

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Terry Lappin

It has been a quiet year for Bay Shore Drive. There haven't been any major issues that required us to get all worked up about and active. That is how I like it. I think, however, that the quiet time is about to end this year. We have several issues in the county right now: the Justice Center and the subsequent recall effort, sky-rocketing taxes, Wal-Mart's desire to challenge Target with a "superstore," the bridge decision, and the "aquatic industrial park." There is also uncertainty about what will be proposed for the large tracts of land on the inland side of Bay Shore Drive that are for sale.

Many of these issues are not within the scope of BSPOA's mission statement. However, I urge those who are interested in these issues to get involved and make their opinions known. We get the government we deserve, and silence is not really an option. The forces that push developments at any cost are out there.

The BSPOA steering committee will attempt to keep you informed of issues we see that are critical to your association's mission. We may ask that you participate in public hearings or ask that you write the appropriate elected officials with your opinions. Your elected representatives do listen to voters and numbers of voters do count.

Hopefully, it will be another quiet year, but don't bet on it.



Sunset over Sturgeon and Green Bays

ACTION ITEMS FOR 2001-2002

Your association Steering Committee has adopted the following action items to work on for 2001-2002.

- Respond to all issues affecting the residential character of Bay Shore Drive
- Monitor:
 - ◆ Sevastopol Town Board and Planning & Zoning Board
 - ◆ Egg Harbor Town Board & Planning & Zoning Board
 - ◆ Door County Resource Planning Committee
 - ◆ Door County Board of Adjustments
- Continue efforts to prevent construction of new, private solid docks
- Advocate for minimum, reasonable property taxes
- Support Friends of Bay Shore Blufflands
- Continue compilation of Bay Shore Drive anecdotal history
- Provide Membership Services including membership retention & recruitment, two newsletters, and one Annual Meeting

SOLID DOCK ISSUE IN ANOTHER COUNTY

House Bill AB602 that would repeal all existing pier and boathouse regulations while grandfathering illegal structures has been introduced in the WI state legislature. The intent of the bill is to force the DNR to revamp rules and enforcement procedures that have been labeled as not specific enough to provide for consistent regulation. Introduced by Rep. Scott Gunderson and Sen. Dale Schultz and a number of other legislators, it would grandfather as legal all structures built prior to Jan. 1, 2001.

Director of the DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management told committee members at a December 12 hearing that the bill would open the door to additional structures that will harm lakes and streams. He said the bill would jeopardize the potential for standard setting by drawing "completely arbitrary lines for grandfathering."

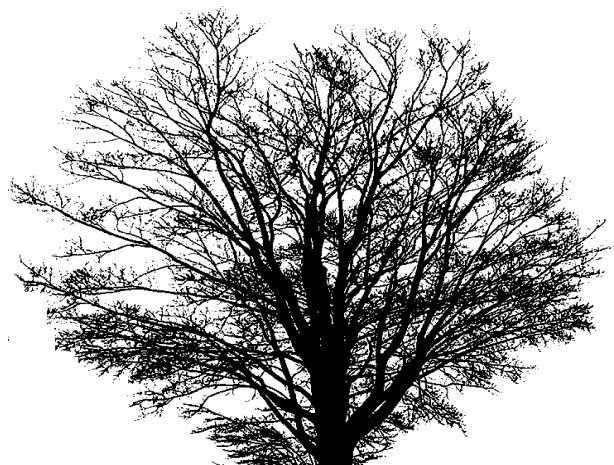
The dramatic increase in desired pier size has occurred primarily in the last 10 years in Vilas County (Eagle River) and enforcement is a result of expansion of structures, either proposed in an application or the subject of a complaint when built without a permit.

In a recent conversation, Ron Fassbender of the Sturgeon Bay DNR office said he was hopeful that this proposed bill would not make it through the legislature.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?

If remitting your 2001-2002 BSPOA dues has slipped your mind, please support the Bay Shore Property Owners Association and continue to receive the BSPOA newsletter.

