



Historical White Lake

Murray's Inn

By Barbara Bedau Brow

White Lake Area Historical Society

In 1906, William Murray, assistant lighthouse keeper at White Lake, purchased a portion of the "Flats" at Sylvan Beach from then owner A. J. Flitcraft of Chicago. He built a basement in which he stored some 60 row boats, skiffs and sailboats owned by Mr. Murray and Orville Lee, who conducted a boat livery at Sylvan Beach during the summer months. The following year he began construction of a 16 room house.

In 1909, Murray and his wife Annabel opened a resort business known as Murray's Inn. (Annabel was the daughter of Lighthouse Keeper William Robinson and his wife Sarah.)

1915 saw the introduction of a casino at Murray's Inn called "Kum-on-in", with Leo Murray, son of owner William Murray, in charge.

In 1922, Wm. Murray moved one of his existing buildings to the south in preparation for the construction of a 3-story structure with a spacious veranda on the front. This new building had a 40 ft. x 25 ft. lobby, a large lounge area, and two dining rooms (48 ft. x 20 ft. and 36 ft. x 30 ft.) in addition to a ladies room and a gentlemen's room, and kitchen facilities. The wooden floors were highly polished walnut stain. The porch furniture was of the latest wicker style.

The second and third floors were occupied by the bedrooms - some of which were suites. All the rooms had hot and cold running water and many had private baths. All of the rooms had outside windows for fresh air and area views. This new addition gave Murray's Inn a total of 60 bedrooms and a capacity of 150 guests.

All three buildings were connected by a trellis-covered pergola.

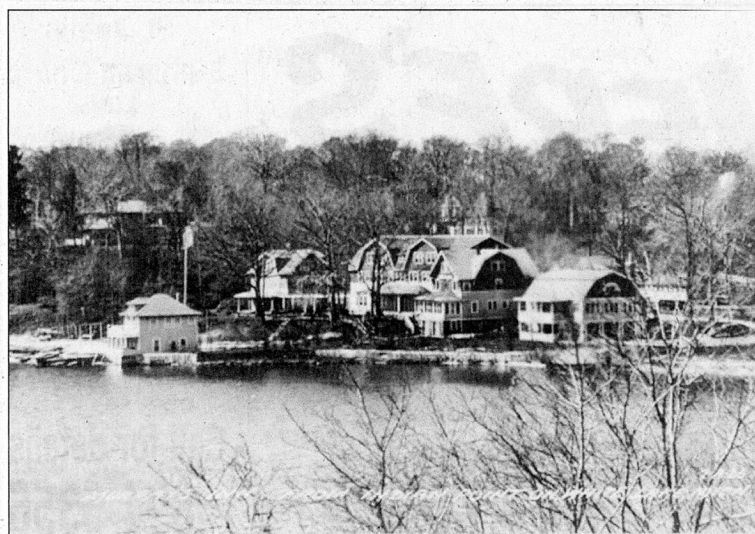
In 1927, a 50 x 50 foot building was completed which was used as a dance hall and amusement center.

In 1972, John Ozar purchased Murray's Inn and renamed it the Driftwood Lodge. They also opened a restaurant and cocktail lounge in the former Recreation Building which they called The Galleon.

In June 1984, five of the former Murray's Inn buildings were converted into twenty-eight condo units which became known as Driftwood Dunes Condominiums.



1928-41 circa - Murray's Inn from Lau Road



Murray's Inn from Indian Point