

The History Of Grandview Lake  
1953-2014

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# Introduction:

## Location, Location, Location

Often those words heralding location are the theme for advertising a home for sale. It may illustrate that the property is near shopping, schools, recreational facilities, parks or conveniently located to interstate travel.

So what did the developers of Grandview Lake have in mind in 1953 as they began construction of a dam for a 400 acre lake in the Southwest corner of Bartholomew County, Indiana? There was no interstate travel, and shopping and schools were not around the corner. However there was a peaceful valley surrounded by hills and woods, and a lake on the property would provide recreation as well as nature's beauty for residents.

Dam construction, plotting of home sites, construction of roads to the sites and lot sales would take many years to complete; but today as originally planned there are over 300 lots and residents enjoy swimming, sailing, speed and pontoon boating, other water sports, fishing, hiking and caring for yards and gardens. During these years of growth, utilities such as natural gas lines and a sewer system have replaced the need for bottled gas and septic systems. Cable access and TV dishes replaced the need for antennas and internet service arrived. All of the comforts needed in today's world are at Grandview Lake, but the neighborhood is enhanced with the natural setting.

From the beginning Grandview Lake had lot owners from around the state as well as people from Ohio and Kentucky, and that trend continues. Approximately 40% of the owners live full-time at the Lake with the remainder using their property during the summer and on weekends. It is for all of these residents and lot owners that this history of Grandview Lake is written. A vision of a few has become a dream come true for many during the last 60 years.



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# Chapter I:

## A Peaceful Valley...

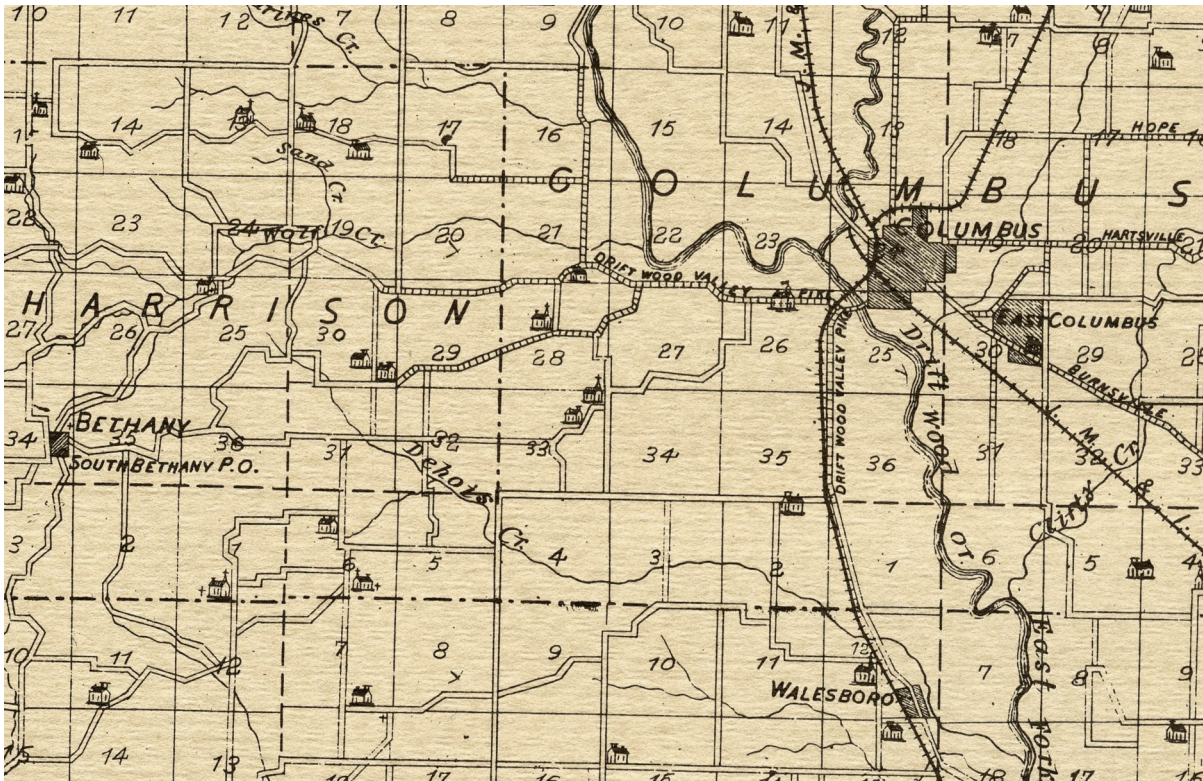
Nestled in Southwestern Bartholomew County of Indiana between fringes of the Illinoian glacial advance was a peaceful valley that at one time was used for farming. The area is located on the Eastern extreme of the Norman Uplands. The upland area was not glaciated. The area to the East was unconsolidated deposits comprised of till and residual soils that covered bedrock. The area to the West as it increased in elevation, exposed bedrock or generally covered bedrock with residual soils. The bedrock was comprised of clay stone, siltstone, shale, sandstone and thinly bedded limestone.\*

In 1816, the U.S. Congress created the 19<sup>th</sup> state and named it Indiana. Bartholomew County was formed in 1821; and in 1836, parts of Monroe, Jackson and Bartholomew Counties were taken to create Brown County. Part of the 'peaceful valley' was located in Harrison Township organized in 1841, and the remainder of the area was located in Ohio Township that was organized in 1843. Both of the townships bordered the Eastern edge of Brown County.\*\*

Although development of towns in Bartholomew County was popular during the mid and late 1800's, no towns remain in either Harrison or Ohio Townships. At one time, there were communities known as Moore's Vineyard, North Ogilville, Bethany and Taylorsburg (near the Stoney Lonesome area) in the two townships. These villages were often collections of general stores, blacksmith shops, post offices, schools, churches, cemeteries and homes surrounded by farms.\*\*

Much of the soil in these two townships was not generally suitable for farming, but many generations of families made a living from orchards, grazing land and timber harvesting.\*\*\*

Map of Harrison & Ohio Townships in  
Bartholomew County  
1870's



\*Information from the Post Failure Stability Analysis of the Grandview Lake Dam—June, 1997 authored by Richard J. Deschamps, PE, PhD.

\*\*Information from History of Bartholomew County, Indiana 1888, 1976 Annotated Edition.

\*\*\*Information from History of Bartholomew County, Indiana, 2003.

## Chapter II:

### The Valley, The Farm, The Hills...

In the valley that would become Grandview Lake, bald cypress trees were harvested out of the area and shipped by train to Terre Haute, Indiana for transportation to the East Coast where they would be used to manufacture masts for clipper ships (Circa 1850-1890) according to lake resident, John Cord.

The land became farm land and Mr. Harold Hatton farmed part of the land. An early resident of the lake for 17 years, Dale Strahl recalls riding the school bus through that valley to Gilmore School beyond Ohio Chapel. (Circa 1937) Mr. Strahl said as a boy he picked tomatoes for Mr. Hatton earning 5 cents a crate; he could pick 100 crates a day.

When Mr. Q. G. Noblitt purchased the acreage, one of the first things he did was to supervise Creel Sprague and Fred Lorenz as they built terraces on the hillsides and planted trees. Restoration of the woods provided not only soil conservation, but a beautiful setting for the lake and a home for the wildlife. The woods have a diverse variety of tree species such as white pine, cedar, aspen, poplar, maple, beech, white oak, chestnut oak, ash, hickory, and persimmon.

The roads through the valley and farm would later be moved. However according to Harold Force, long-time resident of the lake, an iron bridge that was part of the roads covered by the water still exists beneath the lake surface near his family's home at Lot #16. It would be interesting to know what other things may rest beneath the water, but it is safe to assume only an occasional human diver and the fish and water animals, such as beaver and muskrats, know for certain. It has been a long-standing rule of the lake leadership and property owners that dumping items into the lake is unacceptable. One of the unique features of the lake remains the crystal clear water.



In 1988-1989, the woods and watershed surrounding the lake were being considered for logging by the owner, Morin Timber Company who had purchased 1,100 acres. The lot owners came together through the association and purchased 643 acres of this property to preserve the natural state. This action will be discussed in detail later in the book.



Left: 1st Road Around the Lake

Below: West Shore



# Chapter III:

## Mr. Q.G. Noblitt and His Vision...



Born in Ohio Township of Bartholomew County in 1882, Mr. Noblitt grew up working on a farm and deciphering the mechanics of farm machinery. At the age of 17 he moved to Columbus to work as a bike mechanic and a year later took a job with Reeves Pulley Company. The Reeves company was a leading manufacturer of farm equipment, wood pulleys and performed early work in the automobile field. After three years working for Reeves, Mr. Noblitt would move to Indianapolis and work in various jobs of the new automobile industry.

In 1919, along with Frank Sparks and Albert G. Redmond, Mr. Noblitt founded the Indianapolis Air Pump Company. The company was renamed Noblitt-Sparks Industries and was moved to Columbus in the 1930's. By 1950 the company became known as Arvin Industries and was manufacturing automotive parts and many household goods.

During the 1930's and 1940's Mr. Noblitt began to direct his money and time to civic projects. He built two schools in Bartholomew County to replace the schools attended by himself and his wife. Through a gift of 70 acres in Harrison Township and money to develop it, Youth Camp became a reality providing recreation and camping experiences for children. The facility continues today as a camping and retreat site for people of all ages.

Mr. Noblitt's passion became the development of soil conservation and the use of water for recreation. Since there were few lakes available in the area, Mr. Noblitt worked to build dams and develop Harrison Lakes, west of Columbus, for home sites and recreational use. He also developed Noblitt Falls by using the adjoining river to create The Lagoons within the Columbus city limits that provided more home sites and recreational opportunities.

Meanwhile in Ohio Township, Mr. Noblitt's brother was raising sheep on the family owned land. Twenty ponds had been built for the purpose of soil





This photo shows relocation/construction of Bellsville Pike along the southern end of Grandview Lake.

conservation and water for the sheep. The vision was growing and now Mr. Noblitt began to conceive of a lake project larger than anything he had undertaken to date. He purchased 2,500 acres of land and began relocating roads that would eventually be covered by water.

However, ill health forced Mr. Noblitt to admit that the project was more than he could manage; and so in 1951, he sold the property to Densel Truex, the manager of the Noblitt farm operations, and Philip W. Long, a native of Columbus, graduate of West Point and owner of Practical Farm Service.

In 1953, Truex and Long announced that the Grandview Development Company would continue the project by constructing a 2,200-foot dam for the lake.

Mr. Noblitt died in July of 1954.

\*Information is from Legendary Locals of Columbus by Tamara Stone Iorio, and History of Bartholomew County Indiana, Volume II, 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 2003

## Chapter IV:

# Building the Dam and Lot Development...

As he withdrew from the project, Mr. Q. G. Noblitt signed a land contract with Philip Long and Denzel Truex representing the Grandview Development Company. They hired James O. Freese, a civil engineer from Franklin, Indiana to design the dam and Don Force of Force Construction, Inc. of Columbus, Indiana to build it.

The initial plans included three lakes flowing into one another and inclusion of recreational facilities as well as commercial businesses. Recreational facilities were to include a guest and club house with overnight accommodations, dining rooms, a bar and ballroom along with a golf course, tennis courts, children's playground, horse barns with show rings, riding trails, a rental shop with sporting goods, a sail boating course and water ski jump.

A shopping center was to include grocery, pharmaceutical, clothing, sporting goods, furniture and appliance stores as well as dentist, medical, insurance, real estate, auto, boat and storage services. Provisions were also considered for an air landing strip and provisions for landing planes on the lake.

These original concepts can be seen in a painting by George Prout located at the Grandview Lot Owners' office building.

Early struggles to complete the dam eliminated these initial plans including the development of more than one lake.

However in April 1953, Force Construction commenced work on the 2,200 foot long dam. Most of the 400 acre lake site had been cleared by this time and Mr. Force announced the dam would be 80 feet high, 520 feet long at its base and 40 feet wide at the top. It would contain approximately 1 million cubic yards of earth. The dirt to be moved for the dam was to be carried by three big Caterpillar earthmovers owned by Force Construction. Work was suspended in the fall until the following spring. At the time, the

dam was between 40 and 50 feet high. It was anticipated that when work resumed, it would take an additional three months to complete construction.

Meanwhile, lots were being sold to help fund construction of the dam and lake. Development was taking longer than anticipated. As late as December of 1956, Philip Long was projecting that completion of the dam, that now had reached a height of 70 feet would not occur until the summer of 1957.

College Life Insurance Company of Indianapolis, IN filed a complaint in 1958 against the Grandview Development Corporation to foreclose a \$125,000 mortgage on the Grandview property. During the next five years, completion of the dam and sale of additional lots were held up by the court battle. This was only one of several court suits that were pending between 1956 and 1963.

In 1960 a heavy rainstorm in the area threatened the unfinished dam, and only extreme efforts by Don Force and several lot owners using earth moving equipment saved the dam. The Indiana Supreme Court made a ruling in February of 1961 to allow emergency repairs. However by March of 1963, an engineer with the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources told residents that the level of the lake should be lowered to strengthen the dam.

In April of 1963, a hearing was scheduled before a Federal Judge concerning a petition filed by Don Force and several lot owners that asked for an involuntary reorganization of the Grandview Development Corporation. Following agreement by College Life Insurance Company and the Grandview Development Corporation in May of 1963, the Shelby County Indiana Circuit Court ordered the property sold. The sale was conducted by the Bartholomew County sheriff in July of 1963 and the successful bidder was a



Summer of 1960-placement of revetment riprap and larger stones in the temporary spillway on the south end of the dam

new corporation called Grandview Lake Inc. made up of present lot owners, Dr. Edwin Libbert, Lawrence A. Quick, Jr. and William G. Chambers. This new corporation paid \$136,641 plus costs of the sale and court action and immediately transferred the property to College Life. Actually the funds were provided by College Life for the purchase. Grandview Lake Inc. retained title to the dam and responsibility for its maintenance. College Life agreed to spend a minimum of \$400,000 to develop lot sites in the area and complete construction of the dam. Civil Engineers James O. Freese and Associates and Don Force Construction were given contracts to complete the dam construction. At the time, construction was about 2/3 completed according to Mr. Force.

In 1973 Grandview Lake Inc. shareholders Lawrence Quick, Robert Nussmeier, and Charles Shepherd sold the dam to the Grandview Lot Owners' Association who retained ownership and maintenance responsibility. College Life continued to market unsold lots and focused on completing the road around the lake in 1976.

Although construction of the dam was finally completed, by December of 1985 movement of the dam was noted which continued for the next three months. Emergency lowering of the lake began, but core sampling indicated a need for further response to lowering of the water level and emergency repair.

Piezometers were installed to monitor the entire dam to determine the cause of the failure and need for further work. A contract was awarded to Rust Construction of Seymour Indiana to repair the dam and create an emergency spillway in the summer of 1986. The work was to include flattening the downstream slope of the dam beginning at the south end and extending northward 750 feet by narrowing the top of the dam to 24 feet and adding soil along the slope. Some soil would be removed downstream from the base of the dam and a new toe drain system installed. An emergency spillway would be installed. It was also in late 1986 that the lot owners agreed to fund construction of settling ponds to prevent deposits of sediment running off the surrounding hills into the lake.

By 1997 after two years of heavy rain, the dam began to experience additional damage. The weather kept the dam from drying out during the summer, the moist dirt was pulling the dam down, and it was experiencing separation and cracking on the top.

