

Breezy Pointer

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2 NEWSLETTER

BREEZY POINT, MN

4 PAGES

PUBLISHED SINCE 1927

The Evolution of Breezy Point Resort, Part 8

(Parts 1 - 7 covered the period from Captain "Billy" Fawcett's 1921 purchase of the property to the fall of 1976.)

Spirits at the Resort were high in the spring of 1977. The advance bookings for the summer season were at an all-time high. The season's entertainment had been booked, including several "big bands" for the Chandelier Room at the Supper Club.

New shuttle service between the Resort and the 4 Seasons restaurant provided for the guests an alternative to driving after "living it up" at the restaurant.

A bolt of lightning hit the kitchen wall of the Supper Club, lighting up the electrical cabinet serving the entire building. Dave Gravdahl, today's general manag-



Lloyd Peterson and Friends entertained Resort guests.

In mid-June Jerry Dockendorf, a wholesale appliance distributor, had provided area appliance dealers with a two-day stay at the Resort in order to demonstrate the latest in home appliance products. Although the Supper Club had not been opened to the public for the season, it provided the ideal venue for Dockendorf's appliance display.

The spring weather had been exceedingly dry. The day of Dockendorf's show, storm clouds on the horizon promised much needed rain. Shortly after noon, the storm hit, bringing a terrific show of lightning over the Resort.

Disaster struck!

er, was just driving into the parking lot and saw the lightning strike. He rushed inside to find Orv Hagen, the Supper Club chef, running with a fire extinguisher toward the electrical cabinet. The sparking and fire from the cabinet were so intense; he couldn't get near enough to put the fire out.

Dockendorf and his guests were evacuated without injury as the fire spread. Over the years the many additions to the building included false ceilings and ideal spaces for the fire to spread undetected. Soon the entire roof was up in flames and, in spite of the Pequot Lakes Fire Department's valiant efforts, the blaze destroyed the entire facility.

One of the treasures lost in the fire was the "Salad Boat". Used as the base for the salad bar in the dining room, it was made of cedar in 1942 by the Larson Boatworks of Little Falls, MN. The motor was built in 1918 by Ole Evinrude and had been used by "Captain Billy" Fawcett in the 1920s.

Continued on page 2

Dinner Cruises to Return to Pelican Lake



Ecker House Moving pulls the cruise boat from the waters of the Whitefish chain.



The cruise boat awaits refurbishment in the parking lot at Breezy Point Resort

Pelican Lake will once again be the backdrop for scenic dinner cruises.

Guests will be treated to a ride on an authentic paddlewheeler, powered not by coal as in the old days but by an efficient Detroit diesel engine.

Slot Machines Were a Fixture

Honoring his 1946 campaign promise, Luther Youngdahl, the 27th governor of Minnesota, embarked on a wholesale crusade to rid the state of gambling in general, and slot machines in particular. The April 24, 1947, passage of Youngdahl's "anti-slot machine" bill sounded the death knell for slot machines in Minnesota. One of the larger Youngdahl targets was Breezy Point Lodge.

Gambling at the Lodge, including table games and slot machines, had been well-known since the early 20s. "Captain

The boat is 60 feet long and will comfortably accommodate up to 50 passengers.

After a total refurbishment program this winter, the boat will be placed in service for the summer 2010 season.

Billy" Fawcett, who was not a gambler, established the gaming operations to entertain his famous guests. Robert B. Hamilton, a summer resident on the north shore of Pelican Lake, became Fawcett's partner in the gambling casino. Hamilton operated the casino for a number of years and, after a disagreement with Fawcett, spent the next 22 years operating a casino in the British West Indies.

The main lodge had slot machines scattered throughout but the more sophisticated casino-type gambling,

A note to our readers: You may have noticed a change to our masthead which now states, "Published since 1927". A copy of a 1927 Breezy Pointer has been found and has prompted the change.

including two roulette wheels, crap and poker tables, were located in special private rooms in the lower level of the building.

