

The History of the Silver Lake Association (SLA) Chapter #6

Officers of the 1970's

Presidents – C.P. Smith (70, 71, 72,), Douglas Wheaton (73), Dr. Merrill Humphrey (74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79)

Honorary President - Frank Murphy (70, 71, 72)

1st and 2nd Vice Presidents – Fred Ball (70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79), Leonard Machtel (70, 71, 72, 73), John Haive (73), Howard Wallace (74), Dr. Paul Burgeson (75, 76, 77, 78, 79)

Secretaries – Bertha Smith (70, 71, 72), Richard Sullivan (73, 74), C. Bauers (75), Mary Kimmel (76), Leona Bauers (77, 78), Ann Heibach (79)

Treasurers – Bertha Smith (70, 71, 72), Richard Sullivan (73, 74, 75, 76), Gil Landon (77, 78, 79)

Knowing the Officers and how long they held office in the 1970s can illustrate how team work and persistence from individuals handled the issues of Silver Lake proficiently. Officers, board members and so many others also helped with many smaller issues. This team of volunteers had so much to accomplish and did. The sewer system and the sale of the railroad property were the big concerns at the time. Here are some other concerns and activities the SLCOA were involved with.

Concerns and Activities of Silver Lake

One issue that was discussed at great lengths as a major concern was the level of the lake water. Letters were written to the town Boards concerning the lake levels, but only LeRoy responded. LeRoy was one of five communities that were pumping water from Silver Lake to supply their town with water. LeRoy would actually like to break the ruling of the lake level to enable them to pump from Silver Lake all year long. This matter of pumping more water out of the lake would only add the problem of the low water levels. Letters were sent to the Water Commission about this matter also noting that the weeds in the outlet were getting worse.

Several letters were written and sent to the village and town of Perry, the town of LeRoy, the Silver Lake Water Commission, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Fish and Wildlife Service in regards to the continued lack of control of the lake level. Still no improvement in the lake level has resulted after sending out the letters. LeRoy's tanks were full, but the outlet is flowing more than is necessary for the waste disposal. The Department of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Farm and Home Bureau in Batavia were contacted for possible help with this issue. The Village of Perry would not cooperate and would not notify the Town of LeRoy to stop pumping in the months of September through November. A committee of Gil Landon, Joe Eliaz, Bob Mascicki, and Dr. Burgeson will attend the village board meeting to voice their concern about this matter. If there is still no cooperation, the SLCOA would get an Attorney and file a class action suit against Perry. A motion was carried to authorize the committee to spend \$1,000 to start action. Joe Eliaz would now key a log on lake levels and rain records. Mr. Eliaz talked about the water level and various things pertaining to the conditions.

Mr. Douglas Wheaton asked members to start thinking of ways to serve the cottage members (fishing derby, kids program, R.R. Leases, etc.). A fishing derby was cancelled and a discussion continued about having canoe or rowboat races in connection with the Sea Serpent Festival. Maybe the SLCOA could get the YMCA Camp to be a sponsor. To get members more involved with the SLCOA activities, we need more publicity. In June of 1976, the

country's Bicentennial celebration, a Boat Parade was brought up for discussion. There was just not enough time left to plan for such a parade, maybe in August, it was decided.

Some of the entertainment activities the SLCOA sponsored were fishing derbies, sailboat, row boat, and/or canoe races. The residents of Silver Lake would love to see of these activities return. Boat Parades, fireworks, the "Lake of Fire", the Homeowners of Distinction Award, and the 911 emergency response addressing system are programs the SLCOA started that the Lakers of today are still valuing.

Even in the early 1970s discussions at meetings pertaining to flares were on the agenda. One of the first notes from this time period (1972) discussed the cost of the flares which were \$728 for 80 cases or 2880 flares (about 4 cents a flare). The fireworks display was noted by Mrs. Smith, ***"Fireworks – Couldn't see no matter where exploded, and the cost broke down like this: fireworks \$123.25, Insurance \$62.99, Firing \$10, Delivery \$18, for the grand total of \$217.74. It was for 18 minutes of fireworks and not many could see them."*** The "Lake of Fire" was a beautiful spectacle. The cost was shared by Directors and individuals.

In 1973 the flare discussion started the meeting. The Association will order 50 red sale cards for flares without the month or date printed on them. The SLCOA agreed to have the "Lake of Fire" at 10 PM on the Saturday before the 4th of July (June 30th 1973). They sold the flares 3 for \$1.00. As it was last year, the "Lake of Fire" was a success. For the next "Lake of Fire" a motion to take a full page ad in the Directory was discussed along with mentioning the Annual meeting and the sale and cost of the flares.

At the Annual meeting it was said that the only loss from the sale of the flares was the freight charge of \$79.24. Then it was suggested that the SLCOA would look into the possibility of buying flares from another company in regards to a cheaper price. Going in with Conesus Lake for a larger order may also cut the cost. A Conesus representative will be contacted in reference to the SLCOA joining them with the purchase of flares to keep the cost down. Next year was the country's Bicentennial year celebration, should something special be done in addition to the flare lighting and flag display by individual cottage owners? The SLCOA agreed to sell the flares at the same price as last year even though the price to purchase them was higher. The Association would absorb the loss from the sales. Fred Ball stated that Conesus Lake was interested in combining the flare order for next year.

It was the bicentennial celebration and the SLCOA decided to have the "Lake of Fire" at 10 PM on the 4th of July. A suggestion was made to urge participation in the bell ringing at 2 PM to celebrate the bicentennial. It was discussed that some kind of souvenir be distributed. The SLCOA agreed not to put on a fireworks display because of the expense, shortness of time and lack of a suitable location. Later, it was decided to write a letter to Fred West of the Conesus Lake Cottage Owners Association to request that we combine orders for flares in 1977.

This year (1977), the "Ring of Fire" (this was the first time this phrase has been used, said by Dr. Humphrey 6/4/77 minutes), took place on July 3rd at 10 PM. Mr. Soules will pick up the flares at Dansville; he will be paid \$10. Mr. Ball and Mr. Soules picked up 15 gross (60 cases) of flares. The sales of flares profited \$20.10, so discussion was made to raise the cost of the flares next year. In 1978, 75 cases of flares were picked up for the "Lake of Fire" July 3rd. A motion was passed to raise the cost of the flares to 75 cents each for next year. As of the August 18, 1979 meeting, Mr. Ball reported that he had not yet completed the flare report. He did mention that the flares cost \$1216 and he had approximately \$600 returned to date.

There was never a dull moment for the SLCOA in the 1970s. The 1980s will continue to be uncompromising.