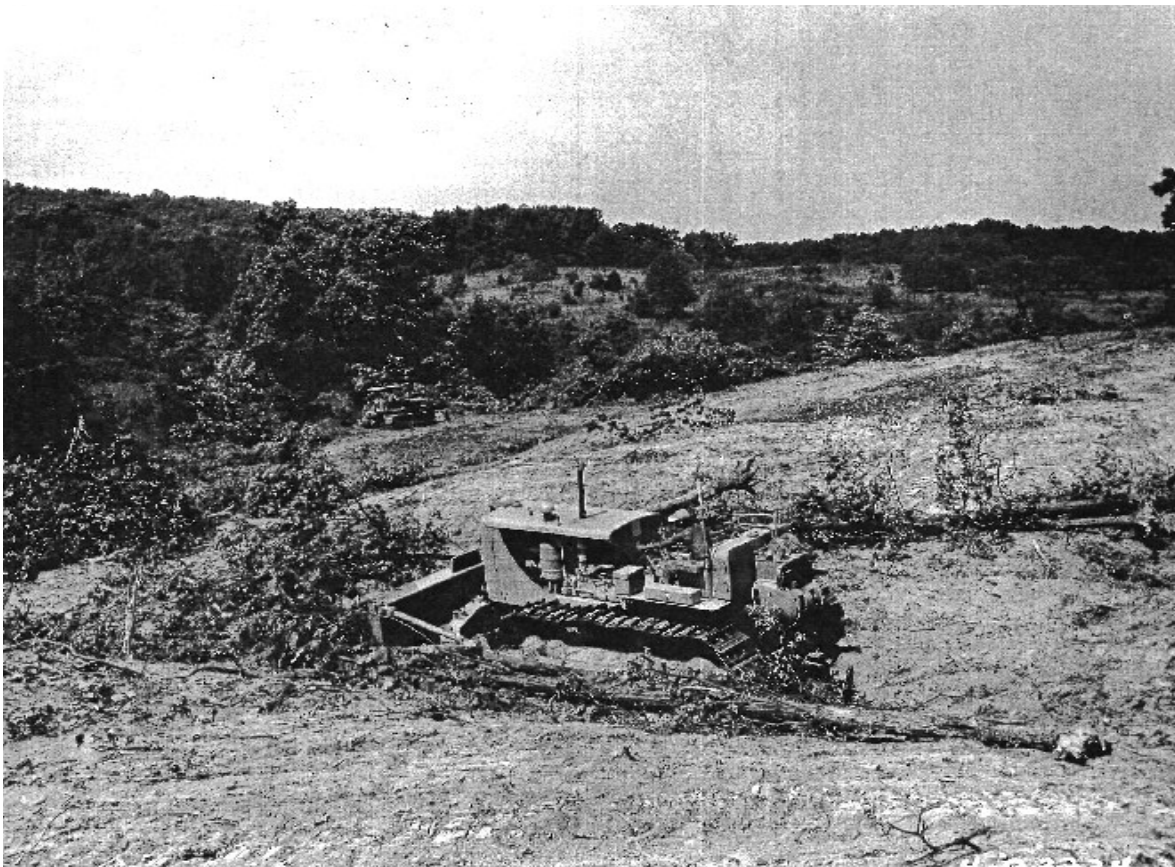
Although only a portion of the dam was impacted, it was decided to make repairs to the entire structure. Again the top was narrowed, the downstream slope was flattened and additional drainage was installed.

## 1953 Dam Construction Photos







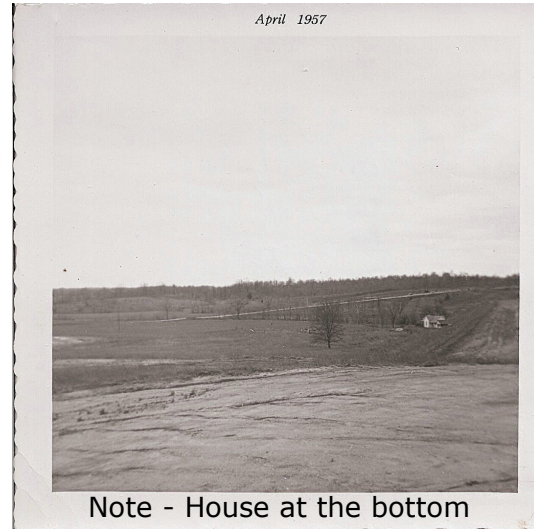


Below, left, Densel Truex and Phillip W. Long examine the progress of Grandview Lake, of which they are co-developers. This is supplementary to the residential development dreamed up and financed by industrialist Q. G. Noblitt.

Scanned Article from  
Fortune Magazine 1954 Issue



Truex and Long. They dug a lake, too.



Note - House at the bottom  
of the dam



**May 1957**

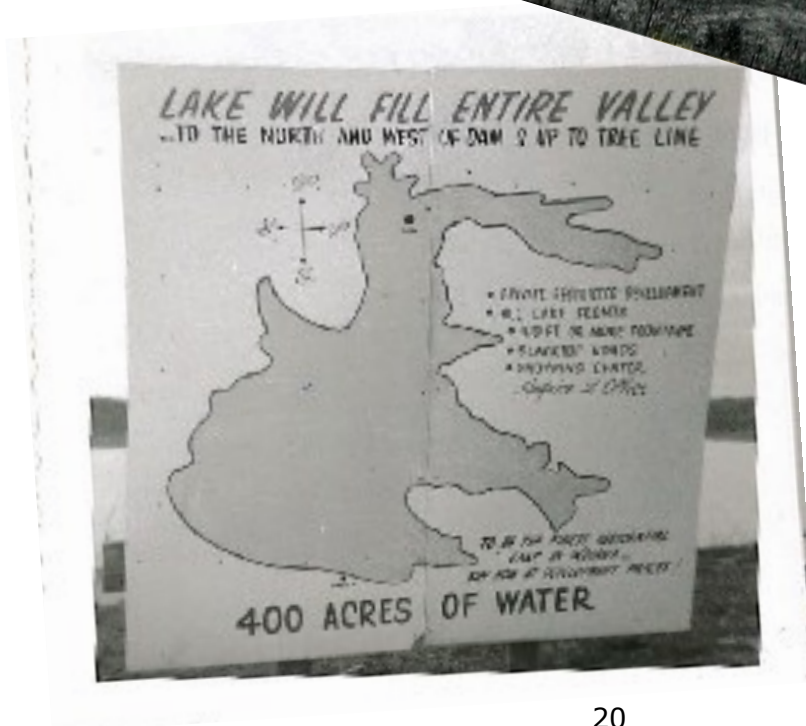




Winter late 1959, emergency work on south end of dam temporary spillway



Late 1959 or early 1960-temporary spillway on the south end of the dam; bulldozer stalled and being restarted.



**Left:**  
**April 1967**





**1963**





Despite the lengthy construction of the dam, the foreclosure of the original developers and the subsequent issues with the dam's stability, lot sales started early in the area's development and continued. Lot owners came from not only Bartholomew County, but also Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Louisville and other communities in the Midwest. Mr. & Mrs. S. E. Props purchased the show house on Lot 28 in August, 1955. Dr. and Mrs. Griff Marr camped on Lot 280 for a week in the same month using tents, a Coleman stove and open fires. By the fall of 1955 over 100 lots had been sold.

In May 1970, C. Dudley Brandon, a Missouri attorney representing several corporations with an option to purchase 2,600 acres of land adjacent to Grandview Lake and owned by College Life Insurance Company, made a presentation to the county plan commissioners. Plans called for another lake of more than 200 acres and 2,500 residential and commercial lots. Grandview Lake owners objected to connecting a second lake development to the current lake.

The project was eventually abandoned and in August, 1971, Columbus realtor William D. Hooker and partners purchased 2,200 acres and announced plans to complete lot development along the shoreline of Grandview Lake. This would open an additional 125 lots adjacent to the 185 lots already sold. Mr. Hooker and his partners had been engaged in sales representation of the Grandview property project for 15 years.

Today there are 311 lots with homes built on 264 of them. Only about 35% to 40% of the home are occupied by full-time residents. The others are summer and weekend retreats for their owners. In several cases, original homes have been demolished or significantly changed. Early lot prices were \$1,500 to \$3,600 with a 35% discount to current lot owners to purchase an additional lot or group of lots. Today, unimproved lots are being offered for sale between \$375,000 and \$525,000. What a difference 61 years makes!





Lake view of the 8th Addition before the road went around the whole lake.



### **Lot 257**

Around 1958 before the lake filled...

It was a long, long walk to the waterfront.

# Early Homes Built On The Lake

## Mid 1950's—Mid 1960's

This is a sampling of the older homes. Other original homes have been demolished and replaced with newer homes. Thanks to all the families who submitted information about their homes. We only noted the original owners.



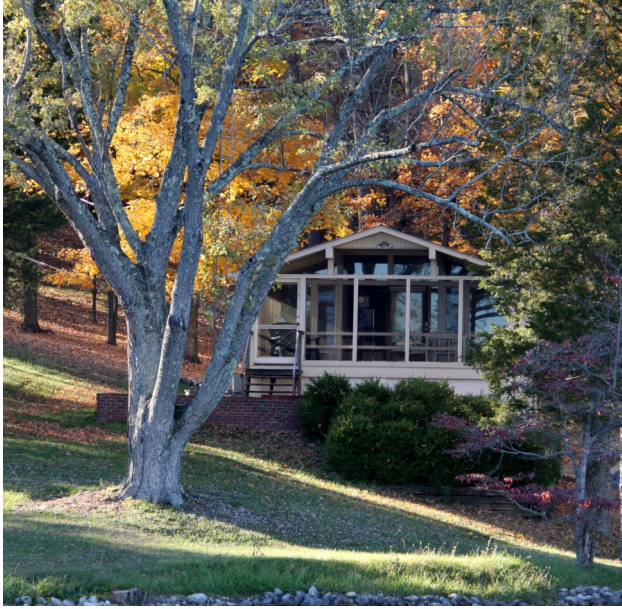
View of lake from Lot 265 in the early 1960's

Taken from the GRANDVIEW NEWS, December 1955 -

"Seven new homes are now being built on Grandview all of which are scheduled to be completed by early spring.....All will have fireplaces, a bath and a half, redwood and brick exteriors and many outstanding features. The four homes will range in selling prices from \$19,800 to \$24,500."

"Here's another unusually fine lot that has missed the eye of previous lot buyers. It has 125 foot lake frontage and is 247 ft. in depth.....There are several unusual trees, one in particular, a large towering oak ideally located to give an abundance of shade from the summer sun. This lot has a gentle slope to the water line making it excellent for beach construction. Either a one or two level house could be built as the general terrain could be easily adapted to the type home desired. The size, location, and price of this lot make it one of the most attractive buys on the lake. Price \$2,900."





## **Lot 71**

Circa 1959  
Chambers Family Cabin

## **Lot 8**

Circa 1956  
Foley Family Cabin

One of 1st cottages  
built on the lake.



## **Lot 264-265**

Circa 1964  
Charles & Mary  
Roberts





## Lot 249

Circa 1959

George S. Olive

Indianapolis Accountant

## Lot 251

Circa 1963

Don & Vera Force

Force Construction  
completed construction of  
the dam.



## Lot 45

Circa 1966

George Nentrup

Original owner  
of popular  
Columbus Bar

(demolished in 2004)



## **Lot 319A**

Circa 1959

Taylor Lumber

One of the first homes on the lake from which the developer sold the lots. There is a closet in the basement with several cabinets with pull out drawers for the salesman to keep sales information.



## **Lot 256**

Circa 1956

Lou Jenn

Founder of Jenn-Air Grill

## **Lot 33**

Circa 1964

Harold & Josephine Brasor

Former summer home of  
Lieutenant Governor John Mutz  
Home was originally a  
1 story Cape Cod.







## **Lot 24**

Circa mid 1950's

Luke Taylor

## **Lot 261**

Circa 1963

Janis and Melita Berzajs

Latvian Immigrants -  
Janis was well-known for his  
masonry work and his son,  
Leon, built many of the  
docks on the lake.



## **Lot 326**

Circa 1965

Frances Galbraith

Well known  
local photographer





## **Lot 257**

Circa 1958

Robert & Jane  
Nussmeier

Bob was an original  
shareholder  
of the lake.

## **Lot 282**

Circa 1965

Parmer Summer  
Cabin



## **Lot 51A**

Circa 1964

Jay & Avis Kress  
Summer Cabin





## Lot 258 & 259

Circa 1964  
Leon & Elois  
Meshberger

## Lot 243A

Circa 1959  
Robert & Peggy  
Stevenson

Bob was an attorney and  
past Mayor of Columbus.



## Lot 3

Circa 1962  
James Stahl





## **Lot 12**

Circa 1959  
Alvin Mundt

## **Aerial View**

Photograph taken by Frances Galbraith in the late 1950's  
before the lake filled





## **Lot 262**

Home demolished by  
fire in 2006  
and rebuilt by  
John and Nancy  
Haehl



## **Lot 265**

Mary Roberts, dog Jake, granddaughter Nancy, dog  
Jack, and Charles Roberts—in the early 1960's



## Chapter V:

### The Collapse of Grandview Drive...

The road on the north side of Grandview Lake was not built until 1976. In the early 1990's, some home owners began to experience issues with the land sliding on their properties and a part of the road cracking and dropping a few feet.

Geological research and tests revealed that since the glaciers formed during the ice ages had stopped short of the rolling hills, the soil and rocky outcrop on the hillsides had been exposed to rain, snow and heat for millions of years. The bedrock is made up of shale and limestone and when exposed to weather elements, the soil becomes heavy and slips. It was believed that problems resulted from cutting through the hill to build a road along with digging to build homes, driveways and docks. The county engineer and a consulting engineer suggested that excavating coves to provide maximum waterfront access also contributed to the slides.

Eventually, the damage was severe enough that one home had to be evacuated and razed because of structural damage. After considerable controversy over responsibility for drainage solutions, road repair and bracing of the hill, the County, affected lot owners and the Lot Owners' Association spent \$150,000.00 to install a drainage pipe and repair the road.

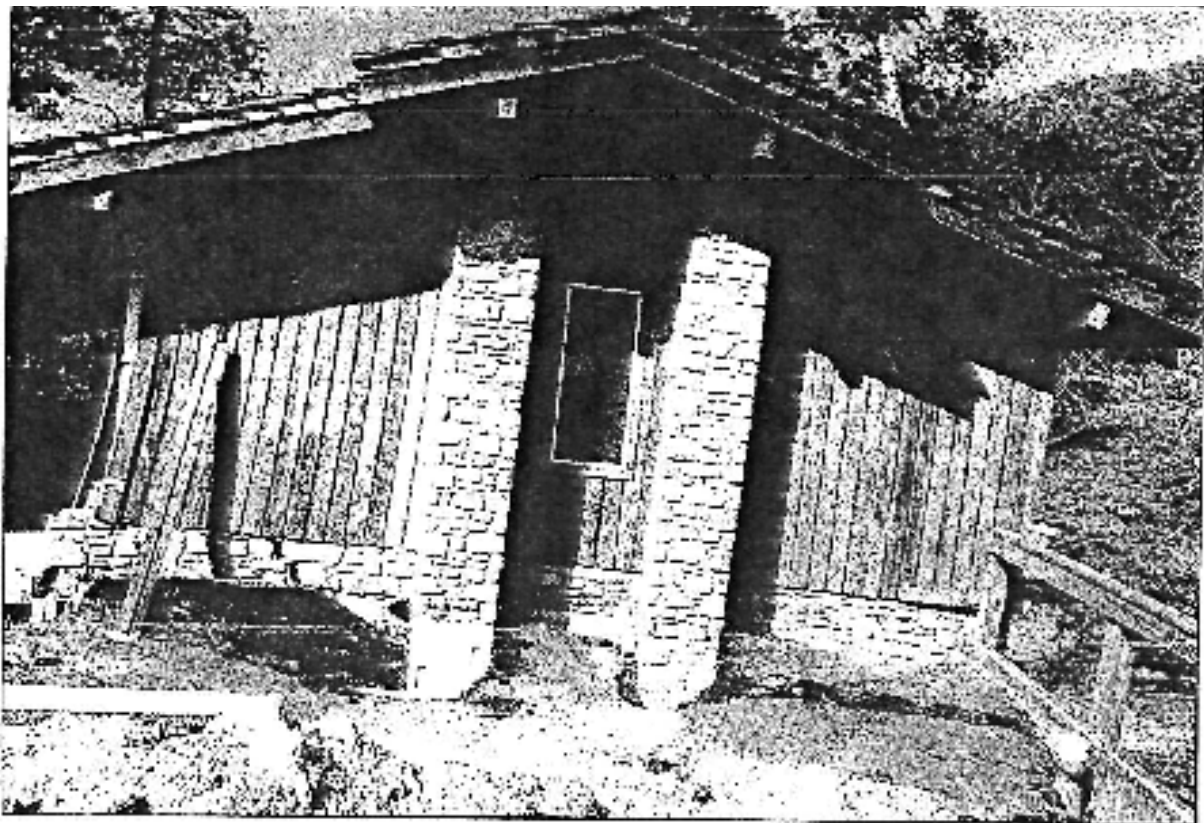
By 2002 another area, located about half a mile west of the earlier road collapse, started to experience slides and road destruction. Again, engineers recommended drainage solutions and negotiations began with regard to which parties had responsibility to pay for repairs. Eventually, three residents closest to the slide agreed to pay up to \$1,500.00 each for engineering work and up to 20% of the construction cost not to exceed a maximum amount of \$7,000.00 each. The County paid the balance. The Lot Owners' Association continued to argue that the lot owners did not have legal responsibility to maintain county roads. Jim Voelz, attorney for the Lot Owners' Association at the time, said "The county does not go to other



subdivisions and ask them to pay for repairs to roads that serve them.”

Residents have learned that architects and builders need to use test borings to determine hillside stability. Proper surface drainage and footers to anchor a residence are crucial to avoid future problems.

\*Research for this chapter was from articles in The Republic newspaper.



Grandview homeowner John Brehm was forced to leave his home earlier this year due to structural damage caused by the

The Republic photos by Darran Cummings  
shifting landscape. Engineers recently placed inclinometers in the ground to measure how fast the ground is sliding.

