

Sunset point By Doc Williams

In order for all of us to better know Sugar Lake, the association has decided to do a series of articles emphasizing different areas of the lake. We will attempt to pass along some interesting history and facts about these areas, so you might be better acquainted with your neighbors. If you know some history about your area and would like us to do an article, contact Suzanne Quinn-McDonald at 320-274-3226, or Doc Williams at 320-963-6776. The first area we will be highlighting is "Sunset Point". It is the peninsula on the north side of the lake and is sometimes referred to as "Bell Point". The communicators for these areas are "G" Mike Zieska, a year round, long time resident, and "H", Tom Hebzynski, a newcomer and a weekend "trunk slammer" to the lake. Both are very active on the point. Art Beecher owned the entire peninsula in the 1940's. He gave Sunset Point its name and had plans to build a resort there. After running into some financial difficulties however, he divided the land into parcels and sold them off one at a time. El Lund & Bob Tucker bought several plots at the tip of the peninsula and together were one of the first to have cabins in the area by 1950. In 1952 the town of Lester Prairie was in the process of remodeling their school house and decided to do away with the school bell. Cliff Beise, who lived in town and owned a cabin directly across the lake from Sunset Point, was given the bell. He hauled it up to Sugar and with permission, placed it on the point. His children had to be able to swim from his cabin to the bell, ring it, and swim back again before they were considered old enough to drive the family boat. These days, on any given



night, young people will sometimes sneak up and ring the bell thinking they are getting away with something. Bob Lund, El Lund's son, who lives there in the summer, just sits and smiles. Some strangers to the lake consider the tip of Sunset Point to be a public park, and will pull up with the intention of having lunch. Bob quickly sets them straight. Today's residents, on Sunset Point have a great deal of community spirit. They gather around their neighborhood campfire several times a year celebrating Memorial Day with a wiener roast, summer with a public Mass, fall with a booya, etc. On Diane's Lights Night, many residents put out hundreds of Luminaries trying to outdo each other. When the sign leading to the point died



last year, they took up a collection and replaced it themselves. A number of SLA board members have come from this area. When you pass by on your water craft give them a wave and say hello.