

Phillip Trump, Director  
Lewis Profit, Director

Ted Arens, Director  
Lewis Profit, Director

1997

Connie McNutt, President  
Leonard Contardo , Vice-pres.  
Marie F. Phelps, Secretary  
Marilyn Gussett, Treasurer  
Ted Arens, Director  
Tom Shirts, Director

1998

G. J. (Peter) Phelps, Pres.  
Robert Reny, Vice-president  
Marie F. Phelps, Secretary  
Joyce Coykendall, Treas.  
Michael Berry, Director  
Tom Shirts, Director

1999 ( 7th Director Added )

G. J. ( Peter ) Phelps, President  
Robert Reny , Vice-president ( Dec )  
Michael Berry, Vice-president  
Marie F. Phelps, Secretary  
Joyce Coykendall, Treasurer  
Robert Waller, Director  
Phillip Trump, Director

2000

G. J. ( Peter ) Phelps, President  
Michael Berry, Vice-president  
Marie F. Phelps, Secretary  
Joseph Liston, Treasurer  
Joan Burk, Director  
Betty Liston, Director  
(Robert Waller, Deceased)  
Beverly Waller, Director

2001

G. J. ( Peter ) Phelps, President  
Michael J. Berry, Vice-president  
Marie F. Phelps, Secretary  
Joseph Liston, Treasurer  
Joan Burk, Director  
Beverly Waller, Director  
Betty Liston, Director

2002

G. J. ( Peter ) Phelps, President  
Michael J. Berry, Vice-president  
Marie F. Phelps, Secretary  
Thomas Jacobs, Treasurer  
Beverly Waller, Director  
James Behring, Director  
Theodore Young, Director

### **PARK MANAGERS**

Four managers have served since our community was established in 1985. Bob Johnson served, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Bob Stetson served 1998 until 1991. Dave Falk served 1992 to 1999, and was succeeded by Al Corbett in 2000.

### **IN THE BEGINNING .....**

Much is owed to several original couples who settled in Swiss Golf & Tennis, and especially noteworthy are Bill and Adeline Stephen. It was through her foresight that a book of memories was established, which is yet on display in the clubhouse.

Her first notations therein listed the original couples who were in residence in December 1985. They were, Dave and Joyce Gorte, Don and Gen Stephens, Robert and Shirley Johnson, Bill and Adeline Stephen, Bill and Betty Clawges, Ray and Jo Kobierecki and John and Doris Lenting.

According to Adeline, the first coffee hour was held in the clubhouse on January 15, 1986. The host couples were Robert and Shirley Johnson, and Bill and Adeline Stephen. A picture of the group in attendance was taken by Bob Crawford, and it shows the following persons: Joe Rausch, John Lenting, Don Stephens, Bruce & Peggy Kingsbury, Dave Gorte, Fred Benson, Joyce Gorte, Marcie Benson. Hugh & Betty Cook, Edith Reichert, Eric and Doris Wollenburg, Robert Johnson, Madeline Rausch, Bill and Adeline Stephen, Jo and Ray Kobierecki, Gen Stephens, Doris Lenting, Shirley Johnson, Evelyn Crawford, Joe and Paula Barker, and Bob Crawford. The picture of this group was taken at the west outside wall of the clubhouse, which had five square windows. This is where the upper part of the clubhouse now ends.

The following is a verbatim quote of the introductory dissertation Adeline used at the beginning of the " Book of Memories ":

"Addresses obtained by Bob Johnson, through the sales office, brought 27 people together for the first Coffee Hour at Swiss Golf & Tennis--half were still living at Swiss Village. We gathered in anticipation, high hopes and genuine fellowship. Coffee cakes were baked by Bob Johnson and myself. Bob and Shirley brought their coffee maker to make the coffee. Bill and I also brought coffee in a gallon jug. Later, the Crawford's took pity on our feeble effort and loaned us a thirty cup pot, which we used until the sales office purchased two 90 cup pots. First Union Bank was contacted and they furnished coffee and cups for many

months. For many weeks we took turns baking and hosting. Twana Moats suggested that Bob Johnson contact the Sales Office for donuts, as we were getting too large to bake so many coffee cakes. Although coffee and donuts were furnished, it was decided to charge for this as we had other small expenses.

Although I was the head of these coffee hours, John Lenting nominated me to be and do whatever I was doing. I think it was a put-up job, because everyone agreed all too readily !!! We had no formal meetings, but things were brought up during the coffee hours. I then suggested a steering committee, (THE COMMITTEE) which was nominated and elected, to organize a home owner's association. We had many informal sessions at the coffee hours.

Upon reflection , those of us who were the early ones were much like pioneers in a barren land. The only phone we had for three months was in the Sales Office, which meant that we were unable to call out at night. There was no cable TV for months, many times no water, or we had water so chlorinated it took your breath away !! Blowing desert sands, as trees were felled, filled every nook and cranny. The burning of orange and other trees filled the air with smoke day and night. Doris Wollenburg headed up the women's Thursday golf league. A couple of weeks later the men decided to do the same. We were having pot luck's every Friday night. Bob Bergstrom was our excellent photographer, and Gloria Baldasaro and another person (whose name I am unable to remember) were organizing a scrap book.

On a cold and blustery March 5, 1986 we hosted the Century Golf Tournament. And, speaking of golf, some days you could look out the pro shop door and see Audrey Cortelli, Peggy Kingsbury and myself hitting shag balls from what is now the Lawrence's and Lake's property. (corner of Century Lane )

The park was growing by leaps and bounds. We had holiday parties. Mary Ann Collier was in charge of the 4th of July. I was invited to be on the Board of Century Travel. We had no sound system. I coped by standing silently until even Eric stopped chatting. Summertime brought an ice cream social, with toppings and homemade cakes. In September we had a dance with a real live band—BYOB. Tickets cost \$5.00. If I recall correctly, the band charged \$30. October brought Halloween. Our first masquerade was a lot of fun.

Probably the hardest part of being M.C., for me, was coping with those people who would say " Why can't we ?" And when I'd say, " Good idea, take charge ". they would back down. I'll not mention any names!! In November I'd decided to give up the M.C. job, activity directorship, or whatever I was. I wanted to have a nice going out party, and the Fall Fling was just that. A dress up dinner dance. Tammy Moats (Ray Moats sister) worked out the menu and cost. Ed Tanner and

his band were obtained for \$90. The women made crepe paper centerpieces, which we later gave away. Hors d'oeuvres were served in the clubhouse first-- somewhere I have a picture of Fred Benson serving at the hors d'oeuvres table wearing a beautiful yellow jacket, doing the serving. Then 60 couples went to the restaurant for a lovely sit down dinner. Place cards were made by Bill and me designating the seating-- there were no turned up chairs saving a seat. After dinner we went back to the clubhouse for dancing. Candle lit tables held what people wanted for after dinner refreshments.

During the year the Sales Office had several dances and dinners for the residents. Thanksgiving we received turkeys from Century. Christmas time brought us poinsettias. It was a good year with a lot of learning experience. We found out not everything we were promised materialized and everything that needed doing took longer than expected. The 4 P.M. pool parties were really share times--trash left in the kitchen was a big green light for hoards of ants and those other " bigger " creatures.