## **Lot# 202**

## Chapter VI:

### The Grandview Sewer Utility...

To replace the need for septic fields that might discharge sewage through the finger systems into Grandview Lake, a grant from the Farm Home Administration in 1968 provided a pressure sewer system. For the first three years the system operated as a research project.

A homeowner's sewage entered the owner's grinder pump unit to reach the perimeter force main. The sewage was pumped into lagoons, treated and then expelled into a small neighboring stream. Operation of the system was regulated by the Indiana State Utility Board because the treatment of sewage had to meet stringent State guidelines.

The grinder pump units are owned by the homeowners who are responsible for their maintenance cost. Additionally, each lot owner who is connected to the system must pay an annual sewer use fee that was \$600 in 2014. The initial pump grinders consisted of a Sears Roebuck garbage disposal and pump but were replaced within a couple of years of the utility's history by more sophisticated pump grinders.

As more homes were built and the road was completed around the lake, the system expanded and performance improved; however in 2010, the ability of the lagoons and treatment plant were no longer able to meet state requirements, and designs for a new treatment facility were required. The original system had functioned for 40 years. The new system, a Class I activated sludge waste water treatment plant, cost over \$1,400,000.00. Lot owners were assessed a total of \$4,500 per lot during 2011 and 2012 to pay for the improved system. This new plant is designed to handle 45,000 gallons of sewage per day. A separate Board of Directors of the lot owners oversees operation of the utility. The lake manager is fully certified to operate the system.



Construction of the Waste Water  
Treatment Plant in 2012











## Chapter VII:

# Grandview Land Purchase...

By James K. Voelz

At various locations in the woodlands surrounding Grandview Lake "Large Acreage for Sale" signs had been posted (Circa 1987). College Life Insurance Company of America ("College Life"), who had developed and sold lots on Grandview Lake, was the owner of 1,750 acres that was for sale. The land was listed for sale with William D. Hooker & Associates, who had brokered lots on Grandview Lake for many years. The asking price for the property was \$1,500,000.00.



On February 11, 1988, Carl Ahlers, the President of The Grandview Lot Owners' Association, Inc. ("GLOA"), Meg Storrow, a Board member, and myself, as attorney for GLOA, met with Bob Ehmer from College Life to discuss their plans regarding the land that was for sale and to discuss the possibility of GLOA buying a part of the land. He told us that College Life had been sold and that College Life was selling all of its properties in Indiana.

On March 8, 1988, the Board authorized me to contact College Life in an attempt to negotiate a purchase of part of the property. I contacted College Life and found out that Morin Timber and Lumber Company, Inc. ("Morin Timber") had made an offer to purchase the land and that the closing was to take place on March 15, 1988. We later found out that Morin Timber paid \$1,300,000.00 for the land.

An emergency Board meeting was held on March 11, 1988. The Board found out that Morin Timber was one of the largest loggers in Indiana and that it had a reputation for clear-cutting the timber from property that it would purchase, and after the logging was concluded, the property would be subdivided into parcels and sold.

The beautiful woods and surroundings of Grandview Lake were now in great jeopardy of being destroyed! The Grandview Lake community was facing a threat to the natural beauty and serenity of its neighborhood. It was also



facing other potential problems such as:

- logging activities in the lake's watershed could severely increase surface water and erosion run-off causing siltation and sedimentation in the lake,
- damage to the roads caused by logging,
- possible damage to GLOA's sewer lines that were located on the land,
- sewage run-off from septic systems from housing that would eventually be built in the lake's watershed, and
- loss of property values.

On March 11, 1988, Meg Storrow, a Board Member and Chairman of the Dam and Property Committee, signed a letter that was sent to the lot owners and to owners of property that adjoined the land being purchased by Morin Timber informing them of the situation.

On March 16, 1988, Carl Ahlers, as President of GLOA, sent information about the situation to all lot owners. This included information that GLOA's sewage disposal service would not be available to provide sewer service to any of the land purchased by Morin Timber and that the Board would oppose any development plans that could adversely affect the interests of the Grandview Lake community.

On March 23, 1988 Carl Ahlers signed a letter that was sent to all lot owners notifying lot owners of a special meeting of the members to be held on Sunday, April 24, 1988. This letter included a survey to find out if lot owners supported the purchase of land to protect the watershed of Grandview Lake, whether lot owners would support prepaying dues to be used for the land purchase, and if so, how much? The results of the survey showed overwhelming support for GLOA to purchase the land that was the watershed into Grandview Lake and to also prepay dues to accomplish the purchase.

A flurry of activities began. Morin Timber was made aware that GLOA was concerned about the threat to water quality of the lake and property values and was asked to institute protection procedures as a part of their logging activities. Morin Timber was also informed that GLOA wanted to purchase the land that was the watershed for the lake.

Representatives from GLOA and some of the Grandview Lake residents met with the Bartholomew County Plan Commission and the Bartholomew County Commissioners requesting regulations designed to protect surrounding property owners from the adverse effects of harmful timber harvesting practices, including the adoption and enforcement of weight

limits on County roads and bridges, a County ordinance to regulate logging practices to protect damage to property, and a County Erosion Control Ordinance.

The Board authorized me, as the attorney for GLOA, to retain the services of Ronald W. Polston, a professor of law at the law school in Indianapolis, to research and to prepare for potential litigation if the logging activities resulted in environmental or nuisance damage to Grandview Lake

and its lot owners. Professor Polston provided the Board with research involving possible legal action to protect the interests of the Grandview Lake Community.



We also discovered that the American Forestry Association and various environmental groups were greatly concerned about the possibility of Morin Timber clear-cutting the woodlands around Grandview Lake and how that might affect future regulations for timber cutting in the Hoosier National Forests and logging in the National Forests. Several Board members and I met with representatives at their attorney's office to solicit their help. Although the Forestry Division in Indiana had published "Best Management Practice" recommendations, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources did not oversee or regulate logging on privately owned land.

In late March 1988, Carl Ahlers, Meg Storrow, Paul Sparks, and I met with a representative of Morin Timber and their attorney in Martinsville, Indiana, and after lengthy negotiations we worked out an agreement to purchase the land located in the lake's watershed. Morin wanted to retain the right to harvest trees from this land, but we would not agree to that under any circumstances. The negotiations were successful and an offer to purchase was signed by Jim Riffle, as Vice President of GLOA, and Judi Cox, as Secretary, on April 6, 1988, and accepted by Larry Morin, the President of Morin Timber and Lumber Company, Inc. on April 8, 1988. The purchase price was \$1,325.00 per acre, and the real estate to be purchased was all of the land that was within an area at least 50' away from the ridge line of the watershed of Grandview Lake and also being at least 200' away from any public road, together with an additional 29.37 acres of land located South of Bellsville Pike. The land was to be surveyed and monumented by Orwic A. Johnson of Columbus Surveying and Engineering. The purchase agreement was subject to approval by GLOA's members and also being able to secure acceptable financing.

GLOA already had a recorded lease with College Life involving 29.37 acres of land South of Bellsville Pike that included the land where the sewer ponding facility was located. This lease gave GLOA an option to purchase this property for \$200.00 per acre. This option was exercised, and that property was also to be purchased pursuant to the agreement.

The next hurdle was to be able to pay the purchase price. GLOA was able to get a loan from Trustcorp Bank for the necessary amount to finalize the purchase. This was accomplished by obtaining enough irrevocable proxies from the members to guarantee the passage of land purchase dues at November 1988 Annual Meeting of the members. GLOA's By-Laws provided that dues could only be passed at the annual membership meeting in November. On April 12, 1988 Trustcorp Bank gave GLOA a loan commitment of up to \$660,000.00.

A special meeting of GLOA's membership was held on Sunday, April 24, 1988 for the purpose of approving the purchase of the land, giving GLOA the authority to borrow money to accomplish the purchase, approval of regular land purchase dues estimated to be \$3,000.00 per lot that would be due by February 1, 1989, approving an "early payment option" for lot owners to prepay a discounted portion of the regular land purchase dues amount that would become due by June 23, 1988 in the amount of \$2,770.00 per lot, and to give the Board authority to grant "hardship" extensions and loans to lot owners who could not pay the land purchase dues by February 1, 1989.

A lawsuit against GLOA was filed by four (4) lot owners. This lawsuit requested the Court to issue an injunction to stop GLOA from purchasing the land. The lawsuit alleged that the land purchase was "ultra vires," claiming that the land purchase was not consistent with the purposes of GLOA and that it was not authorized by the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Corporation. The Board disagreed with these allegations, and Patrick W. Harrison, a local litigation attorney, and I represented GLOA in defending this lawsuit.



John Gall, Eric Arthur, Wayne Truex, Brad Arthur, Mary Arthur, Arlene Truex, and Tahoe.

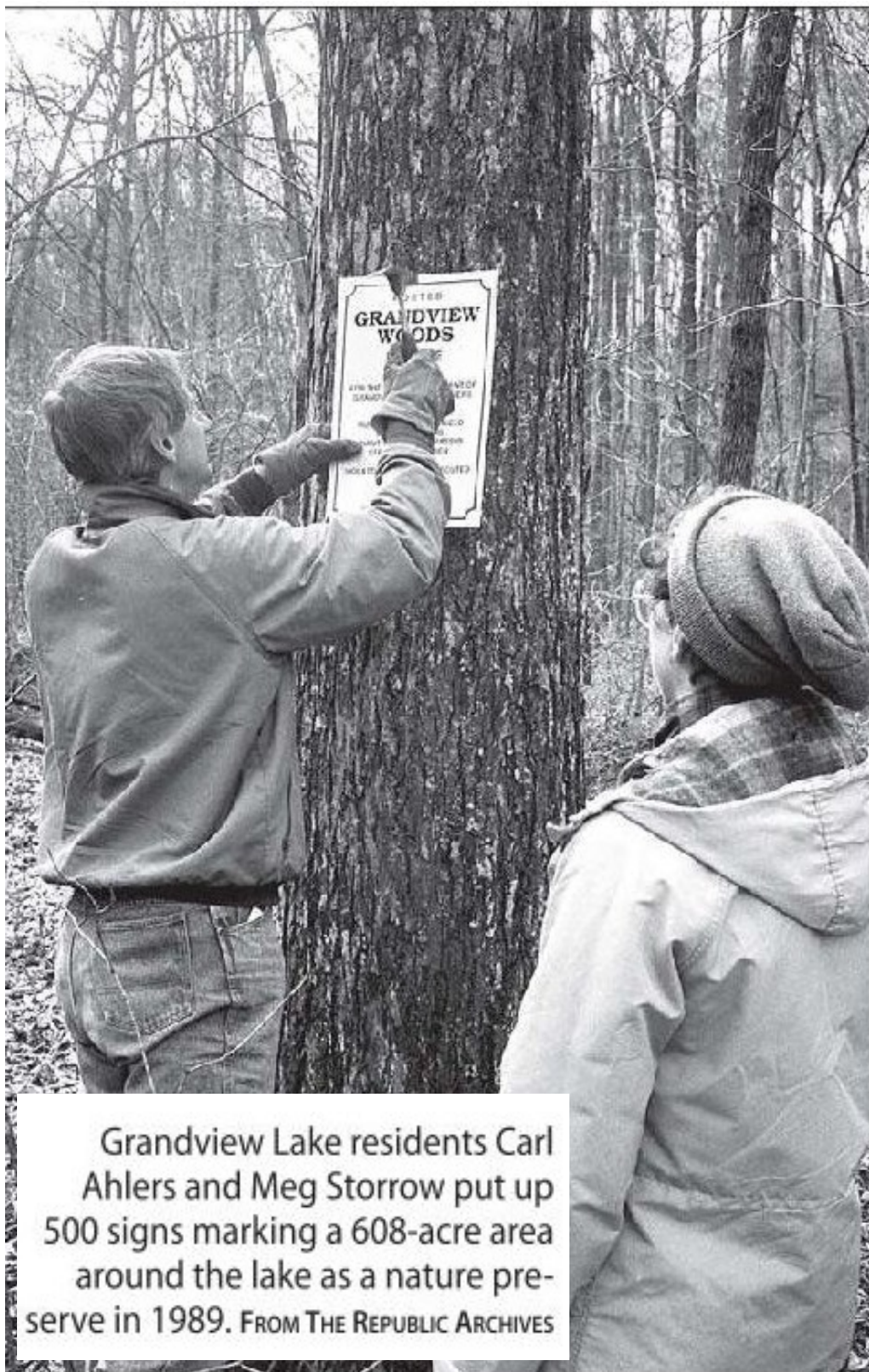
The land purchase involving 610 acres, more or less, was closed on July 6, 1988 at Trustcorp Bank. Thus, \$773,883.75 was the total sales price. The 29.37 plus acres that was located South of Bellsville Pike that included the sewer ponding facility was purchased for \$200.00 per acre, and the balance of the land (579.63 acres) had a purchase price of \$1,325.00 per acre totaling \$738,009.75. The bank had the property appraised by Pieper Farm Service, and it appraised for \$837,000.00 which was \$63,116.25 more than the purchase price! The closing costs were \$1,783.50, for a total cost of \$775,667.25. Enough money was raised from lot owners who paid the "early payment dues" that only \$200,028.14 was borrowed from Trustcorp Bank. This loan was partially paid from the 1989 land purchase dues prior to its due date of March 1, 1989, and the balance of \$38,377.78 was refinanced by Trustcorp Bank and paid by the March 13, 1990 due date.

On July 27, 1988, a refund of \$222.21 was given to the lot owners who paid the \$2,770.00 "early payment dues," reducing the "early payment" dues amount to \$2,547.79 per lot, and the 1989 land purchase dues that included interest paid to the bank was reduced to \$2,710.55 per lot.

The 1988 Annual Meeting of the lot owners was held on November 7, 1988. The agenda included the official vote to approve the land purchase dues. A group of seven (7) lot owners who called themselves the "Lot Owners Protection Committee" had sent letters to the lot owners dated October 19, 1988, opposing the land purchase, seeking signatures to revoke proxies that had been given to approve the dues, and requesting proxies that would allow their representatives to vote against the land purchase dues at the Annual Meeting. This group attended the meeting with their attorney and they presented their position at the meeting. The outcome of the voting was: 217 (79%) in favor of the land purchase dues, 45 votes (16%) against, and 12 (4%) abstentions. The lawsuit filed by members of the "Lot Owners' Protection Committee" was later dismissed.

The purchase of the 610 acres of land surrounding Grandview Lake was a tremendous achievement that was accomplished by a Board of Directors who deserve to be held in high esteem by all of those who have and will, in future years, enjoy all of the benefits that result from GLOA's ownership and control of the woodlands. The Board Members were Carl Ahlers, Meg Storrow, Judi Cox, Jim Riffle, Paul Sparks, Dudley Moore, Ronnie McIntyre, Alvin Henry, and Bill Russell. I would also like to give special recognition to Carl Ahlers, who served as President, and Meg Storrow, who served as Chairman of the Dam and Property Committee, who spent countless hours and made extraordinary efforts to accomplish this important feat in the history of Grandview Lake.





Grandview Lake residents Carl Ahlers and Meg Storrow put up 500 signs marking a 608-acre area around the lake as a nature preserve in 1989. FROM THE REPUBLIC ARCHIVES



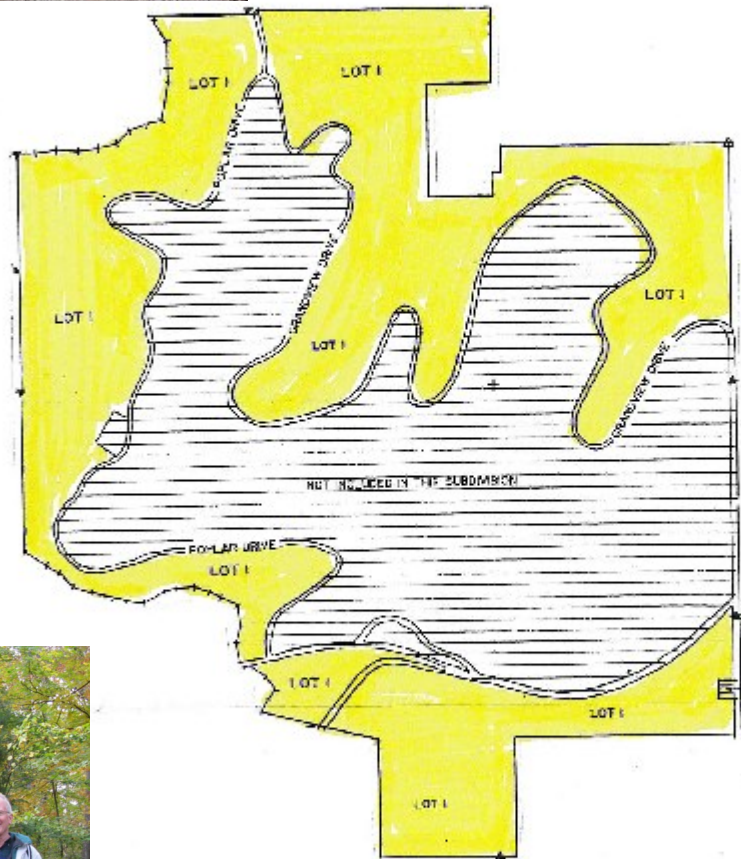






Mimi Riffle, Susan Faatz, Wayne Truex, Ann Mullinix, Jan Wantz, Jeff Braun, and Barb Braun

Right: Map of Grandview Woods Preserve



Steve Willment, Curt Aton, Marisa Willment, Brad Arthur, Jeff Braun, Jan Wantz, Wayne Truex, Kevin Preuss, Stidham brothers, Arlene Truex, and Barb Braun

## Chapter VIII:

### The Seasons at the Lake...

Winter, spring, summer, fall....there is always something to enjoy at Grandview Lake. The lake and surrounding woods bring enjoyment to all. Whether it is snow on the hills, trees, our driveways, roads, and ice on the lake; the cardinals searching for bird feeders, the early buds of bushes, trees, crocus, daffodils and the return of the geese; the full bloom of flowers, trees and greening of lawns; or the changing of color from green to reds, yellows and oranges, nature displays her beauty for residents and their guests. The following pages of pictures depict that beauty and our neighbors enjoying their lake and woods: ice sailing in the winter; trail hiking in the spring; sailing, boating, skiing, swimming, fishing, biking, running, walking in the summer and fall. Many of you do these activities year-around.

