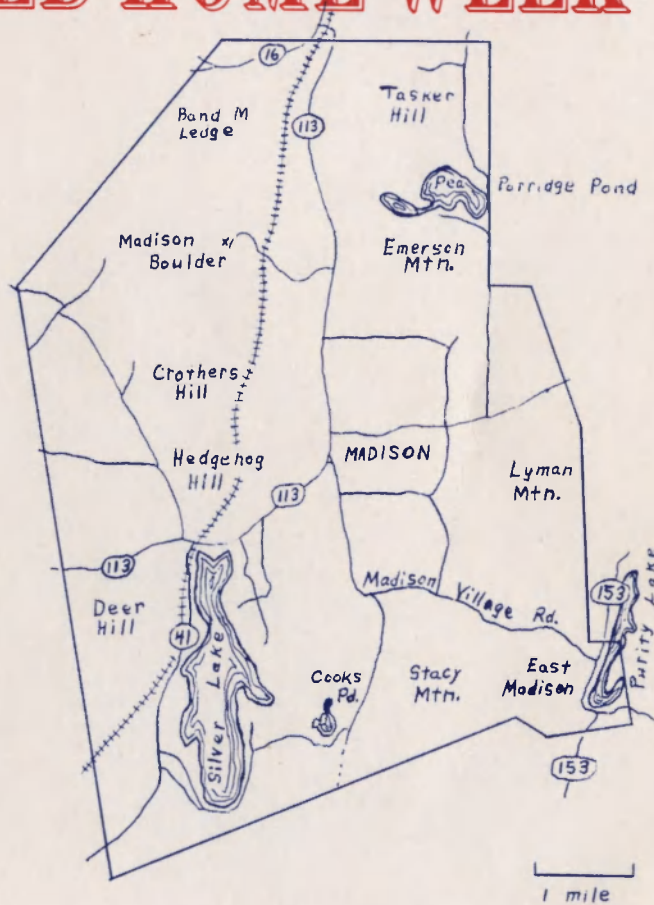


OLD HOME WEEK

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MADISON, N. H.

REF
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MAD



THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO THANK ALL THOSE
WHO CONTRIBUTE THEIR TIME AND SERVICES TO
PROMOTE OLD HOME WEEK IN OUR TOWN.

DONNA BROOKS
RODNEY LYMAN
DOROTHY MOORE

GORDON CORMACK
MARGIE MATTHEWS
BENJAMIN SAVARY

LOREN SHACKFORD, JR.



LETTER OF INVITATION

"Sons and daughters of Madison,
We invite you back to show
Homage to a common birthplace
And the days of long ago.
You were born where rugged mountains
In stupendous grandeur stand,
Taught the lessons of your childhood
From the book of Nature grand.
So we hope you'll wander backward,
Through the scenes of youth elate,
To repeat the matchless glories
Of the grand old Granite State."



James O. Gerry, 1904

We cordially invite you to participate with us in the celebration of "Old Home Week" and also in the Bicentennial of our Country.

We have tried to plan an enjoyable week for all and afford an opportunity to those who have moved away, to return once more to renew old friendships and kinder new ones.

We hope the festivities will be successful in reuniting friends and provide a chance for the people of the town to extend their hospitality to each visitor.

Madison Old Home Week Committee
1976

HISTORY OF OLD HOME WEEK

Old Home Week is truly a New Hampshire product. In 1897 Frank Rollins, in an article for "New England Magazine", begged New Hampshire born people to return to their native homes. Mr. Rollins later became governor and instituted Old Home Week in 1899. It was felt that each community should set aside a time each year to honor its past and welcome back its absent children. This surge of interest in our State's past was partially stimulated by the round of centennial observances of Revolutionary War events in the late 19th century.

Nearly 100 towns celebrated Old Home Week that first year (1899). This practice continued and in 1913 the legislature declared "the week beginning the third Saturday in August is hereby designated as Old Home Week in New Hampshire." Now, not all towns hold their celebrations the same week, but, although the dates are different the intentions are the same - a welcome home and a good time.