Dues of \$15 may be sent to **Joan Follmer, 4537 Laurie Lane, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. Thank you for your support.**



SEVASTOPOL NEWS

New Year Sevastopol Taxes

Three Steering Committee members attended the Special Town Meeting on November 19 to consider the tax levy for 2002. A budget of \$812,246 was approved, indicating a tax levy of \$456,104 resulting in a slightly lower mil rate from the previous year's rate. (The mil rate is the amount of tax paid by property owners per thousand dollars of valuation.) The largest single item in the new budget is \$270,000 for road construction.

Proposed Justice Center

Lots of buzz has been generated around the county by the Door County Board proposed Justice Center project. The county has voted to borrow \$30 million to build a Justice Center and new highway shop on the west side of Sturgeon Bay, an ambulance station in Sister Bay, and purchase equipment for the countywide dispatch system, with the Justice Center/highway shop part of the proposal eliciting great interest. The county has already purchased 140 acres of land on which to build the Center, shop and future county offices. In response to the issue, a letter from Terry Lappin to the Editor of the *Door County Advocate* follows:

"The Bay Shore Property Owners Association represents residents along the bay shore in Sevastopol and Egg Harbor. A part of our mission is to monitor how wisely the towns and county spend our tax money. As a result, we oppose the proposed Door County Justice Center and the associated \$30 million bond issue.

"We believe the proposed jail and associated courtrooms and legal offices are being put in the wrong location and are excessively expensive. When there are reportedly many empty jail cells in the state, we do not understand why Door

County should build more. We also have difficulty understanding why the Highway Department relocation is necessary and why it is bundled with the Justice Center issue.

"For a discretionary spending item that is expected to consume about 20% of the county budget, we believe a more participatory method of deciding how to spend our money should have been followed. We believe the County Board should reconsider the entire proposal."

A grassroots group, Citizens for Open Government (COG), organized a petition drive demanding a recall of 18 members from the Door County Board of Supervisors because of this issue. Petitions were filed at the county clerk office resulting in the recall election of 15 county supervisors on February 5.

Voting Absentee?

Planning to be out of town during an election? Procedures exist for "long term" and "short term" absences.

■ **Short term:** You can vote absentee in person at your Town Hall as soon as ballots are available, usually three weeks prior to an election. The voting deadline is 5PM the day prior to the election.

■ **Long term:** Send a letter to your Town Hall requesting an absentee ballot. Specify in the letter the address for the ballot return. The Town Clerk will in turn mail the ballot to you at the specified address. You can then return your marked ballot by 5PM the day prior to the election. Make it count.

■ **Town Hall addresses:**

Town of Sevastopol, P.O. Box 135, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Town of Egg Harbor, 5242 County I, Egg Harbor, WI 54209

Living In History

THE PARKINSON HOUSE

As told to Shirley Pickering

What does it feel like to live in a 100 year-old house? Ask Mike and Mary Standish, who have that experience each day on Bay Shore Drive between Horseshoe Bay and Little Harbor. A road wends its way through woods to a clearing and the large, stately stone structure built by R. H. Parkinson of Chicago as a summer home in the early 1900's. Born in 1849 in Maine, Mr. Parkinson attended Dartmouth College and practiced law (patent law specialty) in Chicago for 55 years. He represented John Deere and it was whispered that he was a legal advisor to the Wilson administration.

How was this highly crafted home built? Workmen started loading barges early in the morning, moving stone from the quarry south of Little Harbor north to the "T" shaped dock (good sized yacht anchored on one side). Once unloaded, the stone was hauled up the hill to the construction site. Wages were fifty cents a day for the hard work. Materials were delivered to the site on foot or by horse, wagon, or water.