With the exception of the WWII years when the Lodge was closed, gaming at the Lodge continued until the law changed in 1947. The gambling operation was then moved a few miles from the Lodge to "The Farm", a property owned by Fawcett's right-hand man, Gene Hawkins. Some years later, "The Farm" was raided, bringing a close to the open gambling in the area.

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.

Harry S. Truman

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE

Breezy Pointer

Employee Spotlight

Page 2

Ice Arena Plans Busy Season

Page 2

Trivia Test

Page 2

Dorothy Yund Will Be Missed

Page 2

Fact or Fiction?

Page 3

Timeshare Veterans Love Breezy Point

Page 3

From the Desk Of Bob Spizzo

Page 3

What's New at Breezy Point Resort?

Page 3

Timeshare Questions

Page 4

New Residents on Gooseberry Island

Page 4

Name the Boat Contest

page 4

Whitebirch, Inc. Mission Statement

To build together the most preferred resort with the best people providing superior service to our guests in an enjoyable, safe, efficient and profitable manner.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRainerd, MN
PERMIT 250

ECR WSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Employee Spotlight



Jerry Sundstrom and Al Schmidt

Long before the first golfers of the day have even thought about getting out of bed, Jerry Sundstrom and Al Schmidt will be found somewhere on the golf courses of Breezy Point Resort. Starting at 4 AM, they're behind the scenes, prepping the courses for another day of great golf.

Jerry, a 1965 graduate of Pequot High School, became a Resort employee on the golf course in June of 1967 when the front-nine of the Traditional Golf Course was the Resort's only course. The back nine had been out of use since the 1966 bankruptcy and had been reclaimed by Mother Nature.

After learning the basics of golf course maintenance, Jerry was instrumental in the rehabilitation of the back-nine in 1968.

Al, a 1966 graduate of

Pequot Lakes High School, returned to the area after serving in the U.S. Air Force and, with the encouragement of Jerry, became a Resort employee in 1971.

Jerry and Al are the proverbial "jacks-of-all-trades" when it comes to the operations of the golf courses. In addition to the obvious grass cutting duties on the fairways and greens, they have the responsibility for maintaining the irrigation systems, plantings, and hazards.

Without the benefit of a map of the irrigation lines, they know every inch of the lines on both courses.

Excavating to repair leaks is a common activity, particularly on the front-nine of the Traditional Course where the lines are the original steel pipe installed in the 1920s.

Working on the courses

comes with occasional excitement. Bears with little fear of man frequent the courses and have dens nearby.

When asked about memorable experiences, they both cited an early morning discovery of a woman's purse and unmentionables on one of the fairways. Concerned that they may have discovered the evidence of foul play, a call to the police was made. Later in the day, and to the relief of the Resort, the woman involved called the front desk to see if her property had been found.

After the close of the golf season and the winter preparation of the courses, Jerry passes the winter days playing pool and Al occupies himself playing cards. Their enthusiasm for their work would lead one to believe they spend the winter anxiously waiting for the spring opening of the courses.

Bob Spizzo, owner of Breezy Point Resort, said, "It's certainly gratifying to have Jerry and Al on our staff. Their expertise and loyalty to the Resort are second to none."

Ice Arena Plans Busy Season

The Winter 2009-2010 hockey tournament season is October 30, 2009 through March 28, 2010. Tournaments with 8 -16 teams are held every weekend with teams from all over Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Canada.

Breezy Point Arena is the home of the Acceleration Training Center. The Acceleration Program is scientifically proven to help increase athletes' speed and performance.

It includes a skating treadmill, plyo-press and hipflex machines, all designed to improve hockey players' skating, strides and speed.

The center also has a specialized running treadmill for other athletes in sports such as football, track, and soccer that helps increase their speed and endurance. Both team and individual training are available. For information, contact Bryan Henrichs at: bhenrichs@breezy-pointresort.com or 218-

562-5678.

