

CHAPTER VI LAKES IN THE SEBAGO REGION

The most southerly lake system in Maine is in the SEBAGO LAKE REGION, claiming 32 lakes and ponds within its area.

HIGHLAND LAKE, once known as Crotched Pond, source of the water supply for Bridgton, lies farthest north in the system and had one of the first summer colonies of any Maine lake. Its outlet, Stevens Brook, with 12 power sites between Highland and Long Lakes, made possible the industrial development of Bridgton Center. Its eastern shore drive along "The Highlands" has a golf course and a view of the White Mountains. Camp Wyonegonic, one of the earliest girls' camps in the State, was established at Highland Lake by Charles Cobb, around the turn of the century.

In 1970, wildlife devotees and business officials in the vicinity agreed that a flock of geese placed in Highland Lake by the Maine Fish and Game Association might remain for as long as they wished, consenting that geese make no more noise and create no more untidiness than do human beings. The original flock of 17 has increased.

LONG LAKE, primarily in Naples, Bridgton, and Harrison, once displayed on its shores the partly exposed hulk of the freighter *Columbia*, a 60-ton vessel, later named the *Ethel*, last of the fleet that carried lumber down Sebago Lake, along the canal, to Stroudwater.³¹

The lake is subject to sudden and severe squalls, and the crews on shallow freighters had trouble keeping their ships on keel. Sailcraft up to 60 feet in length used to come from Boston Harbor, and passengers did not have to step off the deck between there and Bridgton, 50 miles beyond Portland. A later trip which was popular went through to Oxford. The first boat to make the voyage into

Long Lake was the *George Washington*, appropriately and patriotically festooned.

Long Lake, used originally for floating logs and lumber to the coast, is separated from Sebago Lake by a causeway, from which the view to the north is spectacular.

A respected and well-remembered philanthropist and businessman at the causeway was Gus Bove who died in the late 1960's, and who was chiefly responsible for the growth and popularity of the entire section. The closing of his familiar store has been a big loss to the community.

Speedboat and mailboat travel is available on Long Lake from Naples to Bridgton and Harrison, a round trip of 20 miles. The *Songo River Queen*, replica of the paddle (stern) wheelers once used on the Mississippi, began a four-trip-daily schedule in the summer of 1970, cruising the waters of Long Lake, Brandy Pond, and the Songo River. The Queen measures 70 feet from bow to stern and 21 feet across the beam, but draws only 18 inches of water due to cleverly fitted pontoons around the hull.

In June of that year, the Lakes Environmental Association was formed through the efforts of two brothers from Naples, State Biologist Dr. Robert Chute and inn manager, Phillip Chute, encouraged by interested personnel, particularly in Naples, Bridgton, and Harrison.

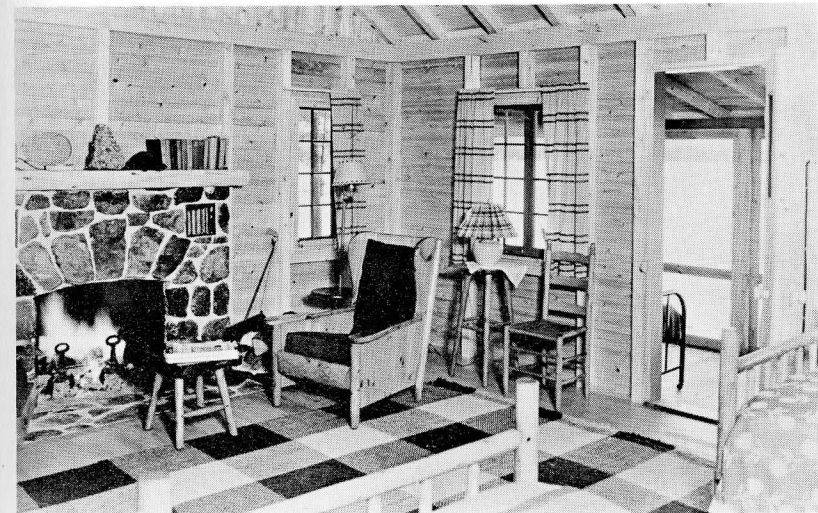
From June 1 to November 30, 1970, the association promoted an extensive water quality study of Long Lake. Thirteen water sampling stations were set up at various points along the lake, and the study proceeded under Dr. Robert H. Ciullo, biological consultant at Nason College. Tests showed that coliform bacteria exceeded the recommended limit at most of the stations.

Another Long Lake group is the Long Lake Sunken Island Society, formed in 1909 when area residents found a deed to the large sunken island south of Kelly's Point. The society has devoted its energies to raising this and other sunken islands to their original use and beauty, so far without success but never without hope. A 1970 project was to sponsor a canoe and rowing club to counteract the polluting effects of motorboats on the lake. The society has worked closely with the Lakes Environmental Association.

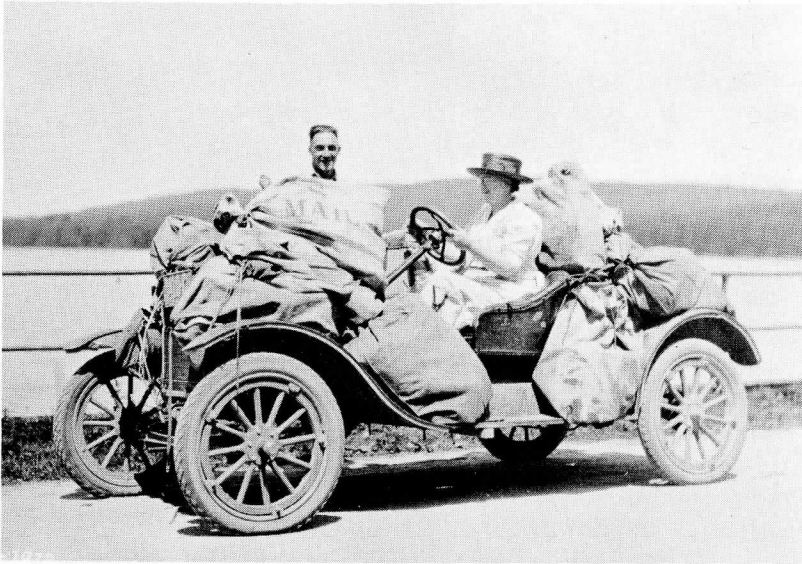
In the days of horse racing on frozen Long Lake, the stakes were only a bag of oats, but this did not deter monetary side bets.

The Bay of Naples Hotel, popular resort for Charles Goodrich's

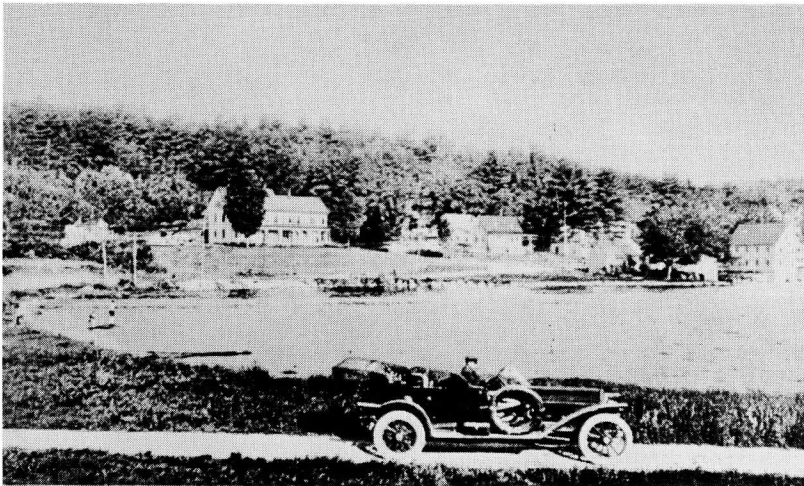
*Naples youngsters
utilize an
80x100-foot
long bobsled
near
Chute Homestead,
at Long Lake,
1961-62.
Notice former
Naples Inn
in background.*



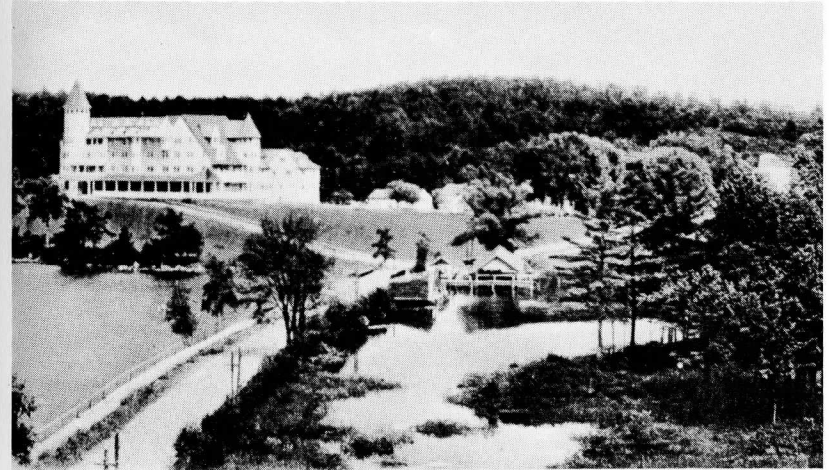
Interior of Camp Faraway at Chute Homestead, Naples.



1922 Mail service from the steamer wharf at Naples Bridge to the Naples Post Office was transported by Flora Jewett (an aunt to Phil and Bob Chute).



The Grove, Long Lake, Harrison.



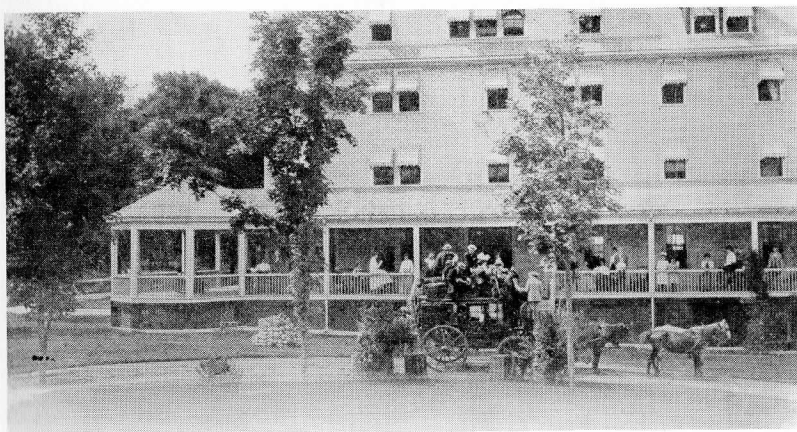
The Bay of Naples Inn from the Casino.



Naples from the Inn.



Lake House and Annex, Naples.



Arrival of the Tally-Ho at "The Bridgton."

Sebago-Long Lake Steamboat Line, overlooked Long Lake at the Naples terminal. The inn was an impressive structure whose high-studded rooms provided hot and cold water but no heat except for a few fireplaces. There were four bathrooms to a floor. A three-story wing accommodated the kitchen and utility rooms.

