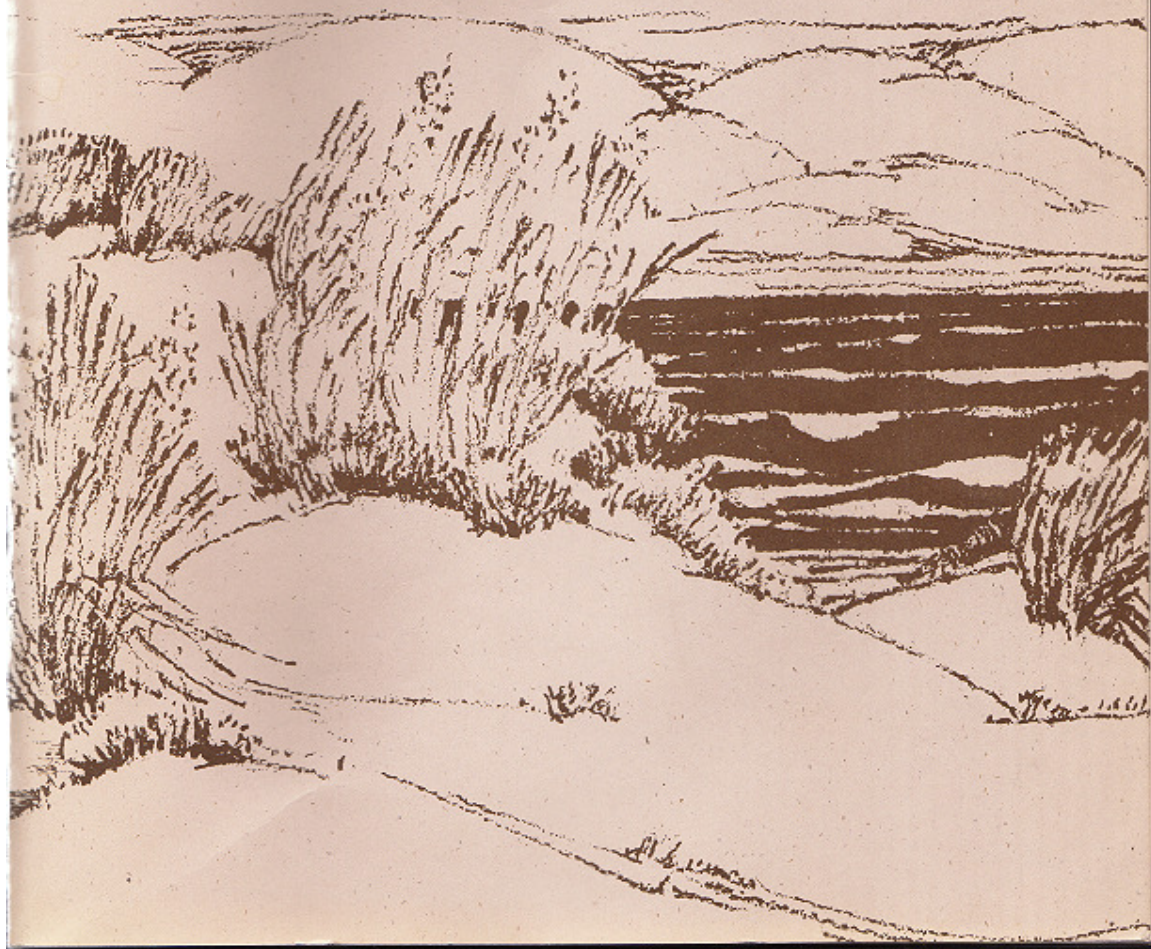


# Dune Acres

75th Anniversary  
Celebration

## The History of Dune Acres





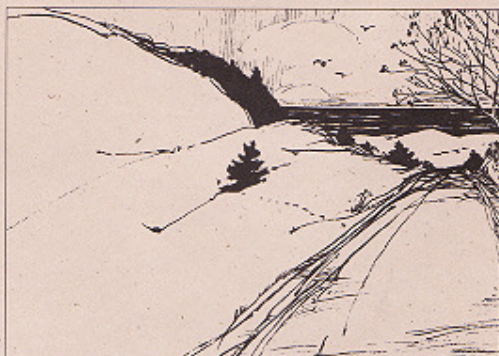
## Preface

The Dune Acres Historical Commission was established in late 1988 by Town Board President Del Wilkes with Margaret Doyle, James Newman and the late Gertrude Conklin as members. In the intervening decade, we have through the

enthusiastic support of residents accumulated an impressive archive of materials preserving Dune Acres history. We have also taped interviews with a number of residents (though not as many as we would have liked) and, beginning in 1990, have issued a series of ten 'Occasional Papers', setting forth aspects of town history.

As the 75th Anniversary of Dune Acres approached, it was suggested that we consolidate the Occasional Papers into a book. That turned out not to be feasible. So much information had been acquired since we started and so much had been learned about our past that it seemed best to start afresh. Actually, not quite afresh, since the Occasional Papers provided a skeleton account from which we worked. Only the account of the great fire of 1949 and the section on the Bailey Nuclear Site have been incorporated without change. The other chapters will seem partly familiar and partly new.

From the beginning we have worked as a team on all our projects. We met frequently at Gertrude Conklin's over a glass of sherry to decide whom to interview next or what subject to pursue for an Occasional Paper. We are sorry that Gertrude did not live to see the product of her labors. Since her death, we have continued in the same spirit. Jim Newman has been responsible for the writing of both the Occasional Papers and the history. Margaret Doyle has done most of the interviewing and has also been responsible for collecting photographs. But both have worked together on each part of the project.



We want to thank all those who dug through old albums and boxes of old photos, or who went through their files to find letters and documents for their contributions to the archives. Thanks are due, too, to those who allowed themselves to

be interviewed, or added to our knowledge by personal recollections. We thank in particular, Barbara Plampin whose wisdom about our natural setting is included in an Appendix and Dan Jenkins who accumulated the list of town officials. Our gratitude also to those who read and improved the rough draft: Barbara Smith, Mary Alice Newman and Robert Hartmann. Most especially, we want to thank the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation for underwriting the publication of this history, and for other generous support of the work of the Historical Commission.

The line illustrations were done by the late Helen Brown in the 1960's and 1970's. She was an architect by training and lived in retirement on Beach Drive with her sister Louise and their friend Olga Adams. She made these sketches for friends from time to time.

We begin our story a little before the Town was founded with a bit of prehistory, and we close with the renovation of the Clubhouse in 1989-1991. This is more or less 75 years and leaves the next historians of Dune Acres with the 1990's as a running start.

We hope this volume expresses the collective memory of Dune Acres and the affection that its residents feel for it. We dedicate it to all those who will live here in the future and, we trust, preserve the spirit of this unique community.

**Dune Acres Historical Commission**  
**James Newman**  
**Margaret Doyle**  
**June, 1998**



To Lynda and Howard Silverman with best regards  
Margaret Doyle

James Newman



#### Dune Acres Board Members:

NAME	FROM	TO
Arthur P. Melton	11/28/23	2/6/32
S. M. Hunter	11/28/23	10/7/39
Mary R. Spring	11/28/23	1/1/24
Edith B. Melton (Clerk-Tr.)	11/28/23	10/7/39
William F. Wirt	8/2/24	12/5/25
Ruth Marhofer	1/2/26	1/4/30
John C. Read	2/15/30	12/2/33
Peter I. Mills	5/4/33	12/7/35
Leo I. Johnston	1/6/34	12/13/47
H. B. Snyder	1/11/36	12/14/59
Albert Fertsch (Clerk-Tr.)	1/6/40	12/13/47
Clarence Elder	1/6/40	5/10/47
Donald M. McNamara	5/10/47	11/11/51
L. R. Steere	1/11/48	1/4/53
H. R. Miller (Clerk-Tr.)	1/11/48	12/14/59
T. Hunton Rogers	12/9/51	12/14/59
Chester Bronski	2/15/53	12/14/59
Phil Brockington	1/1/60	12/31/63
R. W. Force	1/1/60	12/11/61
M. D. Sanders	1/1/60	12/31/63
A. H. Studebaker (Clerk-Tr.)	1/1/60	12/31/63
Robert E. Bonin	1/8/62	12/31/63
James Savage	1/1/64	9/30/66
Norman Burns	1/1/64	12/31/67
Edwin Carlson	1/1/64	12/31/67
Louis Kollar (Clerk-Tr.)	1/1/64	12/31/75
Darrell Booth	10/1/66	1/1/67
Leonard Conklin	1/4/67	12/31/67
James Halley	1/1/68	2/20/74
Hampton Williams	1/1/68	12/31/75
Dan Jenkins	1/1/68	12/31/75
Robert Hartmann	3/13/74	12/31/79
Gregory Miles	1/1/76	12/31/79
Jean Sprague	1/1/76	12/31/79
James Bapst (Clerk-Tr.)	1/1/76	12/31/83
Leon Gardner	1/1/80	12/31/83
Mary Ann Tittle	1/1/80	12/31/83
Tom Cornwell	1/1/84	12/31/87
Faith Halley	1/1/84	12/31/87
Robert Hartmann	1/1/84	8/31/85
Marie Jenkins (Clerk-Tr.)	1/1/84	12/31/87
Margaret Doyle	9/17/85	12/31/87
Delano Wilkes	1/1/88	12/31/91
Donald Koehler	1/1/88	12/31/91
Sharon Snyder	1/1/88	12/31/91
James Bapst (Clerk-Tr.)	1/1/88	12/31/91
Robert Hartmann	1/1/92	12/31/95
William Dickey	1/1/92	1/18/96
John Norris	1/1/92	12/31/95
Beverly Hubbs (Clerk-Tr.)	1/1/92	12/31/95
William Hauschildt	1/1/96	8/15/96
Yolanda Steiner	1/18/96	12/31/99
Benjamin Bolton	1/1/96	12/31/99
Louise Roberts (Clerk-Tr.)	1/1/96	12/31/99

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## Introduction

The Town of Dune Acres was established in 1923. What was here before that date? Were there any settlers? How, if at all, was the land used? What made possible the establishment of this kind of community in 1923?

We should consider these questions briefly before moving on to the narrative history of the town. First,

we need to place Dune Acres in its larger setting. Until early in the 20th century a great swamp ran from west of Gary almost to Michigan City, making access to Lake Michigan difficult. Cowles Bog and the marshes on each side of the present Mineral Springs Road were



part of that great swamp. In the Dune Acres area, early white settlers established their farms on the solid ground south of the wetlands. "But they came into what we call Cowles Bog to cut marsh hay and across it to the dunes for firewood and lumber. An 1876 Platbook seems to show a road across the bog where Mineral Springs Road now runs, and an early 20th century map shows a number of wagon trails running through the Dune Acres area. For decades, access to the lakeshore and dunes was available only to inland neighboring farmers and, of course, to the Indians and trappers and fur traders who came by lake.

The popular view of the dunelands at that time was no doubt expressed by the editor of the Chesterton Tribune in a news story of June 5, 1890, "without one bit of exaggeration, [it is] the most godforsaken place in the State of Indiana...in the midst of sandhills, swamps and sloughs and is headquarters for malaria, sandburs and bullfrogs."

But in the early 20th century, a new appreciation of nature was spreading, and the Indiana Dunes came to be treasured. The Prairie Club of Chicago played the leading role in opening the Dunes for recreational

use. In 1908, a group of sixteen organizations sponsored a series of Saturday afternoon walks. The walks were laid out, each to be led by a guide familiar with the region to be visited. One of the early walks was in the Indiana Dunes with 338 men and women participating. Out of this activity grew the Prairie Club. Incorporated in 1911, the Club set up its first overnight

camp in the Dunes in 1912, and thereafter brought hundreds of hikers and campers to the lakeshore each year.

Many enthusiasts from Gary and local communities as well as from Chicago built temporary dwellings along the shore, a base for summer (and sometimes, winter)

outings. William and Flora Richardson built such a shelter in what is now Dune Acres in 1910. The land belonged to a Chicago lawyer named Henry Leman. He had built a cabin on his land as early as 1894 and during and just after World War I had granted leases to eight such campers on his land. All up and down the shore from Miller to Michigan City were hundreds of such unheated cabins, making use of the miles of shoreline which had been despised not long before.

All of this had been made possible by construction of the Chicago, South Shore and South Bend Railroad, which began operating in 1908 with frequent stops in the Dunes, including one at Mineral Springs Road. Campers hiked in across the swamp from the train and went by way of the wagon trails to their cabins.

Thus the Dune Acres site was not completely unknown in 1923. For decades, neighboring farmers had come in for marsh hay and wood, and more recently, lovers of the outdoors had camped in makeshift dwellings along the shore. Now this pleasant and, in retrospect, idyllic use was to be replaced by permanent settlement.



# Chapter I

## Founding the Town

The Town of Dune Acres was founded by an election held on September 15, 1923, with nine voters participating. The question was: "Should the Town of Dune Acres be incorporated?"; the vote was 9-0 in favor. The vote had been set in motion by Dune Acres, Incorporated, a company which had been legally established some six months before on April 23, 1923. The election was held in the office of the Corporation, and the voters were its officers and directors (plus one wife). The Town was from the beginning a planned community and not the outgrowth of a previous settlement. And there existed from the beginning the close relationship between the Town of Dune Acres and Dune Acres, Incorporated.

Behind the Corporation was its unusual and impressive president, William A. Wirt, Superintendent of the Gary Public Schools. Wirt had shown unusual enterprise and creativity in organizing the Gary schools, introducing innovations in curriculum and in scheduling the school day which had made the "Gary System" famous throughout the country. He was also, (unusual for a professional educator), deeply involved in the business world as president of the National Bank of America (in Gary), and a persistently hopeful (although unsuccessful) real estate developer. Together with Colonel Arthur Melton, who planned the City of Gary from its inception in 1906, and William B. Ittner, architect of the Gary Public Schools, he had formed a company, Industrial Town Planning and Organizer, in 1920 with offices in the financial district of Chicago. Projects had been pursued in Mexico and in Casper, Wyoming, but they had not worked out. By March of 1922, the firm had a bank balance of only \$101.88 and was moving to less expensive quarters in Chicago. But in the summer of that year, these men had turned their attention to possible properties on the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The lakeshore had only



William Wirt

recently become more feasible for permanent development with the construction of a federal highway connecting Gary and Michigan City and then joining U.S. Highway 20 (the Lincoln Highway) a little further south. The new road was U.S. Highway 12, better known by its name, "the Dunes Highway", since all major routes had names in those days--the Lincoln Highway, the Atlantic, Yellowstone, and Pacific Highway, the Dixie Highway. Construction of the Dunes Highway was announced in 1919 and completed in 1923,

giving easy access to what were to become the Duneland communities--Ogden Dunes, Dune Acres and Beverly Shores.

William Wirt had a big break in early 1922. The State of Indiana had plans for an extensive state park in the dunes, which included not only the present park but also ran west including the area that is now Dune Acres. In 1922, the planners of the state park decided to cut back, eliminating the western section. As Wirt himself wrote in a letter to the Gary Post-Tribune (March 10, 1923), "As soon as I learned that the Park Association had decided to abandon the eight mile park plan and work for a three mile park instead, I immediately secured control of the west two and half miles of the original eight mile tract."