Breezy Point Sports Inc. will again host the popular 2010 Summer Hockey Academy with week-long hockey camps and the Summer Training Program.

All of the camps and training programs feature the new Acceleration Treadmill Training and plyometric training programs. For camp dates and more information go to the website at: www.breezy-pointresort.com

Buy a \$100 Gift Card Get \$50

Call for details:
218 562-7147 or
800 432-3777 ext. 7147

Offer valid through December, 2009. Some restrictions apply.

Dorothy Yund Will Be Missed

The City of Breezy Point and Breezy Point Resort lost a good friend on September 27, 2009 with the death of Dorothy Yund.

Dorothy served on the

Breezy Point Planning & Zoning Commission for 20 years. Bob Spizzo, owner of the Resort, said, "Dorothy had a knack for digging into the issues and fostering a consensus that allowed the Resort to accomplish many difficult projects. She always had the best interests of the City at heart."

The Evolution of Breezy Point Resort, Part 8



This Resort shuttle was used heavily after the June 1977 fire destroyed the Supper Club

The start of the summer season was just around the corner. Arrangements were hastily made to fill the void left by the Supper Club. The 4 Seasons became the interim fine-dining location and a kitchen was built in the Convention Center. Area resorts volunteered their help and supplies.

The loss of the Supper Club's "Chandelier Room" forced the cancellation of the big-bands for the season.

The Resort's fear that it would now lose the conference business they'd been so fiercely fighting for was unfounded. Most groups stayed in spite of the loss of the Supper Club. In fact, the Resort landed the Minnesota Candy & Tobacco Association after pursuing them for 9 years. The association's executive director, Joe Robbie, was the owner of the Miami Dolphins football team.

The spring of 1977 had brought to the Resort a

new face. Bob Spizzo, today's owner of the Resort, arrived from San Carlos, Mexico. He and his family had been living there while he developed a resort community.

As he stepped off the airplane in Brainerd he was greeted by a cold blast of wintry air that made him instantly wonder if he should turn right around and return to the sunny beaches of Mexico.

He checked in to a waterfront Resort unit but was so cold that he couldn't sleep. Adding towels and rugs to his blankets didn't help. The next night he discovered an electric blanket that made it almost tolerable.

His original agreement

with the Resort owners would have him remain in Breezy Point for 3 years to assist in the development of 3000 acres of land. The development was projected to include the Whitebirch Golf Course, 750 campsites, hundreds of home sites and the start of a timeshare development.

Spizzo's introduction to the Resort's owners was through Jerry Lenz, whom Spizzo had worked with in Mexico and who previously had been a development partner of Don Eastvold when Eastvold owned the Resort.

The 1977 tourist season was a success, in spite of the Supper Club loss. Big changes were in store in 1978.

To be continued...

Trivia Test

1. Where was the Breezy Point Resort bowling alley?
2. What was the first Resort golf course?
3. Where was the Resort's outdoor swimming pool?
4. Where is the Resort's apple orchard?
5. Where are grapes growing within the Resort?

Answers on Page 4

Question: What is an undertaker?
Answer: An undertaker is a man who follows the medical profession.
Captain Billy's Whiz Bang, May, 1922

Whitebirch, Inc.
Family of Companies







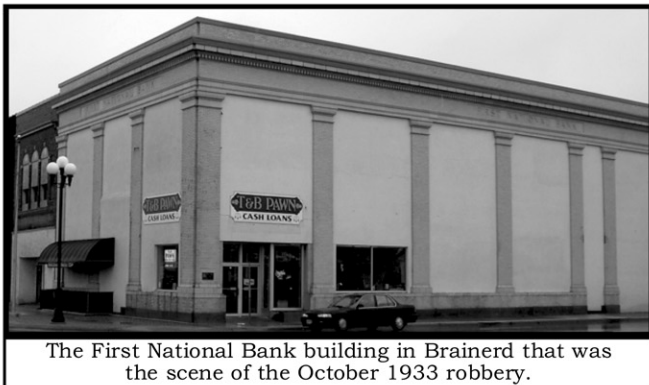

Mille Lacs Island Resort

Breezy Pointer

Published by
Whitebirch, Inc.
9252 Breezy Point Drive
Breezy Point, MN
Editor:
George A. Rasmusson

Fact or Fiction?

