

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 2, September 21, 2001



Young Lake Chaffee Scholars Waiting For Their Bus

School is back in session. Please be aware of children waiting for the bus or playing after school. All Children are welcome to submit essays or writings or drawings or poetry for the newsletter. Contact the Editor at 10 Perch Drive if you have any school related information you would like shared in the Newsletter.

LAKE CHAFFEE GETS ITS OWN WEBSITE: LakeChaffee.org

Bob Layton is an internet guru. He also lives on Lake Chaffee and operates an internet company from his home. He has volunteered his time and expertise to create a website for Lake Chaffee. The proposed website name will be LakeChaffee.org. The name is still available and we hope to establish a Lake Chaffee site that has a Home page, member telephone directory, Lake and Road Map, Archive Section, LCIA Leadership Section, Member Classified Section and Newsletter Section. It will be a great tool for our community now and in the future. The Lake Chaffee Newsletter hopes to work closely with Bob in securing advertisers on both the website and the newsletter, and in dissemination of information through both media. Thanks for volunteering your services Bob! If you have any web site related questions or can provide Bob with information about Lake Chaffee for the website you can call him at 429-2418 or e-mail him at rlayton@rlayton.net or <http://www.rlayton.net>.

SPOOKY FUN SCHEDULED AT THE ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Bingo Hall will be the scary sight for guaranteed spooky fun. On Sunday, October 28th at 2:00 p.m. the LCIA will host its annual Halloween Party. Donations for prizes and money to cover costs are being accepted by **Emmy King**, Vice President of the LCIA at 429-0711.

Bring all your little goblins and ghouls to this fun filled party where cup cakes, punch, and of course candy will be on the menu. There will be a costume-judging contest with prizes awarded. Entertainment of some sort will be provided. We will have a photographer taking pictures for the upcoming newsletter! We are also trying to secure donations to pay for safety flashlights as party gifts for the kids. So put on your masks and join us for some good clean Halloween fun.

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Fall Beach Cleaning Volunteers

Look for Signs and updates for a Fall Beach cleanup. Every Fall we try to clean the beach and rake up leaves. This makes opening the beach easier and keeps the lake from accumulating debris. **Sandy Moquin** (487-3619) is the Beach Committee Chair and has done a great job this summer of keeping things neat and orderly at the beach

HOLIDAY BAZAAR: ADVANCE HELP NEEDED

The Lake Chaffee Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 17, 2001. LCIA Vice President **Emmy King** reports that Baked Goods and information related to other donated items will need to be sent in advance. Please call Emmy at 429-0711 if you need further information regarding the annual Holiday Bazaar or want to get involved with this fund raising program.



BUDGET PASSES DESPITE CONCERN

On August 19, 2001 the annual budget meeting was held at the Bingo Hall. Over 38 Lake Chaffee residents attended this year's meeting. The meeting focused on this year's budget. Many traditional items had to be cut from this year's budget because the LCIA simply does not have the funds to spend. Items cut included the Fish Fund, which helps pay to restock the Lake with Fish. Lake Maintenance was cut. This includes water testing and dam repairs and maintenance. Beach Maintenance was cut. This includes the port-o-let and other beach related supplies. The LCIA board also cut the phone service to the Bingo Hall and we cut the Legal Fund, which provides us money for legislative questions and legal advice.

There was universal concern about the cancellation of water testing. Due to the drastic nature of LCIA finances the Board was left with no other options but to cut the item from the budget. Water tests had passed in all but one test prior to **the Budget Meeting**. Ironically, and coincidentally, after the budget meeting all water tests have failed (See related **story on Water Tests**).

This year's budget projects lower expected income from Bingo, and higher projected income from contributions. Last year the LCIA received \$364.00 in contributions as of July 1, 2001. In next year's budget the LCIA projects \$3000.00 in contributions. Without these contributions, the LCIA will fall short again in its budget and cease to be a fiscally solid community association. The Budget should be a wake up call to all residents that it is time to get involved and interested in the Lake Chaffee community, or the association will cease to function.