A delay in the building came when craftsmen became hard to find during WWI. By 1918 the interior, including seven bedrooms and four fireplaces, was finished. The large library contained the classics in literature and poetry, many first editions, travel books and a large section on the occult. It was said that Mr. Parkinson



was of short stature (5'1") but had a surprisingly huge bathtub. Rumor has it that Mrs. Parkinson never stayed in the house.

The existing beach house served as the kitchen and servants' quarters, while the large outhouse was likened to a throne because of the two steps up at the entrance. As for the farm, cowboys were imported to raise and herd long-haired Scottish and Black Angus cattle.

At the time of his death in Chicago, Mr. Parkinson owned approximately 2000 acres on the Peninsula with tracts in nearly every township. The principal estate adjoining the house included six miles of shoreline and inland property from the farm and summer home at Carlsville Road to near Horseshoe Bay, including the Chateau Hutter property. His survivors were a son, Stirling, and two daughters, Mrs. Alfred E. ManTerre of Chicago and Miss Elizabeth Parkinson, a recluse who died in the house.

Clem Haberman bought the house from Mr. Parkinson and is credited with the more recent tuck-pointing job and for reinforcing the first floor. Prior to Standish ownership, the wooded property served as a campground. Mike and Mary introduced modernized heating and plumbing and returned the home to its former splendor. And....an ancestor of Mr. Parkinson's wrote the McGuffey Reader. What a story!



BAY SHORE DRIVE RECOLLECTIONS WITH JOHN SCHACK

As told to Henry Martens

To explain John and Joyce (daughter of Al Wolske) Schack's interest in the history of Bay Shore Drive we begin with Julius and Bertha Schack, parents of Henry, who settled in the area. Henry (1887-1978) and his wife, Harriet Pallister (1914-1966) were the parents of John and lived on property at 4764 Bay Shore Drive fronting on the west side of Old County OR. Their two children were John and Minnie (now of Racine).

John and Joyce lived at the 4764 address until moving across the road to 4771. The 4771 property originally included land running from old County OR to Smith's Quarry (Olde Stone Quarry County Park). At some point, a portion of the Pallister property was sold to the quarry to use for a catch basin for the quarry wash. John says that the quarry wash was ten feet high along the original Bay Shore Drive. Imagine that!

County GG (earlier name for Bay Shore Drive) dead-ended near the R.H. Parkinson property (see page 4) where Carlsville Road extended east to Highway 42. It was not until the 50's that County GG was built through Egg Harbor Township from the Parkinson Farm to Horseshoe Bay Farm.

Old County OR

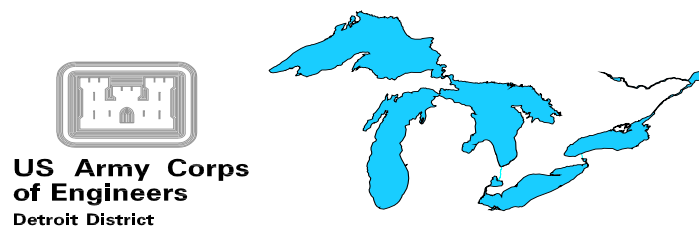
Property owners along OR stretching down to County GG at one time or another included Martin's Orchard, Sturgeon Bay Fruit Co., Reynolds Orchard, Cooperative Orchard Co., and Sam Goldman. Martin Orchards was one of the largest cherry orchards in the county at one time and included a grocery store and living quarters for the pickers.

Stone Quarry Industry

The Door County stone industry is said to have been started by Robert Laurie and his son. About 900 cords of stone (a cord = 4'x 4'x 8') were shipped from the quarry the first year. A large part of this building stone was shipped to Marinette or neighboring towns. Early in the 1880's Frank Hogan opened a stone quarry in Government Bluff at the mouth of Sturgeon Bay, but being a squatter on the land, he was driven off. He then started a quarry in Sawyer which became known as the Green Stone Company.