The hotel opened in 1898 at a cost of \$30,000 and immediately attracted the elite of summer tourists. A noisy and creaky elevator served until it succumbed to old age, right after World War II. The inn provided boating, bicycling, carriage rides, dancing, swimming, and croquet tournaments. Fifteen-foot piazzas practically encircled the building. The huge ornate fireplace in the lounge was rated largest in this part of the United States. The use of rare cypress wood, brought from South America via the canal, gave a distinction of which few hotels of the day could boast.

The story of the demolition of the hotel has been vividly described by Arch Soutar of the *Lewiston Journal*. He wrote about the graceful cupola lying on the ground as though the hotel had been beheaded. The inn met the fate of most comparable elegant structures of the 1800's when automobiles and a restless public closed its doors. Whatever form of architecture may at some future date be erected upon this high bluff overlooking the Bay of Naples in Long Lake, it will be a sorry substitute in the eyes of those who remember the Bay of Naples Hotel.

Another early Naples inn was Lake House.

At the Bridgton end of Long Lake were the Bridgton House, Cumberland House, and Lake View House. The latter was operated by Al Burnham, who also drove the Concord stage from the steamer landing on Long Lake to the Bridgton hotels. Long Lake Inn and the Songo Hotel were in North Bridgton, and Hotel Harrison and Summit Springs Hotel were in Harrison.

Summit Springs Hotel once vied with the Poland Spring House for natural mineral water. The building was a three-story structure of ornate architecture which a Mr. Whitman constructed sometime in the 1880's. It had 350 acres of land, 55 rooms, a bottling plant, and a metal windmill. Since 1961 it had been deserted by man and desecrated by vandals who chose it for a living place and then proceeded to mutilate it thoroughly. What few whole objects remained, plus a few oak doors, some pumpkin pine panels, and some hand-hewn timbers, were sold at ridiculously low prices in September 1969. Six cucumbers, for instance, were the purchasing price for a

large wooden box. The hotel was later razed.

It was locally believed that an old millionaire had hidden his wealth in the Summit Springs Hotel walls and did not remove it before he died. The cache was known as "The Treasure of Summit Hill." One long-time inhabitant scoffs at the story, claiming that he knew the individual and that the gentleman in question would never have done it. Similar tales and varied ghost stories always found a perfect setting in the ruined inn.

Pupils from various musical and theatrical groups have at times filled to capacity Crystal Lake Inn, the Elms Inn, and the Harrison House.

SEBAGO LAKE, referred to as Sebacook in the early 1800's, has been termed "Queen of Inland Waters" and thus enjoys the prestige of royalty with her "King," Moosehead Lake. Sebago, meaning "great waters," is 46 miles square and winds between dark-wooded hills much like the Swiss lake formations, resembling a mini-ocean. John Greenleaf Whittier was fond of the "big stretch of water," and Nathaniel Hawthorne called it his "Garden of Eden."

Hawthorne found on Sebago the freedom and solitude that he sought in his early years and deplored in his later years. On moonlight nights of the long winter evenings, he would often skate all alone across the lake until midnight. If he were tired and not near his home, he would spend the night in some unoccupied cabin along the shore or in the wooded section adjoining it. A house was built in nearby Raymond for his sisters, his widowed mother, and her brother; and the tiny town and isolation offered the seclusion that all sought. They took residence there in 1817, but returned to Salem in 1822. Since 1921 the property has been in possession of the local Hawthorne Community Society and is used for community religious, social, and patriotic purposes.

Considering the size of the lake, it has remarkably few islands. The largest is Frye Island, named for Captain Frye, an Indian hunter from Scarborough, Maine. When chased by a band of unfriendly Indians, he fled to the edge of a high cliff, once known as Standish Cape, and jumped from near its peak into the snow below. The Indians, startled at such action, gave up pursuit. Frye continued across the frozen lake until he reached the island that now bears his name.

The cliff from which he leaped and from the top of which a



Stage at steamboat landing, Bridgton.



Long Lake Inn, North Bridgton.



The Harrison Hotel, Harrison.



Songo House, North Bridgton.

panorama of the White Mountain Presidential Range is visible, is known as "Frye's Leap" or "The Images" as the water side of the stone has faint outlines of painted figures. These Indian pictographs, mainly life-size, depict Captain Frye making his famous jump, an Indian wigwam with the chief at the door watching the cooking of an evening meal, a bear wounded by an Indian, an Indian war dance, and a deer bounding over a rock.

One image is that of an Indian girl, supposedly Naragora (Gentle Fawn), daughter and idol of old Waldola. Pursued by a white man, she is supposed to have jumped to her death from the top of the cliff.

Another legendary story presumably told by The Images is that a chief once loved an Indian maiden, was forbidden by his tribe to marry her, and took her in his canoe into the center of the lake, where both threw themselves into the water and drowned.

Smaller images of Indian signs and figures are visible on a smaller surface of the ledge.

Longfellow saw the cliff when the paintings were quite distinct and mentions them in his reference to Frye's Leap in the poem "Songo River," which he wrote soon after a trip from Portland to Bridgton via Sebago Lake. On the same trip, he was inspired to write "Loch Long," praising Long Lake.

By pre-arrangement, long after the presence of Indians in the area, an attraction for youngsters on board tourist steamers was the horrifying war whoops and rifle fire emitted as the boats passed The Images.

Beneath Frye's Leap exists a narrow cove, just large enough to harbor a small boat. Elizabeth Coatsworth, author of several books about Maine and its people, once referred to the cove as "the entrance to a classical tomb."

The opening was created by a fissure which became covered by debris and sheltered by natural growth. At the entrance, the dark water is deep and swirls weirdly in perpetual shadows. At the farther end of the narrow cave-like structure lies a narrow beach, lighted from above by some sort of opening in the rock, providing a magical aura. The place is often called "Hawthorne Cave," for the young author spent many hours in its shelter, drifting in his skiff. It has been said that in this Sebago hideaway he wrote the opening chapter of *The Scarlet Letter*. The grotto provides about 25 feet of

sailing space, about six inches, below the lake's waterline, and has a lateral opening of approximately four feet.

An issue of *Pine Tree Magazine*, 1907, contains a legendary explanation for this rock mass. In the days when deep snow covered all the hills and ice never thawed from the streams, Manitou, the Mighty One, sent his son from his dwelling at the top of distant mountains, down to the earth. The son's breath warmed the land and mists rose until he could no longer see his mountain home. Then all at once he felt himself falling through the air to a place beside waters of a lake. Before mists cleared sufficiently for him to see his habitat, he fell in love with "the spirit of the lake," a beautiful girl.

This emotion was against his father's wishes and the son was changed into an unshapely mass of stone and was bound to the earth as a mass of granite, seamed in places, smooth in places, but, according to Indian belief, the guardian of the lake from any intrusion because the rock could still hold conversation with his father, the Mighty Manitou, whose voice was thunder and whose weapon was lightning.

Other natural points of interest at Sebago Lake include Pulpit Rock, from which Chief Polan was accustomed to address his tribe, and Old Tree Island, an extremely small lump of land which for many years had two inhabitants, an eagle and his mate, who dwelt in a lone, scraggly tree stub.

A Mr. Dingley, an early settler, prompted the term "the lake of 14 Dingley islands" in reference to Sebago Lake, and gave present-day Dingley Cove its name.

Sebago Lake, 17 miles from Portland, is a natural reservoir tributary of many ponds, streams, and lakelets. It covers 5,983 acres of bottom area up to a depth of 400 feet, where the water is icy cold. The sections under 100 feet deep are primarily sand. Sebago reputedly contains more pure water than does any other New England lake and is the primary source of drinking water for Portland and its suburbs. According to M. F. Sweetzer in *Picturesque Maine*, the lake is to Portland what Loch Katrine is to Glasgow and St. Mary's Loch is to Edinburgh.

A two-square-mile area is set aside for a reservoir, and to date no water-borne disease has ever been traced to the use of Sebago water. In 1968, the Portland Water District proposed a ban on boat-

ing and fishing within two miles of the intake. Legislative action is still under consideration.

Indians used the lake as a direct route along the Sebago Trail from Canada to the Atlantic Ocean. The largest burial grounds in the United States are supposedly those in the nearby North Windham area.

The Rockameecooks, a village tribe of the Sokokis, were the actual inhabitants of the region. Salmon was their main dish, although the lake is well-known for other species of big fish. Hawthorne states in a diary that he caught a black-spotted trout that was "almost a whale," weighing in at 18½ pounds. Another tale is that a salmon was shored near Frye Island and had to be "killed with a shotgun" because of its size.

To be more realistic, 20 to 30-pound salmon were not uncommon in early days and a 35-pounder was found in a weir in 1907. By 1963, the average catch had dwindled to a mere five or six-pounder, even though the lake remained the breeding place and swimming hole of some of the largest land-locked salmon in the East and is one of the lake homes of salmon, along with Sebec, Green, and Grand (Chipneticook Chain) Lakes; but Sebago Lake is the sole home of the "salmo solar Sebago."

Blame for the decrease in fish population at Sebago has been placed upon the use of DDT, sprayed for the comfort of campers. Cooperation between state officials and camp owners in prohibiting the use of the chemical has borne results far sooner than anticipated. The year 1964 showed improvement; 1965-66, even more and better results; and in 1970-71 the Sebago salmon had returned to their original size and abundance and an amazing influx of white-fish appeared, ranging from one to three pounds each.

It was the white man's greed for salmon that drove away the Indian whose main source of food was being snatched from him. A six-year bloody war was waged for possession of the region, a war led by the Sokokis tribe, to whom the place had been an earthly paradise. Begun in 1739, the war left as its lone Indian survivor Mol Lockett, a doctress squaw and confirmed rum drinker. She died in 1816.

It is still possible to find an Indian relic now and then in the vicinity, mementos of the Sokokis, "People of the Outlet," whose tribes of Pequakets, Ossippees, Rockameecooks, and Presumscots were

forced to leave the land they loved and join the St. Francis tribe in Canada.

Polan, chief of the Sokokis in the territory between Agamenticus and Casco Bay, was killed at Windham, on Sebago Lake, in the spring of 1756. After the white men had retired from the battlefield, the surviving Indians "swayed," or bent down, a young tree until its roots were upturned; placed the body of their chief beneath it; and then released the tree which, in springing back to its original position, covered the grave. John Greenleaf Whittier gives a detailed account of this ceremony in his "The Funeral Tree of the Sokokis," which begins with the line

"Around Sebago's lonely lake . . ."

and refers to the re-established tree as being

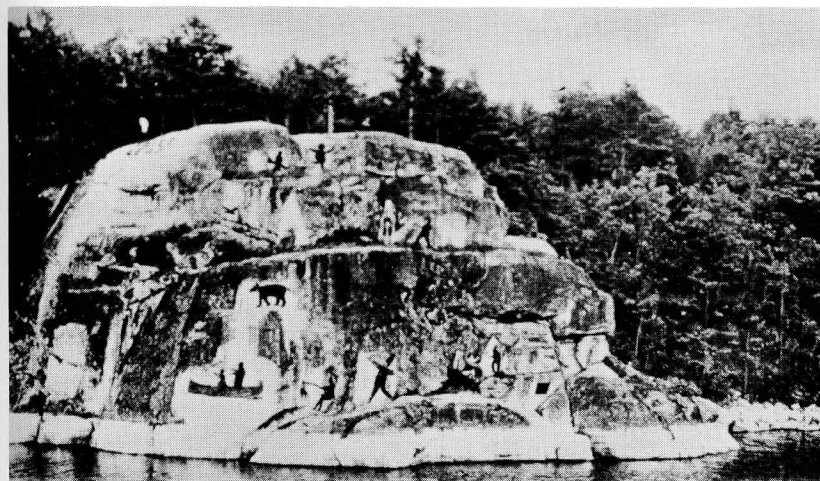
"The Indian's fitting monument."