Special mention should be made about the following activities and their leaders that bring joy to the Grandview Community:

\*The Grandview Yacht Club, in addition to yacht races, sponsors holiday breakfasts for all residents on Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day. Many of their pictures are included in this book. A salute to Commodore Tom Schroeder and his crew.

\* As more homes have been built on the lake, an increased deer population has become a danger to vehicle travel on the roads and a nuisance to owners' gardens, bushes and flowers because they no longer can be sustained with food in the woods. Controlled deer hunts have been held for several years and they are carefully monitored and conducted according to State law. In 2013, 56 deer were killed which reduces the potential herd size by approximately 120 deer. Only 23-25 qualified hunters are permitted in the woods and they are carefully checked in and out of the woods to promote safety. Lake residents are notified of hunting dates in October through December and warned to stay out of the woods. We thank volunteers, Sonny Stahl and Arlene Truex along with our Lot Owners' staff who monitor this activity.

For the pleasure of fishermen, George Brueggemann has supervised the stocking of the lake for many years. George also records and reports annually on fishing results. The lake contains largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill and other fresh-water fish.

\*The Garden Club has cared for the plants and flowers at the entrances of our community. Thank you to these residents with 'green thumbs.' You have added beauty to our neighborhood.



Back row: Jack Riester, Barry Kress, Bill Kendall, Barney Quick, unknown, Frank Hoffman, Joe Voelz, Griff Marr, Larry Quick.

Front row: Scott Lindsey, Laura Lindsey, Bob Lindsey, Becky Hoffman, Rickey Hoffman, Robert Nussmeier, Bill Luzius, Jay Kress.





# WINTER AT





# GRANDVIEW LAKE



**WINTER**

**FUN**

**AT**



Above: Ice Hockey  
1978



Above: Outdoor Fun  
near zero degrees

**GRANDVIEW  
LAKE**



Jason Carroll (Adonna Comb's son) dressed as Santa getting ready to barefoot ski at the 2010 Arctic Ski Event



## **Ice Boating**



Above Dick Pitman



Left:  
Arlene Truex



Above: Dan Hoyt's annual Santa cruise

Below: Winter at the lake, late 70's







Aerial View—Winter 2015



Tom Schroeder, Jim Voelz, and Dr. Kevin Preuss sharing their ice boating adventures.





Arctic Open Ski Event  
2010

Ward Witte is getting ready to take his traditional ski on an old wooden ski they affectionately call "Woody."

Arctic Open Ski Event  
1999

Unidentified Skiing Santa



Arctic Open Ski Event  
2013

Jerry "Santa" Combs and Adonna Combs have hosted the annual Arctic Open in December for many, many years.





Winter  
Sunrise

Winter Trail Hiking  
Following the Blue  
Markers on Trees





**S P R I N G**





# DAFFODILS IN BLOOM

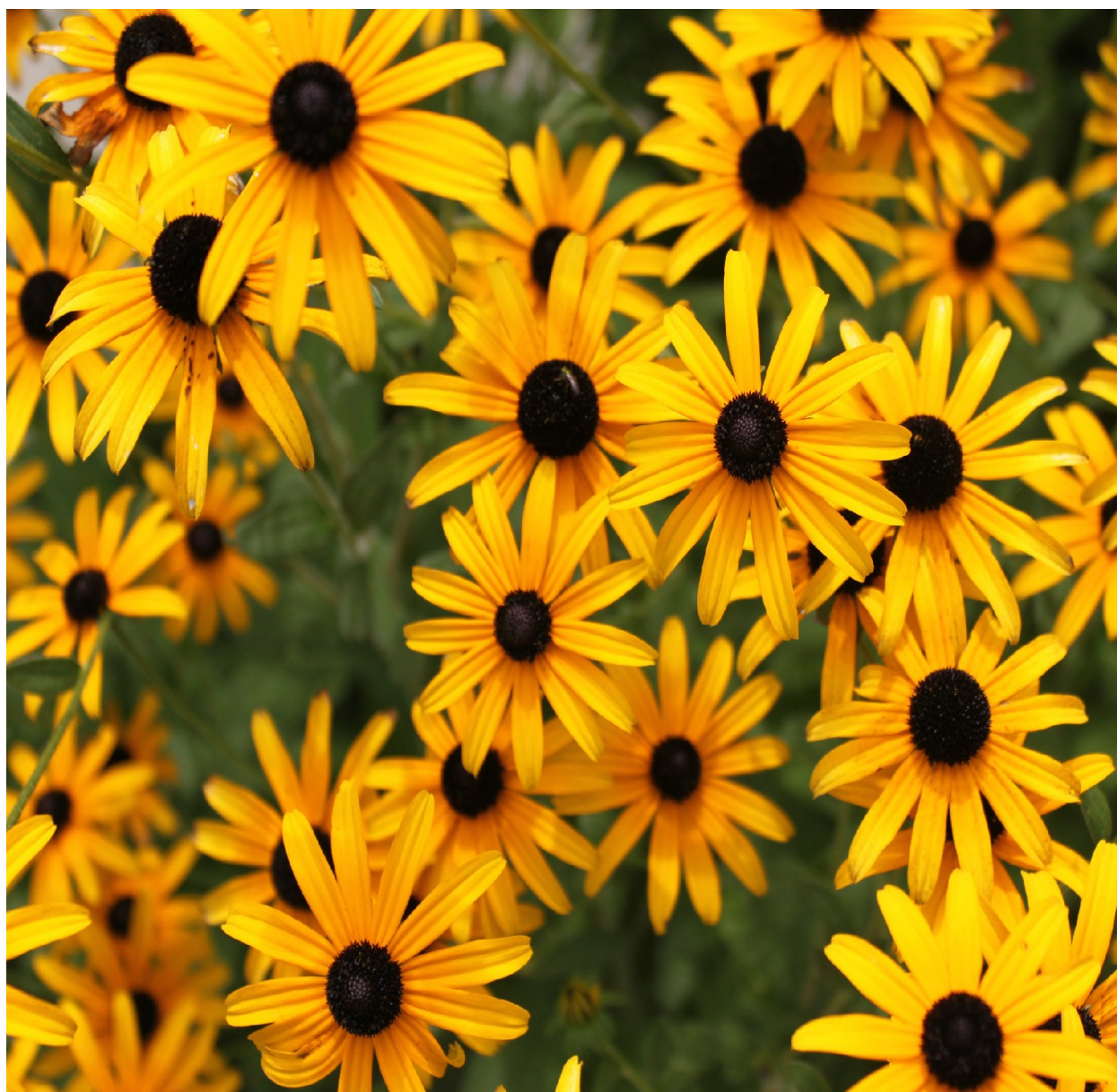


Above: The Grandview Lake Stone Marker at the intersection of roads 650 W and 300 S was constructed and donated by Dale Strahl and John Berzajs (Big John), longtime Grandview Lake residents.



Late Spring  
"Boat" Show  
demonstration on  
Lot 249 in early  
1980's





**SUMMER**





**Fireworks, July 3, 2013**

## Summer Fun on the Lake!



Above: Full Moon Party, 8/10/05

Right: Steve Fisher, 7lb  
28" Walleye, 5/10/07







Left: Dave & Susan Faatz

Below:

Jim Riffle and Joe Prosser



Below:  
4th of July  
Kayak Race



# Smooth sailing



The Republic photo by Andrew Leber  
Dana Parks holds an August 2003 photo of a boat that had wrecked against the Grandview Lake dam during a late-night joyride. Although no one was seriously injured, those involved lost their lake privileges for six months.

**Smooth Sailing continued on page 66**



# Following safety guidelines key to successful day of boating

Surrounded by forested hillsides and several seven-figure homes, Grandview Lake in western Bartholomew County is a peaceful place.

At any given time during summer weekends, the 400-acre private lake will have about 30 boats on the water, according to Dana Parks, chairwoman of safety at the lake.

During an hour-long weekday tour last month, the lake was even quieter. The only congestion came when Parks, in a pontoon boat, slowly converged on an idle zone with a jet ski and a speed boat.

The three passed uneventfully and traded waves.

The essence of the lake's success has depended largely on boat operators knowing their surroundings, Parks, also a paramedic firefighter, said.

"Be aware of where the other boats are," she explained.

But like all lakes, Grandview has had accidents, including one that sent two teenagers to the hospital.

The teens were riding in an innertube that was thrown onto the dam around 2 a.m. on a June day in 1998.

Memorial Day to Labor Day is the busiest and most

dangerous time for lake boating in most the United States.

An average of 160 people died each July from 1998 to 2002, according to the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety.

Late last month, a 10-year-old girl died in Michigan City after jumping from a powerboat and landing on its moving propeller.

Officials warn that most accidents can be prevented by following four simple rules.

## Know the rules

The U.S. Coast Guard this summer has launched an initiative called "You're in Command," a program to make recreational boat operators more responsible and, it is hoped, reduce injuries and deaths.

Kevin Kelly, chief of recreational boating safety for the 8th U.S. Coast Guard district, said the program stresses four points.

The first is education.

In about 80 percent of boating fatalities, the operator had not taken a boating safety course.

Online courses are available, but Kelly recommended a classroom setting.

(See SAFETY on Page C6)

## Staying safe

**1. Wear your life jacket.**  
When you capsize, there is rarely time to get a stowed life jacket.

**2. Stay sober in your boat.**  
An operator with a blood alcohol content above .10 is 10 times more likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with zero blood alcohol.

**3. Take a safe-boating course.**

Boating safety courses are available, inexpensive and quick. To find out where these courses are offered, contact local law enforcement.

**4. Get your boat checked.**  
The Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons offer a free Vessel Safety Check. Contact vessel-safetycheck.org for information.

**5. Beware of carbon monoxide.**

All boat engines produce carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless and poisonous gas that can kill. Use CO detectors on your boat and make sure cabins have proper ventilation.

Source: National Safe Boating Council







The Republic photo by Andrew Lohr

Dana Parks, vice president of the Grandview Lot Owners Association and Lake Safety Chair, steers a pontoon boat across the water Thursday at the lake.

## SAFETY

(Continued from Page C1)

"The more educated people are, the safer the waterways are going to be," he said.

Second, boaters and passengers need to wear life jackets at all time. Keeping them stowed in case of an accident is not safe, he said.

"It's kind of like putting your seat belt on right before the accident," Kelly explained.

Third, get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the U.S. Power Squadron, a non-profit education group for recreational boaters.

Finally, make sure everyone on the boat is sober.

The sun, wind, waves and motor noise can increase the effects of alcohol on the body.

"A boat operator whose blood alcohol content is at .08 or more is 10 times more likely to die in a boating accident than a sober operator," Kelly said.

Passengers also should stay sober, because drunk people are more likely to fall overboard.

### On private waters

Having a friend who owns a lake home can be a cool thing, especially in Bartholomew County, which has no

### U.S. boating statistics

The following numbers are from the U.S. Coast Guard's "Boating Statistics 2002," the most recent publication on reported recreational boating accidents.

- Fatalities: 750.
- Drownings: 524.
- Injuries (requiring treatment beyond first aid): 4,062.
- Boating accidents: 5,706.
- Property damage: \$39.2 million.
- Amount of numbered recreational boats in the U.S.: 12.8 million.

public lakes.

But visitors on private lakes need to know the rules, and lot owners are responsible for educating them, Parks said.

Grandview follows state boating regulations and mails them to property owners every year.

The lake has off-duty law enforcement officers who patrol the water during summer months.

Most violations include speeding, boating at night without proper lighting and

disobeying idle zones, which are marked with buoys.

For Grandview the speed limit is 35 mph. Idle zones are 100 feet from shore and in most coves and the designated rotation is counter clockwise.

Boat operators must be at least 16 years old for anything with more than 10 horsepower, and always sober.

### Enforcement

A boater's first rule violation at Grandview Lake usually results in a verbal warning.

On second offense, a written warning is sent to the home of the boat owner.

Further violations often require a hearing before the lot owners association.

Because the association is a nonprofit organization, it cannot levy fines.

But it can ban people from the water for up to six months.

"It hurts them a lot more to lose their boating privileges," Parks said.

For information on safety classes or a vessel safety check, contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary at (800) 217-4426 or the U.S. Power Squadron at (888) 367-8777.



## The Grandview Lake Ski Club (GLSC)

GLSC was founded in 1981 by 10 family charter members. Five of the founding charter families still live at Grandview Lake; they are the Breedens, Callaways, Combs, Schmidts and Wittes.

In the early years, an annual 'ski show' was produced each Labor Day weekend to entertain the lake community. The show featured pyramids, trick skiing, and bare footers.

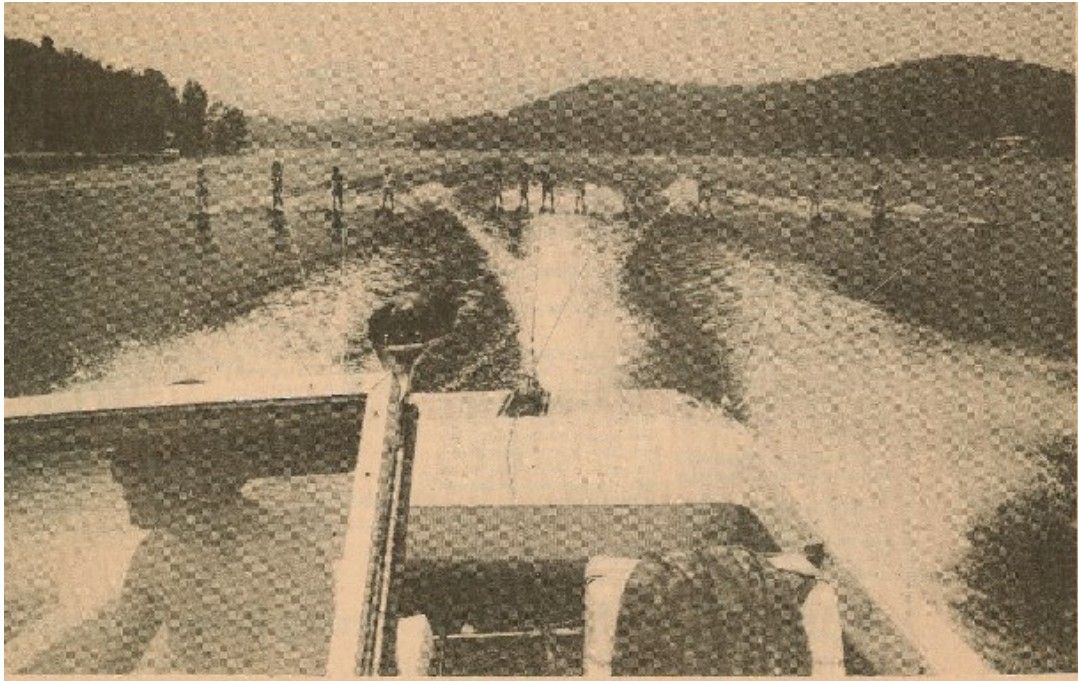
To end the water ski season, GLSC holds an annual "Arctic Open" the first Saturday of December. All lake members and guests are welcome to participate and encouraged to think of it as a personal 'ice bucket' challenge.

