

June Bride
inside
→



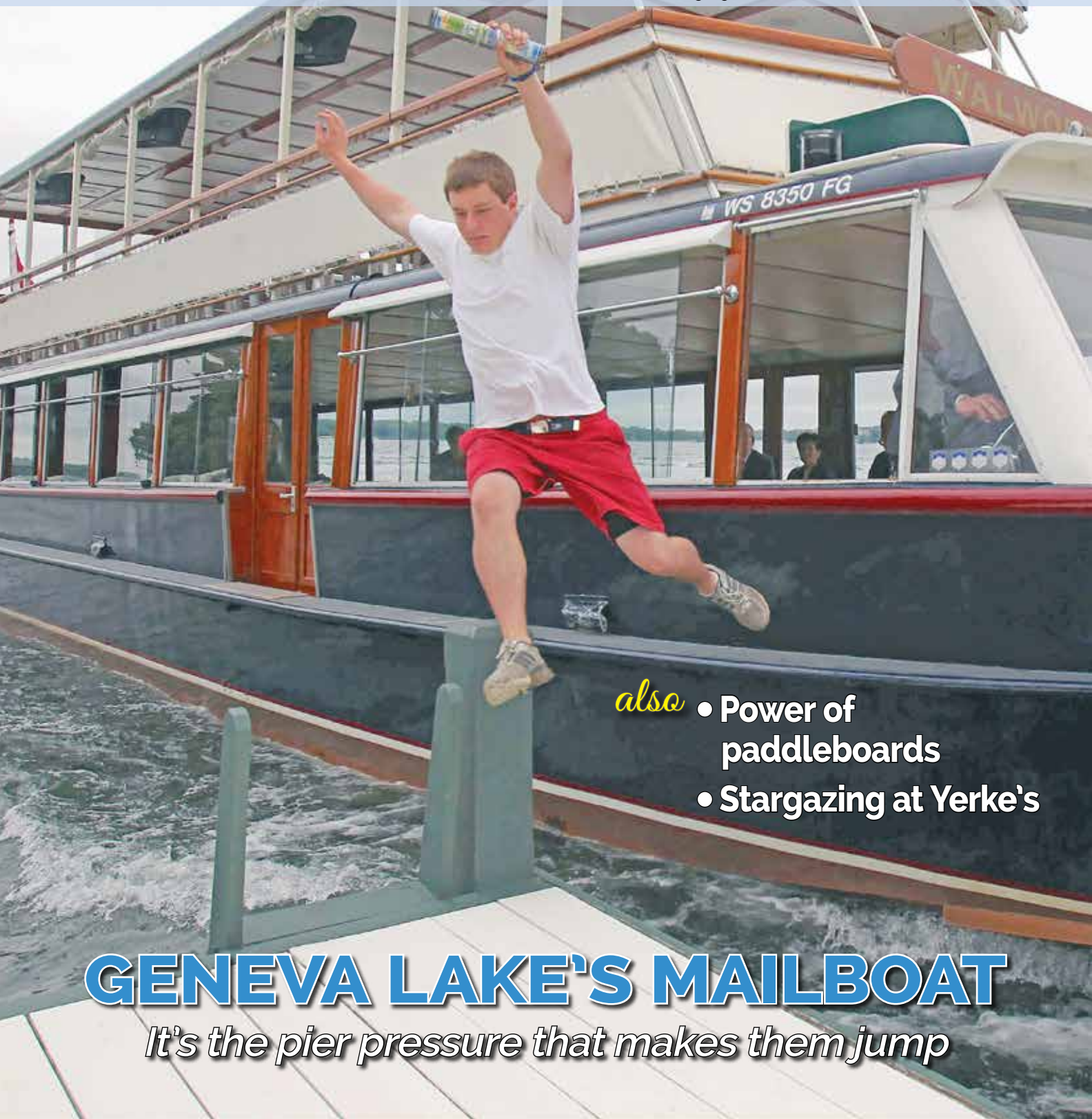
THE SPIRIT *of Geneva Lakes*



Vol. 28 No. 6

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Jumping for 100 years

A prospective Geneva Lake mailboat jumper displays his skill during a tryout session hosted by the Geneva Lake Cruise Line. The delivery of U.S. Mail by boat – and fleet-footed jumpers, as they are called – is a 100-year-old tradition on the lake. In addition to delivering the mail and making it back onto a moving boat, the jumpers act as tour guides. For more, see page 7.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE CRUISE LINE
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



IT'S COMIN' UP

JUNE EVENTS

3-12 Lake Geneva Restaurant Week – Enjoy discounts and events all around town. Twenty-five restaurants will participate, offering three-course fixed-price meals. Lunch prices starting at \$10, dinner prices starting at \$25. For a complete list of menus and details about the restaurants, visit: www.lakegenevarestaurantweek.com.

4 Vintage Base Ball: Eagle Diamonds – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with game at 1:30 p.m. Celebrate America's favorite pastime and enjoy an old-fashioned game at Old World Wisconsin, S103 W37890 Highway 67, Eagle. (262) 594-6300 www.oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org

4-5 Wisconsin DNR Free Fun Weekend – Free entry to state parks and forest, free DNR trails, free fishing on all Wisconsin waters and free ATV/UTV vehicle riding on public trails open to such uses. No license required.

4, 11, 18, 25 Walworth County farmers market – Veterans Park on the downtown square, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. (262) 723-7733

4, 11, 18 Minneiska Water Ski Show Team performs at 7 p.m. on Whitewater Lake at Scenic Ridge Campground, N7991 R & W Townline Rd., Whitewater

6,13,20,27 Lauderdale Aqua Skiers performance – Future team at 5:30 p.m., main team at 6 p.m. on Don Jean Bay. www.aquaskiers.com

9 Legends and Landmarks: A Walking Tour of Lake Geneva (Thursdays from June 9 through Sept. 15). A 90-minute walking tour of downtown Lake Geneva and the historic Maple Park neighborhoods. On the tour, you will learn which buildings were designed by famous architects, which have a colorful past and which significant structures were lost to neglect or the wrecking ball. Tour departs at 6 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$8 per person. Tours gather and depart from in front of the Rivera Building 812 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva. For more information visit www.blackpointestate.org or call (262) 248-1888.

10 Night Under the Lights – hosted by the Elkhorn Parks and Recreation Department, 5 p.m. at Harris Park, Wright Street. (262) 741-5114

11 Arts and Crafts Fair hosted by the GFWC Women's Club of East Troy from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the East Troy village square. Homemade bakery, barbeque and hot dog plates, along with many new and talented arts and crafts vendors. (262) 642-2326

17 Black Point Nooks and Crannies Tour – Fridays throughout the summer. This tour covers many of the behind-the-scenes areas of the estate, including the basement, third floor, root cellar and brief walk along the shore path. This tour focuses on the evolution of technologies that helped provide comfort at the estate over 125 years. Cruise departs at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 2 p.m. Cost: \$40 per person. Boats depart from the Rivera Dock 812 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva.

17, 24 Holton-Elkhorn Band Concert – free open-air concert at Elkhorn's historic band shell in Sunset Park, 7:30 p.m. (262) 741-5114

17-19 Community Days of Elkhorn – a celebration of all things Elkhorn featuring a water ski show by the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers, a movie in the park, a car show and more. (262) 723-5788 or elkhornchamber.com

17 East Troy Cycling Classic, part of the Tour of America's Dairyland, begins at 11 a.m. with eight hours of high-energy professional cycling around the East Troy village square and nearby streets. (262) 642-3770

18 Annual Walworth County Farm Bureau Breakfast – from 6 a.m. to noon, children younger than 5 eat for free. Huge menu and lots of activities, as well as a farm tour all at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11. (262) 723-3228

18 Early Harness Races – noon at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11. (262) 723-3228

18 14th annual Midsummer Magic 6 to 9 p.m. at Old World Wisconsin's Crossroads Village, W372 S9727 Highway 67, Eagle. The annual fundraiser for the Old World Wisconsin Foundation features wine, beer and nonalcoholic beverage samples and gourmet food samples from more than 40 participating vendors, four stages for music, silent auctions, raffles and parking. Craft fair available from noon to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$55 for the general public. (262) 594-2922

18 46th Annual Elkhorn Firefighters Street Dance, 6 p.m. to 11:55 p.m. at the Elkhorn Fire Station on South Broad Street. The street dance features raffles, food, drinks and live music. Cost is \$10 for entry.

19 Pride and Joy Car Show, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. across from the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce, 203 E. Walworth St., at the Elkhorn Garage. There is no entry fee, though donations will be accepted for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Goodie bags and dash plaques will be available for the first 75 cars. (262) 723-5788 or elkhornchamber.com

22 Walworth County Fair's Pork Chop Cookout – featuring Country Idol Preliminaries and Crowning of 2012 Fairest of the Fair from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11. (262) 723-3228

26 Antique Flea Market – at 7 a.m. at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11, 7 a.m. Cost is \$5. (414) 525-0820 or www.nlpromotionsllc.com

30 East Troy Lions Club's annual Fourth of July Celebration, at the Amusement Park, 3072 Graydon Ave. Carnival on the midway, beer tent featuring live music daily and multiple food stands all four days.

Although we strive to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you verify before you finalize your travel plans.

THE SPIRIT

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THE SPIRIT

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Leaping at piers...

Cruise
line's mail
jumpers mark
milestone
in 2016

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

For 100 years the mail jumpers have been jumping off a moving boat to deliver mail to the piers of the grand estates on Geneva Lake.

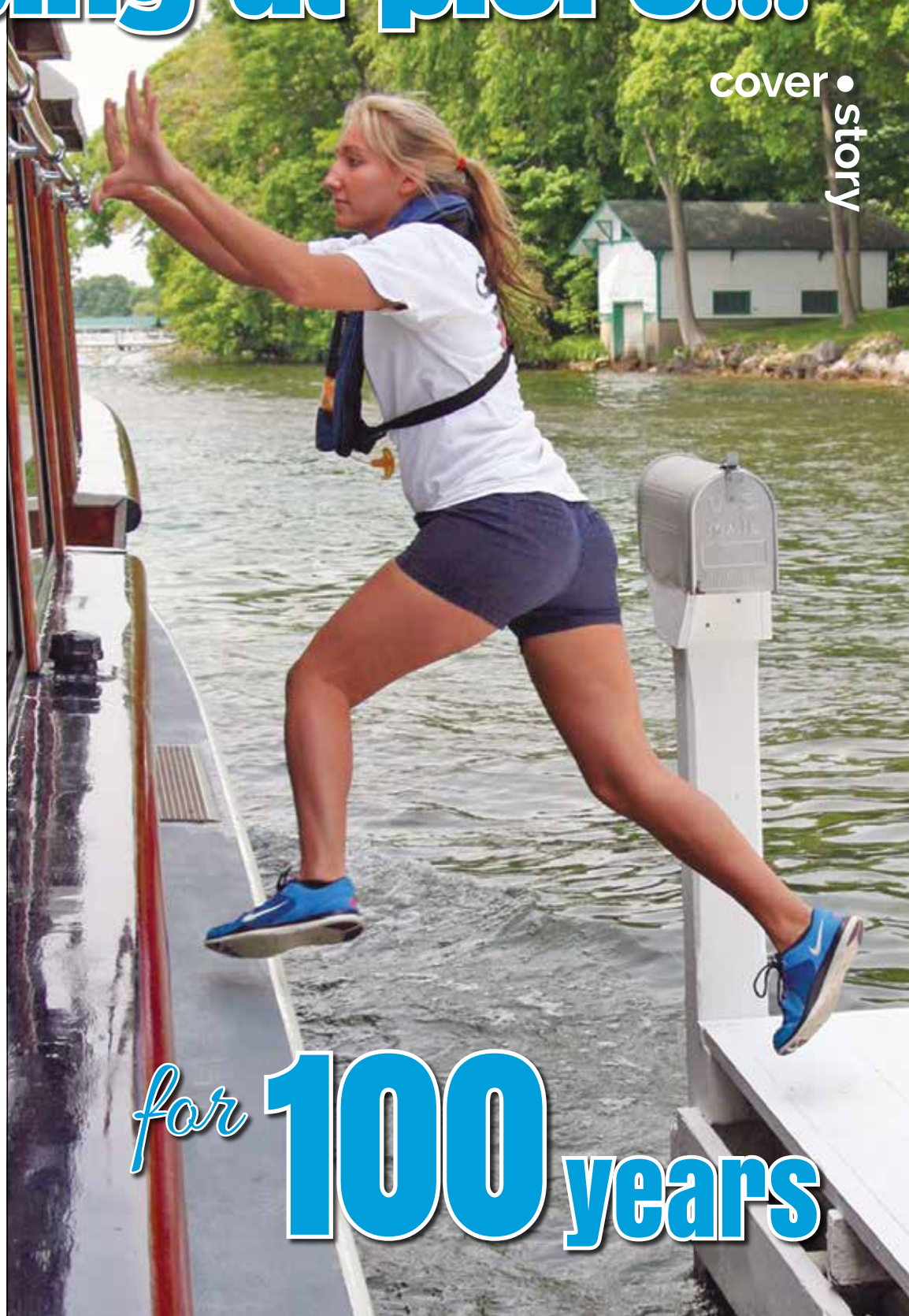
At 10 each morning, the Walworth leaves the pier at Riviera dock in Lake Geneva for its 2-1/2 hour cruise around the shore. But the Walworth is not embarking on the typical lakeshore tour – it is actually a working U.S. Mail boat. Lake Geneva is one of the few places left in the country that continues to deliver mail by boat and is known for having the most unique method of delivering that mail.