It was during the early 1830's that canal boats plied their lively trade between Portland and Sebago Lake for passenger and general freight service. The project was possible by an act of the Maine Legislature in the early 1800's which granted a charter to "Arthur McLellan and others" to construct and maintain a canal. Work was completed from Portland to the foot of Sebago Lake at a cost of \$200,000.

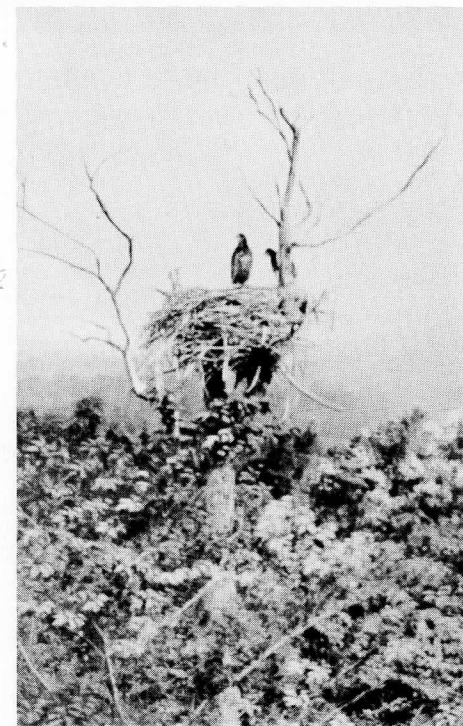
This money was raised in part by a lottery which was to run for ten years unless the sum of \$50,000 was realized before then. Only three men were selected to manage the project, Phineas Varnum, John Maham, and John P. Boyd; and they served throughout the life of the lottery. A dark rumor has been that \$50,000 of the take was never turned over to the Canal Company; the amount has also been set at \$136,000. Maine and Massachusetts people were the primary buyers.

To his profound horror, Deacon Cyrus Shaw of the Baptist Church in Oxford won first prize of \$5,000. Abhorring the thought of retaining "tainted" money, he gave "most of it" toward building a new church. The remainder apparently was not "tainted."

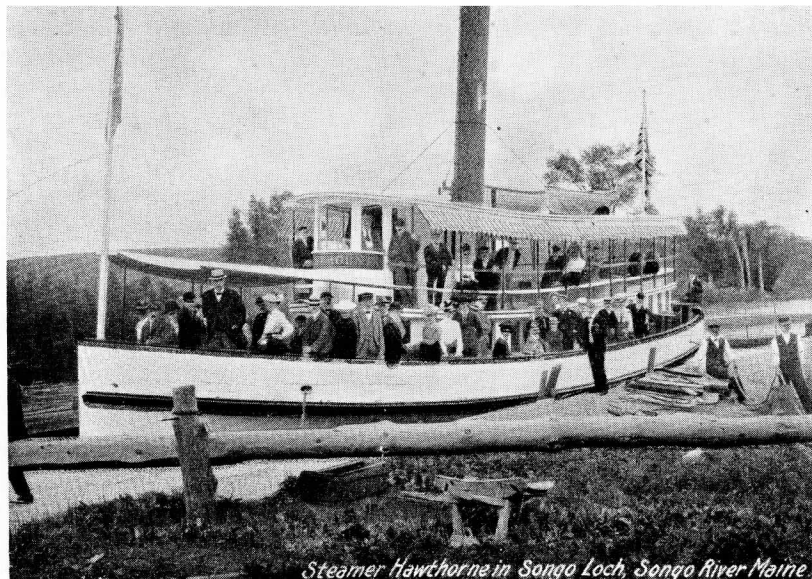
In addition to the lottery, the established Canal Bank of Portland was required to state in its charter that one fourth of its \$300,000 capital stock was to be invested in the Canal Company. By means of these two incomes, the Cumberland and Oxford Canal was established, opening June 1, 1830, and providing regular trips for the Sebago Lake Steam-Navigation Company. At times, over 100 boats would go through the canal during the course of one day. The



The Images, Frye's Leap, Sebago Lake.



*Eagle's nest
similar
to the one on
Frye Island,
Sebago Lake.*



Steamer Hawthorne in Songo Lock, Songo River Maine.

The Steamer Hawthorne in Songo Lock.



Songo River, Me., Steamer Louise in Songo Lock.

The Steamer Louise in Songo Lock.

structure was hand-dug and required more than 20 locks to take water craft from sea level to that of the lake. The locks were built of rough fieldstone and big logs, stood upright. At its completion, the canal gave 40 years of navigation service between Bridgton and the Atlantic Ocean.

Canal boats were fitted with a mast and sail, the mast being hinged so that it could lie flat on deck to allow the boat to pass under bridges. Horses drew the boats as far as Sebago Lake Basin, on the eastern side; from there on, poles were used. Thrust into the mud, they propelled the crafts by manpower across the Basin and into Sebago Lake proper. Then the mast and sail were raised. If there were a wind, the voyage continued at once. If not, it did not.

When boats were held up, the lock tenders and crews spent happy hours enjoying drinks, boxing, wrestling, or card games. The tenders were really characters and such a happy lot. Not to be outdone by them, the canal boatmen were picturesque individuals wearing red shorts. They never, just never, hurried. Indeed, their major duty en route seemed to be merely sounding a trumpet within 500 feet of each lock. Boats were restricted to 4 mph in the canal.

Toll rates varied as to cost per mile. For example, apples were 3c a mile per barrel; powder, 5c a mile per ton; lumber in board, 3-7c a mile; wood for fuel, 3c a mile per cord; and masts and spars, \$7 a load. Boats to Portland and return were charged 6c per lock. Lumbermen used the lake consistently for transporting material to the sawmill on Presumscot River, from where they rafted their logs.

Because winter freezing conditions forbade traffic, the canal became a skating rink during the cold months. Once the spring thaw came, however, the boats reappeared quickly, many loaded with fuel for the still active railroads. Ironically, the passing of these same railroads was the cause of the demise of the canal, the lower part of which, after several years of service, fell into disuse; and after the Civil War, even the boats on the upper part were discontinued.

The first boat to proceed through the canal to Harrison is said to have been the *A. W. Libby*.

The *Fawn* was the first steamer to be in use along both Sebago and Long Lakes, starting in the summer of 1847. It cost \$8,000 and has been called "little more than a portable engine" as the boiler and the wood fuel took up so much of the space that freight and passengers were tucked in fore and aft.

A round trip was 35 miles, passing Frye Island and Frye's Leap, then crossing Sebago Lake, proceeding up the Songo River, through the Songo Locks, and thence continuing up Long Lake to Bridgton and Harrison.

One of the first passengers on the *Fawn* was Mary Emerson, sister of Ralph Waldo Emerson. She was thoroughly charmed by the trip and duplicated it many times. The *Fawn* was abandoned after a brief time and the *Oriental*, another side-wheeler, took its place. At low water, it had to be dragged over the shallows by rope, using the leverage of trees and the wisdom of the captain standing in the bow. The long and sometimes perilous journey to North Bridgton netted the burdened captain approximately one dollar per day. Passengers paid 1/2c a mile, children included.

Another popular ride was one from Standish to Naples. Four steamers were once in use on this route, with stops at East Sebago, North Sebago, Raymond Cape, South Casco, and the outlet at the mouth of the Songo.

After the *Oriental* burned, in 1871, while tied up at the Harrison wharf, there followed in succession the *Sebago*, *Mt. Pleasant*, *Hawthorne*, *Minnehaha*, *Hiawatha*, *Louise* (later re-named the *Longfellow*), *Songo*, *Worrumbus*, and *Goodrich*. The *Sebago*, 86 feet by 24 feet, accommodated 400 passengers on its two decks. As did the *Fawn*, it, too, cost \$8,000 and began trips in 1871 but burned in 1874 at Bridgton where it was in dry dock. The *Hawthorne* was in use for 35 years, a record length of time. One of the last steamers on the lake was the *Bay of Naples* which burned at Naples in 1931; and at the same Naples dock, in 1932, the *Goodrich* burned.

To illustrate the rapid increase in steamer travel on the line, in 1892 the *Hawthorne* was sold to Charles L. Goodrich, owner of Naples Inn. Five years later, his fleet included the *Goodrich*, *Bay of Naples*, *Songo*, and *Worrumbus*. Statistics show that during the first year of Goodrich's managership of the Sebago Lake, Songo River and Bay of Naples Steamboat Company, 3,880 passengers were accommodated, and 20 years later the figure was 38,000.

Construction of the Grand Trunk Railroad cut into the profits of the canal; and the building of the Portland-Ogdensburg Railroad from Portland to Vermont, with shipping accommodations at Sebago Lake Station, sounded its death knell. The canal closed in 1870.

Although second in size of Maine lakes, little of the shoreline of Lake Sebago is open for public use, and the chances for changing

GREETINGS FROM THE *Songo*
Sebago Lake, Songo River and Bay of Naples
STEAMBOAT CO. MAINE.

LOOK DOWN BRIDGE
From above Maine's northern highway
Along its water highway,
In shadow, full of cedar groves,
In rows of clustered dwellings,
To where once the Flatiron tide
So laid its rocky jaws,
To reach through its narrow passages,
On down to sea level,
On all the distance that there is shade,
On the mountain's crest,
There's none so wild, wild and sweet
As lovely Songo River.

SCENE ON THE SONGO
Each has its name - but who has sung
The song of Songo River?
It glides and glazes over the waves,
It skirts the grassy valleys,
With valleys full of waving reeds,
In meadows harvest-shadows,
Whereas the blue sky peeps,
There gliding under shadowy oaks,
And high rugged ledges,
Now adding fire to steam, while
Now hastening rapid safety,
Now almost pausing, or quick
A glided or safe,
It seems, beneath three perfect domes,
In this, the island water,
A content where there had been
Two separate lakes together.
What shall we call this, beauty crown
So beautiful, wild and pleasant?
There comes an inner name flash this
Seven River of the Present.

SONGO LOCKS
Have come everything but now,
The middle morning light on
The water in answer below,
The past concealed behind us,
The course bewilders memory,
With trials and severe success,
About, across, we only see
A shining, crystal concrete,
As if some power of frost,
Which on the days are endless,
Had found a pathway through the loaves,
We're signs of red and yellow,
We have dark against the sunset's glow,
It runs as clear as reason,
Houses and dwellings, in shade
It is no pretense water -
On some island with things right
To hold its present.