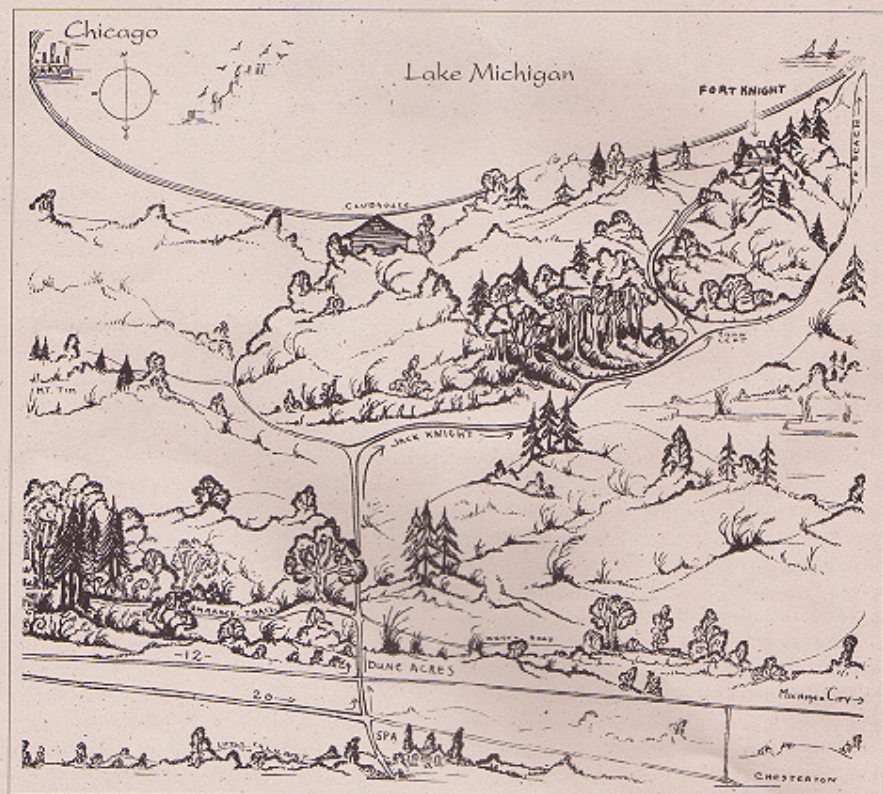
This tract, which was to become Dune Acres, had been owned by a Chicago Attorney, Henry W. Leman, since 1894. He had had a simple shelter on the property since his purchase and in recent years had granted eight leases to other campers. In December of 1922 he granted William Wirt a lease with an option to buy on 582.4 acres. Wirt transferred the lease to Dune Acres, Incorporated on July 2, 1924, and the Corporation at once began to purchase the leased land. Wirt's intention was to create an upscale suburban community, as he remarked to the Post-Tribune,



comparable to Winnetka and Lake Forest, his models for the new development.

This ambition seemed reasonable in the thriving and expanding Calumet region of the 1920's. By the 1920's, Northwest Indiana had been transformed. No longer was it largely a vast wetland. The city of Gary had been established by U.S. Steel in 1906 on swampland that had been drained, and Standard Oil of Indiana (now Amoco) had its refinery and research laboratories in East Chicago, also the home of Inland Steel. Hammond had been a prosperous city since the 19th century. The region was prosperous, and the dunes offered a beautiful setting for families who wished to live away from the industrial noise and pollution of the cities. The South Shore Railroad and the Dunes Highway made access easy not only for the

Calumet Region but from Chicago as well. Dune Acres, Incorporated had a great opportunity with its undisturbed holding of great natural beauty and a large market of urban dwellers who wished to live in such a beautiful natural setting. Luckily for later generations, these early planners made the most of their challenge. Colonel Melton was an experienced and sophisticated planner, and he appreciated the natural features he had to work with. He established the pattern of the east end of the present town (and established a model for the future west end), preserving dunes and blowouts, connected to one another by roads winding up the hillsides and through the woods. It was in this setting that the Town of Dunes Acres came into being on September 15, 1923.





# Chapter II

## Getting Started

Development of the town was in the hands of Dune Acres, Incorporated. In addition to Wirt and Colonel Melton, other incorporators were Harry Hall, a Realtor, C. R. Kuss, Treasurer of the National Bank of America (of which William Wirt was President), and C. V. Ridgely, an attorney often referred to as Judge Ridgely.

All were from Gary. Ittner the architect had dropped out, although he later built a house in Dune Acres. H. B. Snyder, Sr., whom many residents assume to have been a founder since he later played such a major role in the Corporation and the town, came into the picture only a few years later, taking over leadership in both the Corporation and the town during the Depression and until his death in 1961. He was owner and publisher of the Gary Post-Tribune.

All of these founding fathers were young business and professional men who had prospered in the new city of Gary. Gary, a creation of U.S. Steel in 1906, was a new city in all respects. Its government, commercial businesses, churches all came into being almost simultaneously in what had been a great wetland marsh. The new city had offered unusual opportunities for ambitious men of entrepreneurial spirit. Typical of them were William Wirt, who set up the nationally known school system, and Colonel Arthur Melton, who had laid out the city on filled in wetlands. One feels that the energy, enthusiasm, and freedom to plan creatively of the Gary experience carried over to the development of Dune Acres. Certainly, Colonel Melton was free of conventional patterns of construction as he laid out Dune Acres departing from the usual grid pattern for one which followed "natural" contours.

The first task of the Corporation was construction of the roads, utilities and water lines. Wirt found a talented right-hand man in his wife's nephew, Alden



Colonel A. P. Melton

Studebaker. He arrived in Dune Acres by motorcycle on Armistice Day (November 11), 1924, to take over the supervisory role. His sons state that he stayed in the Clubhouse, which must have been the first building erected in Dune Acres. He built a house for himself, (at 32 Crest Drive) in 1925, and married Naomi Chellburg (of the Chellburg farm family) in 1926.

They had two sons, Henry and Arthur, who were born and raised in Dune Acres. Studebaker worked for the Dune Acres Corporation until the Depression in the early

thirties. The Corporation then sold their construction material and equipment to him, and he worked as a general contractor until the beginning of World War II. Almost all the houses constructed in Dune Acres through 1941 were built by Alden Studebaker, and he was also the designer of many of them.

Building the original roads was in itself a complicated challenge. These roads were usually built on a base of hauled-in clays, which was then given a top coating of stones or crushed rock. The stones used for the top coating were brought by the South Shore Railroad to a Mineral Springs siding, hand shovelled off into trucks and hauled across the swamp. The road across the swamp kept sinking since it rested on peat, and additional material frequently had to be placed on top. By the mid-thirties, the road had become so bad that massive action was called for: forty carloads of stone were brought in and the road finally stabilized. It was still at risk from time to time, however, from hazards such as beavers who built dams nearby, causing the road to flood.

Preparation of roadbeds within the town required heavy machinery, not bulldozers as one might expect, but machines pulled by huge draft horses. Horses were also used to pull big slips full of gravel from the beach for the manufacturing of cement blocks. The



horses and slips, also 'Fresnos' and wagons, were used in excavating for houses, as well as for road building. The horses were pastured in a fenced-in area on Fern Lane, which at that time was platted through from Ridge Drive to East Road. (This part of Fern Lane was vacated in the early 1960's.) The horse pasture was in the low flat area behind 16, 18, and 20 Crest Drive.

This area had other uses, too. A small storage shed was located there, and for a while a cement block operation was carried on at this site. The Corporation also had a large construction shed (about 20' by 50') on East Road, near Lupine Lane. This building had an office in it, and for a number of years in the mid-thirties one of Studebaker's employees, Gus Anderson (usually known as 'Old Gus') lived there.

Alden Studebaker had from the beginning made his own cement blocks. At first many were made right on the beach. Later, gravel from the beach was brought to the site on Fern Lane, and an employee was kept busy full time making blocks. These early blocks were hand tamped by Old Gus and the other workers, who were all from the local area—mostly farmers.

In 1937, Studebaker moved the cement block operation to a mini-industrial area adjoining the rear of lots 68, 69, and 70 on East Road. This land was leased from a Mr. Tackett (who built the first house in the West End). A new plant was built on this site, and a machine with a motor driven power tamper and belt feeder was installed. Henry and Alden Studebaker have described the operation of the plant, which "could be operated with as many as two people up to five—depending on how fast you wanted to make the blocks. The top production rate was two per minute or 120 per hour. One thousand per day was the record."

At first the plant was used primarily for making blocks for Studebaker's contracting business in Dune Acres. Before long, however, the blocks were in demand by outside builders also, and the plant functioned on a larger scale. A public school in Hebron, a number of houses in Michigan City, and a garage in Valparaiso were built from 'Studie' blocks—a name by which local workers still refer to the cement blocks from the Dune Acres plant. The last year of any significant production was 1947. The plant was destroyed by the forest fire of 1949.

Almost all of the log houses in Dune Acres, except for the Clubhouse, were built by Alden Studebaker. The logs came from Oregon and had to be precise in shape and taper to fit together properly. The logs were hauled from the South Shore in a specially devised rig, piled along the road at the building site, then lifted into place by a 'gin pole', a pulley device about twenty

or thirty feet tall. For houses at high elevations along the ridges, for example, along East Road, Circle Drive, and Beach Drive, railroad tracks were built on which carts carried the logs and other materials to the top, power provided by a one and one-half ton truck.

No houses were built in Dune Acres during World War II. During this time, Studebaker gradually slowed down to farming and left the Dune Acres building and



House at 18 Circle Drive under construction, 1932

maintenance to others. Bob Greer took over the snow plowing and road maintenance contracts during the World War II, and when the town expanded west of Mineral springs road after the War, he built the roads. By then, Dune Acres was a well-established community.

Dune Acres presented special challenges to a builder, and Alden Studebaker showed great ingenuity in meeting them. He put in the infrastructure and built the original houses. He was a suitable match for his equally remarkable uncle, William Wirt, and for other Dune Acres pioneers.





# Chapter III

## Before the War

Until after World War II, residential Dune Acres was confined to the First Subdivision—the West End of that period being Shore Drive, Oak and Linden lanes. But a move further west was developing on the eve of

war, as building permits were issued to William Tackett and F. E. Kilbourn for houses on what would become West Road (now numbers 54 and 48). Their access at that point was by a makeshift roadway. West Road itself was not constructed until the end of the war in 1945.

The new town got off to a promising start. The Guesthouse and Clubhouse were opened for business in 1926 and the golf course laid out at the same time. The choicer lots were sold and building permits issued for them in the prosperity of the 1920's. William Wirt himself chose as a site the noble bluff at the corner of East Road and Beach Drive (74 East Road). Lakeshore lots on East Road and on Oak, Shore, Crest and Beach drives were purchased first, for the most part by business and professional people from Gary or executives associated with Inland or U.S. Steel. A number of Chicago families were among the early purchasers, but significantly only one was from Chesterton. Colonel E. L. Morgan, of the pioneer family that founded Chesterton, built a log house on the beach at 5 Beach Drive for his daughter Eleanor and her husband John Read.

Almost all of the first houses were built of logs, but a handful were in the neo-Spanish style popular in Palm Beach and other Florida resorts. First to break away from the preponderant log house type were H. B. Snyder (1926) at 22 Oak Drive and his brother-in-law Oliver Starr, prosecuting attorney for Lake County, at 15 Oak Drive (1927). Starr was later a judge of the Indiana Supreme Court.

Among the houses built before the War, perhaps the most distinctive was that at 24 Circle Drive. It was



and is a replica of a farmhouse which was part of the Belgian Village, the entry of the Government of Belgium at the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. The Belgian Village was one of the most popular features

of the Fair. Mr. and Mrs. Roland Schmidt, who were about to build in Dune Acres, were so taken with this house that they had its plan carefully reproduced on their lot.



Log house built by early aviator Jack Knight, 26 Circle Drive.



Copy of World's Fair Belgian farm house, 24 Circle Drive

Another bit of Chicago history which showed up in Dune Acres in the pre-war years were cobblestones which had paved Chicago streets. They were being dug up to make way for concrete and came on the



market. A number of older houses in the east end of town have retaining walls and garden borders composed of Chicago cobblestones.

The coming of the Depression slowed but did not stop construction in the town. However, a notable shift did occur caused by hard times. Greater interest was shown in lots inland from the lake, simply because they were less expensive. In this way, the town filled in back from the beach front into the wooded dunes. Mortgage financing was hard to obtain and so many of the '30's houses (especially before about 1935) were financed entirely by their owners. The result was, as described by Elizabeth Rogers, an early resident, "People who wanted to get out [to the dunes] right away sacrificed their location in order to have money to build a house." All in all, a dozen or so houses were constructed between 1930 and 1941. These were permanent structures, but few were occupied year-round. In the census return for 1940, Dune Acres was listed as having a population of 46, although there were some 40 houses by that time. William Wirt's ambition to develop an upper class suburb like Winnetka or Lake Forest had not been realized. Pre-war Dune Acres was primarily a summer resort.

The heart and soul of the little community was always the Guesthouse and Clubhouse. The Guesthouse register shows that the little hotel was open year-round for a few years, but by 1930 operated only from April through October. There were twelve guest rooms, each with private bath, occupied fairly fully on summer weekends, with occasional guests through the other seasons. Many were regulars, most



from Chicago, but there were others from more exotic places, for example from Flint, Michigan, Philadelphia and Aberdeen, South Dakota. There is less information about the dining room, which was located on the first floor of the Clubhouse, but there are some records of large parties, for instance on October 12, 1927, a group of 54 for dinner from the University Club of Michigan city. The facilities remained popular during the Depression and World War II. Thanks to Dan Jenkins, we have a menu from the then-styled 'Harbor View Inn' from 1944 or 1945 which offered a roast turkey dinner for \$1.10, broiled lake trout for \$.85 and a casserole of baked beans for \$.65. Lemon cream pie or orange layer cake were 15 cents and coffee or tea were a dime.

The Guesthouse was operated on the American plan. Rates in 1926,

including meals, were \$5.00 per person on weekends, \$3.50 on weekdays. For an additional \$3.00 a guest could have guest privileges on the golf course. A menu from October, 1926, admonished guests to "keep off the golf course greens, unless you have golf shoes on."

The Guesthouse and Clubhouse had become Town property, and their maintenance and operation were the chief, and sometimes only, concern of the Town Board, as reflected in the minutes of the meetings of the Board. The roads were frequently on the agenda as well. Since they washed out all too easily, the roads were another big concern of Town government. Bob Greer, who later built the roads in the West End, did the snow plowing after the war, put in steel pilings in the 1970's when the lake was high and in general maintained the town for several decades, summed the pre-war road situation succinctly in later life, "Dune



Acres roads were terrible." He had come out to Dune Acres quite a bit as early as 1930 making deliveries for the Hokanson's grocery store. He recalled, "in the thirties, you really had to hang on to your hat when you came out here because there were bumps—there were holes—and the roads would wash out." The Town Board was constantly involved in repairing the road system—especially Mineral Springs as it crossed the swamp.

The Depression hit the original investors in Dune Acres, Incorporated hard. They had put their capital into building the roads, the golf course, the Clubhouse and Guesthouse without as yet receiving compensating returns. At this difficult point, H. B. Snyder, Sr., (usually known as Burgess) became the central figure both in the Corporation and town government. He used his influence to have the water system upgraded by the W.P.A. But he could do nothing to save the street lights or the golf course. The golf course slowly reverted to nature. Nor was town income great enough to pay the NIPSCO bills, and in 1933 the street lights were turned off "till times get better." For the rest of the



decade, the Board struggled to pay off the debt it had accumulated to the utility company. So the absence of street lights, a notable feature of Dune Acres, was the product of circumstances not of planning.

When World War II started, Dune Acres was well-established, not as an ordinary town or suburb, but as a summer resort. As in most such resorts, there were a handful of families who lived here year round, bouncing over the terrible roads to commute to Gary or Chicago. But when summer arrived, a more abundant life returned. The Guesthouse and Clubhouse reopened and seasonal residents opened their houses. The vigorous community life of a summer colony returned.



Harry and Anne Hall

The fact that Dune Acres began in this way imprinted characteristics on the town which have persisted through its history. It has



Burgess and Mary Snyder

always been not just an accumulation of residences but a 'colony' in the special sense of 'summer colony'. A person or family moving to Dune Acres acquired not just a house but a way of life, based on love of natural beauty and on shared recreational social life.



# Chapter IV

## Growing

The experience of Dune Acres in World War II is largely unrecorded. Almost no records have been found to indicate who went off to war or how the conflict affected those at home.

The Guesthouse register does show, however, that both the Guesthouse and the Dining Room remained popular. With gas rationing limiting travel, the Dune Acres facilities were accessible by a short drive or by South Shore trains and evidently were much used during the war. But heavy usage and curtailed maintenance took their toll.

When the war ended the buildings and equipment were so worn that bringing them back to standard was impractical. Both Guesthouse and restaurant were closed and the Guesthouse was torn down, thus ending an era of Dune Acres history.

Once the war was over, Dune Acres experienced a long period of growth of many kinds. Before the war, there was only a handful of houses open through the winter. From the 46 residents counted in the 1940 census, the number increased in 1950 to 86, and by 1960 the number had grown to 250. By 1950, there were 50 houses, by 1960 close to 100. The effect though was still of small clusters of houses scattered through an extensive woodland.

In one way, appearances did change. The preponderant architectural style before the war had been the log house. Popular now was the 'modern style' with low horizontal lines and floor to ceiling windows or sliders. A good number were designed by distinguished architects: the Kock Brothers, Perkins and Will, Cromble Taylor, Richard Bennett from Chicago; Richard Neutra from California. Summer 'shacks' were either remodeled for year-round use or were torn down. In some cases they were replaced by new houses (for example, the Richardson house, now the Wildlife Sanctuary, on West Road) or the land on which they stood was often purchased by the adjacent property owner.



