

THIS I REMEMBER
Memoirs of
WILMA WEBB
THE EARLY HISTORY
Of
CASS LAKE
CUNNINGHAM PARK
And
KEEGO HARBOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BROTHERS

EVAN B. WEBB

And

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FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

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1911, OUR FIRST SUMMER IN OAKLAND COUNTY

I weighed only thirty-two pounds in 1911, I was five years old. My mother and father planned on going to Texas for my health, but they had heard of the lakes around Pontiac, and thought they would try living in the area, at least during the summer, to see how I would respond, before going to Texas.

They bought a tent, fourteen by twenty-one feet, with six foot side walls, placed it on a wooden platform, and had mosquito netting front and back where the entrance flaps were. We lived in the tent from May, 1911, until that Fall, in what was, and still is known as Cunningham Park. It is located on the southeastern side of Sylvan Lake, and is part of what is now the city of Keego Harbor.

Our tent was set up between fifty and seventy-five feet from the lake shore, which was nearer to the lake shore than any of the summer cottages were at that time.

We had a row-boat, and Mother and I would row every few days across the lake to a farmhouse that was between Sylvan and Cass Lakes, to get milk. Sometimes, I would troll, as she rowed, and once, caught a fish that was large enough for our supper that night.

There were many large turtles in the lake, and sometimes we could see them on the bottom, as we rowed around the lake. One day, one of the Cunningham's caught one that was so large; it filled the bottom of a large wash tub.

Our whole family learned to swim that summer. At first, Mother and I used water wings, and I was the last to dispose of them.

One time, the people in the neighborhood decided to get together and have a mock wedding.

There was a dance hall at Roy stop on the street car line, which was about three or four blocks from the lake. It was used during the summer only, and people came from all over the area to dance there, until the mid-nineteen-twenties.

OUR FIRST WINTER IN OAKLAND COUNTY

The D.U.R. (Detroit Urban Railway), ran street cars from Pontiac to Detroit, through Farmington Junction, once an hour. Farmington Junction was where Orchard Lake Road meets Grand River Avenue. It cost all of twenty cents to go from Pontiac to the Grand Boulevard in Detroit, and five cents more to go into downtown Detroit.

The cars came out Huron Street, to what is now Telegraph Road, turned south until they came to the east end of Sylvan Lake, crossed the Clinton River, and followed the southwest shore line of Sylvan Lake until it came to Cass Lake Rd. The tracks turned south there, until they came to the railroad tracks, and then followed them to the Old Orchard Lake Depot, located between Orchard Lake and Pine Lakes. The street cars then went up over a high trestle, crossed over the railroad

tracks, and followed Orchard Lake Road to the Farmington Junction. Sometimes our car would go directly to Detroit, and sometimes we had to transfer to another car.

The big snow storm of 1978 keeps reminding me of our first winter at Cass Lake.

It was the winter of 1911/1912, and my folks had rented a five-room cottage, across the street from where our new house was being built. There were only two other year-round homes on our street at that time.

There were summer cottages all along the east shore of Cass Lake. On our street there were three summer cottages on one side of the street, and four on our side of the street, but they were closer to the lake.

My Dad worked at the Carter Car Company, which was across the street from the old Wilson Foundry, on Saginaw Street. The first street car left from what is now Keego Harbor, about six in the morning to go to Pontiac, and all the men who worked there would catch it to go to work.

There was one family who lived at the north end of Cass Lake Front, in one of the cottages, and the father was habitually a little late in the mornings, to catch the street car. He could hear the car coming while he was still a good distance from the station, and would begin yelling as he was running to the station for them to wait for him, and they did.

One morning, when my folks got up, it was snowing quite hard, but the street cars were still running, so my Dad, along with all the other men, went to work. By noon, or shortly after, the cars stopped running because of the snow, and my Dad didn't get home for three days. The cottage we were living in had a pump, on a partially enclosed porch, which froze up in the extreme cold weather. Whether Mother didn't realize this or what, but when it froze up, we hadn't saved enough water to thaw it out, and had to go more than a block, to an old farmhouse to get water. Women, at that time, wore ankle length skirts, and the snow was nearly up to her hips.

SUMMER STORE KEEPERS

When we moved to the Cass Lake area in 1911, it was made up almost entirely of summer or resort residences. Throughout the entire area there were no grocery stores, or businesses of any kind.

The Christy family lived on Cass Lake Road, across the street from where the Roosevelt School is now located. Mr. Christy was a barber in Pontiac during the winter months, and during the summer months, he had a large tent that was fourteen by twenty-one feet, with a striped top. The walls were six feet high, but I can't remember whether or not it had a floor in it. He erected the tent on what is now Grove Court, near Cass Lake Rd. There were giant oak, crab-apple, pear and elm trees all around, and it was shady most of the time.

It was more like an ice cream parlor than anything else, with tables and chairs, and a counter where he displayed cigars. Ice cream cones were a nickel, sundaes, a dime, and a whole quart of ice cream was only twenty-five cents.

Once, just after my youngest brother was born, my other brother and I went into the tent, and

there on the counter was a heavy, hollowed-out, glass dish, with a hole in the bottom. Being a very curious child, I stuck my finger in the hole, and almost cut the tip off. My brother, seeing his big sister stick her finger in the dish, stuck his in also, before I could stop him. Being only two years old, his finger went further down, and was cut deeper than mine. It turned out that the dish was a cigar cutter, which the men used to clip off the end of their cigars.

We rushed right home, after cutting our fingers, and the nurse who was taking care of Mother at the time, bound them up for us.

About two years after we moved into our new house, a young couple named Schroeder moved onto the street behind our house, near the corner of Grove Court and Cass Lake Front Road, and built an eight by eight foot building. It had shelves all along one side, and the opposite wall had a prop-up opening. There was no floor in the building. This was the first store in what is now Keego Harbor and was only open during the summer time.

They had operated this store for two or three summers when Mr. Schroeder inherited ten thousand dollars, from an uncle, and immediately built a two-story building with big porches on two sides, on the same lot. They lived in the upstairs, and the downstairs was their new store. That building was moved three times, first across the street on Cass Lake Front, then to the northwest corner of Grove Court and Cass Lake Road, and finally onto Cass Lake Road, where there is presently a barber shop. At three of the locations it was a grocery store, and the fourth time, it was a barber shop and beauty parlor. After the building was moved to Cass Lake Rd., Mr. Schroeder built anew store next to the old building, on the corner of Cass Lake Road and Grove Court. The old two-story building was finally torn down in the mid nineteen- fifties, and the new store building was torn down shortly after that, and was replaced by a Frosty Freeze.

HOME FACILITIES

In 1911, when we first moved to the Cass Lake area, there was no electricity, and everyone used kerosene lamps. People also cooked and baked on two or four burner oil or gasoline stoves. In 1913, they finally brought electricity into the area and in the middle and late 1920's, gas was also piped in.

Our street, Cass Lake Avenue, was lined with poplar trees, spaced twenty or thirty feet apart, and when the gas was piped into the area, all of those trees died as a result. During the depression, those trees were used to heat the homes. Homes were heated at "the time with wood or coal-burning stoves and furnaces. Most people used soft coal, which created a lot of soot, and was very dirty, or coke, which was partially-burned coal. Some people used hard coal, which produced more even heat and was much cleaner than the other two, but was very expensive.

In the late 1930's people began to convert their furnaces to gas, but in the early 1940's, along came World War II, and many of the people had to wait until after the war to convert their furnaces to gas. Until Keego Harbor became a city, each household had their own wells, which ranged in depth from eighty to one hundred and twenty feet deep, and their own septic tanks and drain fields. Many homes had outdoor toilets also, until the city made available city water and sewers to the residents.

ROADS

When we first moved into the area, all the roads were just dirt roads, but the more heavily-traveled main roads were gravel. At that time, there was a toll gate located approximately where Telegraph crossed Orchard Lake Road and Pontiac Drive angles off into Sylvan Lake, which is the northeast corner of West Bloomfield Township. The toll money was used for the upkeep of the streets and roads in the township.

In the mid-to-late 1920s, Orchard Lake Road became a paved, two-lane highway, and was known as M-218. Cass Lake Road, north of M-218 was paved shortly after that.