Loaded with approximately 150 passengers, the mail for about 75 homes and the mail jumper, the boat begins its route. The mail jumper leaps from the boat onto the pier, places the mail into the mailbox, picks up any outgoing mail and leaps back onto the boat. There's a catch, however. The boat never stops moving.

In the early days of Lake Geneva becoming a vacation haven, everything was delivered to the properties by boat. Supplies, food and even construction materials all had to be transported over the water, so it is not surprising that mail arrived the same way.

Today the mail is delivered by boat from June 15 through Sept. 15 to households that

cover • story



for **100** years



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Each morning from June to September, the Walworth II makes its way around the lakeshore delivering the U.S. Mail and newspapers to the summer residents. The original Walworth carried the mail until it was replaced by the Walworth II. The Walworth II has undergone several renovations, the last one in 2014.

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prefer to have the mail delivered to their pier.

Century mark

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the mail jumpers. The Walworth continues to deliver the mail daily just as it did in 1916 with the first of the mail jumpers. The Walworth used today is the newer version of the boat – officially the Walworth II – although it is usually just called the Walworth.

Captain of the Walworth, Neill Frame, has served in the role for more than 40 years.

Although mail had been delivered by boat since the late 1800s, it was in 1916

that the idea of having someone “jump the mail” became a reality.

The Lake Geneva Cruise Line has a contract with the U.S. Postal Service to provide mail service to the piers along the lake with Lake Geneva addresses. Just as with land delivery, all mail services are provided including delivering and accepting packages, picking up the outgoing mail and even delivering the daily paper.

Bring a letter or card to be mailed from the boat and it will be hand-stamped as having been mailed from the mail boat. The Walworth runs the route seven days a week but on Sunday the run is just to deliver newspapers.

“The mail jumpers were always athletic

young men,” Frame said. He went on to say that the mail jumpers were always boys in those days possibly because they had a longer stride.

That sexist scenario continued until 1974 when Elaine Kanelos decided she needed a summer job and the summer job that she wanted was to be a mail jumper. Kanelos had grown up on Geneva Lake, first as a summer resident, then later as a year-round resident when her parents moved the family from River Forest, Ill., to Lake Geneva as their permanent home.

She wrote a book

Kanelos had grown up receiving the family mail delivered to the pier and as an

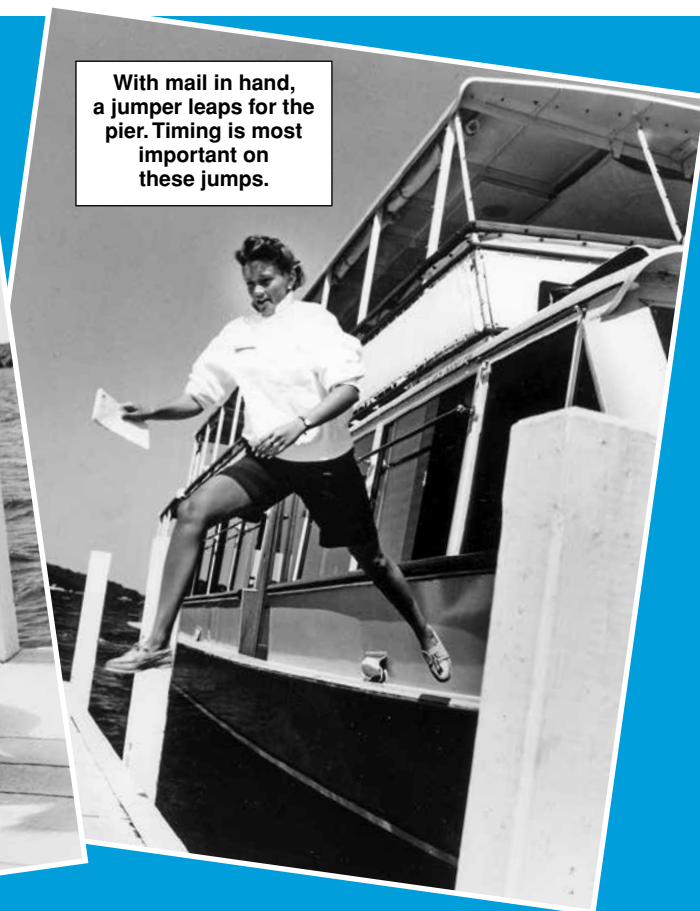


Each mailbox is located in a different spot on the pier – some close to the front others farther away. Here the mail jumper hustles to return to the boat on a long pier.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



At some of the piers, the mail jumper was met by the family dog, who came to collect the day's newspaper or the mail.



With mail in hand, a jumper leaps for the pier. Timing is most important on these jumps.

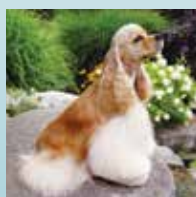
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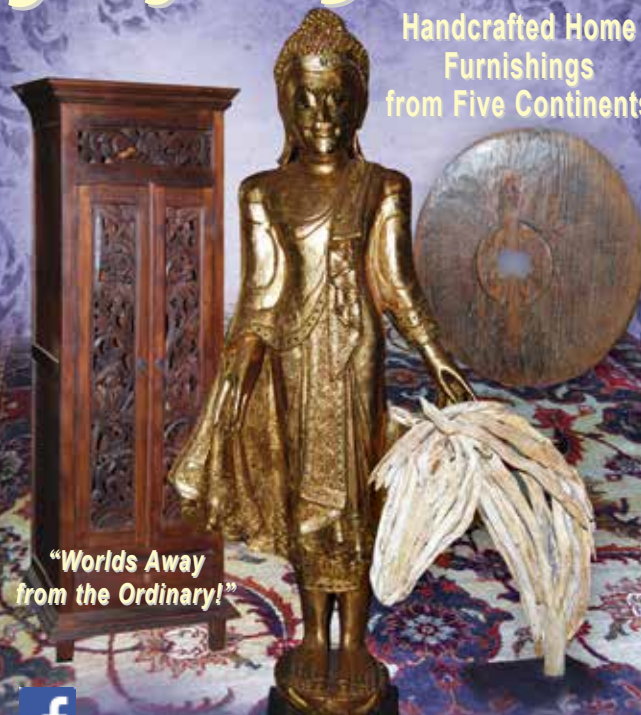
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athletic young girl began to think about being a mail jumper. So in 1974 Kanelos, perhaps encouraged by the women's liberation activities of the time, wrote a letter to Bill Gage, Sr., head of the Gage Marine Boat Company.

As she states in her book, "Mail Jumper, the Story of the First Mail Girl:"

"I wasn't going to let something as minor as a 68-year tradition (of only having boys jump) stand in my way."

In her letter, Kanelos noted that it was time for a girl to jump the mail and that she was the girl to do it. When Gage responded three weeks later and gave her the job she was "ecstatic."

Her first day on the job was officially her tryout. Photographers were there for publicity pictures of the new mail jumper. One posed photo was of her putting mail in her own family's mailbox. She did not anticipate that that photo would be seen around the country on magazines, and news reports and eventually the cover of her own book.

Kanelos did not miss the pier or the boat on any of her jumps that day.

Being a mail jumper is not just about showing up at the boat when it is time to start the route. The day begins as for all mail carriers with a trip to the post office in Lake Geneva to pick up and sort the day's mail for delivery. Then it is back to the boat to prepare it for the sailing.

Everything must be cleaned each morning. The crew consists of the captain, the mail jumper and a third person to handle the snack bar.

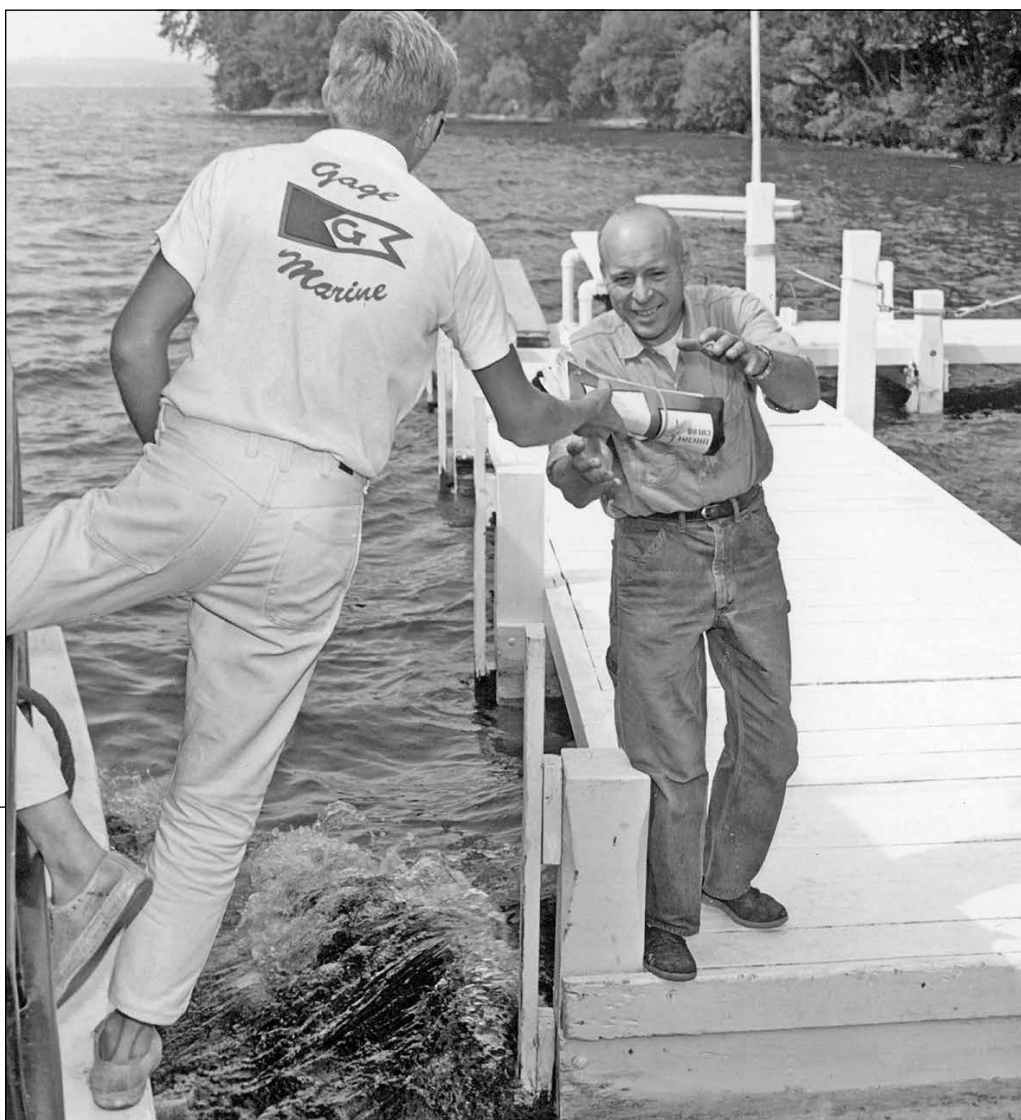
"Sit downstairs if you want to see the mail delivery," advises Frame. "If you are upstairs it is hard to see but there are monitors to watch."

A family affair

Ellen Burling, a longtime Gage employee now working as office manager and head of group sales, was a mail jumper in 1984.

"Each year tryouts are held just prior to the start of the season," she said.

"Only those who have been employed by the Gage Company for the past year are considered for the job. If you have been a mail jumper one year, you aren't guaranteed a job the following year – you



Top photo: This photo of Elaine Kanelos placing the mail in her family's mailbox in 1974 was taken on her first day of jumping. She was the first female to hold the job.

At right: This resident along the shore meets the mail boat at his pier for his mail and morning paper to be handed off to him.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

still must try out.”

“After Elaine opened the field to girls, there were more girls who applied and for approximately a 10-year period the mail jumpers were all girls,” Burling said. “Today more jumpers are hired and there are both boys and girls sharing the job.”

Being a mail jumper is often a family thing. This past year Burling’s son and daughter were both mail jumpers. Burling’s sister was also a mail jumper.