House designed by Richard Neutra, 22 Summit.



Notable changes occurred as Dune Acres expanded beyond the original development. In the early 1950's, the Town acquired the land south of East Road to the guardhouse, now playground and woods (of which there is more in chapter VI). A second important expansion was to the west as West Road was built and the West End opened up, area by area. Plats were recorded for Hill Drive in August, 1951, Summit Drive in 1958 and for Willow Lane in 1968.

With all this expansion, the municipal government and its facilities also grew. The fire station (now the Town Hall) was built in 1945 and fire hydrants were installed. Shortly thereafter (in 1951), the Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals were established and the first Zoning Ordinance was drawn up.

A very early matter of concern to the Plan Commission was what would happen to those lands adjacent to the town but outside the town limits. To the south and west of those limits were vast stretches of land that seemed a target for developers. On either side of Mineral Springs Road lay wetlands and woods that could be exploited for commercial or industrial purposes, in prospect a highly undesirable intrusion between Dune Acres and Highway 12. The Plan Commission turned for advice to one of the top men in the field of planning, whose office was in Chicago: Dennis O'Harrow, Director of the American Society of Planning Officials. Although Dune Acres was hardly even a village in terms of population, Mr. O'Harrow recognized its great beauty and unique qualities and agreed to advise the town. The Plan Commission had hoped to gain control (not ownership) of lands and thus control of development between the town and Highway 12, perhaps even along Highway 12. O'Harrow's advice was to annex these lands, except for those on Highway 12, and pass zoning restrictions for them. The Commission's goal was to zone the whole area residential, making the use compatible to



that in Dune Acres. But O'Harrow had extensive experience of what would or would not be approved by the courts and advised the Commission that single-use zoning of that kind would never be approved. The courts would require a commercial area and, even worse, an area zoned for industry. His judgment was that if the town did nothing, these developments would take place haphazardly. It would be better to annex the lands, zone them in a way to get legal approval and set standards for commercial and industrial development that Dune Acres could abide. This in fact was what was done. The lands to the South Shore right of way and west to include parts of what is now the site of NIPSCO and Bethlehem Steel were annexed. A Master Plan was adopted for Dune Acres in 1959 which included areas in the annexations zoned for commerce and industry. If followed through, this could have brought substantial changes to Dune Acres. But the town was saved by the march of events. When the National Lakeshore was established, most of those areas were included in the new national park. The Master Plan itself remained important, including a provision of considerable impact: the required width for a building site was increased from the 80 feet of the original platting to 100 feet.

With a growing population, more municipal control of traffic had also become necessary. In the early fifties, an ordinance was passed which allowed the hiring a deputy marshals for the first time. Deputies were added as the town could afford them, but 24-hour coverage, 7 days a week lay many years, indeed decades, ahead. In the summer of 1958, traffic rules were established, and two years later, the now familiar Dune Acres windshield stickers were added. It was all immensely more efficient than the early days—but not completely foolproof. For a time around 1960, for example, there was a sign at the gate house which read, "Please come to a complete halt. The marshal has cataracts and cannot see well." Not long after that a newly hired deputy who insisted on wearing a loaded revolver shot himself in the foot. He sought employment elsewhere in a less dangerous position. But despite such tales, the marshals and deputies were responsible figures on whom the residents relied for much more than guard service. Art Johnson, and his successor as marshal, Russ Brocksmith, are fondly remembered from those years as is Bob Greer who was an indispensable figure in town life until he retired in 1977.

As contemporary Dune Acres was taking shape, a further and indispensable step was taken. For the first time, in 1960, the streets and roads were named. The initiative for this came not from townspeople but from the Post Office department. Dune Acres had various

systems of mail delivery through the years. Before the war, mail had been delivered only during the summer months and everything was put into one box. After the war, there was year round delivery and all the mail was put into one of three boxes—one being first class, the others for second and third. Residents had to go through and pick out their own mail from the pile (no doubt also noticing what was in there for the other residents). In the fifties, individual mailboxes were set up in clusters on the main roads. All through this time, the address was 'Mounted Route 2'. These clusters proved confusing to the Post Office (although they are used today, for Hill and Summit Drives). So, in 1960, the postal department announced that it would no longer deliver mail unless there were individual addresses. The Town Board appointed Hutton Rogers and Jim Halley as a committee to propose names for the streets. According to Faith Halley, "They decided the main streets should have directions as names and called roads, East Road, West Road, the drives would be geographic features like Shore and Beach, and the minor roads would be named after flora of various sorts." The word 'street' was not used—too urban. Gertrude Conklin remembered a subsequent town meeting where residents of each road sat in a group and considered the proposed name. One owner on Crest Drive preferred Hillcrest but it was pointed out that 'Hillcrest Drive, Dune Acres' was too long to go on a Marshall Field's charge plate. 'Crest' was adopted, leaving 'Hill' available for its present location.

The town acquired a zoning ordinance, expanded guard service, windshield stickers, mail delivery and street names, but nobody seemed to be able to do much about the telephones. New families sometimes had long waits for a phone, and everyone was on a party line. Some idea of the standard at that time can be seen from a complaint from the Town Board to the Public Service Commission of Indiana that the telephone company was providing five-party lines and charging a four-party rate. In the 1950s, General Telephone greatly expanded its equipment and service, but on a scale of 1 to 10 had not reached 10. One customer called the company and said, "I wish to make a complaint." The operator replied, "Oh dear, we get a lot of those." On the other hand, the operators were local and not responding from Enid, Oklahoma, or Rock Hill, South Carolina.

By the end of the 1950s, Dune Acres had moved beyond being essentially a summer resort to being a fully organized municipality. It was a distinctive municipality with its winding roads and extensive parkland. Above all, it was still a real community, preserving the cohesive spirit of the summer colony of prewar days. Of that, more in the next chapter.



# Chapter V

## ...But Still the Same

The years between 1945 and 1960 were a period of transition for Dune Acres as the prewar summer resort grew into the contemporary, mostly year-round municipality. Looking back to this period, one is struck not only by the changes but equally so by the extent to which the community carried on the spirit of prewar Dune Acres. In

the fifties, the permanent population tripled, and the flow of newcomers might well have made Dune Acres just another postwar development. But new families appreciated the way of life. They entered into it and became enthusiastic members and frequently leaders of the community.

The most important bonding for older residents and for newcomers was provided by the town Social Committee, organized in the early 1950's. The Clubhouse with its restaurant had served as a focus for the community, but the Town Board decided in 1948 it would no longer keep up that operation and it was closed down. But it soon became once more the center of town life. Babbie Smith recalls in an interview that the Clubhouse "sat there for a while with...greasy skillets in the kitchen, and the stove caked with stuff. Connie Bennett spearheaded the effort to clean it up and use it for town parties. So we scrubbed and cleaned that kitchen...we really worked hard getting it all fixed up. We had a group of people who took their sewing machines, and we made curtains—I mean it was a real community effort." The Clubhouse was soon in use for Social Committee parties.

A typical early event was a pot luck dinner on Memorial Day, 1951, served at 2:00 p.m. From other flyers that have been preserved, it appears the general format was a dinner with food prepared by the



Party Committee in the 1970s—long dresses were (almost) de rigueur.

committee members. No mention is made of cocktails. An invitation from 1953 is, in fact, rather disciplinary. "Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 6:45. Be prompt." Diners were told to bring their own knives, forks and spoons, but paper plates, cups and napkins would be furnished. It appears that in its first years the

Social Committee had in mind providing the social meals for the community that had previously been available at the Clubhouse restaurant. By 1955, the program had become more varied. The Committee's report for that year indicated that by mid-August (the date of the report), there had been 6 events during the summer, one every other week: 'Dune Acres at Home', 'Al Fresco Dinner', '4th of July Dance', 'Smorgasbord and Exhibits', 'Beach Carnival', and 'Luncheon and Style Show'. There was a high level of participation. Average attendance for each event was about 130, and by August 11, only 6 families of the 76 in town had not attended at least one event. The season opened, then as now, with a Memorial Day event of some sort. The December holiday party was also an annual event. Again according to Babbie Smith, the Christmas parties of the early fifties were held in residents' houses and were progressive, moving from home to home for various courses. By the mid-fifties, the holiday party was standardly dinner with cocktails at the Spa, black-tie optional but usually worn. Many residents had small parties in their homes before going on; an avid attendee with a strong constitution might drop in at three or four affairs before proceeding through the winter night to the Spa.

The sense of community was also fostered by the town's need to have every citizen help with certain



functions. This was most notably true with the important task of fire fighting. There were many more brush fires then than at the present time, partly no doubt because there were fewer houses and more woodland. Fires that started along the South Shore tracks had a clear run well north of East Road until about 1960. Moreover, before the NIPSCO and Bethlehem Steel plants were constructed in Baillytown, uncontrolled fires were frequent in the woods and grasses there and could spread into town, carried by a southwest wind.

In this era, up to the early 1960s, when brush fires were quite common, each resident was considered to be a member of the volunteer fire department and every household was expected to have an 'Indian Fire Fighter' on hand (a tank of water with connected hose carried like a backpack). The Indian Fire Fighter was very heavy and residents who couldn't handle one were to use beaters—long poles with rubber flappers



at the end, used to beat out the flames. Training sessions were held periodically to instruct residents—both men and women—in the most efficient use of these fire-fighting aids. An alert for a fire was sounded by an extra-loud siren located at the Clubhouse, and word was spread by a telephone committee. The women on that committee also took turns in maintaining a fire watch from the Clubhouse hill during dry periods when the wind was from the south.

The most destructive fire in Dune Acres history occurred on a warm March day in 1949. It is thought to have started when a man burning trash along Highway 12 lost control of his bonfire in a high wind.

One resident later recalled seeing the fire burning along the South Shore right of way at about ten in the morning when she drove into Porter for groceries. By the time she returned shortly thereafter, Cowles Bog east of Mineral springs was ablaze as far as the guard house. The flames then swept into the woods between the bog and East Road and started arcing. From there the fire moved up the Clubhouse Hill, up Crest, Ridge and Circle Drives and through the low-lying backland to the edge of Porter Beach. The woods in the center of Circle Drive were caught up in the flames (no houses had been built in the center at that time) and the Clubhouse caught fire, but the blaze was extinguished before much damage was done. The conflagration was confined to the east side of Mineral Springs Road, since the wind was from due south.

At an early point, fire trucks arrived from Porter, Miller and Gary (the Chesterton truck was unable to respond, but the department there sent sandwiches and coffee for the fire fighters). Men from Dune Acres had been called home from work, and the Superintendent of Schools in Chesterton sent boys from the senior class at the high school to help. Altogether about one hundred volunteers from outside Dune Acres assisted in fighting the fire. It raged from mid-morning until late in the afternoon, and for several days afterwards trees in the deeper woods were still burning. Aside from the woodlands, the major casualties were the Studebaker plant for making cement blocks and a house on Crest Drive owned by Albert Fertsch, Dean of the Indiana University Extension in Gary (now Indiana University Northwest). The Fertsch house burned to the ground, and the site has never been built on since. A set of cement stairs still runs up the hill from Crest Drive to where the house had stood.

One might wonder why more residences were not destroyed, since the fire burned all around many of them. They were saved by the efforts of their owners, who kept them wet during the day, hosing them down when they were threatened by the blaze, and by volunteers who beat the flames back in the residential areas.



In response to this great fire, the Town Board pushed ahead quickly to provide better protection. Two problems were apparent. First, the water supply at the fire station was inadequate for fighting a major fire and second, better access was needed to the deeper woods before fires there threatened residential areas. Hydrants were installed to provide water over wider areas, and a truck with a large water tank and a jeep with small tanks were obtained. The fire station, already built in 1946, was enlarged to house the new equipment. Most of this effort was paid for by public subscription. It was at this point, as described above, that the women's telephone and fire watch committee was organized and the siren installed at the Clubhouse. Volunteers did not confine their efforts to Dune Acres but also responded to calls from other communities. They were often called to fight fire in the swampy areas near where NIPSCO and Bethlehem Steel are now located.

From the beginning of the town of Dune Acres, fire fighting had been considered a normal duty of all residents. The measures taken after the great fire of March, 1949, were designed to organize and equip this every-citizen effort. This approach continued into the 1960's. By then the danger of brush fires (while still very real) had diminished as the Bailly area was cleared of woodland, as had been a number of lots in

Dune Acres where houses now stood. Indeed, the number of houses in town had increased so significantly that protection based on resident-volunteers was no longer feasible. And it must be added that the old water tank truck had proven to be a lumbering monster, very hard to handle. The Indian Fire Fighters also were difficult to carry and difficult to use. More reliance and then complete reliance was placed on contracts for protection from neighboring fire departments. Several major house fires have occurred in the past thirty years, but Dune Acres had not been threatened during that time with brush fires on the scale of those of earlier years.

A volunteer fire department was maintained in Dune Acres until the mid-eighties. Our current Fire Commissioner (1998) John Wilhelm, carries on a vigorous campaign to make sure all houses are adequately equipped with fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. Fire is always a threat, of course, but not as much as it was in Dune Acres three or four decades ago.

The activities organized by the Social Committee and the 'every resident a fire fighter' expectation helped to carry on into the postwar period the community involvement which had given Dune Acres its special character from the beginning. Another community effort of this period, usually referred to as 'the Park Purchase Plan' will be set forth in the next chapter.





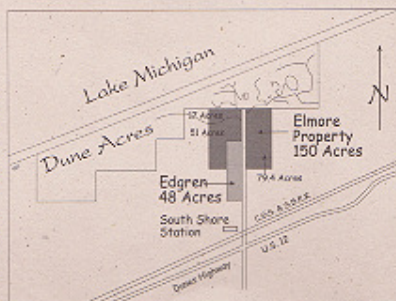
# Chapter VI

## The Park Purchase Plan

The Town of Dune Acres, that is, the town government, was limited in the projects it might undertake because of the small tax base in the town and also because of state limitations on the size of assessments. Bond issues were out of the question. Thus when confronted with major problems requiring

considerable financing the townspeople turned to voluntary fund drives and contributions. The building and later enlarging of the fire station was paid for in this way. In 1953, a situation developed which tested the will and resources of residences in a much greater degree. The actions that were taken strengthened the sense of community involvement and gave Dune Acres its present appearance.

The crisis concerned the land south and west of East Road. This land had not been included in the 1923 purchase by William Wirt and in fact belonged to two outside developers (one from Chicago, the other from Valparaiso). In 1953, Mr. Elmore, the Chicagoan, announced that he was going to subdivide his land, which now holds the playground and tennis courts. Residents were alarmed and believed that the land should be purchased. But how and by whom? The Town of Dune Acres did not have the taxing or the bonding power to raise funds. The townspeople then resolved to buy the land through public subscription with the provision that it would remain forever park land. The price was \$50,000.00, a very considerable sum of money at that time, perhaps the equivalent of a million dollars in 1998. Property owners were asked to contribute their pro-rata share based on the assessed valuation of their property to the total assessed valuation of the Town. The sums were large, since there were only 60 houses in the town at that time and undeveloped lots had very low valuation, but over 90 per cent. of the homeowners paid their share. Many had to borrow money or put mortgages on their houses to do so. Through this effort \$42,000.00 was raised, short of the \$50,000.00 Mr. Elmore was asking. Burgess Snyder and Jim Martin



agreed to bring the total up to \$45,000.00 if needed. Dune Acres, Incorporated, had contributed an amount that was judged by all to be a fair share. Leo Johnston, then the Dune Acres real estate broker, and two eminent citizens, both members of the fund-raising committee, Dick Smith and Leonard Conklin, went to

see Mr. Elmore in his Chicago office. Elmore reluctantly accepted the cash offer of \$42,000.00. The Purchase Agreement was executed on May 23, 1953, by the Town Board acting for the residents and property owners. The land was deeded to the Town of Dune Acres for use as parkland.

Almost at once Mr. Edgren, the Valparaiso developer, put his property on the market for \$9,500.00. The ability of the townspeople to raise money was exhausted. But a solution was found. Eighteen acres of the Elmore land actually lay west of Mineral Springs and north of West Road. It was decided to sell this land in four parcels, each to be the site for one house, a restriction to the effect to be included in the title. These lots were sold and the Edgren property was purchased, extending the southern boundary of Dune Acres to Cowles Bog and also making possible the lightly populated section on West Road from Mineral Springs almost to Hill Drive (numbers 6, 20, 28 West Road). In the following year, a new drive for contributions brought in funds to create the playground area and purchase equipment.