Sometime in March I had asked the Sales Office for a garbage disposal for the clubhouse. Soon after I retired that came, along with the donation of a sound system from Jack Marshall. The organ was donated by Jeannie Ley and Jay Carr. (this organ was replaced in 1999 by one donated by Doc and Dot Hoke) The Don Stephen's donated large ice chests which they had won at a Century party, and the Bob Johnson's gave us the steel storage shelving. Lots of other donations were made, plus hours of working together to make this a good place to live !!!."

### **AN INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF THE FIRST RESIDENTS**

David and Joyce Gorte were also one of the first couples to settle in Swiss Golf & Tennis. Their initial introduction to the community was not a real pleasant one, as their house (and, as was the case with a number of others) was not on sight and ready for occupancy when it was promised, so they were forced to rent a home at Swiss Village until theirs was ready. According to Joyce, when that day arrived, they were forced by CRF to move their possessions out of the Swiss Village house and into theirs in one day. Joyce said that CRF was not sensitive to their pleas to have more time to move, and they were to no avail. Joyce claimed that their first few days were a nightmare, but they managed, as they had no choice.

Dave and Joyce actually came here in April 1985, and agreed to stay at Swiss Village, until October 1, 1985, when their house was due for occupancy. They actually moved in on December 14th. Theirs was the third house on Fairway Circle, and at that time she stated that there was no entry from what we know as the North gate. Soon after they moved in that entry was opened. There were so few houses in the entire community that they could see traffic entering from

Routes 17-92 out by Langs Fruit Store. There were still many orange trees standing, as most of the community was originally an orange grove, so they and others enjoyed free oranges for many months.

The first friends of the family were Doris and Eric Wollenberg, Elaine and Chris Fallon, and the Jerlings, who are no longer in residence.

Joyce echoed Adeline Stephen's assertions that when the coffee hours started, any business relating to the then present residents were discussed at those social events, and original socializing took place therein. It was during one of these meetings of the residents that a decision was made to form an FMO Committee. That organization had just started, and Hector Balfour, one of the first District #1 Presidents was one of the first people in Polk County to take up the crusade to charter communities; to start membership drives and to enlist support of this vital organization. When residents heard the story of the value of FMO, support was immediate.

John Lenting initiated a membership campaign. According to Joyce, John worked tirelessly to do that, and much credit is due him for his initial efforts to form what has become a very active and substantial organization within the community of Swiss Golf & Tennis. Following Mr. Lenting as FMO Park Representative, were Edward Mueller, Peter Phelps and Pat Willson.

Again, following original tradition, officers for the newly formed FMO group were selected by appointment, and they were: President Dave Gorte, Vice-President Bill Stephen, Treasurer Eric Wollenberg, Secretary John Lenting. Advisory members were Dick Cortelli and Myron Ostlund. A charter was received in April 1986. How astute these people were, and how fortunate it was that they took the initiative to get a FMO organization started.

It is interesting to note that Dave and Joyce came here from Salt Lake City, Utah, having seen advertisements in periodicals there about the new retirement community named Swiss Golf & Tennis. They came here cold turkey, so as to speak, as they had no relatives or friends in the area. Joyce says that all they knew was that they did not want to be on either coast, and wished to be centrally located in the state. So, Polk County suited them just fine. Interestingly enough, as they became more and more comfortable with the thought of moving to Florida to enjoy the warm weather in their retirement, they looked at Palm Harbor homes at an area manufacturing plant there in Utah. Needless to say, they purchased a Palm Harbor home when they selected theirs to be set up in our community. Dave passed away in 1992, and Joyce has since lived with her daughter at their original address.

## **EVOLUTION OF RESTAURANT SERVICES**

Many home owners surely fondly recall how impressed everyone was when coming to this community with the ambiance and beauty of the restaurant. Many were so impressed that it became one of the items that influenced them to settle in this community. Remember how we were treated to free breakfasts and dinners when we came to investigate whether we wished to select this as our new home? It was so impressive.

What we did not realize was that there was precedence for CR closing down a community restaurant, once the park became nearly fully rented, as they previously had done so at Crystal Lake, in Sebring. That happened here in due time, and there were periods when there was no operator at all. In September 1990 Jane Romboletti and her husband Ray started to serve breakfasts and dinners by reservation. They also hosted parties arranged in advance. In February 1991 they announced that they would be open for lunch with several daily specials. She was able to hire an excellent cook, but her inexperience did not serve her well, and she was not successful. In 1993 Ted and Rosalie Dascolli took over the operation. They had a few catered dinners, and served light breakfasts, and also tried to arrange special party nights. They worked hard to try to build up a clientele and a number of residents helped them with their functions. After a time they became discouraged with the lack of sufficient business, and what they felt was a lack of community support, so they discontinued operations in the summer of 2000. It was at this juncture that Ernie and Donna Larimer, who are residents of Hidden Golf took over.

These folks have proven to be ambitious and tireless operators and have built up the business in THE PUB to a level that no one thought possible. They are open all day during the winter months, and have made a specialty of their Friday night's buffets; specially arranged dinners, and holiday celebrations. Ernie has been most innovative and resourceful and once again that facility has become a beehive of activity. Ernie and Donna have done such a fine job of operating the facility that residents from both communities have gone out of their way to support them. They hold regular cook outs, serve sandwiches during the day, and attract crowds to THE PUB with their free popcorn and varied promotions. Their successful tenure has been a shot in the arm for the entire community, and added a sorely missed dimension to the lifestyle of our community. Their summer hours are curtailed in proportion to the low level of activity and reduced population during those months.

In 2000, when the new park managers, Syl and Al Corbett came on the scene, they wished to have a separate office from the resale office, and the west end of the restaurant was enclosed and made into an office for them. Al and Syl have

taken keen interest in the beautification of the restaurant building. They had the carpeting cleaned, new drapes and lighting fixtures hung, and new pictures placed in a pleasing manner on the walls. Holidays are highlighted with special decorations which Syl places on the tables and in the hallway. This area has taken on a new lease on life, and is more beautifully appointed than it has ever been. They have done a terrific job of decorating and that is well recognized and appreciated among all residents.

### **LAKE HENRY CHORALEERS**

According to Q.D. Miskell, the idea of having a chorus in the community was first suggested by Connie McNutt. As he had been a professional and accomplished vocal and instrumental musician for many years, she suggested he get something started in this respect. Q.D. was only too willing to do so, as he relished being involved with a musical group in his new home territory.

His first call for volunteers went out in the fall of 1987, and 16 persons answered the call from Swiss Golf & Tennis. Later on, an invitation was extended to Hidden Golf for volunteers from their community to join. The group is still composed of persons from both parks, thus the name of Lake Henry Choraleers .

The original singers were: Janet Lewis, Ruth Johnson, Ellen Reigner, Barb Reigner, Dorothy Dobler, Phyllis Wintermeyer, Alex Barr, Joe Coco, Wes Councill, Roy Lewis, Walter Lucas, Randy Johnson, Al Lake, Paul Reigner and Dick Brown.