In the mid 1950s, shortly after Keego Harbor became a city, the state decided to widen M-218 to four lanes, from the Pontiac City limits to Commerce Road. The Village of Orchard Lake would not allow them to widen M-218 through their village, and remains a two-lane road to Pontiac Trail today.

Keego Harbor had the choice of widening the road through the city, or having the road follow the railroad tracks from Orchard Lake Road, east of the city, in Sylvan Lake, to the northern edge of Keego Harbor, by-passing the city completely. The city Council decided to have them widen the road through the center of Keego Harbor, because the original road was over thirty years old, and in \ disrepair due to the heavy traffic daily, and the city would not have to pay to have it repaved.

In many ways, this was a bad choice because it deprived the merchants on Orchard Lake Road many parking spaces available to them prior to the widening of the road. Since then, many plans have been promoted to improve the parking situation, but at this time, the merchants still have to provide their own parking areas.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, the Road Commission had all of the streets in Keego Harbor black-topped. They do an excellent job of keeping the roads in good repair, and cleared of snow in the winter months.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA

Generally speaking, the city of Keego Harbor was originally made up of four areas. South and East of Orchard Lake Road was the Keego Harbor subdivision. North of Orchard Lake Road was the Cass Lake area. North of Hensman Street and East of Cass Lake Road was Cunningham Park, which mainly bordered on Sylvan Lake. The fourth area was called the Evergreen, or stout area. It is east of Cass Lake Road, between Hensman Street and Orchard Lake Road, and it was the last of the four areas to be settled and developed.

The Cass Lake area was the first to be developed, and was definitely a summer resort. The whole eastern shore of Cass Lake was lined with summer cottages.

Prior to 1911 or 1912, the year-around homes numbered less than ten, and most of these were farm homes.

On Orchard Lake Road, there was the old stout farm house. Across the road, about where the

Do-It-Yourself car wash is located, was the Mariners' home. They moved there in 1905 or 1906. I think there were two more houses east of Cass Lake Road, on Orchard Lake Road.

On Cass Lake Road, on the west side, there was the Tyre home, the Lloyd Strong home, the Christy home, and the Prall home. They were spaced about a block or more apart. On the east side of Cass Lake Road, about where the Methodist Church is now located, was the Anderson Farm. That house was later moved around the corner of that street, and farther down. Directly behind our house, was a farm house that was lived in by a family named Chappel.

At that time, Cass Lake Road went north from Orchard Lake Road to Grove Court, then west for about half a block, then north again, on what is now Cass Lake Front Rd. North of Grove Court and Hensman Street was only a cow path for about a block, with a densely wooded, " area between there and Cass Lake Front Rd.

Between 1912 and 1920, the whole area sprang up like a bed of mushrooms. The Keego Harbor area, south of Orchard Lake Road, was the first area to become a year-around settlement. The first families in that area, to name a few, were the Keefers, Durkees, Lillycrops, Shermans, Thibideaus, Wicks, Bushes and the Pierces, and many more, too numerous to name. During that time, the Keego Harbor area was gradually changing from a summer resort, to a year-around community, with year-around homes being built on the streets leading to the lake.

Sometime in the years between 1916 and 1920, a land development company named Judson Bradway, came out from Detroit and bought up the wooded area north of Grove Court, put in streets, and built many cheap construction homes, some on posts, some on cement blocks, and sold them. At that time there were no zoning laws or restrictions on properties. Many of the people who bought their houses made them into more permanent homes.

This same company, at the same time, decided to build a "Venice of the Lakes", in the area where the Clinton River exits Cass Lake. The river originally ran from Cass Lake into Otter Lake, and then into Sylvan Lake. In digging all the canals, they managed to change the flow of the river so that it went directly from Cass Lake into Sylvan Lake. Between all the new canals, and the change of flow of the Clinton River, Cass Lake was drained of much of its water. The east side of the lake had a beautiful, shallow, sandy beach, about one hundred and fifty, or two hundred feet wide, before the waters started to get deeper. This was all exposed, or drained dry at the time.

The Carter family, who owned the property where the Sylvan on the Lakes Apartments is now located, decided to fill in all the shore line that had been bared on the west side of Cass Lake Road, in front of their property.

Because of the drainage of Cass lake and the Carter's filling in and changing the shore line, most of the other land owners formed an association called "The Cass Lake Improvement Association", and sued the Carters. The Carters won the suit because of riparian rights, but they stopped filling in the lake shore and the Clinton River was dammed up, by filling it in with gravel until only an inch or so of water flowed over the top, where it exits Cass Lake.

Finally, in the late 1960's, the county built a dam which could be raised and lowered to control the depth of the water in Cass Lake.

SCHOOLS

When we moved to the Cass Lake area, there were no schools there. The nearest school was the Hammond School, located on Orchard Lake Road, where the main part of Daniel Whitfield School now stands. It was a wooden-sided, one-room building, painted yellow and very dingy inside. I started school there, in 1912, in the first grade.

All of the children from the Sylvan Lake, Cass Lake, and Dollar Lake area went there. A week or two after school started that year, a diphtheria epidemic broke out, and the school was closed indefinitely.

My mother, not wishing me to miss school, enrolled me in the Crofoot School, in Pontiac. The school was located on Huron Street, at the end of Franklin Boulevard. I rode the street car to and from school for two years.

During this time, the permanent year-around residents decided to form a new school district, which became Fraction No.5, West Bloomfield. The school was built on the southeast corner of Orchard Lake Road, where it makes the sharp bend from east/west to north/south. There is currently a gas station on that corner.

The first school board was made up of the earliest residents of the Cass Lake area. I'm not sure, but I believe they were Mr. Lloyd Strong, Mr. Prall, Mr. George Clark, Mr. Edward Skrine, and Mr. William Christy.

The school opened in September of 1914. Only the two rooms upstairs were used at first. The south room was for grades one through four, with Miss Rutherford teaching, and the north room was used for grades five through eight, with Miss Patterson as teacher and Principal.

The new school boasted of inside plumbing, which was unheard of, in those days, with drinking fountains both upstairs and down, and eight indoor toilets, four for the girls, on the right side, and four for the boys on the left side. In the beginning, the two downstairs rooms were used as playrooms during recess and lunch hour, when the weather was bad, but by 1916 or 1917, the Keego Harbor School had become a four-room school, with two grades in each room. The downstairs rooms were for the first four grades and the upstairs rooms for the higher four grades. The district included the north and west shores of pine Lake and the south and east shores of Orchard Lake.

By 1920, the school was bursting at the seams, and it was decided to build a new school on Cass Lake Road. It was named the Roosevelt School. I believe they opened the doors in September of 1920, with only one grade per room. During 1920 and 1921 there were only eight grades. In 1922 they added the ninth, and each year after, they added another grade. The first graduating class was in 1925.

The area was still growing very rapidly, and with Roosevelt being the only high school in West Bloomfield, another large addition was built on the school. The old Keego Harbor School was still being used for a grade school, when needed.

In 1947 or 1948, the school board decided to consolidate the schools in West Bloomfield. The Daniel Whitfield School elected to join the Pontiac School district, and the Pine Lake School

joined the Bloomfield Hills School District.

In the 1950s, the Abbott School was built on the southwest corner of Commerce Road and Orchard Lake Road. It housed grades seven through twelve. The Roosevelt School reverted back to a grade school.

The new school was named after Warren W. "Dan" Abbott, who had been Superintendent of Schools at Roosevelt for twenty-three years, and was responsible for the consolidation of the schools.

In the early 1950's, the rest of West Bloomfield Township began to grow very rapidly, and by 1960 the schools again became too crowded, and the West Bloomfield High School was built on Orchard Lake Road, at the southernmost boundary of the West Bloomfield School District. Later on, the present High School was built on Orchard Lake Road, nearer the center of the township, and the former high school became the Orchard Lake Middle School.

STRONG'S PAVILION

Lloyd Strong built and moved into his new home in May of 1911. It was between one hundred and one hundred and fifty feet north of Orchard Lake Road, on the west side of Cass Lake Road. He also built a two-story building on the short canal or channel, on the east side of Dollar Lake.

