

Reflections

The photo windows to the past depict images of the inspiring history and records of achievements of the people and places in this quarter-mile link. I have enjoyed the photos contributed as much as if I had taken them. There are surprising similarities in the prints as time evolves. Each picture is a visual key to understanding who we really are.

Little did I know what a fantastic adventure lay ahead when we set up camp at Shady Oaks three decades ago. Although my adventure hasn't taken me to distant places, it has gone back in time many years. Folks from all walks of life have shared my itinerary.

Now, I hope to prolong the life of these treasured memories of others through the following photos.



Rainbow Reflection in Timber Creek

*All man-made things must come and go,
while rivers and streams endlessly flow.*

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CERTIFICATE }
No. 2691 }

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting :

WHEREAS *John F. Campbell of Marshall County Iowa*

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *Iowa City*, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *John F. Campbell*

according to the provisions of the

Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for *the South East quarter of the South West quarter of Section eight in Township eight, three North of Range seventeen West in the District of Lands Subject to Sale at Iowa City Iowa containing forty Acres*

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *John F. Campbell*

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *John F. Campbell*

and to his heirs, the said tract above described : **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *John F. Campbell*

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Millard Fillmore

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *second* day of *December* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *Fifty* and of the

Independence of the United States the Seventy *Fifth*

BY THE PRESIDENT: *Millard Fillmore*



By *M. P. Fillmore* Sec'y.

Jas. S. Wilson Acting Recorder of the General Land Office.
Ad interim

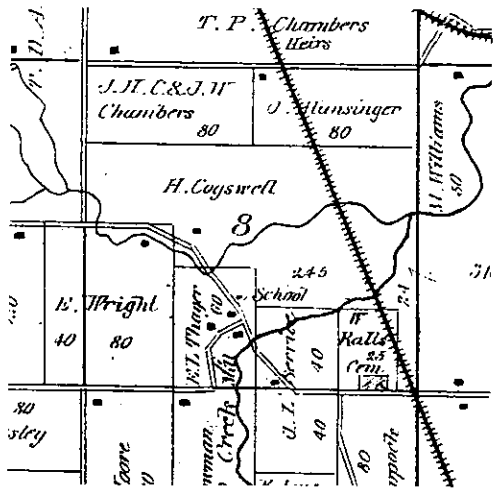
1385306

The Eastern States Bureau of Land Management in Springfield, Virginia certifies that this reproduction is a true copy of the official record on file.

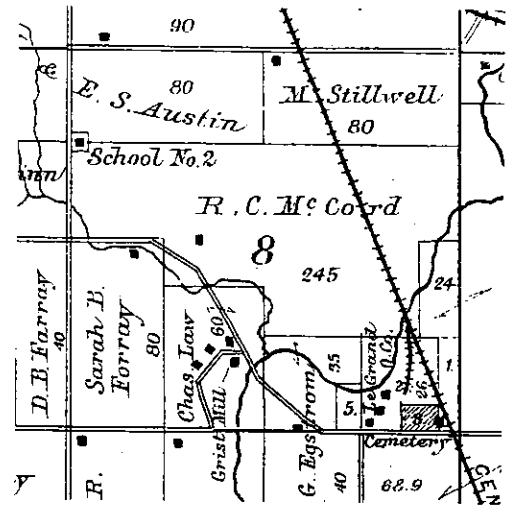
Beautiful Timber Valley
A Similar Sight Greeted the Rock Valley Pioneers



Rock Valley School



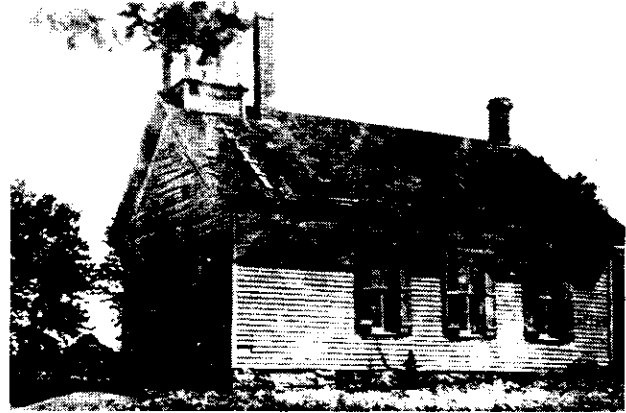
1862 at Shady Oaks
1871 Atlas



2nd Location
1885 Atlas



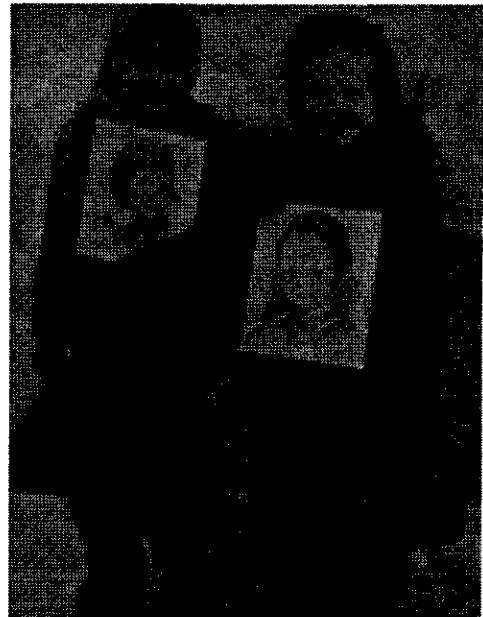
1902 Mabel Mills (teacher on right)



2 Chimneys Circa 1903



1940s

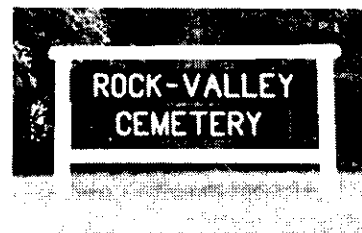


Pat and Kathy Wright 1950

Rock Valley Quarry
1877-1930



Rock Crusher Repair
Circa 1912
Evelyn Mitchem and Father



The Rock Valley Quarry Site is Located Along the
West Edge of the Rock Valley Cemetery

The Rock Valley Mill Property and Residents



Austin and Nancy Ash 1910-1918
Rhondo, May, Rosa and Ida Born Here



Gerald "Jerry" Harris and Daughter
Barbara Ann Moon and
Jeannine (Harris) Schneider 1995



Rita Harris (far left) 1940s
Wife of Arlo Harris



The House That Jerry Harris Built
Opposite Shady Oaks Cafe 1936-1942

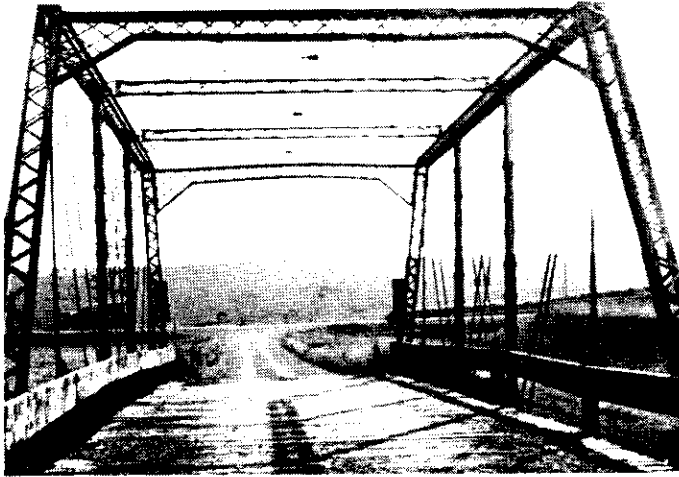


Kathy and Pat Wright
Tea Party 1950



Mill House 1996
East Side of Shady Oaks Road

Three Bridges Over Timber Creek



Rock Valley Wagon Bridge 1884
80' Pratt Through Truss



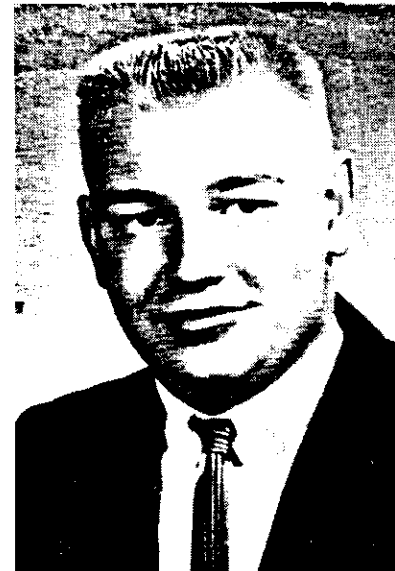
Rainbow Arch Bridge 1918
110' Single Span