The character of Dune Acres is revealed by the unspoiled, wooded entrance to the town on Mineral Springs, where the first view of human habitation is of the tennis courts and playground. All of this we owe to residents in 1953 whose community spirit and financial sacrifice made it possible.

Like the social program and the 'every resident a fire fighter' custom, the park purchase plan brought all residents into active participation in and responsibility for the community. In this crucial postwar period of growth, these activities maintained and strengthened the distinctive community life of Dune Acres.



# Chapter VII

## The Coming of the National Lakeshore (1958-1966)

It was not easy being a lakeshore community in the decades after World War II. The sixties and the seventies were not easy anywhere, of course, as America experienced the Civil Rights movement, the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the Vietnam War and the Watergate affair. These events charged the atmosphere here as elsewhere. Young residents of Dune Acres and their parents faced the Draft or its alternatives, residents were shocked by a racially inspired murder in a tavern just down the road on Highway 12, were shaken when students at Valparaiso University burned a building on campus after Kent State. All of this must be remembered as part of the tense and turbulent milieu in which local crises arose and were being addressed.

Dune Acres was faced with a series of pressures from 1950 until well after 1980 which ranged from the merely bothersome to those that threatened the existence of the town. Some were shared with other lakefront communities; others were uniquely ours. The great issue of those decades was, of course, the future of the southern shore of Lake Michigan: was it to be completely industrialized or could the Dunes be preserved as a natural area?

The struggle began with a proposal in 1949 to construct a port at Burns Ditch that could accommodate ocean going vessels. The purpose of the port was to bring more industry to the Indiana lakeshore, specifically steel mills (which heeded cheap transportation by water). Proponents of the port anticipated that dunes and wetlands along the shore would be cleared to make way for factories and mills. In opposition to the port, there emerged the counterforce of "Save the Dunes", a movement whose purpose was to preserve the land along Lake Michigan in its natural state.

The Save the Dunes Council was formed on June 20, 1952, by twenty-five women, most of them from Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. The Council began with a limited purpose: education of the public as to the importance of the Dunes. In 1953, however, it made a strategic move. The area south of Dune Acres

(generally known as Cowles Bog) came up for tax sale. The Council hurriedly raised the money and bought the land. But events quickly moved beyond the Council's otherwise deliberate pace. State government officials also were taking an active interest in the port; rumors were thick that Bethlehem Steel Corporation was buying up choice dune lands through a third party. In fact, the decade of the fifties was full of rumors and alarms. Stories were rife of blind trusts being used to acquire dunelands, the Murchesons (a well-known, wealthy Texas family) were said to be involved, Midwest Steel was reported to be planning a mill on its property near Ogden Dunes, the steel companies were thought to be hand in glove with the State of Indiana in pushing the Port. If you lived in Dune Acres then, unsettling rumors came thick and fast. And they turned out to be true. Bethlehem announced in 1956 that it had, partly through a blind trust, acquired over 9,000 acres between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. Midwest Steel revealed plans for a mill near Ogden Dunes, and NIPSCO began construction of two coal burning generators on its Bailly site next to Dune Acres. Both steel companies sold land to the State of Indiana for the port.

The Lake Michigan shore was going very fast to the industrialists. Local, regional and state politicians favored the development as did businessmen in Chesterton, Porter, and other local communities. (The mayors of Gary, Hammond and East Chicago opposed the Burns Ditch site; they wanted a port built in the East Chicago area). The Indiana delegation in Congress and the governor and legislature of Indiana were solidly behind the port. Especially potent was Charlie Halleck, leader of the House Republicans, whose district included Porter County and the central dunes.

As the shoreline seemed to disappear before their eyes, members of the Save the Dunes Council turned from education to political activity. Their new goal was to create a National Park in the Dunes. They found a sponsor in Senator Paul Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, who before the War had owned a house in Dune Acres at 12 Ridge Drive and who knew and loved the Dunes.



In 1958, he introduced his first bill to establish an Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

It is ironic that the spokesman for the Dunes should come from Illinois, not Indiana. It was, moreover, contrary to established custom and political sense for an outsider to propose a park against the wishes of home state senators and the local congressman of the area in which it was to be located. But it was a fitting expression of the reality of the situation: the lakeshore communities had always been more strongly tied to Chicago than to downstate Indiana. The Indiana beaches had been intensively used by Chicagoans. The existing Dunes State Park was often considered by Hoosiers as a valuable source of revenue for the 'real' Indiana parks downstate rather than used or valued for itself. The Douglas proposal was considered another effort by outsiders to block the development of Indiana resources. Governor Welsh of Indiana, a Democrat, denounced the Douglas bill at a news conference as an 'out-of-state' conspiracy.

So intense was the opposition that passage of a National Lakeshore bill was long in doubt. From 1958 until 1966, Senator Douglas pushed the project hard, but without success in the face of the opposition of most of the Indiana delegates in Congress, both Democrats and Republicans. Finally, in the fall of 1966, when Douglas was running for reelection, President Johnson, wanting Douglas returned to the Senate, put powerful pressure behind the latest Dunes bill and it passed into law. One month later, Douglas lost his seat in the Senate to the young Charles Percy.

The bill as passed differed radically from earlier versions. Douglas had hoped for a park built around the finest of the dunes, the then unspoiled area between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. But Bethlehem Steel had already bought most of the land and in 1961 began leveling the dunes (selling the sand to Northwestern University for a land fill) and revealed the full extent of the massive plant it would build. The Burns Ditch Port was also approved and took land that Douglas had hoped to include. The National Lakeshore as it exists today contains almost no area that was in the original Douglas bill.

Where did Dune Acres fit into all of this? That story begins in 1961 when Senator Douglas introduced his most ambitious bill with the central dunes between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres as its core. This bill included most of Dune Acres in the park. It must be

remembered that the town limits of Dune Acres included all the land to the South Shore tracks and to the boundary with NIPSCO. Much of the undeveloped area was zoned for commercial or industrial use. That area was included in the park, but so was the developed area in the West End, including thirteen residences and two miles of road. Thus, only the east end of town, the First Subdivision, would have remained out of the park.

Dune Acres residents, most of whom had supported the park concept, were now put to the test. Were they still for this park if Dune Acres were so reduced in size as to be no longer a viable community? Emotions ran high and conflicts were deep as the issues were discussed in 1961 and 1962. A few committed conservationists favored the bill, believing that such sacrifices had to be made to get the park. The great majority of residents were against the inclusion of Dune Acres in the park but differed as to the exact stance the town should take. The Town Board (Philipp Brockington, President, Robert Bonin, Dwight Sanders) opposed the bill in its entirety. Brockington appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on February 17, 1962, and speaking officially for the Town, opposed the establishment of the national lakeshore. Immediately, residents were aroused in support of or opposition to the Board's action. Led by Tom Washburn, a group circulated a petition which was signed by 107 residents and property owners, repudiating the Board's action and supporting the Park itself if Dune Acres were omitted from it. Conflicting statements, petitions, and letters flooded Washington from residents, but in the end it didn't matter. The bill was not passed.

The year 1963 was one of vain efforts and sometimes Utopian dreams. The main effort of the Save the Dunes Council and Senator Douglas was to solve the Port problem by moving its location from Burns Ditch to the East Chicago area. The effort was in vain. More imaginative and even more hopeless was a proposal that Bethlehem build its plant south of U.S. 12, constructing a canal to connect the inland site with Lake Michigan, thus keeping the central dunes intact. As we know it did not happen. But sentiment in Dune Acres had crystallized. Residents were still divided over the larger question of whether or not there should be a Park, but they were convinced that Dune Acres could not survive if confined to the current east end.



For this reason, 90 per cent of the residents signed a statement in summer, 1963, opposing the taking of land within the Town's boundaries for a national park. This move was initiated by H. B. Snyder, for decades the leading figure in town affairs. He and the Gary Post Tribune, of which he was owner and publisher, were a consistently powerful voice for the Port and against the Park.

In 1964, Senator Douglas produced a new bill which omitted developed areas of Dune Acres and limited use of the beach (the beach was included in the bill). The Park boundaries in relation to Dune Acres were pretty much what they are today.

That January a new Town Board took office (James Savage, President, Norman Burns, and Ed Carlson) and at once set up a strong committee of residents to recommend what policy the Town should adopt toward the Park. The committee was chaired by Luther Swygert, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago; other members were Brevard Crihfield, Secretary of the Association of State Governors, Ray Daly, President of the Indiana National Bank in Gary, Richard J. Smith, owner of Smith Chevrolet in Hammond and recent past-president of the Hammond Chamber of Commerce, and Ray Thomas, a well-established lawyer in Gary with state-wide political connections. Their long and thorough report itemized the industrial developments—both present and anticipated—some possibly within the town limits of Dune Acres. For example, the woodland north of the South Shore parking lot on Mineral Springs Road was zoned for industry and was a likely industrial site. Another section dealt realistically with the impact that even the modified 1964 Bill would have on the town. The report concluded with a paragraph which summed up the not attractive but very real situation the town now faced. It began, "The Town of Dune Acres faces change. Our town cannot 'Stay As It Is' no matter how much we wish this were possible." It went on to point out the problems that would arise from either industry or the Park. After studying all information available, the committee's unanimous recommendation was that a modified National Lakeshore Bill was the best alternative for Dune Acres.

With this report to build on, members of the Town Board moved forward in a manner that carried most residents with them. The Board adopted a statement supporting the Park (with certain clarifications of

language and intent), circulated it in town and asked supporters to sign a record of their agreement with it. A substantial majority of the community did so. When Town Board President Savage testified before the Senate Subcommittee in February, 25 residents traveled to Washington to add their support.

Now Dune Acres residents threw themselves earnestly into the effort to get the Bill passed. The period from early 1964 until a Park Bill finally became law in October, 1966, was one of intense and enthusiastic activity in Dune Acres. A group of residents of wide public experience and well-established political contacts became the very active leaders. There is space to mention only a few. Judge Swygert used his wide circle of friends in politics to get the Town's position before members of Congress. Dick Smith had for some time left day to day management of Smith Motors to others and devoted his time to civic affairs in Hammond. Now he pitched into saving the dunes, making it almost a major occupation. Hunton Rogers, Norman Burns, Leonard Conklin, Farwell Smith were others. Farwell, from Chicago, was a weekend resident and like many weekenders he had an acquaintanceship outside of Indiana which proved useful. Other residents, especially Ed and Ruth Osann and Lois Howes, were working for the Bill as members of the Save the Dunes Council. Still others, for example several employees of Inland Steel, supported the Park, but necessarily kept a low profile through loyalty to their employer.

Residents were urged to ask friends outside of town to write to their Congressman ("use your Christmas card lists"). Delegations went to Washington by air and overnight sleeper to canvass senators and representatives. When the March, 1964, hearings were held, the New York Central Railroad announced that sleeper accommodations were sold out. A large and enthusiastic group of Dune Acres ladies descended on congressmen in summer, 1966, and had a great time doing their civic duty.

In these final stages, proponents of Park and Port reached a compromise, agreeing to provisions for both. But the battle was not over. In 1966, the key effort was to include what is now the West Beach area in the Park. This land was owned by Inland Steel. Inland took the view that since both National Steel and Bethlehem had plants on Lake Michigan, they should be allowed to use their land for a mill. But so much land had been lost for the Park that supporters felt it



vital to include the West Beach. A crescendo of letter writing, trips to Washington, behind the scenes politicking was reached in the summer of 1966 over the West Beach issue. An issue for Dune Acres and Ogden Dunes was also (though much less stressed) the extent to which their beaches, which were included in the Park, were to be available to the public. The resolution reached was that nonresidents would have 'walk-along' privileges but could not swim or picnic. This was supported by Dune Acres but not by Ogden Dunes. In the end, the West Beach was included and the Park was authorized by the Senate. But in the House, it was hung up by the opposition of our congressman, Charlie Halleck, and by a lack of enthusiasm among some Democrats. Passage came when Lyndon Johnson leaned on congress in the way he did so well. According to a Chicago Daily News article of October 17, 1966, entitled "How Park Plan Passed the House", President Johnson called Speaker John McCormack and said, "John, Paul Douglas wants this bill. And Paul Douglas needs this bill. I want you to see that he gets it." Speaker McCormack outmaneuvered Republican Minority Leader Charlie Halleck and brought the Bill to a vote at the optimal

moment. It passed easily, 204-141.

Very quickly Dune Acres had a new neighbor. We were surrounded by, protected by, and at times seriously alarmed by the new National Lakeshore. Although President Johnson gave the final push that led to adoption of the Park Bill, the outcome would not have been possible without the long and faithful efforts of Senator Douglas and the Save the Dunes Council. Within that broader content, Dune Acres residents played a part. The focus of this chapter is inevitably on Dune Acres' involvement and thus pays limited attention to the Save the Dunes movement. Many residents were members of the Council, and some were leaders of it. Within Dune Acres, it should be noted, finally and once again, how involved the residents were. The Town Board took official positions and testified before Congress. The Board did not become involved, however, in direct political action. In typical Dune Acres fashion, residents when faced with a crisis organized a voluntary response to it. Leaders emerged and citizens provided their aid and support for continuing committed and (if we may say so) sophisticated political action.

So that is how we got the Park.





# Chapter VIII

## Day to Day Life In A Time of Turmoil

At a meeting of the Town Board on November 8, 1972, Board Member Dan Jenkins reported that the level of Lake Michigan was only two feet below the all time high set in 1860. Heavy rains in the Fall indicated that the level would continue to rise again in the

Spring of 1973, posing a problem for the town water well (located down the blowout from the Clubhouse). This was only the beginning, of course. In the next few years, the whole water system from the town well to the pipes leading to the West End along the bluff of the dunes (and eventually freestanding from the banks) had to be protected from erosion. Eventually Beach Drive also had to be protected, as the waves were washing it out. And one by one beach front property owners were forced to erect steel barriers against the rising lake until an almost solid wall of steel ran along the foot of the dunes.

The Town Board, especially Jim Halley, the President, spent a good deal of time and effort seeking funding from the Corps of Engineers for projects providing protection from erosion and eventually supervising construction of the projects approved. Jim Halley, an M.I.T. graduate and retired Director of Research at Inland Steel, was an especially able and energetic Town Board President. He died in office, suddenly and unexpectedly, early in 1974. An easement and beach rights on West Road had recently been given to the town by Chuck Wheeler; it was now dedicated as the James Halley Memorial Beach.

Lake Michigan's buffeting the Dune Acres shoreline in the 1970s (and again in the mid-eighties) was only one problem that faced the town in the often-turbulent years from 1960 to 1985. Many forces were trying to control the southern shore of Lake Michigan. It was an area coveted



by both industry and conservationists, and in the midst of the conflict, some people were trying to maintain residential oases, as in Ogden Dunes, Beverly Shores—and Dune Acres. It was not easy.

As steel mills and power plants were built and on the

other hand, the National Lakeshore was taking shape, the effects were felt in Dune Acres in various ways. Some were incidental and unanticipated side effects. For example, the St. Lawrence Seaway (then newly opened) provided a route into the Great Lakes not only for cargo boats but for alewives, who died in droves off shore and whose smelly remains heaped up on the beach. Again, construction of the Bethlehem Steel Plant drove out a beaver colony which migrated east and found a happy home in the swamp adjacent to Mineral Springs Road. Their dam caused flooding on the road, producing pro-beaver and anti-beaver factions among the human residents (new neighbors can be difficult). In 1966-1967, and for some time after, there were reports at most Town Board meetings about what should be done about the beavers—and later the alewives, too.

The alewives were smelly and annoying; the beavers were either cute or a menace, depending on your point of view. But these were minor problems. Starting with the conflict over establishment of the National Lakeshore, there were a series of major crises, some threatening the very existence of the town. These will be recounted in succeeding chapters. But, lest it seem as if all were doom and gloom in those years, we take a look at other aspects of Dune Acres life in that time.

