

**Dolores [Komives] Ullstrom**

**Narrator**

**Rebecca A. Mavencamp**

**Greenfield Historical Society**

**Interviewer**

**July 20, 2013**

**At the home of Dolores and Gene Ullstrom**

**Greenfield, Minnesota**

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[unrelated conversation and noise]

RM: So today is July 20, 2013, I'm Rebecca Mavencamp and we're sitting with Mrs. Dolores Ullstrom. Could you please spell your name for me?

DU: The last name is Ullstrom...U-L-L-S-T-R-O-M. We're not native around here, and I don't think anybody else spells Ullstrom quite like that.

RM: Unique and special.

DU: It's unique, yes.

RM: And your first name?

DU: Dolores. D-O-L-O-R-E-S.

RM: Wonderful. And your maiden name?

DU: My maiden name was Komives...that was K-O-M-I-V-E-S. I grew up in St. Paul and have lived in Minnesota most my life. For a few years after I was married, we lived in a few different states, but Gene, my husband, is a Minnesotan and we decided that this is where we wanted to live. We came back and have lived and worked in Western Hennepin County for many years. We moved here in 1976 when our children were quite small, kindergarten and first and third grade. We've lived here ever since.

RM: What are the names of your children?

DU: Our children are Joseph, the oldest, Suzanne and Emily. Joseph lives here now, Suzanne lives in Excelsior, and Emily lives in the state of Illinois.

RM: What year were you married?

DU: We were married in 1965 in St. Paul, Minnesota at St. Colomba church.

RM: St. what?

DU: St. Colomba? It's in the Midway area. Same church and school that Joe Mauer graduated from.

RM: Claim to fame!

DU: Claim to fame [laughter] It's in the Midway area, very city area of St. Paul.

RM: So you moved out to the country.

DU: We did...Gene is a country boy from northern Minnesota, the right up on the Canadian border, Bodette, Minnesota. We met at the University of Minnesota, where we both graduated from, but like I say, I'm from St. Paul and we kind of had it come to this tension where this country pulled him and the city pulled me. This was kind of where we met in the middle. And we've enjoyed it ever since.

RM: What was the point you could agree on?

DU: I think it was Lake Sarah. I didn't want a cabin, although the old idea of a cabin in Minnesota is pretty standard. I didn't want the idea of taking care of a house and a cabin. One place was enough. So I told Gene that I'd just as soon have one place and we started looking for a place that was close enough we could to get work and yet it had the nice things about living on the lake.

RM: Where was work?

DU: I worked in several different places. I'm a physical therapist and I worked at my last job with Hennepin County Schools Intermediate District 287. I traveled around to all the schools ...Hopkins, Minnetonka, Edina, Mound...so I visited and worked with kids and staff for kids were physically disabled. Gene worked in St. Louis Park mostly. So this was a very good commute for us.

RM: It must have been one of the first commuter times out here.

DU: I think we were. In fact that's the one thing about learning the history, is that prior to good roads and good transportation, people didn't live in suburban areas. They did have cabins and that's why you would maybe live in Minneapolis and have a cabin on Lake Sarah. Right now it seems kind of funny, but it really wasn't. Roads really weren't that good. I was talking to Lambert Bokusky, whose land we are living on, the Bokusky Farm, and he was talking about when the Rockford road came in. It was after World War II. That's when they decided they needed better roads.

RM: What's Rockford Road?

DU: Well, it kind of where [Highway] 55 is, but there was another name for it. You called it something else too, but [Highway] 55 wasn't quite so straight. It would wind from farm to farm. In fact, the road that went to Rockford went between his farmhouse and his barn. I'm sure so the milk truck could get close to it. Prior to that, people did not commute. That was very common living in St. Paul. We were more used the Forest Lake development, but many people including my Uncle and his family would be in Forest Lake during the week and he would come on weekends. He lived in town. That was an awful lot of what happened here at the Resorts around Lake Sarah. Families would rent the cabin here for the week, or for the season, and the families would stay out here. The working, which is usually Father, husband, would come and spend time with the family on weekends .

RM: They maintained two homes, essentially.