Shady Oaks Bridge 1989
205' Five Span

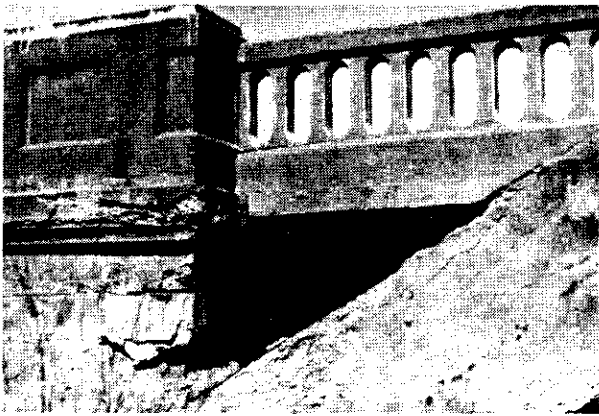
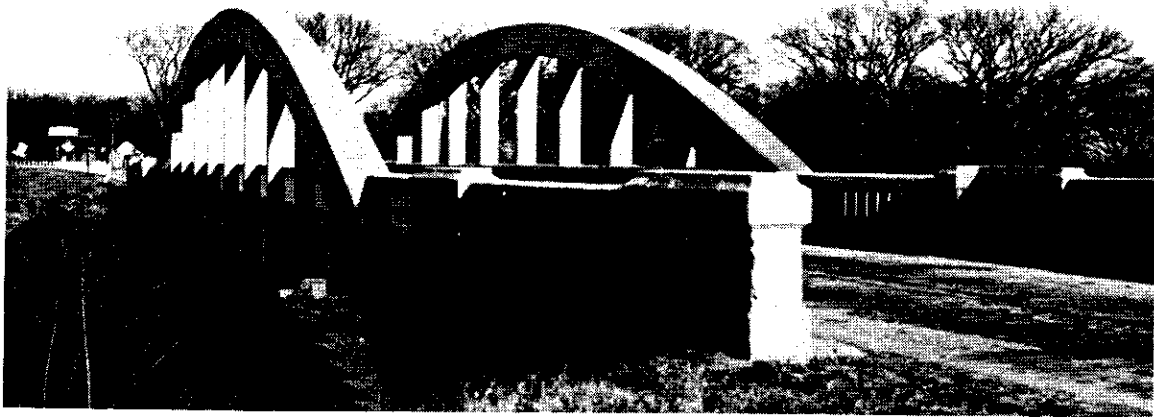


James Barney Marsh
1854-1936
Patented the Concrete
Arch in 1912

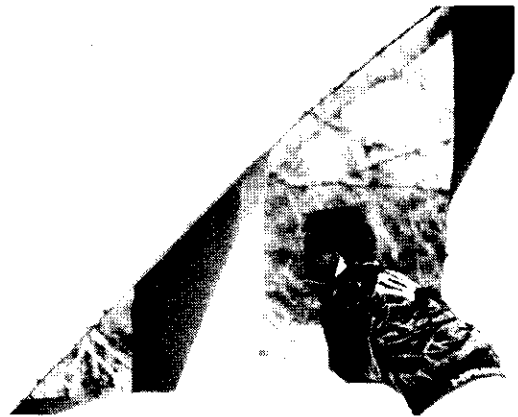


Royce Fichtner
Marshall County Engineer
Since 1978

A Lincoln Highway Landmark 1918-1989



Crumbling Structure

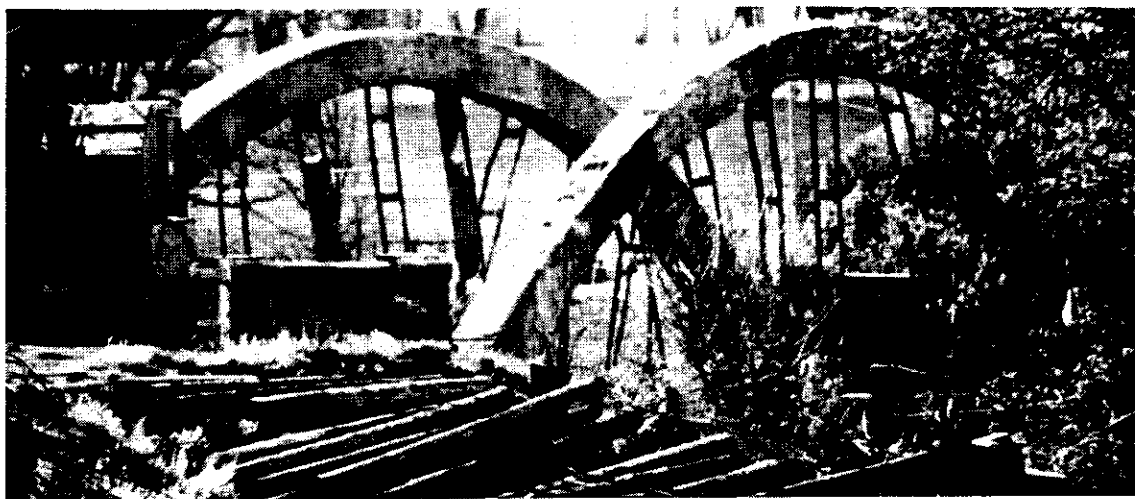


Before Bridge Was Barricaded
December 7, 1988



Highway 30, So Near and Yet So Very
Far Away, July 1989

End of The Rainbow



The Rainbow Arch Bridge served the Lincoln Highway
December 1918 through December 1927 and
U.S. 30 from January 1928 until May 6, 1948.
Today it is known as Shady Oaks Road.



Demolition May 1989

Shady Oaks in the 1990s
The Originals are Still Here



Cabin Camp Office

The Burr Oaks are 70 Years Older
and Taller (1920s - 1990s)