It was, for example, a great time for tennis. Indoor courts were springing up all over Northwest Indiana and groups of Dune Acres residents, both men and women, were members and playing weekly. In town, additional courts were built and tournaments were held. The courts were as popular a social center as the





beach. At the beach, a number of residents bought Lasers and Sunfishes and summer weekends were

devoted to racing. The Bridge marathon, also, was started. The average age of the residents was probably somewhat younger than in 1998. At any rate there were a great many youngsters in town in the fifties and sixties, and it was a great place to grow up. Summer time brought organized activities such as tennis lessons, swimming lessons at the Goodfellow Camp pool from Gus Stager (swimming coach at the University of Michigan who summered in Porter Beach), or teenage dances at the Clubhouse on Friday nights. In winter there was ice skating and hockey. They learned about community responsibility, too. For instance, some teenage girls ran a summer 'play school' for younger children at the playground, fun for the children and a help to their mothers. The pace of life, as elsewhere in those decades, was often tense and somewhat frantic. (The Civil Rights Movement, the assassinations, the Vietnam War, Watergate). In interviews with residents, preserved by the Historical Commission, residents of those years often comment with some amazement on the amount of drinking that took place at town parties. It was an age of the martini, occasionally pushing over to straight gin on ice. Ladies were wearing floor length gowns on such occasions, and the standard dress for men was bright plaid pants and a blazer. Somewhere along the line, the pace slowed down. The martini gave way to the 'little glass of white wine', Chablis at first and then in one of those strange and sudden waves of changing taste, Chardonnay became the favorite.

It was not all tennis, boats, booze and bridge, however. Ordinary life went on, the town grew, new houses were built. One significant development was

a closer relationship with Chesterton. Primarily, probably, this was because, for almost the first time,

a number of families active in Chesterton life moved to Dune Acres. In the summer, teen age dances were held at the Clubhouse, the young people from Chesterton invited. In earlier times, Dune Acres' residents of high school age had most often gone away to a boarding school and some still did, but most were now attending Chesterton

High School. Demographically, Dune Acres still drew heavily from the Calumet region for residents, but the number from Hyde Park and the University of Chicago increased substantially, and, for the first time, a number of residents of Chicago's Near North Side purchased homes to use for weekends and in summer.

Dune Acres was becoming more cosmopolitan in the sixties and seventies, more actively connected to the broader world.

In part this was because travel was easier, domestically, as the Interstate Highway System was built, and abroad, as travel by airplane became common. Partly, it was because the U.S. was involved in the postwar world with developing countries and some residents were actively engaged in these programs. For example, a number of countries were constructing their first steel mill, ever, and sought American advice. Tom Washburn, retired Director of Quality Control at Inland Steel, was in New Zealand with his wife Katherine as a consultant as that country built its first mill. Later they were in Brazil on a similar project. Norman Burns, a University of Chicago expert on higher education, travelled to Pakistan to advise the government which was setting up a university in that young country. Margaret Doyle, of the University of Minnesota (and 26 Circle Drive) was in Central America as an observer and consultant on nutrition programs. For the majority



Above: Dune Acres Hockey Players  
Below: Summer Playschool 1999





of residents who were fully occupied at home, a breath of the expanding, post-Colonial world was brought by such neighbors. Visitors from developing countries also visited Dune Acres under the auspices of the Planned Parenthood chapter in Gary. Every year for many years, men and women with responsibility for population policy in Third World countries visited the Gary clinic as they toured the United States. Several members of the Planned Parenthood Board lived in Dune Acres, and they and other families regularly entertained such visitors at dinner parties. Visitors

from Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, the Latin American countries brought the world to our tables.

In these and other ways, life went on in its everyday fashion in Dune Acres in the midst of the wars, urban riots, and presidential scandals of the time. Attention was paid to beavers and alewives as well as nuclear plants, marshalling yards, and the eroding lakeshore. These threats from industry and also the National Lakeshore, must now claim our attention.





# Chapter IX

## Roads And A Marshalling Yard

The importance of roads and railroads runs through the history of Dune Acres. Mineral Springs Road as a way across the swamp, the South Shore as a link to urban centers, Highway 12 as still more easy access, the Interstates, easier still: all have played their role in our development.

Before the Interstate highways were opened, driving to Dune Acres from Gary, Hammond, or Chicago was a major undertaking, especially for weekend residents and visitors. The way out on Friday was not bad, especially if one left the city early, but on Sunday night everyone left the beach as late as possible and from the eastern edge of Gary (where highways 12 and 20 converged) through the lakeshore communities to the South Shore Country Club (if going to Chicago), the traffic was bumper to bumper, moving at a snail's pace. It took hours to reach one's destination, but nevertheless the euphoria produced by sand, water and sun made it worthwhile.

All that passed into history in the 1950s and 1960s as the Interstate highways were opened. But well into the 1960s, I-94 was open only as far as the Gary East exit, and one proceeded on Highway 12, a leisurely drive through the still unspoiled dunes, past Oak Hill (alive with blossoming shad if you hit it just right in spring) and turned onto Mineral Springs Road. How the heart rose as one entered Dune Acres. In early December, there was the sight of the Christmas tree on the Clubhouse. In early Spring, there was that magic first chorus of the pinkletinks. One rolled down the window to get the raucous yet wonderful cacophony.

From Mineral Springs Road east, Highway 12 was less idyllic at that time. Hugging the south shore of Lake Michigan through the dune country of Indiana and Michigan, the Dunes highway was a heavily travelled route to those resort areas. Heavy tourist traffic brought with it a lot of honky-tonk activity. Who will ever forget the Indian Medicine Man or the shacks displaying chenille bedspreads? There were taverns—but also, unusually, a high quality rock shop just east of Mineral Springs. In buildings just large enough to enter, one could buy liquor at Ann Onyika's or groceries

at a store at Mineral Springs Road or another down the highway at Waverly Road. At the corner of Waverly Road and U.S. 12 stood two convenient and rather grand gas stations.

The building of the NIPSCO plant and then later of Bethlehem Steel changed the nature of Highway 12. At mill change hours, the road was jammed. Then the National Lakeshore bought up and removed the shops, the filling stations, even the Presbyterian Church on Kemil Road, rather summarily requisitioned for its present use as a visitors center and park headquarters.

Changed as it was, Highway 12 remained Dune Acres' lifeline to the outer world. That lifeline was threatened in 1967 when industry, having destroyed miles of beautiful dunelands between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres, now struck again. In 1967, the South Shore Railroad announced plans to build a freight yard for switching coal cars destined for Bethlehem Steel. Unfortunately, it was necessary to construct the yard across Mineral Springs Road. Twelve or more tracks with a proportionate number of switching trains would stand between Highway 12 and Dune Acres residents.

The South Shore was then still in private ownership. Dune Acres residents had ambivalent attitudes toward the railroad: they were all for bolstering up the lagging passenger service but indifferent or hostile to the freight side. The owners of the railroad, on the other hand, made a profit from freight and lost heavily on passengers. Without government subsidies, the railroad suffered from chronic sinking spells, lurching from financial crisis to financial crisis, without ever quite giving up the ghost. Railroad officials wanted desperately to drop the passenger service, but the substantial number of commuters in Dune Acres (and up and down the shore) were anxious that it should continue. In this already tense situation, the President of the South Shore, James McCahey, dropped his bombshell in the late summer of 1967. The new marshalling yard for Bethlehem would be located directly across Mineral



Springs. Today we can be held up at that point by one train switching, imagine that multiplied by up to twelve.

Town officials conferred with McCahey, though to no avail. Judge Luther Swygert, Chief Judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago (and a year round resident at 4 Shore Drive), was enlisted to be part of the negotiating team for the town. Jim Halley, President of the Town Board, was adamant that the railroad would have to build an overpass over the marshalling yard. But plans were also drawn to build an alternate road out of town, running down Pine Lane to Porter Beach and then to Waverly Road.

By mid-July of 1968, the Town Board, feeling completely blocked, decided to seek advice from the Park Service. Events then took a surprising and distressing turn. Far from being helpful, the Park Service revealed that they themselves were considering closing and eliminating Mineral Springs Road so as to restore the integrity of the bog. (The beavers and their dams were sympathetically mentioned). They proposed a new exit from Dune Acres, again down Pine Lane. At a

meeting of the Lakeshore Advisory Commission on November 22, 1968, attended by Town Board member Dan Jenkins and Judge Swygert and Ann Sims as well, the Commission "requested the National Park Service to give high priority to the construction of an alternate access road for the Town of Dune Acres. It is desirable that Mineral Springs Road be removed to restore the full ecological integrity of Cowles Bog." It was pointed

out at the meeting that the Commission's recommendations were generally adopted and implemented by the National Park Service.

So what happened next? Why is Mineral Springs still there? Nothing happened. Absolutely nothing. A new Superintendent of the National Lakeshore arrived shortly after the meeting. Dan Jenkins asked him about the project and the Superintendent replied that he had never heard of it. About the same time, the South

Shore found that, contrary to all previous protestation, it could move the freight yard further west, leaving Mineral Springs Road unobstructed. It was widely believed that Judge Swygert and his old friend Senator Birch Bayh had a hand in this result.

Thus the great marshalling yard crisis came to an abrupt end to the Town's satisfaction, and Mineral Springs Road still stands as our link to the outside world. What happened to passenger service on the South Shore remained of vital concern to local residents. Things were not rosy for a while. Service was curtailed in 1971. In 1975-1976, the railroad sought permission to drop passenger service east

of Gary. But federal and state subsidies were in the offing, and those governmental programs were the salvation of the commuter service. Down the line lay the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Eventually there were even new cars, not very attractive or comfortable as it turned out, but still all talk of dropping passenger service stopped. As a postscript, later on the Dune Acres stop was eliminated. But then you can't have everything.





# Chapter X

## The Bailly Nuclear Plant

In August of 1970, the residents of Dune Acres were faced with another serious problem issuing from their new industrial neighbors. The Northern Indiana Public Service Company applied to the Atomic Energy Commission for a license to build a nuclear powered plant at its Bailly site. This aroused a variety of negative reactions in town for a variety of reasons. There was a certain amount of fear among some residents of radiation from a nuclear plant even when it was working well. There was fear of accident, although this was before the accidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. The possibility of evacuating Dune Acres in case of an accident was obviously nil, as anyone who waited for a break in Bethlehem Steel traffic at shift time was aware (this was before the traffic light was installed at the Bethlehem Steel gate). An important objection for many people was environmental. The plant was designed to have two cooling towers, each ten stories tall, built on the edge of Cowles Bog. Quite aside from the pollution of the Bog, there was the negative impact of having these towers dominate the skyline at the edge of the National Lakeshore. Some residents supported the nuclear plant, convinced that nuclear energy was clean and safe, but when a petition was circulated opposing it, 90 per cent of the residents signed.

How to oppose it was a fairly complicated matter. The decision as to whether the plant could be built lay with the Atomic Energy Commission. The A.E.C.'s procedure was to appoint a three person board composed of lawyers and scientists to conduct local hearings. At them the utility would demonstrate in detail how the plant was to be built and operated. If the board was persuaded that all was in order, a license for construction would be granted. Originally there was no opportunity for the public to participate in the hearings, but by 1970 individuals or groups who could show that they would be affected by the plant were allowed to take part as 'intervenor's' with the right to present witnesses and data and to cross examine witnesses of the utility. It was, in other words, a legal procedure, designed to assess mostly scientific evidence for and against the plant.

Ed Osann, who lived at 92 West Road, had been studying the issue of nuclear power since NIPSCO first showed an interest in it in 1967. He was a graduate engineer and a lawyer, a partner in a large patent law firm in Chicago. He had also had some direct experience with the management of an electrical utility company. He and his wife Ruth had been active in the Save the Dunes Council

for many years. His study convinced him that nuclear power was hazardous and environmentally threatening, and he determined to seek intervenor's status in the proceedings. But he needed support. A number of Town residents urged the Town Board to take an active role. The Board believed, however, that it was inappropriate for the Town as such to become involved. They suggested that those opposed should form a citizens' organization to do so. So a group of four residents issued a call for an organizational meeting at the Fire Station in January, 1972. These four were Norman Burns, Professor of Education at the University of Chicago and executive director of the North Central Accrediting Association; Leonard Conklin, a salesman for the R.R. Donnelly printing firm in Chicago; James Creighton, General Superintendent of the Bethlehem Steel works at Burns Harbor, and James Newman, Chairman of the History Department at Indiana University Northwest. The meeting packed the Fire Station and the group voted to form the Concerned Citizens Against the Bailly Nuclear Site (site, not plant, to bring in those who favored nuclear energy but not at Bailly). Ed Osann and James Newman were elected co-chairmen and fortunately Mildred Warner agreed to serve as Treasurer. Mildred was a highly visible and respected figure in Town, and, as head of Dune Acres Real Estate, knew and was known by everyone. No other officers were elected then or ever, but the conveners (Burns, Conklin, Creighton) plus Richard Smith served as an advisory board to the officers through the years. Anyone who supported it was a member of the Concerned Citizens, and since almost everyone in Town did, the Concerned Citizens was essentially Dune Acres up in arms against the Bailly site.

Ed Osann did the legal work. The task of the Concerned Citizens was to raise funds to support him. Ed was backed up by Herb Read of Furnessville before the A.E.C., and the local chapter of the Isaac Walton League, in which Herb was active, joined the opposition. But neither the League nor the Save the Dunes Council (also against the site) had any money at this point, and it was clear from the beginning that Dune Acres (through the Concerned Citizens) would have to pay the bills.

It was also clear from the beginning that all of this would cost a great deal of money. In the early days, James Newman and Farwell Smith, a weekend resident on West Road, turned for help and advice to a Chicago group (of which Farwell was a director) which had been involved in several previous licensing procedures—the Businessmen



for the Public Interest (B.P.I.). The experts at the B.P.I. gave them the disheartening news that this affair was not going to be settled quickly but would typically go on for years and cost at least \$150,000.00. The two men from Dune Acres were stunned: how could it be possible to raise \$150,000.00? Undaunted, the Concerned Citizens decided to proceed one step at a time. The initial goal was to raise \$25,000.00. There were 120 houses in Dune Acres. Each supporting family was asked to contribute \$250.00. The first drive in 1972 brought in \$19,000.00. A second drive was held in 1973-74 and raised \$15,000.00 more. Eventually more than \$50,000.00 was raised in Dune Acres.

This was in support of Ed Osann's efforts before the A.E.C. hearing board, paying for transcripts of the lengthy proceedings, for bringing in expert witnesses, for hydraulic testing of Cowles Bog, and eventually for a small hourly fee for Ed Osann, whose firm protested his long involvement on a *pro bono* (that is, free) basis. Ed carried on his work at his firm, doing that work in the early hours of the morning before going on to the A.E.C. hearings.

The hearings began in October, 1972, and the Concerned Citizens, the Porter County Chapter of the Isaac Walton League, and Osann, Newman, and Mildred Warner as individuals were admitted to participate as intervenors (the group known from then on as the Joint Intervenors). The hearings were held intermittently from October, 1972, until November of 1973, with sixty-five days of hearings. The hearings were held four days a week, mostly in Valparaiso, and Ed Osann was present at each. As attorney for the Joint Intervenors, he interrogated NIPSCO witnesses and also called experts from the University of Chicago, Purdue and Valparaiso to testify against the site. In spite of all efforts, the A.E.C. hearing board granted the license on April 5, 1974. The hearing board had been blatantly pro-nuclear and skeptical (although pleasantly so) about evidence presented in regard to safety and environmental problems.

The fight against the Bailly site did not end with the granting of the license. It had, in fact, only begun. The Joint Intervenors appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago in September, 1974. That Court ruled that the hearings had been deficient in one important respect and canceled the license. This legal victory led to a large celebratory banquet held at the Clubhouse. However, NIPSCO at once appealed to the U.S. Supreme court, which overturned the decision of the Court of Appeals. NIPSCO now had a clear field to construct a plant and began preparing the site. But the task turned out to be beyond them. At every state of site preparation, they ran into problems. And at every stage, Ed Osann and the Concerned Citizens were in court to make them do it right, requiring them to stop polluting Cowles Bog, and from using, for example, pilings that were unsafe. NIPSCO

had to keep changing its construction methods and without success. In 1975, the Concerned Citizens were granted a permanent injunction against NIPSCO's latest effort by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. NIPSCO took this to the U.S. Supreme court which reversed the Circuit Court and allowed NIPSCO to proceed in 1976. But even with two assists from the U.S. Supreme Court, NIPSCO could not construct an adequate foundation for its reactor. Finally, in 1981, the utility, still trying after seven years to put in a foundation for the plant, was confronted with still another failure, and gave up the effort. It announced that it was abandoning its effort to go nuclear.

