water and so they started to set up their tents along the south shore. The south shore campground was in existence from 1960 to 1984. The campground that was new in 1939 has since been renovated, and the

area east of it was opened for camping in 1967. The west (Quartzite) campground, which is the former golf course, was opened in 1969. Since 1986, with the official opening of the Ice Age Campground, all camping in the park has been at the north end. Campers now must set up on designated sites which give more room than when they crowded together, tent to tent.

A number of local people sold farm produce and bakery goods to the campers and cottagers into recent years. Sometimes they would start early in the morning and be rapping on cottage doors by 6 o'clock or so. Until cooking items were rationed in the Second World War, Mrs. Charles A. Pettengell would get up as early as 2 a.m. from about the 1st of July until Labor Day, and bake up to 75 pies (they sold for 25 to 40 cents apiece), up to 24 dozen donuts and as many cinnamon rolls, and numerous loaves of bread. Her husband and sons then loaded the food into their canary yellow Model T and drove to the north shore. Mrs. Walter Pierce in the 1920's and 30's also prepared food for park visitors. She sold bakery goods; milk in bottles, chickens dressed, and (on Sundays) chickens already cooked. Her 3 daughters delivered the orders in a truck; the profits were used to send the girls through college. Farmers sold fresh fruits and vegetables in the park through 1968.

Camping in the park in the early 1900's was free for a period of up to 2 weeks if you had your own tent, \$5 for a month, and \$10 for the season. In the 1930's the camping fee was 25 cents a day, and after the war it was increased to 75 cents a day. The fee for a campsite in the park now is \$2.75 per day.

Now a camper must leave after a maximum stay of 3 weeks, although he can return for a period of up to another 3 weeks after an interval of a week. Approximately 90% of the campsites at Devil's Lake can now be reserved.

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### TRAILS AND ROADS

All these activities that we've been talking about are aided by trails and roads.

Park employees had worked on trails in the park before the 1930's but when the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Project Administration started here in those depression years the trails were mainly unimproved. Hikers picked their own way over the rocks (for example, most of the south end of the east bluff) or followed paths that initially must have been game trails and then Indian trails (for example, on top of the west bluff). The CCC's and the WPA improved the existing trails and built new ones, such as the Balanced Rock Trail, which is located on the south face of the east bluff (its predecessor was described as "famously difficult").

Park employees in 1929 started building the forerunner of the trail along the bottom of the west bluff, which is called the Tumbled Rocks Trail. After several delays because of opposition from the Madison Women's Club and the Friends of Our Native Landscape, the Conservation Commission decided that the trail should be worked on "whenever the necessary men and time were available." The CCC's did some work on it, but this trail as we see it today, paved with asphalt and winding between huge boulders, was completed by park employees in 1966. This is probably the most used hiking trail in Wisconsin.

Trail building or repairing in the park, especially on the faces of the bluffs, is hard and heavy work. The CCC's and the WPA used tripods and pulleys to move the bigger rocks, and pails on wires for the smaller material.

Every year on the first weekend in October, several thousand boy scouts and girl scouts hike the trails in the park, answer a questionnaire on the park, and then receive a patch for a dollar from Badger Trails, Inc., the non-profit group that sponsors this activity. There's a dance in the Chateau for the older scouts on the Saturday

night of this weekend. Erwin Shambeau of Milwaukee organized this group in 1960. They walked the "glacial trail" in the Kettle Moraine country in southeastern Wisconsin in 1961 and 1962, then they hiked in the park in 1963 and have been doing so ever since.

The park is also a popular place for rock climbing; according to the *Climber's . . . Guide to Devil's Lake*, it is both a training area and a climbing area in its own right. Various individuals and groups have given courses and lessons here in rock climbing.

Before the present-day north shore road in the park was built, the only road to the north end of the lake was the route that led past Shadow Town to the area of the Cliff House. Automobilitists sometimes gathered with pick and shovel by this road to remove stones "that stick out of the road to the injury of automobile tires."

This is how one person recalled the road from Baraboo to Devil's Lake in the spring and fall before it was paved: "The wheels sank to the hub in ruts and clay filled between the spokes solid. Rubbers were sucked from pedestrians' feet in the sticky mud and mud clung to one's feet until they were a burden to lift."