Not to be left out, Madison, in March of 1902, organized the Madison Old Home Week Club. The first record of Old Home Week was in that year - August 16 thru August 22. During these early celebrations there was set aside a special time to receive visitors and welcome former residents.

Records show that great crowds of people attended the events in 1902. As many as 1500 packed the ball field to watch the famous Freedom-Madison games. Victory parades followed the ball games in Freedom.

The Old Home Week continued as some events were phased out and new ideas incorporated. For a period, in the 1930's there are no records, but when the custom was revived in the 1940's new ideas came about such as the Bean Hole Supper. The dances, which were originally galas and balls, have also continued. A street dance is now held following the Mardi Gras parade on Friday evening.



PROGRAMME

Sunday, August 8	9 A.M.	Church Service
	10 A.M.	Muffin Social
	1 P.M.	Swimming Races
	3 P.M.	Crowning of Miss Silver Lake Ball Game at Freedom
Monday, August 9	9-12 A.M.	Pony Rides
	2 P.M.	Puppet Show
	8 P.M.	Beano
Tuesday, August 10 Historical Soc. Day	10 A.M.	Work Party-Town Pound Restoration
	2 P.M.	Play "Mother Whittier's Meeting"
	2-4 P.M.	Museum Open
	7 P.M.	Donkey Baseball Game
Wednesday, August 11	9 A.M.	Bicycle, Doll Carriage & Pet Parade
	2 P.M.	Bicentennial Dancers
	8 P.M.	Beano
Thursday, August 12 Grange Day	9-12 A.M.	Field Day
	2 P.M.	Bazaar
	8 P.M.	Play
Friday, August 13	2 P.M.	Hike to Bald Ledge
	7 P.M.	Mardi Gras - "Hannan's Marauders"
	9-1 P.M.	Street Dance
Saturday, August 14	9 A.M.	Auction
	9-12 A.M.	Open House - Fire Department
	3 P.M.	Horseshoes
	5 P.M.	Bean Hole Supper
	8 P.M.	Variety Show
Sunday, August 15	9 A.M.	Church Service
	1 P.M.	Turkey Shoot
	6 P.M.	Ball Game at Madison

SNACK SHACK TO BE AT MOST EVENTS



MADISON CORNER...EARLY 1900's



MADISON CORNER 1976

HISTORY OF MADISON

Originally, Madison was a part of Eaton, named for General John Eaton, which was chartered in 1764. There was no permanent settlement in the town until about 1780 when Samuel Banfield built a log house near the old burying ground on the land now owned by Jessie Ambrose. He also built the first frame house in town. At that time there were ten families in town. Most of the early settlers were descendants of the Orangemen that settled near Manchester, N. H.

The town of Madison, as we know it, was constituted by an act of Legislature on December 17, 1852, and was formed of "that part of the town of Eaton, in the county of Carroll, lying westerly, and southerly of a line commencing at the northwest corner of Samuel Stark's Location, so called, in the town of Conway in said county, being also the northeast corner of McNeil's Location, so called, in said town of Eaton, and thence running southerly by the westerly line of said Samuel Stark's Location to the southerly line of said Samuel Stark's Location one hundred and sixty rods to a stake and stones, thence running southerly over the summits of Glines and Lyman Mountains, so called, to the range line between lots Nos. 52 and 55 in the south division of lots in said town of Eaton, thence running southerly on said range line to the southwest corner of Lot No. 50 in the south division of lots in the said town of Eaton, thence easterly by the south line of said lot No. 50, thence southerly by the westerly lines of Nos. 21, 22, 23, and 24, in the south division line between said town of Eaton and the town line of Freedom in said county."

Madison contains sixty square miles. The population in 1860 was 826 and dropped to 482 in 1920. An estimate from the Town Clerk shows the present population to be 1000-1100.



PLACES OF INTEREST

Madison abounds in natural features: Silver Lake with its lead mine, Madison Boulder, Rock Cave and numerous mountains, and scenic places.