The lower part of the building was used for boat storage in the winter. In the summer, he had a thriving boat livery business, and rented canoes, row boats, and motor boats. The upstairs of the building was a dance hall during the summer months. As the modes of transportation, the street cars and automobiles, got better, and Mr. Strong began hiring better and better orchestras, people began coming to Keego Harbor to dance, from all over.

Finally, in the mid 1920's, he tore down the old two-story building, and built a much larger, one-story dance hall, and hired big name dance bands for the people to dance to. The boat livery business became a secondary livelihood. In the early 1930's, the depression hit, and dance marathons began to spring up everywhere, and Mr. Strong contracted to hold one in his dance pavilion.

I believe the regimen, or routine, was to dance twenty minutes out of each hour, rest or sleep for twenty minutes, and use the third twenty minutes for eating, bathing, or any of the other things necessary for everyday living. This routine was carried on twenty-fours a day, until only one couple was left dancing. When one partner had to drop, both partners had to stop, unless there happened to be a partner of the opposite sex, from another couple who wanted to continue, then those two partners became the team, and danced together until they both stopped or won the contest. Most people in the area went to watch in the evenings, and into the early mornings. The price to watch was twenty-five cents. Many times, one partner had to practically carry the other partner throughout the entire twenty minutes on the dance floor. They could not stand in one place, but had to keep moving about the dance floor. The dance marathon at Strong's lasted one whole winter.

After the time of the marathons, Mr. Strong opened the pavilion as a roller rink, and remained open summer and winter, for many years.

Sometime in the 1930's, the Strongs moved their house across Cass Lake Road, to where the shopping area and medical buildings are located today.

For many years after the roller rink closed, the building was used by Mr. Newkirk as a boat repair and storage facility, until it burned down sometime in 1984.

POST OFFICES

When we first moved to the lakes area, there weren't any stores of any kind, and everything we needed had to be bought in Pontiac. Groceries, clothing and even the mail, which came general delivery to the Pontiac Post Office.

I have a deep-seated feeling that there was another building that housed the post office when we first came here, but the only one I can remember is the one on East Huron Street, between Perry Street and Mill Street. I do remember that building being enlarged and added onto at different times.

Through the early and middle teen years, our mail was delivered" by rural delivery from the Pontiac Post Office, as more and more families settled in the lakes area'.

A Mr. Gavette, who had a small grocery store on the northwest corner of Orchard Lake and Cass Lake Roads, began using a small cubby hole on the southern wall of his store for a post office. Everyone had to go there to get their mail. This first post office : was opened in 1914 or 1915. Mr. Gavette gave up the store and post office, and Mr. MacMillan took them over until 1921 or 1922, when it was again taken over by a Mr. Claflin, who remained Post Master for twelve years.

It seems as though, each time a new building was built on Orchard Lake Road, the post office was moved into the new building, for the twelve years that Mr. Claflin was Pqstmaster. Each new) facility was larger, and offered mor,e and better services.

The first move was to where the Back Seat Saloon now stands, then to a building just west of the Keego Theater which was torn down in the late 1970's. Later, it was moved south of Orchard Lake Road, and east of Cass Lake Road, on the southeast corner of pine Lake Avenue and Orchard Lake Road.

After the depression most of the buildings on the south side of Orchard Lake Road, between Cass Lake Road and Fordham Street, were torn down, and replaced by a yellow brick building. This building was partly one story, and partly a two-story building. When it was completed, the post office was moved into the part of the building that is now occupied by the floor and window shade business. It remained in that building until 1958.

Mr. Peter Quinlan became the Postmaster shortly after Franklin Roosevelt was elected, and remained Postmaster for twenty years.

Bert Holboth, from the Pontiac Post Office, followed Mr. Quinlan as Postmaster, and remained in that position for eight years, in whicp he changed it into a first class post office.

From 1958 until 1973, Mr. Paul Beyette was Postmaster, and soon after his appointment, the post office was moved again. This time, into it's own building located on Cass Lake Road.

When the building was about half finished, it was discovered that they were building it in a bed of quicksand and the building was sinking, and the walls were crumbling down, so they had to tear it completely down, sink seventy-foot pilings into the ground to support a new building, and start to rebuild the new post office.

Soon after this new building was completed, they began home delivery mail service again.

Leona Loveland became our first woman Postmaster in 1973. She began working in the post office in 1941, as a clerk, and was the assistant Postmistress for twenty-five years. She retired as Postmaster in January of 1978.

The post office is currently located in the new shopping area on Orchard Lake Road. It was moved there after fire partially destroyed the building on Cass Lake Road.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Sometime between 1913 and 1916, Mrs. Lillycrop came to see my mother about forming a Ladies Aid Society, to help the Church Sunday School, which had been started in the area. As a result of that conversation, Mrs. Lillycrop contacted all the women south of Orchard Lake Road, and Mother contacted the women in the Cass Lake and Cunningham Park area. The original club was known as The Ladies Aid Society of Keego Harbor. In 1926, they changed the name to The Community Club of Keego Harbor.

In January of 1926, they bought a small garage house on Cass Lake Road, which they remodeled and enlarged to use as their clubhouse. In 1927, they again changed the name of the club to the Keego-Cass Women's Club. In 1928, they were affiliated with the Pontiac Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1931, they improved the foundation and enlarged their clubhouse. At that time, there was only one other structure built and used exclusively for a women's club in Oakland County, and that was located in Royal Oak.

In 1934, the Keego Cass Women's Club decided to start a library for the community. The women went from door to door all over the area, gathering books for their new library. Geraldine McCracken even gathered them in a child's wagon, which she pulled along behind her.

In the early 1940's, the library was moved out of the women's clubhouse, and into the basement of the Old Keego Harbor School.

In the latter part of the 1930's, several new members were taken into the club who had different ideas than the original members, about doing things for the community, and became more of a card-playing and self-serving club.

The club remained in existence, with their own clubhouse until it was finally disbanded in 1985.

In 1948, Mrs. Fran Leaf got several business and professional - women together from the area, and organized the Keego Harbor Business and Professional Women's Club.

This club has taken on many projects for the improvement of the area, the first of which was street lighting. When they had accomplished this, they worked on street and ground drainage of the area. They also promoted and financed the Christmas Decorations on Orchard Lake Road. They were also instrumental in Keego Harbor becoming a city. They have had club members on one or all of the following policy-making boards, The Charter Commission, the City Council, the Planning Commission, the zoning Board of Appeals, and the Election Commission since it's inception. The club has also had one of it's members on the West Bloomfield School Board for the last twenty-five or thirty years. Even before Keego Harbor became a city, one member, Mrs. Eileen Van Horn, was a clerk on the West Bloomfield Township Board.

The Club supported Camp Oakland and Summer Camp for the under- privileged children in the area, until 1987, when the club was disbanded.

Some of the other clubs in the area, which are special project clubs, are the Mother's Club of Roosevelt School, and the Blue Star Mothers of Veterans of World Wars One and Two.

LIBRARIES

In 1934, the Keego Cass Women's Club decided that their next project for the community would be to start a library. The members canvassed the entire surrounding area for book donations for the new library. Some of the women even pulled children's wagons along to carry the books in that were donated.

The husbands of the members built book shelves. in the clubhouse for the books. Mrs. Allie M. Webb took an extension course from the University of Michigan to learn the Dewey system of Classification, and taught it to the women of the club, who spent many long hours classifying the books for the new library.

Mrs. Webb became head librarian, and remained in that position until her death in 1953.

By 1937, all the walls of the clubhouse were lined with bookshelves, even under the windows. The library was open every afternoon and several evenings of the week, except Thursdays, when the club had their meetings.

Many of the newer members objected to so much time, money, effort, and space being given over to the library, so late in 1937, the club petitioned the township to take over the library and levy a one quarter mill tax to support it. The supervisor of the township at that time wanted to levy a half mill tax, but the women in the club insisted that only a quarter mill be asked for. The library proposal won by a small margin in April of 1938.

The main library remained in the Keego Harbor area for several years until it was moved to one of the lower rooms in the Keego Harbor School in the 1940's. Late in 1939, or early 1940, apart of the basement of the Town Hall was converted into a room for the library, which later became the main library, and Keego Harbor Library became a branch. The new main library was only open two or three days a week. Also in 1940, the library in the West Acres clubhouse became apart of the Township Library. In 1966, that branch moved into a building of its own, and was the first large project completed in Michigan with the use of Federal funds, authorized by the Library Services and Construction Act.