The first appearance of the Choraleers was at the February Follies, presented for the first time in February of 1988, under the direction of Connie McNutt. They then appeared at the Easter Sunrise Service, later presented a Christmas Cantata, and a spring concert on April 6, 1989. That schedule of appearances has continued while Christmas and Spring concerts have dates on Friday and Saturday evenings to accommodate residents from both parks. In December 1990 an attempt was made to have one evening's performance held at Hidden Golf. It did not work out well as the acoustics were poor, and it was a real chore to move the heavy risers for that performance from the Swiss Golf & Tennis clubhouse to that of Hidden Golf, and then back again.

By early 1990 membership was up to 44, and at that time the custom of having a Librarian, and Section Leaders was adopted to assist the director. Q.D. kept all the records of income and expense and reported to the membership at the end of each season. For years, bake sales, donations and \$10.00 dues, covered the

cost of new music and other operating expenses. In late 1990 membership passed 50, and at one time reached a high of 55.

Aside from the Choraleers themselves, smaller singing groups were formed over the years, that lent variety to the already splendid programs. Among these were THE NONETS; several years later renamed "THE CHORALETTES ", whose members were Eleanor Patten, Peggy Husmer, Maude Loveday, Ruth Foster, Marge Beers, Mary Pauline, Julie Farington, Margaret Orr, with Alberta Harmon as accompanist. Not to be outdone by the ladies, THE FOUR SHARPS organized, made up of Roy Lewis, Walter Lucas, Al Lake, and Carl Malotka, with Miriam Lucas as accompanist.

Later THE MEN'S OCTET was formed, directed by Q.D. himself. This group was made up of Alex Barr, Q.D. Miskell, Jim Ewing, Peter Phelps, Phil Trump, Gene Wilson, Botz Burda and Glenn Warfield. Miriam Lucas, and later Leta Rothrock were accompanists. This group booked engagements at other area parks, churches and social events. Their programs were spiced with tall tales and rib tickling stories, with lots of banter and horseplay among the members. They were always well received.

In 1991 with money raised from bake sales, sale of refreshments after couples golf, and donations, members constructed a set of risers and a band shell made out of plywood. This arrangement was cleverly designed by Wes Councill, and was constructed under the carport at the Phelps residence, after MANY hours of painstaking and painful labor. This arrangement was very effective, and it improved sound projection immensely, but over time the equipment became more difficult for the workers to set up and take down. As a result they were abandoned and were used to form the foundation for what is now the permanent stage at the lower level of the clubhouse. A simply suspended solid green curtain made of heavy fabric hung from the rafters of the ceiling now serves as a backdrop for the group. Folding aluminum risers were eventually purchased with the help of the Swiss Golf & Tennis Homeowner's Association. These are easily stored and set up as needed.

Periodic financial reports showed that the group was barely breaking even after paying their expenses and purchasing new music for programs. New music is expensive for a chorus of 55 persons, and it took careful management of the affairs of the group to balance need against available funds. Q.D. managed all this while selecting music, setting up programs and managing the chorus's affairs. As Director he wished to have new pieces for each performance and to have as little repetition of numbers as was possible. This meant that yearly music costs at times reached nearly \$1,000 and that kept finances tight to say the least.

In 1994 during the presidency of Len Kusch, the Board of Directors insisted that the Choraleers should pay for fire insurance on their equipment and music library. The Choraleers had been careful to make sure that all of their assets were titled to the Homeowner's Association in order to avoid the cost of insurance, which they could ill afford. When it was insisted that the group pay a share of fire insurance costs, Mr. Miskell resigned as Director in protest. This was a controversial event and disappointed most residents as well as the members, given the very high level of respect that everyone concerned had reached for the director. It was a given that each program under his direction was professionally and pleasingly arranged and presented. He was insistent that before a concert was given that the group was totally and fully prepared to sing each number at a quality level he was satisfied with. He was a taskmaster, and the high quality of his programs reflected that. The entire community was saddened to learn of his resignation, but the Board of Directors would not budge from their stand on insurance. Q.D took the position that their edict was unrealistic, unfair and contrary to the welfare and interests of the Choraleers as well as the community, and did not wish to be associated with the singing group under those circumstances. At the December 1995 Christmas concert of his successor, Jim Ewing, Q.D. was presented with a heartfelt and special plaque expressing the appreciation of the community for all he had done to organize and bring excellence to this popular singing group.

Jim Ewing continues to direct the Choraleers, and they continue to present concerts that are enjoyed by residents of the two communities. Admission to concerts are now charged at the rate of \$2.00 per person, and this appears to provide sufficient income for their needs, abetted by the use of older music in their library to minimize expenditures in that regard.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY NIGHTLY PATROL**

Swiss Golf & Tennis has had the distinction of having the first known community volunteer night time security and safety patrol, during the evening hours of 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. This patrol is in addition to the one the park owner sponsors with their paid security night time staff. Persons serving on this are not authorized to apprehend, but merely to report suspicious activity to the paid patrol, by means of a cell phone furnished for that purpose. Credit for this unique service to our homeowners is due to the original efforts of one man; Les Hurt, who lives on Eagle Drive. From the very beginning there were occasional home entries reported, but not to the extent that it spurred action on the part of residents. On the evening of July 23, 1996, eight homes were broken into which resulted in considerable losses, and in the case of Mr. Hurt and his wife, their losses amounted to over \$8,000. On the evening of January 27, 1998, our sister community, Hidden Golf Club, was the victim of five home burglaries, in addition

to one home in Swiss Golf & Tennis. On April 10, 1998, thirteen homes in Swiss Golf & Tennis were broken into and extensively burglarized of jewelry, money and family keepsakes.

During the time of these very upsetting home entries, it became evident that something had to be done to protect our community during those critical hours when residents were at Bingo or out to dinner. It was during that timeframe of early evening when all these home entries were being made. Les Hurt took it upon himself to call together a group of concerned residents to form a Safety and Security Committee. Members of the original committee were: Bob Baughman, Mike Berry, Derrick Bilbrough, Les Hurt, Dick Krause, Evans Miller, Chuck Nordhaus, Edie Parker, Tom Shirts, Marie Skelton, Brooks Stahl, and Tom and Carole York. The group was able to call upon the expertise of Tom and Mike both of whom had extensive police experience.

The group approached the Board of Directors of Swiss Golf & Tennis and the park owner to request funds to pay for a used golf cart that could be equipped to use in nightly patrols. CRF donated \$1,000 to the effort, and \$2,000 was given by the HOA board to cover the cost of the golf cart and other equipment deemed appropriate, such as a revolving yellow warning light, the cell phone, a spot light, along with minor supplies and a carrying case for the equipment. A 1992 Club Car cost \$2,862, but before it was delivered and equipped, members of the committee used their own cars or golf carts to immediately begin the nightly patrol. Each year the Board of Directors budgets funds to cover any and all expense of maintaining to patrol equipment.

In addition, it was felt that security was insufficient around the North and South gates. On April 18, 1997 Chairman Hurt prevailed upon CRF and the Board of Directors to provide the following:

1. Fencing at both sides of the gates to extend into the wetlands, as each gate could be easily circumvented without it.
2. Covert surveillance cameras on the roof of both guardhouses to film cars entering and leaving through the gates.
3. Increased wattage on all bulbs in common street lights from 60 to 100 watts.
4. Installation of 4 new street lights on the south end of Eagle Drive that was not lighted.
5. Provide parking space and electrical service for the battery charger to service the golf cart.

All of these requests were thankfully honored.