The formation of Madison's physical features are due to glacial action. Madison Boulder is said to be the largest glacial mass on the western continent. It is composed of granite of a porphyritic texture. Its length is 75 feet; height, from the surface of the ground, 38 feet; it has a circumference of a little more than 214 feet. A booklet published in 1910 stated: "It has been visited by many who are enthusiastic.... that the day is not far distant when.... it will become one of Madison's possessions as well as a landmark of former days." This wish came true in 1946 when the Madison Boulder site was given in memory of James O. Gerry and F. Crosby Kennett and named a state geological park.

The lead mine, on the eastern side of Silver Lake, was discovered by Ephraim Tibbetts and first worked in 1826. The mine is near a sandy plain with very little quartzitic rock exposure. Many different people have worked the mine over the years. Some, like a Mr. Colby lost his entire investment. In 1868 Henry Banks and two others secured the mine. They erected a mill, run by a 15 horse power steam engine, and employed ten men to help with the 1500 tons of ore mined that year. This ore was found to contain 20% zinc and 20% galena of which 70% was lead and six pounds of silver per ton. The mine was enlarged in 1870 and shortly abandoned. It remained quiet until 1888 when it was opened for a short while. In 1912 Albert Reynolds worked with diamond drills and opened many places. The work was profitable during the war but was later abandoned. It has remained untouched since.

Rock Cave is a natural formation located on the east side of Glines Mountain. Near the entrance was a rock pulpit on the sides of which were seats and shelves. An arch on one end gave the appearance of an Indian Council Chamber. This structure is located near Rock House Mountain Farm.

The Freewill Baptist Church was organized as the church of Eaton in 1789 or 1802. (Accuracy is impossible since early records were lost.) In 1853 it became the First Madison Church by the formation of Madison as a separate town. The present building was erected in 1855 and in 1888 it was



GOING TO CHURCH IN MADISON



CHURCH - EARLY 1900's

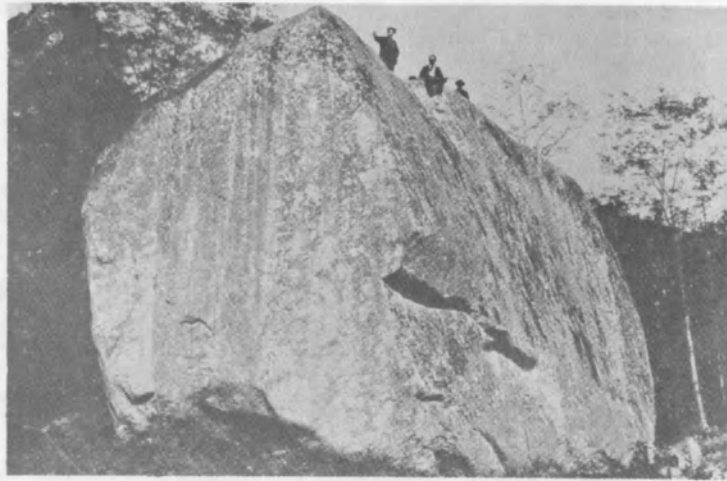
renovated and the bell refitted. In 1905 steel was placed on the walls and ceilings and a new entrance and vestibule were added. The clock was added to the steeple in the early 1930's. Sunday School rooms were added in 1952 and on October 25, 1970 one room was dedicated in memory of Thirza Colcord and furnished as a study for the minister. Except for minor repairs, the building remains the same to present.

The school system has changed greatly since the turn of the century. Originally there were nine school districts. In 1910 there were six: Madison Corner, Silver Lake, Mason, Tasker Hill, Nickerson and Quarry. The total enrollment was seventy two. Mason and Quarry Schools were closed in 1912 and 1913 respectively. Talk of consolidation began in 1920 under Supt. of Schools Samuel S. Brooks. At this time the high school was started as a private school. In 1922 under Supt. Frank W. Jackson the high school was separated and held in the kitchen of the Silver Lake Town Hall. There were twenty six pupils that year. The High School was constructed in 1922 - 1923 and graduation of the first three students held in June of that year. There were four elementary schools at this time. The enrollment rose and in 1928 - 29 the seventh and eighth grades were placed in the high school. The Mason and Nickerson Schools were closed in 1935 and 1943. In 1947 grades 1 - 3 were at the Silver Lake School and 4 - 6 were at the Corner School. In 1949 the High School was closed and students transferred to Kennett. The Madison Corner School was closed. Grades 4-8 moved to the old high school, 1-3 continued at Silver Lake until 1951 when they moved into a new addition at the old high school building. All grades remained together until the 1960's when the seventh and eighth grades went to Conway Jr. High in 1965.