In 1955, when Keego Harbor became a city, the Township allowed the city about two hundred dollars, as our share of the library, even though the people of the city had donated all of the books and bookshelves.

The city proposed to the Township their wish to remain a part of the Township Library, and would pay a fair share for the use and upkeep of the library. The Supervisor of the Township at that time, Mr. Thatcher, advised the city in no uncertain terms that this could not be done. No two units of Government would be united in any part of their services, he told us. Of course, we know today that this is not true.

In 1961, the main Library moved into a building of its own, on Orchard Lake Road, across from the West Bloomfield High School. Today, the library houses over fifty-six thousand books, 800 recordings, 200 cassettes, 90 eight-millimeter films, film strips, art prints, puzzles, and offers many other services.

THE HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET

Many years ago, when I was just a little girl, there was a farmhouse almost directly behind our house. About seventy-five feet to the southwest was a barn, which belonged to that farmhouse.

On the corner of Cass Lake Avenue and Cass Lake Road, lived an architect named Prall with his family. His daughter Alice was to marry a Mr. Harry Thomas, who was the son of the then owner of the Thomas Furniture Company. Mr. Prall decided to buy the barn and convert it into a house, as a wedding gift to his daughter and new son-in-law. In moving the building to its new location across the street from our house, two of the apple trees surrounding the barn were destroyed. Our street, Cass Lake Avenue, at that time was lined with young poplar trees, and in the moving of the building, two of those trees were also destroyed. For some reason, this saddened me very much. The newlyweds moved into the new house, but only lived there for a year, when they decided to move to California.

The house was then sold to a Mr. Schackleton, who lived there part of the time, and rented it out during the spring and summer months. During the summer months, cottages and homes in the Cass Lake area rented for thirty-five to fifty dollars a week, and from five to six hundred dollars for the season.

Then along came World War I, prohibition, and in Detroit, the Purple Gang.

In 1917, my father went to work for the Lincoln Motor Company, who were building Liberty Airplane engines for the war, and we moved to Detroit.

I don't remember how it came about after we had moved to Detroit, but the front porch on the house across the street was extended down the whole east side of the house. What had been windows, became doors, and curtains were hung as partitions, making several cubicles on that side porch. Rumors from the local neighbors reached us in Detroit that they also had a stage in the back of the house during that summer, and stage shows were put on nightly until after midnight, especially on the weekends. Some locals felt that members of the Purple Gang had rented the house, and were running a business out of it.

So many complaints were made that finally, Town Hall contacted Mr. Schackleton and advised him that a House of Ill Repute was being run at his rental, and that he would have to get rid of the tenants, or they would padlock the place, which he did, and that was the end of that. Soon after that incident, Mr. Schackleton's daughter, son-in-law, and seven children, along with his crippled son, moved into the house. Now the fifth generation of that family is starting their lives in that same home.

In the summer of 1978, the granddaughter of Mr. Schackleton, Mrs. Dorothy Hammond, had the side porch removed, and the front porch rebuilt and restored, which makes the house look very much like it did when Mr. Prall first moved it to that location, and converted it from a barn.

CHURCHES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Prior to 1913, when the Keego Harbor School was built, anyone in that area who wanted to go to Church had to take the streetcar into Pontiac to attend the churches of their choice. Most of the churches were located within a block or two of the streetcar line.

Soon after the school was built, the year-around residents in the area decided to organize a Sunday School of their own. Both adults and children of all denominations attended, and they used the school as place of worship on Sundays. Attendance grew, as the area grew, until there were between one hundred and twenty five and one hundred and fifty people attending each Sunday.

In the summertime, they held organized picnics, Ice Cream and Strawberry socials, games and races. These were held across the road from the school, near Ward's Point.

In the winter months, there were Pot-Luck dinners, sponsored by the members of the Sunday School, and Box Socials, put on by the ladies, young and old, of the church. The Box Socials created a great deal of fun, for the ladies would pack a decorated box or basket with a big lunch, and then raffle them off to the gentlemen members. The men never knew whose lunch they were bidding for, or who they would be sharing the meal with.

The adults decided it was time to organize and build a real church for their members. They contacted the synods, or governing members, of the various denominations, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Congregationalists, the Episcopalians, and the Lutherans. It was decided, beforehand, that the denomination which offered the most, in helping to get a church started, would be the church that everyone would attend, but when it came time to vote, the Methodists went with the Methodist Church, and all the other denominations went with the Presbyterian Church, who had offered the most help. Consequently, two churches evolved at the same time.

At about the time that the residents decided to build a church, Reverend Ward, a retired Methodist Minister, moved into the Keego Harbor area. After the separation of the two denominations, the Methodists met in his home for their services. The others continued to meet in the Keego Harbor School.

Soon after the Roosevelt School was built, the Keego Harbor School was vacated, except on

Sunday, when the church services were held. In the summertime, holding the church meetings in the old school was fine, but in the winter time, it was very difficult to heat the building for just one day a week. The Presbyterian church sent Ministers from 1919 until 1924 or 1925, when the church was dissolved. Among the first ministers were Reverend Waterman and Reverend Jerome, whom were both retired, and lived in the Keego Harbor area, and Reverend Hammond, who was in his last year of his student ministry.

During these years, several members of the congregation found new jobs in other areas, and moved, and the younger members were growing up and going away to school, or found jobs in other areas, and also moved away.

After several years, the Methodists bought property near the Roosevelt School, and built a small church. Much of the building was done by the members, and has been added onto and changed several times since it was built. Their membership, I believe, ranges between one hundred and one hundred and twenty-five members now.

In the late 1950's, the Baptists moved into the area, and built a church on Cass Lake Road, near the sharp curves.

In the late 1940's or early 1950's, the Orchard Lake Presbyterian Church became a year-around church, and most of the congregation of the Keego Harbor Church have joined there.

BANKS

In the early 1940's, a new red brick building was built on the south side of Orchard Lake Road, at the corner of Hester Court. It was to be the new home of the Oakland County State Bank, a branch of the Milford Bank. It was the first bank in the Cass Lake area. About a year later, they moved out, and the Pontiac Community National Bank moved in, and soon became the Keego Harbor community National Bank.

A long-time resident, Ms. Lylla Ross, was a teller there for many years, and then became the Assistant Manager. She worked there for thirty-two years, before she retired in 1974.

In the early 1960's, the bank building was torn down, and a new, larger, more modern bank building was built, offering more and better services and more parking area. It was rumored that this was done for more than one reason, the bigger and better facility with more services offered was one, but the major reason was tax shelter. After twenty years, a business cannot declare deductions on income property to the I.R.S.

In 1986, the bank was again taken over, this time by the First of America Bank, who offer even more services, and has hired more tellers for faster and better service.

FUNERAL HOMES

Until 1950, when C.J. "Bud" Godhardt and his wife moved to Keego Harbor, the nearest funeral homes were located in Pontiac. He built a Funeral Home on Orchard Lake Road, across from the

community National Bank. The first few years that he was in business, he also offered ambulance service, but as he became more well-known, and the business flourished, he had to discontinue the ambulance service.

His wife's nephew, who lived with them, also became a funeral director, and joined Mr. Godhardt in the business. After a few years, the nephew started a funeral home of his own, farther west in the county.

When Mr. Godhardt's health began to fail in 1972, he took in a partner named Ledge Tomlinson, and changed the business name to the Godhardt-Tomlinson Funeral Home.

Mr. & Mrs. Tomlinson have four daughters, one of whom has become a funeral director also, and has joined the business with her father.

BECOMING A CITY

In early March of 1954, Mr. Charles Leaf, a friend, neighbor, and Detective Sergeant of the Michigan state Police, came to my home to invite me to meet with several other people of the area to discuss the possibility of the community becoming a city.

