

FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1928

M. P. A. SUMMER OUTING OF 1928 AT VAN ETTAN LAKE LODGE ENJOYABLE; THREE GLORIOUS DAYS FOR MEMBERS

Visit Saradella Farms, Au Sable River Hydro-Electric Plants, Witness Life-Saving Maneuvers, Enjoy Golf, Fishing, Sports, Games and Dancing, and Make Merry to Their Hearts' Content.

(By Philip T. Rich, Midland, Mich.)

It's all over and the boys are back home rubbing their eyes and wondering if it really was true or could it have been a dream. The trip to Van Ettan lake lodge will go down in the history of Michigan Press Association outings as one of the best ever held by the association.

Rain and "more rain" could not dampen the spirit of so genial a group of folks gathered from every corner of Michigan to celebrate and "just have a good time." In fact it helped to bring them into closer social contact and each went home knowing that he knew "peck," Mack, Bill, Art, Sam, etc., and their respective families just a little more intimately than he had ever known them before.

It was a great old session that "Peck" Prescott, Bill McGilvray and W. L. Chappelle engineered and the whole "entourage" (if that means everybody) was unanimous in voting Frank G. Cowley, the smiling host at Van Ettan lodge, their thanks and the appreciation of the association.

You'd never suspect Mr. Cowley, whose hospitality was unlimited, was in charge of the entire estate with its dozen of varied sports and that he was busy personally seeing to it that their guests could never at any time have cause for even the slightest complaint.

It was Thursday morning when the "delegates" began arriving in earnest, although an advanced guard had come to the hotel on Wednesday. Thursday proved a fine day for the trip, a few running into rain in the afternoon, but the majority reporting that it was "great driving."

Van Ettan is located two miles north of Oscoda, known particularly for its historic fire which destroyed the major portion of the city as well as its sister town of Au Sable, and the flying field used by Selfridge flyers. The lake nestles along the shores of Lake Huron within easy distance of the wild ranches of the Au Sable river and in the heart of northeastern Michigan.

Here 180 of "the boys" and their families dropped "shop" and "cut capers" which would be the envy of

any school boy. Herb Wood, Len W., "Fike" Felchner, Bill Berkey and George Averill had complete possession when the others began to arrive and it is "alleged" that they stayed until the last fish was fished and the final dive was done.

At any rate the crew scattered in every direction Thursday. Golf, tennis, riding, fishing, bathing, dancing, bridge—all had enthusiasts. Late in the afternoon a rainstorm brought most of the newspaper folks back to the hotel and a night of revelry followed.

Friday morning was cloudy and a misty rain started to fall. The official "sports" program began with Ringmaster O. W. Embury's of Reading, calling of all "Let" Rogers of Camden, acting the part of "chief clown" and ticket dispenser.

Every one of the "events" from the winning of Field Manager Len W. Felchner's trophy to the hat casting contest had its "high spots" and thrills aplenty. A large gallery attended all events, part of which took place in the hotel and the rest on the "drive." Excellent prizes had been donated for the contest and helped to swell the list of contestants.

In the afternoon a delegation visited the estate of Karl Schmidt, where a specially conducted tour was arranged. The modern dairy plant on the 12,000 acre tract was inspected first. Here dozens of pure bred Holstein cows with high records for milk and butterfat production form one of the finest herds in all Michigan.

Stalls with stanchions and individual drinking fountains where each cow had a name and "tree," telling all about her own records and those of her ancestors, are just a few of the features. The whole place is scrubbed and scrubbed daily and after looking it all over there was a rush to get the milk served to the aggregation at the cooling plant. The horses also were kept in equal style and the calves have a barn all their own where they are taught "manners" before being allowed to associate in the high register of society.

The "road across the lake" leads directly to the main house and surrounds the premises and here one winds around

until the menagerie is reached. The children of the party were particularly interested in the fine herd of buffalo and elk. There was a tiny calf with each group of animals which attracted the attention of the scribes and their families.

During the various julls a bridge tournament was under way in the lodge lobby during the afternoon and evening.

Saturday furnished the only perfect day. Hardly a cloud marred the beautiful blue of the northern Michigan sky and it added new vim to the assembly of the newspaper fraternity.

A trip to the Sturgeon Point light-house and coast guard station was on the official program and a group of 18 cars went there to see Capt. T. H. Tice and his crew of six men put on exhibition drills. The lighthouse was built in 1869 and during the intervening 59 years the great beacon has flashed its guiding light to thousands of ship captains guiding their vessels through the otherwise unmarked expanses of Lake Huron. A climb to the "light" gave an interesting panorama of the surrounding countryside and lake.

Captain Tice and his men braved the heat of a scorching sun to go into "action" for the weekly publishers. An imaginary stranded ship was located on the beach and the rope for the rescue equipment was fired over the spar by use of a small cannon. This has a range of a quarter of a mile and is used to take passengers off the boats when the sea is too rough for life boats. Mrs. Ida Kauffman, secretary of the field manager, of Lansing was the first woman to volunteer for a ride in the breeches buoy. Two others tried to brave the trip over the "sea" but were stranded on the "waves" and the crew was on

the point of exhaustion before they could be "rescued." President W. H. Berkey, Cassopolis, and R. E. Prescott, Lincoln, submitted to being "saved" when the resuscitation tests for drowning were demonstrated. Each survived without serious injuries with the exception of Pres. Berkey claiming the misplacement of a floating rib.