Two libraries had beginnings in Madison. In 1885 Mrs. Andrew Forrest organized The Silver Lake Guild. Its purposes were literary advancement and to form a new library. It was kept at Mrs. Forrest's home, The Silver Lake House. Patrons paid 25¢ for three months reading. When a free library was organized at Madison Corner in 1895, the Silver Lake one was closed.

The library at the corner was located first in the Burke House. In the early 1920's the present building, which stood near the Historical Building, was moved to the school and has since served as a town and school library.

In 1873 there arose a need for a town house and an article was placed in the town warrant. It was voted to pass over the article that year and subsequent years until 1884 when the article was passed. It was then voted to raise \$800 and a committee was selected to locate a site and build the



MADISON BOULDER



LEAD MINE

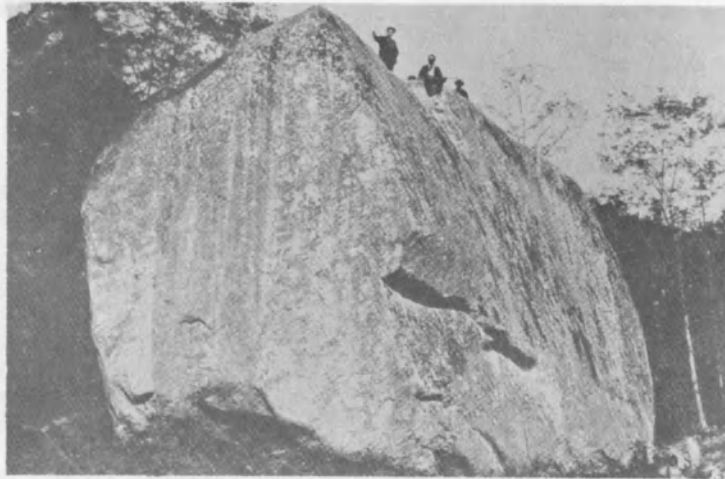
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MADISON BOULDER



LEAD MINE

house. As a result, a very neat building was erected by Nathaniel Nason, father of Frank Nason, at the village now known as Madison Corner. The town gave use of this building to the Historical Society in the late 1950's and at present is used for their museum.

The land for the present town hall was deeded to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows on November 11, 1903 from Newell K. Forrest. Until this time Crystal Lodge # 77, instituted on September 18, 1888, held its meetings on the second floor of Forrest, Chick and Son - a furniture store located between what is presently Weston's Store and the Henry Forrest property.

The building was erected during 1904 - 1905 being the first year the building was listed on tax records. As a result of the decline in membership of the Lodge, the Charter was suspended on November 23, 1936 and the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire took a mortgage on the property. The building was finally sold to the Town of Madison and the deed passed on March 30, 1946.

The Madison Telephone Company was incorporated Nov. 15, 1905 by John F. Chick, Bertwell P. Gerry, James O. Gerry, Frank B. Nason, and Nathaniel M. Nason. The first telephones were installed in the Gerry house, the Nason house (now Ernest Meaders) and J. O. Gerry and Son's Store. Arrangements were made to connect to lines of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company at J. O. Gerry's Store since there was already a "pay station" there. As the telephone company grew, a one line switchboard was installed at the Gerry Store. In 1911 the switchboard was moved to the Gerry house and in 1913 to the Nason house. Later a telephone office was built where the Madison Post Office is now located. In 1917 there were 100 telephones and the company was sold to the Carroll County Telephone Company. The switchboard was moved to Mrs. Olive L. Martin's house in 1926 where it remained until dial service was installed on January 12, 1956. New England Telephone and Telegraph took over the Carroll County Telephone Company in 1930 and in 1933 the Madison Local Telephone Company was dissolved by an act of Legislature.

