



Club Harbor Designated as State Historical Landmark

BY EMMY HENSCHEL

PIPE — Americana is coming alive again at Club Harbor, 11 miles north of Fond du Lac on Highway 151, which recently was designated as a Wisconsin Historical Landmark.

Pink paint covering Brandenburg's club Harbor supper club may in the future be sandblasted to restore the former three-story hotel to its original exterior of gray stone, which may have been quarried near Peebles.

Owners Ed and Toni Brandenburg hosted a press party Monday night and revealed for the first time historical plaques which had been placed in the barroom. Dinner was served in the perch dining room which was added about 12 years ago. Included were cream of asparagus soup, stuffed pork chops, corn fritters, salad, apple mousse, key lime pie, wine and coffee. Mrs. Brandenburg does all her own cooking and baking.

When Club Harbor, originally known as Fuhrman's Hotel, was operating as a stage coach stop and inn, lunch was 10 cents with a large beer and dinner was 25 cents with a large beer. Meat was preserved in a large crock covered with lard. There was an ice cream parlor for the ladies.

Club Harbor was built in 1846 by Henry Fuhrman as a stage coach stop and inn on Military Road. The stage ran from Green Bay to Taycheedah. The second floor has nine rooms which at one time featured a dance hall and presently contains a five-room apartment for the Brandenburg family. The third floor has 13 rooms which include a bridal suite and small rooms used by the coach drivers at that time. Pipe was known as Calumet Harbor.

Al Capone once stopped there, as did Union Troops who were going from Sheboygan to Fort Fond du Lac to pick up barges. Room and board was \$2 per week in the early days.

The inn was patronized by both freight haulers and excursion beats, according to a paperback book titled, "The History of Fond du Lac County as Told by Its Place Names," by Ruth Shaw Worthing, historian and genealogist for the Fond du Lac County Historical Society. The book was recently published after 10 years of research and written, Mrs. Shaw was at the party. Ray Thornton of Fond du Lac illustrated the book and also reproduced a photographic copy of an advertising poster, was also present with his wife. Photographer Thornton has a collection of 3,000 old photos. Guitars were played Monday night by "Dutch" Holland and his son, Joe, 18, part of a musical family which operates The Village Bar and Restaurant at Calumetville. Other guests were John Kueny, director of the Oshkosh Public Museum, with his wife, Madam K., who operates The Pestil, a school of culinary art and

Pioneer Road near Galloway House in Fond du Lac; Emmy Henschel, Chilton Times-Journal Hazel Thiel, Sheboygan Press, Appleton Post Crescent and Milwaukee Sentinel; Mr. and Mrs. Will Daren of Station KFIZ, Fond du Lac; Tom Reme of Fond du Lac, who writes for Rural Farmer magazine and the New York Times; June Kelly, Waupun Leader News, and Godfrey Neumann; David Murray, Kiel Tri-County Record; Anita Juris, Today's View Editor of the Fond du Lac Reporter; and Catherine Lewis, Fond du Lac, a free lance writer.

Costumes in Colonial style to be used on weekends and as business picks up were made by the Brandenburg's daughter, Jaynee, Mrs. Eugene Zimdars of Fond du Lac. The Brandenburg family includes three daughters, one son, two sons-in-law and one future son-in-law who tend bar and three grandchildren. Serving is from 11 a.m. until closing daily except on Tuesdays when Club Harbor is closed.

The building has been changed very little. The original door latch, a bar door type latch made by a man named Schmilkerfer from Green Bay, is still in use. A hall and staircase which were in the middle of the present barroom were taken out in 1941. The Wally Manderscheids, owners of the building at that time, installed indoor toilets. In the early days there were outdoor toilets, and a "trough" (urinal) for men accessible from inside. Double doors facing west have been preserved on the interior behind the piano, where animals were brought inside when weather was poor.

The building is supported on hand hewn Walnut beams with wood pegs and square nails. Former owner Tom Brown has established residence in Florida. There is a natural spring on the east side of the building, which runs through the basement when the water is high.

A notice on manners is posted in the dining room. Ed Brandenburg did the painting, and authentic decorations such as horse collars and lanterns decorate the barroom, including a large tree stump decoration.

The plaques tell how the Indians brought barrels of fish to trade for bacon; the area boasted the largest bank "from here to New York"; how a local man ran a still for Al Capone's gang; how people had never seen rats and did not kill them, later being overrun by rats coming in and an epidemic followed.