At first I refused, telling him that I knew nothing about chartering a city, or any of the legalities involved in such an undertaking. I suggested to him that both he and his wife, Fran, should be a part of organizing a city. He then explained to me that he could not be involved in anything of a political nature, due to his affiliation with the State Police. I finally consented to go to the meeting. Our first meeting was held in the "Old School", as the Keego Harbor School was known after Roosevelt School was built. The people who attended that first meeting were: Warren (Dan) Abbott, former Superintendent of Schools, Lylla Ross, Assistant Manager, Keego Harbor Community National Bank, Ed Covey, in partnership with his father in covey's Drugstore, Lewis Doyle, owner of Doyle's Welding and Machine Shop, Jack Loveland, Realtor, Ben Moshier, Fire Chief, Ralph O'Dell, Insurance, Charles Leaf, and myself, Wilma Webb.

Many meetings were held in the following months, going over the charters of other cities, formatting our own charter, including things concerning our own community, and the wording thereof.

On February 22, 1955, the charter was completed and sent to Lansing, where Governor G. Mennen Williams approved it on March 25, 1955.

On April 20th, 1955, at a special election, the people of the Keego Harbor area voted to become a city, winning by a small margin, and the following people were elected as members of the first City Council. They were Ed Covey, Jack Loveland, Sam Whitmore, Chester Wolfe, and Wilma Webb.

Within a week of the election, the council held its first meeting as a city, and were sworn in. That meeting was held in the gymnasium of Roosevelt School. Jack Loveland was elected the First Mayor of Keego Harbor and Wilma Webb was elected as the Mayor Pro-Tern by the Council. It was the only business conducted at that first meeting, except to answer questions from the townspeople.

The first working meeting was held at the firehall, at which time the council elected Thomas Dillon as city Attorney, Ed Hermoyian as city Clerk and Treasurer, and Calvin Baxter as Chief of Police.

The city, as a city, had absolutely no money to work with, or buy the needed working materials, so those of us on the Council dug into our own pockets, and came up with whatever we could, to get the city started.

The city Council contacted the school board to get permission to use the "Old School" as the City Hall until we could find or build one of our own. They consented, and we used the school for over a year.

We also met with the Township Board to re-arrange and straighten out the finances between city and Township. Because we were all pretty green at this sort of thing, I think we were taken advantage of in some of the dealings.

As a result of becoming a city, all of the residents of Keego Harbor had to re-register to vote, and several people had to be made deputy clerks to help expedite the registrations.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF BECOMING A NEW CITY

In 1956, about a year and a half after becoming a city, the Council realized that the City Clerk, Mr., Hermoyian, was not doing as good a job as they had hoped for, and he was dismissed. Mrs. Eileen Van Horn was contacted, and hired as the new City Clerk. She had many years experience as the West Bloomfield Township Clerk.

Under the City Attorney, Mr. Dillon's direction, committees were appointed to help run the city. These committees were later renamed the Planning commission, Board of Review, zoning Board of Appeals, Election Commission and later, the Recreation Commission, to give them more authority in carrying out the duties of running the city.

Mr. John Sellman, the Fire Marshall, was the city's first Health and Building Inspector.

Mr. James Southart was elected the Justice of the Peace in 1955, but because of ill health, he resigned a year or so later. The laws governing cities had changed in that time, and a Justice of the Peace was no longer necessary, so the office was discontinued.

The City Council voted, in the first few years of existence as a city, that any money left over at the end of each year, would be placed in escrow for building a water and sewage system for the city. In 1957 or 1958, when Oakland County introduced the Farmington Interceptor to the West Bloomfield cities and villages, Keego Harbor was the only city in the area that had the money and means to take advantage of this offer, much to the surprise of the neighboring communities, and West Bloomfield Township. Mr. Peter Quinlan was appointed supervisor of the project, and dug the first shovel full of dirt for the new sewer system, in Keego Harbor in 1960.

The second Keego Harbor City Hall was a house owned by Mr. Frank Marriott, located on the corner of Orchard Lake Road and Pine Lake Ave., for which we paid one hundred and fifty

dollars a month rent.

In October of 1956, Police Chief John Baxter was badly burned in the fire that destroyed the Keego Harbor Bowling Alley, and died as a result of those burns. Mr. Richard Hirtubise was then named Police Chief, and was followed by Police Chiefs Sisk and Holloway.

Soon after that fire, Orchard Lake Road was widened to four lanes through Keego Harbor. As a result of the decision of the city council to have the road widened, it has caused major parking problems for the businesses located on the main thoroughfare of the city.

When Vernon Edwards was elected Mayor, he saw to it that Mrs. Eileen Van Horn was dismissed as city Clerk. Several Clerk/Treasurers followed, until Josephine Ward was appointed, and was with the city for many years.

In the late 50's or early 60's, the city had a chance to buy a large tract of land on Beechmont Street, for a very nominal sum, and plans began to develop to build a permanent city Hall. In the later 1960's, the new city Hall was completed, and shortly thereafter, the Department of Public Works building was erected to house the city's equipment.

Sometime in the early 1960's, a young man named Dickson was hired as the first city Manager. He resigned after a year to go with a larger city.

Mr. Russell Greig was elected to the city council, then the city Council elected him to be Mayor of Keego Harbor. After his term, the city was again in need of a City Manager, and Mr. Greig applied for that job and was hired.

At about this same time, the city had a council that could not agree on many of the issues of the city, and some members resigned. As a result of the turmoil in city government, Governor Milliken stepped in and appointed Art Canon, Kern Murphy, and Ken Treacy to take over the day-to-day running of the city, until the next election.

Down through the years, the city has nearly always had a woman, and sometimes two on the city, Council.

There have been several people who have lived in the community for only a few years, that have run for City Council and even became Mayors. Some of those people did not have the good of the city at heart, only their own personal gains. They changed ordinances and laws until they've gained their desires, then left the city, leaving behind a big chance of the city becoming a slum area because of their ill-gotten gains.

One man, named Gosney, wanted to build many multiple dwellings with a high number of units per acre in the area. The city's water and sewage system is not geared for this type of dwelling, and there would be many other repercussions in local systems if this man had succeeded in his endeavor. The people of Keego Harbor strongly objected, and defeated his sponsor in the spring elections, and Mr. Gosney resigned.

At the present time, Mr. Frank Kopasz is the city Manager and has been for several years.

In 1976, because of the Presidential Elections, more people were voting than usual, and someone

got the bright idea that the Mayor of Keego Harbor should also be voted for by the people, for a three-year term. Many people who lived in the city, but were not really interested in making Keego Harbor a permanent residence, voted for the ordinance. That ordinance was rescinded by the people of Keego Harbor in 1978 or 1979, making Bob Whitmore the only mayor of the city who was elected to a three-year term.

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY

We are a city of between three and four thousand souls, and can never grow in size because we are bounded on the east by the city of Sylvan Lake Village, and on the south and west by the city of Orchard Lake village, and on the west by Cass Lake.

The southern boundary of Keego Harbor, was the now extinct Grand Central Railroad tracks. The land to the south of those tracks is owned by the City of Orchard Lake Village.

The western boundary of the city is Orchard Lake Road, as it runs north and south. As it turns east and west, the boundary line runs due north to the shore of Cass Lake, and follows the eastern shore of Cass Lake until it comes to the southern boundary of Waterford Township.

At the northern edge of Keego Harbor, there is a peninsula, which still belongs to West Bloomfield Township, and should have been part of the city of Keego Harbor. The reasons we were given for not having this peninsula as a part of the city were that the police and fire departments would have to traverse through a part of Waterford Township to offer it their protection. Now, West Bloomfield Police and Fire Departments are forced to go through Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor, and Waterford Township to give protection to the peninsula.

I suspect that it was the tax revenue that prompted the township to keep the peninsula.

The rest of the northern boundary is Sylvan Lake. There is one house located on Beachland St., that is partly in Waterford Township and partly in Keego Harbor. Where the people sleep in the house determines where the children go to school, and where they pay their taxes.

On the east boundary, Keego Harbor is separated from Sylvan Lake Village by a canal that runs at the rear of the lots on Rustic Lane. South of there, the line between the two cities runs the whole length of Maddy Lane, at the rear of the residential lots, to the southern boundary of the city, which is the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks.

TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

The first supervisor of West Bloomfield Township, that I remember, was a Mr. Salmers. This was about 1914, and he lived in what is now the city of Sylvan Lake, on Garland Avenue, near the old streetcar line. He conducted the township business from his home. Whether it was during his supervisorship or shortly after, the township board decided it was time to have a township hall. They decided to build the new hall way out Orchard Lake Road, which they said was the center of the Township. Many of the people thought at the time that the Town Hall should have been built nearer the center of population than the center of the township, but as the years since

have proven, the township board members were wiser than they knew.

There was a succession of Supervisors whose names I don't remember, but I do remember that the township became very much in debt, possibly from the building of the Town Hall and the following depression.

A Mr. Charles Long, from the Keego Harbor, Cass Lake area, fresh out of law school, ran for Township Supervisor, in the early 1930's, and won. He remained the Supervisor for only one or two terms, before he decided he no longer wanted to be in politics. In his short tenure, he ran the township in a very professional and business-like manner, and got the township out of debt.

Mr. Robert Felt, also from the Keego Harbor, Cass Lake area succeeded Mr. Long as Township supervisor, and remained in that capacity for many years. It was during his terms that the Keego Harbor Library became the West Bloomfield Township Library. He was succeeded by Mr. Thatcher, who lived out in the township, rather than in one of the communities.

During the late 1930's and early 1940's, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor and Orchard Lake were becoming less and less enamored with the Township Board because they were not supplying the services that these communities wanted or needed. It was during these years that Sylvan Lake and Orchard Lake became organized villages, and as such, they still had to pay township taxes as well as village taxes, but did still receive some services from the township. Keego Harbor, at that time, decided that they wanted to become a fifth class city so that they could become free of the township, but the election was lost for several reasons. Some of the reasons the election was lost were that the idea of becoming a city was not properly promoted, the people of the area were not ready to become a city, and they couldn't decide on the name they would use, should it become a city.

In 1947, Sylvan Lake became a city, dug their own well and contracted with the City of Pontiac to be included in their sewage system. They have their own police force and other services, except a fire department, which they share with Keego Harbor and Orchard Lake, which is now the Tri-city Fire Department.

In 1955, Keego Harbor became a city, and in 1964, Orchard Lake also became a city.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

When we first moved into the Cass Lake area in 1911, there was no fire protection whatsoever.

The city of Pontiac had a fire department at that time, but it was horsedrawn, as I remember. I went to school there for the first grade. A year or two after that, they changed to a motor-driven truck, and if there was a fire in the area, you could call the Pontiac Fire Department. The charge at that time was about seventy-five dollars per call.

This was the only protection the people of the lakes area had, until the early or mid-twenties, when the men of the Keego Harbor area decided to form a volunteer fire department. They purchased a used pumper fire truck which carried either five hundred or seven hundred and fifty gallons of water. The area had no city water supply, and water had to be pumped from the lakes to replenish the tanks of the fire truck. For many years the firemen ran hoses from the closest

lake or river to the fire site, via the pumper truck, in order not to run out of water before the fire was extinguished. In the winter, they even had to chop a hole in the ice for the hoses to pump the water to the fire site.

I don't believe that they even had a garage for the fire truck in the beginning, because shortly after it was purchased, a couple of the younger men who were volunteer firemen decided to take two or three of us girls for a Sunday afternoon drive around the Cass Lake and Keego Harbor area. That was the first, and the last time anyone went joy riding in the fire truck.

The first fire station was a garage on willow Beach, on the south side of Orchard Lake Road. That garage was later torn down and a larger, two-story building was built to house the fire department, and when the State Police opened a station in the area, they used the second floor of the fire department for their offices. They remained there for many years until they built their own building on Telegraph Road. The fire department was also used as the only voting poll by the people of Keego Harbor until 1975. The West Bloomfield Fire Department remained the only fire department in the area for several years after Keego Harbor became a city in 1955. Nearly every man in the area was a volunteer fireman at one time or another. It seems to me that the volunteers received two dollars a run in the beginning.

I believe that first Fire Chief was Mr. Roy Ottmer, and was followed by two others that I know of, Mr. Ed Heiron and Mr. Red Morgan.

The department served, for many years, surrounding townships, until they had fire departments of their own. Some of them were Commerce, Waterford, Farmington, Bloomfield, and West Bloomfield.

For many years, a large siren atop the fire station was blown to summon the volunteers. A signal system was used, the number of times the siren blew advised the volunteers which area the fire was in. It was also blown one short blast, each evening at nine p.m. to advise the young children and teenagers that it was curfew time, and time to go home. There are now two or three local women on duty twenty-four hours a day to take all emergency and fire calls, and the siren only blows one time, to alert the firemen that they will be called, or to call the station.

Shortly after World War II, a flash fire broke out in the kitchen of a well-known restaurant, named Vincent's, on Orchard Lake Road, just west of Cass Lake Road. The fire completely destroyed the restaurant and did extensive damage to the hardware store located next door. The hardware store was relocated in the basement of the original Community Bank building until their building was rebuilt and enlarged. Vincent's was never rebuilt, and their site is now a parking lot for the Keego Hardware Store.

Shortly after Keego Harbor became a city, the Keego Bowling Alley caught fire and burned down. It was located on the corner of pine Lake Avenue and Orchard Lake Road. While refinishing the lanes, the workmen had stored the lacquer in a store room in the rear of the building, which somehow caught fire. Police Chief Baxter entered the building to see what was on fire, and try to contain it, when suddenly the lacquer ignited and engulfed the entire building in flames. Chief Baxter couldn't find his way out, but finally located a window which had bars over it. By the time the bars were pried off and he was taken out, he was so severely burned that he died within twenty-four hours. He was the first and only fire fatality in the area. After Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, and Orchard Lake became cities, West Bloomfield Township began

charging the cities for fire protection. In the beginning, they charged by the run, and later by the year. They started a six or seven thousand dollars a year, but in the succeeding years, as costs rose, they began adding from one to three thousand dollars per year, until they were charging twelve or thirteen thousand dollars per year for fire protection. At that point, the three cities decided that they could run their own fire departments cheaper, so they formed the Tri-City Fire Department, using the original Fire Hall in Keego Harbor, because of its central location in the area. The fire department now boasts two brand new yellow fire trucks. Sylvan Lake and Keego Harbor now have city water and fire hydrants, but there are some areas of Orchard Lake that still do not.

NEWSPAPERS

During the late teens and early twenties, when the Cass Lake area was rapidly developing and becoming a year round community, two young men decided to publish a weekly paper. They named it the Beach Comber, which was apropos, for it gave all the gossip in the area. Who was entertaining whom, and why~ who was in the area for the weekend, what sorority, fraternity, or clubs had rented cottages for the week, when and where the church socials and picnics were to be held, were some of the articles featured. It was only small paper, about nine by twelve inches, and eight or ten pages per issue.

They also advertised the various dance halls and casinos in the area, Strong's Pavilion, Walled Lake casino, Island Lake Dance Land, and Sylvan Lake Dance Hall at Roy stop, to mention a few.

In the early 1930's, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Strong, and daughter Irene, went to California for a visit. While there, Irene met a young man named Kenneth Treacy, whom she married shortly after they returned from California.

Mr. Treacy began to publish a weekly newspaper, and called it the Inter-Lake News. He began the newspaper in a building about the size of a garage, but as the area and distribution grew, he had to expand, and built a two story, yellow brick building, next to what is now the Godhardt-Tomlinson Funeral Home, on Orchard Lake Road. He used the basement and first floor for the newspaper, and the second floor was rented out as apartments, until the late 1950's, when he rented the east side of the main floor to a man who opened up a hardware store.

Mr. Treacy continued to publish and 'distribute the Inter-Lake News until the late 1960's or early 1970's when his wife, Irene, passed away, and he retired.

The paper covered most of the towns and cities in the northwestern part of Oakland County. Some of them were Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, Walled Lake, Wixom, South Lyon, Milford, Commerce, Orchard Lake, Clarkston, and Union Lake.

Subscriptions in the beginning were about two dollars a year, and at the time of Mr. Treacy's retirement, it was about six dollars a year.

A new paper has taken over the area formerly covered by the Inter-Lake News, and is called the Spinal Column.