In the early days of the town there was only one Pound located at the corner of Maple Grove Road and Pound Road. Its construction is described in "A Brief History of Madison": "... a square enclosure built all the way round with a high stone wall. On the top of the wall on the four sides were hewed beams one foot square. Posts, one and a half feet high, were sunk at intervals in the beams. On top of these posts other beams, four inches square, were placed with the posts fastened in them. On the north



TOWN HALL



SILVER LAKE HOUSE

side was a swing gate with a lock." There was a pound keeper, who cared for the pound, keeping it locked and in repair. He looked after the stray animals and collected money for damages from their owners. Thomas Granville was elected pound keeper in 1861. He held this position for a number of years after which the Pound was abandoned.

In 1975 the Madison Historical Society began cleaning up the pound. As this booklet is being assembled the Bicentennial Steering Committee hopes, by summer, to have the pound restored to its original state.

Since the town's beginning there have been several business operations located here. At one time pantaloons were made at Nason's Manufactory - now Ernest Meader's house. A chair factory was located near Grafton Ward's property. There were several stores, both at Madison Corner and Silver Lake. The Silver Lake Emporium is on the site of Gilman Brothers Store which was opened around the turn of the century.

There have been mills located at various sites throughout the town. Only one, John F. Chick & Son, remains in operation. It had its beginnings as a sawmill on Maple Grove Road. Due to the lack of water power it was moved to Madison Corner in 1870. There barrel shooks were manufactured. This mill burned in 1881 and in 1883 a new mill was erected at Silver Lake. This became the permanent site. In 1899 the name was changed from George Chick & Son, to John F. Chick & Son, Inc. At one time there was a cooper shop and grist mill adjoining the mill. In 1971 the mill was sold by the Chick family and has been operated since by W. R. Kitchen and W. C. Meader.

Madison was a stage coach center, where the horses were changed. Several taverns and stables operated to serve the passengers' needs. Two of the taverns remain at Madison Corner; the Churchill House, now owned by Rev. Stineford and Harmony Hall, the former Jesse Currier residence.

With the advent of the railroad in 1870 many inns and summer houses were built up at Silver Lake village. In 1874 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Forrest built the Silver Lake House and it was opened for business in 1876. After Mr. Forrest's death in 1877, his widow Arvilla Forrest ran the house for seventeen years. At her death in 1893, Miss Emma Forrest ran the business until the house burned on April 19, 1923. The cottage was built soon after the fire. In the fall of 1924 the present house was built for Miss Forrest by Chester Drew - Lee Drew's uncle. It was opened for business in the summer of 1925 and Miss Forrest ran the business until her death in 1933, after which a Rooney family used it as a home. It was then



LAKESIDE



GLIMPSE OF SILVER LAKE

vacant until July 1935 when it was purchased by Mrs. Edna S. Lynn and Mrs. Lena M. Smith - Hazel Drew's mother. It was owned by the Smiths and Lynns until 1952 when the property was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Leland Drew.

Another inn at Silver Lake was the Lakeside House, which stood on the present site of the Silver Lake Motor Lodge. Walter Kennett opened the Lakeside to guests in 1904. The house was enlarged and remodelled several times and had many owners. In the early 1960's Frank Hawkes purchased the hotel and then built half of the existing motel. The hotel burned October 23, 1967. Since that time the property has changed ownership and the motel has been enlarged. It is presently owned and operated by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Anderson.

A blacksmith shop, located across from the William Kennett house, was owned by Ernest Kennett and operated by Robert Webster-Ethel Jones' father - and Irving Ambrose from 1911 to 1925. Webster did the shoeing of the horses and oxen while Ambrose did iron work and repairs. They worked a 10 - 12 hour day and the price of shoeing a horse was \$1.50.

In 1921, the late Albert Clayton and J. Clifford Ward, Sr. purchased 120 feet of land from John F. Chick and built a garage at Madison Corner-Clayton and Ward's. In 1924 they built a sawmill which was mostly operated in the winter when other business was slow. The mill was opened for year round business in 1940. The mill was sold in 1969 to Bruce Thomas. A new garage was built by J. Clifford Ward, Jr. and opened in 1969 as the Madison Garage.