DU: Or they Would Rent out a Cabin. In fact, My whole idea of a Resort Kind of Changed As I Was Doing This Project. I Think of Huge, Large Resorts, so Lake Sarah Didn't Fit My Mold. What I Found was That What Has Been Called Resorts Were Really Farms and Each Farmer Had a Resort. I have Some maps here That Show Lake Sarah, if you can recognize the Outline there. This was a Map Drawn in 1898.

DU: This was just about the Turn-Of-The-Century and Each one of These Is Really a Farm That was probably Homesteaded around the Civil War Time. In fact, the Railroad Helped Decide What was going to Be Developed around here. It Was Decided That the Railroad Would Go North of Lake Sarah, so things Were More Developed on the South

Side for the Farming. But in Any Case, here's Bokusky. We're down in this area right here.

RM: This Is Also called the narrows, correct?

DU: Yes, That Would Be the narrows, between the east basin and the West basin. So Bokusky's had a farm, but when it came time to develop, They Took All this wonderful Land along here and Legalized all of Them. So the idea of a Resort That we're Talking about are Places That Have boats for Rent, Maybe Cabin or Two or Three and They Might Have a Little Store. That Was about it. The boats were not our boats we have today, they were big Heavy Wooden Boats, that Every Winter Had be Brought Out Of the Water, Scraped down, and Repainted. Then Once they Got in the Water in the Springtime, they had to Stay There Because They would swell up. When there was a lot of Water Coming into the boats, you had to bail them out all the time. There Were No Motors, so People rowed, so weekend Mornings, particularly Sunday, it was very, Very Popular...people would come. They said by 5 O'clock the Hundred some boats that were for Rent in and around the lake were out.

RM: That's impressive.

DU: The Klare's Farm...east of the Bokusky farm, that was a Boy Scout Camp for over ten Years. The Boys Scouts would Also Come and Would Build their encampment. There's an Article Written for the Hennepin County Historical Society That highlights One of the Boy Scouts and the Schumachers.

Now Here Is a map That Is, You may not be able to See That As Well, it's kind of the dark, the Lake is the dark [unclear] It but It Shows the Resorts. maybe I turn it right side up, how's that? [both laugh]

There Is Frederick's Resort, Which Is Just west of here and Then Hillcrest Resort and Breezy Hill Resort. Those are All on the North Side. now the reason I'm sure They Wanted the North side Is Because That's Where the Railroad depot Was. People Often Took the Railroad from town out Here for the Weekend, or for a vacation and Then They Took it back.

RM: What years would the railroad be operational?

DU: I would say it was probably in the '20s and '30s. Then Once War Came, a Railroad Was Pretty Important too, but I Think at that point, after the Depression, Resorts maybe Had Some Trouble Operating, and then with the War Taking All the Effort...? So it was Probably Some time before the '20s. In fact, the Jacobs Family that Owned, I Think It's Pheasant View Farm on [County Road] 11, they have a produce stand right now? Mrs. Jacobs Was a Snodgrass and they lived near Lake Charlotte. They would work in the Twin Cities and Then Come Back Here on the Weekends. They All took the train, they didn't own cars. Trains were very big. Anyway, I'm sure the Resorts were on the North Because of the Railroad. There Was that Hotel over There. On the South side There Was

the Apple Farm and then the Shady Beach, which we still have remnants of. Shady Beach resort was the Last Resort on the Lake. It Was Also the Last Resort in Hennepin County. It just wasn't going to make it, so, it closed up.

RM: Do you Know Why? Was it just a combination of reasons?

DU: People started getting their own cabins. They had a little More Money after the War and They Had a Car and Then They started getting boats. It was Just the Little More Prosperity I Think and the Camp ground Continued Right up to the End. Camping was Still Popular, but People like Their Own cabin.

RM: Do you think the Culture of Staying for an Entire Summer out on a Lake Changed Also as the Workforce changed after the war?