“At one time there was a family of three (siblings), Ellie, Anna, and Keith (Vogt), who jumped the same year,” added Burling.

When Burling was a jumper there were only two jumpers who alternated the seven-day-a-week schedule. The second jumper had to take over for a month when Burling sprained her ankle.

“There is more to the job than just jumping,” she explained.

In addition to mail delivery the daily boat trip is a tour of the lake. Between jumps, the mail jumper serves as a tour guide, pointing out the sights along the shore. Knowledge of the history of the area and the names of the many grand estates is important. There is a script to help them until they become proficient in pointing out the sights.

While the mail jumper is jumping the captain will pitch in and tell stories about the estates or previous mail boat trips.

Timing is the key

Because the boat never stops, timing is important when making the jump. The boat cannot move right next to the pier so there is about 4 to 8 feet of water between the boat and the pier. In addition, the piers often have obstacles on them. Shoes, life jackets, or water toys may be left on the pier obstructing the direct route to the mailbox. Decisions must be made on whether to jump over the objects or work around them. Jump, run, deliver the mail, pick up the outgoing mail, run back to the boat and jump on to the rub rail then get ready for the next jump.

“No day is ever the same,” Burling said. And no pier is the same. Each pier has the mailbox set in a different spot so it may be necessary to run faster to reach the boat before it passes by.

Weather is certainly a factor in mail jumping. But, as the saying goes, the mail must be delivered regardless of the weather. Jumping onto a wet deck can be hazardous requiring shoes with a good grip.

According to Burling, the success of the mail boat is due not only to the uniqueness of the trip, but also to Capt. Frame. Once a full-time employee of Lake Geneva Cruise Line, Frame now only works when the mail boat is running.



Dining Directory

HERNANDEZ EL SARAPE - RESTAURANT & CATERING • 212 S. 7th St., Delavan. **262-728-6443**. www.hernandez-restaurant.com. L, D, \$ ¥

THE GRIST MILL • 2645 Main St., East Troy. **262-684-5138**. www.easttroygristmill.com. Start your day with breakfast or wind down in the evening with a glass of wine on the patio. B, L, D \$-\$\$ FF ¥

SPRECHER'S RESTAURANT & PUB • 111 Center St., Lake Geneva. **262-248-7047**. www.sprecherspub.com Online ordering now available. Happy hour specials Sun.-Fri. Craft beers and gourmet sodas. America's favorite family brew pub. L, D, FF \$-\$\$ ¥ ☺

PRINCESS CAFE • 2695 Main St., East Troy. **262-642-5905**. B, L, D, FF \$ ¥ ☺

DADDY MAXWELL'S • 150 Elkhorn Rd., Hwy. 67, Williams Bay. **262-245-5757**. www.daddymaxwells.com. B, L, D (Fri.), FF NC \$ ¥ ☺

GINO'S EAST OF CHICAGO • 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. **262-248-2525**. www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com. Chicago's original deep dish pizza, Italian sandwiches, salads and entrees. L, D, \$-\$\$ ¥

CHAMPS SPORTS BAR AND GRILL • 747 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. **262-248-6008**. champslakegeneva.com. Featuring new items on our menu: hand rolled taquitos, prime rib burgers, baja fish tacos and country pot roast sandwich. L, D, FF \$ ¥

THE CHALET • W6904 County Rd. A, Elkhorn. Known for our fresh fish, oysters & salmon. Open Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 5pm-9pm. D, FF \$\$

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COLONY HOUSE • Hwy. JF, Trevor. **262-862-2076**. Full service restaurant. www.colonyhouserestaurant.co Dinner is served Tues., Wed., Thurs. 4-9:30; Fri. & Sat. 4-10; Sun. 3:30-8:30; closed Mon. D, FF \$\$\$ ¥ ☎ ☺

FITZGERALD'S GENOA JUNCTION • Hwy. B, Genoa City. **262-279-5200**. Featuring famous fish boils all year 'round. Open Wed.-Sun. (summer), Thurs.-Sun. (winter). D, FF \$\$

LUCKE'S CANTINA FOOD & SPIRITS • 220 Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay. **262-245-6666**. Choose from 15 draft beers. Open 7 days a week from 11am. L, D, \$ ¥

MOYS RESTAURANT • In the historic square, 3 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. **262-723-3993**. Chinese and American cuisine. Open 6 days a week, closed Monday. L, D, FF, \$\$ ¥

RIGA-TONY'S DELICATEZZI ITALIANO • 5576 C State Rd. 50, Delavan (in the Dairy Queen Plaza). **262-740-2540**. Open Wed.-Sun., closed Mon. & Tues. L, D \$

ZENDA TAP BAR & GRILL • N560 Zenda Rd., Zenda, WI (on the south side of Geneva Lake). **262-394-4100**. Open 7 days per week at 11am. L, D, FF ¥

Key

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 \$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested ¥: Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu

Information is subject to change. Please contact individual restaurant for more information.

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Each mail delivery required two well-timed jumps by the mail jumper. The jumper has to return to the boat before it passes the pier.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Upon meeting Frame it is obvious that he is a people person who loves to interact with the mail jumpers and the people who he sees as his guests. Listen to him talk about the shoreline and it's easy to hear the love in his voice for the lake. Frame does his best to make sure everyone enjoys the trip and is not above providing some excitement.

Splashdown

Occasionally jumpers miss the boat and land in the lake. These misses are very few as the jumpers are professionals who know

their job and, with jumping 75 times a day, have a lot of practice. Occasionally on a hot summer day a dip in the lake seems like a great way to cool off or to bring some excitement to a sleepy crowd.

So they will work with Frame to "fall" into the lake.

"Planned falls are safer than accidental falls," Kanelos said. The captain moves the back end of the boat out a little so the back propellers are away from the jumper. "You don't want to get pulled into the wake of the boat.

How does the jumper get back on the boat after a fall into the

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water? Most piers have a ladder so he or she climbs back on the pier and the captain turns the boat around and returns to pick her up.

"We don't leave the mail jumpers as they would have no way to return to the dock," Frame said.

So, did Kanelos ever fall into the lake? Her answer was simple. "Never accidentally and purposely only twice," she said.

When Kanelos returned to Lake Geneva to publicize her book, she spent two days on the mail boat. And yes, 40 years after her time as the official mail jumper, she did successfully jump again. She claims to have been a bit apprehensive about the first jump, but when it was announced that she would be jumping she had no choice but to do it.

"It worked out and I jumped 10 jumps each day," she said.

So for an entertaining lake trip jump onto the mail boat and be prepared to watch as you are moved back in time to a period when mail was delivered by boat to the elegant summer estates of Geneva Lake.

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Elaine Kanelos' book is sold on the mail boat and available at local Lake Geneva bookstores, the Geneva Lake Museum and at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



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- **U.S. Mail boat Tour** – 2-1/2

hour tour of the lake that includes delivery of mail to approximately 75 pier mailboxes by mail jumpers and a tour of the entire lake. Tour departs Riviera dock daily at 10 a.m. from June 15 to Sept. 15.

- **Black Point Tour** – This

is a 3-1/2 hour tour that includes a 45-minute narrated tour of the lake with a 1-1/2 hour tour of the Black Point Estate, followed by a return trip to the Riviera Boat Dock. Not recommended for those unable to climb stairs, as a climb of approximately 100 stairs is required to reach the estate from the boat. Departs Riviera dock at 10:30 a.m. on Monday through Thursday and at 12:30 p.m. Friday Saturday and Sunday from June to September. Additional tours are offered in October.



- **Full Lake Tour** – A 2-hour narrated tour of the entire lake, which is fully narrated. Enjoy the beauty of the lake and the mansions along the shore. From June 1 to Oct. 31, the tour departs daily at 1 p.m. From June 11 to Sept. 5, there is an additional 3:15 p.m. departure.

- **Geneva Bay Tour** – This 1-hour tour travels the eastern end of the lake known as Geneva Bay with a narrated historical tour of the many beautiful estates of the area. Departs June 1-10 at 3:15 p.m. daily. From June 11 to Sept. 5 departures are at 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 1:45 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sept 6 to Oct. 31 3:15pm.

- **Expanded Bay Tour** – This is a 1-1/2 hour tour covering approximately three-fourths of the lake. Pass the Schwinn Estate, the Elgin Club and a portion of Williams Bay. Departs June 1 through 10 at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. From June 11 to Sept. 5 departs 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. daily with additional tours Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 6 to Oct. 31 departures are at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. daily and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

- **Sundowner/cocktail cruises** – Relax at the end of the day on a 1-hour Sundowner or 2-hour cocktail cruise while enjoying a favorite beverage. Check website for days and time.

- **Ice Cream Social Cruise** – Enjoy a 1-1/2 hour cruise in Geneva Bay while relaxing and enjoying a favorite ice cream sundae. From April 30 to Oct. 31 the boat departs at 3:30 p.m.

- **Luncheon Tour** – Enjoy a 2-1/2 hour tour including a plated lunch aboard the Grand Belle. See website for daily lunch choice. June 11 to Sept. 5 tours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 11:30 a.m.; Sept. 6 to Oct. 31 tours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday 11:30 a.m.

- **Sunday Champagne Brunch** – Start your day with a champagne brunch aboard the Grand Belle. Enjoy the buffet as you travel the lake with a narrated 2-hour tour. 11 a.m. Sundays

- **Jazz Dinner Cruise** – Enjoy a delicious dinner as you cruise the lake listening to a jazz or Dixieland band. Departs Fridays, June 17 to September at 7 p.m. and from Sept. 9 to Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.

- **Dinner Cruise** – Traverse the lake while enjoying dinner on Thursday nights from July 7 to Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.

- **Lake Walk Tour** – Walk the lake path from Lake Geneva to Williams Bay and catch a boat back to Lake Geneva or plan your trip to walk to Lake Geneva from Williams Bay or to Fontana. The walk to Williams Bay along the beautiful footpath is approximately seven miles. After the walk, relax and enjoy the ride around the lake. Check the website for days and times available.

Many of the tours require advance registration. Visit www.lakegenevatours.com for further information or to make a reservation. Or call at (262) 248-6206.

Carnival rides return to Libertyfest

by **Jason Arndt**

STAFF WRITER

For the first time since the 1980s, carnival rides are returning to Twin Lakes' annual Libertyfest celebration set for July 1-3.

The return of Carnival Rides, provided by Kaye Brothers, was driven by popular demand, according to Twin Lakes Area Chamber and Business Association Executive Director Marilyn Trongeau.

"People have been asking for rides for many years. It is hard to get a small carnival over the Fourth of July weekend. We found someone able to accommodate our venue," she said.

Although the event does not have a gate to track attendance, Trongeau noted about 1,900 people purchase wristbands for the annual event in Twin Lakes, and actual figures are higher.

"Wristbands are for people to be able to drink alcohol. So then you have to consider all the families and non-drinkers that come over and above that number," she added.

Twin Lakes native and "The Voice" contestant, Megan Ruger, is scheduled to take the Lance Park Amphitheater stage Saturday.

The three-day event opening Friday has acoustic country musician Nora Collins

leading off the entertainment with Pat Watters Band following up.

Additionally, a Saturday 11 a.m. parade featuring community organizations leads up to the Ruger musical performance at the amphitheater stage.

Trongeau said the parade offers the community an opportunity to come together in the name of fun.

"The parade route is lined with lots of families and people of all ages from Legion Park all the way to Lance Park," Trongeau said. "Of course the kids love the candy and freeze pops that are handed out at the parade."

Organizers are still seeking participants and floats for the Libertyfest parade.

In addition to Ruger, jazz and blues musician Kyle Young is slated for a Saturday, July 2, performance, capped off by a fireworks show at dusk.

However, Libertyfest is not limited to live entertainment. Duck races return for the third straight year along with cash prizes awarded to the top six finishers.

The duck races are held near the Aquanuts site.

"The Randall Fire Department creates a track with inflated fire hoses," Trongeau explained. "The ducks are dropped into the

water and the Fire Department creates a current in the water for ducks to race."

Each duck has a number matching a raffle ticket bought that offers cash prizes.

The winner receives \$200, while second place gets \$100 and third takes home \$50.

Ducks finishing fourth through sixth get \$25.


Tickets for the Duck Races are available at the Twin Lakes Chamber and Business Association before the competition.

Other competitions include Twin Lakes Idol and Bingo.


Capping off Libertyfest's live entertainment Sunday is swing music group Bob's Little Big Band and the Affects.

"Anything that brings the community together for a celebration benefits everyone," Trongeau said. "Twin Lakes becomes the place to come for fun and entertainment without having an admittance charge, so anyone on any budget can have some fun," she stated.






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Escape

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

by **Christopher Bennett**
CORRESPONDENT

A NEW
LOOK FOR
AN INN
WITH A RICH
HISTORY

Thirty years of sunsets are being celebrated this summer at the French Country Inn on Lake Como.