Blaisdell's Mill was the hub of a busy community of 15-20 families in the early 1800's. With water power as a source of energy, logs were sawed and planed, shingles were made, corn was pressed and wheat was thrashed. Close by there was a blacksmith shop and a small general store. The cooper shop turned out barrels ready to be assembled in Cuba. Oxen, mules and stagecoaches from Portland travelled the old road as goods and material were transported both ways. Charcoal, too, was made here in big open pits.

Nicholas Blaisdell, after graduating from Harvard, decided to escape the city and came back with his wife, the former Martha Hood. Into this busy community Edward E. Hoyt, Sr. a famous auctioneer from Brooklyn, New York, came to visit his sister-in-law and bought property on the lake for vacationing for his family and friends.

Soon the beautiful bubbling spring became famous for its purity as it



CLAYTON & WARD'S GARAGE



CLAYTON & WARD'S SAW MILL

won medals in Chicago, New York and Boston. Water was subsequently bottled and shipped to New York City. About then, Edward Hoyt, Jr. moved to East Madison and started Purity Springs Mtn. Inn for summer guests. In the early 1900's overnight guests had to pay \$1.00 - three meals might add up to an additional \$2.00. Scenic rides were offered by Ed Hoyt to the guests starting at \$1.50 for short, local trips and up to \$5.00 for extended trips.

A friendly, homey atmosphere; some people in tents, some in cabins, some in the main Inn or Blaisdell cottage kept the whole Hoyt family busy. The next step was in the 1930's when Milt Hoyt started Camp Tohkomeupog for boys and Ellen Hoyt started Camp Wampineauk for girls.

Inevitably skiing had to become a part of this little valley. Starting in 1938, with a handful of youngsters for school vacations, skiing grew through use of rope tows to the present King Pine Ski Area with its 2 double chair lifts and J bar.

Today, Purity Spring Resort, Inc. is still run by the Hoyt family. A busy spot both summer and winter with family resort, camps and ski area bringing many friends to our lovely, restful valley.



Purity Spring Mt. Lodge

SOME OF OUR PEOPLE

Early in the 1900's there were hardly any people living on the shore of Silver Lake. The Cummings lived at the foot of the lake on the East side, then came the Howe House, the Knapps and the Osgoods, up nearer the town. On the West side was the Theobald Smith house. Bill Manley, the playwright, owned the house on the Little Island.

Life was spent on the lake and Mr. Edward Cummings had the only motor boat. There were loons every morning and every night whipporwills. There were no cars. Supplies were brought by boat from Gilman Brothers, the very active small store with everything from food to hardware at the head of the lake, run by Mr. Gilman and his son Cecil. Mr. Isaiah Forrest (great uncle of Henry Forrest) was the station agent, and he also owned and ran a very nice store in which was sold furniture and hardware.

JOHN H. BURKE: It has been said that John H. Burke was a townsman. Uncle Herb and Aunt Millie, as they were called later, were the first couple to be married in the newly renovated Madison Church in 1891. They lived in the Burkely Inn, at Madison Corner, until it burned and they moved to what is now Gerald Ward's. Burke was the first president of the Old Home Week Club in 1902, and at one time or other held most of the town offices; selectman, tax collector, supervisor of the checklist, town clerk, highway agent and fence viewer. He served on the General Court in 1896 and also served as Carroll County Sheriff. In the early 1920's he deeded many acres of land to the town including the Recreation Field, Nichols Beach and several wood lots.

MALCOLM P. MC NAIR: Professor and Mrs. McNair first came to Madison in 1923 to visit Henry Carlton and Bill Manley. In 1925 he bought Mrs. Knox's camp across from The Majors and later in 1936 bought his present house on the Lead Mine Road where he first spent summers and weekends, moving permanently in 1961 after retiring from his teaching duties at Harvard.

He has fixed and added to the house and remodelled the barn. (Roscoe Green's peddlers wagon was once in this barn and has since been located in

the museum of the Historical Society.) In 1975 a new barn was built to house his son Robert's collection of carriages.