DU: I Think Maybe. As I Recall, People who Wanted to Spend Time at the cabin, but their kids were in baseball, or the Wives worked, so They couldn't Spend the Summer with the with the Kids out on the Lake. Definitely That the Culture Changed, and like I say, the cars got better, and I Think A Lot Of Factors Entered into It. Many of the Houses along here, Because Those were Developed a Little Later, They Were Permanent houses and They Were Year-Round Houses. This house was built as a year-round house. But there were many that were built as cabins, too. Then somebody bought that, tore it down and put up a year-round house, so we don't have many cabins As Such, Where You Come and just spend some Time.

RM: I suppose with Property Values around the Lake Increased so It Made Selling off a piece of Property for a year-round House More Lucrative than keeping the cabins?

DU: Oh, yes, sure. The Property Values Changed, Tax Structure Changed and People Could Travel and commute easier. I'm sure Financially it made a big difference.

RM: So now you Raised your Children out here?

DU: We Did! Yes, we don't, really Feel like we're Cabin People. We live on a Lake and that's...you know, we're not lake people [laughs]. I know It Sounds Kind of Funny, but this Is Our House and It happens To Be on the lake. We've taken a great Interest and We Are Quite Fortunate in That We Have a pretty good chunk of ground with three Acres. We Have a woods to the North of Us, swamp to the South of Us, and Then the lake. We're not that close to the Water, so it's been Good Learning about the Lake, what it Takes to keep a lake Healthy and Clean, and how it's so Easy to Destroy a Lake. That Was not What Happened when it Went from This Number of People to Well over one hundred Houses on the lake. Changed the pollutants that went into the lake, Things like That and people think, "well, We Always had clean water." Yes, you had fewer people, and When the People Would Come out for the cabins, They Didn't Have Sewers. I

suppose they drained into the Lake in Those days too. You had to Learn that you can't drain into the lake.

RM: When do you think the awareness began?

DU: Well, I Think It's Slow and it's the Culture That Develops and Each Individual Has To Educate Themselves with Them As a Culture. We Also Have To Educate Ourselves. I Think That When Jimmy Carter Was President, they Passed a Clean Water Act and that's how We Were Able to Get Sewers because they knew We Needed That. That Was Quite A While ago, but Then Every time somebody Moved onto the lake, they Had a Learn Why Was Important Again, all over. It's always a Little Frustrating.

RM: And it's still wells around here, Not Individual sewer systems?

DU: Not Individual sewer systems, it's still individual Wells, yes. I don't know about All the Developments, but in Our Particular Case We have our own well. There were Sewers That Were causing a problem.

RM: I heard stories about There Being a lot of broken Glass along the Lakefront Because of the Resorts and the Dance Halls?

DU: Yes. We Had A Few Feet Cut. People would come and spend the Night on the Beach and throw the Bottles in the Water. That Was Definitely a Lack of Awareness of the Fact That you're going to Come Back Here Again and Maybe want to Enjoy It. I Think Now We Wouldn't Do That. I wouldn't hope We Wouldn't Do That, but People had To Learn that you have To Take Care of everything or if not, it's going to be destroyed.

As Soon As I Told People That We Were Moving Here, they kept saying, "Oo, ah, do you remember the Lake Sarah Dance Hall?" That was the big thing, but That Was Part of the Local Culture mostly I Think, Although Some Big Bands like Whoopee John, they came up, but there'd be A Lot Of Wedding dances. It Was built on the Mitchell Farm, Which Isn't Too Far Away. It Was Not Heated, so it was just Summer Dances. I Remember My Relatives would, have wedding dances and That Was the Big, big social thing

RM: So they were public dances?

DU: They were open to the public, but they were in fact wedding dance too, after the couple got Married.

RM: What was the popular day to have a wedding dance?

DU: I imagine Saturday, yes. The fact that the big names would come out here, I Was Surprised. Marge Klares Has Written some Paper...I don't know if you have gotten any

of Her Work...but She Was a Student at the University. As an Adult She wrote up some History. She would talk about what some of the Big-Name Stars of time and That Was Really popular.

RM: You mentioned Whoopee John.

DU: yes.

RM: What were the other big names?

DU: I Guess I Can't Remember, wish I could. There weren't the big Bands like I'm sure, Benny Goodman or Anything like That, but Some of the More Whoopee John type Music.