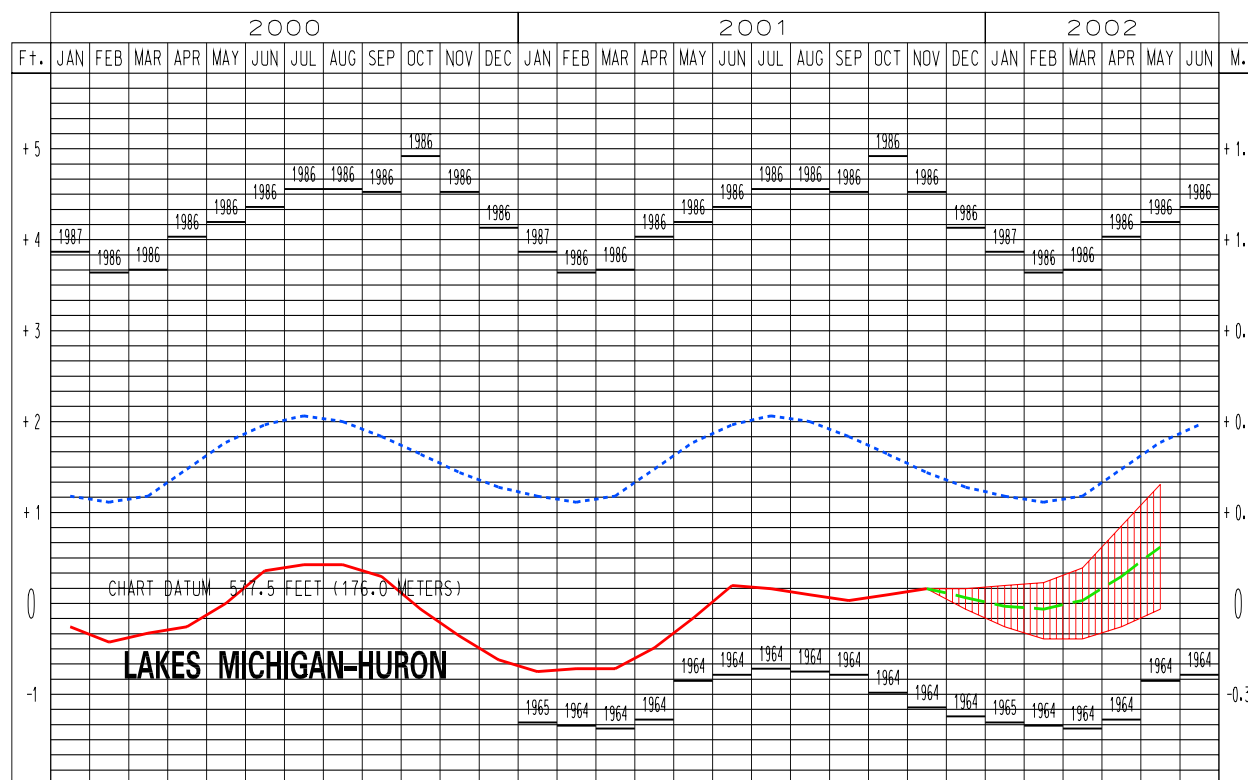
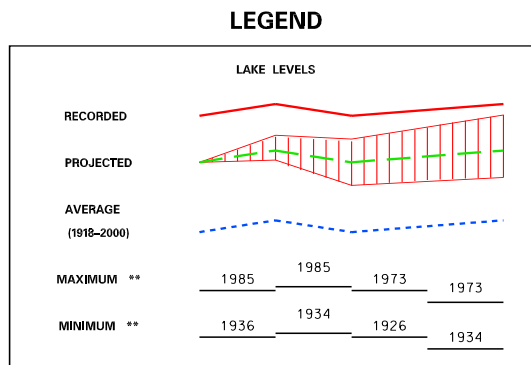
The Leathem and Smith quarry at the mouth of Sturgeon Bay grew to become the largest crushed stone plant in the state, having a capacity of 1,000 tons of crushed stone per day. In 1914 a huge stone crushing plant was constructed on the lower quarry floor. An interesting part of the quarry work was the blasting in which a ton or more of dynamite was used in one explosion, throwing down 20,000 tons of rock in a single blast. A drill machine along the top bored a series of ten or more holes fifty feet deep that were loaded with dynamite. The ignited dynamite blast threw down the whole side of the face of the cliff. Actually, the bottom of the cliff was blown out and the top collapsed. The rock was crushed, sorted for size, and washed. While they waited six hours for boats to be loaded, the boat crews took short trips to Geitners' tavern (now Birmingham's) or Henkels' tavern (now Scharntners) to quench their thirst.