Cabin #3

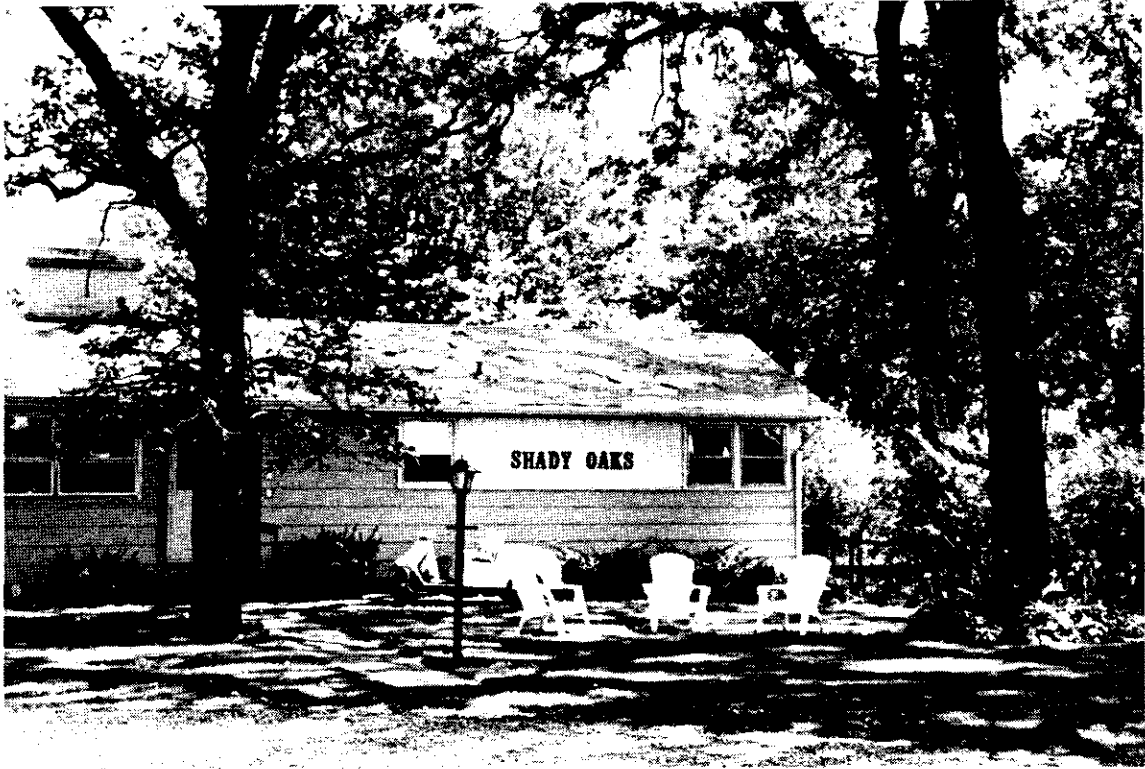


Vintage Lightpoles



1925 Log-style Cabin Dayroom

Shady Oaks
Now and Then

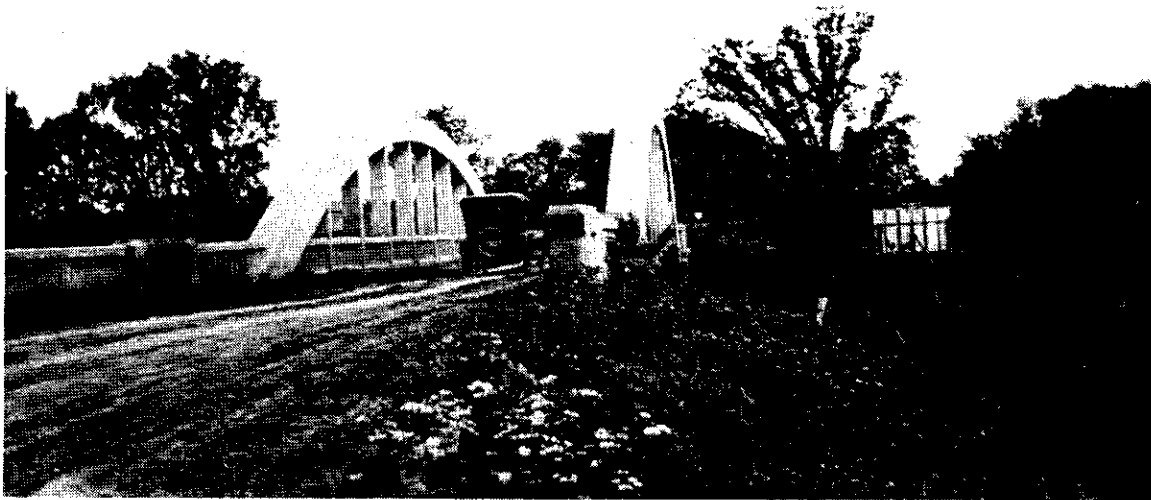


The Magnificent Stand of Burr Oaks in the Early 1920s

Millions of Americans Drove Model T's
in the Early 1920s



Gathering at Shady Oaks



Wayne Norton "Out for a spin"
on the Unpaved Lincoln Highway

Sporting Events of the Day at Shady Oaks

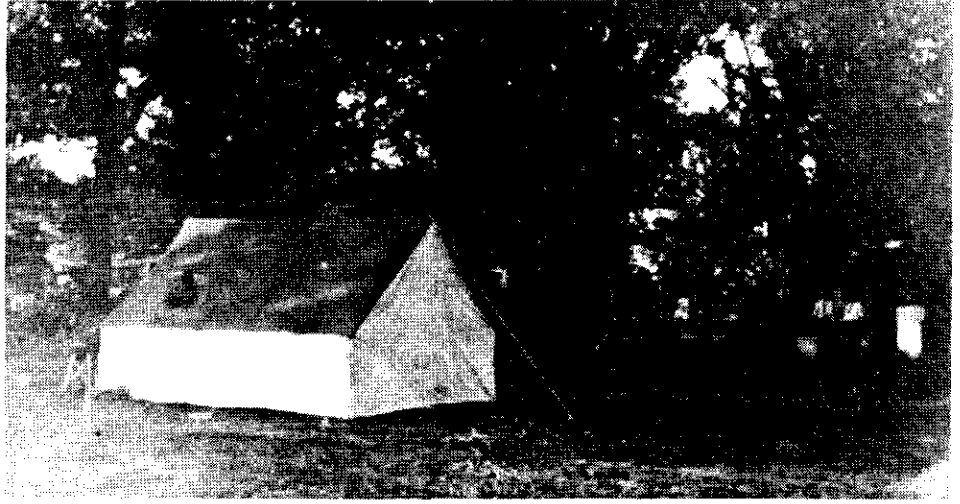
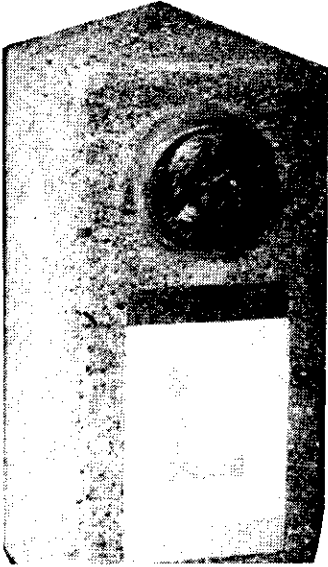


Sunday Afternoon Ball Games Drew Crowds



American and European racing began simultaneously on public roads. Brainchild, Carl Graham Fisher, was responsible for the oval-track events which ended racing on the poorly developed public road system that linked the 48 states.