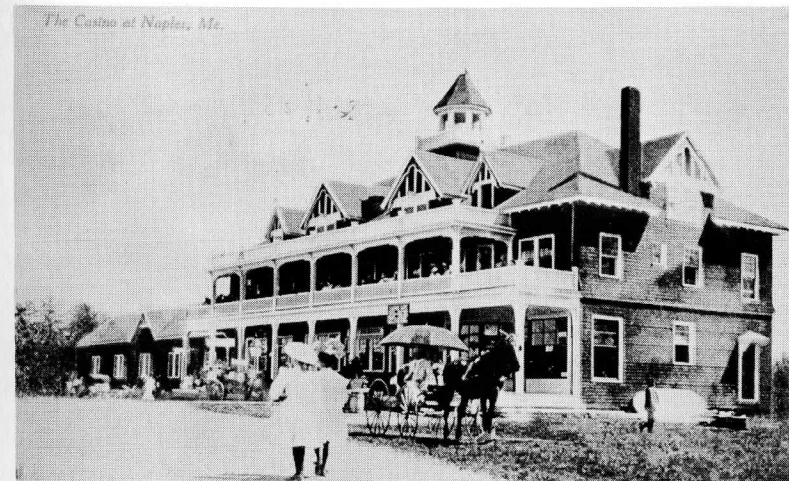
The Casino at Naples, Me.
A merry old dancing hall,
The music almost follows
With music like the clockwork right
Of hours in happy melody,
Now veering toward the wicker hills,
Now rising the pattern marble,
Now in the sunlight's broad flood,
Now down in middle shadow,
Thus does the happy river flow
Through its inner forest water,
By meadow-crest and water-wind,
And banks of a rare distance,
The river's dancing trip on its breast,
The wild sea-wood above it.

SONGO LOCKS
And now in arches overhead
The engine, mast and smoke,
The engine, mast and smoke,
A water discharges,
That faint of water seems to come
When answers to a lockers,
As if some power of frost,
Which on the days are endless,
Had found a pathway through the loaves,
We're signs of red and yellow,
We have dark against the sunset's glow,
It runs as clear as reason,
Houses and dwellings, in shade
It is no pretense water -
On some island with things right
To hold its present.

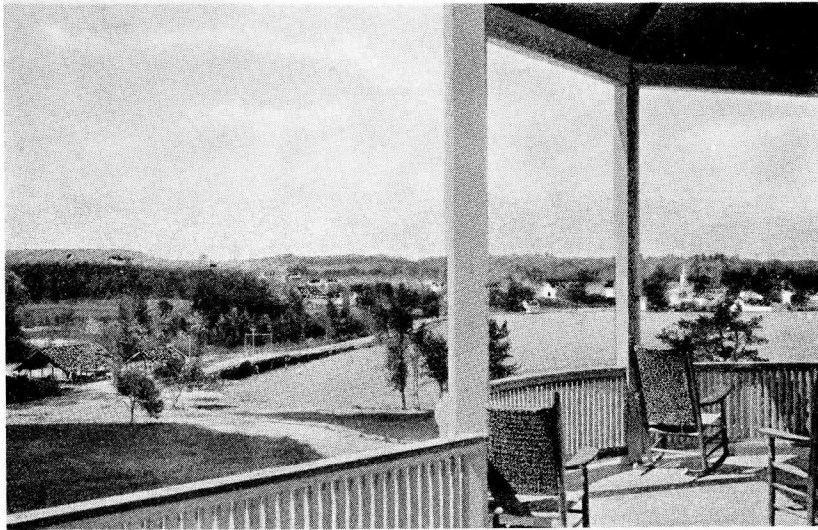
The Casino at Naples, Me.
Well, Naples has the wondrous stream,
And led her faces fall,
To be, with water that will flow,
In happy active valley,
The other bank the city town were,
In graceful groups or single.

SONGO LOCKS
Here, where an apt length beam and dock
The harbor's name shines,
And underneath our shadow had
We keep the small of rocks.

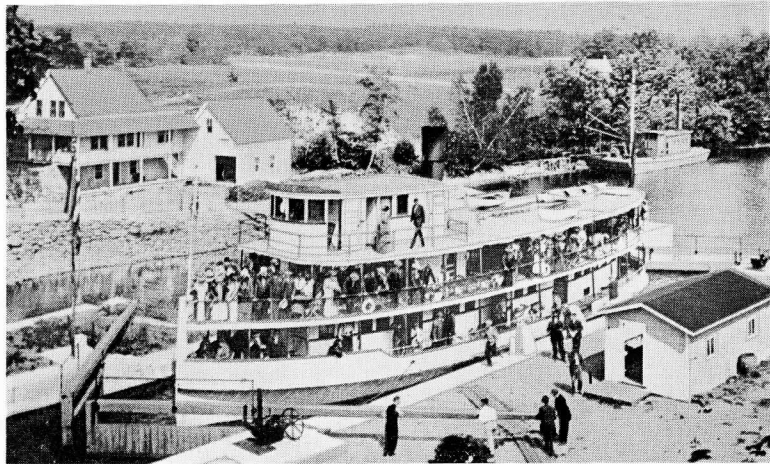
Souvenir card of the S.S. Line.



The Casino at Naples.



View from the Bay of Naples Inn.



Steamboat passing from the lock into the Upper Songo River.

this situation seem slight. Fewer than six miles of the 60-mile shoreline are available for public recreation, and these include Sebago Lake State Park which uses five of the six miles.

The first development along the shores of the lake came in the early 1900's. In 1920, an actors' colony bought Indian Isle, once used to secrete white prisoners. Here, weary New York stage personalities relaxed, swam, fished, and rested. Their little island was taken from them by the City of Portland which feared water pollution, and natural growth took over.

Around the mid-1950's, Lt. Col. Baggs, Divisional Commander for the Salvation Army in Lewiston, Maine, inaugurated Camp Sebago, on Lake Sebago shores. The camp has a capacity today for 125 boys and girls, ages 6-14, to enjoy 10-day stays, totaling 700-800 youngsters per season. A long list of activities is offered, including such unusual ones as Japanese paper folding, macrame, and mosaics. Indian lore is taught through all age groups. The latest enlargement course, in music, has proved to be a favorite. The camp has a staff of 48, an exchange program, and includes campers from New Hampshire and Vermont. Current progress is underway to make Camp Sebago usable year-round, and extensive additions and improvements were made in 1972.

As time passed, Sebago Lake shores became crowded with cottages, trailers, campsites, and residences, reaching a saturation point by the 1960's. The lake had become the favorite spot for community campers because the campsites were close to each other. In 1966, Sebago State Park was the only one in the State with a perpetual waiting list and an edict barring dogs from the sites.

The State Park fronts on the north shore and offers beaches, trails, boating, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, picnicking, and camping. It borders both sides of the Songo River at the lock where there is a stone fish weir presumed to be close to the location of a holy Indian burial place.

By 1968, Sebago Lake had been granted a high-speed Coast Guard craft, transferred from Casco Bay to help law enforcement officers cope with the increasing number of reckless operators on the lake.

In June, 1969, a \$107,625 Federal grant, to be matched by the State, was approved for Sebago Lake State Park for improving the overnight camping area and the day-use recreation section of the park by expanding the parking area to accommodate 100 cars, installing

hot showers, improving sanitation, and providing fresh water recreational facilities.

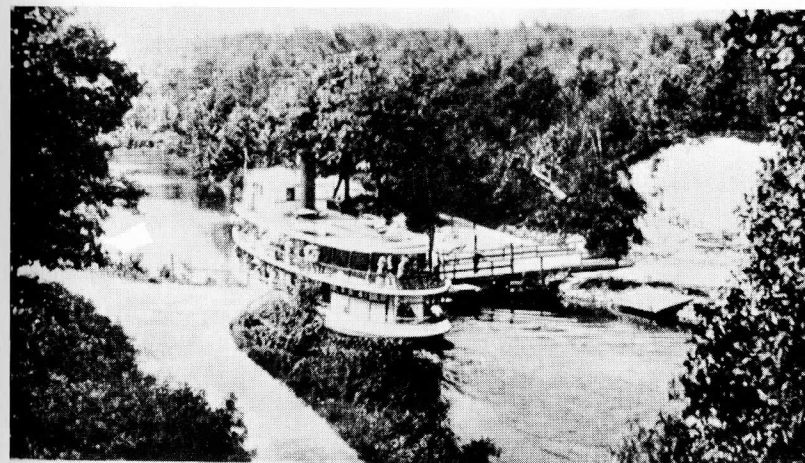
Meanwhile, Frye Island, a prime piece of 990 acres in the heart of Maine's most popular resort area, had been by-passed because it was separated from the mainland by deep water. It had a few cottages and a boys' camp.

In 1964, however, a Massachusetts corporation, Sebago Lake Shores, a subsidiary of Leisure Living Communities, negotiated the purchase of over 1,000 acres for about \$600,000 and proceeded to construct several acres of "Estates of Leisure." President John A. Bowron, called "the pink baron"³² because of his preference of pink wearing apparel and his pink Rolls Royce automobile, with his co-promoter, Gould Coleman, a team selected as New England Vacation Developers of 1967, shipped an old Casco Bay Line ferry overland to Sebago from Portland in April 1965, to begin transportation of the heavy equipment needed to carry out their basic engineering. They sold what they termed "a gratifying number" of the proposed 1,400 lots for as low as \$3,000. In 1966, with almost a third of the island officially opened for development, waterfront lots were selling for \$6,000 and higher. In 1967, frontage lots averaged \$9,000. Today, up to \$20,000!

The seven miles of shoreline, which has 11 sandy beaches and is surrounded by 42 square miles of water, offers an ideal location for the seven Estates. Highpoint was planned to entitle residents to a charter lifetime membership in a six-acre, \$1,000,000 country club. The hub of the Fairway Estate had as its major attraction a yacht club and marina; the Timbers was to attract equestrians and offer a saddle club and riding trails; the Preserve, near the center of the island, aimed at providing a secluded retreat in natural surroundings; and the Sands and the Northwoods were to offer beach areas.

The ultimate cost of this development has been placed at a minimum of \$12,000,000. By August, 1967, about 50 summer homes had been erected. In 1972, there were approximately 160, and around 600 property owners from 18 states. An expectation of 700 homes and a population of possibly 12,000 persons by 1974 had been envisioned.