He has written and had published numerous articles on retailing. This June will mark his 60th reunion from Harvard University where in 1916 he received an A.B. degree; and an A.M. degree in 1920.

WILLIAM D. HOWE: William D. Howe and his wife came to Madison in 1903 the summer following their marriage in December 1902. He had been here a number of times before, visiting the Cummings family, since he received his Ph.D. degree at Harvard in 1898. In the summer of 1903 he and his wife went by horse and carriage to Wildcat Mountain where they stayed most of the summer in a cabin. Every day the horn of the stage coach, winding up the road with the mail, could be heard. At the end of that summer Mr. & Mrs. Howe again returned to Silver Lake on their way out to Indiana where Mr. Howe became the head of the English department of Indiana University.

Just about every year the family came to Silver Lake for the summer; staying first, for a number of years, at Shawmut at the lower part of the lake on the East shore.

Mr. Howe's sister, Carrie, married John Cummings in 1903. They had a small house (named "We-walk-it" from the Indian name "Wee-wak-et") in the North Division.

Edward Cummings, John's brother, owned a great deal of land, including most of the lake shore property, and had been living here during the summer for a number of years. He had two children; Elizabeth (now Mrs. Qualey), who lives in the family house on the lower East Side of the lake, and Edward Estlin Cummings (e. e. cummings, the poet). He was given about 500 acres of land and the charming and very old farm house - The Joy Farm - in the North Division.

e. e. cummings: e. e. cummings was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts October 14, 1894. He graduated from Harvard and then went to France as a volunteer ambulance driver with the French. After the war he lived in Paris where he painted many pictures. His poems were very deep and hard to understand and his paintings were free and beautiful. Later he moved to Greenwich Village, New York; and to New Hampshire in the summertime.

He received a number of awards for his poetry, especially for "The Enormous Room" and became one of the most famous poets of the day. In 1952 Mr. Cummings gave the Charles Eliot Norton lectures on poetry at Harvard. When he read his poems at different colleges for the students the room was packed. At Michigan in 1957 there were 800 seats. Every seat was filled before he began to read. The doors were locked and more than 1,000 students were out in the streets.

When he was about 18 Mr. Cummings built some sort of an aeroplane or glider on the Cummings' dock. He also built a house high up in a tree on Hurrican Point. There was a ladder attached to it. Estlin Cummings would climb up the ladder and haul it up after him so that he would not be disturbed when he was writing some of his poetry.

WILLIAM ERNEST HOCKING: Professor Hocking graduated from Harvard with the following degrees: A.B. in 1901, M.A. in 1902 and Ph.D. in 1904. He served in many teaching capacities including: instructor at Andover Theological Seminary, instructor and assistant professor at the University of California, and Professor of Philosophy at both Yale and Harvard University.

He and his wife, Agnes Boyle O'Reilly Hocking, with their three children, began to spend summers in Madison in 1926, fifty years ago. The Downs Place and the Loud Place were combined to be their home. Both places at that time were no longer lived in, although the fields were still mowed. During the decade of the thirties the new home was built on the Loud Place. During the Second World War, the library was built beside it. Fred Frost had the biggest share in building these buildings, and a good many in Madison had a share, too. Most of the stone used in the masonry came from the natural quarry on Loud Hill. Professor Hocking wrote many of his later books in Madison. After 1950, he and Mrs. Hocking lived in their home the year 'round. Mrs. Hocking died there in 1955, and Professor Hocking in 1966. Their graves are in the old farm burial ground on the Loud Place. Mrs. Hocking wished these words to be cut on her grave stone:

"She loved life and her family and this farm"

GEORGE P. BAKER: Professor Baker taught a famous course on play writing production called "The 47 Workshop" at Harvard University. Famous writers like Eugene O'Neil and Hollis Flanagan came out of that workshop. The Bakers, for years, had an English folk-dancing group at their place in the North Division. Mrs. Malcolm McNair directed this for

some years. He also taught at Yale University. He was the author of several books the most important being: Development of Shakespere as a Dramatist and Technique of the Drama.