The slalom course is furnished and maintained each season by GLSC. Balls float on the surface to mark PVC and lines beneath the water. The network is approximately 4 to 5 feet under the water and on a calm day can be seen from the surface.

-Information provided by Brad Stinebring



Ward Witte, Jason Carrol, & Clayton Callaway



THE REPUBLIC, COLUMBUS, INDIANA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1973

## **13 Water Skiers**

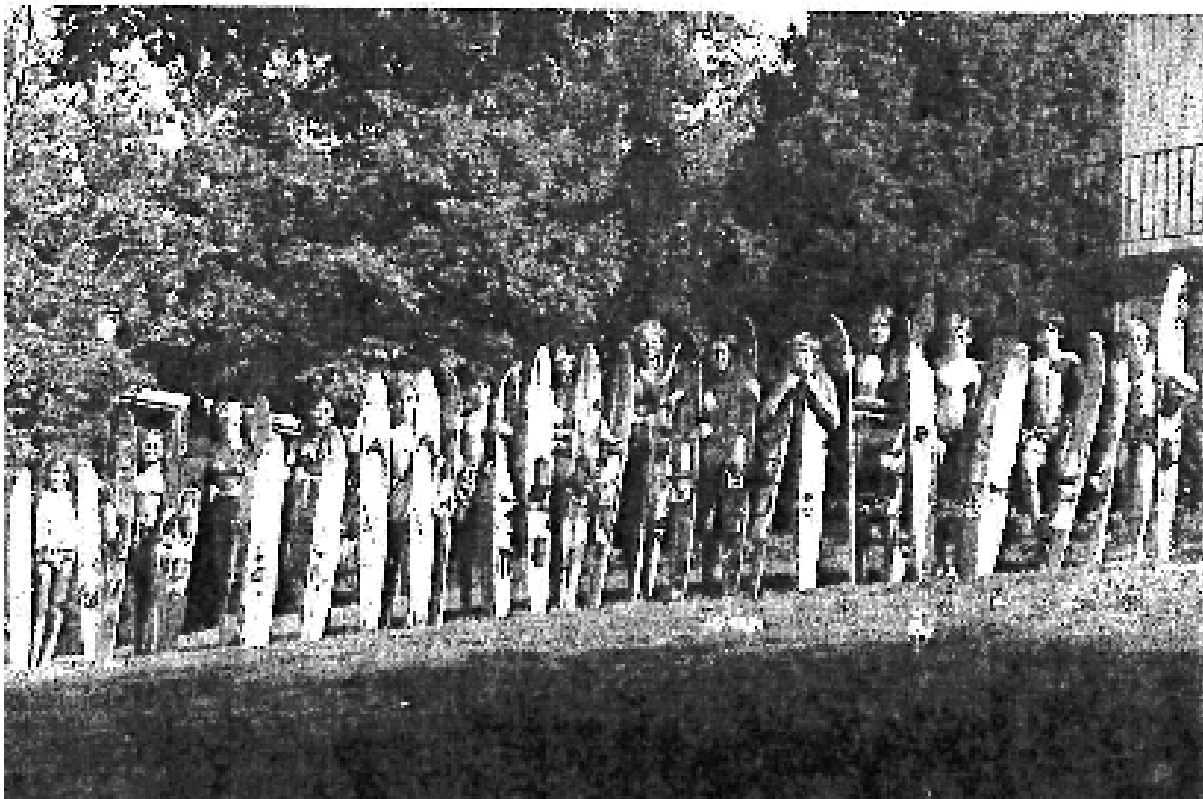
### **Lucky Number**

"We did it in 1972 with 12 skiers and decided this year 13 would be a lucky number." That is how George Nentrup of Grandview Lake described the events leading up to trying to pull 13 skiers behind his 165-horsepower boat Wednesday afternoon at Grandview Lake. Preparations took most of the afternoon; getting persons there, finding enough ski ropes and then getting all the ropes attached and not tangled. Other persons around the lake watched from boats or the shore. Nentrup recorded the event, which he believes is a world record for skiers pulled from a boat his size, having Mary Ann McCray take movies and several persons shoot still photos. Bill Meyer piloted the speed boat pulling the skiers while Nentrup took cameramen on his pontoon boat out to watch—and pick up fallen (persons).

13 or is it 14?? See next page!  
(Correction: The 165 hp boat was owned by Bill Meyer)



In 1973 Bill Meyer, Lot 41, organized 14 skiers on the Nentrup's yard, Lot #45, preparing to set a record for water skiing on Grandview Lake. They took to the water and skied a short way together.



Taking part, left to right: Sally Shepherd, Julie McCray, Jamie Monical, Denise Thomson, Dan Bradbury, Mike Bova III, unknown, Amy Monical, Donna Bradbury, Scott Lindsay, Richard Monical, Doug Bova, Mike McCray.

# FALL AT THE LAKE



Fall Sunset- After Glow

Taken by Mike Mullinix





Puffball mushroom found in her backyard at Grandview Lake by Carol Day. It weighed 4 pounds. It is 14 inches in diameter and 9 inches thick.

**THE REPUBLIC, 10/11/09**

Left: The mushroom was harvested on 10/3/09.

**Take Your Best Shot**

**LOCAL**

**A2** The Republic, Columbus, Ind., Monday, November 28, 2006

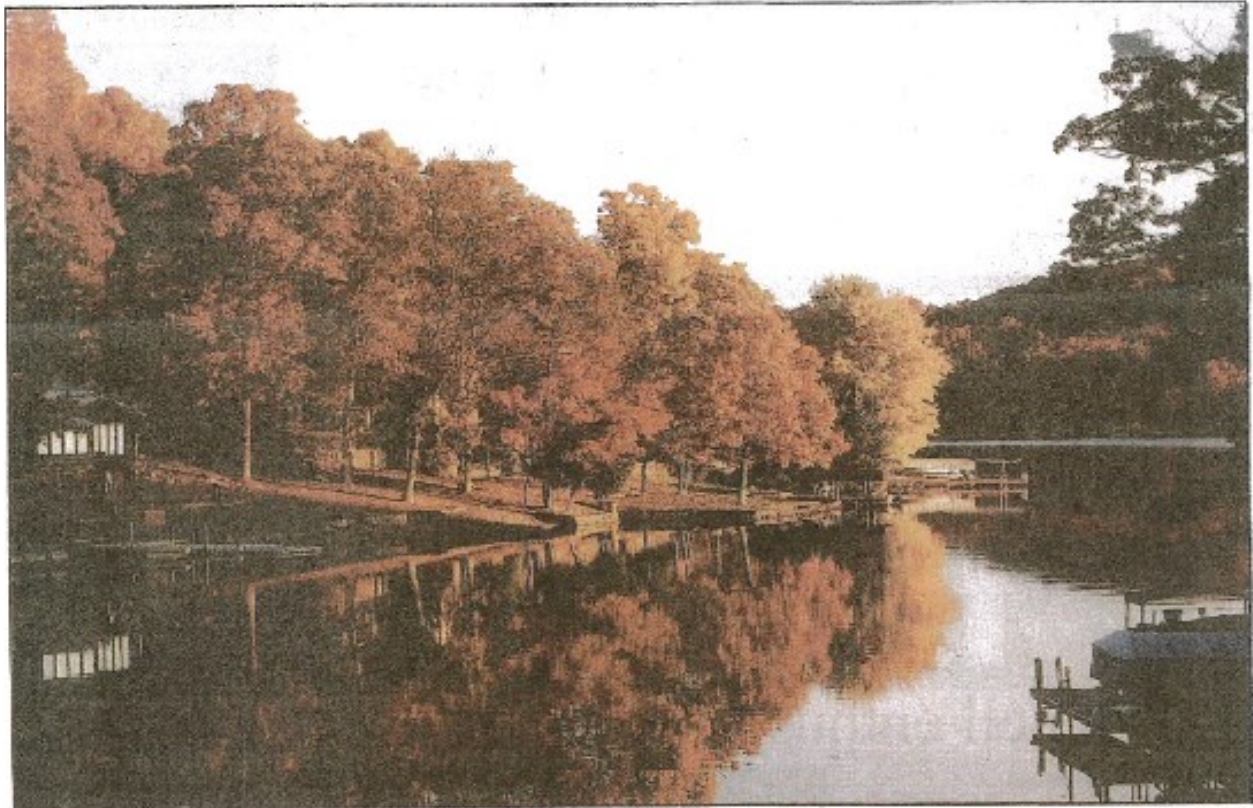


Photo for The Republic

The splendor of fall's colors along Grandview Lake was photographed Nov. 6 by Bob Orben.





## Committee Boat Volunteers

Right : Steve Fisher and Donna Mount

Below: Mimi Riffle



Above: Chambers family

Below: Jockeying for position right before the race starts





# Chapter IX:

## Grandview Yacht Club

### History....



#### **Founded as a Sailing Club**

The Grandview Yacht Club ("GYC") began in 1961 to organize sailboat races. Founding members included Frank Hoffman, Jay Kress, Bob Lindsey, Bill Luzius, Larry Quick, Alvin Henry, and Joe Voelz.

#### **Early History**

In the late 1960's Joe Voelz and Bob Lindsey bought kits and built their wooden Y-Flyers. Y-Flyers developed into the most popular fleet, and it was common to have more than 10 Y-Flyers competing at GYC races. There were many great skippers of Y-Flyers at GYC that included Bob Lindsey, Joe Voelz, Griff Marr, Jay Kress, Jack Riester, Larry Quick, and John Sohn. During the 1960's and 1970's there were many regattas for Y-Flyers at other sailing clubs. Jim Voelz remembers that in the early 1970's he raced his Y-Flyer at Brookville Reservoir that included 55 Y-Flyers. He still vividly remembers his heart pounding as he was first at the weather mark in one of these races!

During the 1960's and early 1970's many club members and their families traveled to regattas held by other Yacht Clubs at many different lakes such as Lake Lemon (Mayors' Cup), Monroe Reservoir (Governor's Cup), Geist Reservoir (Indianapolis Sailing Club), Eagle Creek, and Brookville Lake.

Other one design (same type of boat) fleets that enjoyed large participation at GYC races were the Laser sailboats and Wayler sailboards. Kent Fischvogt, Greg Davies, and Jim Voelz took their Wayler Sailboards to Lake Charlevoix in Michigan for several days of instruction by the Olympic Coach for the United States Sailing Team. They along with Tom Oldfield, Peggy Voelz, and Debbie Fischvogt from GYC raced sailboards at the Wayler National Championships on Lake Charlevoix for several years. Peggy Voelz distinguished herself by winning the Michigan State Women's Championship on Lake Michigan

and was the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to win the GYC Championship in 1988. Tom Oldfield competed in regattas as far away as the Florida Keys. There was a series of sailboat regattas in Indiana for several years, and several sailors from GYC competed at regattas at various lakes, as well as on the Ohio River, each year. GYC races included a number of sailboard racers during its club races for several years including Jerry Combs, Adonna Combs, Michelle Thames, Kent Fischvogt, Debbie Fischvogt, Mike Breeden, Jim Voelz, Peggy Voelz, Greg Davies, Joe Prosser, and Jim Riffle . In recent history, Catey Hale, Captain and Susan Egbert, Crew were recognized as the first female racing team.



The first club burgee which is still the club's official symbol (see previous page) was designed and hand sewn by Marge Kirk. The original burgee was framed and is on display at the GLOA office.

### **Strong Social Role for the Lake Quickly Developed**

Strong camaraderie from sailing races quickly developed, and soon the club began hosting social events such as holiday trophy races and breakfasts for all lot owners on Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. These breakfasts continue to be held and to be an important way of perpetuating the sense of community at Grandview Lake, not just for Yacht Club members. For example, in 1994 new lot owners, Brad and Carole Arthur, on the day they were to move into their lake home, wisely postponed unpacking and attended the Yacht Club's Labor Day Breakfast hosted by Don and Betty Boyle. As a result, they were immediately "plugged in" to the welcoming Grandview community. Brad and Carole have been very involved in the Grandview Lake activities and governance ever since, with Brad serving on the Board including as President for several years.

Another of the Yacht Club's social events, the annual Spring Pitch-in Dinner was, and still is, held to kick off each season. In recent years this social function is so well attended that it had to be changed to an appetizers-only event since so few lot owners' homes were large enough for the attendees to be seated for a dinner.

Alleged violations of right of way rules can result in a sailor lodging a protest against another sailor. The "protest meeting" would be held after the conclusion of the race. In recent years these protest meetings began to



serve more of a social purpose. In addition to settling any rules violations, sailors used the opportunity to re-live their successful or unsuccessful racing strategies and mishaps and share sailing knowledge. These protest meetings have been held for years at Wayne and Arlene Truex's home after each race and play a big role in the sailing community's camaraderie. The Truex's dock on the main body of the lake has also been used as a staging place for race markers to be set-up and the rigging of many boats. Their home was recognized by the club as the "Home Port" of the Grandview Yacht Club, and still is.

### **Multi-Generational Competition and Family Affair**

Races were family affairs. And even today, some spouses and children all sail and/or serve on the "Committee Boat" which officiates the races. Typically approximately three generations compete together in the sailing races.

### **Special Trophies**

Until recently special holiday races were conducted on the same days as the Holiday Breakfasts. During the 1960's and 1970's homemade trophies were delivered to the winners after each holiday race. Permanent traveling trophies were eventually awarded that bear the names of the winners. The Labor Day trophy was a wooden pillar with an ugly white and red ceramic coated chamber pot mounted on top. The winner had to drink beer from the pot. Since present day winners were not inclined to display this trophy, on the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary it was converted to a "Booby Prize" and is awarded to sailors who experienced some sort of mishap during races. The first recipients for the newly purposed trophy were Bob Orben and Wayne Truex. They set aside their friendship during races and competed strongly against each other and other sailors. They protested each other for rules violations during the final race of that year, which both had decided would be their last races as skippers of their own boats. Both were correct in protesting each other, and as a result both were disqualified, which they and the rest of the club found quite humorous. They won the first "Booby Prize".

### **Die Hard, Highly Spirited Sailors and Events**

In past years there was a Fall Racing Series



Joe and Judy Voelz—late 1970's

racers were being conducted every weekend until mid November. The sailboard racers wore wetsuits. In the early days, GYC held special races: Some races required the sailors to sail the entire perimeter of the lake and all inlets. Today races are typically held only in the main body of the lake. Some races were done sailing the boat backwards (it actually can be done). Some races were held after dark. Some races involved drinking games, where sailors downed a beer that was picked up at the race committee boat after rounding each mark. The beer had to be fully consumed and the empty can returned to the committee boat before proceeding to the next mark. There were at least 4 or 5 marks! Jim Voelz reports that he was crewing for his father who had him standing on the bow of the Y-Flyer in an attempt to "submarine" the Y-Flyer after the race. Some races involved a start on land with the skipper running to the boat parked on shore (le mans start).

### **Typical Progression of New Sailors**

A new sailor would typically serve on the Committee Boat to help officiate races and learn how races are conducted. Perhaps still not knowing how to sail, they would crew for a skipper, learning not only how to sail, but also race tactics and strategies. The now-knowledgeable sailor would typically progress to sailing a borrowed sailboat, and eventually own their own sailboat. This is still true today, and the beauty of it is that you don't need a boat or sailing knowledge to begin participating in races right away. The Club trains all new volunteers and crew. Today, all are still welcome to sail with the Yacht Club and shortly before its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011, the Club started using (and still does) a motto and symbol of "Come Sail With Us"!







Left: Jim Voelz sailing a Wayler windsurfer—mid 1980's



FROM THE REPUBLIC ARCHIVE  
Mike Bova and his first mate, Trixie, were among other boaters who participated in sailboat races on Grandvie Lake in 2004.

## Chapter X:

### The Neighbors and Their Stories...

This chapter tells the stories of people who both enjoyed and continue to enjoy Grandview Lake. Some of the stories are authored by the former/current residents. Some have been written by others who have talked with our neighbors.

In a pleasant hour of conversation over cookies and cider, **John and Jane Sohn and Joe and Phyllis Voelz** talked about the early days of Grandview Lake living. Initially they were, like many others, residents/campers on weekends and weeks in the summer which meant caring for two residences. (Jane and Phyllis said that it was sometimes a chore packing up and caring for two places. It wasn't always easy to remember to take the families' gear back and forth. We know there are many of you today who experience the same challenges.) We asked the two couples about what was different today from their early days and this was their response:

\*The houses were smaller then....homes are larger and more expensive today.