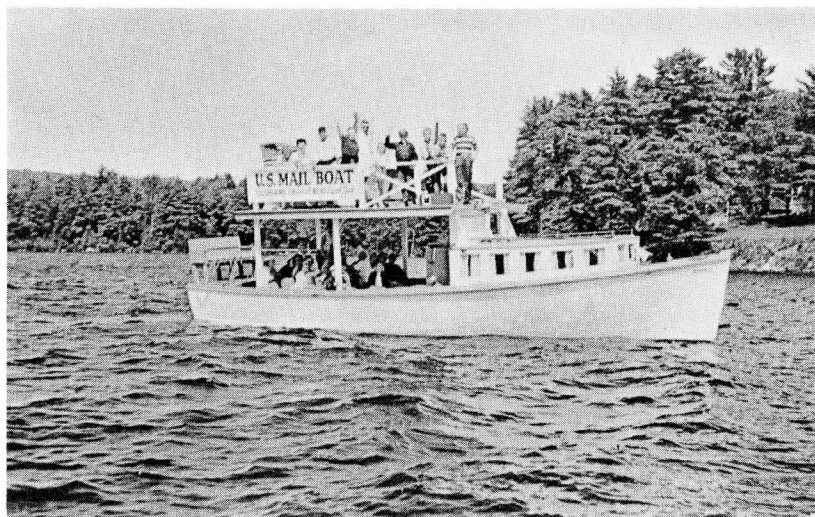
Presently, however, development has been slowed to a standstill because of litigation with the Portland Water District which claims that the project has inadequate sewerage facilities and presents a threat of pollution.



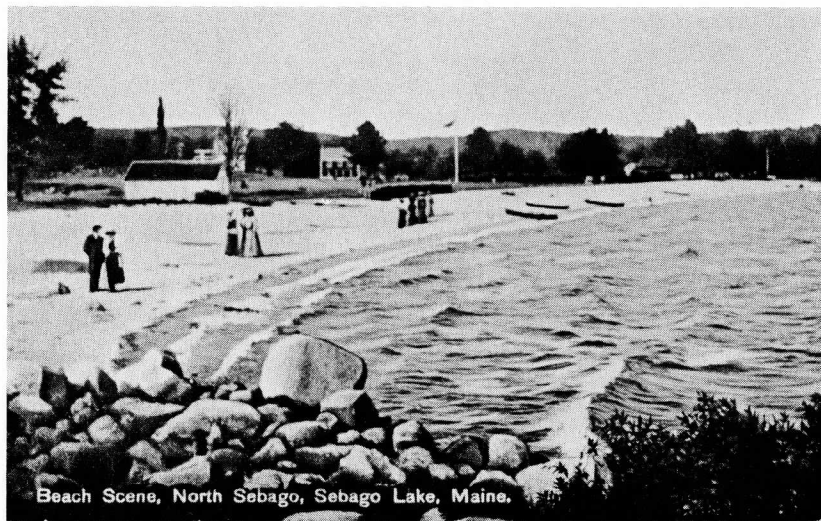
Steamboat passing through Sliding Bridge, Songo River.



The Songo River Queen.



The Jericho, U.S. Mail Boat.



Beach scene, North Sebago.

A number of zoning regulations are enforced, including a ban on tenting and trailer-living. An annual fee of \$96 is levied for use of the car ferry, for fire and police protection, and for the water system. *Leisure Lady*, the 64-foot ferry, transports up to nine automobiles between Raymond Cape, near The Images, and the resort on Frye Island. It runs every half hour until Labor Day and then every hour until winter weather conditions prohibit further use. The island roads are oiled; not tarred. Underground cables, beginning at Frye's Leap, provide both electrical and telephone service.

A second promotion on Sebago Lake is that of Point Sebago, over 200 acres in Kettle Cove. It includes more than a mile and a half of shoreline, nearly a mile of which is white, sugar-like, sandy beach. This \$1,570,600 development adjoins Sebago State Park and offered, in 1971, 350-400 campsites and rental trailers on both shoreline and inland property. To show profit for the enterprise, the number should be doubled. Camper attendance in 1971 was 26,000 site days, and many applicants were turned away.

The Point is laid out in the form of a wheel with several avenues leading from a central focal point. In the comfort stations are hot showers, flushes, lavatories, and even mirrors and vanities for the ladies. The mini-village contains a store, gift shop, laundromat, miniature golf course, two snack bars, restaurant, Dairy Queen, and cinema tent. The car-care center sells fuel.

The recreation hall has separate areas for adults and teenagers. Daytime activities include boating, fishing, softball, basketball, shuffleboard, ping-pong, and horseshoes. Evening recreations are outdoor theater, campfire circles, hayrides, square dances, a discotheque, and group programs. There is even a staff leader to teach aquatic and land sport skills and nature lore, and a full-time nurse is on duty.

Currently, Point Sebago, under its president, Peter Brower, has established excellent facilities for motor homes, whether rented from the organization or brought to the grounds. All facilities are available to day visitors at a fee of \$2 per car or boat. Weekly rates for motor homes varied in 1971, according to the zone used, and ranged from \$35 to \$87.50; and for deluxe rental trailers' on water-view sites, \$185 to \$225.

The entire project is quoted to be similar to a development in Michigan, and would ultimately be a camping-recreation area unique to the East.

Mindful of the sewerage problem, the management announced in May, 1970, that approval had been given to the treatment plant on their premises, by both the Portland Water District and the State. With an estimated 6,000-plus people occupying more than 2,400 summer and year-round homes along the shores of Sebago Lake in 1971, and the expectancy of additional habitations on Frye Island, Sebago water needs to be carefully guarded.

As with similar present-day projects in Maine, rising costs and the decision for added construction or equipment brought economic difficulties to Sebago Point development in 1971.

The old Songo Lock, one of at least 28 in 1830, was rebuilt with cement in 1911. It was this lock that was needed for access to Brandy Pond, so named because a cask of brandy once fell off an old canal boat into the pond, which is five feet higher than the lake and was the origin of the Songo River. More recently the lock was again reconstructed and now has been named a national landmark.

LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE, which straddles the Gray-Windham town line, has a different outlet than its original one, giving it a water level several feet lower than nature intended. As a result, summer cottages rest on what was once a submerged lake bed. The change came in 1861 when a spring rainfall, known as Pope's Freshet, caused a dam to give way and exterminate the village of Popeville.

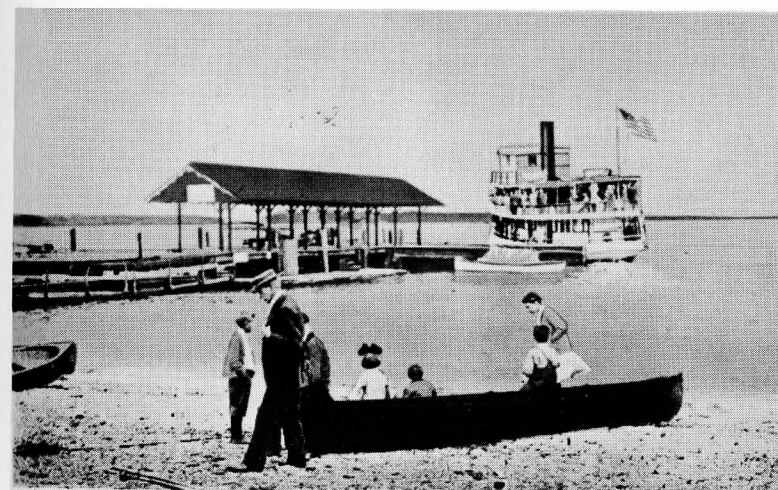
Of the 32 lakes and ponds within the Sebago-Long Lake Region, mention should be made of popular CRYSTAL (CHRYSTAL) LAKE and of PLEASANT, PANTHER and MOOSE PONDS. At the foot of Pleasant Mountain, on Moose Pond, is one of the most rapidly developing year-round recreation areas in the State. A new development, Pleasant Mountain East, was added in 1972, with several new trails, giving Pleasant Mountain more than three miles of up-hill transport.

Camp Wyonegonic, for girls, was moved from Highland Lake to Moose Pond by Charles Cobb, who later set up a companion boys' camp, Winona, which in 1971 merged with Camp Ettowah, a boys' camp founded in 1927; retained the name Winona; and is now operated on Moose Pond.

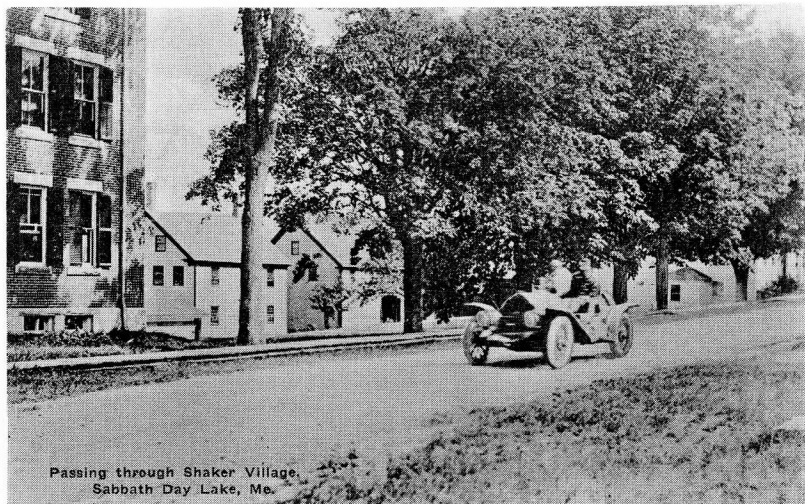
FOREST LAKE, in Cumberland County, has been assigned one of the State Forestry Department's *Beaver* water-dropping aircrafts to check Southern Maine districts for fire control. Two pilots are on 24-hour call. The *Beaver* is operable from almost any small pond.



M.C.R.R. Station, Sebago Lake.

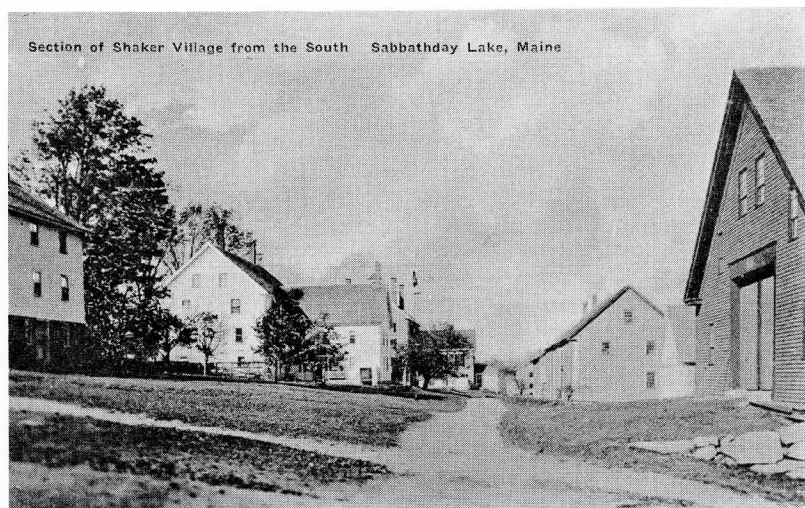


Steamboat leaving M.C.R.R. Station Landing, Sebago Lake.



Passing through Shaker Village,
Sabbath Day Lake, Me.

Passing through Shaker Village, Sabbath Day Lake.



Section of Shaker Village from the South Sabbath Day Lake, Maine

Section of the Shaker Village.

