

The Mol Farm

As you cruise the south west corner of Sugar Lake, you may notice a silo sticking up above the trees. What you see is part of the Mol Farm that was originally purchased by Christaan and Annie Mol in 1902 as an 80 acre dairy farm.



In 1908 Christaan bought a second farm to the west which was also on the shores of Sugar. It was 120 acres that included part of Sandy Lake. This property had about 15 acres that were crop worthy with much of the rest being low land or gravel soil. There were 3 cabins on this farm that had been built as rentals on the

shores of Sugar. They were erected in the late 1800 hundreds and measured 14' X 26'. These may have been the first cabins on Sugar Lake but that has yet to be verified.

Christaan moved the buildings off the land and opened a gravel pit. He sold gravel to both the state and county that was then used to make roads in the area, including County Road 7 and Highway 24. Christaan did some of the farm work but left much of it to his 6 children, especially Jake. In 1923 Annie Mol, developed "falling of the bladder" that required surgery. Because of the hardship in getting to the hospital at Buffalo, the local doctor opted to perform the operation at the farm, on the kitchen table. This was not uncommon in those days; the youngest child was born in the bedroom. The procedure was successful, but infection set in and she subsequently died. The family struggled on through the dust bowl years of the 30's. The ongoing drought caused the lake shore to recede several hundred yards from its present location. This allowed marsh hay to be harvested on land that today is the bull rush area on the south west corner of the lake. It was used to help feed the cattle. A horse drawn hay mower did the job quite well.

The first tractor on the homestead wasn't purchased until 1937 and it was a used Fordson. Jake bought the farm from his dad in 1945. Shortly after purchasing it, he sold 250 feet of lake shore on the east side to the DNR for \$699. This area then became the second public boat launch on the lake and we know it today as the south landing. He continued dairy farming and added hogs, beef cattle, and chickens.

Jake's son Cliff purchased the farm in 1962 and expanded the hog and chicken operations to one of the largest in the area. There were 1500 hogs and 5500 laying hens. The locals called it Mol's ham & egg farm. Cliff sold 17 acres on the northwest side of the farm to Marion Engelman in 1969. Marion then built Imhoff Av. and developed the area for lake homes. One of the 3 original cabins is presently Cliff Mol's garage.

In 1996, Cliff's son Tim became the 4th generation to own the farm. He continues to raise beef cattle and food grade hogs. Its present size is 152 acres of which 75 acres are in crops and 5 acres are pasture or farm buildings. The rest is woods and low lands. Tim does his best to be an environmentally friendly neighbor to the

lake while still making a living off the land. If you happen to be cruising in the area and notice an odor, what you're sniffing is the smell of money. If you don't like the odor, keep in mind, the Mols' were here long before any of us.