Early Day Shady Oaks



Lincoln Highway
Marker

Tent Camping

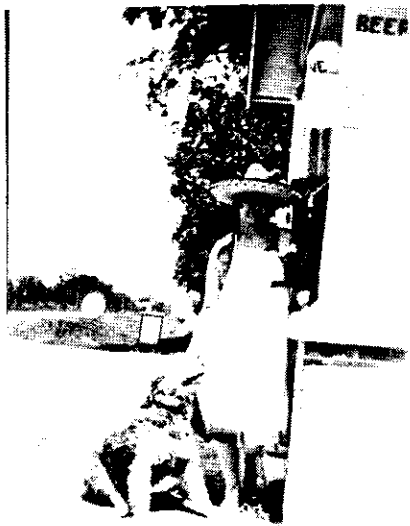
First Campground
Sign 1925



Log-style Cabin
"Dayroom" Built of
Native Oak



The Phelps at Shady Oaks
1925-1927



Rags
the
Dog



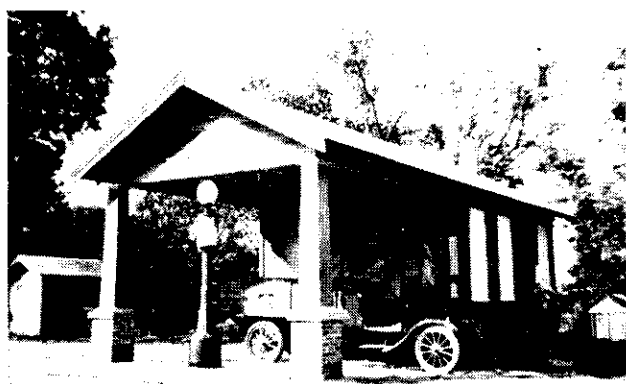
Pet
Goats
Mae and
Tillie



Roy and Arlie



The Gas
Station/ Eatery
Years on the
Lincoln Highway



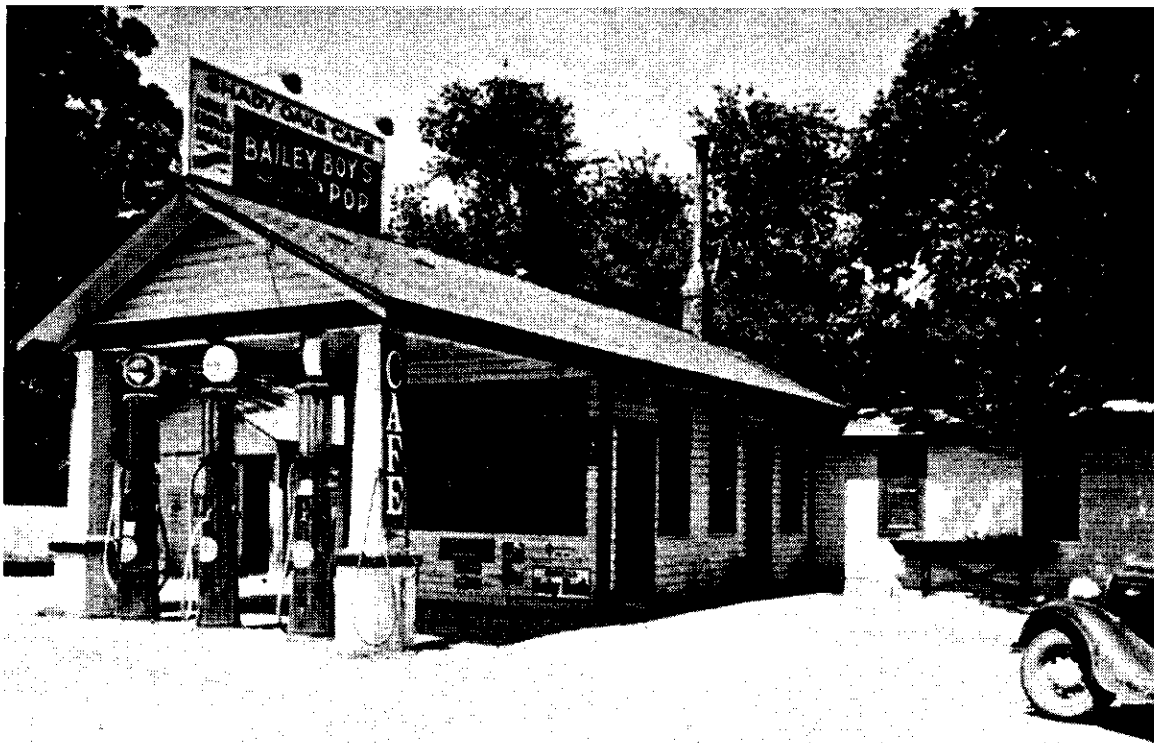
The Lawler Decade
1927-1937



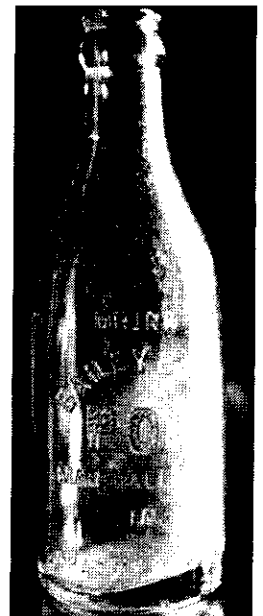
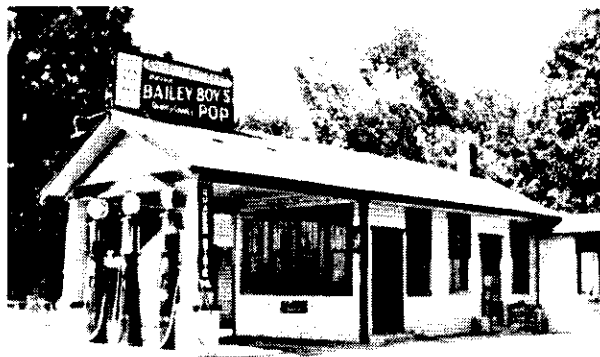
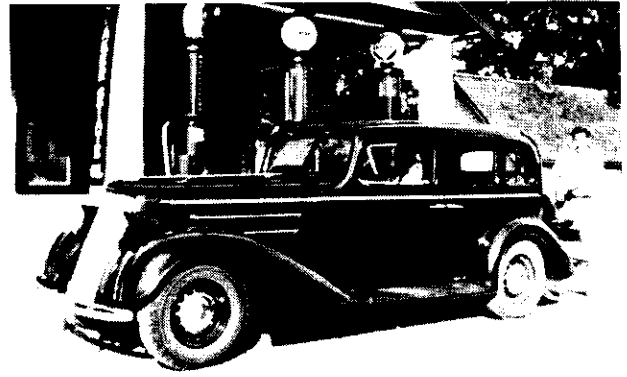
Walt



Ruth



Shady Oaks Cafe
1927-1937

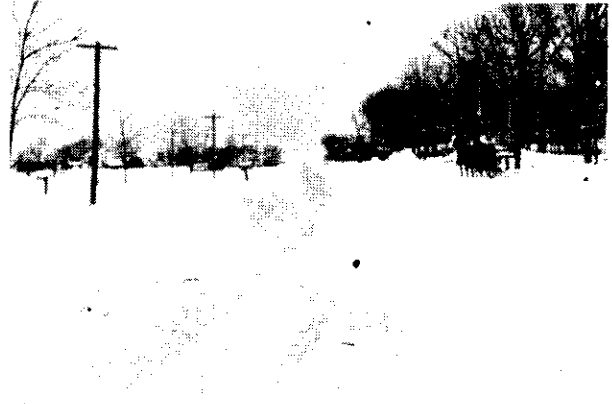


Three Pumps!

Young Bart Lawler at Shady Oaks



Winter of 1936



The Lincoln Highway / U.S. 30



Pals, J Norton and Bart Lawler



Shady Oaks Cafe / Lounge and Supper Club
B.J. and Ilene Rutherford and Ron Chalfant
1946-1966



Home of Chicken-In-A Basket



Two Pumps



Shady Oaks Cafe Memorabilia

Form 03-12 (Sec. 5582, Code)

Township License

May 25, 1946

Know All Men by These Presents: That in consideration of Ten dollars DOLLARS

Pursuant to authority granted by Sec. 5582, Code, and by resolution duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of Le Grand Township in Marshall County, Iowa,

License is hereby granted to B. J. Rutherford to keep or operate for hire A dining and dance hall, The situated dance hall to be closed by midnight and upon the following terms and conditions: all days Sunday Location East Highway No. 42 N.E. of the corner N. 475' Sec. 8. Twp. 8. S. Range 17

This License to be in force from May 25, 1946, to May 25, 1947

H. H. House Chairman Board of Township Trustees
Le Grand Clerk
 Twp. Marshall County.

HATT PARSONS & SONS CO., WATERLOO, IOWA D40152

SAY! HAVE YOU TRIED THAT DELICIOUS CHICKEN IN THE BASKET

(THE CHICKEN ALSO PACKED TO TAKE OUT)

EXTRA SPECIAL STEAKS

For That Delicious Food Stop At —





SHADY OAKS CAFE

4 MILES EAST ON OLD HIGHWAY 30
 OPEN 12 NOON UNTIL 12:45 A. M.—CLOSED THURSDAYS

Dining Out Tonight?

Make it Shady Oaks Cafe



Open 5 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. Daily
 Sundays 12 to 2; 5 to 12
 Closed Tuesdays

Shady Oaks Cafe

5 Miles East On Old Highway 30

Drive out for Easter Dinner...




Open Sunday from 12 noon to 2 p.m.; from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Shady Oaks Cafe

5 Miles East On Old Highway 30

Bring the youngsters, they like to eat out too



Children's portions are available. Make "eating out" a family affair ... bring the children.

Shady Oaks Cafe

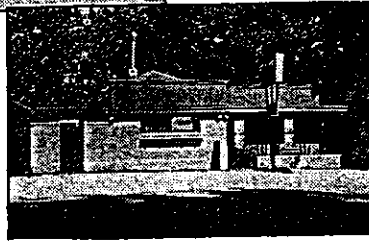
5 Miles East On Old Highway 30

SHADY OAKS



Then
1946

NOW
1983



I would personally like to thank all the loyal customers that have visited my restaurant over the past 36 years.

Shady Oaks has become a landmark for Marshalltown. I have been told many times by people that have left Marshalltown, they would make it a point to visit us, whenever they were in Marshalltown.

I wish the new owners, Gordon Johnson and Craig Buffington, the Best of Luck.