RM: When you say "that era", what years do you mean?

DU: I would Say That Was the '50s and then When Things changed, you got More Venues to have wedding dances--convention centers--Then the Wedding Dance kind of Fell by the way, too, for Some Reason. I don't know. I Imagine That There Are Other Options too. But the Lake Sarah Dance Hall Was a Big One. Many people said, "Oh, I Met My Wife at the Lake Sarah Dance Hall," so that Was a Real Popular Thing to Be Told.

RM: What Sort of Dancing Took Place?

DU: I Think It Was A Lot Of the Old-Time Waltzes, polkas, Shoddishes. If you were to look at the wedding albums of Many People My Age, There would be Pictures of Dancing at the Dance Hall.

RM: Which dance is your favorite?

DU: Mine? Oh dear, I Would Imagine It Have To Be the Waltz, the old time waltzes. I'm from St. Paul, again, we didn't Have a Big Barn, but We had the Prom Ballroom to dance the same kind of dances.

RM: Where did you learn to dance?

DU: My Mother Was from Wisconsin and When We Would go and Visit, My Wisconsin Relatives of Every Age Went to the Dance. We Started out Pretty Young and you just did the dance you could and then you got more Sophisticated as you went. You didn't leave your kids at home. When you went to the dance it was a family affair and so I think I learned that way. Of course there was School Dances in the Prom Ballroom and my husband and I Actually Learned at a Dance Lesson at the University. Dancing was pretty popular.

RM: Now you said you brought your kids along to the dance halls?

DU: Not my kids, I was the kid at that point, in the 50s.

RM: But people would?

DU: They would Because There Was No alternative. They Weren't Going to Get Babysitters.

RM: At what point Do You suppose That Culture Changed?

DU: There again, I think it was after the '50s into the '60s, when first of all, the type of Music Changed. You had Your Young People's Music and Older People didn't Have the same kind of Music. I Think It Started with Elvis Presley and the Beatles. The Beatles were definitely Not for Old People, so I think that was part of it...music Changed .

RM: I Would Assume That there were New Laws put in Place with the minors not Being Allowed into a Place where they served alcohol?

DU: I Would Imagine. I Didn't Think about That, but that would be a big thing. I Don't Really Remember Worrying Too Much about Alcohol and Serving Minors, but I'm Sure in the Days When the Bartender Probably Knew Everybody There Were Fewer Problems Than when You would Have Different People drifting in.

RM: So everybody Knew Everybody?

DU: Yes, That Was a Big difference. It was Local.

RM: How did the local Culture Respond to the Tourist Culture of the day?

DU: I Think the Local Culture Saw That As a Business Opportunity, like renting out boats and Making This Part of Your Farm. It Was It Was an Opportunity to Help Make a Living and so they did it. That Way it Seemed like a Good Thing to Do. When the Land Was Developed, Then the Resorts were all gone. It happened about the same time.

RM: Did the Same People Return Year after Year for the Resorts?

DU: I Understand they did. There are some Stories of People who Would Come Back. One Person Is Buffie, who lives in Rockford. H remembers stories of people Renting the cabins and Coming Back year after year.

RM: So they would be Part-way into the Local Culture?



DU: That's right. They Got into the Local Culture they Helped develop it. I'm sure they Shared Their Culture too, with the Locals.

RM: So it must have been an Inviting Atmosphere out here?

DU: I Think so. In Fact, I Was Just Looking at an Old-Time postcard for the Shady Beach Inn. It Was trying to say, "we, accommodate Train Cars for People or Drive out" Because One of the Big Things Was a Sunday Chicken Dinner that Was Served.

RM: At Shady Beach?

DU: At Shady Beach. You Could Come out for Your Sunday Chicken Dinner and I Understand they always Had Chocolate Cake for Dessert. I Interviewed a Lady Named Florence Jacobs and She Worked at the Shady Beach Resort and They Would Get up Very Early and get that Chicken Dinner Started and Then When Everything Was All Cleaned up They Could Get the Rest of the Evening off, so it was a big day, to get all that started.

RM: People would Take the Train out Just to have chicken Dinner and an Afternoon out here on Lake Sarah?