In March 1997, the committee conducted an open informational meeting in the clubhouse, to explain the proposed workings of the committee, to which all

residents were urged to attend. Suggestions to improve home security were discussed and explained, such as maintaining larger light bulbs on lamp posts, installation of motion lights in dark areas of homes, installation of dead bolts, window motion alarms and window locks, as well as the use of window warning decals.

The committee consulted and accepted advice from the Winter Haven Police Department, and the Polk County Sheriff's staff.

Two volunteer roster schedules have been developed, one for the winter months of November through April, and the other for summer months of May through October. 70 teams of two are in place for the former, and 35 teams for the latter months. Teams are benefited by a set of rules and patrol instructions, and have the responsibility to confirm the next evenings teams availability, and to deliver to the next team, the carrying case with all the supplies. For years patrol persons were responsible for listing any lamp post bulbs by street number that were not lighted, and reporting them to Bob Bobst who volunteered to replace those with bulbs furnished by the Homeowner's Association. In 2001, management requested that they be in charge of that function.

The Safety and Security Committee is proud of its accomplishments. Prior to its inception there had been a total of 39 home break-ins, burglaries, and stolen golf bags. Since that time, there HAVE BEEN NO SUCH INCIDENTS REPORTED.

The current committee is composed of Les Hurt, Mike Berry, Bob Bobst, Chuck Nordhaus, Carole York and Ted Young. Thanks to Les Hurt for providing background data from which this chapter was created.

### **LAKE HENRY COMPUTER USER GROUP, INC.**

In 1988 two men from Hidden Golf had an idea about getting people together who owned computers to exchange information. They each had just purchased a new computer, and did not know very much about their operation. These two gentlemen, Bill King and George Rutledge decided to work together to learn computer use, and quickly, six others joined their sessions during the first year. Their goal was to educate themselves and others who were interested in acquiring computer skills. Each year since that time, the group has grown in number. In the beginning, the group held meetings in the Hidden Golf clubhouse. As the discussion group expanded, there was not sufficient parking space there, so meetings were moved to the Swiss Golf and Tennis Clubhouse, where the group still meets for weekly classes and monthly meetings.

Bill King presided at these first meetings, during which time there was no formal structure. He continued to do so until the first election of officers took place in

1995. Bill initiated, and acted as editor and publisher of the group's original newsletter. Bill was "the club", according to original members, and was a knowledgeable and respected leader. Larry Frost assisted him by acting as the financial manager of the club's modest treasury.

In January 1995, the Group felt that there was a need to organize on a more formal basis. Lois Sheldon served as the first President, Dick Carlisle as Vice-president, Grace Gunn as Secretary and Larry Frost, Treasurer. In the year 1996 Dick Carlisle was elected President, Joe Conlon, Vice-president, Helen Kraft Secretary and Hal Kvittle, Treasurer. Membership grew to about 80 members at that point in time.

In 1997, Marie Phelps was elected President , and continues in that position at this time. (2002) Residents serving on the Board through the years are Lois Sheldon, Dick Carlisle, Joe Conlon, Larry Frost, (All SG&T) George Rutledge (HG), Helen Kraft, (SV) Grace Gunn, (SG&T) Hal Kvittle (HG) , Dick Krause, Gwen Cooper, (SG&T) Clyde Stocker (HG), Roy Preslar (HG) and Wayne (Rusty) Tapper (HG). The 2003-2003 Board of Directors includes Marie Phelps, Jack Carbutt, Roy Preslar, Marcel Bureau, John Cullis, Joyce Keller and Dick Krause.

Membership grew by leaps and bounds and by 2001 reached 208 persons. The original name of this group was Lake Henry Computer Club and that name remained until about 1997 when the club was requested to change its name (by the Florida Association of Computer User Groups, Inc.) to Lake Henry Computer User Group. The Group incorporated in April 2001, becoming Lake Henry Computer User Group, Inc. The group is a member of the Florida Association of Computer User Groups, Inc.

With the help of Stu and Pat Willson, a new set of bylaws was created and published at the same time the group was incorporated. LHCUG serves Swiss Golf & Tennis, Hidden Golf and accepts members from all parks bordering on Lake Henry.

An outstanding newsletter, Keystrokes, is published monthly and is available on the Internet. As mentioned above, Bill King was the first editor, followed by Grace Gunn in 1997. Joyce Keller is the current editor, having replaced Grace in 2001.

Meetings are held at 1 P.M. on the third Saturday from November through April. Representatives from software companies throughout the United States give presentations upon the request of the Program Chairman, Marcel Bureau. Originally, it was intended that the group would be active for a 12 month period but that was not possible, since membership is composed 70% by snowbirds. Consequently, the group is inactive May through September.

Lake Henry Computer User Group has a website authored by Betty Winsett, a former resident of Swiss Golf & Tennis. Go to <http://www.geocities.com/lhcug> to learn about the activities of this group.

In 2002 Lake Henry Computer User Group won a 3<sup>rd</sup> place Community Spirit Award from the Florida Association of Computer User Groups for their active participation in serving its members, as well as others in the community who are not members of the group. This award was based on basic computer classes facilitated by John Cullis and classes relative to sending and receiving e-mail messages, etc., as well as individual assistance given to non-members. It is the intent of the Board of Directors of this Computer Group to further the education of seniors in this computer era, and to help each to become computer literate.

### **PHYSICAL CHANGES MADE TO IMPROVE FACILITIES**

#### HOMEOWNERS OFFICE REMODELED

During the term of President Leonard Kusch in 1995, permission was granted to move the Homeowner's office from the small room at the rear of the clubhouse, to the larger room that for years had housed the laundry room. The washers and dryers were seldom used, and the number of machines available were not justified by their frequency of use. The office was very cramped, on the other hand. Moving the office to the front room permitted added storage, and more adequate room for the Director's table and copier.

Len Kusch was a plumber by profession so he and his helpers, who were Botz Burda, Paul Villa, Ted Kane, Bill Fleck, Sharon Miller, Ted and Joyce Keller and Ray Liebal, did all the work necessary to facilitate the move. These folks put in many hours of skilled labor, and it showed, with a beautiful new office, and an adequate laundry room, the end result.

#### STORAGE ROOM ADDED IN THE LOWER CLUBHOUSE FOYER

While Connie McNutt was still President in February 1998 she obtained permission to partition off about ten feet of the three sided foyer. All that was required was to install a wall out into the area to accommodate an entry door,

and to install shelves where party and holiday supplies could be stored. Items had been openly stored there for years and that presented an unsightly appearance. Lack of adequate storage also meant that many items had to be stored on the upper level, accessed by the pull down folding stairs which many persons disliked to navigate. In April 1998 Ray Liebal and Ray Miller designed and constructed the new wall and shelving. They did a great job. Now all those items are out of sight and more orderly stored in large plastic storage containers. This room is under the direction of Ann Pritchard, the Holiday by Streets Chairperson. In February 2002 a lock was placed on the door to prevent unauthorized use of equipment and supplies stored there.