*Thank You
Bryant Rutherford*





Ruth and Les, ITA Sign



The Nortons
1925-1945

(left to right)

Normadel

Les and J

Wilbur "Bill"

Herb



Les Pitching
Horseshoes



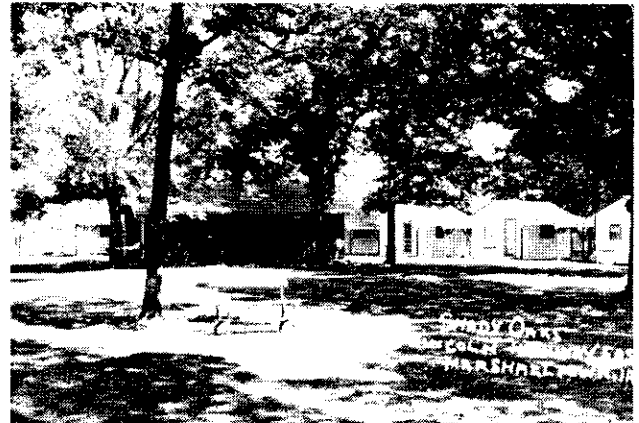
The Norton Years



1920s



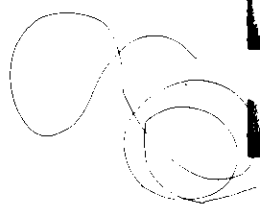
1930s
J Norton



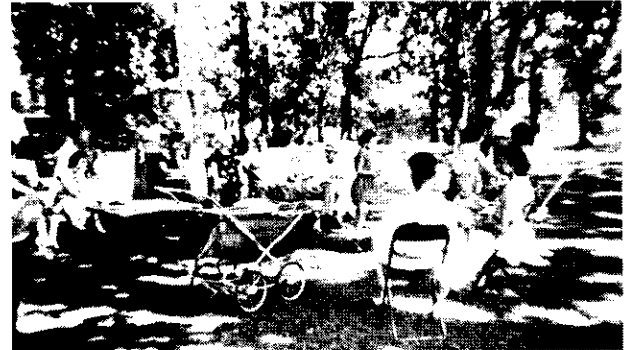
Kermit, Marjorie and Jerry Peek

Popular Postcard

1940s



Williamson's World
1950s
A Decade of Family Get-Togethers



Shady Oaks, A Popular Place



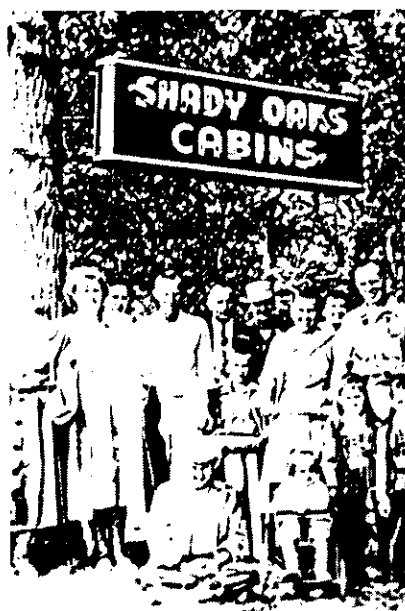
Shank Family Christmas 1926



Mission Band 1930s



LeGrand Home Economics Class
1930s



Lee Family Reunions
1950s



The Neighborhood Children
1935

Back Row: James Haas, Perry, IA (Harold & Mayme); Bill Lawler (Fred & Minnie).
2nd Row: Willmer & Pauline Handorf (Raymond & Clara); Bart Lawler (Walt & Ruth).
Front Row: J Norton (Les & Ruth), Myrna Handorf (Raymond & Clara), Jeannine Harris (Marion & Della), Barbara Ann Harris (Jerry & Florence), Maxine Lawler (Fred & Minnie).



Timbercreek Meadow and Railroad Bridge 1901
M & St.L. Passenger Service was Discontinued in June of 1958



The Small Stream
Presents an
ever-changing view,
Sometimes familiar,
ofttimes new.

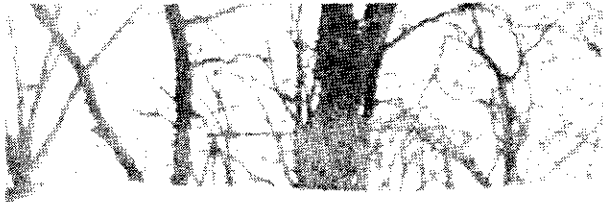
"Micky"
1966-1971



My New Home



Stepping Stones



Igloos



My Maple Tree



A Sandpile Creation



Hi, Down There!

Construction From Groundlevel to 55' Above



New Walkways 1993
Mick



Original Stargazer Point 1988
Mick



Raccoon Hollar 1994
Judy, Liz & Mick



The Loft 1992
Liz & Mick

The Big Treehouse

Let reality slip away and allow a little time to make-believe as you share in Mick's living and growing fantasy. It may even boggle your imagination.