"It's absolutely the best I've ever seen," said Tony Navilio, owner of the French Country Inn, "and that includes Key West, where everyone goes crazy for the sunsets. "It's just gorgeous, especially in the summer and early fall."

Navilio can describe in details most reserve for a classic painting the color that erupts when the sun sets on the shore of Lake Como. He's watched Mother Nature splash her palette across the sky from the French Country Inn since April of 1986.

"This past fall, they were just so red," Navilio said of the sunsets. "The reds and the pinks and the magentas ...all those colors ...they were just extraordinary."

Bought it on a lark

Navilio bought the property that is now the French Country Inn in 1986 on what he describes as a lark. He traveled to Monterrey, Calif., and visited his college roommate

During its heyday in the 1930's the Lake Como Hotel (now the French Country Inn) was a playground for some of Chicago's most notorious gangsters, including "Baby Face" Nelson and "Bugs" Moran.

“

The day I bought it the guy was telling me how it was the hangout for the gangsters. I never believed him, quite honestly. I thought it was sort of an apocryphal story – kind of like 'George Washington slept here' is on the east coast."



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from his days at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio.

During the course of his travels Navilio stayed at the Petite Auberge in San Francisco, and inspiration struck. The Petite Auberge is a French provincial inn in San Francisco's Nob Hill neighborhood.

"I fell in love with the place, and decided to duplicate it and bring it back to the Midwest," Navilio said. "I remembered the old Lake Como Hotel, and I came here and it was closed and dilapidated.

"I decided to buy it and redo it."

"Petit auberge" means "small inn" in French. Navilio pays homage to his inspiration at the French Country Inn. The small cottage available for rental on the property is named "Petite Auberge."

Thirty years after purchasing the inn – and in time for its 120th birthday – Navilio is preparing for the first full season since an extensive refresh and renovation project closed the inn for a season.

A new look

The French Country Inn closed in the spring of 2014 and reopened in August of 2015. In the interim the inn received new beds, refurbished furniture, carpeting, linens and paint. Rooms,

buildings and the swimming pool all received attention.

Each room also jumped into the modern age with more electrical outlets, Wi-Fi, cable television, refrigerators and coffee makers. A restaurant and bar are also in the works, and might open soon.

Even after its facelift, the French Country Inn's reputation as an icon of history is without repute. Wisconsin served as a playground for gangsters during the height of Chicago's reign as the nation's capital for organized crime in the Prohibition era – a time when gangsters demanded and made headlines for their devil-may-care exploits.

That portion of the French Country Inn's history ignores its origin story, the roots of which are in the legendary 1893 Columbian Exposition. The event is also known as the Chicago World's Fair, and is a landmark event that helped define America for an epoch.

The guesthouse and elements of the main house including the solid oak, hand-carved staircase and inlaid parquet floors, were built in Denmark in the 1880s. The pieces traveled to Chicago by boat as the Danish Pavilion for the exposition.

Upon conclusion of the fair the buildings were purchased and transported by rail to their current location, according to information on the inn's web site.

Navilio said he routinely fields queries about the inn's history,



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



French Country Inn owner Tony Novilio describes sunsets over Lake Como as the best he's ever seen – and that includes Key West, Fla.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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“

This is our first full season after renovating, so I look forward to bringing back our old customers and reviving our old reputation.”

especially regarding its gangster past. He has lived with the inn’s history for as long as he’s owned the facility.

“The day I bought it the guy was telling me how it was the hangout for the gangsters,” Navilio said. “I never believed him, quite honestly. I thought it was sort of an apocryphal story – kind of like ‘George Washington slept here’ is on the east coast.”

When gangsters ruled

The tales of the inn’s gangster past are authentic. The Hermansen family purchased the inn – then known as the Lake Como Hotel – in the 1930, and the inn became a favored haunt of George “Bugs” Moran and Baby Face Nelson.

Hobart Hermansen befriended Nelson and Tommy Carroll and John Paul Chase, both members of John Dillinger’s gang.

Hobart’s cohort Jimmy Murray, the bootlegger who delivered liquor to the famed Dillinger hangout “Little Bohemia” in Northern Wisconsin, also supplied the Lake Como Hotel with beer during prohibition from his New Glarus Brewery.

All of these characters vacationed and left their mark on the hotel in the 1920s and 1930s. Some even stayed behind.

According to the inn’s web site, Hobart earned acclaim as the “Slot Machine King of Walworth County,” and operated a speakeasy and gambling parlor in the basement of the Lake Como Hotel called “The Sewer.”

Hobart’s closest relationship was with the Morans. Bugs and Lucille Moran visited the Hermansen property numerous times. Hobart married Lucille after she and Bugs divorced following the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre in 1932.

The Hermansens managed the hotel until 1971, and sold it to Fay and Gene Leichte. The Leichteys renamed the property The Red Chimney Inn. The Leichteys sold to the Sal Argentio Family, who changed the name back to the Lake Como Hotel Inn.

Navilio’s goals are simple as the inn evolves and enters the next phase of its history.

“This is our first full season after renovating, so I look forward to bringing back our old customers and reviving our old reputation,” Navilio said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A restaurant and bar are currently in the works at the French Country Inn, according to owner Tony Navilio.

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A full-page photograph of a bride in profile, facing left. She is wearing a white wedding dress and a long veil adorned with white flowers. She holds a large bouquet of white roses and baby's breath. The background shows a calm lake, green trees, and a blue sky with white clouds.

June Bride

WEDDINGS
that SPARKLE

Vintage jewelry is a signature look

"Vintage remains a strong trend in bridal jewelry," according to Jill Maier, vice president of design at CAROLEE. Harking back to the adage that "everything old is new again," brides are favoring art deco, estate-inspired silhouettes when it comes to jewels.

The mix of crystal and pearl is a signature look of CAROLEE. It's a timeless combination fused into an array of bridal designs – florette bracelets, delicate drop earrings, and vintage inspired necklaces. Here, the bride can rest easy knowing she won't have to sacrifice for style – the majority of the collection comes in under \$100. These pretty pieces are perfect for the blushing bride and their versatility makes them ideal for the bridal party as well.

The desire to look fabulous without spending a fortune has never been quite so high. Many brides are choosing just one or two standout accessories, balancing a modern detail-oriented ceremony and reception with their minimalistic, classic ensemble.

Maier also notes, "The beauty of this jewelry is that it's distinctive without being overwhelming. It can be worn alone and looks great layered."

Jewelry experts at the CAROLEE counter in major department stores are always a great resource for jewelry bridal tips, or click on "BRIDAL" at www.carolee.com for a wealth of ideas for brides and every member of the bridal party.

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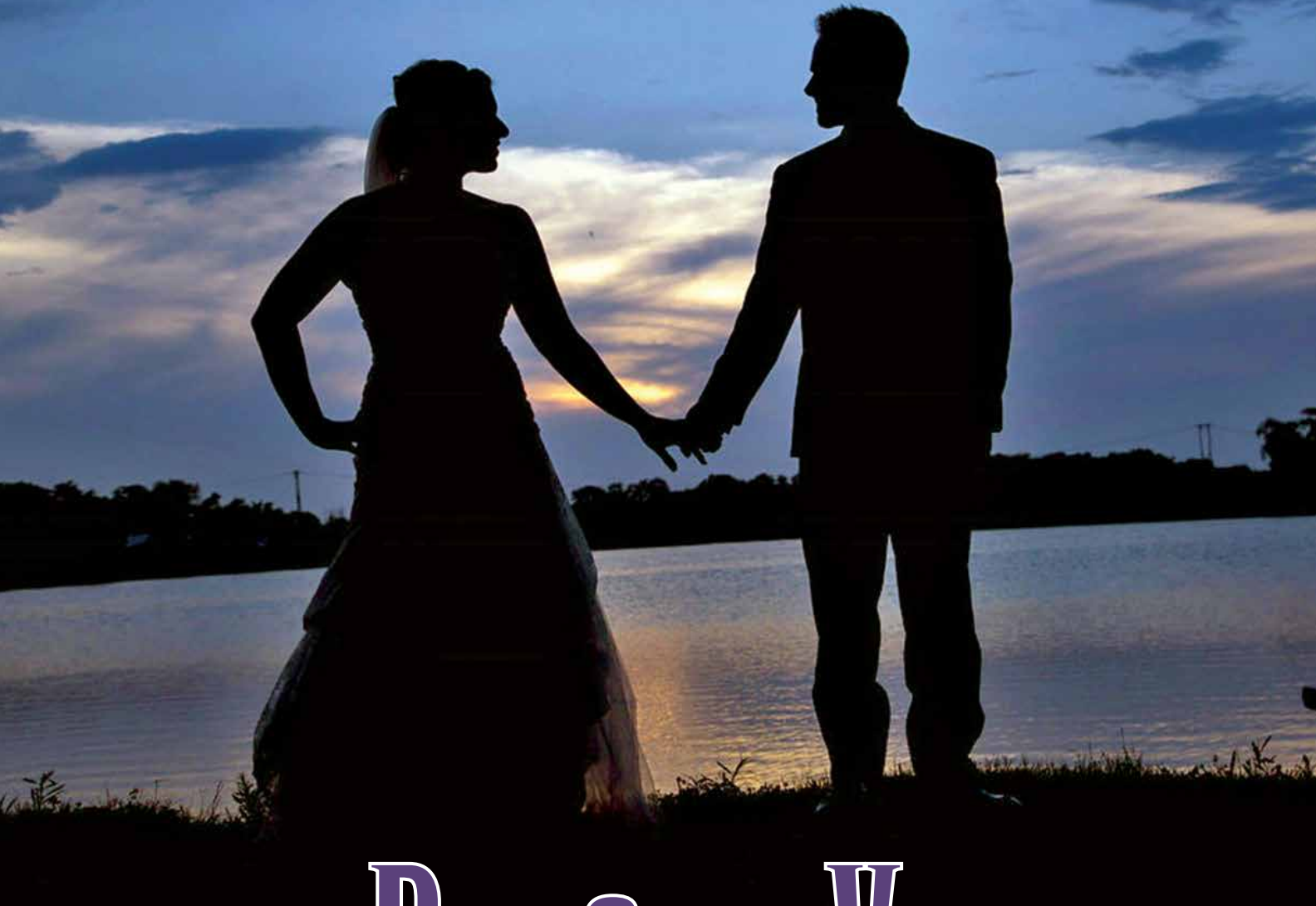
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The Perfect Venue

Area has plenty to offer those who've just said 'I do'

Not long after he drops to his knees and pops the question – and you've shared the happy news with your parents – couples quickly turn their attention to setting a date and picking a venue.

The Geneva Lakes area offers a wealth of choices for weddings intimate to epic. Whether it's an outdoor setting or an indoor event for 400 the area offers some of the best settings that will leave a lasting

memory long after the "I dos" are uttered.

Here's a closer look at a few of Spirit magazine's preferred wedding venues:

Evergreen Golf Club

Evergreen Golf Club, just north of Elkhorn on Highway 12, has the amenities for the perfect wedding.

The main clubhouse is set on a beautifully landscaped hill surrounded by manicured lawns and plantings of

MATT MASON PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF VETERANS TERRACE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

perennial flowers and prairie grasses. Entering the reception area of the building, the view into the main banquet room reveals a spacious room with 15-foot ceilings and beautiful chandeliers. It is reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style.

Touches of cherry-stained accent panels bring a warm cozy feeling to this large room, which will hold up to 290 persons. The far end of the room is a wall of glass – windows in the prairie style with wood trim – looking out to the beautiful stone patio and a cascading waterfall.

Today many couples choose to exchange their vows at the reception site. If an outdoor venue for the ceremony is your choice, the wedding ceremony will be held out on the stone patio against a background of lush landscaping and a gently flowing waterfall. An indoor ceremony can be held right in front of the windows, taking advantage of the landscaping in the background.

When a wedding is held the entire building is off limits to anyone but those associated with the wedding.

The reception room can hold up to 290, but not more than 250 is recommended if there is to be a sit down dinner – 220 for a buffet.

The wedding packages include white tablecloths and napkins, but other colors can be rented to match the wedding décor. Chairs are not the standard chairs found in many venues but rather Mission style chairs to fit with the architecture of the room. If the couple prefers to cover the chairs covers can be rented.

The dance floor is portable and can be set up anywhere in the room. A favorite spot is in front of the windows.

Off to one side is a small private room referred to as the bride's room. It is often used for the women in the wedding party to have their hair done and their makeup applied and for the bride to add the final touches before her appearance.

To enhance the party spirit, some brides choose to serve Mimosas and lunch while adding those final beauty touches. This room is secure and private. During the reception it is kept locked so it is a place that is safe and is available to the bride throughout the reception.

Evergreen offers both plated and buffet dining options.

The plated meals include a salad, fresh rolls and butter, two side dishes and coffee. The choice of the entrée determines the cost. There is a wide variety of entrees which include, chicken, fish, beef and pork and vegetarian choices.