John mentions that challenges during this time were the 1930's depression, closing of the banks during President Roosevelt's term (1932-33), and holding a worthwhile permanent job. He says that the Parkinson farm had its own electric power generating plant before the REA (Rural Electrification Administration) "wired" rural areas in the early 1930s. Doesn't it take us back in time?



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF LAKE LEVELS FOR THE GREAT LAKES

DECEMBER 2001



Great Lakes water level data is available on this website: huron.lre.usace.army.mil/levels/bltnhmpg.html

KUDOS

- ◆ Appreciation to members Bob and Mark Goldsmith (Gateway Business Systems, Inc.) for donation of the Newsletter printing.
- ◆ Congratulations to the Sevastopol Town Board for holding the line on taxes.
- ◆ Thanks to Baylake Bank for graciously allowing the Steering committee to hold winter meetings at their Sturgeon Bay Conference Center. Meetings are there from December to April when snowy, slick conditions occur on many Bay Shore driveways.
- ◆ To property owners for their consideration of Drive aesthetics in placement of new construction back from the road and saving as much forestation and natural look as possible.
- ◆ Thanks once again to Laddie Chapman for donating his computer skills and magic in laying out and enhancing the Newsletter. Incidentally, go to Laddie's great website for keeping up to date on events in Door County (www.doorbell.net).

BSPOA 2001 - 2002 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members were elected to terms of leadership in BSPOA for the 2001 – 2002 association year running from the September 2001 through the September 2002 annual meeting. Please address questions, comments, or suggestions regarding our association on e-mail to BSPOA@aol.com or by phone to steering committee members listed below. (Area codes are 920, addresses are Sturgeon Bay unless otherwise indicated.) We value your input.

Chairman

Terry Lappin 4379 Bay Shore Dr. 743-9517

Vice Chairman

Shirley Pickering 5633 Bay Shore Dr. 743-0060

Secretary

Barbara Bunning 4227 Bay Shore Dr. 746-4025
(Newsletter Chm.)

Treasurer

Bob Graef 5451 Bay Shore Dr. 743-8455

One Year Term

Corky McWey 5413 Bay Shore Dr. 743-9517

Joan Follmer 4537 Laurie Lane 743-4219
(Membership Chrm.)

Henry Martens 5084 Bay Shore Dr. 743-7822

Two Year Term

Jim Bunning 4227 Bay Shore Dr. 746-4025

Marlyce Jirovetz 4880 Bay Shore Dr. 743-4251

Betty Parsons 4147 Bay Shore Dr. 743-2303

Three Year Term

Mary Law 5551 Bay Shore Dr. 743-2072

Bryan Troutman 2800 Blackhawk Rd., Wilmette, IL 847-256-6146
..... 5787 Bay Shore Dr. 743-9088

Sheila Turner 4369 Bay Shore 743-9366

Emeritus Members

Bill Parsons 4147 Bay Shore Dr. 743-2303

Cathe & Bob Tilden 4169 Bay Shore Dr. 743-6442

NOW ONLINE!

The Door County Message Board is a free Internet resource where you can converse with friends about Door County and Northeast Wisconsin topics.

You can contribute to discussions and debates and even post pictures! Join us!

Door County Message Board

www.doorbell.net/mb



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**WINTER 2002
NEWSLETTER**