The South Walk



Tree Spirit

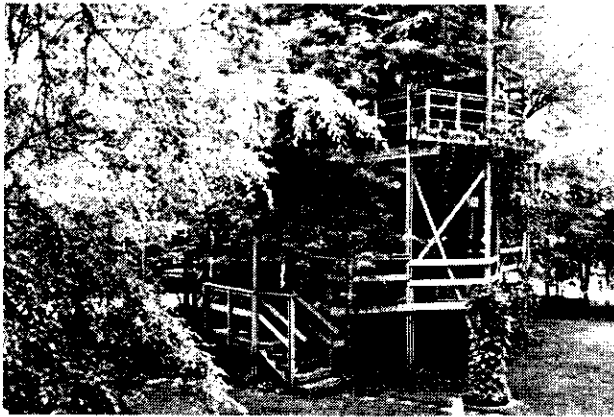


Eagle Point

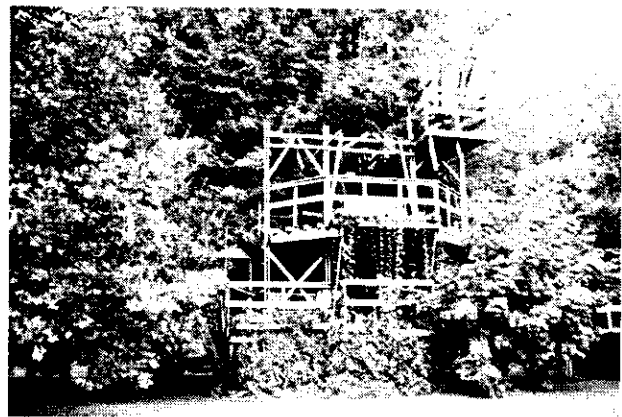


Museum and Arch Bridge

The Big Treehouse



Looking Southeast



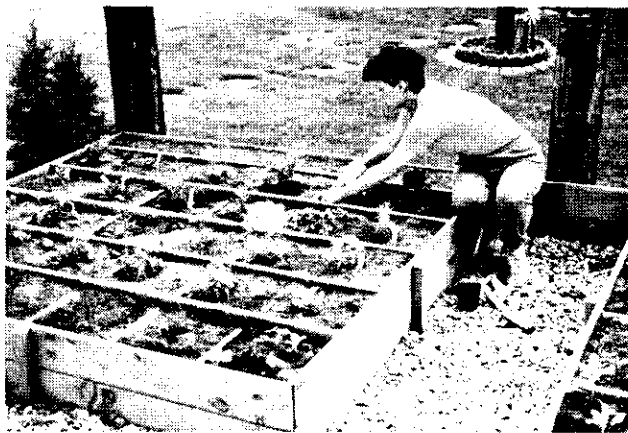
Looking Northwest



Green Bean Trellis



South Hill

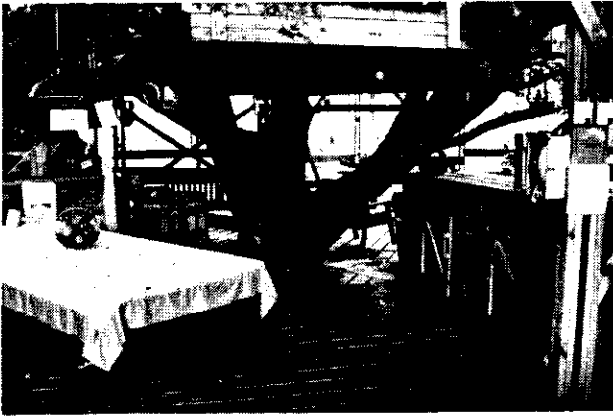


Herb Garden

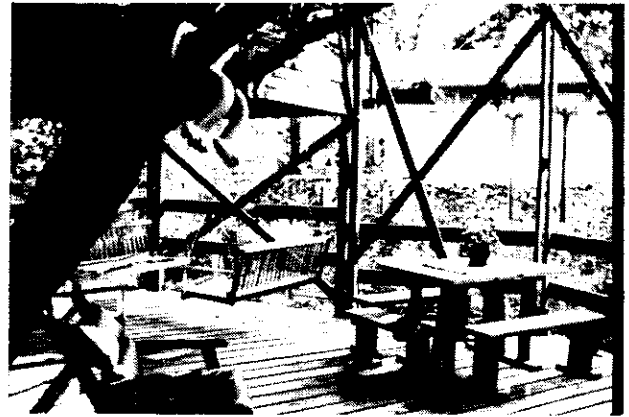


Flowering Kale

The Big Treehouse



Notice Tree Trunk



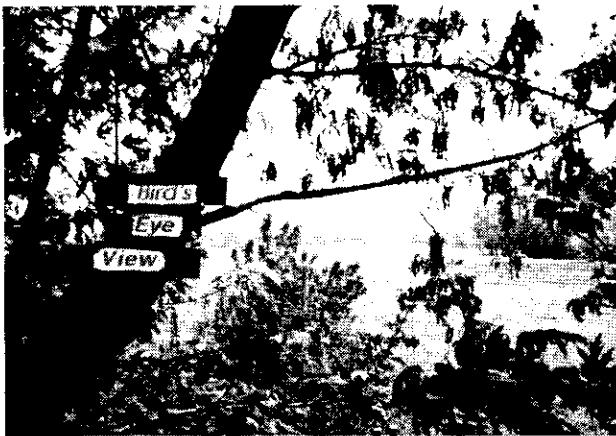
Swingers' Corner



East Wing - Level 4



Rock-a-bye Baby - Level 8



Radical Road, View of Meadow
Level 6



Cloud Room - Level 10

The Big Treehouse

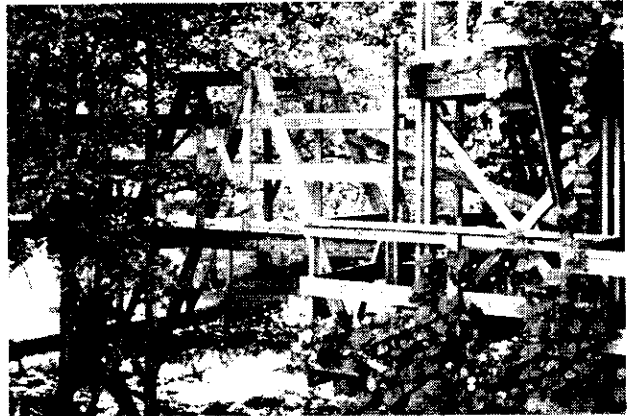


"I'll Be Done in a Minute!"
Who Could it Be?

Right - Railroad Bridge



Surprised

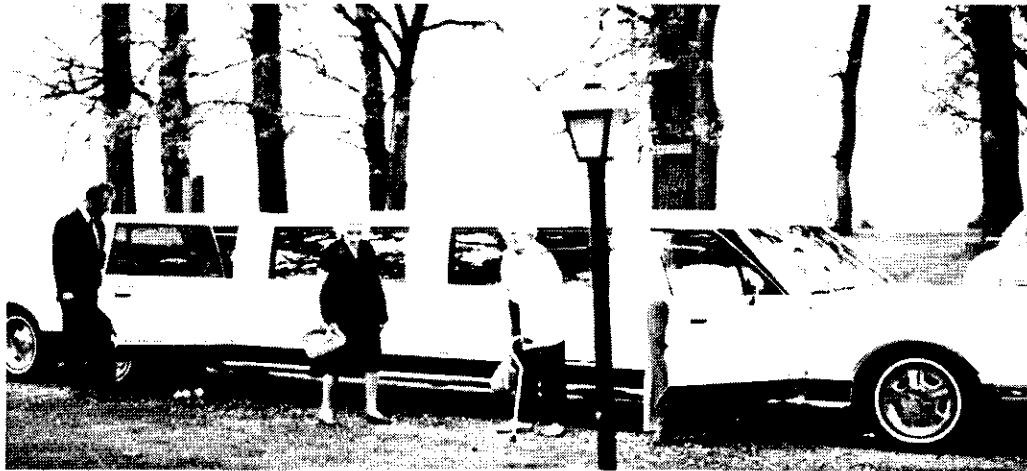


The Old Scarecrow Gatekeeper



Lizzie's Garden

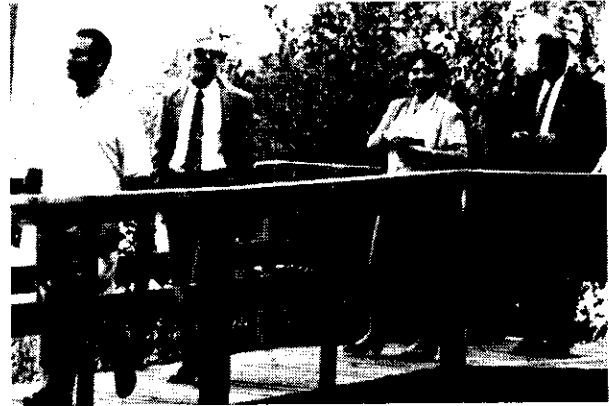
The Golden Link Lures Folks of All Ages and
They Arrive by All Modes of Transportation



Treehouse Guests in the 1990s
40 Countries



Hong Kong



Mick and Three Slovakian
School Administrators



Australia



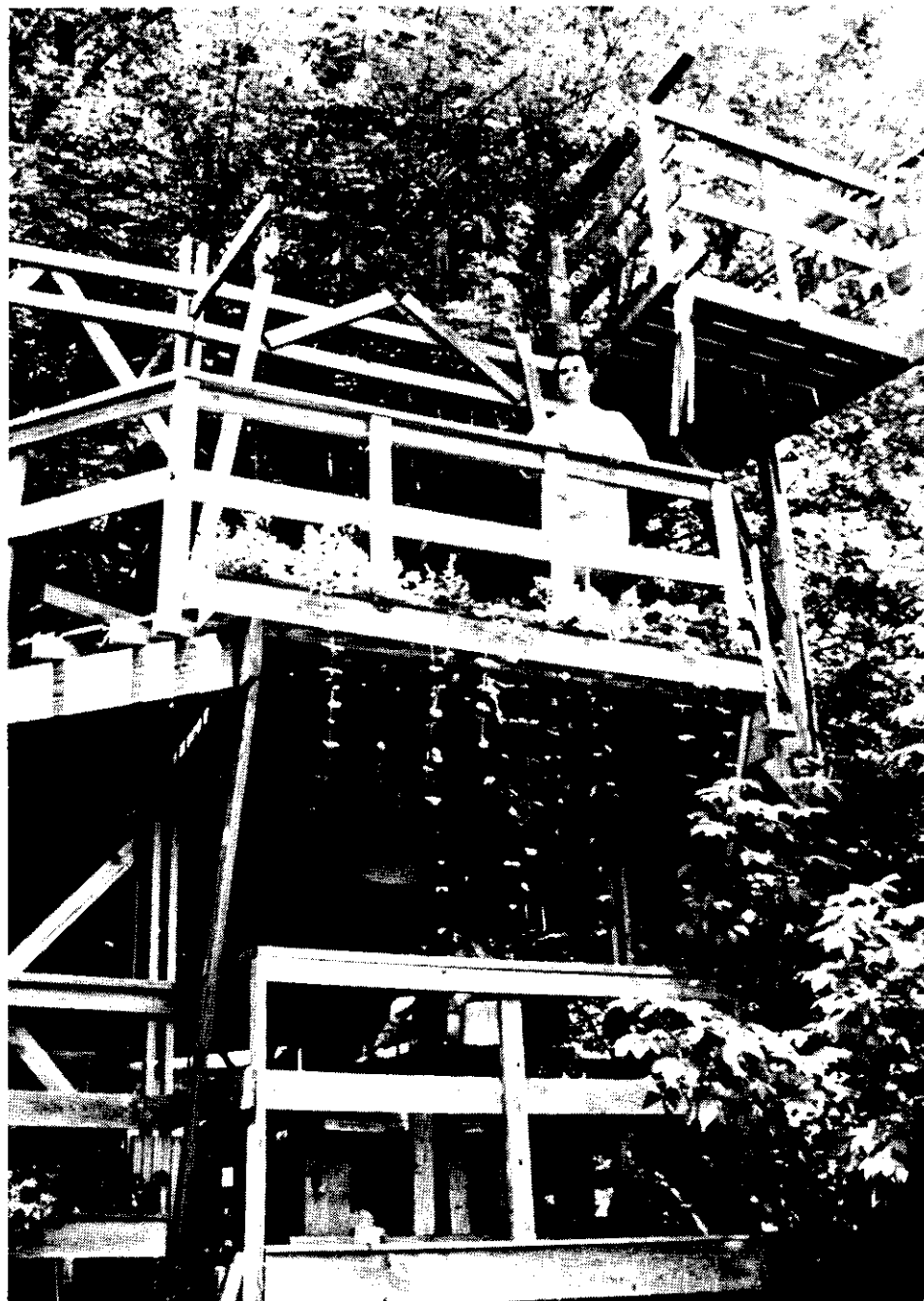
School Children



Honeymooners at Shady Oaks in
1947, Dick & Janet Wagoner



Honeymooners at Shady Oaks in
1950, Wayne & Betty Fouts



Many out-of-state visitors are from densely populated areas. They sense the quiet beauty in the remoteness of our location. Time stops and silence echoes. To some, it has the aura of a tropical paradise, to others, it has the solitude of a sanctuary. Fresh air and earthy odors induce relaxation.