Following a sumptuous dinner—and such meals, (we have never eaten better)—the Consumers Power tour to the Au Sable river dams was in order. The power company had graciously provided two of their instructors, W. E. Jacobs and G. L. Jonsen to conduct the party composed of 12 cars along the scenic river.

Foot, Cooke and Five Channels dams were visited. No finer scenery can one imagine than the dune country of the Au Sable where mountains of white sand, green forests and a mighty harnessed river blend into one picture. And what a picture! Words cannot adequately describe the Au Sable. Winding through high hills which are rapidly being reforested the great tumbling river has been made into a series of beautiful lakes.

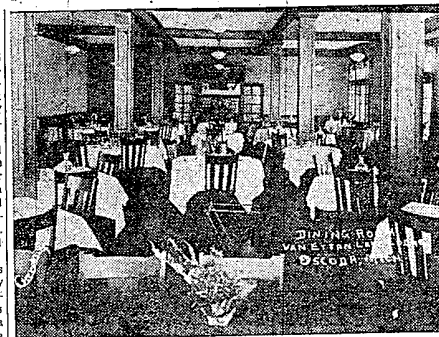
It is 105 miles by river from the first dam at Mio to the last one known as Foot. The Mio dam has a 25-foot head and its back waters cover 700 acres; Alcona is 50 miles downstream, forms a thousand acre lake and a 50 foot head; Loud is 19 miles below and its 28 foot head backs the river over 600 acres; Five Channels is a brief 3½ miles away, its lake covering 550 acres; Cooke has a 1900 acre pond, 42 foot head and is 16 miles by river from Five Channels; Foot is naturally the "lower end," no matter how it is spelled. It forms a 1000 acre body of water and has a 32 foot head.

The theoretical head for all the dams from Mio to Foot would be 378.5 feet and the working capacity is little short of that for the dams. Here, a brief stop from the Jack pine plains and birchwood, is one of the greatest power units in the state. The electrical energy, generated by the mad rush of the cold waters from the "peak of Michigan" to Huron, is carried to thousands of industries in every section of the state to say nothing of lighting whole cities and being turned to hundreds of uses.

At Five Channels dam the party halted for lunch and A. J. Goulette, who is in charge of the river plants, was the host. The party then returned to Van Ettan, some 22 miles through the charming sand trails and along a scenic route with few parallels.

Sunday morning brought showers and the party began to break up, although some of the group remained at the lodge until after dinner.

Before inscribing our "thirty" at the end of this story we cannot help but say that to us it was a wonderful outing, a delightful party at every turn and it has helped to knit the friendships of the Michigan weekly publishers into an inseparable bond.



DINING ROOM, VAN ETTAN LAKE LODGE

The Feminine Viewpoint

(By Natalie Haskins)

The Van Ettan Lake outing was a decided success in the eyes of the wives and daughters of the Michigan Press, judging from the enthusiasm which they displayed and the enjoyment with which they entered into all the activities of the week end.

Many of the mothers brought their children; along and the children became acquainted and enjoyed them immensely. The Chest Howells brought their four interesting children with them. The mothers that left their children at home had the joy of recounting the recent achievements of their youngsters to their friends. Friday morning a group of these mothers was seen gathered together talking earnestly and displaying snapshots which were passed around with an air of great pride and approval. People standing near by became curious as to what the topic of conversation might be and finally Secretary Wood investigated and discovered that these were all proud grandmothers and the topic of conversation was, of course, grandchildren. Mr. Wood soon lined them up and the following women present were enrolled in the "Grandmother's Club": Mrs. John Olney of Grand Rapids, Mrs. A. Van Koeveling of Zeeland, Mrs. Len W. Felchner of Nashville, Mrs. Fred Keltner of Ionia, Mrs. C. W. Hungerford of Detroit, Mrs. C. M. Rowe of Milford, Mrs. C. F. Grim of Blanchard and Mrs. Dave Hubbell of Croswell. Mrs. Van Koeveling was declared the most recent grandmother. Several of the non-eligible ladies present cast longing eyes at this select group and Mrs. J. B. Haskins was heard to remark that there should be a "Mother-in-law"

"Club" as she knew she could qualify as the most recent in that class.

Friday morning the ladies were all enthused over the program of sports and there were many entries in each event despite the inclement weather. In the afternoon five tables of bridge competed for two boxes of candy offered as prizes. Mrs. Henry Goodman of Detroit won first prize and Mrs. Phil Rich of Midland won second prize.

Mrs. Let Rogers of Camden seemed to be the only enthusiastic fisherwoman in the party but her enthusiasm made up for what the others lacked as she was undaunted by the rain and the unwillingness of the fish to bite.

Saturday the party drove to Sturgeon Point where a coast guard station was visited. Most everyone climbed the light-house and enjoyed the view from the top. The women seemed greatly interested in the graphic description which the captain's wife gave of the life at a coast guard station. During the life saving demonstration Mrs. Kauffman, of the Mich. Press office at Lansing, was the first to volunteer to be rescued in the breeches buoy which is used in bringing passengers ashore from shipwrecks. Mrs. Rich and Miss Jashnow also enjoyed a ride in this novel conveyance.

So the three days passed all too quickly for the women members of the party—with visiting, playing bridge, swimming, hiking, playing golf and dancing every one felt that this summer meeting had been worth while. New friendships were formed and old ones renewed and the womenfolk have added one more memory to the chain of happy memories associated with the summer outings of the Michigan Press.

Michigan Publishers and Families Who Enjoyed Annual Summer Outing at Van Ettan Lake