The buffet can be set up in one of two ways. The traditional long buffet or the Action Station arrangement. With the Action Stations smaller serving stations are set up in various parts of the room, each with a specific portion of the meal. This encourages guests to intermingle.

Appetizers can be ordered to be butler-passed or to have stationary platters. Many of the butler-passed items are hot appetizers while the stationary platters include cheeses, vegetables, dips and bruschetta.

Evergreen Golf Club is at N6246 Highway 12, three miles north of Elkhorn. The telephone number is (262) 723-5722 or visit their website www.evergreengolfclub.com.

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Several buildings dedicated to the care and comfort of the resort's guests reside on 250 acres of beautiful lakefront real estate that includes wooded areas, a golf course, and a long exquisite waterfront with a marina. Interior spaces include 32,000 feet of reception area that accommodates gatherings as intimate as 20, or as large as 500 people.

During spectacular weather, guests can spill across manicured lawns, enjoying the kiss of gentle summer breezes gliding across the lake, or revel in sunlight tinted by the brilliant colors of hardwoods as they change to autumn dress. Lovely shades of peridot and jade return to the trees in spring, and there are large windows from which to watch sparkling snowfalls in the winter.

Despite its size and its longevity, the resort has kept its original intimate atmosphere. The design firm that refurbished it before its re-opening in 2011 was careful to preserve its unique personality.

Lake Lawn's ballrooms and reception spaces are decorated with an understated elegance that is a hallmark of its décor. Lovely ivory-hued wallpaper with subtle tiny pale golden leaves graces the walls of its reception areas. The huge support beams that prove this resort is truly built in the lodge style are painted pale beige. The hint of blue in the carpet picks up the sapphire of Delavan Lake, visible outside most of the south-facing windows. Everything here reflects the rustic nature of woods and water, including the lovely ceramic tile featuring a tree that highlights the fireplaces near the front desk.

Lake Lawn Resort is easily accessible. It's about two hours north of Chicago, and one hour south of Milwaukee. Interstate highways 90, 94 and 43 are main arteries relatively close to the resort. Lake Lawn even has its own airport suitable for small planes, just north of the golf course, opposite the main entrance across Highway 50.

No bride or groom should have to get married burdened with the stress of planning travel arrangements and all the other tensions associated with weddings. Lake Lawn's Calladora Spa, living up to its



NAKASATO PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF EVERGREEN Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The dining room at Evergreen is dressed for the wedding with tulle veiling loosely floating above, peach colored napkins and flowers to coordinate with bridal party colors.

slogan "beauty by the water," offers everything from several different kinds of massages, to eucalyptus steam rooms, facials, hair styling, and manicures and pedicures.

There's a cottage-style intimacy to the pampering here even though a total of 9,000 square feet of the resort are dedicated to it. Ten treatment rooms are available to visitors. Lounges include one for men, one for women, and one where both can mix. Specialty Thai massages, which include stretching and energizing yoga-like positions, are available.

Whether it's a group of wedding guests celebrating before the big day with relaxing treatments, or an intimate couples' massage for the bride and groom, the spa's serene atmosphere offers wellness, peace, and renewal for all who care to sample it. Neither stress nor worry survive long here.

An award-winning chef and his talented staff of culinary experts are ready to help set the food style for any type of wedding. Chef David Ross, Director of Culinary Operations as well as Executive Chef at



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Lake Lawn Resort, commands 27 years' experience in designing Midwestern Heartland-style cuisine for various Geneva Lakes clubs and resorts. He has also twice been named the Geneva Lakes Chapter of the American Culinary Foundation's "Chef of the Year" in 1997 and 2008.

Whether it's the recipe for grandma's signature rhubarb pie, or a comfort food you've cherished throughout your life and want to share with your wedding guests and friends, the Lake Lawn culinary team can recreate it for your most special celebration.

They also offer extraordinary menus unique to Lake Lawn, all made with Chef Ross' special touches, which often include local honey and fresh herbs. "Action stations" are currently popular at rehearsal dinners or receptions, where small servings of specialty foods are prepared or served. The resort staff specializes in these.

Find Lake Lawn online at www.lakelawnresort.com. The Resort's address is 2400 East Geneva Street, Delavan.

Veterans Terrace

There just aren't many local places like Veteran's Terrace, Burlington's modern wedding venue.

"In good weather, couples can get married in the park, then come here for their reception," General Manager Bill Smits said.

He speaks of Veteran's Memorial Echo Park, only a couple dozen steps away across the east parking lot, set against the shores of placid Echo Lake. The park features a number of mature trees as well as a pavilion and gazebo.

It's a lovely spot for nuptials, especially suited to nature-loving couples.

It's modern, easy to find, and has immediate access to Milwaukee Avenue. It is one of the top wedding reception halls in Racine, Rock, and Walworth Counties.

"You have to drive to either Milwaukee or Chicago to rent a place like this," Smits said. "Once (couples) see it, they love it."

Veteran's Terrace is thoughtfully laid out with people and



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Call to learn more about the possibilities for your dream wedding at Lake Lawn.






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With the shimmering water of Delavan Lake as a backdrop, Lake Lawn Resort provides a picture-perfect setting for brides and grooms to exchange their vows, celebrate with family and friends, and stay for a honeymoon. Lake Lawn offers several different dining options – including outdoors – that will fit the desires and the size of most wedding parties.

celebrations in mind.

Liberty Hall, the largest area in the facility, is on the main level. The room comfortably holds 450 people. “It can also be divided in half for two smaller functions,” Smitz said.

Liberty Hall features soft lighting, and windows that look east and north toward the park and the lake. Its gentle gold and cream colors give the room an elegant atmosphere, which works equally well for less formal weddings. Set with round tables and flooded with mood lighting, it provides a festive finish to a wedding.

There’s one more unusual amenity – neither brides nor grooms can complain of having cold feet even during the chilliest weather because the floors are heated.

The Stars and Stripes Room is a more intimate enclosure on the west side of Veteran’s Terrace. It accommodates 90 people, and is popular for meetings, small receptions, lectures, seminars, and birthday parties.

Double doors on the south wall of the Stars and Stripes Room lead onto Memorial Terrace, an outdoor seating and banquet area holding 220 guests. This area may also be accessed by a set of outside stairs from the upper level. Memorial Terrace is open May through September depending on weather. This is a great place to hold an outdoor ceremony followed by an indoor reception.

Patriot Hall is on the lower level, and hosts 125 people. Its north wall holds a beautiful



COURTESY LAKE LAWN RESORT Spirit of Geneva Lakes

gas fireplace with a surround of cut stone. A doorway opens onto the outside terrace. There’s plenty of warmth and atmosphere here for any type of celebration.

Two bride’s rooms are nestled among the Veteran’s Terrace event areas. One is on the main floor, the other downstairs. Both are equipped with mirrors, couches, bathrooms, good lighting – enough room to put on a wedding dress with the assistance of one or two maids of honor.

An exterior walkway that surrounds the building gives guests a close-up view of the river on the west side of Veteran’s Terrace. Water from Echo Lake spills over a dam that

originally powered a gristmill, a sawmill, and a woolen mill during the early years when Burlington was known as Foxville.

The dam makes a lovely backdrop for folks who appreciate the sound and the power of waterfalls. Veteran’s Terrace received a donation to install colored lights along the dam in March 2014 that add to the atmosphere of romance and provide extraordinary backdrops for photographers.

“And we get spectacular sunsets here,” Smitz said.

Several excellent caterers are available locally, carefully chosen by the Veteran’s Terrace staff. These include Gooseberries

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Call (262) 763-9400 for information, or contact Smitz by email at wmsmitz@veteransterrace.com. The address is 589 Milwaukee Street. Find more about Veteran's Terrace on its website by searching for Veteran's Terrace, Burlington.

Here's a look at some of the other wedding venues in the area:

Geneva National and the Ridge Hotel

Two of the most picturesque venues in the area are on the shores of Lake Como – the recently renovated Ridge Hotel (formerly Geneva Ridge Resort), located three miles west of downtown Lake Geneva, and Geneva National Resort just five miles west of downtown Lake Geneva, both on Highway 50.

On a bluff overlooking the golf course and Lake Como, Geneva National is one of the premier wedding venues in the Lake Geneva area. Complete wedding planning is arranged by a wedding coordinator who will oversee all the onsite details to make your wedding day perfect. With a choice of two outdoor venues for ceremonies and several indoor sites, there are a variety of options to match the quest for that perfect venue. The Grand Ballroom with 12-foot-high ceilings and over 4,000 square feet of space and the smaller Legends room each provide a magnificent view of the golf course. The Lake Geneva Room is also available for small weddings and will serve 100 for a sit-down dinner or 200 guests for a cocktail service.

Adhering to the same high standards, The Ridge Hotel also offers dream weddings with elegance in a beautiful and romantic setting. Here, too, all the details of the perfect wedding are overseen by a wedding coordinator.

The Aspen is a beautiful ballroom filled with ambiance and is a fitting home for a large wedding. The room opens onto a tiled outdoor venue overlooking Lake Como. The room has 12-foot-high ceilings and contains 4,000 square feet, more than enough room for tables for dinner and a dance floor. The smaller Alder Room is a choice for smaller weddings.

The Outdoor Wedding Pavilion is placed high above Lake Como and provides beautiful views of the Wisconsin countryside.

The Ridge is a full service resort. A total of 146 newly remodeled suites are available. A spa is on the property, offering a bride and her attendants a relaxing time enjoying the spa services and lunch before getting ready for the ceremony. There are also indoor and outdoor pools offering a chance to unwind before or after the ceremony.

Geneva National is at 1221 Geneva National Avenue, Lake Geneva, (262) 245-7046. The Ridge Hotel is at W4240 Highway 50, Lake Geneva. (262) 249-3850. Visit them on the web at Genevanationalresort.com or GenevaRidge.com



At right: Renovated and reopened in 2010, Burlington's Veterans Terrace is a premier wedding destination in the Geneva Lakes area. Above: Dramatic lighting accentuates the bridal party tables in Liberty Hall at Veterans Terrace.



COURTESY VETERANS TERRACE Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Sperino's Monte Carlo Room

The Monte Carlo Room next to Sperino's not only offers banquet dining for 100 to 350 people, but also has a dance floor and a curtained stage.

The amenities in the Monte Carlo Room include a projector and 9-by-16-foot screen for slideshows, a full bar, the dance floor, and a stage.

Sperino's Monte Carlo Room is north of downtown Elkhorn at 720 N. Wisconsin Street. Visit their website at www.sperinos.com.

The Riviera

For many the Riviera has always been the symbol of Lake Geneva. So it is not surprising that many prospective brides picture the perfect wedding ceremony as being held here.

While many wedding venues provide an all-in-one package that does not allow for any creativity, renting the Riviera gives the bride and groom much flexibility in designing their space, their menu, their beverage choices and types of service.

The City of Lake Geneva rents out the ballroom to the couple. They do not provide food or beverage service. There is a list of preferred vendors for all the additional

services but it is up to the couple to choose what services they wish. The ballroom itself consists of 7,200 square feet, which can be arranged in a variety of ways to accommodate up to 375 guests.

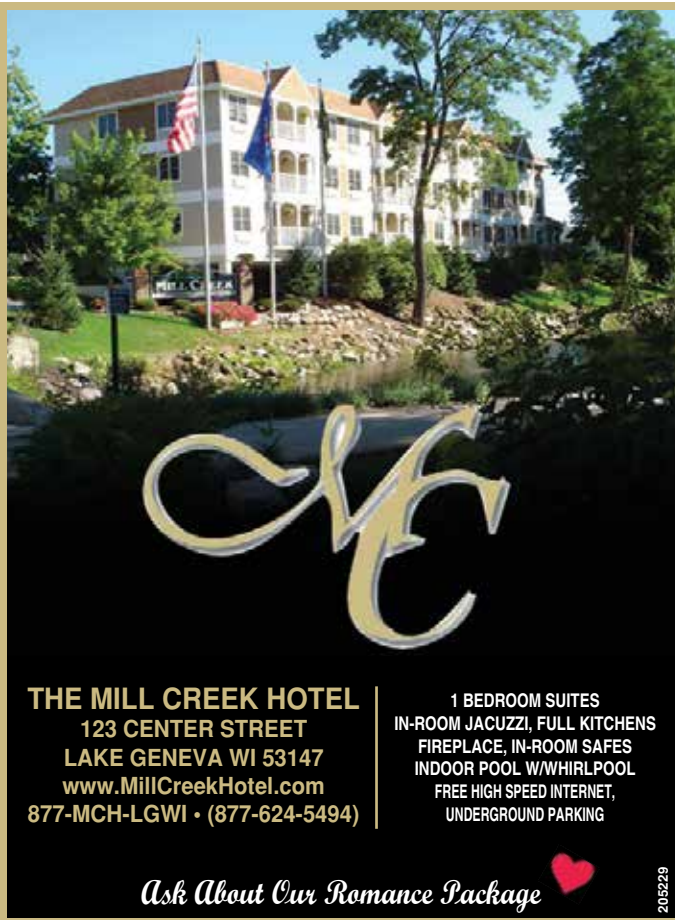
While total capacity is 375, Gray said 225 to 250 guests is a better choice if there is to be a sit down dinner and a dance floor. There is a choice of 60-inch round tables or 8 foot by 30 inch rectangular tables each holding eight guests comfortably.