Though the Treehouse is a place to celebrate nature, it is also a place to celebrate people. It is the people who visit that give the Treehouse its life.

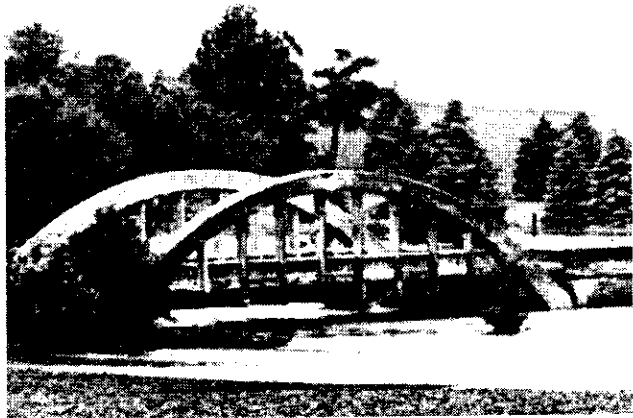
People from over the world have made the Treehouse their home, if only for an hour.

Big Timber Creek on the Rampage



Flooding in 1926
Mill House in Distance

High Water
June - 1982

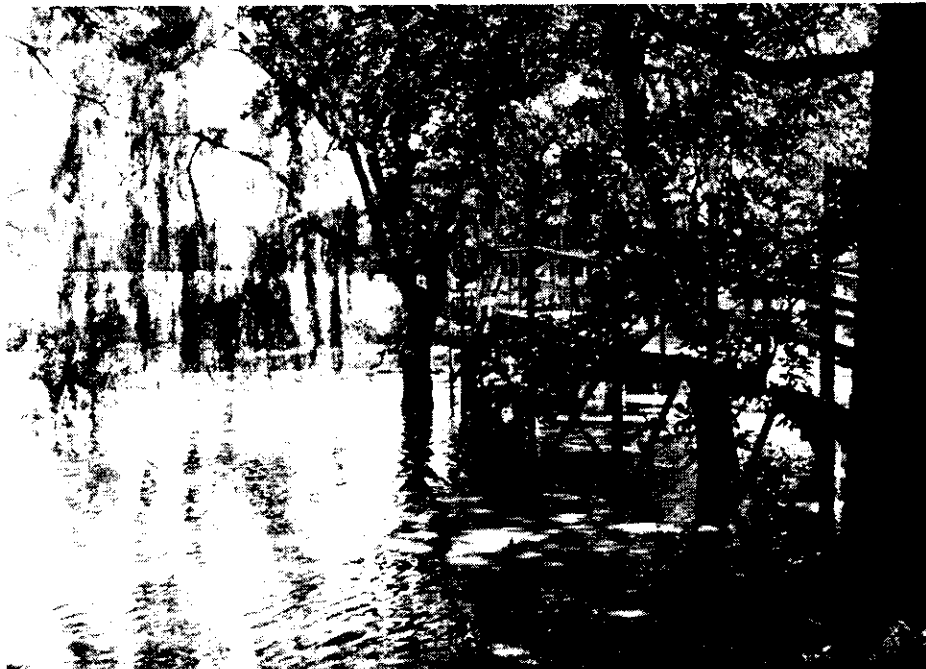


Return of the
Rock Valley Mill Pond
January 1996

The Flood of 1993
Timber Creek Meadow

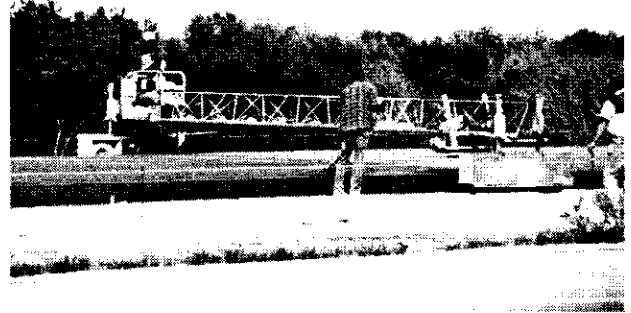
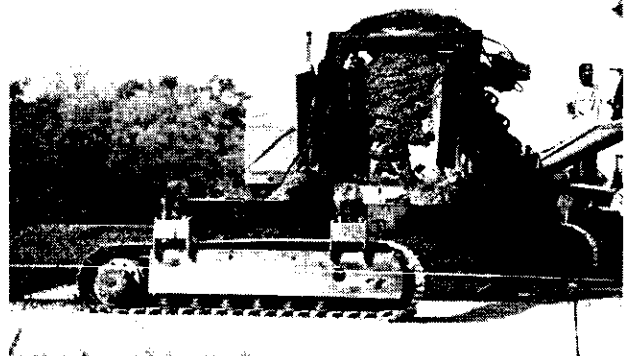
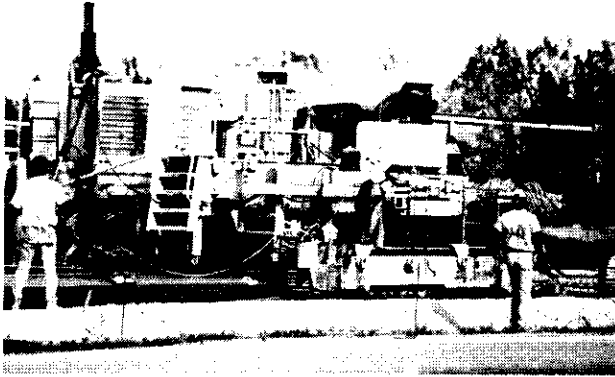


Lake Wish-You-Were-Gone



The Boardwalk to the Treehouse Looking North

West Bound Lane of U.S. 30 Expressway 1995
At Shady Oaks Road and 240th Street



1996 Fred Carlson, Contractor, Decorah, Iowa
Paving Crew: Lee, Ben, Bill, Bob, Mort, Cliff, Gary, Matt, Kim and Craig

Transitions at Shady Oaks



Cabins During the Lincoln Highway Era

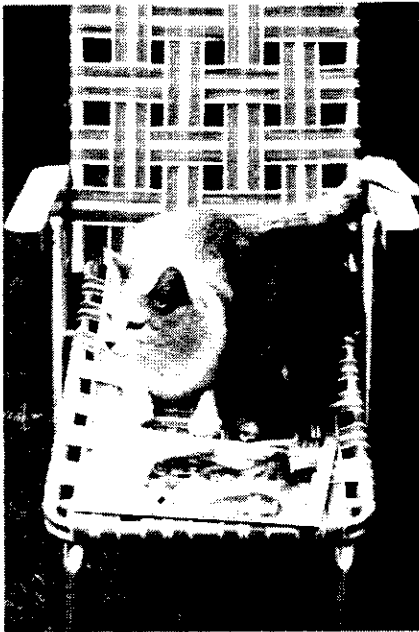


Mobile Homes on East Lincolnway



Recreational Vehicles in the 1990s on Shady Oaks Road

Just as the Sun Sets Each Day



Kitt and Hazel are the Treehouse Cats



Bob Still Mows (not with the golf cart)



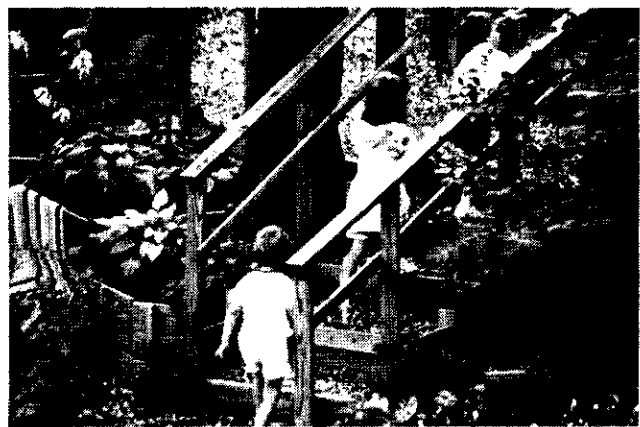
Mick Answers, "Treehouse"



I Guide the Tours



Folks Continue to Come ...



