

Area Highlights

Sugar Lake Park Resort By Doc Williams

How many of you remember the “Sugar Lake Park Resort”? It was a place you could boat to and spend an evening dancing and partying. If you needed boat gas, minnows, or some basic food staples, you could buy it there. Several times, a boat owner would return to his craft after an evening of revelry to find his boat submerged. Someone had pulled the plug. The resort was located on the south-west side of the lake and was the place to go to for fun. The first private individual to own the property was James Maxwell. It was part of 146 acres he got from



the US government and Abraham Lincoln on Nov 10, 1864. Thomas Connell purchased the 146 acres from Maxwell's estate in 1864 for \$200.00. On May 7, 1921, J.H. and Sarah Rutledge bought a few parcels of that land and turned it into Rutledge's Sugar Lake Park. Down through the years it was owned by Herman Trapp, Jacob Bergmann, Harry Gillham, H.N. Lungwitz, Mark Gilchrist, Alton & Arline Anderson, James McCarthy, Don Lubinski, and others. Business slowly went down hill until it was no longer economical to run and the park closed. Marlin Grant purchased the property in 1992, subdivided the land into 3 properties and gave it to his 3 youngest children. They all have lake homes there today. The park was located in Area “S” and Karen Pitra is the communicator. Back in the 30'S, the resort had a dance hall on the property that was open year around. Rumor has it, if you knew the owner; he would let you play the “one armed bandits” hidden in a back room. The hall burned on St. Patrick's Day in the mid 40's and one of the rental cabins was converted into what became Sugar Lake Park Resort. In the 60's, the resort again had a dance hall with Fridays being family night and Saturdays for adults. Sometimes you could dance to the music of Virgil Carlson's accordion. When the Andersons owned the place, they took out the two “2 holers” located out back and put in flush toilets.



They also added 5 trailers that could be rented by the month or season. In the past, there were as many as 5 resorts on the lake. Now there remains only one; Warners. Unfortunately, with the price of land on Sugar, we may never again see a resort such as Sugar Lake Park.