DU: Yes. But I Think the Resorts Were Very Much a Local phenom too. In Talking to Florence and Her Sister, They Both Worked at the Shady Beach, she had a big Family. They both worked at Shady Beach, and they both Met Their Husbands there. They Were Local, Probably Worked on Farms and at Night it was hot, so they Would Come and go for a Swim and Have A Few Beers. I Think the Resorts Were At Least As Much Local As They Were for the People who Came in from Out Of Town. After the dance hall closed down, Wally's resort would have little bands come on Sunday afternoon and they would have fish and people would come and have beer and socialize with the your neighbors. So even though we think of the resorts for the tourists, I think they were as much as part of creating the local cultures.

RM: A lot of things sounded like they centered on food?

DU: Yes. But I'm sure that's...people go out to eat.

RM: Do you remember how much a meal was?

DU: No, I really don't. I'm sure it wasn't very much [chuckles].

RM: Were the fish that were served caught in the lake?

DU: I think many times they were in fact. I think on a Friday, if they were going to have a fish fry, they were caught and fried up. They'd have a big fish fry.

RM: Did the people staying at the resorts go fishing and then hand over their fish?

DU: I don't know, if they...they do that now at the resorts. I don't know if you had your limits the same way. Your limits are awfully high right now. They may have, I'm sure they didn't some cases want to clean them. Can you imagine having to clean all those? [chuckles].

RM: What else do you remember about the other resorts that are named around the lake?

DU: I don't remember too much about the individual ones. They would have the train bring the out of town people and then I think the local people would have to go too, so there was this meshing of the people. There was one article that I wrote on the west end of the lake about the railroad that went between the barn and the pasture. There were problems with cows getting killed. They would try to run the trains as they went by, so they can let the cows out and over to the pasture. There were some issues like that. Other than that, from an individual standpoint, I don't remember much. There was one man I talked to, his name was Art Mielke, and he was at the Breezy Point. His parents were raised over there and I think eventually he inherited it and sold it off. When he lived on it, one of the things that they did at Breezy Hill was harvest ice off the lake. We took a couple videos of it so someplace there is a video of that. I think it was quite dangerous work, but they cut with a big saws--these great big chunks of ice. Then they put moved it to a conveyor belt and put it in the building and surrounded it with sawdust. Then in the summer, these resorts that had little stores and when somebody got in off the lake and wanted to have a cool bottle of pop, they would they would buy it. Since there wasn't any electricity down to the lake, they just used the ice. So they used the ice that was harvested at Breezy Hill.

RM: That went all the way through the '50s?

DU: When they electrified I think depended on the individual, but I know once they were in the '40s and '50s they would be electrified.

RM: The same with the indoor plumbing?

DU: I'm sure most of these cabins had outdoor plumbing.

RM: So again, people's tolerance for the lack of electricity and the lack of convenience played into the resorts demise?

DU: I think so. I think that people wanted a little bit more. My idea of a really good camp is having shower [both laugh] and somebody else doing the cooking. I do believe that people wanted more even in cabins. Cabins used to be pretty primitive and then they got to be not so primitive anymore. People like comfort.

RM: Did the families that stayed out here for the whole summer do their own cooking?

DU: I think they did often. Some of these these resorts would have meals of various sorts or chicken dinner over at Shady Beach.

RM: It wasn't three meals a day?

DU: Shady Beach did, have three meals a day, from what I understand. If you live there, they hired girls who would work on lunches, so you would have breakfast lunch and dinner. In fact Richard Klares was saying he remembers hearing the bell, because they would ring the bell so that they know when it was time to eat.

RM: It would have been local girls hired to do the cooking?

DU: Right. It was a source of employment.

RM: What age group?

DU: In those days, most people went to eighth grade and then the men got jobs on farms. Women often got jobs as week-long nannies with a large family and they would help with childcare and housekeeping. Dorothy Jacobs would talk about when she took the train as she got a little older and she would stay in Minneapolis. They mostly just went through the eighth grade from their school and then they had to get a job.

RM: So, about fourteen? Fifteen on up was about the age of the girls, then?

DU: I think so.