SABBATHDAY LAKE acquired prominence through its association with the Shaker sect. The church was founded on revelations that came to Mother Ann Lee, who, in 1770, while imprisoned in England for religious beliefs, had a series of spiritual experiences which convinced her that Christ had returned and could be found within one's self. The full name of the organization is The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming.

A Sabbathday Lake family introduced the Shaker faith in their community, and in 1794 Shaker Village was organized, consisting of 1,000 of the 1,800 acres in the township of Gloucester. Membership was augmented from Shaker communities in Alfred and Gorham, Maine. The meeting house, now their museum, was raised on the 14 of June, 1794. During the following year a dwelling house was built; then a sawmill, gristmill, and carding mill for making woolen rolls.

Journalists Richard Deming Andrews, Phillip Isaacson, and Edith Labbie have written informative articles about the Sabbathday Lake Shakers.³³

The Shakers cultivated their property and were the first people in the State to package and sell garden seed in small quantities. Their herbs were some of the finest in the country, and their commercial production became an industry which the Shakers introduced to the world in the late 18th century and which reached a peak of 201 varieties in the 1860's. The ecology-minded society of the 1970's raised the demand for herbs, and the New Gloucester Shakers returned to an industry that they had neglected for the past 30 years. In 1970, they grew 23 different types of herbs, and in 1971 they had cultivated 57 varieties with plans to expand even further.

By the mid-1800's, the group of more than 150 happy, industrious Shakers prospered in business, in property, and in membership. Their ridge, which by then included 3,000 acres, was a veritable beehive of activity. In large barns, livestock and horses received the best of care and were of the finest blood. Orchards, vineyards, and herb and vegetable gardens thrived. During the long winters, the sisters spun, wove, braided, knit, and did the housework. The men cut wood, operated their own sawmills, and made the famous Shaker furniture.

In 1887 the Poland colony, about two miles distant from the Sabbathday Lake community, joined them; and in 1931 the Alfred colony, site of the State headquarters, became an integral part, reducing the number of Shaker colonies in Maine to one. Property

ownership extended far, including acreage in Shirley (Moosehead Region), Minot, and Harrison.

The activities of these combined Maine groups are far too numerous to list. Among other accomplishments, they have published the "Shaker Quarterly" of the Sabbathday Lake community, maintained their own schools with a standard approved by the State Department of Education, and have been practically independent in providing their own necessities.

They invented the one-horse wagon and the horse-drawn mowing machine. They made their own furniture, designed with simplicity and for usefulness. In 1840, they skillfully carved a large grain shovel from a single piece of maplewood, with the perfection for which they are known. Their ingenuity is extensive.

Branches of the sect's industries have included the creation of the common clothespin, the flat broom, the ladder-back chair, the design and fabrication of the first circular saw and rotary harrow, the first waterproof cloth, and the making of iridescent linen and worsted material. All offers to buy any of their formulas have been rejected. No copyrights nor patents were taken, with the result that many of their inventions have been credited to those who chose to assume the credit.

A Kentucky community once raised mulberry bushes, spun the threads from the silkworm cocoons, and then wove handkerchieves.

The Shakers were the original promoters of the still popular Poland Spring Water, known for its mineral content, and constructed their own wooden shipping boxes.

The New Gloucester Shaker Colony has been responsible for the art of Alice and Gus Schwerdtfeger. Gus, a carpenter, repaired some Shaker furniture, began making miniature pieces for his wife, and together they have furnished a special collection for Tufts College and have displays at the Shaker Heights Museum in Cleveland and at the Walker Museum in Fairlee, Vermont.

By the side of the road, under the shade of elms and maples, stands the Shaker Village Store where the sisters sell their hand-made articles, self-designed and fashioned since 1794.

Because the men have passed on, hired help does the heavy work. Bushels of apples are sold on the trees, and bales of hay are sold in the fields.

The community was reduced to only 12 sisters by 1971 as the last brother at the Sabbathday Lake Colony, Delmar C. Wilson, had

died. Denied the right to marry, the sisters and brothers were allowed to rear children, reasoning quite wisely that it was better to assume the responsibility of orphans and unwanted children than to add to a world already overpopulated. Each child, however, had the right to leave the group upon his maturity, and the lure of the fascinating outside world keeps membership low.

In 1968, the Shaker woodlands became an S. D. Warren tree farm, and the benefits were used to improve and maintain the community buildings. Other income results from leasing camp lots on the lake, at \$40 per year.

In 1969 there was speculation as to just what would be the disposal of the 1,125 acres of forested land in New Gloucester and Poland after the death of the last Shaker in the Maine colony. Assurance was made that the museum would be continued; and Sister Mildred Barker, representing the group, commented that further plans were only beginning to be considered. Rumors are that the only other existing colony of Shakers, in Canterbury, New Hampshire, might join the Maine colony.

It has been told that while building the old church, the brothers never spoke above a whisper, so great was their reverence in the assignment. The 10,300 bricks in each of the two chimneys were made in the Shaker brickyard near the foot of the lake. The interior of the meeting hall was painted a blue tone which has never flaked, faded, nor been retouched to this day. No one has been able to analyze the phenomenal formula.

During meetings, the brothers used settees on the south side of the hall; and the sisters, settees on the north side. Their benches were backless to facilitate their removal for dancing. Coaches would transport guests from the Poland Spring House to participate in the activities.

Rooms in their houses had wooden pegs along the walls for hanging up loose clothing and chairs, so that the floor would be clear for its daily cleaning. Neatness is a predominant factor for the Shakers.

Although the sect could be exempt from taxes on the grounds of religious affiliation, the members choose to share in the expenses of road plowing, mail delivery, and other advantages which the town offers. Consequently, the colony is the largest taxpayer in New Gloucester.

The community now consists of a store, a magazine publishing

business, a productive orchard, a real estate office which is required to deal with more than half the shorage on Sabbathday Lake, plus accommodations for the canning, preserving, and freezing of their garden products.

In November, 1970, Sister Mildred Barker accepted for the Shaker Village an award presented by the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a group embodying pure and practical ideals and developing classic art.

In May, 1972, the world's youngest Shaker, Sister Frances Carr, an orphan who had been placed in the commune when she was ten, gave an optimistic possibility of endurance of the sect and indicated revival of the Shaker livelihood by the expediency of acquiring men to help perform the heavy work and bring back the wood crafts.³⁴

The following month, the Colony held an auction of Shaker products, the proceeds from which were to restore the herb house and to construct a fireproof library for the Society's valuable collection of Shaker books, imprints, and manuscripts. These were the first Shaker pieces ever to be sold from a Colony's collection, and the approximately 300 items brought more than \$50,000.

It may be true that the big meeting hall no longer watches the whirling, complicated, beautiful marching and singing drills. It may be true that the town rarely views the gracefully swirling capes as the sisters pass on their way from one part of the compound to the other. It may be true that the enjoyment of television and the mastering of a large, handsome station wagon is a far cry from the life of those first Shakers at Sabbathday Lake. But those who remain in the faith are as meticulous, as cheerful, and as energetic as were their forebears. The possible eventual loss of Shakers at the lakeside is an unhappy thought.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the town of New Gloucester, 1925, suspended from the back of the Shaker carriage in the parade were these words:

Saddle and ox-cart
Paved the way
For the Deacon's wonderful
One horse shay.
Carriages and carryall
Follow in line
To the million autos
Of our time.



*Eldress
Prudence Stickney
of the
Sabbath Day
Lake Shakers.*



*Advertising
Shaker
Pills.*

SABBATTUS LAKE IS DYING!

Private industry is turning
Sabattus Lake into a cesspool!

PLEASE HELP US SAVE OUR LAKE!

Anti Pollution Rally at
Nason's Beach, Greene,

TODAY at 1 P.M.

Sponsored by Sabattus Lake Association

Signed: Maurice Mathieu, Pres.

A public appeal to save one of Maine's polluted lakes.



Entrance to Lake Grove Park,
Auburn Lake, Auburn, Me.

The entrance to Lake Grove Park.

Sabbathday Lake is two miles long and a half mile wide. In some of the old records, this picturesque body of water is called Sabada Pond, possibly from Abenaki tongue indicating "provision cache" or "thoroughfare," or possibly from the corruption of the word *Sabbathday*.

The first settlers, 60 individuals from Gloucester, Massachusetts, built cart roads and bridges, a fulling mill, and a tannery on the lake. In time, nearly 100 ox teams passed to and fro, pulling lumber. Because of continual Indian attacks, however, the settlers were ordered to leave their homes. But they returned in 1753, built a blockhouse, and used it as a home, a fort, and a church.

To induce settlement, ten pounds a year for three years were offered settlers who would stay. By 1760 the proprietors' records had been brought from Gloucester, Massachusetts. In 1787, the old fort was sold for seven bushels of corn. In 1792, New Gloucester became a half-shire town with Portland.

In 1847, the Centennial Spring Tavern was built at the lake. On busy days, as many as 200 people were fed there. Although there were only five sleeping rooms in the tavern, there were times when up to 72 persons passed the night there, billeted around the grounds.

In 1880, the trading post that had been erected for the Indians gave way to a set of farm buildings. One of the recent owners of this farm, being interested in Indian lore, purchased a statue of an Indian chief, life size and in full regalia, shading his eyes in the customary attitude of a chief when the tribes were gathering, and had the statue set upon a cement foundation on a hill overlooking the historic neighborhood of Sabbathday Lake.

Currently, during July and August some 400 youngsters spend happy hours on the shores and in the water, at the summer camp Our Lady of the Lake, which provides facilities for disadvantaged children in the Greater Portland area, regardless of race, color, or creed. Each child is accepted at no cost for the two-week stay. Support comes from the Division of Catholic Charities in affiliation with the United Fund of Greater Portland. Boys and girls, ages 7-13, may apply for admission. Preparations for an additional 150 yards of shoreline clearance and general repairs closed the Camp for the summer of 1971.

Approximately 100 cottages dot the shores of Sabbathday Lake which provides a center where one may swim, boat, and/or

fish in summer. Winter activities include smelting, and as many as 30 smelting shanties may garnish the lake at one time. Deer hunting in the locality is popular.

So-called "rough fish" were eating the young trout, salmon, and fish food which Sabbathday provides. Eel, hornpout, and other unpalatable species were killed off, and the lake was stocked with brown trout in an experiment of the late 1950's. Following a purification process, Sabbathday Lake came again into its own as a fishing ground of no small importance.

LAKE THOMPSON, primarily in Oxford County, lies northerly from Sebago Lake. In order to help preserve the lake's fish life, a metal barricade was erected in the lake to prevent fish from swimming out, going down a short stream, and reaching the polluted Androscoggin River. Throughout the procedure, with workers surrounded by three-to-four-pound salmon, only one of the large fish is known to have escaped into the deep pool behind the dam. Estimated at about four pounds, he was netted and returned safely to the big waters. During most of the operation, the salmon merely lay on the sandy bottom and idly watched. The togue were not growing normally in either rate or size because of overpopulation, but by the late 1960's the situation was clearing itself.