... and Go Away Happy



At Shady Oaks, a living shrine of magnificent oaks stand
as sentinels in memory of the Rock Valley Pioneers

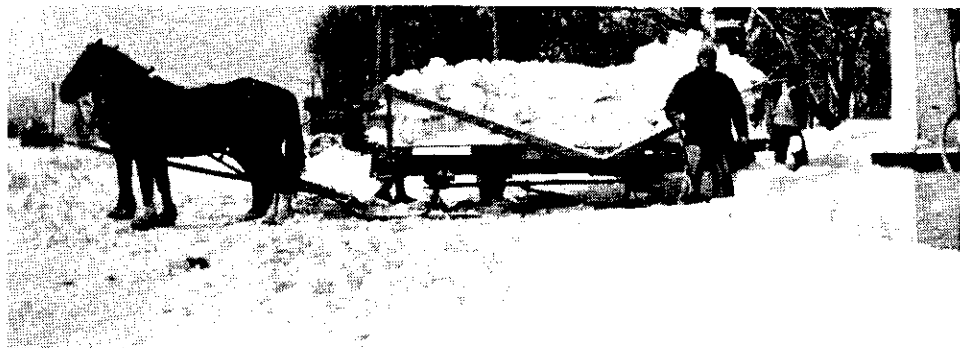
The following pages have been added to the original book.



Postcard Circa 1920s



Cameo Photo, Maytag-Kremme Reunion
(One Year Prior to the Great Depression)



Snow Removal on U S 30, in 1936
Walt Lawler and Emmett Rubenbauer
Notice Hayrack on Bobsled.



Fred L. Maytag (1857-1937) Dark Suit Back Row.

Roy B. Shutt, Migrant Worker/Convict

Roy B. Shutt, a migrant worker from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, came to Iowa in the Fall of 1935.

He found work picking corn at the Guy Wolgamott farm in Jasper County. The Wolgamott family, including their daughter Dorothy (10) and her brother Wade (12), were formerly of Oshkosh, Nebraska. They had lived in Iowa about a year.

Roy, a good worker and an easy keeper, had stayed the winter with the family. When Saturday night came, he usually went carousing with a married man by the name of Chet Price, who lived on a farm west of Laurel. Dorothy's father figured they drank quite a bit.

On a Saturday night in June of 1936, Roy drove his old Model A away from the Wolgamott farmstead, as he typically did, but didn't return. The Wolgamotts never expected to be awakened in the wee hours of a warm Sunday morning. However, Dorothy (Mrs. Clair Erwin) has never forgotten this scene. The farmyard swarmed with flashing red lights and law enforcement officers. They were sure that her father's hired hand was hiding there.

Dorothy was aroused from her sleep by the noise and lights. The sheriff's posse burst into their home, leaving no place to hide. They dashed into Dorothy's bedroom and looked under her bed. Her 94-year-old Aunt Mary (actually her step-grandmother) was terrified when they entered her bedroom with flashlights, overturning things in their frantic search. Dorothy's brother even shared his bedroom with the fellow they were trying to apprehend.



Roy was the fellow who slashed Walt Lawler's throat on that fateful Sunday morning. When he returned to the farm several days later, Guy told him about the intrusion of his home in the search for him. He could see by the bandages that he had been in a scuffle. Guy also told him why he was wanted by the law. Roy didn't deny the charges and went into Marshalltown to confess.

The 27-year-old migrant worker was guilty and served time. Several years later he committed suicide. His ruthless friend Chet Price divorced, and it is not known what became of him. Their folly was fruitless.

Wade, Dorothy's brother, said, "I even slept with him." Times were different, and people trusted their fellow man. Roy gave up everything, a home, food, a job and his life.

This story was told by Mrs. Clair Erwin (Dorothy Wolgamott) in April of 1999.

The mug shot was furnished by Lynn E. (Lawler) Carlson, Walt's daughter.

Rock Valley School, 1898

Myrtle Coulton Forrey, the teacher, is on the far right. Students in the photo from left to right are Walter Sapp, Edd Peterson, Addiebell Pardee, James Chinn, Helen Mitchem, Clarence Jones, #7 Edith Mitchem, #8 Verner Sapp, May Mitchem, Lizzy Peterson, Grace Hayes, May Chinn, Elsie Rigg, Roy Hayes, Bertha Cramer, Rondo Handorí, Cramer, Alfred Peterson, Anna Peterson, Elmer Handorí, Ray Cagwin, Walter Smith, #23 George (Summerfield) Forrey, Walter Peterson, Hattie Cagwin, Earle Moore, Jessie Sapp, Delmer Cagwin, Agnes Peterson and Ella Mitchem.

Do You Remember When...



MEMBERS OF THE Rock Valley School posed for this photo in 1898. Myrtle (Coulton) Forrey was the teacher. Picture was furnished by Mrs. D. R. Cagwin, Garwin.

Mary Adkins Elsberry had kept this clipping for a number of years.

Mary, daughter of Jim and Clara Adkins, was in second grade when her family moved to the Shady Oaks area in 1923. Young Mary worked for Les Norton at the cabin camp, cleaning, washing and ironing. When the Adkins family moved to the area, Mary was one of six children. She attended Rock Valley School and graduated from high school in 1933. There were 10 children, including a pair of twins, when the Adkins moved away in 1936.

In August of 2000, Gary L. Sapp of Hawthorne, California, sent a copy of the original photo with each student numbered and identified. Children #7 and #8 married each other, and Gary is their grandson.

The Sapp family farm is situated on Shady Oaks Road, a little north of Rock Valley School (Don Searle's home). Carl Sapp (1920 - 2001) and his family moved to California in 1951.

A Millemmum Update

Shady Oaks transcended into the new Millennium as Shady Oaks RV Campground, open seven months of the year. In winter, November through March, the campground slumbers. From April 1st through October 31st, we welcome RVs, both small and large, from pop-up campers to Prevosts. We offer full hookups (20, 30, and 50 amp), water and sewer.

This little campground with class is located within minutes of the cultural atmosphere of Marshalltown, with its vast assortment of dining and entertainment, and the Meskwaki Casino for food, games and shows.

Shady Oaks celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2000. While maintaining its quiet charm, it has adapted to today's comforts. This private campground is recognized as an American Travel Treasure on the Lincoln Highway.



In the late 1940s, folks from all the provinces of Canada; Havana, Cuba; Columbia, South America; and every state registered to stay a night or two at Shady Oaks Cabin Camp. Today it is not surprising to greet world travelers who like to avoid the interstates. Many times the paradise we are looking for is within our reach.

The original 1925 Cabin #3 (above) has been restored by my grandson, Mick Jurgensen (right). Both a ceiling fan and an air conditioner have been added. The original carport has been replaced with a large, screened-in porch.

Nostalgia, shade and the night sounds of tree frogs and katydids extend the unique magic of Shady Oaks.



The Big Treehouse Update

Our backyard fantasy continues to mature and grow. The internationally known treehouse now has 11 levels. Skywalk 2000 offers new views. Folks from 57 countries and all states have been our guests. Don't forget, a treehouse tour depends on the availability of a guide. Reservations are a requirement as it is a private attraction.

Along the elevated walkways, you may reminisce about the Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge that Marshall County built for the Lincoln Highway in 1918.



Pause at Meadow Rest to absorb the unchanged landscape. Big Timber Creek Meadow and the rambling stream, fringed by the giant old oaks are echoes of the past. The seasonal views are like oil paintings. Pass through our Covered Bridge Museum and learn the history of the property. At all times, birds and nature surround you. Enjoy the stereo music, gardens, flowers and friendships that await you. Now, three outdoor ceiling fans located above different levels assist nature by creating a breeze to dry things off after a shower.



You may choose a favorite porch swing out of the fourteen located along the walkways and on various levels of the treehouse.

We warmly welcome new, return and multi-generational visitors to the world of imagination at the Treehouse. Since 1983, it's been a place to make memories.



Mary Gift
Marshall County Director
Iowa Lincoln Highway Association



Iowa Headquarters
Box 14
Ogden, IA 50212
(515) 275-4966

(641) 752-2946 (Home)