Old-timers know this three-mile highway as the Warner Memorial Road, because Wilbur William Warner, whose boyhood home was in Baraboo, donated \$40,000 for it in his will. The remaining funds were supplied by the city, township, county and state. A specific route was not indicated in Warner's will - the road was to begin by the "high bridge" in Baraboo, which is no longer there, and end at the "waters of the lake," but according to his widow, Warner preferred the route to more or less follow "the present meandering road east of the railway." But she wasn't insistent on this. There was controversy: the Claude's, for example, never approved of the final route, which was west of the railway. Outside the city limits of Baraboo this was determined by township officials. Baraboo high school boys helped complete the road in the park, where the foreman was "Phil" McDonald, a lumberjack from northern Wisconsin. He

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wore hobnailed boots, corduroy pants and a checkered shirt and red underwear, cussed with vigor and chewed tobacco, and as a result kept the boys in line.

At the south end of the lake one of the lessees was Henry Ringling of the circus Ringling's; the property was called Sandy Beach. He had a summer home - a bungalow- built there in 1915. All the woodwork was finished with varnish and rubbed with pumice stone and oil, and the siding was cypress. Also on the Ringling property were 2 cottages, an icehouse, and a building for a Buick touring car and the chauffeur. These buildings, which are gone now, were rented in more recent years; the Ringling bungalow was then called the South Shore Lodge. When Ringling had the bungalow built, there was a road which ended by the southwest shore and another which ended at Sandy Beach, but only a "permanent path" between them, so he had the "path" made into a road, thus providing for the first time a through route from Messenger shore on the west to state highway 113 on the east. It has been reported that circus elephants and circus draft horses hauled material for the road; this is such a wonderful story that it seems a shame to question it, but the evidence is contradictory. What we've heard is that circus roustabouts and circus wagons, not circus animals, were so used. The south shore road has been worked on several times since Ringling had that "path" improved.

### **THE CCC AND THE WPA**

A popular song of the 1930's was "Brother, can you spare a dime?" Many people couldn't in those depression years, and so the government in an effort to get the economy moving initiated a number of federal work projects. Two of these were the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Projects Administration (WPA).

There were more than 2600 CCC camps in the United States and 561 of them were assigned to parks; one was at Devil's Lake

State Park. It was located along the south shore road a mile east of the lake and consisted of about 15 buildings, among them four 50-man barracks, garages, shops, a bathhouse, a mess hall, a supply and dispensary, a library and chapel, and a recreation hall. This camp, like all CCC camps, had its own water supply and sewage disposal system. The CCC camp really was a community in itself.

Two groups of CCC personnel arrived in the park in 1934 and stayed at the Kirk Hotel until the regular camp was activated in 1935. The permanent camp consisted of about 200 CCC boys, National Park Service personnel, and Army officers.

The CCC was for males from 18 to 25. These young men had nowhere to go, because no employment was open to them. In the CCC they were paid a small wage, plus room and board, but what was more important they came to believe that they had a mission, a useful function ("CCC -Builder of Men. CCC - Savior of the Forests.").

The CCC repaired and built trails, guided people on the bluffs, and removed currant and gooseberry bushes to help prevent the spread of white pine blister rust. They removed high risk trees, dead branches and poison ivy from the use areas, built signs, rustic picnic tables and benches, quarried and crushed stone, and made a survey and master plan of the park. At the north end they renovated the picnic area, installed the campground in the woods east of the railroad tracks, relocated roads and crossings, and built a reservoir, a sewage filtration plant, the park headquarters, the stone bathhouse, and various campground buildings. Some of them became fireguards who patrolled the bluffs and the north end of the park in the summers. The chimney for a Palisade Park cottage was still standing in those years (it didn't fall until the winter of 1965-66). The fireguard on the west bluff heated his meal on the grate of this chimney.

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Hobbies and crafts were emphasized. In their off hours the fellows could work in a wood shop or a leather craft shop, relax or play in the recreation hall, or engage in sports.

There was also an education program which covered a variety of subjects and featured field trips to such places as the state game farm at Poynette, now the Conservation Education Center. The camp issued a monthly newsletter-it was called the "*Devil's Lake Bluff*."

Park employees could buy meals at the camp - they cost 15 cents, plus 2 cents for the orderly who waited on your table. The officers and the workers had their meals in separate sections of the mess hall. CCC camps were regimented and disciplined.

The federal government abandoned the camp at Devil's Lake and turned it over to the state in the fall of 1941, but it was idle for only a few months. For about a year, beginning early in 1942, the federal government again used it, this time for temporary offices for employees of the powder plant, which was being constructed then. This is a complex of buildings and transportation lines that sprawls over 7400 acres of land just on the other side of the south bluff. Jamaicans who worked at this plant were housed in the CCC camp in 1944 and 1945. After the war, the camp again became state property.