#### LOWER STAGE MADE PERMANENT

For a number of years the Choraleer's risers had been stored in front of the lower picture windows in the clubhouse and were covered to form a "stage". When Wes Councill designed the risers he did so in such a manner that they could be nested and arranged to form the desired rectangle to make this possible. These units were obsolete when folding aluminum risers were purchased for the singing group. In 2000 the Board of Directors approved the expenditure of funds to improve this area and to provide for a safer and permanent stage. It was decided that they should be covered with half-inch plywood and permanently joined. The height of the unit was raised about five inches in the process for greater utility. Wrought iron railings were installed around the perimeter for safety, and larger and more easily navigated steps were constructed, and then new carpeting was installed to give it a most pleasing appearance. Wes Councill, Bob Seaborg , Gerry Sherman, and Ed Beers were the workers who provided labor to minimize the total cost of the project.

#### UPPER LEVEL RAILING HINGED

For years, when the upper level of the clubhouse was used for a platform for events, the railing had to be removed to facilitate its use. This railing was secured to the floor by hundreds of wing nuts, many of which were lost or became loose by repeated use. It was a chore to take the three units down and then to put them back up after an event. So, at the same time that the lower stage was improved, it was decided that the entire railing could be hinged by raising its standard, so that conversion could be made in seconds, and with little effort when it needed to be put down for use as above. Wes Councill again furnished the design, and the same workers who converted the lower stage, did the necessary work to make this conversion possible. What an improvement !

## **MEMORIAL HEADSTONE DEDICATED AT FLAGPOLE**

On Memorial Day, 2001, a permanent granite headstone marker, suitable inscribed as follows:

### **IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED FRIENDS WE CHERISHED THEIR FRIENDSHIP**

was dedicated at this site. The Choraleers presented selections of patriotic songs, and Homeowner President Peter Phelps gave a dedicatory prayer. The stone is set upon a raised flowerbed surrounding the flagpole. Plantings are changed as required and small American flags are imbedded in the area to add to its appearance. Peter Phelps designed the memorial stone and flowerbed. Ed Beers and Gerry Sherman assisted him in placing the stone and constructing the flowerbed.

### **SECOND STOVE INSTALLED IN KITCHEN**

In May 2001 , an outmoded stacked dual oven was replaced by a new residential type GE Spectra Ceramic Top electric stove, with self-cleaning 5 cubic foot oven. Ray Liebal generously donated his time to install the stove. The ovens were old, having been purchased by the Gorte's back in 1986 for use at their frequent pot luck suppers. They came from a restaurant that was being torn down to make room for the Albertson's store at the corner of Rte 17 and Havendale Boulevard. Over time they became worn out and the cost of repairing them exceeded their value and the cost of a new stove. This provides added oven space and burner space for events such as the Pancake Breakfasts, and the Spaghetti Suppers, not to mention the needs at State parties.

Originally it was intended that a commercial six burner, double oven gas stove would be placed where the original stove is located, with an exhaust hood and required safety equipment installed to provide professional type cooking and baking facilities. Eventually, management did not approve of this plan, because investigation into its installation revealed that considerable structural changes would be required which they were not willing to approve. So that plan was abandoned. The added cook stove was "a half a loaf" result.

### **ICE CUBE MAKING MACHINE REPLACED**

In 1996 the association purchased a 75 lb. Manitowak Model NO. 150 ice machine which was installed in the storage room behind the kitchen. Prior to that time whenever ice was needed at a function in the clubhouse, persons serving on committees were obliged to take pails and pans to the Pub at the restaurant

building and carry ice cubes over from there. This was a hardship, and required storage that was inefficient. The new machine solved that, but it was too small to provide the required amount of ice cubes for a function. Persons working on an event had to go outside the park to buy bagged ice, or carry it from their homes. That purchase was controversial, but in time turned out to be the proper thing to do.

In 1999 the Board of Directors decided to purchase a larger 500 lb. Crystal Tips Icemaker from Refrigerated Equipment Distributors in Tampa, after several competing bids had been received. The cost of this machine was \$2,329 and was installed in January, 2000. It makes more than adequate ice cubes for any function, and has sufficient storage permitting a policy that any member needing ice cubes for a private party was welcome to take all they need from the machine. Prior to this time, that was not permitted due to the limited capacity of the Manitowak machine.

#### NEW OFFICE COMPUTER PURCHASED

The budget approved by membership for the year 1998-1999 included \$5,000 for the purchase of a new office computer. On March 27, 1998 a IBM Activa Model 2124 computer was purchased from Staples in Winter Haven, at a cost of \$1,314.46, including an in-house three year service contract. It has expanded data processing capacity and serves the needs of the association in every respect.

A review of historical events and noteworthy items of interest would not be complete without the mention of some special organizations, events, fund raisers, and days of celebration. Accordingly it seems appropriate to include some of those which follow.

#### **THE ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT SALE AND BAZAAR**

Dottie Hibbler had been a sponsor and manager of this event for many years, so she was invited to present her version of the history of this very important fundraiser, which she did in December 2001.

" I first became involved with the White Elephant Sale in the fall of 1992. At this time, Greg Allen and Ida Petzoldt were in charge, and I only helped them. That

year they made \$600. I could see much bigger possibilities and since Greg wanted to give it up anyway, I volunteered to run it for 1993.

With the help of Marge Rawson and others, we had a successful sale , raising over \$1,600. In 1994 we did even better yet--over \$2,400. Then in 1955 we did our best ever with a profit of \$3,200. By then I was burned out and really needed a break.

In 1996 and 1997 Edie Parker and Mary Lou Walker took over. They did an excellent job, but I do not know what their results were. They did not want to do it again. It's a lot of work----when it is done right.

So, in 1998 I became the White Elephant Gal again. Sorry, but I didn't keep a record of the sales that year. In 1999 I was still in charge and our sales were around \$2,500. I do not have a record of the sales in 2000 but I was still the White Elephant Gal. Sales have dropped somewhat in the past few years and I believe it is because we no longer accept furniture. That's too bad, as that is where the BIG money comes from.

I finished off my 8th year in 2001 with sales of around \$2,300. Without the furniture, sales are naturally less.

I've had the same two cashiers, Ruth Sliney and Dottie Paul every year and my faithful side-kick, Marge Rawson has been there every year also. Other loyal helpers to set up and tear down are Ed and Marge Beers. Vic and Margie Andrews, Dick and Donna Rice, Tom and Carol York, and of course, Al Corbett with the use of his truck.

We have had the use of several resident's utility sheds for storage, such as Barb Simpson, Elaine Fallon and others, including my own and Rawson's, of course.

I'm a firm believer that " clean " will sell twice as fast as " dirty ". Therefore I always tried to not put soiled merchandise in our sale. I ran our dishwasher daily in October, did washer loads of items and hand washed many, many items before they were priced. I even ironed some things---and I hate to iron!!

I collected merchandise year round and stored it in designated sheds. Then the latter part of September and all of October Marge and I would drag it out of the sheds, clean it, price it, and repack it for the sale.

Maybe in the future I will be able to do it again, but right now I have too many other problems (at home) to get really involved. I am willing to help anyone set it up on the day before the sale if they would like ". End of quote

This sale has traditionally been one of the largest money makers for the Ways and Means Committee, and they are indebted for the loyalty and hard work Dottie and Marge have contributed to attain the level of success this affair has enjoyed.

