



**Paul Beachnau**

## Chamber organizes after World War II

**A**lthough Gaylord's businessmen organized the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce in 1940, it was five years later, when the war was over, before it elected a president.

Members elected businessman Louis Dittmer as their first president in 1945.

It was another four years before the chamber appointed an executive manager, and the job went to Mitch Gordon.

Gordon headed the organiza-

tion a single year, in 1949, then turned it over to Doug Nash, who governed the agency until 1956.

It was during Nash's administration the chamber constructed a 50 foot x 26 foot log structure on the corner of Main and South Otsego avenues. The building was dedicated in 1948.

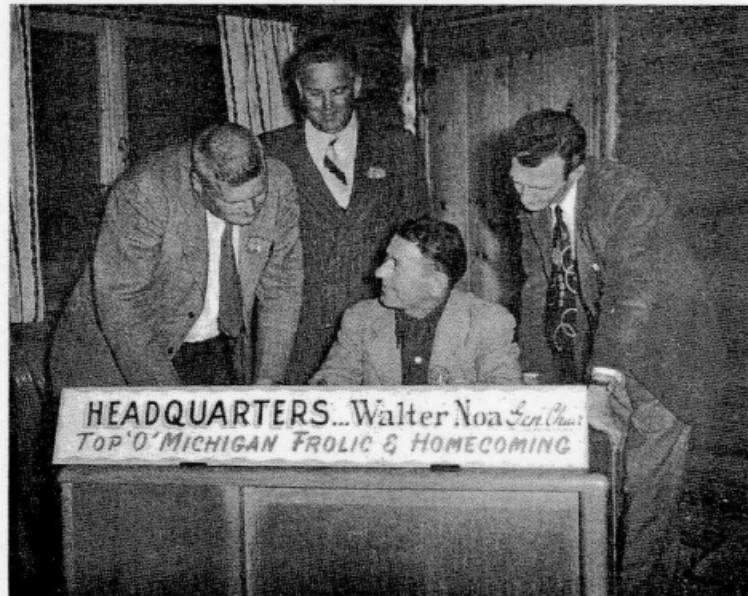
The chamber building featured a fireplace of Onaway stone, asphalt tile floors, a large general office for consultations, and rest rooms. Another office in the building became home to the Otsego County agricultural agent.

## Beachnau 5 years fruitful

**W**hat today has become known as the Gaylord Golf Mecca and golf mania rose on the horizon during the administration of former Gaylord / Otsego County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Paul Beachnau.

Beachnau succeeded Nancy Morgridge as manager in 1985, and relinquished his title to Bill Wishart last year after the chamber board decided to split some of the chamber responsibilities and formed the Gaylord Area Tourism and Convention Bureau.

Beachnau now heads that bureau.



**Early day soldiers of the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce included (l-r) C.O. Reed, Herald Times Editor; Ed Strolle, former chamber president; Walter Noa; and Mitch Gordon, former executive manager of the chamber.**

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