Four of the buildings are still standing, two of them are being used as the park's indoor group camp, one is a garage and one is a storage and work area. This is one of the few CCC camps in Wisconsin where any of the original buildings are being used. (Note: The last building was removed in 1989.)

WPA employees worked on trails and fire roads. They painted benches and did repair work, and constructed a wood pier and a raft and diving board. Some of them became recreational men, first aid men, trail guides, or lifeguards. WPA workers also built the north shore stone garage and several retaining walls at the north end of the park; the stone mason hired for this work was a German by the

name of Fred Keeser. This man, like old-time stone masons in general, was very particular and he usually didn't care for work done on his projects in his absence; on his return, those stones would be replaced. The garage is testimony to his careful and beautiful work.

### **THE ICE AGE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESERVE**

An order was published in the Federal Register of 29 May 1971 formally establishing an Ice Age National Scientific Reserve in Wisconsin. The purpose of this Reserve is to protect and preserve our glacial heritage, which is most evident and impressive in this state.

The Reserve consists of 9 units scattered over Wisconsin; they all contain representative features of continental glaciations. Some 40,000 acres are involved, of which more than half are already in public ownership. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will manage the Reserve, so that those units which are already state parks, such as Devil's Lake, or state forests will retain this status.

This is a cooperative venture of federal, state and local governments. The financing is as follows: for land buying - 50% state funds and 50% federal land and water conservation (LAWCON) funds; for development -25% state funds, 50% LAWCON and 25% National Park Service funds; and for operating and maintaining facilities and staffing - 50% state funds and 50% National Park Service funds.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service are now working on plans and programs to realize the objectives of this Reserve.

## About "A Lake Where Spirits Live"

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### EPILOGUE

Religious services and Sunday schools were held at the lake years ago, sometimes in the resort buildings and sometimes outdoors. Baptists have had immersion services in the lake, and a Lutheran Church from Baraboo had services at the north shore in recent years. The congregation sat on benches on the beach, where flares were lit, while the minister and the choir stood in anchored boats. Reverend Harold Singer of the First United Methodist Church in Baraboo had an Easter sunrise service for several years in the 1950's on top of the east bluff for a group of 10 to 20 young people who were especially enthusiastic about the outdoors. They climbed the bluff to an outcrop they called "Shattered Rock," where they had an open view to the east.

Religious services have been held near the southeastern shore, next to the bird mound, on Sundays in the summer. At first they were given in the evening, as the sun was setting behind the west bluff, but then they were held in the morning. The sun has come up and the sun has gone down more than 300,000 times since the Mound Builders fashioned this bird effigy and very likely worshiped by it, and then, a thousand years later, we worshiped by it.

### Devil's Lake

Do spirits really live here? The Winnebago-thought so and probably the Mound Builders did too. It all depends on our outlook, but no matter how you regard this park we hope you realize that it is foremost an outdoor treasure house, a rich and varied area that is part of your natural heritage. Use it - but use it gently.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Kenneth I. Lange was a Naturalist at Devil's Lake State Park for 30 years and is the author of several other major publications about this area, such as *Ancient Rocks and Vanished Glaciers: A Natural History of Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin*.

Thanks to Mr. Lange who graciously gave permission to reprint this great book in its entirety as shown heretofore.

Ralph T. Tuttle, now deceased, also worked at Devil's Lake State Park in various capacities from 1930-78.

### Were Hopkin's daughters adopted or?

#### Read the following article

#### See page No. 11 re: "The lake View"

*Alta's father, Edmund Theodore Hopkins, was a direct descendant of Stephen Hopkins, Royal Governor of the Rhode Island colony and later signer of the Declaration of Independence. Edmund survived the Civil War, and became a lawyer. He became involved with the Homestake Gold Mine in S.D.--later owned by William Randolph Hearst. He worked for an iron company in Ft. Wayne, the largest maker of steel wheels in the world. He also owned the Lakeview Hotel at Devil's Lake.*

*His second wife, Lynde Enos, bore 2 daughters, one being Alta Belle. Alta had a heart condition and died at Devil's Lake at the young age of 23. Her sister, Jessie Lynde was a noted singer, performing with large orchestras in Pittsburgh and N.Y., Milwaukee and St. Paul. While spending time abroad studying music in Paris, she met a sculptor named Dario Viterbo. They became good friends and eventually she commissioned a work of art which was to adorn the family plot in Baraboo.*

*The modern-looking sculpture shows a figure offering flowers to the mortal while prayer raises to heaven. The poppies around the base unite earth & heaven.*