Water Tests Fail

Main Beach has been closed since the LCIA received notification from Columbia Environmental Laboratory of high Total Enterococcus scores on our water tests. The State of Connecticut Maximum Average allowable score is 61/100ml. On August 14, 2001 the score was 120/100ml, on August 19, 2001 the score was 100/100ml, on August 31, 2001 the score was 120/100ml. Earlier in the summer we had one failed score that was directly attributable to the geese infestation. All other tests had passed until the August 14 test. The mid August scores are not attributable to geese because the geese did not return en masse until the end of August. We must be vigilant in policing pollution of the lake and maintain the highest purity of the water possible for our safety and the safety of all the children who use the lake.

Its safe to boat, but don't please don't swim at the beach



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LCIA Dues are Due!

This past week our annual assessment dues, revenue drive letter, and raffle tickets were mailed to each member of the LCIA. The \$50.00 minimum dues are due by November 1, 2001. The Newsletter will publish a "Halos" for those who pay more than their dues. **Gay Leedie**, President of the LCIA, outlined in her letter to all LCIA members the drastic need for increase in revenue. In her letter she described that we are limited to collect a minimum of only \$50.00 per member property. The annual dues were established in the 1980's and have been frozen since that time. Unfortunately Costs associated with lake and road maintenance have skyrocketed. This creates our budget shortfalls. If every property owner paid \$100.00 we could alleviate our fiscal woes, and begin to address our maintenance needs and plan for future improvements. Please consider these factors when making out your check or checks to the Association.

Announcements Section

Several Lake Chaffee residents have been active in local and state politics. -**Eugenie Bagley**, alternate member of our Lake Chaffee Board of Directors, is running for the Ashford Library Board of Directors to fill the seat vacated by Carol Northrop, who had resigned. - **Harry (Bud) Bagley** is a Lake Chaffee resident who is a member of the Ashford Democratic Town Committee, and is currently volunteering as a driver for Shawn Fisher, our own Ashford resident, who is running for the Second Congressional District in 2002. **The Circle Goes Unbroken**

-Jane Cole has a new granddaughter' **Grace Emily Tiemann** was recently born to proud parents **Jennifer and Bill Tiemann**. Jennifer is Jane's daughter, and was brought up on the lake. We congratulate Jane Cole on the birth of her new granddaughter and look forward to seeing young Grace continue the family tradition of enjoying life on the lake.

Accomplishments from Last Year

Last year through fundraising, volunteers, and the leadership of the LCIA Board, we accomplished some great things. The Hall was painted, a new linoleum floor was installed, and new water saving toilets were added. What great things will we accomplish this year?

Hall of Fame Inductees:

At the July 15, 2001 meeting of the LCIA, a list of Hall of Fame inductees was proposed and voted on. The following people were nominated to the Lake Chaffee Hall of Fame. **Paul Krebs James Testa Pauline Backhaus Bernie Raymond Robert Kersten Betty Dunn Gay Leedie**. A list of the inductees will be engraved and added to the plaque located in the Lake Chaffee Hall (also known as Jack Pirzl Hall).

All of these people have generously donated their time and talents to benefit the community. Many of these long time members of the LCIA

formed the foundation of what is the community today. We are all grateful and indebted to them for their efforts on all of our behalf. In future newsletters we hope to gather information about many of the members of the Hall of Fame. Many of the Hall of Fame still live at the lake. Some are no longer with us. In order to give a lasting legacy to their efforts we are asking everyone who has information about members of the Hall of Fame to please submit in writing facts and details to be included in these future biographical articles. Submit any information to the Editors at 10 Perch Drive.

BINGO FLYERS AT THE FAIR

Several hundred Bingo flyers were placed at the Bingo Booth at the Woodstock County Fair over Labor Day Weekend. Other members of the LCIA Community have been posting flyers at other local events and at community businesses. Enclosed in this newsletter is the same Bingo Flyer that hundreds of people picked up from the Woodstock Fair. If you know of any high visibility places or events to publicize Bingo Night, please make copies of the enclosed flyer for distribution and post them. Bingo Night has been our top fundraiser for years. Without your support and efforts this community social and fundraising institution could be in danger of ending.

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LCIA PLEADS ITS CASE TO FOXWOODS

In an effort to raise awareness, and seek assistance, the following letter was sent to Mr. Michael Holder of the Foxwoods Resort and Casino. Michael Holder is a Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Member who started his career with the Bingo Hall at Foxwoods as a trainee and is now Vice President of Bingo Operations.