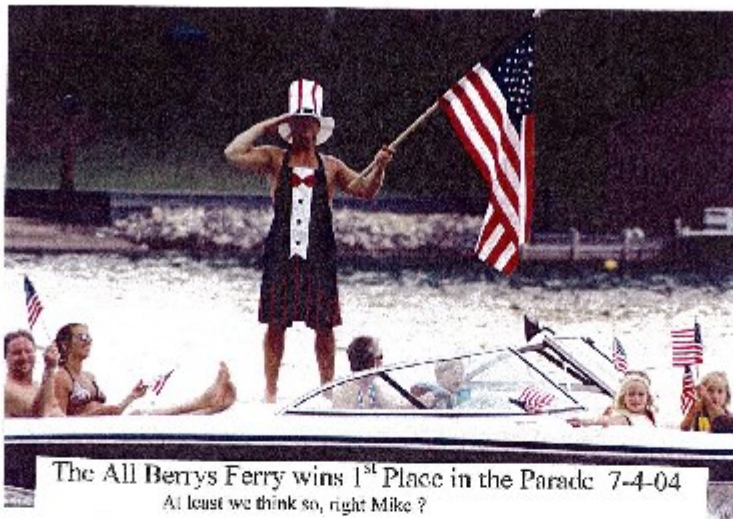
\*The installation of the sewer system was a huge and welcome change. It preserved the beauty of the lake. They all maintained that it is the clearest lake they know because when you fly over it, the color is beautiful!

\*Arrival of the water utility (Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corporation) was a wonderful feature. It eliminated the need for using water from the lake and treating it with chemicals.

\*Although some lots had their own boat launch systems, the central launch facility at the dam was a good and welcome feature.



In the spring of 1973 **Chris Sogard** invited his 1st grade friend from school, **Patrick Berry**, to the lake house for a weekend. Susie Sogard then invited Patrick's mother for a day trip. Before long the whole Berry family was going for an occasional fun weekend. It was the natural progression to look for a home of their own, which they finally found in the spring of 1977. The Berrys' family of seven had been entertaining their friends, the Navins, (nine of them) from New Jersey over Memorial Day weekend for many years. They witnessed A.J. Foyt win the Indianapolis 500 for the fourth time, but they couldn't close on their lake house until June 6<sup>th</sup>, so the five Sogards had all fourteen of both families the day after the race. From then on the Berrys and the Navins listened



to the Indianapolis 500 race on the radio at Grandview Lake at the Berry's place called Goombay, enjoying friends and water sports all weekend. The children and grandchildren of the Sogards and the Berrys all enjoy Grandview with their respective grandparents to this day.



Left—Annual July 4th Boat Parade

# NEIGHBORS

The Republic, Columbus, Ind., Saturday, October 29, 2006 B9

## Faithful companion

Paul Sparks of Brownsburg submitted this photo of his wife, Marie, looking out over Grandview Lake in 1975. The couple were building their first home at the lake, in the seventh addition. "The beautiful hills and the mute swans seen in the photo were an everyday scene at the lake at that time of year," he wrote. "However it is the non-posed image of Mrs. Sparks and her friend, the sheep-dog (that belonged to a neighbor) that made the photo so special. In my opinion." The Sparkses lived at Grandview for 18 years before returning to Brownsburg. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.



Submitted photo



Bob and Mary Orben enjoying the last ride for the 2014 season in their beautiful 1939 Chris Craft Mahogany Barrel back acquired by his father in 1944 and named "At Last". Bob received it in 1994 and after a complete restoration in Cincinnati, it has been at their Grandview lake home for the last 20 years.





A well respected artist, **Betty Boyle**, was scheduled to teach an art class at a camp in Brown County in 1977, but she kept driving around a lovely lake and couldn't find her way to the camp. She asked a woman walking the road with her children how to get to her destination. She didn't know, but told Betty to go down to the next house and go in and use her phone, tell them that she was at Grandview Lake and ask how could she get to the camp.

Betty was so impressed by this trusting hospitality that she talked her husband into taking a look at this wonderful place. She and Don bought a house in 1978. At school their son, Steve, told his friend Patrick Berry that his family had just bought a house on a lake and when Patrick wanted to know which lake Steve said, "Oh, you wouldn't have heard of it, it's called Grandview Lake", Patrick replied, "Oh, we have a house there and so do the Sogards".

Betty Boyle always said it was the best kept secret in Indianapolis as they lived in the same neighborhood and knew the Berrys and the Sogards. Within a year they made it their permanent residence and her art studio. The family lived at the lake for 25 years before Betty and Don moved back to very near their previous area in Indianapolis.

**Mike and Diana Bova** were guests of Ron Hooker (brother of the College Life Representative) for a day at Grandview Lake in 1958. They walked to Lot #293 where there was a trickle of water and liked what they hoped would be a lake front lot in the future. They bought the lot for \$2,500.

They often brought Mike's mother and their boys, Mike and Doug, out to the lake for picnics, trudging from three lots away along the future shoreline to their empty lot with all the necessary baby things.

They started building their house on Lot #293 in 1968 when young Mike and Doug were 10 and 7 years old.

They remember skiing around the lake on a lawn chair sitting on a round of plywood called a table top and teaching their sons to barefoot. They also recall skiing with Jim Dudley, while Dale Strahl drove the boat in a PR show put on by Smokey Joe Miller. Bob Lindsey, another resident, skied as a clown. In the early 1960's a couple parachuted into the middle of the lake during a Junior Chamber of Commerce party. (Note: Parachutes are not allowed now)

Back then volunteers did their own lake patrolling in an aluminum boat.

Mike and Diana moved away from Grandview to pursue employment in Ohio, but missed the lake so much they moved back to their original home within a very short time.

The Bovas cherish the fact that they have taken six generations of their family on boat rides on Grandview Lake including two great grandsons born in 2014.





Photo above shows the Bova family skiing in the 1960's

# A Piece of Lake History from the Grandview News

## Vol. 1 March 1993

In the last issue of Grandview News, a new column entitled A Piece of Lake History was introduced. Our intention for this column is to pass along some of the history and interesting information about early Grandview. In response to another article in the newsletter, seeking suggestions for names for trails/points of interest on the trails, a delightful letter was received. It contains some personal knowledge of early Grandview life and we thought it would be good to share. We hope you enjoy it.

Peggy Nussmeier Voelz  
Lot #56A

So many great adventures were had on those trails as I was growing up. My parents, Robert and Jane Nussmeier, bought Lot #257 on Grandview when I was three years old. There were several young families that bought lots around that time on the same area of the lake. I don't think that in today's terms they would have been considered "lake" lots. There were still old farm fences to be removed, grading of slopes, and paths to the lake (really just a pond in 1956) to be made. Neighbors soon became fast friends in their joint efforts to improve the lots. They all shared ideas and the use of equipment to grade driveways, chain saws to remove trees, and martinis to ease the pain after a long day on the slopes of Grandview Lake. The kids soon became fast friends. There was Ricky and Becky Hoffman, Lot #301; Max, John and Gail Henry, Lot #9A; Harold and David Force, Lot #251; Peggy, Nancy, Bobby, Lizzy, and Barbara Nussmeier, Lot #257, until 1969 and then Lot #249; Barney and Nancy Quick, Lot #252; and Harold, Ronnie, and Leon Berzajs, Lot #261.

Summer days were long and busy with this bunch of kids. Rowing boats and paddling canoes were transportation between our lots. There was also a trail along the lake that could get us to any of the lots. Summer City was built and added onto each summer by all those who felt like modeling in Brown County clay in the woods between Force's and Quick's lots. On rainy days when it was not good for swimming, boating, fishing or hiking, there was always an adventure at Barney's house. He was an accomplished monster comic book writer who taught the gang the scary side of life.



When the days were too cool for swimming we would hit the trails behind the lake. Before the road went all around the lake, there was a huge hill behind Nussmeier's lot – Lot 249. Once a year, three or four of the girls would make a picnic and hike the trail from Nussmeier's lot all the way around to Henry's lot (Lot 9A). It was a pretty daring feat. None of them had a good sense of direction! Only once in all those years did they get lost, ending up on Bellsville Pike down by the big bend. Hunting for special mosses, rocks, seeds and leaves for crafts was another fun activity on the trails.

As we grew older, the meaning of the trail changed. When we were little, it was kind of scary and daring to go down the trail all by ourselves without parents, but as we grew older, mopeds and mini bikes replaced our feet and became our mode of transportation. A few broken bikes, scratches and flat tires soon taught us respect for the hills and our bodies. As the teen years drew nearer to all of us, the trails became an escape from the frustrations of parents and siblings, or any other problems we encountered during puberty. Romantic walks, down the trails with our teenage first loves are a memory that we all hold dear.

Many, many years have gone by and the gang has all grown up. Some still have ties to the lake, others have left, but I know their memories are as clear as mine of their wonderful childhood summers on Grandview Lake. I have taken my children on the trails and hope that someday they will take their children on the trails too."



Late 1970's

## CULTURAL REVOLUTION

### Modern American progress ever-changing

**B**ARTHOLOMEW County is home to a plethora of lakes. Some can be found in its eastern portion, but most are nestled in the front range of the southern Indiana hills that arise just beyond the western edge of Columbus.

The largest, Grandview Lake, was one of the projects of visionary businessman and civic leader Q.C. Noblitt. Lakes were kind of his thing. He also was the catalyst for Harrison Lake a couple of miles to the north, as well as The Lagoons in town.

The actual original developer of Grandview was Phil Long. Via a Harry McCawley column in this paper last year, I came upon the noteworthy factoid that his daughter, Columbus High School Class of 1958, is high-powered Washington, D.C., attorney Victoria Toensing.

The lake's evolution serves as a microcosm for the twists and turns through which America has gone since the middle of the 20th century. It began as a mere pond in the middle of a farm valley in 1953.

Families the fathers of which had served in World War II decided to risk a bit of capital on lots accessible by roads whose surfaces were originally dust — when they weren't mud.

Initially, these families were far from affluent, and lake culture came to be characterized by an unpretentiousness that manifested itself in a preponderance of A-frames, prefab cottages and secondhand motorboats, pontoons and sailboats.



Barney Quick

By 1960, the lake had sufficiently filled to accommodate a plenitude of sailboats, and my father founded the Grandview Yacht Club. It's my understanding that it still exists. The club held weekly Sunday races, as well as regattas with special courses on the three warm-weather holidays. For those, various families would host breakfasts that were combination social events and skippers meetings.

The waves within the baby boom were well-represented at Grandview. My sister and her contemporaries passed through high school as the lake approached its full volume.

This was the generation for which music was the backdrop to pretty much all of life, and the strains of Motown, the British Invasion and folk rock were ubiquitous, streaming from transistors centrally positioned in boats, on patios, and around fire pits and grills.

Then that wave went off to college, bringing back esoteric new records that fired the imaginations of those of us in the second wave of the baby

boom. There was a new sensibility in the air.

There was a sizable Latvian population at Grandview at that point. The Latvian father of two of my friends a few lots up the road would occasionally wander by our house as we were concluding supper. My dad would beckon him to pull a chair up to the table and say, 'Big John, tell my son about what happened to your country, what it's like to get the midnight knock on your door from agents of the state.'

The landscape had much to do with the lore that developed around the lake. A network of trails along the ridges towering over it spawned many a legend and served as the scene of memorable adventures of all kinds.

The communal feel of the lake in those days made for some fun rituals. One neighbor kept a wooden alligator on his fireplace mantel for years, facing toward the road, and in 1967, when the lake filled completely, he hosted a turning-of-the-alligator party.

Then my wave went off to college. Homes got bigger. Original home-steaders moved elsewhere and downsized. The funky little general stores and drive-ins that served us are gone now.

Such is modern American progress, I suppose.

Barney Quick is one of The Republic's community columnists. All opinions expressed are those of the writer. He may be reached at [editor@the-republic.com](mailto:editor@the-republic.com).





**Midge and Ben King**, along with their 9 year old son, Tom, were scoping out places to build a summer home. Being from Indianapolis, they had visited Wawasee, Tippecanoe and Maxinkuckee, north of the city, but drove south to see what was available. In 1951, before interstates, US 31 took them south to SR 46 heading west. They meandered down country roads until they heard the sound of a bulldozer and turned in that direction on 300S from 550W. The fellow who drove the machinery building the dam (probably Creel Sprague) showed them property by Jeep as there were no roads around the proposed lake.

There was a narrow stream running through the lovely valley and they were shown where the water was expected to level off when the dam was completed. In 1953, they purchased Lot #32 with 100 foot frontage for \$1,750. They returned on weekends from their home in Indianapolis to picnic and enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

The whole family enjoyed fishing, even in the little stream, narrow enough to jump across. They also cleared trees and bush each time they were there and rolled them down the hill to the shallow water. In 1965, they hired Ziggy Straub, a German immigrant from Indianapolis, to build the shell of their house so they could finish the interior themselves. He used bricks left from the Chicago fire, soot marks and all. It took almost five years to complete it to their satisfaction with three bedrooms upstairs and bathroom, living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor. Midge painted a mural of St. Moritz on the dining room wall; the mural is still there.

They used lake water pumped through a purifier system and also had a septic field. They were told by Coca Cola, who tested the lake water, that it was purer than the water the company used in bottling Coke.

Later on they lived there permanently for 14 years. They became good friends with their next door neighbors on Lot #33, Josephine and Harold Brasor, from Boston, who actually built their home before the Kings did. In later years Midge helped take care of Harold when he was elderly.



**Jack and Susie Sogard** were guests at Mutz/Sidner's on Grandview for a New Years Eve party December 31, 1967. After a family picnic with friends at Gnow Bone Camp in 1970 they drove over to Grandview and happened upon Lee Sidner who walked them to a lot near her place she thought was for sale. The owner, who had been the manager of the Columbus JC Penney store, was selling the property because he was moving elsewhere. The Sogards liked the lake so much that they bought Lot 36 in November 1970 and built their first house. They moved in by April 1971. They were the first on the lake to tear down their own home, in August 1993, and replace it with a beautiful home which was completed in June 1994, blending so well into the woods area. They had an artist carve a dead tree near the water into a totem, complete with story.



Beaver Damage

March 1992

Beaver caught in  
live trap on  
Lot 51A



# CIRCLE OF FEAR

Recollection Of The Old Days At Grandview

BY

PEGGY NUSSMEIER VOELZ

It started out just like any other day on Grandview Lake in the summertime. Kids were in the water swimming, boating, or fishing; just enjoying the afternoon sun. Though my memory is a little foggy, I think it was a weekend because I remember fathers being around. The lake was buzzing with activity of skiing, sailing and tubing. Tubing was not like today's fancy tubes. We used an old intertube with a ski rope tied to it. Many bathing suits were lost to the depths of Grandview in that venture!

Becky Hoffman was over at my house swimming that day. Becky and I spent most of the afternoons swimming or staring at the young boys as they came by in their boats on the lake. We would daydream of future summer days when we were old enough to date one of them. (One of them did become my husband). We sat lazily at the end of the dock, staring into the water at hundreds of little bluegills and minnows snapping up our bread balls as we dropped them into the water.

Suddenly I heard my Mom scream, "Somebody just fell out of that motorboat"! I had noticed a boat going by us that was pulling a skier. The driver of the motorboat was sitting on the side steering the boat. There was no observer in the boat. When he had fallen into the lake, he must have jerked the steering wheel because the boat was now going in a big circle around him as he floated helplessly in the water in the middle of the circle.

Watching with horror and astonishment on shore, a crowd began to form on our lot. The encircling boat was right in front of our lot about 100 yards from shore. The circle that it formed around the swimmer remained the same size. Frank Hoffman (Becky's Dad) and my Dad (Bob Nussmeier) stood on the dock trying to decide what they could do to help. The circle that the boat was making around the swimmer was too small for the swimmer to have time to get out of before it came back around him.

My dad decided that everybody ought to move their boats away from the encircling boat in case it started coming towards shore. All the boats were



safely moved to another cove.

Frank Hoffman's solution to the problem was to shoot a hole in the gas tank of the motorboat with a pistol. Rethinking this option, he decided that if his shot was not perfect, the bullet could have ricocheted off the water hitting the swimmer. This conversation seemed to go on and on forever. Meanwhile the swimmer looked as if he was becoming exhausted. The skier he had been pulling had swam safely to the opposite shore.



Bob Nussmeier and grandchildren in his old Chris Craft around 1985.

Suddenly in desperation, the swimmer disappeared under the water. I think he had decided that his only option was to try to swim under and through the circle that the motorboat was making. But if he did not swim fast enough or deep enough the boat's propellers would cut him.

He made it through the circle but not without getting caught by the propeller. He required a number of stitches on his legs. When he swam out of the circle there were boats waiting for him and an ambulance on shore.

Meanwhile, the motorboat continued to move in circles, but the circles kept getting bigger and bigger. We knew that it would eventually hit the shore or a dock. After a long, long time, the boat hit the shore of the lot next to us, ending a long day of frustration and desperation. It was such a hopeless feeling, not being able to help someone in need or rescue the boat for fear of more serious injuries to other people.

Children and parents learned some important lessons on that day. Lifejackets, observers in the boat while skiing, and sitting in your seat are rules to follow that would have prevented this accident from ever happening.