RM: What other employment opportunities did the resorts offer?

DU: I don't know who did the painting and the maintenance of the boats, but I image that was the family of the farmer. That was an opportunity there--just being there and running the resort--so I imagine there was that sort of thing where the farmer did some of it, but he could have hired it out. I think a lot of it was the young men who stayed on the farm.

RM: Did the resorts do any advertising to draw people in?

DU: Oh, yes, yes. They had their postcards, they had their maps, and I'm sure there were ads. I have seen some, but in local papers whenever they were going to have a dance or things like that. They tried to draw people in.

RM: Did they ever do events together?

DU: I'm not aware of them doing them together, but they may have. That's interesting. I'm sure the church communities around too had different events and how these interacted, I don't know.

RM: Is it possible that some of the church groups would come out and use the resorts as well?

DU: I would think it might be highly likely that they would do that. We know that Shady Beach--the building that was the resort--is still around. Its been chopped off so the upper left story is gone, but we do have a picture. There are some pictures from when it was a two-story resort. I don't know if I can find it here, but they took the top story off. I understand the reason they did this is because it was leaking. So now it became a one family house.

RM: Someone currently lives in the house that was Shady Beach?

DU: Yes. They did and it's over here on the side of the lake. That was the thing. They had to get a big boat to bring people across if they came on the railroad because they were not on the side of the railroad.

RM: So it was easier to boat people across than it was it was to try to use the trails for hauling?

DU: Oh, sure. There weren't very many good roads. In fact, just before we moved in they finished laying Lake Sarah Heights Drive. Otherwise there was a big, low swampy area and the kids who lived here and went to Delano schools had to walk down to this big swampy area and cross it and get on the bus because Delano buses didn't come up to this way. Just prior to our moving in '76, they made the road all the way through. We're a Rockford mailing address and mostly Rockford schools. Just a little bit of us over here go to Delano. It had to do with the road. The Rockford and Loretto post office were the same. This is on the side when the road went through. They just continued the same post offices.

RM: So when you arrived, the transient tourist culture was definitely on its way out.

DU: Right. I would say everything was on the way out, but there was about a different culture coming in...the resort culture of Wally's was here and Shady Beach. I think my kids went to Wally's more than I did because they had pop. They'd bicycle down there and they'd get their pop and stuff like that, or they would swim across Lake. I found out years later ...scared me to death. They'd swim across the lake and go to over the campground or to the video games over at Shady Beach [laughs] I did not know that. I was working and they entertained themselves, as they will! They'll find things to do.

RM: I know we've heard a lot of stories from local people ... what's one story that really stands out about the resort area or the Dance Halls?

DU: I think it was an important part of life. People didn't travel very far for entertainment. If you didn't go to like a wedding dance on Saturday Night, an awful lot Of People Went to Somebody's house an Played Cards. You Would Have Ladies clean Their Houses All up and it would be Very Nice. They might serve a meal or They May Serve a Nice, really Fancy Dessert, but Saturday Night's People often Went out and Visited a Neighbor and Friend. I Still Know A Few People who do That, but I Think It's Kind of gone, Where You Would Get a Whole Neighborhood Together and They're Doing the Same Thing. The Idea That the Locals Got Together May Be that you're a Farmer and you worked by Yourself All Week and He Needed to Get out talk to other Farmers on the Weekend. But how really important These Cultural Things Were for the Community and for the entertainment of the People--That Was Different again. Growing up in St. Paul, You Didn't Go to a dance where everybody on your block went to it...you might go to a dance at Your Church. You might go with somebody else, but It Wasn't the Same As when we Had a Community of People all doing the Same Thing.

RM: I assume that would strengthen the Community?

DU: I would Think so. I can't see how it would do anything but Strengthen the Community. It was a way of Getting Young People of each Culture Meeting Each Other and finding somebody to marry [laughs]. I think that was a lot of it.

RM: A safe environment?

DU: I Think It Was a Very Safe environment to Raise a Family. I have Relatives that Never Felt Comfortable in the City. I Think That Was Probably You Go There and You Know Everybody. Going to the Prom Ballroom you don't know everybody, but You go into a Wedding Dance You Probably Know everybody, or almost everybody. Or if you Just stop in Every Night and Have a Beer at the local resort or something. There's still some of that going on, but little Different.