On Lake Thompson is Camp Chittenden, donated to the Y.W.C.A. by Dr. A. E. Chittenden. It provides four weeks of day-camp for girls in grades five to eight. After that, it is used by families of the Y.W.C.A. members.

A bridge spanning the outlet is dedicated to Ralph E. Edwards, a prominent political figure in Oxford County during the 1940's and 1950's.

SABBATTUS LAKE lies northeast of Lake Thompson. An elderly gentleman with the surname of Niles once declared that before the American Revolution his ancestors had owned the entire town of "Sabatis," a name given to the locality by a French missionary, and presumed to be a corruption of Jean Batiste, first shortened to "the Batiste," then slurred to "Sabists," thence Sabbatus.

In the mid-1800's, the Webster Woolen Mill, or Upper Mill, built from 400,000 bricks, obtained rights on the Sabattus Lake Outlet. The dam, authorized around 1848, had two falls, one of 14 feet and one of 12. The company manufactured fine cashmeres. Later, a rubber business took over the site, specializing in rubber soles and heels for the Auburn shoe factories. In reference to the days of the

Alaskan gold rush, the mill was often referred to as "the Klondike," indicating its usual temperature in winter.

A later dam, constructed for the Deena Woolen Mill, once the Park or Lower Mill, enlarged the lake to many times its original size and depth. This mill is now closed.

In October, 1970, the nearly half-million-dollar Webster Water District was installed just beyond Long Beach, on Route 126, at Sabattus Lake. The construction was initiated in 1963 by a \$25,000 bequest of Willis J. Thorpe, of Danvers, Massachusetts. Sparked by the untiring efforts of Charles Riley, Frank Spencer, and Leo Curren, the water system opened that same year for service to over 200 residents and 25 seasonal dwellings.

At one time the Lewiston, Waterville, & Augusta Street Railway serviced Sabattus Lake and the not-too-distant Tacoma Lakes. This innovation brought much construction to the lake; and Martin's Point, at the head end of the fine-sand shores, became the most popular section for bathhouses and a summer colony. A development of equal size was eventually developed at the foot.

Sabattus Lake was included in the 1971 listing of doomed lakes in Maine in spite of an environmental improvement of the lake in April, 1970.

Sabattus Mountain, rising at one end of the lake, is reported to harbor an intriguing cave, about which little is known.

LAKE AUBURN

The waters of the lake
lap lazily
the sandy, pebbled shore;
or beat
against rough bank
where pine
stands stately at attention.

One little island,
a Cyclopic eye,
views the scene,
and smiles.

LAKE AUBURN, in Androscoggin County, offered more attractions in the 19th century than did most inland water sites. Its

shores provided for quiet recreation, health, sports, and meditation. Its one lone island served as a picnic spot and later as sheep grazing terrain. Because of soil erosion and dam construction, the island today is but the top of a huge rock, from the crevasses of which a few deciduous trees rise from the stone.

The horse railroad, sometimes termed "barge," was chiefly responsible for the development of summer business at the lake, whose major source of attraction was the picnic grounds and theater at Lake Grove, a large amusement area at the foot of the lake, reached by various types of conveyance. The Grove was the terminal of the Electric Road providing transportation facilities, both electric and steam, to Bath, Brunswick, and Merrymeeting Park. It was the terminal of a four-mile drive by carriage from Lewiston's Maine Central R.R. Station. It was the end of the line for electric cars running from the towns of Auburn and Turner. It was the landing place for guests at Lake Auburn Hotel who often crossed the lake by steamer and then proceeded by horsecar into Auburn, Lewiston, or Turner, or spent the day at the Grove.

The open, running-board type of electric cars was known to carry 80 passengers on one run. Conductors, endeavoring to collect fares, had to swing around the mob standing on the running boards and frequently received head injuries from the roadbed poles.

Lake Grove was a festive center. The Lake Grove House, constructed in 1905 and still standing, catered to the public. It originally had 16 guest rooms and a dining room where seafood was the specialty. For the pleasure of its clientele, as well as for that of the picnickers, on one Fourth of July it arranged for a simulation of the sinking of the U.S. Battleship *Maine* to be enacted on the lake. The spectacular created two fires along the shoreline.

Square dances, at five cents for men, no charge for ladies, were held every night of the week. Free movies were presented on Sundays, featuring such silent picture stars as Charlie Chaplin, William S. Hart, and Mary Pickford.

The St. Cecelia's Boys' Band, composed of youngsters organized by the Dominican Brothers, a religious order in Lewiston, played regularly for concerts. A portable peanut stand and a popcorn stand were heavily patronized. Indeed, an offering of popcorn in those

days constituted a proper introduction for young folks. In addition, the public had a choice of trying its skill in midway games, sitting on the pier, hiring boats for pleasure or for fishing, taking a canoe ride, or attending the theater, for which tickets ranged from 20 to 30 cents, depending upon the show. Another pleasure was the diversion offered by a 25c steamer ride around the four-mile lake. Just how much of the distance was covered depended upon the day's attendance at the Grove. On a good day, with several customers waiting, the rides were noticeably shorter than on days when no passengers lined the pier.

"Showtime" at the playhouse was announced by means of shouting through enormous megaphones. The performers were chiefly vaudeville players; and the regular chorus line was generally composed of eight sightly girls, daringly dressed in sleeveless blouses, short skirts, and long black stockings. The shows were somewhat incongruous with the majestic and attractive gateway, fashioned of stone pillars with ornamental boxes of flowers at the pinnacle of each. Nevertheless, attendance at all performances was both ample and appreciative.

The Grove seated 500, who avidly relished the shows of matinee idol Bob Ott, the vaudeville acts of The Gayeties, or the orchestral numbers of Dick Emery's musicians. As many as ten trolley cars have been known to leave the grounds simultaneously after a show, with close to 1,000 passengers for the day's toll.

The decline and fall of Lake Grove was caused by the introduction of automobiles into the area. The trolley company could no longer afford to run, and the Auburn Water District took over the property in 1927.

Lake Auburn is spring-fed and was once considered the center of health resorts in the East. In *Summer Days Down East*, Sweetzer wrote that the lake water was "naturally aerated, or charged with carbonic acid, oxygen, and nitrogen gases, alkaline, colorless, tasteless, odorless, sparkling, and free from any appreciable organic matter." A pamphlet issued by Hotel Lake-Auburn (sic) announced that "it is soft water, naturally laxative and corrective, and has been found very beneficial in diseases of the kidneys, liver, and stomach as scores of testimonials . . . indicate."

Hundreds of gallons of spring water were barrelled and sent to

Boston and to "patrons in distant cities." Prices, with container included, were

32 gal. cask	.....	\$4.00
16 gal. cask	.....	2.50
4 gal. jug	.....	.90
3 gal. jug	.....	.70
2 gal. jug	.....	.50

Today, a spring on the west side of the lake is still open to the public, the gift of Alonzo Whitman; and many Auburn families obtain free drinking water from that source. A former native contended that the origin of the spring is somewhere in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

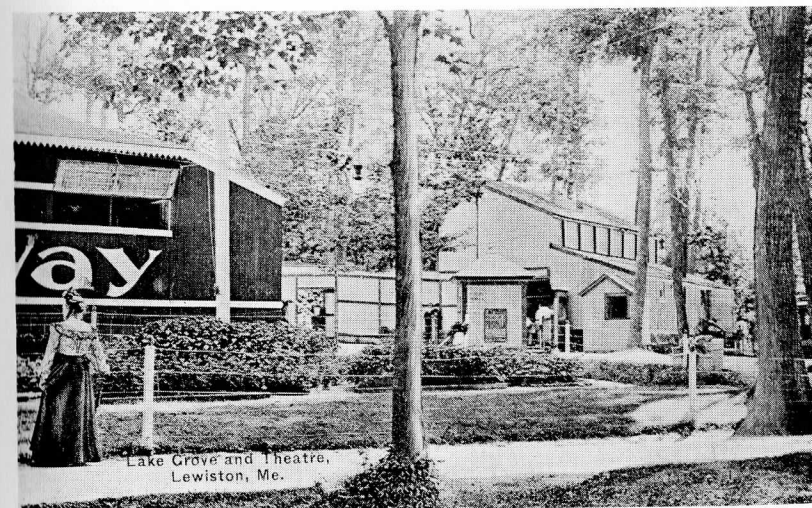
Mr. Whitman, incidentally, was once arrested for shooting a salmon with one of his famous homemade bow and arrow sets. His case was dismissed; but the following year the use of arrows and slingshots in securing fish was prohibited.

During the 1800's, two good-sized hotels vied for clientele by promoting the exceptional spring water. One was Grandview (1882), on the west side of the lake, located on an elevation which allowed a view of the majestic peak of Mt. Washington. Originally a family dwelling, it was remodeled, then declined by 1905, endured until 1908, was turned into a rest home by Professor Jewelle in 1909, and was razed around 1910. It seemed destined for a colorful, chaotic, brief existence, and was called in more or less rapid succession Grandview House, Eastern Star House, Lake Auburn House, and Lake Auburn Hotel. The term "sanatarium" became associated with it because of the values of the spring water it served.

The other hotel was the Lake Auburn Mineral Spring House, also on the eastern side of the lake, but nearer North Auburn. In addition to overnight accommodations, it had a bottling house for such favorites as spring water, ginger ale, sarsaparilla, and other soda drinks, which really came foremost in the appeal of the hotel.

Constructed around 1889, at a cost of \$25,000 and with accommodations for 75 guests, it was ornate and impressive. Steam heat, gas lights, and electric bells were among the conveniences of the hotel. Its thermostats were the first in Maine to be connected with the fire alarm, which sounded at 150-degree heat. Band concerts, croquet tournaments, a billiard room, a bowling alley, and tennis courts were for the enjoyment of its clientele.