### **YE OLDE SWISS SHOP**

A small shop that would stock items for sale with our park logo was the dream of Ted Kane. In 1992 he talked with Marie Skelton, Eve Petzoldt and Bob and Marilyn Gussett about starting a shop in the little room adjacent to the clubhouse upper lobby.

June Lex, a neighbor of Marie's, had a son, Roger, in the advertising business who offered to design a logo for them, and thus the alligator logo was born. June's son also offered to supply the store with tee shirts and sweat shirts, and allowed them to pay him as the items were sold. The Homeowners' Association refused to provide backing for the shop, so the group gladly accepted Roger's offer to help out.

A few years after opening, the shop committee realized they were spending too much on shipping costs, as everything was shipped from Wisconsin. They were able to locate a local supplier, and so that ended purchasing from Wisconsin.

The local supplier was able to offer a number of different items and the inventory expanded to the extent that the store had to move into the Pro Shop. The original stock was silk screen printed with our logo, but the new source was able to furnish embroidered logos, and these proved to be more popular with customers.

When Ted Kane passed away in 1995, Bill Trant offered to take over the sale of merchandise, but he became ill and was unable to continue. The Gussetts did the buying for the shop until 1997, when Ted Arens took over the operation, which continues to offer a varied selection of shirts, sweaters and jackets for sale in the Pro Shop.

When the Olde Swiss Shoppe moved into the Pro Shop. Marie Skelton opened a consignment shop in the space vacated, and continues to operate that. All profits from the sale of golf apparel are generously donated to the Homeowners' Association, as is a small percentage of sales from the consignment shop.

### **MY, HOW THE ALPENHORN HAS GROWN**

From a very modest, yet significant birth, back in 1987, our community newsletter has progressed to the point that it is one of the finest in the Polk County area. The writer has had occasion to view other newsletters of those parks belonging to HOME~~G~~ (Homeowner's Management Exchange Group) which meets several times a year at different parks on a rotating schedule. Ours, by far, is the most informative and well presented of any which have been circulated.

This all started back in 1987 when Dave Gorte, the first President of our Homeowners' Association, approached Iva May Robinson, and suggested that she, along with Russ and Loretta Millerin, who had had previous publishing experience, should make an attempt to create a community monthly newsletter. They took up the challenge, and with Ruth Johnson as Associate Editor, Iva May assumed editorship of the fledgling periodical. According to Iva May, the first issues were very simple editions of one page, which outlined the coming events within the community. We have not been able to locate copies of those early editions, and our library of issues does not start until January 1990. Those editions and those of 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 were donated to the Homeowner's by Grace Gunn. Neither have we been able to locate issues for 1996 and 1997, but a call will be issued to see if any resident may have those missing editions.

The first masthead pictured an Alpenhorn, which is a long powerful horn used by Swiss herdsmen. During the time Iva May Robinson was editor, it was her husband Bob who suggested the use of the alpenhorn, and upon its adoption, the name was then officially changed to THE ALPENHORN.

The second variation of the masthead appeared with the issue of December 1991, and it pictures three gentlemen and one lady. A couple was dancing and the two other men played an alpenhorn and a trumpet. Editions continued with that masthead until April 1993. After April 1993, the masthead was changed to the picture of the clubhouse taken from the 18th green and continues to be used at this time.

By 1990 the newsletter had expanded to two full 8½ by 14-inch sheets printed on both sides, as the monthly calendar of events was added, along with the listing of birthdays and anniversaries. Iva May believes she and Ruth continued publishing the Alpenhorn until January 1992, when Gwen Cooper took over as the editor, with Grace Gunn as assistant editor. They continued until September 1996, when Jack Geyer became editor, under the tutelage of Gwen Cooper who was preparing to move out of the park for family reasons. She continued to assist Jack throughout most of 1998.

The four page format continued until January 1993, when pages were changed to the usual 8 ½ by 11-inch size. During that year editions ranged from 6 to 8 to 10 pages. This style, with professional printers engaged for more attractive print, continues to this time, with 600 copies printed each month.

In early 1999, Marie Phelps and Marilyn Gussett worked with Jack Geyer as proofreaders. Jack continued as editor until April 2000. By that time he had moved out of the park and it became more and more difficult for him to act as editor while living in downtown Winter Haven. We knew we needed to have an editor within the park. Bob and Marilyn Gussett stated that they would develop the pages for Birthdays/Anniversaries, the Calendar and Commercial Ads if Marie would develop the rest of the news pages. This team worked well together. Marie became editor in December 2000. Bob and Marilyn continued to assist with the four pages mentioned above until Bob's untimely death in the summer of 2001. At this time, Marilyn prints the calendar, birthdays and anniversary pages for the publication. When Marie Phelps became editor, her husband, Peter, became copy editor and assists her in composing articles, assist with set-up and proof reading. Current issues usually contain 12 pages and are printed by Progressive Printers of Winter Haven.

### **SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF YORE**

February 1988	First February Follies
April 1990	First Easter Sunrise Service Lake Henry Golf Association formed Treasurer reports cash reserves of \$5,739.37
July 1990	CRF closes restaurant
December 1990	Smoking banned in clubhouse
February 1991	Peter Phelps loses run-off election to George Fulton For HOA Directorship
September 1991	Lee Thome took over as coffee M.C. from Ed Young
October 1991	Yard Trash pick-up begun on separate day
November 1991	Bud Clark resigns, mid term, as President of HOA Phil Trump succeeds him as former V-P
December 1991	Greg Allen starts first " Sports Corner " in

## Alpenhorn

- February 1992 Ed Mueller steps down as FMO park rep, Peter Phelps takes over.
- April 1992 Polk County initiates \$38 fire tax. Matter mediated by Statutory Committee, Stu Willson, Chairman
- June 1992 First advertisements accepted in Alpenhorn in order to offset printing costs.
- July 1992 Swiss Golf & Tennis logo developed, thanks to Ted Kane; first shirts with logo on sale, at newly opened "Ye Ole Swiss Shoppe".
- Use of PIN numbers and electronic gate openers initiated. Closed gates recommended 24 hours a day.
- October 1992 Jim and Lee Thome takes over " Holiday by Streets " And reorganizes purposes and dates permitted.
- March 1993 Grey Pipe issue surfaces to provide replacement plumbing in homes with leaks. Attorney Carol Crawford selected to represent homeowners in suit.
- May 1993 First call by Mary Lou Walker for volunteers to help with gymnastics competition at Grenelefe
- November 1993 Jean Kaas takes over 'Holiday by Streets" committee.
- November 1993 Jean Kaas publishes " What is Lucerne Park?"
- November 1995 FMO Prospectus Litigation Fund drive in full swing. Final results show Swiss Golf & Tennis raised the Most \$\$ of any community in Florida---\$3,200.00. FMO preserved the sanctity of our prospectuses.
- Summer 1997 Security fencing installed at both gates to greatly Improve security
- September 1997 Celebration of Life committee established
- April 1998 HOA reincorporated to conform to Florida Statute 723