(Editor's note: Frequently we receive stories about the history of Breezy Point Resort that would be of interest to our readers. The accuracy of these stories and the memories of the tellers are not always clear and need a bit of research to uncover the facts. See the next issue for the results of our research.)



The First National Bank building in Brainerd that was the scene of the October 1933 robbery.

Tommy Carroll, a convicted felon and criminal associate of gangsters John Dillinger and Babyface Nelson, arrived in Brainerd in October of 1933. Along with Babyface Nelson and three others, they stayed at the Sebago Resort on Round Lake. Their visit was not a vacation.



"Babyface" Nelson

the law would be expecting them to travel south, headed north through Pequot Lakes and on to Breezy Point Lodge. Carroll, a habitual gambler, had heard of the gaming opportunities at the Lodge as well as the security measures in place to protect the wealthy guests from their expo-



Tommy Carroll

Their mission was the robbery of the First National Bank on the corner of South Sixth and Front in Brainerd. Having cased the bank and learning the names of the employees, they broke into the bank on the morning of October 23rd and waited for the automatic lock on the vault to open at 8:45 AM. Brandishing machine guns, they relieved the bank of \$32,000 and made their getaway.

The gang split up after the robbery and Carroll and Nelson, knowing

sure to the prying eyes of the Crow Wing County sheriff.

The Lodge was all but deserted. The cabins had been closed for the season but several rooms in the hotel were still available. A skeleton crew staffed the Lodge.

Carroll and Nelson settled in and went to the lounge for a few stiff drinks and a hand at the slot machines. Shortly after 9 PM the bartender quietly approached Nelson and told him they would be

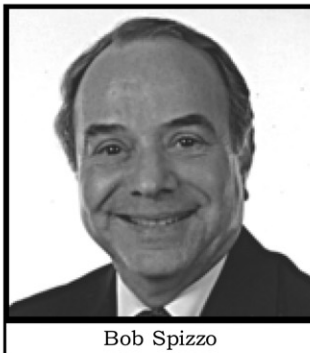
wise to stay away from the slot machines as there were several sheriff deputies approaching the Lodge.

Nelson panicked and asked what would be the best way to get out. He and Carroll were directed to a set of stairs at the end of the bar that would take them down to an escape tunnel leading to Gooseberry Island. Once there, they should wait for a boat to take them back to shore about a mile away. They tipped the bartender \$20 and headed for the tunnel, leaving over \$25,000 in stolen loot in their room.

After slogging their way through two feet of water in the dimly lit tunnel, they surfaced on the island and spent a cold, rainy night waiting for their boat ride. At daylight Jimmy Nye, a local carpenter, helped them into his boat and took them to shore.

It's not clear if they retrieved their car at the Lodge but they evaded the lawmen and safely made their way back to their hideout in St. Paul.

From the Desk Of Bob Spizzo



Bob Spizzo

Our family of employees is the backbone of Breezy Point Resort's success. We strive to employ only good-natured, pleasant and cheerful people. This selection of positive traits not only applies to our front-line employees, those who deal directly with our

guests, but to all employees in all departments. It has created an enjoyable working environment and makes perfect business sense.

For almost 90 years, Breezy Point Resort has been known for its superior service and friendly atmosphere. We will strive to continue this tradition and become even better as we expand the Resort.

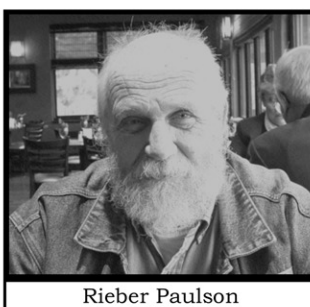
It is particularly gratifying for me when former employees stop in to visit and recall the great times they had working

here. For many it was their first job and their experiences here became a solid foundation for their working lives.

Each year the Resort is host to thousands of guests and timeshare owners. Their comments frequently mention how our entire staff has made them feel-at-home during their stay.

I'm confident that this personalized attention that our guests have come to expect will ensure Breezy Point Resort's successes in years to come.

Timeshare Veterans Love Breezy Point



Rieber Paulson

Rieber Paulson taught school for 35 years and was also a professional ski instructor. He and his wife, Ginny, live in Northfield, MN and have become experts in the advantages of timeshare ownership.

Timeshare owners at Breezy Point Resort since 1992, they now have 8 weeks at the

Resort. In addition, they have 6 weeks at Whistler, BC, Canada, 3 weeks at Christmas Mountain Village in WI, 2 weeks in Cocoa Beach, FL, 1 week in Sebastian, FL and 1 week in Okoboji, IA.

When asked what they like best about their timeshare weeks at Breezy Point Resort, the first comment is the great people. They've come to know many of the employees on a first name basis, particularly those on Rieber's favorite golf course, The Traditional. Running a close second is the beautiful location on

Pelican Lake. They also cite the attention to detail in the facilities and the wide array of amenities.

Not only do the Paulsons enjoy their timeshare weeks at Breezy Point, they recently hosted their family reunion around accommodations in the Fawcett House.

The Paulson's glowing praise for their Breezy Point timeshare experiences is a compliment to the Resort's employees. With their wide experiences from which to draw, it's the best endorsement possible.

My wife Mary and I have been married for forty-seven years and not once have we had an argument serious enough to consider divorce; murder, yes, but divorce, never.

Jack Benny

A person who can't pay gets another person who can't pay to guarantee that he can pay. Like a person with two wooden legs getting another person with two wooden legs to guarantee that he has got two natural legs. It don't make either of them able to do a walking match.

Charles Dickens

What's New at Breezy Point Resort?

The refurbishment of 29 Breezy Center units is continuing and will be completed over the winter.

Included in these improvements are new carpet, refrigerators, microwave ovens, log furniture, LCD TVs,

bathroom fixtures and granite countertops.

An internet cafe is being constructed in the Recreation Center. In addition to internet access, Caribou Coffee and a menu of other refreshments will be available.

World Travelers Visit the Resort

In the past year, Breezy Point Resort has been a vacation or conference destination for guests from all 50 states. 6 Canadian provinces,

Belgium, England, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Samoa Switzerland, Turkey and Spain.



1940 photo, taken in front of the Fawcett House, of Gene Autry, known as the "Singing Cowboy", with Marion Fawcett Bagg, Captain Billy's daughter, her son, William Fawcett Bagg, and her nephew, Gordon Fawcett, Jr.

Did you miss a copy of the

Breezy Pointer?

Previous issues are available on Breezy Point Resort's website:

www.breezypointresort.com



ANTLERS WINTER SPECIALS

(November and December - Call for January Specials)

Wednesday - "Way Back Wednesday"

All appetizers and our Famous Baby Back BBQ ribs---

HALF PRICE!

Ribs served with fries and cole slaw.

Thursday - "3-Course Thursday"

A rotating menu featuring salad, entrée and dessert!
ONLY \$13.95.

Friday - "Got Walleye?"

Minnesota's favorite fish prepared beer battered or broiled and served with cole slaw and fries for only \$12.95

Saturday - "Sizzling Steak Saturday"

16oz New York Strip served with a baked potato ONLY \$16.95.

Sunday - "Shrimply Speaking"

Open at 11:30 for Early Bird specials and our Deluxe Shrimp Platter - featuring Garlic-Broiled Bay Shrimp, Coconut Shrimp, Beer-Battered Shrimp and Chipotle-Lime Grilled Shrimp Skewers \$18.95!