With an oak hardwood floor that replaced the original parquet floor, the dance floor can be as large or as intimate as desired.

With Geneva Lake on its doorstep, another option at the Riviera is to have the wedding ceremony followed by a boat ride on one of the historic steam yachts of the Geneva Cruise Line before returning to the Riviera for dinner and dancing. The boats can hold 100 to 150 passengers, with cocktails and appetizers on board. Some smaller wedding parties may even opt for a dinner on one of the boats and then return to the Riviera for dancing.


The Riviera is on the lakefront at 812 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva. Reach them by phone at (262) 248-3673 or begin your search online at www.lakegeneariviera.com.

This story included reporting by correspondents Sandra Landen Machaj and Janet Deaver-Pack.



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FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Finding the right mix of friends and family while seating the guests to your wedding can be key to a happy reception.

There's an art to seating your wedding guests

Weddings are filled with many emotions – happiness, excitement and anticipation, to name a few. With all of the positive emotions a wedding may drum up, in the mix there may be a few negative ones, including feelings of being overwhelmed at all the details that need to be completed on a deadline.

One aspect of wedding planning that tends to send people into panic is wedding reception-seating arrangements. The thought of having 200 friends and family members together under one roof – and then attempting to seat them next to an acceptable group of people – can cause some couples to hyperventilate.

Every family has its ups and downs, and there are certain people who get along well and a few who clash. Ensuring that a wedding is memorable for all the right reasons (and not for the brawl at table three) is why seating arrangements are so important. Many couples can use a little advice when seating guests, while others would love another person to handle the seating arrangements for them.

Here are some guidelines for setting up reception seating arrangements.

- Place yourselves as well as the bridal party, at a separate table that is in a prime location in the room. Be sure to allow the spouses or dates of bridal party members at the same table so couples remain together.
- Some couples choose to seat both

sets of parents at one table together – the parents' table. Grandparents may also be seated at this table, depending on the number of people each table can accommodate.

- If children under the age of 7 are invited, they should be seated with their parents. Children between ages 7 and 14 can be seated at a separate kids' table.
- Be mindful of guests with disabilities or mobility issues. Seat them close to the door, bathrooms or food station.
- Instead of separating the bride and the groom's family to separate sides, intermingle the tables to promote conversation.
- Consider arranging guests by common interests at each table, seating business associates or parents' friends together.
- Take into consideration people who have relationship rifts and try to seat them separately. But don't stress about this too much because it won't be possible to accommodate everyone. You'll have to hope that at your wedding a certain level of decorum will preside.
- It's not unheard of to let guests seat themselves. This takes the pressure of finding a seat for everyone off of you as a couple and enables you to think about the other tasks at hand. This can take place at a buffet wedding or a smaller affair.

(METRO CREATIVE)

A toast to the newlyweds



TIPS FOR SELECTING WEDDING WINES

Traditional wedding rules have fallen by the wayside – food trucks are in, having a hashtag is a must, bridesmaids no longer wear the same dress and groomsmen are sometimes in sneakers. Couples are actively seeking ways to differentiate themselves and get creative. All that aside, there is one thing that remains constant – weddings must have wine.

Without wine, there is no glass to raise during the toast to the bride and groom and nothing to drink when the bar closes during dinner. Wine is the first thing guests are offered when they take a seat, and – you know that they say – it's important to make a good first impression.

Choosing the right varietals for your wedding does not have to be a stressful endeavor. Whether you're a novice wine drinker or a connoisseur, follow these four tips and you'll please a crowd without spending a fortune.

Say "cheers" with a sparkling wine

People love a good toast, and nothing washes down a teary maid of honor speech like a glass of sparkling. Riondo Prosecco is an accessible option that's ideal to enjoy any day of the year, but perfectly suited for special occasions. You'll get six pours out of a bottle, so plan accordingly.

Good things come in threes

In addition to a sparkling, you'll want a red and a white option that are familiar and food-friendly. You can't go wrong with a Merlot – look for labels from the Napa region. For a white, Terlato Friuli Pinot Grigio is exceptional and ideal for food pairing.

Wine math – what you didn't learn in school

Running out of wine mid-wedding isn't an option, so it's important to do the math. You should anticipate getting about five glasses per bottle and assume that each guest will drink one glass per hour. Follow this rule and the wine will flow all night long, keeping you and your guests happy.

Don't break the bank, but stay away from the cheap stuff

Choosing an excellent wine doesn't mean paying top-dollar, but buying too cheap can mean sacrificing quality. There are countless high-quality, delicious, wines available for \$10-\$20 per bottle, so leave the cheap stuff on the bottom shelf. (BPT)

Abbey Resort earns wedding industry awards



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The Abbey Resort has won two WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards for 2016. The Fontana resort won in the categories of "rehearsal dinner location" and "ceremony and reception venue."

WeddingWire is the leading global online wedding marketplace. It determines Couples' Choice Award winners based on reviews from the vendor's clients. Recipients are recognized as the top 5 percent of wedding professionals in the nationwide WeddingWire Network that demonstrate excellence in quality, service, responsiveness and professionalism.

The awards are given to the top local wedding vendors in more than 20 service categories such as wedding venues and wedding florists based on their professional achievements from the previous year. The WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards winners are determined solely based on reviews from real newlyweds and their experiences working with vendors such as The Abbey Resort. Award-winning vendors are distinguished for the quality, quantity, consistency and timeliness of the reviews they have received from their past clients.

"We are thrilled to celebrate such a high-caliber, committed group of professionals for the Couples' Choice Awards' eighth year," said Timothy Chi, chief executive officer of WeddingWire. "We are proud to continue to serve as the industry leader, with over 2.5 million consumer and peer reviews, and feature award-winning merchants such as The Abbey Resort and Avani Spa who understands the impact reviews have on their successful businesses."

For more information about weddings at The Abbey Resort or to book a stay, visit www.theabbeyresort.com or call (800) 709-1323. To learn more about the Couples' Choice Awards, visit www.weddingwire.com/couples-choice-awards.



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FILE PHOTO: Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Because the air inside a home can be many times more polluted than the air outdoors, the indoor comfort professionals at Peck and Weis advise allergy sufferers to consider the benefits of whole-house filtration.

Surviving allergy season

Peck and Weis offers advice to help you breathe easy

While it's a relief to see warmer weather moving in, that means allergy season is here and based on weather patterns over the last six months mean it could be a brutal one.

A warm fall coupled with the recent wet and cold winter often causes trees and flowers to produce more pollen. Higher pollen counts mean more allergy symptoms for the millions of Americans that suffer each year.

A few basics to prepare include seeing your allergist, starting any recommended treatment early and avoiding the outdoors when pollen counts are high. Also, keep doors and windows closed, and keep your HVAC system filter clean.

"The air inside your home can be many times more polluted than the air outside," Tom Walton, General Manager of Peck and Weis Heating, Cooling, Plumbing and Electric of Lake Geneva, said. "According to the Environmental Protection Agency, our homes are loaded with pollutants like pollen, pet dander, dust mites, mold spores, bacteria and viruses. It's no wonder they list indoor air quality as one of the top five environmental risks to public health today.

"Unfortunately, most homeowners believe the standard throwaway furnace filter is doing the job and they couldn't be more wrong", Walton said. "The typical one-inch filters people

use on the furnace only traps about 5 to 15 percent of airborne particulates, leaving 85 to 95 percent of particulate matter to blow around in their homes," Walton said.

The American Lung Association tracks indoor air quality and its impact and reports the following:

- Polluted air causes 94 percent of all respiratory problems.
- More than 31 million Americans have been diagnosed with asthma; about a third are children under 18.
- About 40,000 dust mites, a common household allergen, can live in one ounce of dust.
- An estimated 10 to 15 percent of the entire population may be allergic to cat or dog dander.

"When you consider what can occur without controlling your home's air purity, it's hard to believe more people don't take advantage of whole-home air cleaning systems for health's sake," Walton said.

How whole-home filters work

Installed as part of your home's central heating and cooling system, whole-home air cleaners are out-of-sight and out of your way, according to Walton.

So, each time your system runs, the air in your home is filtered

through state-of-the-art filtering media, so potentially harmful contaminants are removed from every room and permanently trapped in the filter.

The result is your heating and cooling system distributes cleaner, healthier air to your entire home. Better yet, the whole-home systems are easy to maintain (generally once or twice a year unlike portable units that require monthly care or standard filters that need cleaning every 1-3 months).

"And now, with new technology within the industry, you can control the air quality in your entire home from a convenient location on your wall – your thermostat – (and soon your smartphone) – and you can choose various cleaning modes based on your own needs, whether you have allergies or you are kicking up extra dust while cleaning or if there's construction going on around your house," Walton said.

"There are also options to control your ventilation or humidity from the same location. It's the way to control air cleaning today."

Protecting your system

According to Walton, using high-efficiency filtration also means you are doing a better job of protecting your expensive HVAC system from harmful

build-up of dirt and grime.

"I see it all the time. It's amazing how dirty a system can get when only a standard filter is used," he said.

"Often, homeowners forget to change these filters every month or every three months as required. With a whole house system, we can change out the high efficient filter just once a year and the system is much better protected. Many manufacturers today even offer a guarantee on the system coil if the homeowner properly maintains the use of their filter."

Consider taking a look at your indoor air and how you can reduce the allergens you breathe at home. At the same time, you can prolong the life of your serious investment in heating and cooling.

Peck and Weis Heating, Cooling, Plumbing and Electric is a local HVAC, plumbing and electrical business servicing southeastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois for 30 years.

Peck and Weis was recently named best HVAC contractor in Walworth County for the sixth year in a row while the plumbing and electrical departments received the

“When you consider what can occur without controlling your home's air purity, it's hard to believe more people don't take advantage of whole-home air cleaning systems for health's sake.”

– Tom Walton,
Peck and Weis

award for the third consecutive year.

Peck and Weis has also been recognized by Bryant Heating and Cooling as one of only a handful of Pinnacle Dealers in the nation.

For more information call Peck and Weis Heating, Cooling, Plumbing and Electric at (262) 248-6836 or visit www.peckandweis.com.

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AREA EMBRACES FAST-GROWING WATER ACTIVITY

Above: A customer tries out a paddleboard on Geneva Lake after renting it at Fontana Paddle Company. The store also sells a variety of paddleboards

by **Christopher Bennett**

CORRESPONDENT

Combine the functional side of kayaking with the fun side of surfing and you arrive at paddleboarding. Water enthusiasts from Bermuda to Lake Tahoe and all the way to England are taking note of the world's fastest-growing aquatic recreation activity.

Southeast Wisconsin is doing its part to help drive paddleboarding's popularity. Paddleboards are available for rent on most area lakes, including Geneva Lake and each of the Twin Lakes in Western Kenosha County.

Leslie DiCarlo, owner of Leslie's Kayak and Paddleboard Rental on Lake Elizabeth in Twin Lakes, did not know how to paddleboard when

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

she started her business. Leslie's business is next to Sand Bar and Island Grill.

DiCarlo is in her second season, and opened this year on May 1. Business is slow, so far — paddleboard rentals are dependent on the weather.

"Towards the end of August, I was turning people away," DiCarlo said of her first season in business. "The more people that are noticed on the lake, the more people get that same mentality."

The more people saw others paddleboarding the more the activity grew, DiCarlo said.

According to various published reports paddleboarding's origins can be traced to Hawaii, where the activity is known as "Hoe he'e nalu."

The Polynesians used stand-up paddleboards to travel between islands. The activity grew in popularity in the 1960s and again in the 2000s, when windsurfers on Maui took-up the sport. The trend spread to California and eventually the rest of the country and the world.

In 2010 the Stand Up Paddle Industry Association formed in Dana Point, Calif., which is centrally located between Los Angeles and San Diego. SUPIA markets itself as the trade organization of all stand-up paddle businesses.

Those who rent paddleboards from Fontana Paddle Company and Leslie's Kayak and Paddleboard Rental in Twin Lakes are given instruction on technique and safety before they venture out onto the water.



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A versatile option

Michelle Peterson first tried paddleboarding in 2010, and now manages Fontana Paddle Company on Geneva Lake. Peterson said she rents-out eight paddleboards for every two kayaks when the weather is warm and the lake active.

"For the person who just wants to be able to get out on the lake, it's not nearly as intimidating," Peterson said of paddleboarding. "They're more versatile than a kayak."