RM: So that was Part of the Attraction for the City Folks coming out this Direction Was the Safety and the community?

DU: I Think so. The Suburbs Were Developing, at you know, when we Were Raising Children. So you Came out to a Place where the School's weren't that big. At the Time We Moved Here somebody Told Us That Delano was on double Shifts and so one had to start at Seven and One Didn't Start till 10, but there again, They Changed the Schools Just before our kids Got Here so That the High School and Middle School Were Built. We didn't Have Double Shifts. They Had to Grow to accommodate This New group of People Coming out. Otherwise, this was a Really Good Place, I Think, to have kids grow up.

RM: Was there a Group of People who Went to the Dance Halls in the Resorts and a group of people who didn't? Was that part of the Culture too?

DU: I don't know. By the Time We Got Here, I Didn't Go to the Dance Halls or the Resorts because I Wasn't used to it and I Didn't Know People, Whereas People who Grew up here were Still Were Going to Those, although the dance hall was gone by the time we got here. But then the Medina Ballroom came. But that, too, Was Very Different.

RM: In what year was the Medina opened?

DU: I Don't Know. it was before We came here. I Think Another Thing Is that Communities Were Smaller. Loretto Community was very Competitive with Hammel, or Different Churches--and Even within the Same. Having Been Raised Catholic, Kids Who Work went to the One Catholic Church and Didn't Really Want to date People who went to a Different Catholic Church. Very, Very Local and People Can didn't Stretch out too Much, so there was A Lot Of Competition from within the Local Community. That Was Kind of Interesting. We Got Here and said, "Oh! You've got to be Careful...you didn't Just Socialize with Everybody." Just Certain People.

RM: You had to Be Careful which group you joined?

DU: That's right. You Know the One You were raised in was the One You Were in.

RM: How did You Find a group, since you weren't Raised in a group?

DU: That's Interesting. I Think When You Have Children, the School Becomes the Center of Your Social Life. Then I Joined the Lake Association so That Helped, too. You had to Find it Because It Wasn't ready made, but lakes are in Many Ways barriers to Socialization. When I Wrote the Article on the Shady Beach Inn, I had lived here over 20 Years and Didn't Know That the Building That was at Shady Beach Resort Still existed. I Felt Almost embarrassed to not Know That. You Think You Would, and but I Was on this Side and They Were on That...the south side. You Just tended to Socialize with people. That's why the lake Association is so important. To get to know each other.

RM: When did that start?

DU: When We Moved Here, I don't Think It Was Going, but it Wasn't Long Afterward that they Restarted It. They It Had Started before We Got Here and There Were Some Issues That Had To Be Solved. After those got solved, I'm not sure Exactly What They Were, the Lake Association kind of Dried up. Then it was Started up Again. Huckburoghs Was our First President and That's When I Got Involved. I was on the Board for Many Years.

RM: Would you say the lake lends itself to the Sense of Community because of the Shared Environment That You Have?

DU: That Would Be the Plus, as far as Community Building. There's Lots of the Picnics and the Cleanups and there's Some Contests...so that lends itself to community. The Fact That Distances Are Great, though...you really have to get in the boat drive over. There's pluses and Minuses.

RM: Is there anything else that you wanted to mention?

DU: Can't Think of too much ...just That the Educational Part about the Lake Association Is an important Aspect of it. Trying to Educate the People who Live on the Lake I think is always going to Be an Important Aspect of It Because every time somebody moves in They Have To Learn How Important It Is and how you are going to keep the lake Clean. It's a Little Frustrating in Many Ways That you Have To Keep educating...you can't Ever Give up.

RM: Do you think that the resort Owners and Farmers felt the Same Responsibility to educate their Guests?

DU: I Think in a way lakes Were Thought of as Being...you didn't worry so much about Clean Water Because There Weren't that Many people, There Was Not as Much Impact. The cows in the lake...and it meant nothing to run your sewer system into the Lake. They didn't Think too Much about It, so I Don't Think That the Need for Education Really was there until the load of People, the Amount Going into the Lake, Increased. Then Unfortunately the Problem Developed with Tension between the Farmers and the not Farmers. Those who used it primarily for Recreation.