October 1998	New association bylaws adopted to conform with Florida Statute 723
February 1999	Lake Henry Harmonica Club organized
April 1999	Al Corbett becomes new resident park manager
October 1999	Wednesday yard trash pick up started, no more green tags.
January 2000	CRF initiates program to substantially and Unreasonably increase lot rents upon resale.
March 2000	CRF starts huge resale lot rent increases of 21%. <u>C</u> oncerned <u>C</u> entury <u>C</u> ommunities group formed to seek legal advice to counteract raises.
August 2000	Golf course improvements include re-sodding of 13 greens, and three tees. Pond on #6 North deepened and reduced 50% in size.
September 2000	Donna and Ernie Larimer take over restaurant
April 2001	Park Purchase survey here and in Hidden Golf reveals that 66% of residents are opposed to it being considered by the Boards of Directors.
June 2001	Bylaws altered to permit only three Directors Informational Meetings a year, due to lack of attendance.
July 2001	Survey reveals that 58% of homeowners are away for several months or entire summer.
December 2001	CRF announces increases of golf fees of 44%. Many golfers threaten to not renew memberships in protest. Request for relief by Golf Association rejected by CRF

### **SPECIAL DAYS OF CELEBRATION**

Over the years, a number of the states have organized special days for their separate golf events, award ceremonies and dinner afterwards. These now include New York State Day, Pennsylvania Day, Ohio Day, Wisconsin Day,

Michigan Day, and Indiana Day. These events are well attended and give opportunity for residents to meet and socialize with folks from their home state, many of which they might not otherwise know, if it were not for these events.

There are two other special and unique "Days", that deserve particular mention, and these are the GREENVIEW OPEN AND SOCIAL DAY, THE CANADIAN INVITATIONAL, and CENTURY LANE-CENTURY DRIVE SOCIAL DAY. In the past there was also a NEW ENGLAND DAY, but that has not been held since 2000.

The first GREENVIEW GOLF DAY was held February 22, 1992. It was conceived as a private party for couples living on the end circle of Greenview Drive and several of their best friends, hosted and organized by Marie and Peter Phelps. A similar event was also held in February of 1993. Those first two years saw the following couples invited to participate:

Pat and Stu Willson	Red and Evie O'Connell
Jack and Gen Kurth	Jim and Eileen Feeney
John and Marilyn Simmons	Harry and Millie Londo
Alex and Jean Kowalewski	Chuck and Estelle Baronowski
John and Dottie McDonald	Peter and Marie Phelps

They played the South course twice, and had several awards of play, which were presented later in the evening, during the cocktail hour, which was hosted by Peter and Marie. Prizes were also donated by Peter and Marie, and were awarded for the longest drive (not in the water) on # 8, the longest putt on # 5, closest to the pin for ladies on # 2, and closest to the pin for men on # 9. Each couple was assigned (with their permission) a covered dish to bring to the Phelps home, for dinner. At the conclusion of the cocktail hour and presentation of some really weird prizes, dinner was served, buffet style. Every participant received a gift of some kind, many of which were humorous and unusual.

For the event in 1994, it was decided to add more couples to the group, and since it was too large to be accommodated in the Phelps residence, festivities following golf were moved to the restaurant.

Those participating that year were the same as the original couples, except that the Willson's were unable to attend, so 7 more couples were added to the roster. They were:

Marcel and Jeannine Bureau	Jack and Liz Weisen
Fred and Mary Guerrini	Ed and Aggie Klee
Ian and Reta MacKenzie	Larry Dubois/Mary Carmen
Bob Duckworth/Rita Sessions	

Thus the group then consisted of 16 couples, and it was re-named THE GREENVIEW INVITATIONAL.

Prior to playing golf that year, each couple decorated their golf carts, resplendent with GREENVIEW flags made by Marilyn Simmons, and held a parade complete with horns, drums and sirens which was routed throughout several main streets of the community. Evie O'Connell had brilliant green GREENVIEW golf hats printed at her son's business, for the men, and dainty green and white visors for the ladies. Marie furnished all the ladies with golf socks, which had been suitably decorated with green lace. All in all, this was an eye-catching group, and attracted a great deal of attention, some of which was not viewed favorably by several Greenview residents. As a consequence, the parade was not held again.

The 1994 celebration, which became the talk of the community, resulted in publicity that influenced other Greenview residents to play in the next golfing day. So, in 1995 participation was opened up to all Greenview residents, and the event was again re-named THE GREENVIEW OPEN, which it remains to this day. In 1995 the celebration was opened to non-golfers as well, who joined all others for the social hour and dinner. Tee times have since been reserved on the regular courses, with the South course no longer used. Peter and Marie turned over the organizing of the event to a committee composed of three couples with the intention that chairmanship of future events would be in the hands of three couples on a rotating basis.

THE GREENVIEW OPEN and SOCIAL DAY has been held every year since its origination, and has certainly proved to be a popular and fun filled day for everyone involved.

### THE CANADIAN INVITATIONAL

Another special day of celebration of long standing in our community is The Canadian Invitational day of golf and sociability. As the name implies, this day is reserved for participation for only those homeowners who are Canadians.

According to Jack Moffat, who was the person that started the whole thing, the first special day for our northern friends was in 1989, with only two couples participating. The name given was intended to be a spoof of other golf events in which many participate. Little did he realize that it would one day evolve into the well-attended event that it has become.

It is also interesting to note that when the group decided to ask all Canadians to participate, Jack, and his wife Roma, went around the community one evening to note all cars that had Canadian license plates. The house numbers were noted and fliers were distributed to each of those homes extending a general invitation to join the group.

How forward looking Jack was, and how fortunate that he has kept records of the winners of the golf event ever since its beginning. This is so noteworthy and interesting that it seems appropriate that those records be repeated here.

YEAR	COUPLES	ALTERNATE STROKE
1989	Jean Murray & Jack Moffat	
1990	Helen MacInnis & John Cheadle	
1991	TIE-Jean Cheadle & Jack Moffat, Jeannine Bureau/John Cheadle	
1992	Jeannine Bureau & John Cheadle	
1993	Margie Andrews & Lorne MacInnis	
1994	Lee Souchereau & Don Nugent	
1995	Marilyn Simmons & Keith McLean	
1996	Jean Cheadle & Jack Moffat	
1997	Marilyn Simmons & Al Teather	
1998	Marilyn Simmons & John Whiteside	
1999	Josie Van Moorsel & John Cullis	
2000	Lee Souchereau & Al Teather	

	COUPLES	SCRAMBLE
2001	Ricky Van Moorsel, Al Penner, & Lorne MacInnis	
2002	Pearl MacInnis, John Cullis, Norm Harris & Tom Mills	

It should be noted that from 1989 through 1998, the coordinators of the day were Jack and Roma Moffat. Cliff and Merribe Chapin handled the duties in 1999 and 2000, while John and Jean Cullis were in charge for 2001 and 2002.

According to Jack Moffat, the group has always gathered at the community restaurant for their social hour, award presentations and dinner in the early evening. During the time that Ted Dascoli ran the restaurant, he did not want to cater for over 40 diners, so the group had to confine their number to that level. For the past two years, they have been able to invite golfers and non-golfers, and at the last celebration in 2002 there were 56 golfers and 9 non-golfers.

That represents quite a notable progression from the first year with 4 people, to what they accommodate now.

#### CENTURY LANE–CENTURY DRIVE ANNUAL SOCIAL DAY

Back in 1991, Ed Young, who for years was the M.C. at the Monday morning coffee hours, and Betty Liston put their heads together and decided that there should be more sociability among the residents of Century Lane and Century Drive. They came up with a plan whereby once in the spring and once in the fall, invitations for a party should be sent out to all residents of these streets. It was held thusly for the first two years, and then it was decided to make it just an annual affair, to be held in March of each year. It has been held continuously since then.