THE REVEREND SAMUEL MC CORD CROTHERS: Rev. Crothers was a much beloved Unitarian Minister in Cambridge, Mass. They came to Madison through the friendship of the Reverend Edward Cummings and his family. Their summer houses were next to each other on Crothers Hill in the North Division. Mr. Crothers's essays were printed in "The Atlantic Monthly" and also collected in published volumes.

THE GRANVILLE BROTHERS: The five Granville brothers, Zantford, Thomas, Robert, Mark and Edward, came from a family of seven children. They were born and raised on the Granville farm on Pound Road in Madison. Zantford, born in 1901, always seemed to be the most creative. As a teenager he became interested in airplanes and flying, and decided to open an aircraft repair shop at East Boston Airport. Through his repair work, Zantford was able to take flying lessons and obtained his license. During this period he became determined to build a ship of his own design. With this idea in mind, three of his brothers left home to work with him. And so in 1929 Granny, as his friends all called him, built his first plane, a small two-place biplane in which the occupants sat side by side in a single cockpit. He felt this idea would prove valuable in the training of students. Granny had the plane fitted out with pontoons and demonstrated it to prospective customers on the Connecticut River. He also made several trips to Madison and landed on Silver Lake where he had the pleasure of giving his parents their first airplane ride. A group of people in Springfield, Massachusetts was so impressed they gave him financial backing to start his own company at Springfield Airport. This was known as Granville Brothers Aircraft, Inc., hence the name Gee Bee is the spelling out of the initials G. B.

Several Gee Bee biplanes were built and sold before the market disappeared at the beginning of the depression. At this time Granny came up with the idea of building a small fast plane that might interest rich young men or women to fly for their own pleasure. Thus was born the low-wing single seat monoplane, known as the Gee Bee Sportster. Granny's success prompted him to design another plane. The Gee Bee Super Sportster entered and won the Thompson Trophy Race in 1931 and 1932 also breaking the world's speed record for land planes.

It is the opinion of many people in the aviation industry today, that if



First Gee Bee Biplane built by Graville Brothers

it had not been for the prolonged depression the country was in at that time, and Granny's untimely death at the age of 33, Granville Brothers Aircraft, Inc. would be one of the outstanding aircraft manufacturing companies of today.

DAVID CURRIER: David Currier, the son of Tom and Ginny Currier, was born April 20, 1952. He attended Madison Elementary School and graduated from Kennett High School in 1970.

David started skiing at the age of four and since 1971 has been a member of the United States "A" ski team. In 1972, as a member of this team, he participated in the Olympic Games in Sapporo, Japan. In 1973 he was the United States Giant Slalom and Combined Alpine Champion. In 1974 he was a member of the F I S World Champion Alpine Ski Team. In 1975 he received the Wallace "Bud" Werner award for outstanding sportsmanship and leadership in International Ski Racing.

David was in the U.S. Army from 1972-74 and is now attending Dartmouth College. He has travelled to all corners of the world and hasn't found anywhere he loves more than Madison.



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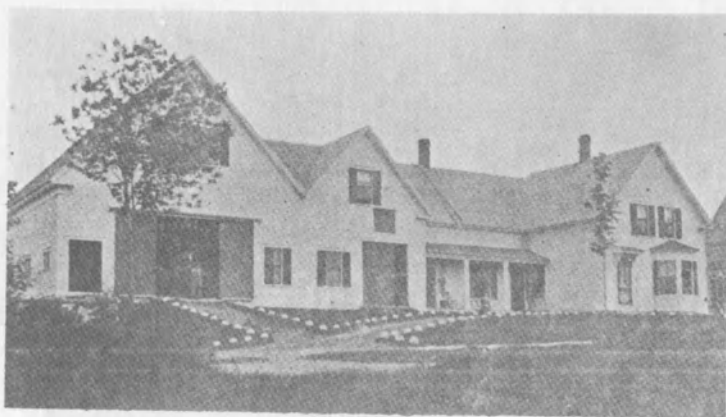
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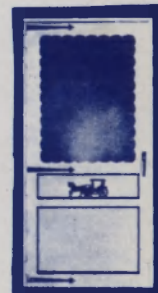
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