In the long run, the Concerned Citizens having lost many battles, won the war by attrition. The struggle went on from 1972 to 1981. In all, the intervention did cost, as the B.P.I. had predicted, about \$150,000.00. As time went on, the Save the Dunes council was able to help as did the state-level Isaac Walton league. In the end, residents of Dune Acres, the Save the Dunes Council and the League each contributed about \$50,000.00. Many individuals throughout the duneland region responded to periodic appeals from one group or another. Throughout the effort, the Businessmen for the Public Interest provided support services and in the late seventies took over much of the legal work. Indeed, as public opinion turned against nuclear power in the late seventies, the Concerned Citizens were joined in the intervention by the Steel Workers Union, the City of Gary, and the State of Illinois. For the first time, too, an activist group, the Bailly Alliance, was formed and carried out demonstrations in Hammond, Gary and elsewhere. The incident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania in 1979 had its effect and when the Chernobyl disaster occurred later on, the residents of Dune Acres could feel that the Bailly effort had indeed been justified.

It was a long haul from 1970 to 1981. Through the crucial early years, Dune Acres residents pursued and paid for the effort with little more than moral support from outside. Residents raised the money and Ed Osann worked doggedly, risking his career, in opposition to NIPSCO and its large legal staff. Eventually, there was much outside help, legal, financial, even demonstrations in the streets. And eventually the longtime, autocratic management at NIPSCO departed, making way for environmentally sensitive leaders with whom Dune Acres has since had excellent relations.

Dune Acres was threatened in the sixties and seventies by a marshalling yard and a nuclear plant (not to speak of a raging lake). But we won. We can leave town crossing the bog on a still-standing Mineral Springs Road to Highway 12, and we have no problems with nuclear plants or ten-story cooling towers looming over Cowles Bog. Persistence pays.



# Chapter XI

## Politics, Civic Improvement and the Lakeshore (Again)

The decade of the seventies was a time of ferment nationally and locally. It brought to Dune Acres, among other notable events, a local manifestation of the Feminist movement. Women had always played a prominent part in Dune Acres community life, but none had sought elective office in town government since the early days. In the Town election of 1971, an Environmentalist party put forth a slate of candidates composed of Lee Muskrat and Ruth Osann for the Board and Louise Edwards for Town Clerk. They filed in opposition to the usual all-male slate of the Dune Acres Party, which had dominated all elections for years. Since town elections were seldom contested, their entering the race in itself was something of a statement and in some degree a confrontation. None of the women was elected, but as Ruth Osann later commented, "it broke the ice". By the next election, the Environmentalist Party had disappeared, but Jean Sprague set a new precedent as the first woman nominee for the Board of the Dune Acres Party. She was the first of a series of women to serve on the Town Board in this period; Mary Ann Tittle (1980-1983), Faith Halley (1984-1987), Margaret Doyle (1985-1987), Sharon Snyder (1988-1991). In addition, Marie Jenkins was elected in 1984 as the first woman to serve as Clerk-Treasurer. The Town has been enriched by this enlargement of the pool of candidates for public office.

Another event of the period with far reaching consequences was the establishment of the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation in early 1985. There had been a long tradition of funding civic enterprises by voluntary contributions, especially necessary since the financial resources of the Town were limited. The Foundation regularized what had been an *ad hoc* practice, providing an ongoing institution through which civic projects could be financed and carried out. The impetus for the Foundation came from resident James Hopper, then a Dean at the University of Chicago School of Business. Hopper had extensive experience with fund-raising. He had an enthusiastic cohort in his neighbor, Mary Ann Tittle. The first meeting of the Foundation Board was held on February 17, 1985. Mary Ann Tittle was elected President and James Hopper, Vice-President. Ramona Gatewood was the first Treasurer and Gregory

Miles the first Secretary. Members of the Town Board were to be *ex officio* members of the Board, and there were nine appointed members. The first project for the Foundation was at once evident. Lake Michigan was at a new high, destroying beaches, eroding cliffs, and washing out Beach Drive. For several years, the main concern of the Foundation was raising funds to protect the shoreline and Beach Drive. Ahead loomed an even more ambitious project—rehabilitation of the Clubhouse. The building had received routine maintenance through the years, but now its condition was beyond the patch level. Major repairs and even partial rebuilding were necessary. Working with the Town Board and the Social Committee, and with enthusiastic and generous support

from the townspeople, the foundation funded and directed the project from its beginning in 1989. The major work



was completed by the end of 1991 and was celebrated at a late afternoon musicale at the Clubhouse on December 8th. Billed as 'A Holiday Concert by Candlelight: a Celebration to Benefit the Clubhouse Restoration', it presented Mary Stolper (flutist with the Grant Park Orchestra and a resident on Beach Drive) and her colleague, Stephen Hartman, a harpist. This was the first of the series of now traditional Foundation Holiday Benefits at the Clubhouse.

Meanwhile, Dune Acres was still experiencing the impact from its two powerful, new neighbors, each with its own needs to serve. Industry had brought such minor travails as the beavers and the alewife problem and very serious ones like the South Shore marshalling yard and the proposed nuclear plant at Bailly. The National Lakeshore had not thus far been seriously disruptive. True, it had taken almost 700 acres of undeveloped land within the Town limits but that was anticipated. In 1968, the local Park Service administrator hoped to close Mineral Springs Road but that plan had been dropped.



(See Chapter IX) But in the mid-seventies, the Lakeshore became a major problem to the town and created a new crisis.

The trouble came as a surprise since both Floyd Fithian, then our Congressman, and Senator Birch Bayh were anxious to limit Park expansion. Each stated explicitly and firmly that they wished to establish permanent boundaries for the Park and put to an end local uneasiness throughout Duneland about further expansion. At a public meeting in Beverly Shores in December of 1977, Fithian stated strongly that the Park Expansion Bill of 1977 would be "the last Park legislation." That bill included no provisions concerning Dune Acres. Although it did not pass the Senate in 1978, it was reintroduced in 1979.

In those same years, however, the Park Service was taking an independent and aggressive tack. In 1977, the Park Superintendent, James Whitehead, had a detailed conversation with the Porter Town Manager, reported in the Chesterton Tribune. Whitehead stated that the Park Service planned to make a strong effort to acquire the Porter Beach area, all of Dune Acres, all the land along Highway 20 from Highway 49 east to a road two miles into Pine township, and the NIPSCO greenbelt. Significantly, Whitehead said that planning for the Park had shifted from Congress to administrative control by the National Park Service. (This at the very time of Congressman Fithian's bill limiting Park expansion.) He explained that the Park Service received revenues from off-shore oil leases (\$900,000,000 a year) so that no Congressional Authorization was necessary. He later presented this plan to the Dune Acres Town Board and to a town meeting.

The reaction in Dune Acres was immediate. In December of 1978, a committee to "Keep Dune Acres Out of the Park" was formed with Joe Thomas (a second generation resident and like his father Ray a lawyer in Gary) as chairman. The committee of fourteen members circulated petitions calling for Dune Acres to be excluded and 97 per cent of the respondents signed (80 per cent of the residents responded). All of this was in anticipation of a move against the town.

That move came in 1979, not directly from the Park Service but from Congress and not from our Congressman but oddly from a representative from California. Congressman Fithian had reintroduced his Park Expansion Bill of 1978, which established permanent Park boundaries and did not affect Dune Acres. It was moving as expected through the House Interior Affairs Committee. Unexpectedly, the congressman from California introduced an amendment to include sixty-four acres and eight houses in the west end of Dune Acres in

the Park. How this happened is not clear, but the move was certainly welcomed by the Park Service. The amendment was accepted by the Committee and the Expansion Bill subsequently passed by the House included that provision.

Much remains to be explained about these events from 1977 to 1980. The Indiana delegation to Congress was explicit about limiting Park expansion. On the other hand, the Park Service, at least through its spokesman, James Whitehead, appeared ready and thought itself capable of pursuing its own ambitious course for expansion with no need for Congressional approval. When the issue came up in the House of Representatives in 1979, a congressman from California introduced a detailed plan for taking the west end of Dune Acres, which he probably had never seen. But still on the odd side, if he was acting for the Park Service, why did he offer such a limited proposal? What had happened to taking all of Porter Beach and Dune Acres? Many questions remain for the historian to work out at some point, probably through Park Service documents. At any rate, Dune Acres was included in the 1979 bill, in a way that would have crippled the Town but without including all of it in the Park as earlier rumbles had portended.

The Park Service's motive for wanting to take the West End was simple. The existing Park already included all the land west of Dune Acres to the NIPSCO Bailly Plant as well as Cowles Bog. These lands were among the most significant and unspoiled in the Park, but there was no access to them except from the beach. The Park planners had in mind building a parking lot at the end of West Road to be reached by entering Dune Acres on Mineral Springs and then proceeding down West Road. Not only would the Town lose sixty-four acres and eight houses but all control over traffic into the Town. Moreover, West Road was not built to handle heavy traffic (especially not the tour busses the Park Service contemplated using) and would have to be widened with all the destruction that would entail.

Town officials and several involved individuals determined that the best response to the amendment was to offer an acceptable, alternative means of access to the parklands to the West. This was the centerpiece of a sophisticated campaign directed at Congress to drop the West End amendment. This was organized and masterminded by Don Reuben, a lawyer whose home in the West End was included in the bill. Reuben was one of the most distinctive and colorful personalities active in Dune Acres in recent times. He had his own law firm in Chicago and represented such clients as the Chicago Tribune and the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. He was frequently referred to in the press as "the most powerful man in Chicago." Now he brought his talents, experience and contacts in Washington to bear on the West End amendment. At his own expense he engaged the Boggs firm in Washington, reputed to



be the most powerful lobbyists in the capital, to represent the Town. An elaborate brochure was prepared, entitled, 'Save Eight Million Dollars. Preserve a Town' (Eight million dollars being the assessed valuation of the property to be taken). It was presented as a proposal to the Congress of the United States from the Town of Dune Acres. The brochure was handsome and persuasive. It included a counter proposal from the Town which would solve the Park's access problem to lands west of Dune Acres. The Town's proposal offered an easement on Town park property, that is, on Golf Course Road, that would allow foot traffic to the west.

In early January of 1980, Mike Harris, the Town Attorney, and Bob Hartmann, immediate Past President, took the brochure to Washington and filed it with the Senate subcommittee as it took up the bill.

During 1980, the Town Board, Don Reuben, Ray Tittle, Chairman of the Plan Commission, and others pushed this alternative to a takeover. The Senate, fortunately, was not in favor of the West End amendment and did not include it in their version of the Park Bill. But this would have left the issue to be resolved by a conference committee of the House and Senate. By this time, the Lakeshore and the Town were both anxious to resolve the issue before it went to Conference. The Lakeshore was willing to accept some version of the Town's proposal for access.

A meeting was arranged for representatives of the Town and the Lakeshore to negotiate an agreement. On September 9, 1980, Gregory Miles, Town President, and Michael Harris, Town Attorney, met with Park Superintendent Whitehouse and Dale Enquist, his assistant. Especially through Harris' efforts, an agreement was reached. Consequently the sixty-four acres were dropped from the Park Bill, which was passed by both Houses in December of 1980.

But this did not, in fact, settle the matter once the time came to implement the September agreement. The local Park people had agreed as part of the settlement that the Park Service would agree never to take further land in Dune Acres. The Park Service solicitor squashed this on grounds that the sovereignty of the Federal Government could not be encroached on by such a limitation on its future actions. Without this guarantee, successive Town Boards took no action to implement the agreement. On the Lakeshore side, the proposed easement over Town land turned out not to be feasible. Without ownership of the fee simple, federal funds could not be used for improvements. In fact, interest in access to the west had suddenly cooled

down. In the next few years, both Town and Lakeshore raised the issue from time to time but without much urgency.

Still, some residents felt strongly that the Town was honor bound to implement the commitment to provide access to the west. By 1987, nothing had been done for seven years, and Mike Harris, who had negotiated the agreement, pressed the Town Board for compliance. In December of 1987, as its term was coming to an end, the Town Board finally resolved the problem by dropping the idea of an easement, retaining title to all Town land but designating areas for parking, roadway, and a walkway behind the Marshal's office to accommodate park visitors. At the request of Del Wilkes, President of the incoming Board, the effective date of the resolution was set at May 1, 1988. This allowed the new Board time to inform residents of the plan by letters in their mailboxes and to hold a public meeting on the issue. More than half of the householders attended the meeting. The prevailing view was that the new plan should be adopted. As it was on May 1, 1988.

Many residents feared that the parking lot would bring a constant stream of visitors into town. The possibility of school busses was often raised. In the event, nothing untoward resulted. The parking lot has been used a good deal, and visitors are often seen walking along the bog on Mineral Springs or crossing over from the lot to Golf Course Road. More recently, NIPSCO has donated their Green Belt to the Park, providing another access to the west with parking in the old South Shore parking lot. Through all this, another problem was successfully solved.

At this point (1998), industry, the Park, and Dune Acres seem to have settled into a more mature and settled set of relationships. Through almost five decades, the Dune Acres community fought to maintain its hold on a small portion of the Lake Michigan shore much coveted by very powerful forces. It not only has succeeded but succeeded with grace and honor. No section of the Indiana Dunes is better preserved in its natural state than that in Dune Acres. No other community offers as much to its residents or expects as much from them. William Wirt and the other founders could hardly have believed all that their new town would experience in its first seventy-five years. They would no doubt be surprised and pleased to see their community today.

THE END



## A word about the Chapter Notes...

The notes for each chapter which follow are intended to serve two purposes. First, they indicate the source of the information in the chapter. Second they contain additional information that either wouldn't fit into the body of the text or that we received too late to incorporate into the finished text.

Indispensable sources for the history have been the minutes of the Town Board (more recently the Town Council) and other town records (Building Permits, for example). The files of the Social Committee and other commissions and committees are also large and helpful.

The Richardson Sanctuary has a large collection of early photographs and other material about the Dune Acres area before 1923. It also has a biography in manuscript of William and Flora Richardson, early naturalists in the dunes. The archives of the Prairie Club have been deposited with Westchester Public Library in Chesterton. (Margaret Doyle has made a video from Prairie Club materials which is available at the library.)

When the Historical Commission began gathering materials for the Dune Acres Archives (and eventually for this history) in the 1980's and 1990's, there were many residents and others who had been here since the end of World War II (and a few from before that time). Thus there are taped interviews and reminiscences to supplement the official records. In addition, residents turned out to have saved all sorts of things that are now wonderful to have: annual telephone directories, Mildred Warner's annual real estate newsletters, the Beachcomber in its various incarnations as well as notices of meetings, invitations to parties, clever hand drawn maps of 'how to get to our house'. Several kept voluminous files of newspaper articles and other data in regard to the Save the Dunes movement, the successive Douglas bills on the Lakeshore, on the Bailly Nuclear Site, the park Expansion Bill of 1980. Especially valuable are personal letters usually to members of Congress about pending legislation but also hastily scribbled notes from one resident to another about some matter of town business. This history has attempted as far as possible to bring together the community's recollection of its past. But it inevitably reflects the experiences, observations and reflections of its authors, Margaret Doyle, who came to Dune Acres in 1953, and James Newman, who became a weekend resident in 1960 and moved here full-time in 1965.

### Notes to Chapter I

**Note #1:** All of the documents concerning the purchase by William Wirt from Henry Leman, the incorporation of Dune Acres, Incorporated, the election to form a town, and the establishment of the Town of Dune Acres may be conveniently found in an abstract of title for the purchased land. A copy of that abstract donated by Mrs. Milan (Camille) Morgan is in the Dune Acres archives. The originals are in the Porter County

Recorder's office in Valparaiso.

**Note #2:** According to the Chesterton Tribune (December 14, 1922), Leman had been considering offerings for his property "for industrial purposes." The author of the article concluded, "it blocks any further industrial development along the lakeshore, except where the Inland Steel Company has acquired its holdings."

**Note #3:** The unheated cabins in undeveloped dunelands remained in some cases until the 1950's. At that time, a camper could get off the South Shore at Wilson or Baillytown and take a jitney bus to his cabin on the shore. In Dune Acres, cabins on the site were allowed to remain and be used after the town was incorporated. Clarence Elder, in a taped interview in the Dune Acres Archives, remembers renting such a cottage on the lakeside end of East Road in the 1930s. It had no running water or indoor plumbing. All of these temporary houses went by 1960. One of the last was the Richardson cabin on West Road. When Flora Richardson was elderly she built the present house on the Sanctuary site and wished to keep the cabin overlooking the beach which she and her husband had built decades before. The new zoning ordinance did not allow for two houses on one site and she was required to demolish the cabin. In a more preservation minded age that cabin should no doubt have been allowed to stand as valuable evidence of an earlier period of settlement.

### Notes to Chapter II

**Note #1:** William Wirt, the principal figure in Dune Acres development, was from a farm family of the village of Markle in eastern Indiana. Born in 1874, he attended high school in Bluffton, went to Depauw University for two years and returned to Bluffton as Superintendent of Schools (such were the education standards of the day). He then returned to Depauw for his degree and returned to Bluffton. He came to Gary in 1906, age 32, and already known as an innovator. His new curricula and programming of the school day became known as the Gary System and were famous nationally. Ronald Cohen, Children of the Mill: Schooling and Society in Gary, Indiana, 1900-1960, (Indiana University press, 1990) has much material on Wirt and the system he developed. Wirt chose for his home in Dune Acres the commanding site at 74 East Road. Unfortunately, the house he built burned within a short time. Another log house was built on the site in 1930 by Lloyd Steere, Treasurer of the University of Chicago. That house also burned in 1969, exactly 40 years to the day after the original fire, according to Rhoda Steere. In 1934 his Dune Acres neighbor Mary Rennels Snyder (wife of Burgess Snyder) provided a little sketch of Wirt in her column in the Chicago Daily News, describing him as of middling height and somewhat overweight "more like a country gentleman than a school administrator... he does not strike me as the sort of man to whom I would rush with an emotional tangle. I'd want first to straighten my hair, adjust my hat and order my thoughts, for it is easy to see he



has no use for muddleheads ...Dr. Wirt is as impersonal as a Yogi. ...None of his pleasures interfere with the constant working of his brain." (Cohen, *Children of the Mill*, p. 154).

**Note #2:** Colonel Melton and Harry Hall built houses side by side at 4 and 6 Shore Drive. Harry Hall left a brief, but valuable memoir of his life which is now in the Calumet Regional Archives. Mrs. Hall chose the name 'Dune Acres' for the new town. Their grandsons, Richard and Robert Rearick, much later built houses next door to each other at 1 and 7 Linden Lane. Richard's widow, Joan, and Robert's sons, Tim and David, reside in the family houses. Robert's daughter Margie married a Chellburg, establishing a connection with Naomi Chellburg Studebaker and the Studebaker family.

**Note #3:** H.B. Snyder, Sr., was born in a small town in Ohio and was graduated from Yale University. He came to Dune Acres after the founding, but became President of Dune Acres, Incorporated, succeeding William Wirt. He and his brother bought the *Gary Evening Post* in 1910 when he was 26 years old. He was editor and then publisher of the paper that became the *Gary Post-Tribune*. He built the house at 22 Oak Lane. When he was almost fifty years old, he met Mary Rennels, Book Editor of the *New York World*, at a publishers' convention in New York. They were married the same weekend. After moving to Dune Acres, Mary Rennels Snyder worked for the *Chicago Daily News* for several years in the 1930's, then after World War II, started a book page in the *Sunday Gary Post-Tribune*. Their son H.B., Jr., (better known as Beegle) and his wife Sharon live at 15 Hill Drive. The papers of Burgess and Mary Snyder are in the Calumet Regional Archives at Indiana University Northwest. There is a catalogue of the Mary Snyder papers in the Dune Acres Archives.

**Note #4:** In its first years Gary must have had something of the character of a frontier landrush town. Colonel Melton recalled in 1922 the pioneer days when all sorts of businessmen had flocked to Gary, many of whom were 'here today and gone tomorrow.' He saw the city becoming more stable in 1922, but many others rued the passing of the very conditions that attracted so many hearty, self-educated entrepreneurs. (James B. Lane, *City of the Century: A History of Gary, Indiana*, Indiana University Press, 1978, p. 61).

### Notes to Chapter III

**Note #1:** The Dune Acres Archives has a collection of publicity materials for the Guesthouse and of menus for the Clubhouse from the pre-War period. The Social Committee preserved the Guesthouse Register through the decades and it too is now in the Archives. The dining room was on the first floor of the Clubhouse. The second floor was a lounge and the third floor a game room. There is still a shuffle board court painted on the floor of the third story. The furniture throughout both buildings was rustic. Some pieces are preserved in the Clubhouse. A chest of drawers was recently contributed to the Town by Mrs. Carol Charepko, a niece of Art Johnson, the first marshal. Florence Jones Hill, whose parents ran the Guesthouse and Dining Room from 1933 to 1936 (and who was a resident of Dune Acres after the War) has written a brief memoir about these facilities. It is

now in the Dune Acres archives. The Jones family took over the operation of the guest facilities for the 1933 season. They found both Guesthouse and Clubhouse in miserable condition. Mrs. Hill describes the kitchen: "The stove was a wood-burning monster. Instead of a refrigerator, there was a cold storage space below ground level. The first summer we operated under these primitive conditions. If it were not depression times, I doubt my father could have successfully hired a cook and a waiter. Not until the second summer did we acquire a new stove and refrigerator." The Guesthouse was "drab and badly in need. The corporation did not have two nickels to scrape together so they could not help towards improvements." An enterprising frequent visitor, Helen Lau, organized a 'Monte Carlo Night', a highly successful fund-raiser. Colorful new Venetian blinds were purchased as were rag rugs for the bare concrete floors and matching candlewick bedspreads. By 1935, all rooms were reserved for the summer before the season began.

**Note #2:** The pattern of life in town in this period is reflected in the experience of Harry Hall, one of the incorporators, and his family at 4 Shore Drive. The Halls lived in Gary, but they moved out to their log cabin on the beach in May and stayed through October. The children were taken back and forth to school in Gary during the school term. (Interview with Mrs. Katherine Hallfrisch, daughter of Harry Hall, recorded on April 13, 1998). In the high summer season, there were monthly dances at the Clubhouse, according to George Bennett, who grew up in Dune Acres.

### Notes to Chapter IV

**Note #1:** Information on the process by which the first Dune Acres Master Plan (that of 1959) evolved is contained in the file '1959 Master Plan with Preliminary Studies and Correspondence' in the Dune Acres Archives. Other information in this chapter is derived from the *Minutes of the Meetings* of the Dune Acres Town Board and from personal reminiscences. As for the telephones, Dune Acres customers were still on two-party lines until almost the end of the 1960s.

### Notes to Chapter V

**Note #1:** The section on the social committee is based on the extensive records of the committee now in the Archives, supplemented by taped interviews with Barbara Smith, Katherine Washburn, Elizabeth Rogers and Margaret Doyle.

**Note #2:** The women in the picture were the committee for a social occasion in 1972. They are Mildred Warner, Jean Sprague, Katherine Washburn (Elder), Mary Alice Newman, Georgia Craven, Barbara Smith, and Imogene Burns.

**Note #3:** Most of the details about the great fire of 1949 are from a long news article in the *Chesterton Tribune* of March 24, 1949. Information on fire-fighting generally is culled from the Town Board minutes and from personal recollections of residents. Almost anyone who was here in the 1960s or before has vivid memories of the heavy and intractable Indian Fire Fighters and of the experience (sometimes very social) of fighting a fire.



## Notes to Chapter VI

**Note #1:** This chapter is based very heavily on a statement, "The Park Purchase Plan", drawn up a few years after the events described by Richard J. Smith. He was one of those most actively involved in organizing and carrying out the plan. Dick Smith was a leading figure in all civic enterprises from 1949 until his untimely death in the early 1970's. The Archives have an extensive file detailing the process by which the plan was evolved and how it was carried out.

## Notes to Chapter VII

**Note #1:** Many young Dune Acres people were casualties of the Vietnam War in ways that cannot easily be assessed. One Dune Acres soldier was killed in Vietnam: Wilson Halley, son of James and Faith Halley of Linden Lane.

**Note #2:** A thorough account of the Port versus Park controversy is by Kay Franklin and Norma Schaeffer, Duel for the Dunes: Land Use Conflict on the Shores of Lake Michigan (University of Illinois Press, 1983). Several Dune Acres residents have given the Archives extensive collections of newspaper clippings and other items relating to the Douglas bills, most importantly, a copy of the Chicago Daily News article of October 17, 1966, entitled "How Park Plan Passed the House." The Dune Acres involvement can be followed in the minutes of Town Board meetings and through the petitions, statements of principle, arguments intended to persuade, and copies of letters to congressmen circulated within the town in those years which wound up in the Archives. A very important document is the 1964 report of the Blue Ribbon committee appointed by the Town Board and chaired by Luther Swygert. It unanimously recommended that the Town support a modified park bill.

**Note #3:** A number of Dune Acres residents were active in the Save the Dunes Council, especially Ed and Ruth Osann, Lois Howes and Ann Sims. Gertrude Conklin was the first Treasurer of the group.

## Notes to Chapter VIII

**Note #1:** The water level of Lake Michigan had been high in 1950-51. At that time, it washed out most of Beach Drive. The owners of 1, 5, and 9 Beach Drive put in steel pilings at that time as did property owners from 75 East Road to the eastern town line of Dune Acres. When pilings were being put in, remnants of an older wall made of wooden pilings were found. The 1950s high water did not threaten houses further to the west, which were protected by a broad foredune. When the lake rose again in the '70s, it took out that foredune and did threaten houses. Almost uniformly, property owners now put in steel retaining walls along the beach. Ten years later, the lake level had risen to a height not contained by the '70s walls and further reinforcements were added. In 1998, the foredune is rebuilding in the West End.

**Note #2:** Efforts to contain damage to the shoreline from Lake Michigan can be followed in the Minutes of the Town Board in a file in the Dune Acres Archives which has correspondence

between James Halley and the Corps of Engineers. The Archives also has a collection of large scale photographs of damage done to East Beach and Beach Road donated by Faith Halley.

**Note #3:** It should be noted that neither tennis nor sailing was new to Dune Acres in the 1970's. The park and playground developed twenty years before had two tennis courts which were widely used. A Dunes Yacht Club was active in 1950, with members from both Dune Acres and Porter Beach. Races were held all summer. In the 1970s two more tennis courts were added by public subscription and a great deal of attention was paid to the game. On the beach, the '50s boats were Snipes and Lightnings and Thistles. They were replaced in the '60s in a resurgence of interest in sailing (with races and a season end party) by Sunfish and Lasers.

**Note #4:** The teenagers who ran the 'play school' were Debby Bennett (Wiegell) and Caroline Lewis (Kilbourn).

**Note #5:** Changes in the demography of Dune Acres can be followed in an annual newsletter put out by Mildred Warner of Dune Acres Real Estate from 1962 to 1972 and continued by Shirley Hull and Sue Harris from 1973 to 1982 and from time to time since then. The Beachcomber has had four editors since its first appearance in May, 1973, the latest of whom is Nancy Flanagan.

**Note #6:** Recorded interviews and personal recollections play a significant part in reconstructing this kind of history.

## Notes to Chapter IX

**Note #1:** This chapter is based on Town Board Minutes, interviews with Dan Jenkins and Faith Halley and personal papers of James Halley in the Dune Acres Archives. Personal recollections have also played their part.

**Note #2:** The photograph on page 23 is one of the old wagon trails, dating back to before the establishment of Dune Acres: it was no doubt used to carry out timber in the 19th Century, and as access to camper's cabins before 1923. It was still clearly defined in 1998.

## Notes to Chapter X

**Note #1:** Materials on the Concerned Citizens and the legal actions against the Bailey Nuclear Site have been deposited in the Calumet Regional Archives at Indiana University Northwest (the Edward Osann papers, the James Newman papers (which include the papers of Mildred Warner)), Steel Shavings, a publication of the History Department at Indiana University Northwest, has an issue devoted to full coverage of both the Concerned Citizens and the later Bailey Nuclear Alliance.

**Note #2:** While the townspeople of Dune Acres were fully engaged in the Bailey issue, a new threat appeared. On November 14, 1973, the Town Board called a special meeting at the Clubhouse to discuss "impending lawsuits against the Town of Dune Acres". The notice put around in mail boxes concluded ominously, "This may be the most important happening in the history of our town." The lawsuits were brought by an attorney from Hammond, Owen W. Crumpacker, on behalf of himself and several relatives.



The Crumpackers had for several generations owned land south and west of Dune Acres, between the swamp and the West End subdivisions. There was no access to their land by road but potentially there could be access along an improved Golf Course Road or through a lot lying along West Road. The Town, in its effort to develop public space in the West End, bought the lot. This stirred Mr. Crumpacker into action. He had never made an effort to buy the lot but he now offered to purchase it from the Town. As it had been designated parkland, this was not possible. Crumpacker declared that it was his intention to develop a sand mine on his property and claimed to have been deprived of his right to do so by the Town. His lawsuits asked for \$450,000 in damages and, most critically, contended that the Town of Dune Acres had been improperly formed and should be declared "not to exist." It was estimated that defending the Town would cost about \$15,000, which the Town government did not have. Once again, a citizen's committee was formed to raise this sum, chaired by Tom Washburn, retired Director of Quality Control for Inland Steel. The Town meeting had agreed to a voluntary assessment on the basis of appraised valuation. This worked out to a 1.4% of assessed valuation contribution from each property owner. The defense fund was raised without any trouble. But note that this was in same years that the Concerned Citizens against the Bailey Nuclear Site were also raising thousands of dollars. The community was truly under siege. The legal proceedings went on from November, 1973, until May 22, 1975, when the federal district court in Hammond ruled against Crumpacker. Five years later, in 1978, the Indiana Supreme Court disbarred Owen Crumpacker, terming him a "vicious, sinister person." The basis for this action and this characterization had nothing to do with the Dune Acres suit, but nobody in town would have disagreed with that judgment. Materials on the Crumpacker suit may be found in the Crumpacker file of the Dune Acres Archives and references here and there in Town Board Minutes for 1973 to 1975.

## Notes to Chapter XI

**Note #1:** The sources for information on the election of 1968 and the Environmental party are to be found in an account in the Chesterton Tribune, supplemented by personal recollections. As a village, Dune Acres was not required to have tickets put up by the Democratic and Republican parties. This was once proposed by the county office of Voter Registration and provoked a strongly negative reaction from residents of all party loyalties. It was realized that bringing national party attachments into Town elections would be both pointless and disastrously divisive, contrary to the spirit of the community. The Dune Acres party which dominated town politics for several decades was a rather mysterious affair to most residents. Its choices seemed to emerge from a meeting of prominent citizens called "the caucus." The secrets of the caucus have yet to be plumbed.

**Note #2:** As for the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation, founding members of the Foundation Board were Gertrude Conklin, Tom Cornwell, Leon Gardner, Ramona Gatewood, Julian Goldsmith, Faith Halley, Robert Hartmann, James Hopper,

Gregory Miles, James Newman, Edward Osann and Mary Ann Tittle. Cornwell, Halley and Hartmann were ex-officio members of the Town Board. A resolution authorizing the establishment of the Foundation was passed by the Dune Acres Board of Trustees in December 1983. The Town Board acted as an organizing committee with assistance from Michael Harris, Town Attorney, and James Hopper.

**Note #3:** The conflict with the National Lakeshore over access to their property west of Dune Acres can be followed from the Town Board Minutes and from a large file in the Dune Acres Archives. An indispensable source for events from 1977 to 1988 is an affidavit sworn by Town Attorney Michael Harris on July 11, 1988. Both the Harris affidavit and the brochure "Save Eight Million Dollars, Preserve the Town" are in the Dune Acres Archives. The brochure was written by Mike Harris, Bob Hartmann and Leonard Conklin. Another valuable summary of events can be found in a memorandum written by Sharon Snyder and Ray Tittle dated June 1, 1989, in which they review concisely the history of the proposed taking of the West End and the agreement to compromise with a parking lot and access down to its final implementation in 1988.



## Acknowledgments:

Photographs used in this book were provided by:

Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana  
University Northwest  
Joan Rearick  
Gwen Schmidt Stoughton  
Mary Lou Muntz  
Rhoda Steere  
Caroline Warner Hightower  
Sharon Snyder  
Woods Halley  
Mary Ann Tittle  
Barbara Smith  
Brunhilde Wahlers  
Debi Smith-Simanski  
George S. Smith, Jr.  
Henry Studebaker  
Margaret Doyle



# Appendix

## The Dune Acres Natural Landscape

### An Interview with Barbara Plampin

We here present much-edited and condensed excerpts from a 1995 interview with Barbara Plampin about the natural history of Dune Acres. Barbara Plampin of 18 East Road, was born in Michigan, but spent much of her early life in New Mexico. She is a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan and has taught at the University of Chicago and Illinois Institute of Technology. She is best known locally as a nonprofessional but highly knowledgeable botanist and lover of and expert on the Dunes. In this, she follows in the footsteps of the late Lois Howes, who was her mentor. Fortunately she was able to annotate the transcript of the interview itself after it was typed. In what follows, BP is, of course, Barbara Plampin. The other voices are those of members of the Historical Commission, MD, Margaret Doyle, and JN, James Newman. Additional information on this subject will be gratefully received by either MC or JN and added to the Dune Acres Archives.

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**JN:** Barbara, why don't we start with what the Dune Acres area would have looked like before even the early shacks were built along the shore—roughly in the late 19th century?

**BP:** To go a long way back, to the early 19th century, the dunes were apparently covered by White Pines. But there was extensive lumbering, before and after the Civil War. According to an account published in 1833, the pines along the trail we call Golf Course Road were being cut for lumber. After the pines came the oaks, most of which are pretty young. The dunes were rather bare, as many photos in books from the 1920s illustrate.

**JN:** Powell Moore in his book, *The Calumet Region*, says there was extensive lumbering in the region, so much so that a great pier stood at Waverly Beach from which they exported timber to Chicago after the Civil War.

**BP:** There was enough timber to build Chicago twice, before and after the Great Fire. From a study done by scientists at the National Lakeshore, most of the lumbering was south of the marshland, especially east of here at the present town of Pines where there was

a heavy stand of White Pine.

**MD:** You would say then that our dunes were pretty bare in the early 20th century?

**BP:** If you observe, the present trees around here, most of them are awfully small and among them are a few widely spaced much larger oak trees. My guess is that before the Town was established, there were a few large oak trees and not much else. A study done by a National Lakeshore scientist found very few pre-settlement White Pines near Dune Acres, and none in town.

**JN:** Every year, probably in the sixties, some residents planted pine seedlings provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. All those along East Road in front of Harriet Moore's (34 East Road) and the Hartmann's (36 East Road) were planted then. There used to be an open view across the blowout to the water.

**MD:** Why did they plant them? To hold the sand?

**JN:** I don't know, but every spring there would be a flyer in the mailbox urging residents to pick up the seedlings at the Fire Station and plant them. If you look at the point where East Road curves to run down to the Lake, the planted pines are several rows thick, a virtual grove.

**BP:** Now it's shady in there. You might go down there and look for some woodland plants! Another way the landscape has changed is through the spread of cat tails in Cowles Bog. According to a National Lakeshore study, cat tail coverage increased between 1961 and 1970 from 3.5 hectares to 9.7 hectares and then from 1970 to 1975 they really zoomed ahead from 9.7 hectares to 32.3 hectares. It was Lois Howes who first called their attention to how the cat tails were behaving.

**MD:** Now is that natural progression or did these cat tails get introduced in some outside way?

**BP:** There were always cat tails, but they behaved politely as I understand it: that is, there were very few of them, and they did not proliferate and try to take over. So drainage and industry are thought to be the cause of the great explosion, the geometric progression.

**JN:** So the native landscape has changed a lot, even in recent years. But what remains permanently distinctive about the flora of the dunes?



**BP:** Dr. Gerould Wilhelm of the Morton Arboretum speaks of the swamp forest south of the boardwalk (west of the marshal's office) as having been "here since the Pleistocene" and as "irreplaceable." I think the most remarkable survival is that we still have here in Dune Acres and throughout the dunes a crossroads where plants characteristic of very different ecologies grow together: e.g., the desert plant, the Prickly Pear Cactus, next to the Arctic plant, the Bearberry. Then we've got the Pitcher's Thistle, which is our most distinctive plant: it is on the Federal list of threatened plants. It has a western cousin, so it has moved here from the West and adapted.

**JN:** Is this a rare plant everywhere, or just unusual in the Midwest?

**BP:** It is very rare everywhere, so rare that, as I say, it is a federally protected threatened species. Pitcher's Thistle is endemic to the Great Lakes. It grows nowhere else in the world. And then we have a number of what are called 'coastal plain disjuncts.' These are plants that grow along the Eastern seaboard and they take a jump and show up in the Midwest sometimes—in Indiana, Michigan, various other spots. You see many of them in Howes Prairie. Here are a few CPD's: Marram Grass, Screwstem (found in wet prairie, swamp forest), Sea Rocket (grows on the beach), Narrow-leaved Sundew (also a wet prairie plant). (Ed. note: more are listed in the Addenda.)

**JN:** And you mentioned the other day that...was it the Small Forget-me-not that is an endangered species in Indiana?

**BP:** It is to be found on either side of the east end of the boardwalk west of the marshal's office. The state does publish lists of plants, animals, and insects, birds, even land snails that are endangered in one way or another or threatened. This list is updated from time to time. (Ed. note: a sample is given in the Addenda.)

**MD:** Barbara, do you find distinctions within Dune Acres? Do the vegetation and the flora change as you move from the East to the West End?

**BP:** Yes, to some extent. For example, we have Upland Boneset at the West End and on the Osann's property (92 West Road) and on the Neale property adjacent to Osann's as well as in the National Lakeshore to the west. Now, whether this was its only location ever at all in this part of the world, I simply don't know. They haven't found it again at the State Park where a botanist reported in 1927. That's the proper habitat for it. And, as far as I know, there aren't any Yellow Lady Slippers on the west side; they're all around the Boothe house (3 Pine Lane) and Helen Boothe thinks the plants all descended from the ones in her yard. But some Yellow Lady Slippers grow on the south side of Pine Lane,

too. Emily Robertson has some, too, but they are transplants.

**MD:** You mentioned earlier that we have desert plants next to plants from the Arctic. One would think they would need very different conditions to grow.

**BP:** Actually, both the desert and the Arctic have in common the need to adapt to a seasonal supply of water. One thinks of the Arctic as having water available all the time, but it doesn't. The ground is frozen, and what is the poor plant to do except to develop strategies similar to those of the desert plant, like leaf reduction and something that would store water?

**JN:** Do we have other plants from the Arctic?

**BP:** Yes, they are called 'boreal' plants: ones that came down from the north ahead of the glacier and found that they could stay. One is called Goldthread: it's a shiny leafed flower that one would find south of the boardwalk in the swamp forest. The roots are gold in color, and the Indians used it to make a dye. Then there is the Club-Spur Orchid, a few of which grow north of the boardwalk, west of the guard house as well as in the swamp forest. The birches—Yellow Birch and Paper Birch—are boreal, also.

**JN:** I know there are birches along the old Golf Course Road, but there aren't many around, are there?

**BP:** You would find them farther north in greater abundance and Dune Acres is at their southern extremity. But White Pines which were once quite abundant, are boreal, as are Star Flowers.

**MD:** So they are pushed down by glaciers, these boreals?

**BP:** Yes. It was colder, of course, when the glacier was right behind them, so they had good growing conditions. Some of them wound up, down in the mountains in Georgia, where they still are. Then they skip to Indiana and go on up north. One interesting characteristic of boreals here is that they often do not bloom. They reproduce themselves by putting out underground runners for example. Apparently it's too warm for them to bother to flower—or whatever the reason: the conditions are not quite right.

**JN:** You talked about the boreal plants. What about the plants that have come from the South, is that a movement too?

**BP:** There are certainly plants here that also bloom in the south, for example, the Partridge Berry, which I always thought had to be a northern plant because it has evergreen leaves. But it goes all the way down to Florida, and so does the Trailing Arbutus. I don't know which direction they spread though.



**JN:** I admire those Yellow Iris that grow down close to the marshal's office.

**BP:** These are of European origin, and are garden escapees.

**JN:** I think you told me that some people think they probably shouldn't be here.

**BP:** The fear is that they and other 'exotics' would displace native plants. Many plants have disappeared; there are plants in the record which no one has seen here in decades. For example, there was *Linnaea*, the Twin Flower, last seen in the twenties. Around 1912 Mr. Richardson (Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary) photographed expanses of it probably in the dunes, perhaps in Cowles Bog. All the plants noted as growing with it are still there...but where is it? And what would cause one plant to disappear?

**MD:** Well, now, talking about things disappearing, when you go down that trail from the end of Lupine Lane, it used to be that you'd come around a bend and all of a sudden there would be all these Wood Lilies. And I've either missed them or they are not here any more.

**BP:** Yes, they apparently were over-picked, but after the 1994 burn, they appeared in greater abundance than I myself have seen them here, and I saw them in several places off Lupine Lane where I'd never seen them before. But lots of good plants are gone; for example, there is a record of Cream Gentian growing somewhere off Fern Lane in the fifties or early sixties, but I don't know of anyone who has seen that Cream Gentian in decades.

**JN:** Barbara, let's turn now to what many of us would consider our most distinctive natural phenomenon—Cowles Bog. First of all, where is it? That seems a funny question since everybody knows where it is. But apparently it isn't the wetland we cross entering Dune Acres. Where is the real Cowles Bog?

**BP:** The marsh one sees on either side of Mineral Springs Road contains what is called scientifically the 'Cowles Bog Wetland Complex.' To that extent we are correct in referring to the whole area as Cowles Bog as a shortening of the long scientific name. But the bog itself lies at the western end of that area of wetlands. It can be seen if you stand by the road just south of the guardhouse and look west across the marsh to the very tall White Pine; then in front of it one can see Northern White Cedars. That is the area of the real Cowles Bog.

**MD:** Those Northern White Cedars are significant too, aren't they?

**BP:** Those are the last stand of native Northern White Cedars in all of Indiana. That's partly because of drainage and partly because other stands were cut down for Christmas trees or perhaps for fire wood during the depression.

**JN:** You commented recently that the marsh we cross on Mineral Springs Road is part of a great marsh that runs all the way west—as far as Miller, I guess.

**BP:** Yes, it does, and some people say that it goes all the way to Michigan City. Other make it a little shorter and give it a ten mile length.

**MD:** I want to ask what is the difference between a marsh and a bog?

**BP:** Bogs, fens, swamps, marshes are defined partly in terms of what grows in them and partly in terms of where they get their water. Marshes are wetlands open to the sun. They are not dominated by trees or shrubs; they get rain water, of course, but also water from creeks or springs. A bog lies in a depression in the ground; it is not fed except by rain water, not by ground water seepage or run off. By definition, it is 'an acidic mineral-poor water filled depression, much of the surface covered by a floating mat of vegetation.' That is from this book I brought with me. It is not technical, but we will take it as the horse's mouth. It is a good book, incidentally, I recommend it. (Ed. note: see Addenda for title and other information.) It also says that there are few if any true bogs in Indiana, and that is indeed the case with Cowles Bog. Technically, it is not a bog but a fen.

**MD:** Well, what is the difference between a bog and a fen?

**BP:** Bogs are stagnant, and mineral poor. Fens have a constant supply of mineral-rich ground water and produce a wider variety of plants. What we call Cowles Bog is fed by an aquifer so it has a source of ground water and is correctly a fen, and has a variety of plants that are characteristic of a fen. (Ed note: Barbara explains in more detail in the Addenda.)

**JN:** At any rate, Henry Cowles of the University of Chicago studied plant succession here and developed the science of ecology.

**BP:** Yes, and his work was world famous. He was a member of a group called the International Phytogeographic Excursion. This was a group of continental European, British and American ecologists. They first met in 1911 in the British Isles. And then it was Cowles turn to arrange an American Tour for them and he asked the scientists where they wanted to go. They chose to go to Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and the Indiana Dunes. This was in 1913, and



they spent a couple of August days in the Dunes. They decided the 'bog' had the characteristics of an English fen and the succession pattern resembled a fen-like or 'Niedermoor' type (drawn from their German experience). (Ed. note: for more on this expedition, see the Addenda.)

**JN:** I take it they were all ecologists. Had they learned all this from Henry Cowles?

**BP:** No, Cowles should more accurately be known as the father of American ecology. The study actually started in Denmark with a man called Warming, whose pioneer work was published in 1895 and which was used at the University of Chicago. It was used in a class taught by John Merle Coulter, translated page by page for the class sessions, and the students would try to see what matched Indiana. But it was Henry Cowles who worked out the succession in the bog and in the dunes and whose publications formulated the principles of ecology for Americans.

**JN:** So to draw this together, we can say that the wetland crossed by Mineral Springs Road is not Cowles Bog but a part of the great duneland marsh; that Cowles Bog lies perhaps a mile to the west and is actually a fen; that Henry Cowles founded ecology in America, but not the concept of ecology itself. Dear me! Well, we will no doubt continue to call it all Cowles Bog and find it as fascinating as ever.

**BP:** That's right, and, as I said, the whole wetland is called the 'Cowles Bog Wetland Complex', so it is perfectly proper to use this term.

**MD:** To bring this to a close, Barbara, let me ask you what you would like to see or do in the dunes that you haven't done yet?

**BP:** There are records from early visitors that describe places that I haven't been able to see. There were a group of botanists, a regular crew almost, that got off one South Shore stop or another, and of course they couldn't get much further than they could walk, but they left the most tantalizing records of one kind or another. They mention more bogs or so-called bogs, and I know where two of them were. It just makes me sick that they were drained. There is said to be a privately owned bog south of U.S. 20 that I'd dearly like to explore—also wetlands north of the Marquette Trail in Miller. But most of all, I'd like to have seen the Dunes before any European settlers arrived or before timbering and draining started. At that time, Northern Indiana has been described as a 'land of slow moving streams.' I'd like to have seen it then.

**MD & JN:** Yes, wouldn't that have been great! Thank you, Barbara.

## Addenda:

### A. List of further Atlantic Coastal Disjuncts:

Yellow-eyed grass (found in Howes Prairie, not a grass at all, but a 'cute little three petalled flower' also along the Calumet bike trail to Kemil Road)  
Purple Bladderwort (found in Little Lake).

### B. Listed Endangered Plants:

Federal List: Pitcher's Thistle  
State List: Speckled Alder, Marram Grass, Bearberry, Paper Birch, Northern Bush Honeysuckle, Sundews, Black-fruited Spike Rush, Seaside Spurge, Kalm's St. Johnswort, Cow Wheat, Small Forget-me-not, Club-Spur Orchid, White Pine, Jack Pine, Large-leaved Skinleaf, Hall's Bulrush (proposed for a Federal Listing), Reticulated Nutrush, Dunes (Sticky) Goldenrod, Northern White Cedar, Purple Bladderwort.

### C. Recommended book:

Michael A. Homoya, *Orchids of Indiana* (Indiana Academy of Science, 1993)  
The Powell Moore book mentioned earlier is *The Calumet Region, Indiana's Last Frontier* (Indiana Historical Collections, vol. XXXIX, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1999)

### D. The difference between a bog and a fen:

A bog is defined in the text. It is fed only by rain water and is mineral-poor. In a fen, there is ground water flowing to the surface and spreading in a diffuse manner, usually through a muck soil. The place where the cedars grow in the so-called Cowles Bog is a mound of peat with marl, sand and clay underneath it. It has an aquifer in it which allows water to come up to the surface and diffuse under the mound; then this water flows into what is called a sedge meadow. Fens support a more interesting flora than a bog. Bog plants are usually fewer in number, but some are very odd, especially the carnivorous ones which make up for the absence of trace minerals by eating insects.

### E. Visit of the International Phytogeographic Excursion to the Cowles Bog in 1913:

There is an account of the expedition by George Fuller, who was a graduate student assistant to Henry Cowles. The group arrived at the 63rd Street Illinois Central Station and spent the first day on the University of Chicago campus. The next day (August 2), they went to Miller. Then, on August 3, the group went back into the dunes, but this time they penetrated further into Indiana. First they took the Michigan Southern to the next station beyond Miller, Dune Park (ed. note: now site of Bethlehem Steel) where they visited the large tract of high moving dunes, that had always been one of Cowles' favorite sites. After lunching in the field, the group took the South Shore further east, and disembarked at Mineral Springs station (ed. note: the former Dune Acres CSSR stop), where Mineral Springs crosses the northern slope of the Calumet Beach Ridge. The Excursion program was the first specific reference we have to this wetland. They observed the stages of bog development from the reed swamp through the stage of 'xerophytic' (that is, needing little moisture) shrubs to the tamarack and climax forest. They describe some of the plants they saw and concluded that the bog had the characteristics, including the succession pattern, of an English fen. The expedition, in August, 1913, was the last held as the First World War broke out in August 1914.



Entrance Gate Lodge for Dune Acres  
George S. Smith, Architect



Designed and produced by Dynamic Designs, Plymouth, Indiana