RM: What were some of those tensions?

DU: Well, cows in the Water for instance. Or Fertilizer Running off of Fields or spreading manure. We Have Ordinances on how many Large Animals, like horses, can You Have per Acre. I Think with two Acres you can Have One Animal and Then for Every Acre You Can Increase by One. The Problem Is That it doesn't say If You Got two Acres of Swamp. That's Different Than If You Got two acres of high ground Where You Can Have an Animal. I Think the Tension Developed Because of Different Uses of the Lake. People Were Afraid, As They Always Are, That If I Have Something You Might Want to Take it Away.

RM: Was There Similar Sense of Competition between the Resort Owners?

DU: There may have been. I would imagine there might be, if they're all trying to compete with the same kind of clientele. Maybe that's just the nature of the beast? That's always going to be there.

RM: How many Cabins Were on Each Resort?

DU: Very few. Like Bokusky's, He Called It Willow Beach Resort, They only had Two. They had One with the One Room with a Porch in Front of it and they had One with the Two Bedrooms, but I think that was not uncommon to Have Two.

RM: Do you know a Total Number of cabins around the lake?

DU: I do not, no. Somebody was saying there were Just over one hundred boats.

RM: One hundred boats on the lake?

DU: From the Different Farms. I mean, nobody had That many, but that's about what it was.

RM: Our Modern Sense of a Busy Resort is Not Applicable to lake Sarah?

DU: It was Very Local Farm Run, Very Low Key, and during the Week There probably Would Be Very Little activity except for That Person renting the Cabin or if you Had a Campground or Something like That. Pretty quiet.

RM: I think that's important for people to understand. I Think When You say "Resort" to Someone Now, You think "Wisconsin Dells," or something up in Duluth.

DU: Right.

RM: I Think It Is Important to convey the size of What Was here.

DU: I think so, too, because I Didn't Think about it for awhile, but Now I Realize They Were Really Very, Very Small. It Didn't Last Very Long, I don't think really. Thirty Years or Something. A Little Bit of Time People liked it, though it was an important time, but it changed pretty quickly from being farm to Being a Little Resorts and now it's Residential. Pretty fast Actually, for a Transformation.

RM: One Generation Started it and the next generation finished it.

DU: It would seem so. Well, who knows if it's going to stay like this? Probably, I would think so. I Think it's Been Great. We've Enjoyed Living Here and Hope for the Best. I Think That the Current People, the Lake Association Officers, in Their Attempts to Keep up and Educate the Folks so That the Water stays, they're doing a good job. That's great.

RM: As of right now, it Will Probably Stay Single family homes?



DU: I Can't See How it would Change, so yes, I Think it will Stay that way.

RM: I really Appreciate Your Time.

DU: I Don't Know if Anybody Learned Anything, but I Have To Say it's been Fun for Me to Look into the History.

RM: Absolutely.

DU: History is always changing, so it's kind of fun. Where it's been and where it's going to.

RM: We're going around in circles.

DU: It seems to!

RM: We'll make sure that we put the Articles that you Wrote with the transcripts so It's a package. In the future, you'll have a whole File with your name on it.  
[both laugh]

DU: It's Important to write things down. If You Don't Write Them down they're Lost. I Think That's the Shame of It. If It's Not Written down to Save...that's why saving the Stork House...it's Not Many homes like That around anymore, especially in a small town.

RM: The Stork House actually has a very similar Story to the Resorts. The Stork family Purchased it in the 1930s and Used it as a vacation home.

DU: Yes.

RM: So not even Just the lake Culture--it seemed to be a larger Culture.

DU: Right, and it takes a Lot Of Effort.

RM: So, if We Have Other Questions can we give You a Call?

DU: I'm Here! Thanks for what you do.

RM: It's fun to do these projects.

DU: Well good. That adds to the interest.

RM: I can only hope [laughs] Thanks again for your time.

DU: Alright Rebecca.