Peterson said the paddleboard offers a differing point of view of the water, a point on which DiCarlo agrees.

"It's basically just a piece of material between you and the water," DiCarlo said. "You're really just out there on the water. It's cool to see the water and be on the lake like that."

DiCarlo often paddleboards on Lake Elizabeth with Gizmo, her Chinese Crested dog. Peterson said she often sees people practicing yoga on paddleboards in the middle of Lake Geneva, and said there are paddleboards designed for activities such as fishing, cross fit, yoga and more.

Boards designed for physical activity are wider, Peterson said. An average board is 28 to 32 inches wide. Boards designed for activities like exercise or fishing can be up to 36 inches wide. Racing boards – of course people race paddleboards – are typically 24 to 26 inches wide.

Technique matters

Using a paddleboard is not as easy as hopping on and going about your merry way. Eventually it can be, but technique is important, especially for beginners.

"When I look on the lake and see people paddling by – I see it all the time – half the people I see out there are holding the paddle backwards," Peterson said.

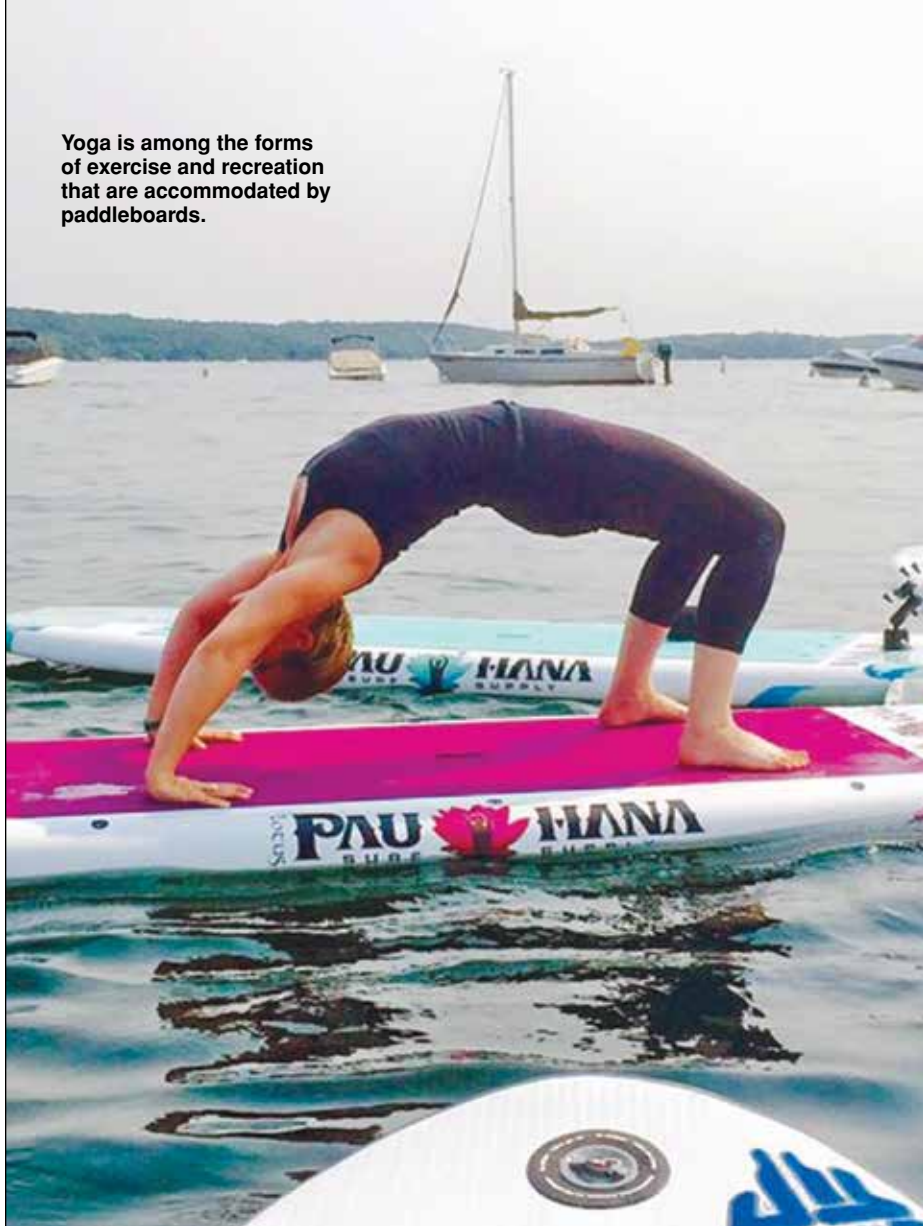
Peterson said if the balls of your feet hurt after paddleboarding, you used improper technique.

"The biggest mistake they make is they paddle too far behind," Peterson said. "You stroke from the front nose of the board to the heel of your foot."

Stroking past the heel of your foot leads to pain in your feet. Peterson said the pain is because you instinctively dig-in with your feet to retain your balance.

"On an easy day, take it out and paddle," Peterson said. "If there's no wind, you're going to go forward. The added effort comes into play when conditions are not ideal, and you have

Yoga is among the forms of exercise and recreation that are accommodated by paddleboards.



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Calm days with light winds are best for those who want to become acquainted with using a paddleboard, according to local rental companies.

winds and waves.”

Peterson said she will not rent paddleboards without the user knowing what they are doing, and her staff will offer instruction to those new to the activity.

DiCarlo’s launch is near a nature preserve on Lake Elizabeth. The site affords a spot for peace and quiet on what is normally a busy lake, but also offers beginners a chance to get familiar with the board and paddling in a safe space, which DiCarlo encourages.

Precaution reigns

Safety must remain a concern when paddleboarding. You’re still on the water, and it is never wise to mess with the lake. Use a personal flotation device.

Peterson said a light and a whistle are also



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good ideas. Peterson also said to only paddleboard when there is a combined temperature of 120 degrees between the air and water.

The cost of paddleboarding is not prohibitive. DiCarlo rents paddleboards at \$15 per hour, or four hours for \$50. Peterson rents paddleboards for two hours at a cost of \$40. DiCarlo said she made extensive use of Groupon last summer, and Peterson offers pass packages and other ways to lower the cost even further.

Each business is on the web. DiCarlo is at lesliedicarlo.wix.com/leslieskayak and Peterson is at www.fontanapaddleco.com.

Each business also maintains an active presence on Facebook. Search for "Fontana Paddle Company" for Peterson and "Leslie's Kayak & Paddle" for DiCarlo.

Paddleboards come in many shapes and sizes that are geared to different uses – including these wooden models.



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Lotus beds brought tourists

THOUSANDS CAME TO AREA TO SEE THE FLOWERS



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The lotus flower was believed to represent rebirth in ancient times because it was seen to appear in the morning then sink into the water at night only to reappear again in daylight.

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

The Fox River begins in southern Wisconsin about 15 miles northwest of Milwaukee. It meanders 185 miles from its origin dropping 470 feet before it reaches the Illinois River.

Traveling through Lake, McHenry and DuPage counties, the Fox has been a favorite recreational area for residents and visitors since the late 1800s. It is not only the Fox River that invites visitors to the area but the area known as the Chain O' Lakes that begins just south of the Wisconsin border – near Antioch, Richmond and Fox Lake, that attracted summertime visitors to the area.

The area known as the Chain O' Lakes consists of 15 lakes connected by the Fox River and some man-made channels that have attracted visitors to the area since the late 1800s. The area was

originally a summer retreat area where visitors arrived to escape the heat and poor quality air found in Chicago.

Although the area was settled in the mid 1800s, it was not until the arrival of the trains that the summer populations grew. Prior to the arrival of the train, roads were few and travel by horse and buggy along rutted trails and marshy areas was not the most enjoyable or efficient.

In 1854 trains began to travel to McHenry and became the place that visitors would arrive. Visitors would arrive in McHenry and be taken by horse and wagon to the shores of the Fox River on the other side of town. From there the passengers would travel by boat along the Fox to their destinations.

The Hunter Boat Company based in McHenry built excursion boats, which made the trips up the Fox River to various resorts

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The Gladene excursion boat made daily trips to Grass Lake, taking visitors to see the famous lotus beds. Fare was 50 cents.



COURTESY OF MCHEMRY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Spirit of Geneva Lakes

on Pistakee Lake and took visitors on a tour of the famous Grass Lake Lotus Beds. Fare for the boat ride up the Fox and through the Chain O' Lakes to the Grass Lake lotus beds was 50 cents for a round trip excursion.

By 1901 another train made its appearance in the Chain O' Lakes area with a stop in Fox Lake. Here too visitors would be transported by boats sent from neighboring resorts to their accommodations for the week or the summer and also provided excursions to the Grass Lake lotus beds.

Grass Lake is best known for the famous Egyptian Lotus Beds. The lake itself is 1,360 acres making it the third largest on the Chain O' Lakes. Only Pistakee Lake and Fox Lake, at approximately 1,700 acres, are larger. Grass Lake while large is a very shallow lake averaging a depth of approximately 3 feet. In the late 1800s and early 1900s it was said to be a lake filled with wild rice and lotus beds.

The lotus flowers are commonly known as water lilies and have been treasured for their beauty since ancient times. Buddhism and Hinduism regard the lotus as a symbol of beauty.

In ancient Egypt, scholars noted that the lotus flowers opened in the morning then closed and "sank into the water" at night. They believed the blossoms underwent a rebirth in the morning when the sun rose and thus believed the lotus was the symbol of rebirth. The lotus actually emerges from the pond over a three-day period and blooms from morning to late afternoon.

The Lotus flowers were found in most of the lakes along the Chain, but it was Grass Lake that became famous for them because more than 50 percent of the flowers found in all the Chain O' Lakes were concentrated there. The lotus beds were so thick that a path had to be cut through them to allow the excursion boats an opening into the beds. Some of the areas were so narrow that the smaller boats could not row through without being entangled in the lotus beds.

In many cases they used a technique known as "poling," in which large poles were used as the "poler" stood and guided the boat by placing the poles on the bottom of the lake and pushing the boat ahead.

The Lotus beds were a popular attraction throughout the Chain as they continued to grow in the early 1900s. During the years until the depression in the late 1920s summer visitors flocked to the area but after the market crash visitors were not as frequent, as families did not have the money to afford a lake house or a trip to the resorts.

In the 1940s as prosperity returned and returning war veterans looked for housing, growth of both year-round housing and summerhouses increased. With more boat traffic on the lakes interfering with the normal water flow the lotus beds receded until there were none left in Grass Lake.

In the 1990s the lotus beds began to reappear on Grass Lake. While they will probably never return to their former beauty and size, the presence of some lotus beds on Grass Lake and other lakes in the Chain O' Lakes is a welcome sight for many.



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Our eye on the sky

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by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

In 1895 construction began on a unique building that would become known around the world as the home of the world's largest refractor telescope.

A refractor telescope uses curved lenses to gather and focus light as opposed to a reflector telescope, which uses mirrors to focus the light. The building that was the home of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Department of the University of Chicago was to become the place of many discoveries by scholars whose names are now very familiar. But let's go back to the beginning.

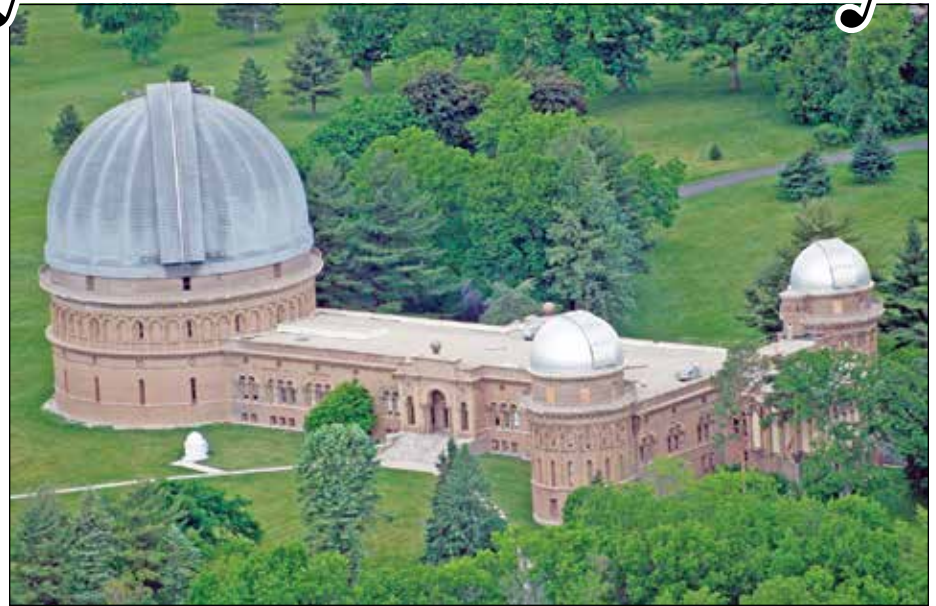
How did this observatory and renowned department find its way to the Geneva Lake shoreline in Williams Bay – a long way from the University of Chicago's home on the south side of the city with big shoulders.