RESTAURANTS

In the years between 1915 and 1918, a Mrs. Brown lived on Cherry Street, about 75 or 100 feet off of Orchard Lake Road. Her oldest daughter and son-in-law, whose name was Porter, built a small building on the southeast corner of Cherry Street and Orchard Lake Road, and opened a combination restaurant and ice cream parlor, which they ran for several years.

Her youngest daughter, Eleanor, married a man named Frank Vincent, who built a building beyond the original Keego Harbor School, near Pridham Street, on Orchard Lake Road. They opened the original Dutch Treat Restaurant in the early 1920's, and ran that business for several years. In the late 1920's or early 1930's, the Porters moved away from the area and Frank Vincent moved his business back to the Cherry Street area, and opened Vincent's Dining Room. It became one of the most popular restaurants in the area, and people drove from miles around to eat there. They ran the business until the mid 1950's when Eleanor became ill and passed away. Frank sold the business, and the new owner kept the name Vincent's, but in the sales contract Frank was not allowed to open another restaurant using his last name for five years.

The new owner remained in business for only about five years, when the restaurant was destroyed by fire. He never re-opened the business.

Another well known restaurant in Keego Harbor is Gino's Pizzeria, on Cass Lake Road owned by Mr. Santia originally, the restaurant was quite small, but the business flourished, and Mr. Santia expanded the size until it became the size it is today. Soon after he it opened, a state resort or recreational liquor license became available and Mr. Santia applied for it. The City of Keego Harbor was not in favor of his getting the license because there were already so many bars in the area. Because of the type of business, a moderately priced restaurant, and the capacity, the State of Michigan granted him the license. Soon after he, received the license, he enlarged the business again and included a fruit stand, and build a large parking area in the rear of the restaurant.

In recent years, he and his father built a large banquet hall next to the restaurant, which is rented out for reunions, banquets, wedding receptions, and business meetings. The business is very successful and the hall is in use almost every week.

There are several smaller restaurants and hot dog stands in the area. There are also still many bars, but most of those also serve food along with the alcoholic beverages.

DOCTORS, DENTISTS, AND LA WYERS

Dr. Carl Dahlgren was the first doctor in the area, beginning his practice in the late 1920's or early 1930's, and was the only doctor for many years. His offices were over the post office building on Orchard Lake Road.

Dr. Cody was the first dentist in the area, opening his office in the small building attached to the bowling alley in the late 1940's. He remained in that building for several years, then built a new office on the southern boundary of the city and remained there until he retired.

In the late 1940's, Dr. Dunlap and Dr. Albrecht opened their offices in Keego Harbor on Orchard Lake Road. After a year or so, Dr. Albrecht purchased the house on the corner of Prynn and

Cass Lake Roads, and moved his practice there. Dr. Dunlap left the area shortly after.

Dr. Rudolph Jamnik was the second dentist in the area. His office was located on the eastern boundary of the City. He has recently built a new office in the same area and is now in practice with his son, who is also a dentist.

Two Osteopathic doctors, Dr. Kleow and Dr. Haduck opened their office in the early 1950s, and have recently retired. Their business was taken over by another Osteopathic doctor.

In the late 1940's, Dr. Daniel Foxman moved into the area and opened his optometrist office on Orchard Lake Road, east of Cass Lake Road. In the 1970's, he built a new office near Commerce Road, at the extreme southern boundary, of the city. He is still in business, but is semi-retired.

There have only been two lawyers in the city. The first was Mr. Deterly, whose office was over Ruth Cowan's Dress Shop on Orchard Lake Road and a Mr. Evans, whose offices were near Maddy Lane on Orchard Lake Road. At this time, there are no lawyers in the city.

ICE VENDORS

In 1911, there was no electricity in the lakes area when we moved here. Everyone used ice boxes to preserve their foods, as there were no refrigerators at that time either.

Ice boxes were either side or top loaders, that's where they put the ice, in the top or the side. Each box had a drain at the bottom for the melted ice to drain out of the box. You either had a pan underneath the box to catch the water, or you drilled a hole in the floor and attached a piece of hose to the box and let the water drain out of the house completely.

Because of all the lakes in Oakland County, there was always plenty of ice available. In the wintertime, men would take their horse drawn 'carts out onto the lakes, when the ice became eighteen to twenty-four inches thick, and cut big slabs of ice out of the lakes and store it in large barns, preserving it with straw and sawdust for the summer months.

The first iceman that I remember was the brother of Lloyd Strong, Ted Strong. He lived in Sylvan Lake and peddled ice from his horse drawn wagon, selling blocks of twenty five and fifty pounds, depending on the size of your ice box. The neighborhood children always followed his wagon in the hopes that as he cut the ice into blocks for each home, that there would be large chips and slivers of ice for them.

The second iceman was Frank Smith, who lived in the Cass Lake area. At first, he had a horse drawn wagon too, but later bought a covered truck. He and his family lived on top of the hill, on the right side of Cass Lake Front Road, and had a large barn where he stored the ice cut from Cass Lake. Some of the other icemen were Bill Weigand and Bill McFall, who lived in Dollar Lake area. They also had a small building south of Orchard Lake Road and east of Cass Lake Road, where you could go and buy blocks of ice yourself. At about this time, larger companies in Pontiac and Detroit began manufacturing ice and building ice house. These companies delivered ice to the lakes areas for several years, but when electricity was brought out to the lakes area, and refrigerators began to be manufactured, they soon discontinued the ice deliveries.

BUSINESS AREAS

The business area of Keego Harbor started on the four corners of Orchard Lake Road and Cass Lake Road. From its inception until today, all businesses in the area are either on Cass Lake Road or Orchard Lake Road, with the exception of one locally owned grocery store.

Three of the corners were originally occupied by grocery stores. The first year round store was opened by the Gavette family who built on the north-west corner. They operated the business for about three years, then sold it to a man named McMillan, who started a small general delivery post office in one corner of the store. McMillan operated the store and post office for several years before going out of business. The building was then opened as a drug store. Soon after opening the drug store, the owner decided to enlarge the building, using cement blocks and brick. He kept the business open while construction was going on by building the new building around the old. He remained in business until his death. Since that time, there have been several other businesses in that building.

About a year after the first store was opened, the Stall family built another grocery store on the southeast corner, which they operated for several years before they demolished the building in order to build a Sunoco Gas station. In the mid 1950's, the gas station closed and since then there have been two or three other businesses in that building.

The third grocery store was built on the southwest corner and was owned by the Graves family, who operated it for many years. When they went out of business, the Pearsall family opened a dry goods store there, which they operated until the mid 1950's, when Mrs. Pearsall became ill and retired. The building was torn down and a new cinder block building was erected and is now the home of the Umbrella Tree Inn.

In the mid to late 1920's, a large yellow brick two story building was built next to Grave's Grocery, which housed the post office, Groner's 5 & 10 Cent Store, a barber shop and Covey's Drug Store on the lower level, and Dr. Carl Dahlgren's offices on the upper level. Dr. Dahlgren remained in those offices until his retirement.

The remainder of the south side of Orchard Lake Road remained residential until the mid 1940's, when the Claytons opened a furniture store on the west corner of Cherry Street. Since that time, most of the homes along that street have been torn down and replaced by businesses. Of the few remaining houses, most of them also contain businesses.

On the north side of Orchard Lake Road, west of Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor extends only about four long blocks. During the mid-to-late teen years, when Orchard Lake Road was still a gravel road, the children of the area used to slide down the hill from the road onto Dollar Lake in the winter time, about in the area where the Back Seat Inn is now located.

In the early 1920's, a two-story white wooden building was built between what is now the Keego Theater and the corner of Cass Lake Road. There were many occupants in that building, including an ice cream parlor, Kroger Store, Bachelor's Grocery Store, Ruth Cowan's Dress Shop, which later became the Dor-L Shop, and the Post Office on the lower level. The upper level housed The Compton Realty Company, a beauty parlor, and the Deterly Law offices. None of the businesses remained in that building for very long periods of time. The white building was finally torn down and replaced by the current parking lot. Next to that building was a fresh fruit

stand that was only open during the summer months and operated by the North family. They remained in business for several years there.