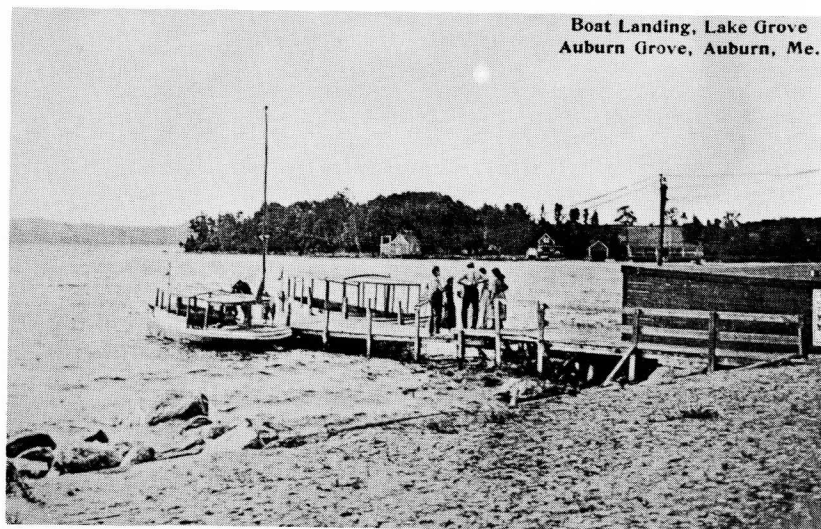
The piazza is said to have been a quarter of a mile promenade



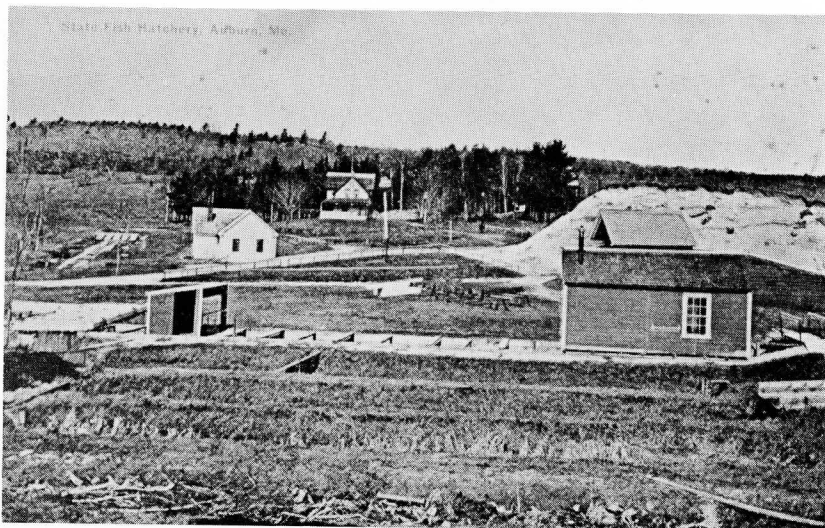
Lake Grove and Theatre, Auburn.



Band members were from a Lewiston orphanage.



Boat at Lake Grove pier, Auburn Lake.



Exceedingly active hatchery at the outlet of Lake Auburn in the 1800's.

with a width of 45 feet at the rounded corner. Stairways led directly to a float in the lake. Daily excursions to Lake Grove were a courtesy of the house.

Hotel coaches connected with trains at Lewiston and Auburn. Round-trip fare from Boston was \$7; from Portland, \$4.25. To cross from East Auburn, where the coaches arrived, passengers took the *S. S. Lewiston*, known also as the *Frank A. Hale*, which could carry 25 passengers. After her days of usefulness, she was beached on the western shoreline and gradually deteriorated, resembling at times a large, dark-ribbed sea-monster lurking on the shore.

Such elegance was not to endure. In a relatively short time the hotel declined, and only a caretaker and his wife were residents when about 8:30 p.m., on a clear, cold, winter evening, January 30, 1893, fire was discovered within the framework; and by 10:00 p.m. the structure was leveled. Caretaker and wife were saved by the barking of a mongrel dog.

The first power boat on the lake was a flat-bottomed steam-engine affair built by David Vickery of East Auburn. The *Yosemite* was the first steamboat that plied between East Auburn and Salmon Point, North Auburn, and West Auburn.

Francis M. Jordan conceived the idea of having Lake Auburn water piped for the use of the city. A charter was obtained in 1869 under the title of Auburn Aqueduct Company, and the spring-fed lake, with an acreage of 1,807 square miles and a drainage of 18, became a source of water supply to Auburn. In 1883, a twelve-inch pipeline, extending to the poor farm, was changed to branch into two different mains to feed the city, one of twelve-inch pipe and the other of ten-inch. Thus it was possible to supply 2,330,000 gallons of water per day through gravity pipeline. Laid without benefit of modern engineers, when first opened it took three weeks for the water to trickle to downtown Auburn. Around 1900, the service was extended to include Lewiston.

Daily consumption increased to 3,000,000 gallons in 1942 and about 8,000,000 gallons in 1956. Meters were installed in 1966; and although there were more mains and considerably more separate services, usage was only 2,000,000, thus eliminating a tremendous waste. In 1970, yearly consumption in Auburn was 846,579,000 gallons; and in Lewiston, 2,334,393,000. A testing station, established in 1968, provides weekly water sampling.

The Auburn Water Commission, 1893, successor to the Aqueduct Company, and later the Auburn Water District, 1923, gradually bought most of the contingent land and buildings along the 12-mile shoreline of Lake Auburn. The long-extant Townsend (Hatchery) Brook became useless after dams were constructed in 1968. River suckers up to two pounds in weight took over the spawning ground and ate all the game fish eggs. The glory of the early days, when fishermen from the New England States, New York, and New Jersey came to troll Lake Auburn, has long since passed.

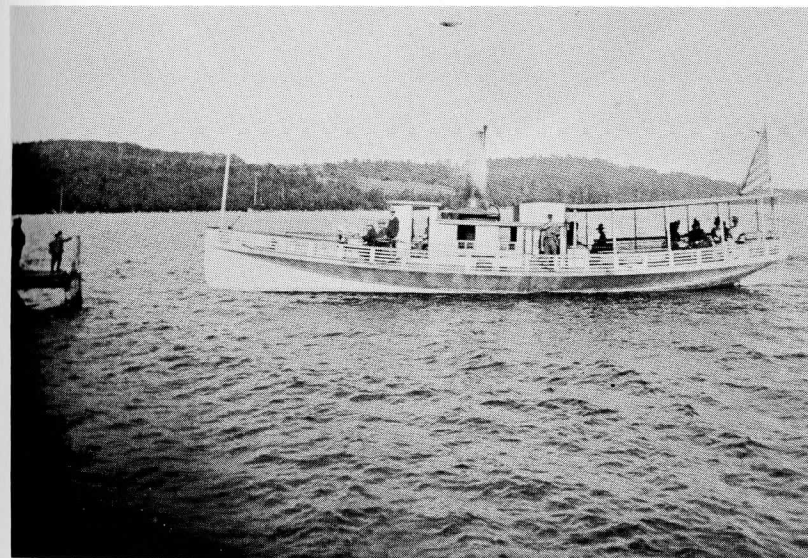
Early cottages along the shores bore Indian names for the most part, as Lake Auburn for a long time supplied fish for the Anasagunticook Indians, about whom Charles Starbird, of Auburn, has written at length. Their villages of tents made from boughs, bark, and animal skins, were located at the shoreline until 1690 when the tribe was driven away by Major Benjamin Church's forces, assisted by Captain Walton, sent by the General Court of Massachusetts to annihilate the tribe at Laurel Hill, Auburn, during the Second Indian War. Metallak was probably the last Anasagunticook in Androscoggin Valley, and his daughter may quite likely have been the last survivor of the tribe.³⁵

The Old Town Penobscot Indians were annual visitors at Lake Auburn and at nearby Taylor Pond, named for Thomas and Joshua Taylor and listed in 1971 as among the doomed Maine waters. The Penobscots made baskets, fished, and hunted such animals as mink and muskrat, which were plentiful.

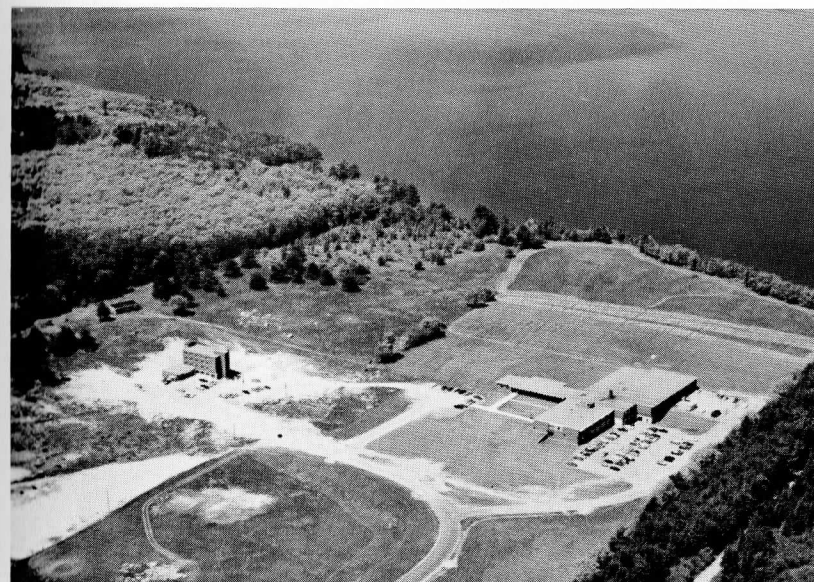
Lake Auburn, once called Wilson's Pond in memory of the first known drowning victim of the lake, was a popular spot in all seasons. In addition to the summer gaiety of the Grove, the serenity of the landscape, the popularity of the hotels, and the fishing and boating advantages, the lake offered exceptionally fine skating facilities during winter months, parties often beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until 11 p.m.

Outstanding in popularity during the lifetime of Donald Tabor, who died in 1969, was his farm, overlooking the lake. It reached its peak by a process of development from a cow pasture to a golf driving range and par three course; and from farm produce to food and homemade ice cream stall. Sea gulls and fox puppies were a golf handicap by appropriating the balls for their own pleasure.

George Tabor, a Civil War veteran, bought the farm around 1870. On the large tract, he produced crops, raised livestock, and



*The Steamer Lewiston (or Frank A. Hale)
at North Auburn Landing.*



Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute on Lake Auburn.



The Flying Yankee at Belgrade Station.



Mr. and Mrs. John Thing who ran a livery stable from the Belgrade Railroad Station to the various tourist points along the Belgrade Lakes.

carried on a mail route. The first Auburn City Farm was originally opposite his Lake Shore holdings. When the City Farm was discarded, it provided a mecca for salvaging precious nails and is attributed with boosting Arthur Tabor into his renowned carpentry skill, because nails were a commodity of no mean value at the time, and he had access to many.

On a wooded knoll on the eastern shore of Lake Auburn looms the campus of the Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute. It started in Lewiston in 1964 with 48 students enrolled, and by 1972, had increased to 280, with a faculty of 30.

In 1972, the State Legislature authorized the Institute to operate a 52-week school year. This innovation coincided with the fall opening of a new wing to house occupational programs and to provide a 150-seat auditorium. The next construction, already in the planning stage, will be a second dormitory, with a completion date of 1974.

In May, 1970, nearly forty acres of property formerly owned by Mrs. Martha Smith were prepared for a Lake Auburn Wildlife Sanctuary at the northern end of the lake. The planting, patrolling, cleaning up, and appropriate sign construction were under the sponsorship of the Women's Literary Union Garden Club of Androscoggin County. Among the more common wildlife in the section are blue heron, bittern black ducks, and grebe loon yellow legs for fowl; and deer and an occasional moose for game.

In 1971, Lake Auburn joined Madawaska Lake, Sebago Lake, and Wassakeag Lake to become the fourth and latest large body of fresh water in Maine to be rated Class A.

Advertised in the early 1900's as the "Utopia of delightful recreation joys of the great outdoors, and entertainment for both young and old," today Lake Auburn offers but a small part of that glorious promise. It does, however, remain one of the outstandingly beautiful lakes in Maine.