# The Swing

## by

### Bob Davee, Lot 47

One of my favorite memories of time at Grandview Lake is of the rope swing that hung from a huge oak tree on the shoreline. To call it a rope swing really doesn't do it justice though; this was a trapeze, a quarter inch steel cable hanging nearly 30 feet from a stout bough. My dad had shimmied up the tree one day with a starter rope using a knack for tree climbing he had mastered as a boy.

Dad hoisted the cable up and secured it to the branch using a mix of Boy Scout knots and mechanical engineering knowhow. He was up in the top of the tree half the afternoon, doubtless receiving great advice from below. At the bottom of the cable he had fabricated a handle out of round steel tube; like an oversized ski rope handle, it was two feet wide and could accommodate one or two sometimes three acrobats.

The lake is fairly shallow back in the cove where our Lot 47 is located. Our first attempts on the swing were lousy; we could barely make it out and would plunge to shin deep in the mud at the bottom. Dad said he thought we needed a good push to get us out further and so he worked out a way to grab our ankles and walk us up the hill a ways and then whip us out further than we could get to on our own power. This was great for the first time out over the water, but after that it was like hanging on to a flag pole from a tall building on a rainy day. It seemed like just a matter of time before one of us 'ate it' in a bad way. Dad decided what we needed was a wire spool.

When Dad said we needed a wire spool I assumed this would be somewhat bigger than my mom's sewing thread spools. The wire spool which magically appeared in the back of some contractor's truck was huge, a massive wooden roller that looked like something you'd see in old pictures of laying trans-ocean phone lines. When placed on its side it formed a platform which raised us three feet off the ground and enabled us to start about 25' back from the shore.



Our new perch opened up a world of possibilities. Now we were able to get up a good head of steam and get past the shoreline muck.

Friends on the gymnastics team showed us how to whip legs to propel ourselves higher and higher, swing out and back in over the land before launching into the water.

This also built considerable drama which we played up to maximum effect. Not content to just plop down after all of that build up, we were soon doing forward and reverse dives, flips and one and a halves.



As the summers went by and word of the swing spread, we would often have several people on the swing; swinging, splashing and swimming when we arrived at the lake. People would ask sometimes if it was hard to hang on to the bar of the trapeze. Actually, from observing perhaps a hundred friends and cousins on the swing, I'd have to say that once they got going it was harder to convince them to let go!

Over time though the trapeze did a lot more for the strength of our young muscles than it did for the strength of that big oak tree. Eventually, the limb became too weak to support our dazzling acrobatics and had to go. A few years later the tree itself succumbed to 'wet feet' and had to be taken down. Not having a suitable substitute tree, we abandoned the whole swing concept. Now in my middle age, I relive the joys of the swing from the comfort of our hammock, its host trees no doubt happy to have grown tall at a safe distance from the water's edge.

## Lot# 262



The Republic photo by Joe H. Smith  
A neighbor passes by in his boat as the new home of John and Nancy Haehl on Grandview Lake burns early Wednesday morning.

# Elevator focus of fire investigation 5-20-2006

By Brenda Showalter  
bshowalter@herepublic.com

Fire investigators believe an electrical problem caused the fire that destroyed a Grandview Lake home this week.

Electrical engineers will be consulted before a final determination is made.

"We believe the fire was directly related to the in-house elevator," said Roger Johnson,

state fire marshal.

Investigators spent three days at the site on West Grandview Drive and have worked with various agencies, including local fire inspectors and insurance representatives.

Andrew Long, a senior fire inspector with the State Fire Marshal's office, is coordinating the investigation.

The three-story house, valued at \$1 million, was

destroyed in the early morning fire on Wednesday.

More than 30 firefighters from five departments fought the blaze at the lake in western Bartholomew County.

The house had been under construction for more than a year. Owners John and Nancy Haehl of Columbus had hoped to move in by July 4.

Johnson said the devastation was so great, it took time

to pinpoint the cause.

He believes the fire began in a control panel of the elevator. Once the fire started, the elevator shaft acted like a chimney flue.

"(The fire) could have spread up the shaft and traveled throughout the house," he said.

Items from the house have been taken for further analysis, and a ruling on the exact cause is expected next week.



## ■ Homeowners had planned to move into 3-story home by July 4

By Brenda Showalter  
bshowalter@therepublic.com

Smoke-charred stone walls, twisted metal, burnt insulation and piles of ashes were all that was left Wednesday of a three-story Grandview Lake home, valued at close to \$1 million.

An early morning fire destroyed the house that had been under construction for more than one year.

"You have to look at the positives. No one was hurt," said John Haehl, who owns the property with his wife, Nancy.

The Haehls received two phone calls shortly before 6 a.m., one from each of his next-door neighbors.

The Haehls drove from their Columbus home to the house they thought they would be moving into by July 4.

They saw their new house engulfed in flames while more than 30 firefighters worked feverishly to contain the fire and save the nearby houses.

"It was 90 to 95 percent complete," said John Haehl, adding that he felt bad for the builders who had devoted so much time and energy to the project.

Wally Dietz, training officer for Harrison Volunteer Fire Department, was one of the first firefighters on the scene.

Dietz said he could see the smoke when he turned off of Indiana 46 onto Road 525W, six miles from the fire.

"There was a glow in the sky and smoke rolling," Dietz said.

"It was fully engulfed when we arrived. The center section of the house had collapsed so we couldn't send anyone inside. We didn't want anyone to get hurt."

### 'Total loss'

State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson said the house was a total loss.

After speaking with the owners and contractor, Johnson estimated the home's value at \$1 million.

"It's maybe the biggest residence fire I've been to in 10 years," said Johnson, a Bartholomew County resident and longtime volunteer firefighter.

Johnson and Kevin Tibbs, Bartholomew County fire inspector, were investigating the fire to try to determine a cause.

"We'll search through the remains to see if we can come up with a cause or origin," Johnson said.

"The cause may be undetermined due to the fact that all the materials in the structure were destroyed."

Johnson said the intense heat of the house's remains prevented investigators from covering much of the area. He



More photos and video on  
[TheRepublic.com](http://TheRepublic.com)

said the investigation would resume at 10 a.m. today.

Johnson said the fire was catastrophic, but a lot of credit went to the firefighters, who spent nearly two hours fighting the blaze.

The heat, smoke and terrain provided a challenge even though the lake provided a ready supply of water.

One firefighter, Michael Dwyer of Harrison Fire Department, was taken to Columbus Regional Hospital for heat exhaustion. He was treated and released from the emergency room.

Harrison Fire Chief David Dwyer, Michael Dwyer's father, said his son was one of the first firefighters on the scene.

"He probably made 12 trips up that hill," said David Dwyer about the long, steep driveway that led from the house to the road where emergency vehicles parked.

Assisting at the scene was Red Cross, which provided drinks and breakfast to the firefighters.

Departments responding were Southwest, Jonesville, Elizabethtown and Columbus Township.

### Frightening morning

Jim and Mimi Riffe, who live next door to the Haehl's property at Grandview Lake, were the first to call 911.

"I had just woken up and I thought it looked very bright outside," said Jim Riffe, who has lived at the west side lake for 22 years.

He looked out the window to see flames shooting through the second-story windows of the house only 25 feet from his home.

Three hours later, Mimi Riffe said it was a frightening experience.

"My knees are still shaking," she said. "It was terribly scary."

"We were lucky the wind was not blowing or at least not blowing in our direction," Jim Riffe said.

The Riffes expect the extreme heat that singed the trees between the properties would be lost, but they are thankful their home was saved.

They stopped and thanked as many firefighters as they could for dousing their house with water to keep it from catching on fire.

Ron Berzajs, the Haehls' neighbor on the other side, also was thankful for the firefighters for spraying water onto his house, 75 feet away from the flames.

Before the emergency crews arrived, Berzajs climbed onto his roof with a garden hose in hopes of minimizing any damage.

"The side of the house was so hot I couldn't touch it," said Berzajs.

John Haehl is not sure what he and his wife will do now, but he is trying to keep a positive attitude.

"On the bright side, no one was living there," John Haehl said.



The Republic photo by Joe Huppert  
A firefighter picks up equipment at the edge of Grandview Lake after fire destroyed the nearby home of John and Nancy Haehl Wednesday.



# Memories of Grandview

Contributed by Connie Curry Meshberger - Lot 258 and Lot 259

My parents, Leon and Elois Meshberger, were among the first lot owners at Grandview Lake. My father had always had a boat having made his first one as a teenager and used it on the Wabash River. My grandfather had a lot on Harrison Lake that we frequented on week-ends, but the thought of a large lake was a dream come true for my dad. We even drove our car around on the bottom of Grandview before the dam was completed.

The actual acquisition of the lot came about in a strange way. Obviously the lake needed to have roads around it. Meshberger Stone Co. supplied the crushed stone for the roads. When it came time for payment of the materials, there was no money to pay for the roads. Finally an agreement was made between Phil Long and my father to take some lots for payment. Later some of the lots were sold by the stone company, and family members wanting lots reimbursed the stone company at a later date.

My father chose lot 259 because it had a great view, not as much boat traffic as the big water, and it had the morning sun and afternoon shade during the hottest time of the day. It was years, however, before water would actually appear in that cove.

When we first started using the lake everyone would put their boats into the water near the location of the present boat ramp. None of the coves had water, and the large body was not so large. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the comradery with other boaters - all caked with orangey-brown clay by the end of the day. (My mother even bought some awful brown terry-cloth and made beach towels. Our other towels were always so stained that she didn't want to use them.)

My father had purchased water skis from Dale Strahl. We went to Lake James in northern Indiana, and my dad tried out the skis. He was a big man and it took a couple of tries. Next it was my turn. Just as I was ready to start, a boat full of teen-age boys came to watch. There were very few skiers on lakes in the 50's, and they were curious. As a teen-ager myself, I would have walked on water before falling in front of a boat full of boys. Thus, I learned to ski on the first try. I later skied frequently at Grandview

with other interesting happenings such as a snake that rode the wake beside me.

For several years we waited for the lake to fill. (The Grandview Development Co. had financial problems and went into receivership. College Life then took the helm for completion. *I don't remember the details of this but will be interested in finding out.*)

In the meantime, my dad's sister, Bette Neuen and her husband, Herman, purchased lot 258. They each had plans for the future, but the future was not to be as planned.

While we waited for the water to reach our cove, my dad was getting ready. He put in the concrete beach wall with places for boats to tie up. Instead of a gradual slope to the beach, it dropped abruptly after it would be over a tall man's head. "After all, if it's over your head, it's over your head," my dad said. Because it was deep, we did not have a problem with weeds!

In the late 50's we had the first Grandview picnic. It was on lot 259, our lot. I suppose it was there because we had a large area cleared. I remember tables set up between the two hickory trees where a hammock would be for many years in the future. During the afternoon people began boating. At some point a person fell overboard. Vicky Long, Phil's teenage daughter, was in another boat and dived in for the rescue. (Vicky is now a famous attorney. The last I heard she was in Washington, D.C.)

The dam was in an incomplete phase when the rains came. The dam was in danger. (My recollection of what happened next is exactly that.- my recollection! I've read a couple of reports of what happened. I believe some have been fabricated over the years, but here's the story from my memory.)



Easton Voelz,  
Connie Curry's grandson

Don Force called my dad and explained the situation. They decided if "Big" boulders were placed in strategic places and earth moved around, the dam could be saved. My dad had to get permission from the highway department to allow the quarry trucks to drive on the roads. Large rocks were loaded onto the quarry trucks and driven to the lake. They worked throughout the night. A friend at Harrison Lake recalls they could hear the trucks going to the lake. They were large and noisy! My mom, brother Lynn, and I drove out. I recall flood lights and a lot of activity. Bottom line – the dam was saved.

The water stopped at our lot for what seemed like years. People who had lots farther back in the cove would gather at our lot. It was a great way to meet your neighbors and everyone cared about each other. It was definitely a family atmosphere.

At some point my dad put the rock breakers on the far end of the two lots. This was to keep the sand from washing as the waves came in. It also served as some protection for swimmers as boats did not come as near to shore as they sometimes do.



Summer 1954 or 1955-first location of field maintenance shop,  
in an area now under 20 feet of water



# Chapter XI:

## Grandview Garden Club History...

by Donna Sasse

The first meeting of the Grandview Garden Club was held on April 2, 1992 with Löek Van den Berge, Arlene Truex, Joan Riffle, Louise Hutsen, Melita Berzajs and Shirley Gero serving as the organizational committee. Eighteen Grandview ladies were in attendance. Intent of the club was to provide acquaintance with fellow lake owners who would then engage in projects to beautify and enhance the land around the lake. Initial activities that were discussed to define the goals of the club were:

- Planting marsh-type vegetation at the new siltation bed area at Poplar Drive & Road 750 West
- Considering roadside planting along the edge of the Grandview Woods
- Arranging joint wholesale purchase of trees & plants
- Conducting annual plant auction with gardening tips
- Arranging field trips to area gardens & farms of interest

All the above were accomplished as follows:

Members with the help of their spouses planted Witch Hazel and Winterberry bushes along with Dogwood trees around the siltation pond. Unfortunately, the vegetation met their demise due to flooding. Holland native, Löek Van den Berge, arranged for her brother to mail hundreds of Holland Daffodil bulbs which members planted in various locations around the lake in November 1995. Based on a design by Meg Storrow and John Kinsella, landscape architects and owners of Lot 243A, club members planted River Birch trees and Barberry bushes at the stone marker at Roads 650 West & 300 South, along with Daffodils and Day Lilies to provide additional color. An intense application process for installing redwood entrance signs at Bellsville Pike & Poplar Drive and at Grandview Drive & Road 750 West, was approved by the Bartholomew County Board of Zoning Appeals in November 1997. Dean Schertz designed the stone marker at the lake entrance on Road 750 West with

members planting grasses and flowers. During especially dry summers, members have shared watering duties. The annual Plant Auction has been the main fund raiser for the club. Members bring plants, whether flowers, vegetable, herbs or even seeds to be auctioned to fellow members. Following the auction is the



famous and just as delicious “community salad” that is always served from ingredients brought by each member and tossed together in the largest bowl available. Each year approximately 4 to 5 field trips are taken to area gardens or businesses related to gardening issues. Most likely the farthest field trip was shared with three other community garden clubs in April 1996 when a bus was taken to the Cincinnati Garden Show.

For a few years a joint event with the Columbus Herb Society allowed for gardens of the Grandview Club members to be visited by pontoon with the Herb Society members providing lunch. From the beginning a summer picnic was held to include spouses and “sprouted” into another popular spousal event called Wine & Cheese Party held each year at a member’s home.

Generally, the November meeting provides a craft project which has included making egg noodles at Joan Vogel’s home for the Harrison Township Firemen’s Omelet Brunch or creating grapevine wreathes and trees directed by Melita Berzajs. In recent years member Holly Melillo has supervised crafts from scarf to jewelry making.

December has always included a special Christmas luncheon with members bringing a toy donation for the local Firemen’s Cheer Fund. In years past members also exchanged Christmas ornaments. Even today it is enjoyable at Christmas to remember the origin of the ornaments. Especially exciting are the ones made by regional artist and former member Betty Boyle. The December party closes out the year as many lot owners head to warmer climates before meeting up again in the Spring.

Inflation has had little effect on the club as dues have only increased from the initial \$7 per year to the present \$10. Over the years, dues have supported area speakers at meetings, projects around the lake, and even paying for the picnic fried chicken. Current membership is 45.

Ladies listed on the first membership roster were:

Janice Baumgart	Peggy Kaiser
Melita Berzajs	Gretchen Kreps
Susan Blunck	Marie Moore
Betty Boyle	Vicky Orme
Rita Bray	Sue Rice
Judi Cox	Joan Riffle
Jean Coxon	Meg Storrow
Ruth Davee	Arlene Truex
Susan Faatz	Löek Van den Berge
Shirley Gero	Joan Vogel
Nancy Haehl	Laura Weddle
Lucy Henry	Sue Wilgus
Louise Hutsen	

Written by Donna Sasse for the Grandview History Book with special thanks to Arlene Truex and Sue Wilgus for their contributions regarding the names of early Garden Club members.



Above: Holly Melillo, Nancy Poetz, Joan Prosser, Sandi Miller, Arlene Truex, Carole Arthur, Ruth Davee and Melita Berzajs.