The Keego Theater enjoyed a good clientele for many years until the owner passed away. His widow then sold the business to a conglomerate of Detroit lawyers who turned it into a porno theater. The citizenry, who did not want this type of business in the area, did everything possible to get the owners to change their programming, including picketing the place day and night. The new owners finally realized their folly and changed it back into a family theater.

Where the Back Seat Inn now stands, a Mrs. Wiggins lived in a small yellow house on the shore of Dollar Lake, and ran a boat livery business there. In the 1920's" she tore that house down and built a two story cement brick building, which housed the post office on the street level. She lived on the lower level with her second husband, her son William McFalt and his family.

The Royal F. Pazik family moved into the Keego Harbor area during the "prohibition days" and it was rumored that he ran a "speak easy" or "blind pig" for a while. Shortly after he arrived, he built a garage on the edge of Dollar Lake and after several years, opened a Pontiac Dealership too. When the dealership failed, he continued to operate the garage until his death. His son kept the garage open for several more years then sold the business.

West of willow Beach Avenue, was a white house, then Serbinoff's Grocery Store. For many years, just beyond the store were several empty lots. In the 1940's, a trailer park opened on those lots, and a sailboat yacht club which remains there today. The house on the corner and Serbinoff's were torn down and a cinder block building was built on that corner to house Whitey's Bar which also remains there today.

East of Cass Lake Road, on the south side, the first business was Stohl's Grocery. When that building was torn down, a Sunoco Gas station was erected there and remained in business until the early 1960's. Several small businesses have been in that location since then. Next was the Marriott house, which became the first city Hall. When that house was town down, Marriott's built their dry cleaning business on the site. From the corner of pine Lake Avenue to the city limit, was primarily residential until the early 1930's. From the mid 1930's through the 1950's, the area grew rapidly, and Orchard Lake Road, east of Cass Lake Road, began growing as a business district also.

East of pine Lake Ave., the Keego Bowling Alley was built in the mid 1930's. In that same time span, there were other businesses along that side of the street, 'some of them were Dr. Cody's dentist office, Veals Pool Hall, Bunker's Bump and Paint Shop, Stewarts' Bakery, an ice cream place, The Oakland County State Bank, The Dor-L Shop, Crawford's Ford Agency and Garage, a marine sales and service business, The Green Thumb Florist, and a self serve car wash.

On the north side, east of Cass Lake Road, originally was Pure oil Gas Station, which became a Speedway 79, and now is Clark's Gas station, then an A&W Rootbeer Stand, then a Gulf Station, two private residences, which were rebuilt in 1950 to become the C.J. Godhardt Funeral Home, then the Interlake News Building, which is now a hardware store and electrical company. Beyond that point to what is now the city line, was all residential. In the last twenty five years or so, many businesses have been built on that side of the street. Some of those are the Osteopathic Doctor's Offices, the donut place, a veterinarian's office and a party store on the corner of Maddy Lane, which is the city boundary.

Cass Lake Road, south of Orchard Lake Road has never been developed commercially, and remains to this day residential. The only exception was Layman's Well Drilling and Welding business which operated there for several years.

The first business built north of Orchard Lake Road, was a large cement block building built for the A&P Company. They remained in business for only a year or two, then it became several other businesses, none of which stayed in that building for very long. Today it is a beauty shop and picture framing store. Next to that was the Lloyd Strong home, which he moved there from across Cass Lake Road in the mid 1920's. In the late 1940's, the Andrews Family built a home on the corner of Prynn Street, and lived there until the late 1950's or early 1960's when they sold the house to Dr. Albrecht, who remodeled it and used it for his medical offices until his death. Next to that building, on the corner of Beland Street, is the Methodist Church, which was built there after the original farm house that occupied the site was moved around the corner of Beland Street. Across Beland Street, the Roosevelt School was built in 1920, and takes up the entire block to Schroeder Boulevard.

From the school, north to Hensman was undeveloped until the mid 1920's, when Doc Harper built a grocery store and operated it until the depression, and was forced to go out of business. Many of the people in the area shopped there and bought on credit. Some of the grocery bills ran as high as four to six hundred dollars, and were never repaid because of the depression. After the depression, he re-opened the building as a tavern and remained there until the late 1940's, when he built a very large brick building on the corner of Hensman Street and Cass Lake Road, and opened The Cloverleaf Inn. The old building was torn down to make a parking lot for the new place. The Harpers ran the business for several years then sold the business to retire. Several owners have had the business, which is still in business today as Bachelor's I.

Sometime in the mid 1940's, between Harper's and what is now Schroeder Boulevard, a cinder block building was built and opened as a bump and paint shop and next to that a fruit stand, which operated for several years until Gino Santia purchased the land, demolished the garage, and build Gino's pizzeria. In the early 1980's, he also built Santia Hall next to his restaurant, and rents it out for weddings, business meetings, graduation parties and other functions.

North of Hensman Street was totally residential until the late 1950's, when an Italian Restaurant and Party Store was built on the corners of Otter Drive and Cass Lake Road, which is the northern city boundary.

The first buildings on the west' side of Cass Lake Road, north of Orchard Lake Road, was the Tyre's and the Strong's homes. Then Strong's Pavilion and Boat Livery. The rest of that side of the street remained residential until the early 1920's, when Schroeder built a grocery store on the corner of Grove Court and Cass Lake Road. This store was owned by several owners over the years, including the Lauders, The Teeples, and last, the Deni's. In the late 1920's, Billy Gansen built a white wooden building in the middle of the block between Cass Lake Avenue and Grove Court and rented it out to a Detroit Ice Cream Company, who sold ice cream there for several summers. When they went out of business, a family by the name of Waters opened a grocery store there, and ran it for a few years. In the late 1940's Evan Webb opened a model airplane and hobby shop there, and remained open until the early 1960's. During the years of his ownership, the business changed from a hobby shop to a bicycle and motorcycle sales and service. When that building was torn down, a cement block building was erected on the site and has operated as

a restaurant until today, although there have been several different owners and types of restaurants.

Next to the grocery store on the corner of Grove Court, a small building was erected and opened as a barber and beauty shop in the 1930's, and remains open today. Next to that was a large two story building with residence upstairs, and Harry Veal's Pool Hall on the lower level. The Keego Cass Women's Club began in the early 1930's in a small house set well back from Cass Lake Road, between Orchard Street and Cass Lake Avenue, and in 1934 opened the first library in their building. In the mid-1940's, Pete Wright built a restaurant across the street from Roosevelt School, and ran it for several years, then sold the business to a husband and wife who changed the name to Dan's Diner. When the new high school was built, there was no longer enough business to sustain a restaurant, so they closed that business and re-opened a laundromat which remains in business today. No other businesses were built on the west side of the street until the early 1950's, when the Wayward Lounge was built on the extreme northern boundary of the city, on the west side of Cass Lake Road. Since then, there have been several businesses built along both sides of the street, including a Baptist Church, a bump and paint shop, a refrigeration sales and service, a bait store and several other businesses.

THE 1970'S AND 1980'S

The 1970's and 80's have seen many changes in the growth of Keego Harbor, especially in the business areas. Many mini-malls have been, and are being built.

On Orchard Lake Road, east of Cass Lake Road, The Harbor pines Mall has been built on the old Pearce homesite. It houses the newest Post Office, doctor's offices, a soft ware store, and ice cream parlor, a real estate office, and many other businesses, and is very busy all the time.

The Marriott's have torn down their old house and are building a mini-mall on the corner of Cass Lake Road and Orchard Lake Road, which will house their new dry-cleaning business and several other businesses when it is completed.

Cass Lake Road has seen the greatest number of changes. The old Strong home, and Dr. Albrecht's office have been torn down, and two new buildings have been built, one on each corner of Pryne Street. The building on the north side of the street will be doctor's offices, and on the south side will be another mini-mall, which is not completed occupied at this time. Another mini-mall is being built on the corner of Portman Street, where the Christy and Goit homes have been torn down. Near the Baptist Church, several individual buildings have been built and house a bait and tackle store, a tractor repair business, and several homes have been rebuilt into office type businesses. There is also a new office complex type mall built on Cass Lake Road, where it runs east and west for several blocks" and is mostly occupied at this time.

Although the City is confined in area, it has began to grow up instead of out. There have been several condominium and apartment complexes built in the area in the last few years.