The format of the gathering was to ask each household that was interested in attending to volunteer to bring one of the following dishes to pass: salad, meat dish, vegetable dish, and dessert. Thus it became a good old-fashioned potluck dinner which was preceded by a social hour from 3:00 P.M. until dinnertime at 4:30 P.M. According to Betty, there has never been a problem with volunteers to bring food, and she adds that it is always as delicious as it is plentiful.

Betty claims that many lasting friendships have been forged through participation in these social events, and especially in the beginning when most people were newly settled here, and were anxious to make new friends. She has been the chairman of all the events over the years because, well, she likes parties. Her friends will also tell you that she is an excellent organizer, and always has had the assistance of her energetic and supportive husband, Joe.

In the beginning in 1991, around 90 people would be in attendance, but in the later years, 60 or so now participate. To the credit of Betty and her annual committees, they take the trouble to find renters on the two streets in order to invite them as well. The social hour is held on the lower level of the clubhouse, and nearly every year some kind of homegrown talent is enlisted to provide entertainment. Prominent among which have been Kay Lake with one of her famous travelogues, the talented Mike Lotko playing his banjo or Nancy Jackson and her entertaining harmonica players.

#### NEW ENGLAND DAY

Homeowners from the New England states were not as plentiful as other states, so no particular state in that area ever had a party by itself. But in 1996 Edwin

and Carol Wood from Hidden Golf signed up a number of New Englanders from their park to have a day of their own. By word of mouth others from Swiss Golf & Tennis were invited, and a good crowd gathered that first year. In anticipation of it becoming a heavily attended event it was decided to hold it the next year at Swiss Golf & Tennis. Wil and Claire Thibodeau volunteered to make the clam chowder, which was the main staple of the meal they had. Those who signed up to attend were asked to bring desserts, salads, crackers and pastries. Everyone raved about the delicious chowder that Claire and Wil prepared, and there was always plenty of food to enjoy, typical of such events.

It was said, however, that a problem developed when the men wanted to partake of the desserts before the meal was served and in spite of the committee members trying to hide them in the library, some of the men felt challenged to subvert the order of courses.

Ray Pelikan furnished music for the gathering, and much fun was had singing familiar songs, and telling tall tales.

As time went on, the committee of Ray and Hedy Boucher, Wil and Claire, Erich and Terry Pavel, Milt and Gretchen Bailey and Edwin and Carol tired of doing all the work, as folks just did not step up and volunteer to assist, or become committee members. It was recalled how hard each of them worked, especially Claire and Wil, and the others as kitchen help, and the Bailey's who stayed to the very last cleaning up and running the vacuum cleaners over the clubhouse carpeting.

The last party was held in 2000, and it does not seem that there is sufficient interest to resume having New England Days, and what a shame that is.

### **CENTURY COMMUNITIES CHRONICLE**

As early as 1984 CRF published a semi-annual mini-magazine which contained their advertisements, and news of the various communities they owned at that time. These publications featured a religious article written by Rev. Melvin Maxwell, father of Larry Maxwell; a gardening article by Joe Freeman, Chief Hortoculturalist at Cypress Gardens; favorite recipes and cooking hints. It also contained Financial Affairs articles written by local bankers or investment houses; news of the periodic inter-park social events promoted by their social director, "Susie Social", a.k.a. as Susie Mieras, who had the title of CRF Community Affairs Coordinator. Also featured were results of various sporting competitions among

the parks, such as bowling, shuffle board, horseshoes, and golf. Such events were held at several parks, and when ours became active, many of them were held here. Susie was later to devote herself to Four Lakes when that park was started, once the other parks were filled, and she operated there for several years as their exclusive social organizer until CRF opened Lake Ashton.

An advisory board for the above publication, and events sponsored by CRF had a member from each of the parks they owned then. Early representatives on this board were Howard Collier, Dorothy Ludwig and Adeline Stephen. The editor was Twana Moats, sister of Ray Moats. The publication had an editorial board and the early representative on that from Swiss Golf & Tennis was Grace Gunn.

At one time they owned 29 communities, and from what we know, this was the peak number owned. Many have since been sold as of 2001. The names of these were Anglers Cove and Anglers Cove West in Lakeland. Anglers Green in Mulberry, Deer Creek Resort in Davenport, Four Lakes, Hidden Cove, Hidden Cove West, Hidden Cove East, Hidden Golf Club, Swiss Village, Swiss Golf & Tennis, all in Winter Haven. Also, Haselton Village in Eustis, Holiday Resort in Taveres, Island Lakes in Merritt Island, Lakeside Terrace in Fruitland, Meadowbrook in Lakeland, Oak Hammock in Bartow, Parkwood Limited, Parkwood Manor and Parkwood Village all in Wildwood. Also Plantation Landings in Haines City, Saddle Oak Club in Ocala, Sun Key Village in Palmetto, Swan Lake in Titusville, Sweetwater West in Haines City, Tower Lakes in Lake Wales, Westside Ridge in Aurburndale, and Whisper Lake and Crystal Lake in Sebring.

Through the years, others were added or sold. Also owned at one time were Beacon Terrace in Lakeland, Golden Lakes and Country Meadows in Plant City and Pine Island Cove in St. James City.

In years past CRF provided services such as Century Insurance Services, Century Homes, Century First Mortgage Corporation, Century Group Travel Service, all of which were distinct profit centers, and were used to capture business from their captive audiences. Their secondary function, of course, was to use these services as sales tools with prospective lot renters.

These publications also contained what were called "Century Communities Affairs" programs. A varied menu of social events was sponsored. Examples are: Mark II Theatre in Orlando, trips to Washington, D.C., Nashville, Savannah, Key West, an Alaska Cruise, as well as football games and horse racing events in Tampa. Their social events included programs featuring Julius La Rosa, Anita Bryant, The Ink Spots, Edie Adams, and Patty Andrews. It appears that no expense was spared in promoting these events, as they were partly paid for by CRF, as were awards and refreshments at the various sporting events and social days.

In the August 1986 issue, Howard Collier had an article published in which he said that the social life in Swiss Golf & Tennis actually began on January 15, 1986, when 30 residents gathered at the clubhouse for their first Wednesday morning coffee hour. Each brought their own coffee and baked goods. In April of that year, residents started weekly Friday night potluck suppers, which continued for some time before it was discontinued because of the growth of the park. March 1986 saw the first Century Golf Tournament hosted here. That fall Adeline Stephen became activity coordinator for clubhouse social events. It is interesting to note that coffee hours and potluck suppers were hosted by alternating couples.

It was reported that Bud Van Blarcum started the first men's golf league, and that Doris Wollenburg set up the first women's golf league. Also, that year, homeowners selected Meals on Wheels as their prime charity and the Friday collection of newspapers, cans and bottles was initiated to assist that worthy cause. Howard mentioned that residents were overjoyed with the management style of Resident Manager Bob Johnson, as he oversaw the expansion of the marina, clubhouse and restaurant facilities.

A collage of clippings from Century Communities Chronicle issues follows: