

July, 12, 1983.

It was the year of 1915 that our Dad bought our little cottage sight unseen at Sprong's Bluff, Sodus New York. The coming week-end our family went to see what Dad had bought, and to our surprise we found the front porch hanging over the bluff. Mr. Gaylord Hewlett who owned the basket factory at Sodus, came to our rescue, and with rollers left from the peelings of wood for his baskets at his factory. He moved the cottage back 150 feet, cutting down trees to move the cottage. Within the next 45 years our cottage had been moved back three times for a distance of some 500 feet. All this due to the washing away of the bank by wet springs and high water level in the lake.

We three boys and one sister with ages ranging from 11 years to 16 years grew up in summer times at Sprong's Bluff. Fishing was the best ever, far better than it is of today. There was no moss or algae in those early years, and small mouth black bass came in lengths of 19 and 20 inches or 4 pounds and over. But yellow perch and sunfish were the most plentiful, and it was comon to catch some 50 to 70 perch in a morning or afternoon of most any day. But as always, when a east wind came up on the lake, all fishing stopped in the lake, for why we never knew. Our fishing was done off of a log raft we always built each summer. There was only one boat that we knew of, a round bottom row boat owned by Mr. Hewlett. Outboard motors were unherd of in those years.

Maxwell creek at that time was called Preston creek and had a channel depth of 12 feet by 50 feet wide. The outlet was along side the west bank and was 12 feet deep by 30 feet wide. The girl scout camp came many years later, In those early years we use to gather chestnuts in what is now the girl scout woods. Maxwell creek had three dams and the water was used by the small electric company which later was bought out by the (Rochester Gas and Electric Company,) and later done away with.

I THINK

Just east of our cottage was the big cottage in the woods, It was owned by Doctor Tuttle, later by Mr. Fish and today by the Coopers of Williamson N. Y. There was a flat as we called it with four double cottages on it. One was mooved back of the double streams that come together, the one that belonged to Mr. Hewlett was cut into two sections to make two cottages there today, a third one has been mooved to Sand Point at Sodus Point, We use to play ball on that flat, and today it is all washed away. The Sprong farm loss some 60 acreas from high lake water and wet springs. Up on the east bank was an old fisherman, he used to set his fishing nets off of Boler Point, and just off the flat was a peir made of logs spiked together and filled with rocks of large size, all is long gone now.

To get to our cottage every summer, we traveled by way of the Sodus Bay Trolley from Rochester, N. Y. There was no paved roads east of Rochester. We walked the three miles from Sodus to the cottage, and back and forth for groceries. Mr. Hewlett often pick us up going both ways to Sodus and back, with his automobile of which there were only a few in the area. In later years people began to move into the woods. The Mr & Mrs Myron Orbaker, the Phylas and many others. Inlater years people mooved and built their cottages on the east side of the woods. Many have mooved their cottages at least one or more times over the years, as the waters washed the banks away.

In time the chestnut trees all dispeared, and now we are told within the next ten years all beach trees will end up with the same fate, while other trees are slowly taking over, like the maple and ash and hemlock. And so we go on living with something new always coming our way. Maybe in a few years Sodus will become a city. Any way you look at it, its wonderful to look and think back at those years and the changing times. We even had a barber shop that charged only .15¢ per hair cut and a nickle for a loaf of bread.

By: Fred