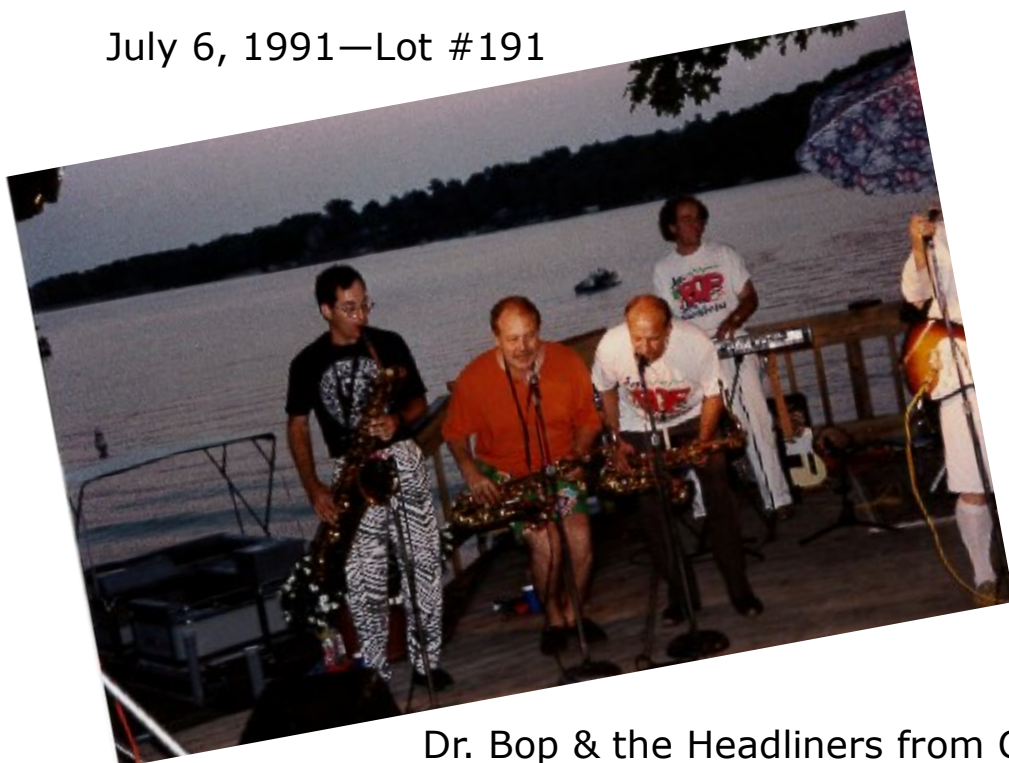


## Weddings at Grandview



Kathleen & Ron Schutz wedding

July 6, 1991—Lot #191



Dr. Bop & the Headliners from Chicago  
entertained the guests at the Schutz Wedding.



Bob & Emily McCurdy Wedding  
August 1, 2009—Lot #335



Wedding at the Ed & Judy Callaway property, Lot #27





Amanda & Brian Polston Wedding  
(Emily McCurdy's daughter)  
July 14, 2007—Lot 335





Mitchell &  
Suzanne (Sohn)  
Hilderbrand

August 21, 1982

Lot #244A





Jim & Peggy Nussmeier Voelz  
Wedding

August 9, 1975

Lot 249

Left to Right: Elizabeth  
Kestler, Robert W. Nussmeier,  
Nancy Armuth, Robert A.  
Nussmeier, Peggy, Patti Burns,  
Jim, Jane Nussmeier, and  
Barbara Copeland.

Below: Jim &  
Peggy leaving the  
reception by boat



Left to Right: Ann  
Voelz Watson, Jim,  
Peggy, Phyllis Voelz,  
Joe Voelz, & Judy  
Voelz





Julie and Tom King  
Wedding Reception

July 20, 1985  
Lot #62

(Mary Ann McCray's  
daughter)





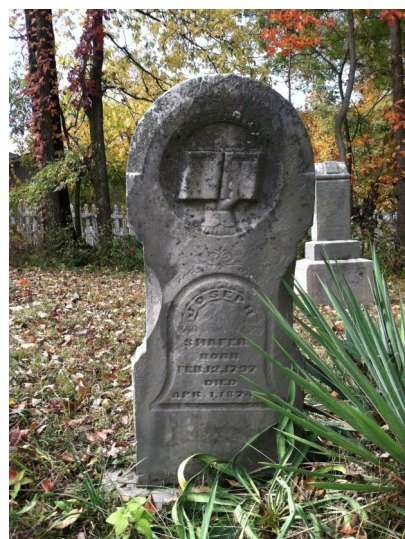
## Chapter XII:

### The Roth Cemetery...

In the woods north of the Grandview Lake Lot Owners' building and launch area, there is a small cemetery. The road to the Roth Cemetery is an up-hill, gravel, and narrow lane. The cemetery is surrounded by a rusting wire fence that is broken down in some places. There are trees surrounding the area, but one can see the rooftop of a nearby home on the lake. There are gravesites marked by some very old and crumbling headstones. Harsh nature's weather has erased the names and years of birth/death from many of these markers.

However, there are some newer headstones that identify people buried here who at one time were residents of Grandview Lake. One was a sailor in Grandview Yacht races and two others were a couple from Latvia who fled Eastern Europe from communist rule in the 1950's.

According to our Lake Manager, John Anderson, who has researched the cemetery with local government officials, responsibility for care of the cemetery has been abandoned by any governmental body such as a township or the county. Cutting and trimming of the grass and weeds is done voluntarily by Greg Volland, who lives East of Grandview Lake on Road 300 S. He assumed this responsibility from his father, the late Harold Volland, who cared for the cemetery for many years. Greg does not know of any ancestors of his family being buried in the Roth Cemetery, but he knows that people who lived in the area of 300 S and 550 W have been interred there.



Above: Jay Kress, past resident of the lake, is buried in the Roth Cemetery.

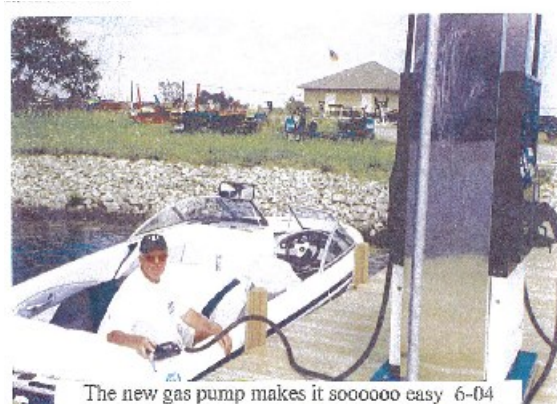
## Chapter XIII:

### Interesting Facts and Pictures to Share and Remember...

- The Grandview Lake Stone Marker at the intersection of Roads 650 W and 300 S was constructed and donated by Dale Strahl and John Berzajs, longtime Grandview Lake residents.
- Several facts have been found in the archives of the local newspaper, The Republic (previously named The Evening Republican.) The news was reported on or about these dates. They include:
  - \*In August of 1956, 150 residents turned out for the first community picnic hosted by property owners at Grandview Lake.
  - \*The first water show held at Grandview Lake was July, 1957 and drew a crowd of 5,000 people.
  - \*Alvin Mundt was elected 'mayor' of the Grandview Lake Lot Owners Association in August, 1957.
  - \*Cummins Engine Co. (now known as Cummins, Inc.) and the U.S. Army engineers used Grandview Lake for a field test of a new 14-ton amphibian cargo craft that was powered by a 300-horsepower Cummins engine on July 16, 1961.
  - \*On October 2, 1961 the first permit for a fallout shelter in Bartholomew County was issued to Dr. Robert M. Reid for a home to be built at Grandview Lake, Lot 5S.
  - \*Researching old news stories about the blizzard of 1978, The Republic newspaper reported on February 3, 1978 that a lot at Grandview Lake was advertised for sale at \$16,900.
- According to Dale Strahl, long time early resident, the deepest point of the lake measuring 85 feet is approximately 100 feet off the dam to the right of the spillway.



- John & Gwen Cord who have returned to live at Grandview Lake, say that fresh water jelly fish are present in Grandview Lake. There are few lakes in Indiana that have them because it requires very pure water. The jelly fish are about quarter-size and August is hatching time.



- The Grandview Lot Owners' Association was formed in 1956 and members were asked to pay \$1 annually to defray expenses. In 1958, a town meeting was held to provide better organization and by-laws were developed. Dues were increased to \$10.
- The GLOA office was built between the launch ramp and the dam in 2000. Prior to having the office building, records had been stored in volunteers' homes as they served on GLOA boards and committees, or for a few years in the rented office located at Road 525W and Goeller Boulevard. A self serve gas pump was installed at the launch ramp in 2004.
- Although annual lot owners' dues and annual sewer use fees pay to maintain the dam, sewer system, launch and boat storage areas, safety lake patrol, a lake manager and a part time administrative assistant, a significant amount of work is done by volunteers who are lot owners. There have been times when special assessments were required from lot owners for improvements. They include:

1986 – Dam Assessment - \$950

1989 – Woods Purchase - \$2,905

1997 – Dam Assessment - \$2,495

2001 – Office Building - \$200

2004 – Gasoline Pump - \$200

2011/12 – Sewer Treatment Facility - \$4,500

## A PIECE OF LAKE HISTORY

Some old newspaper articles as well as old editions of Grandview News have been given to the Association. Included in this and upcoming editions of the newsletter we will be printing information we think might be of interest. One such article was published in an April, 1953 edition of the Republic.

# WORK ON HUGE GRANDVIEW DAM TO START SOON

## 2,200-Foot Fill for 400-Acre Lake County's Big- gest Project.

Construction of the big 2,200-foot dam for the new Grandview lake southwest of the city is scheduled to start next week and will be the largest single earth-moving project ever undertaken in the county.

It is planned to complete the major part of the dam this year, according to Don Force of the Force Construction company, Columbus, which will erect the big earthen dam.

More than 300 lots are to be sold in the Grandview development, being promoted by Philip W. Long and Densel Truex on a 2,500-acre tract formerly owned by Q. G. Noblitt. Mr. Long and Mr. Truex took over the property for farm operations two years ago.

### May Start Monday.

Much of the 400-acre lake site already has been cleared and, weather permitting, it is planned to start moving dirt for the dam Monday.

The dam will be 80 feet high, 520 feet wide at its base and 40 feet wide at the top. It will contain approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth.

The resulting lake, to be surrounded by home sites, will be one of the largest in Southern Indiana and in several directions will provide more than a mile of continuous water.

Most of the dirt to be moved for the dam will be carried by three new big 20-yard caterpillar earthmovers of the Force company.

### Office at Site.

A temporary office has been constructed at the dam site for visitors interested in the project.

Eventual plans call for construction of a resort hotel on the lake-shore near the north end of the dam, with fishing, boating, bathing and other water sports.

The new lake site is on the Bellville road south of the Harrison lakes. Road signs have been erected on Road 58 and Youth Camp road marking the route to the site.

The development is being promoted through this weekend and next week at the Indianapolis Home Show.

## **FIRST WATER SHOW ATTRACTS CROWD OF 5,000**

Sometime in the late 50's or early 60's a 2-hour plus show at Grandview Lake took place that attracted a crowd of 5,000 water sport fans. The show was cut short by the threat of rain and lightning and thunder. The rain never got as far as Grandview, but the crowd had already left to seek shelter from the threatening storm.

The water show began with a boat parade and consisted of plain and fancy skiing. Outstanding acts presented by local and amateur water skiers delighted the crowd. A professional team from out-of-town was scheduled for the grand finale.

The show was the first of its kind in this area and included 25 water skiers from the Columbus area and from Northern Indiana.

Due to the lack of wind, the scheduled sailboat demonstration did not take place. Larry Quick and David Marks had a sailboat on the lake ready in case the wind picked up.

Seven professional skiers, some who were National Champions, preformed specialty acts for the crowd. Diana Bova, Sue Puvel, Mrs. Joseph Daily of Hope and Mrs. Raymond Jewell were the stars of the criss-cross act. Robert Franke, Larry Walls, Tom Herold and James Strahl teamed up for performance in the men's criss-cross act. A clown act of Glenn Flint, Edwin Cain, and Robert Lindsay, Jr. delighted everyone. The water show concluded with slalom skiing acts by Bill Nunamaker of Indianapolis; Michael Bova, flying saucer; James Dudley and Robert Bridges, jump the rope; Glenn Flint and Mary Schultz, shoulder riding; and Frank Suverkrup, jump the ramp.

An article concerning this show, which appeared in the Evening Republic, was left at the GLOA office several months ago. Some of the above named are still in the Columbus area and some even live at Grandview Lake. We thought maybe you would enjoy reading of some of the history of our lake.

Sept 2001  
Newsletter



OCTOBER, 1976

Grandview Newsletter

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TORNADO

About 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 26th., a tornado touched down in Grandview Lake. Many of the residents saw the funnel and almost couldn't believe what they were seeing. From looking around the lake it appears to have followed a path hitting lots 77, 78, 79 and 80, then across to John Sassè's Lot 245 then on to Lots 303 thru 316.

Fortunately, there were no injuries and the most damage occurred at Dick and Evelyn Wright's, Lot 79. Their pontoon was picked up and dropped back into the lake upside down. They had a sliding glass door section shattered, several trees down, a picnic table pulled from the deck into the lake and the roof ripped off the boat dock. The Harrison Lawyer's next door also had their speedboat overturned.

We are really sorry for those who incurred loss and damage, but most thankful that it wasn't worse - we were indeed lucky.



Left: Becky Hoffman and Judy Voelz  
circa late 1960's

Below: Susan Faatz, Ann Mullinix,  
and Mimi Riffle



Below: Grandview Garden  
Club at Winton's Iris Hill  
May 20, 2010

Holly Melillo, Susan Egbert,  
Dolores Krome, Eleanor Haltom,  
Sally Reindl, Ann Mullinix, Nancy  
Olson, Donna Sasse, Mimi Riffle,  
Emily McCurdy, Mrs. Winton, Judy  
Callaway, Sue Sanders, Joan  
Prosser







Above: 4th of July Breakfast at Dan & Judy Hoyt's home—  
Christmas in July 2014

Below: John Sohn and sons —mid 1960's





Right: Arlene &  
Wayne Truex &  
Mary and Bob  
Orben

50th Anniversary of  
Sailing Celebration



Left: Sailing race  
mid 1980's when  
windsurfing was  
very popular

Trail Hike -1991





Leon Berzajs was born and raised on Grandview Lake. Leon was responsible for building many spectacular docks on the lake. He passed away in 2013.



## Grandview Grocery

This grocery store served as the local market and gas station for lake residents during the mid 1950's until around 1983. Bait, fishing tackle, boat supplies, basic staples, and lots of Grandview gossip could be found at this store. This location later became the "Dapper Duck" restaurant and most recently a landscape business.



## **Grandview Board of Directors Roster 1983-2013**

Living here in 2013 and grouped by their years of service -  
See key below

### **1 Year**

Mike Bova  
Phil Harmon  
Ron Meyer  
Jason Owens  
Dick Pitman  
Bill Russell  
Vince Truax

### **4-6 Years**

Brad Arthur, PPP Sewer  
Maipat Berry  
Richard Bray  
Dan Hoyt, Gas Pump  
Ray Ison  
Brian King  
Bob McCurdy, Sewer  
Harry Meshberger, Covenants  
Mary Orben  
John Sasse

### **Key**

P—President  
Dam—Repair # 1 or #2  
Woods—Woods/Preserve Acquisition  
Bldg.—Lot Owners' Admin. Bldg.  
Covenants Amendment— 5 years  
Sewer—New Plant—3 years  
(There were many board members prior to 1983, but those records are incomplete)

### **2-3 Years**

Deann Baer  
Ray Bradbury  
Mike Breeden  
Clayton Calloway  
Jerry Combs  
Alex Cook  
Norm Egbert  
Matt Ellegood  
Kevin Farrell  
Link Fulp  
Max Henry, Dam #1  
Robert Jeffrey  
Dolores Krome, Sewer  
June Munt, PP  
Kevin Preuss, P  
Jim Stiegelmeyer  
Brad Stinebring, PP  
Peggy Voelz  
Arlene Truex  
Wayne Truex

### **7-13 Years**

Clark Ahrens, PP, LOA Bldg., Sewer  
Scott Engum, PP, Gas pump  
Dave Faatz  
Larry Olson, P, Gas Pump  
Dana Parks  
Jim Riffle, Woods, Covenants  
Harry Sanders, PPP, Dam,  
Gas Pump, LOA Bldg.



# There Are Many More Pictures and Stories to Share...

Grandview Lake was originally marketed in the late 50's as the "Crown Jewell of Indiana" because of it's crystal clear waters, beautiful hills and valleys, adventurous residents, and unique sense of community. There will be many more stories and pictures to share in the future. Please send new stories or pictures to Grandview Lot Owners' Association, Inc. at [gloa@grandviewlake.org](mailto:gloa@grandviewlake.org) and we will save them for future updates.

Thanks to all for your contributions to this history book. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

## **The History Book Committee**

Peggy Nussmeier Voelz

Mary Ann McCray

John and Donna Sasse

Brad Arthur

Harry Sanders



Office - Built in 2001