August 29, 2001 Dear Mr. Holder We are members of the Lake Chaffee Homeowners Association in Ashford Connecticut. We are a small lake community in Northeastern Connecticut that has several hundred residents, a general store, firehall, package store, and Bingo/Community Hall. For years Bingo was our primary source of income and revenue raising. Unfortunately for us, Bingo is no longer raising the funds necessary for upkeep of roads and services for our community and our children. Many of our members utilize your Casino. Several of our longtime community leaders and Bingo volunteers drive other residents to your Casino on Sundays for a day in the Casino and a session in the Bingo Hall. We congratulate you on your success and your Casino's willingness to sponsor and fund many community programs.

Out as Foxwoods has grown, our weekly Saturday Night Bingo game has dwindled. We cannot compete with you. **Our Bingo revenues have dropped substantially in recent years.** In 1990-1991 we raised over thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000.00) in combined Bingo and Sealed Ticket Bingo Sales. This past year, we raised only slightly more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) in combined receipts. During our recent budget meeting, we came to the stark realization that Bingo is now losing money. Because of this budget shortfall, we have been forced to cut many programs and necessities from our projected budget for next year.

We are a specially chartered community that by State Law is limited in the amounts of annual dues we may collect or assess from our Association Homeowners. This severely hampers our ability to raise revenue. Without Bingo or some other new form of revenue, we will be unable to meet our community's needs. Our roads are in need of repair, our community center needs repair and a new septic system, our basketball backboard is broken, and we have been advised by the State Environmental Protection Agency that we need to investigate a new water/wastewater/sewer system that will cost approximately six million dollars.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your help. We are the last small independent community Bingo game left in this part of Connecticut. We would greatly appreciate any insights you may have to keep our Bingo game and our community programs alive. We welcome your comments, ideas, suggestions or financial support. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Very Truly, The Members of the Lake Chaffee Improvement Association (Signed by Board Members)

ADVERTISING RATES

We are currently soliciting local businesses and professionals for placing ads in our newsletter. One intrepid realtor has already paid for ad space in the newsletter thanks to the efforts of Sandy Moquin. We hope for more advertisers in future newsletters. All funds collected from advertisers will go to the Lake Chaffee fund, for community programs and maintenance, and to cover costs associated with the newsletter. Ad rates are as follows:

\$5.00 per issue/\$35 year
Business card ads

\$15.00 per issue/ \$100 year
1/4 page sized ad

\$25.00 per issue/ \$200 year
1/2 page sized ad

\$50.00 per issue/\$350 year
full page sized ad

To find out more or place an ad call the Editor at 429-6285

Sign Work Ahead

LCIA President Gay Leedie is planning on placing a Lake Chaffee sign in a prominent spot near Bubba T's. This sign will be used to encourage Bingo Night Traffic and also notify Lake residents of upcoming LCIA events. Also look for notices at Bubba T's, the Corner Package Store, The Main Beach, and the Bingo Hall in the future.

ICE CREAM!! YOU SCREAM!! WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

SOCIAL A SUCCESS!! Prior to the August 19, 2001 budget meeting the newly elected Lake Chaffee Board of Directors hosted an Ice Cream Social. All the ice cream, toppings, and goodies were donated by LCIA board members. Meeting attendees munched on ice creams with all the toppings including sprinkles, cherries, and other yummys. Some amazingly creative ice cream sundaes were created. Over \$50.00 was donated by generous and civically minded folks who attended the meeting. Our thanks to all who helped us eat the ice cream and made donations.

LCIA Newsletter Survey

At the recent organizational newsletter meeting, a newsletter survey was discussed. We are in the process of preparing a survey to find out what residents like, what they dislike, what their vision of the lake is, and what they want from LCIA programming. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the **Survey** please contact the Editors at 10 Perch Drive or 429-6285.



Eugenie Bagley, Marilyn Delgrosso, Irene Gates, Emmy King, Ingrid Hanka and Jane Cole were among the attendees at the September Newsletter Meeting held at 10 Perch Lane. Next Month's Meeting is scheduled for October 3, at 6:00pm

LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER MEETING HELD AT EDITOR'S HOME

On Wednesday September 5, an organizational meeting was held at 10 Perch Drive. **Lori Thompson**, (Welcome Wagon Chair, and **Bill Thompson's** better half) provided munchies and new resident Irene Gates generously provided yummy cake for the meeting which started out more like a smorgasbord and ended as a substantive and successful meeting of minds. Attendees at the meeting included **Eugenie Bagley, Marilyn Delgrosso, Irene Gates, Emmy King, Ingrid Hanka, Dennis Flaherty**, and Jane Cole. We will be holding other meetings in the future. Anyone interested in volunteering with future newsletters are invited to our next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm October 3, 2001 at 10 Perch Drive. People with letters to the editor or submission ideas are welcome to drop them by our box in the entry porch of our home anytime.

Name That Newsletter!

The *Lake Chaffee Newsletter* wants a new name, and we are inviting all lake residents to submit their ideas for a name. Previous names in the past for the newsletter are as follows:

The *Lake Chaffee Newsletter*

The *Lake Chaffee Gazette*

Lake Chaffee News We want a catchy, fun and interesting name that everyone will remember and everyone will want to read. Please submit any name ideas to the Editor's box on the entry porch on 10 Perch Drive.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT: Water Celery Not Invasive

Lake Chaffee resident and Environmental Chair **Robert Kerstan** recently reported in our August 19, 2001 meeting that the stringy grass that washes up on the lake shore is not an invasive reseeding grass. Bob presented two "rake" options to be used to control the weeds in the lake. One is a traditional weed cutter that can be purchased from Home Depot for about \$18.00. The other was a "rake" made from a metal rake with a bow saw attached to it. Either can be used to remove the

weeds from the lake by hand, or from a boat with a trolling motor. This is a good alternative to the harrow rake that the association possesses but which needs to be used with a boat that has a gas motor.

Bob researched the type of weed and determined it to be Water Celery Tape Grass. This weed is healthy for fish life, but is a nuisance. This weed does not reseed, so cutting it will not induce further infestation. When water clarity in good, this weed problem manifests.

FISH STOCKING A SUCCESS

Ed King, Jason Sherman, and Marilyn Delgrosso all helped with this year's fish restocking. **Bubba T's** and the **Corner Package Store** put out donation cans that raised over \$431.42 in donations for fish restocking. **Joe's Bass** of Windsor Locks was contracted to provide Bass, Perch, Bullhead, and Crappies fish. Thanks to these volunteers' efforts our lake is stocked full of fish which will bring us sport fishing opportunities and will be a healthy addition to our lakes' ecosystem.

Unfortunately, the LCIA is unable to budget its matching funds for fish donations this year. We will need to raise more funds through donations to reinstitute this worthwhile community endeavor of matching donations with LCIA funds.

Next year's Fish Restocking Co-Chairs will be **Mike Grant and Richard Rodriguez**. Mike and Richard attended the September 12th Board of Directors Meeting and Mike conveyed some excellent ideas for keeping restocking costs down. You can contact Mike at 487-3595 if you have any questions or wish to get involved with Fish Restocking.

Neighbors: Fact not Fiction by Ingrid Hanka 36 Lakeview Dr.

When you move **into a community such as ours, you're bound to** meet people. A simple walk to get the mail almost guarantees bumping into someone. But how many of you thought you'd move here and gain a bunch of new friends?

Three years ago, my husband Erik, son Scott (oh, and we can't forget 2 dogs and cat) and myself moved here. We were immediately greeted by people living in the area. The simple fact you could always find us out in the yard during our renovation process was enough excuse for people to stop and chat. Maybe it was curiosity at first that stopped them in their tracks to talk, but it was their warm friendly nature that made them friends and brought about many more "meetings" in the future.

And conversation was the least of what we gained. Have you ever heard the expression "Actions speak louder than words!"? Well, check out these actions from our neighbors and friends we are lucky enough to have surround us.

It's a very cool and kind of creepy night, ghosts and goblins every where (Halloween 2000 to be exact). I was on my front porch when out of nowhere ... comes this voice "I brought you a TREAT." I strained at first to see and suddenly brought into focus Lori from across the street. Not empty handed of course but with a loaf of homemade bread. I stared at her in amazement. Who is this woman, newer to the Lake than I, with a husband and a child of her **own, working full time** and delivering homemade bread on a weeknight? I was amazed and taken aback. Truly one of the kindest gestures ever. I remember going to work the next day and bragging about my good fortune the night before.

But the kindness did not end there. Oh, no. On an even colder December afternoon, we spotted her husband Bill trekking across the street to our home. But what in the world was he carrying? Turned out to be a Christmas gift, homemade cocoa in hand crafted jars and cookies. "Merry Christmas to Erik, Ingrid and Scott from Bill, Lori and Talisse." The cocoa and cookies were delicious!

And did I mention our home is across from our own personal farmers' market? Every year, even before we had finished remodeling our home, Pauline Backhaus has shared her delicious and bountiful produce with us; cucumbers, broccoli and beans. But I think what I have enjoyed most of all is her beautiful Gladiolas. Anyone driving down Lakeview surely has seen them. Near the end of each summer as most other flowers are retreating to the earth, these beauties are soaring high and refuse not to be seen. They always make the most beautiful centerpiece on our kitchen table.

I have a few more "super people" on the lake to mention. Any one know Morris, he drives a blue Cavalier? Did you know he is a computer professional? Takes the old and makes them new again. He stopped and chatted with Erik one day. He could not believe we did not have our own computer. Apparently Morris felt it was his job to fix this dilemma because the next day he delivered to our front door the works. Yes, a computer and keyboard with all the software and even a mouse pad! A few days later he brought another bag of software. I was expecting one of his major organs next, you know, a kidney or something. But seriously folks this all happened completely out of the blue without any provocation from us. What a great and generous guy!

Then there is my lifelong friend from up the road, Robin. We have been friends since we were 5 or 6. We seem to follow each other around even as adults. She is one of the handiest types of neighbors to have around. She will generously give you or let you borrow anything, and I mean anything (i.e. Eggs, Milk, Wine, Wheelbarrow, Tarp, Volleyball Net, Makeup, Clothing, CD, Toilet paper). At any rate, thanks for everything. We're so lucky to have you in our neighborhood.

In closing, I have two more special people to mention. They live two streets up behind us. Anyone ever seen a young man and woman walking with a white Siberian Husky, fishing pole in hands? That is John, Colleen, and Timber. I don't remember how we first started talking but I do know it was pretty much from the beginning. Quite possibly it was the fact that we also have a Husky (I'll leave our coonhound out of this) that gave us an excuse to chat. But that is the least of what keeps us talking. Since our initial introductions we've shared dinners, many holiday greetings, good wishes and cheer at our wedding, and LOTS of talk about fishing with the guys. They never forget to stop and bring our dogs a treat on their walk each night. Sadly for us, they are moving away. Not far though, thank goodness. John and Colleen recently became engaged and **have set a date for early Spring 2002**. Congratulations! They have decided to start their new life at a new house. We will miss you but I know we will keep in touch. Just one question, can we still call you neighbors even though you will be living in Tolland? I know we can call all of you Friends.



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Creative Corner: Quote for the Month

Neighborhood: Not a geographic term. It is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of man's (and women's) dignity and integrity. -Joachim Prinz **Editorial Comment: Flags Commemorate Victims and Condemn Anarchy**

Flags were flown at half-mast at million miles away from The Lake Chaffee's Fire Hall to World Trade Center. We are a commemorate the fallen victims safe haven. We are a of this past weeks terrorist community of neighbors who attacks. It is unfortunate and look after each other and care tragic that people can pursue for each other. We live in a terrorism and foster anarchy. special part of the state where Our country has received a crime rates are low and people cold-blooded wake up call that generally respect each others we must be ever vigilant against property and safety. We must these types of terrorist attacks. remain vigilant to protect our The government's role is to children and keep our protect its citizenry, but its community a safe haven. We citizenry also have a duty to be need to encourage involvement informed and involved. An and give people alternatives to apathetic and uninformed apathy. Apathy leads to citizenry leads to a weakened anarchy, whether it be in and unresponsive government. destruction of property, or Lake Chaffee seems to be a diminution of life, or failure to

keep systems functioning properly. In national terms, this means failure to keep our highways or our airways safe and operating smoothly, or failure to protect citizens from attacks. In local terms, this means a failure to keep roads safe and repaired or failure to keep the lake safe and sanitary. Lake Chaffee is a small community, but we have the same challenges that face our state and federal governments. We must get involved and cease to remain indifferent if we are going to remain a viable self-sustaining community.

By: Bill Thompson
10 Perch Dr.