Located at the Whitebirch Championship Golf Course on Highway 11, 1/2 mile west of the Breezy Point Resort gates. For reservations and information, call 218 562-7162

New Residents on Gooseberry Island

Gooseberry Island welcomed 3 goats as summer residents. The goats, owned by a Resort employee, spent their waking hours gorging themselves on poison ivy. They were also the source of surprise for some adventurous boaters who decided to explore the island.

TIMESHARE OWNER ID CARDS

We have had a great response to our request for all timeshare owners to receive the new ID Cards *free of charge*.

The new ID Cards are an integral part of Breezy Point Resort's security program and protect our timeshare owners, guests, employees and facilities from unauthorized access to the Resort property.

Numerous compliments have been received about the discounts the holders of the new ID Cards have received for dining and purchases at the Gift Shop.

The benefits of the new ID Card are obvious. Owners who opt to continue using their old card should be prepared to show proof of their timeshare ownership while on Breezy Point Resort property.

If you have not done so already, please call 218 562-4207 to schedule an appointment for the new ID Card.

Trivia Quiz

Answers to quiz on page 2

1. The main Lodge, mid 20s and the Convention Center, mid-60s.
2. The Traditional, 9 holes.
3. Where the parking lot is, behind the Convention Center.
4. Backyard of the Fawcett House.
5. The Traditional clubhouse.

Timeshare Questions

Is it possible to rent my timeshare week through the Resort?

YES - The resort has been successful in renting owner's timeshare weeks. The name recognition the Resort enjoys provides better exposure to potential guests. Although there is no guarantee, please contact Owner Services @ (218) 562-7155 for a Rental Contract.

Can I call the Resort to use my points for a stay at the Resort?

NO - The Points program is an RCI program and therefore to use your Points, even if you are wanting to vacation at your Home Resort, you must contact RCI at 877 968-7476.

What is happening with the timeshare

association's lawsuits?

Breezy Point Resort entered into a settlement agreement with the timeshare associations managed by Narveson Management. Under the terms of the agreement, it was the Resort's understanding that the associations agreed not to object to the Resort's construction of a new Marina restaurant and Dockside Lounge.

When several association representatives objected to the Resort's plans and sued the City regarding its approval of the plans, the Resort filed a lawsuit against the associations claiming that they had breached the agreement.

Recently, the court

issued a ruling in favor of the associations, saying that they did, in fact, have the right to voice objections to the Resort's Marina restaurant project.

Can I charge to my room?

YES - If you check in at the Breezy Point Resort Front Desk you may charge to your room.

Those owners/guests who check in at Breezy Point Timeshare located outside of the Resort's gates are not able to charge resort services to their rooms.

Although we would like to accommodate all of our guests, our computers are only linked to the Front Desk which is managed by the Resort.

ATTENTION WINTER GOLFERS!

Put away your snowshovels, grab you clubs and your friends and travel to the sunny beaches and fabulous courses of the famous El Cid Resort in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Breezy Point Resort will handle all of the details!

There's a golf vacation that will fit your needs and your checkbook!



For information Call Mark Johnson, Director of Golf at: 218 562-7177 or 800 432- 3777 ext. 7177

Name the Boat Contest

Breezy Point Resort is in need of a name for its new dinner cruise boat that will be plying the waters of Pelican Lake in the summer of 2010. If your suggestion is selected, you'll win a dinner-for-two at the Marina II restaurant.

Please send your suggested name to: info@breezypointresort.com

Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't.

Pete Seeger



Breezy Point Gift Shop...

your 1-stop source for your gift giving needs!

Whether it's for that hard-to-shop-for someone on your list or a little something you've been promising for yourself, you'll find the ideal gift every time!

Don't forget the advantages of the Breezy Point Resort Gift Card. It's always the perfect choice!

218 562-7152

Located in the Conference Center