1893 was a very important year for the City of Chicago. It was the Year of the Columbian Exposition celebrating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in America. The Columbian Exhibition introduced a variety of new products such as alternating current electricity, a variety of new foods, and the Ferris wheel. It also had on display the mounting for the world's largest refractor telescope. With a height of 43 feet and a weight of 50 tons, the mounting was gigantic.

A Hale fellow

A good place to begin the story of the location and the building of Yerkes is with George Ellery Hale, a pioneer in astrophysical research. Hale came from a wealthy, philanthropic family and he and his brother were encouraged by their father, at an early age, to be inquisitive according to Dan Koehler, Director of Tourism and Special Services at Yerkes Observatory. "Mr. Hale provided the boys with tools at an early age and by the age of 14 George was interested and engaged in the sun and solar research."

Hale was hired as a faculty member by the newly formed University of Chicago



Above: Since 1897 this building housing the world's largest refractor telescope has been located on the shore of Geneva Lake in Williams Bay. **At right:** The refractor telescope continues in use today, well over 100 years after its placement in this dome of 90 feet in diameter. The base that rotates to move the telescope is actually 75 feet in diameter and allows for the adjustment both vertically and horizontally.

about 1890. Around that time he also learned that the University of Southern California had planned to build the world's largest refracting telescope. Two 42-inch glass disks had been cast by Mantois of Paris and had been sent to Alvan Clark and Sons in Cambridge to be polished into 40-inch disks.

When Hale learned the project was being abandoned due to lack of adequate funding, he approached the President of the University of Chicago, William Rainey Harper about the possibility of purchasing the disks and building the telescope for the University of Chicago. It would be a great way to make the new university nationally and internationally known and would also aid in developing a top-rate facility for Hale's solar research.

Man with the money

Funding, of course, was the major obstacle so Hale and Harper approached transit tycoon Charles Tyson Yerkes about



PHOTOS COURTESY OF YERKES OBSERVATORY Spirit of Geneva Lakes

funding the project. Yerkes agreed and the disks were purchased and the polishing began a process that would take two years to complete.

The next step was to find a location for the telescope, a place where the skies would be readily visible. Many people believe that the site in Williams Bay was chosen because the lights of the city of Chicago would be detrimental to viewing the skies.

However, in 1890, there were not many streetlights or even home lights in the city. A far bigger problem was the smoke and haze arising from the use of coal to heat homes and run manufacturing plants.

John Johnston, Jr., an attorney and real estate speculator entered the picture. He invited Hale to Williams Bay to look at some land for the site along the shore of Geneva Lake in the summer community of Williams Bay. The land was reasonably accessible by rail cars from Chicago.

They determined the area possessed excellent viewing conditions both day

and at night, although the land was at a lower altitude than was thought to be ideal. Johnston offered to donate 53 acres of prime lakefront land, which the university accepted. With a site, funding and the two large disks being ground, the university was ready to move forward with construction.

Construction in the remote Williams Bay area was difficult in 1895. The community was mostly summer visitors who were not there to work but to escape the heat and heavy air in the city. Building supplies needed to be brought from Chicago by train and then to the construction site on

the lakeshore. Skilled craftsmen for this intricate building were also brought in to work on the project.

A Roman cross

In spite of the difficulties that would be inherent in construction, Henry Ives Cobb, who designed the original University of Chicago buildings, was hired to design a home for the telescope. He designed a building built in the shape of a Roman cross with a large dome at the head and two smaller domes as the arms to hold the



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telescopes. The building was constructed in the Greco Roman style of Roman brick and decorated with intricately carved matching terra cotta.

The dome for the refractor telescope itself is 90 feet in diameter. The elevator of the dome is 73 feet in diameter and carries viewers to the correct height to observe. The telescope tube is 60 feet in length and is held in place by the 43-foot mount.

The Yerkes Observatory became the site of the entire Astrology and Astrophysics Department of the University of Chicago. Some of Hale's early work in the electromagnetic field was carried out here and continued to grow. Scientists from around the world came to study at Yerkes.

Some of the names and their works are known not only to those in the field but to everyday citizens. Edwin Hubble, for whom the Hubble telescope was named, received an advanced degree here. A less familiar name to most of us is Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, for whom the Chandra Space Telescope was named. Carl Sagan who introduced many to astronomy in the 20th century is also included in the many scientists who worked and studied at Yerkes.

The Yerkes campus, which grew to its current size of 77 acres, remained the center of the university's Astrophysics Department until around 1970 when the university decided to pull the department back to the Chicago campus but that did not diminish the use of the telescopes and the site for research.

Public outreach

Although the entire department is no longer sequestered in Williams Bay, the site is still an active place for research.

"Physics undergraduate students come out to work on special programs once a quarter," said Dan Koehler, "and the facility is integral to the university."

Today the facility encourages public outreach. Independent projects are studied by high school students from Williams Bay. A professional development program is offered to teachers to provide them with

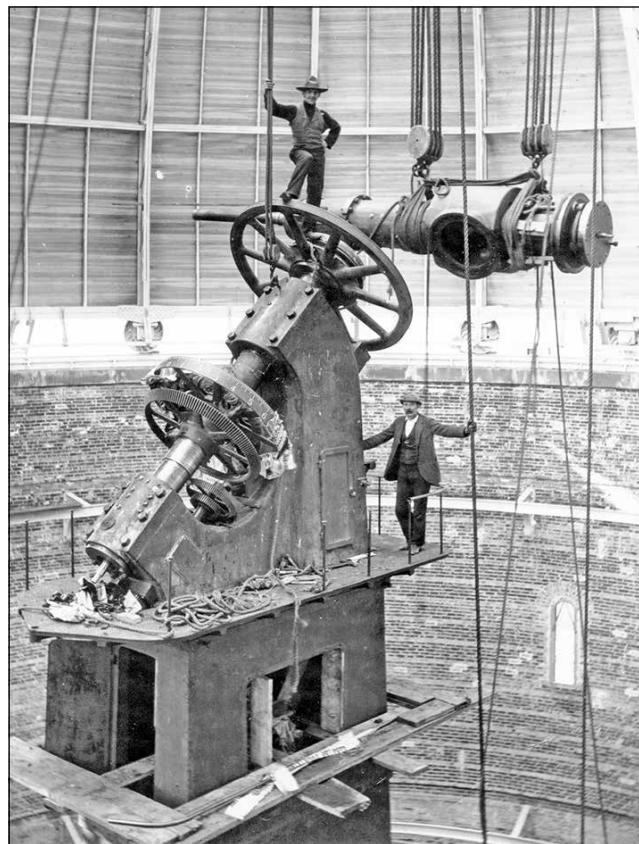
new and innovative ways to present science to their students.

The observatory offers a variety of tours to the public. Each Saturday tours are offered at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and noon that will take visitors through the building with a focus on the history and the architecture. Timelines of the history of the building of Yerkes line the walls along with displays of comets, galaxies, nebulae and the death of stars.

The highlight of the program is the visit to the dome where the still-largest refractor telescope in the world is located. No reservations are required for the Saturday tours. A gift shop focusing on scientific photos, posters and books, meteorites and jewelry is available for purchase as souvenirs or gifts.

Check the Yerkes website for current tour fees. The funds are used to support public programs. No reservations are needed for Saturday tours. Tours are also offered weekdays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For a program that won't likely be forgotten, visitors are invited to take part in one of the evening sky programs. Throughout the season the sky changes and with that there are unique looks at it through either the 40-inch refractor telescope or the 24-inch reflector telescope. The programs include a look at planets, galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters. The program lasts from 90 minutes to two hours and may be cancelled due to weather conditions.



COURTESY OF YERKES OBSERVATORY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The mount that holds the telescope in place and directs its position is 43 feet tall. Building the observatory in the late 1800s was a triumph of engineering and logistics.

Reservations are required. Check the website for dates and contact dkoehler@yerkes.uchicago.edu for reservations. Space is limited. The program fee for the 40-inch refractor telescope is \$100 and for the 24-inch reflector telescope the cost is \$37.50.

The facility offers programs accommodating up to 100 participants for groups including schools, scouts, churches and corporate events. The facility also offers a setting for wedding ceremonies, although not receptions.

For more information visit the Yerkes website www.astro.uchicago.edu/yerkes or email at tours@yerkes.uchicago.edu, or call at (262) 245-5555.

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From 1860 until 1863, no newspaper was published in Burlington. On October 14, 1863, the Burlington Standard, another Republican newspaper, was founded. In 1881, the paper became largely nonpartisan, but in April 1886, with a new owner, the paper was renamed the Standard Democrat and became strongly pro-Democrat. From 1896 to 1911, the Standard Democrat was also published in German under the name Der Standard Demokrat.

The Burlington Democrat, a newspaper with Democratic leanings, was first published in 1880 as a counter to the Republican Burlington Standard. Its name was soon changed to the Burlington Free Press, and its leanings changed to Republican at about the same time the Standard became the Standard Democrat.

(Information courtesy of https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burlington,_Wisconsin)



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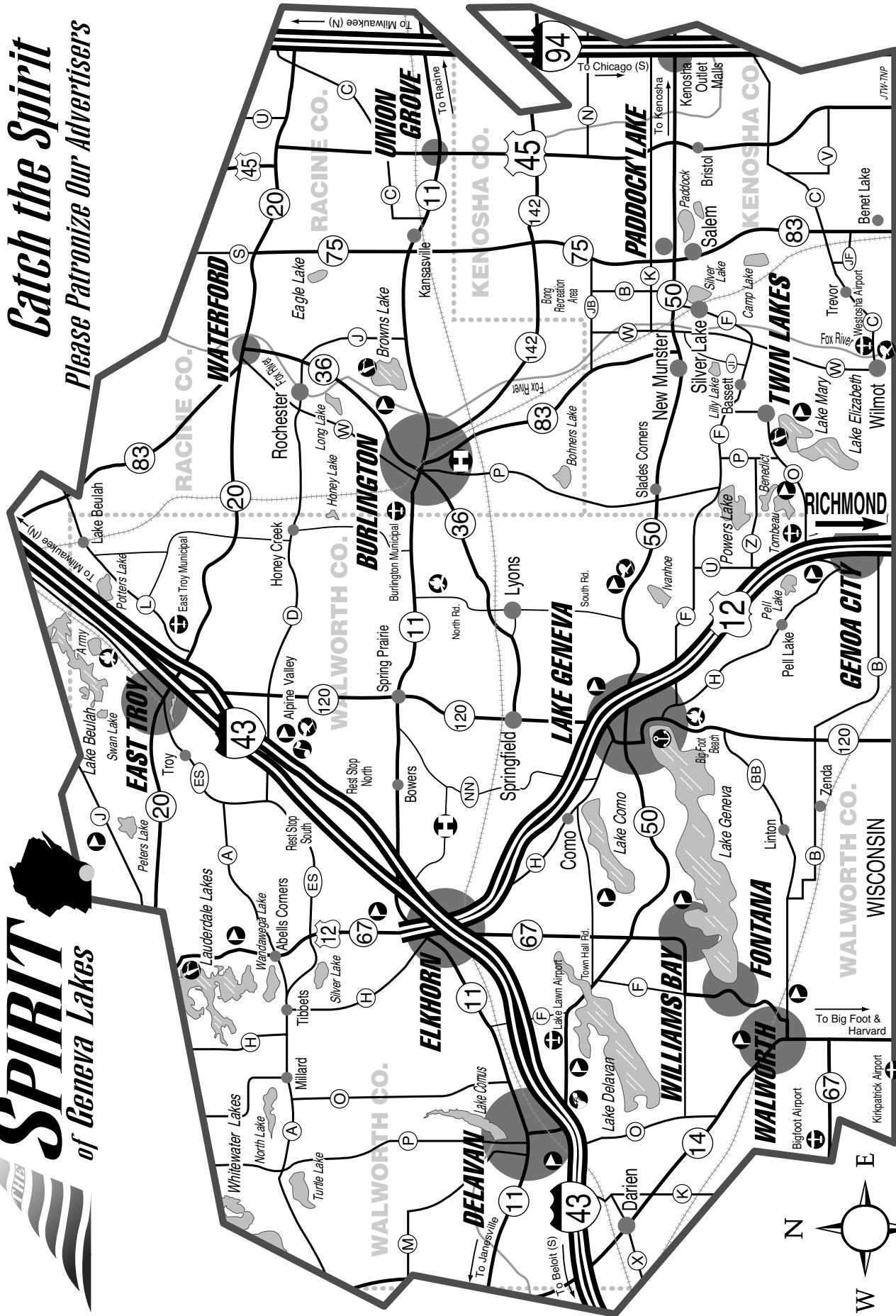
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