To Contact the LCIA Board

If you have questions or concerns regarding your community or the LCIA, you should feel comfortable

President: Gay Leedie, 58 Ashford Dr, 487-3754
Vice President: Emmy King, 127 Lakeview Dr., 429-0711
Secretary: Linda Parent, 129 Lakeview Dr., 487-6028
Treasurer: Jack Pirzl, 3 Amidon Dr., 487-3736
Directors:

Sharon Bickford, **12 Westford Dr., 429-7473**
Marilyn Delgrosso, 121 Lakeview, 487-3740
Dennis Flaherty, 131 Lakeview, 429-3418, 870-9522
Betty Dunn, 23 Shorefront Dr., 487-3944
Bill Thompson, 10 Perch Dr., 429-6285
Sandra Moquin, 41 Lakeview, 487-3619

Director Alternates:

Eugenie Bagley, 54 Ashford Dr., 487-4203, 487-3524
Jason Sherman, 5 Oak Dr., 487-4607
Gerry Dufresne, 87 Lakeview, 487-3590

Lake Chaffee Newsletter

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the association itself. Newsworthy articles or photographs are welcome and may be sent to the above address or delivered to 10 Perch Drive.



Pauline's FlowersA

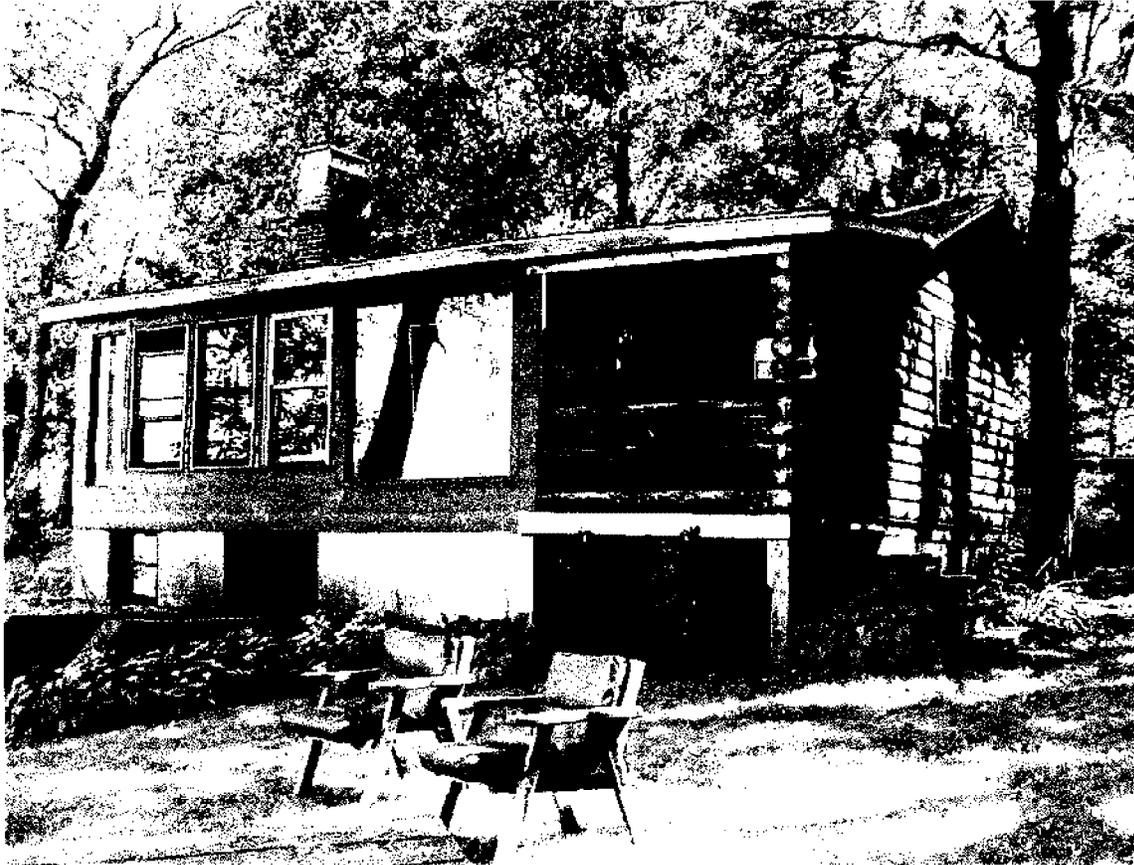
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