

Otsego Lake State Park

The introduction of the moving assembly line mass produced the automobile during the early part of our century, and created the desires and the opportunity for people to own and drive a car. This in turn brought pressure on both state and federal governments for more and better roads and began to change the lives of the American people.

People wanted to drive out of the cities for family recreation areas or to virgin fishing and hunting spots. The far away places beckoned to them and the country began to open up to all.

The Michigan Conservation Department sensed this demand for public camping areas but funds to acquire them were simply non-existent. Suitable water front land was being bought up by individuals and groups everywhere. The Conservation Department, alarmed over the situation, asked business groups in each county to help them finance the purchase of recreation parks for the public.

Many people in Gaylord and Otsego County decided to band together and lend a hand to the Conservation Department for a camping park in Otsego County. They formed a committee and elected Sanford W. Buck, cashier of the Gaylord State Savings Bank, to act as a Trustee in the purchase of a public recreation site.

During the year 1920 a suitable and acceptable site was chosen in Section 5, Otsego Lake Township, on the east shore of Otsego Lake. This was purchased by these farsighted local people and donated to the State of Michigan and was the start of our now overcrowded Otsego Lake State Park. The beauty of this park and Otsego Lake will remain a memory to these people only if the fight against pollution can be won.

The following from the records in the Registrar of Deeds Office in the Court House in Gaylord will give you history of the Otsego Lake State Park:

NELS MIHELSON, WIDOWER, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FORMERLY OF
GRAYLING VILLAGE, MICHIGAN AND ESBORN HANSON & LILLIAN
HANSON, HIS WIFE, OF GRAYLING VILLAGE

TO

SANFORD W. BUCK, TRUSTEE OF GAYLORD VILLAGE, MICHIGAN

WARRANTY DEED

DATED MARCH 10, 1921

ACKNOWLEDGED, MARCH 10, 1921

CONSIDERATION \$2,700.00

RECORDED APRIL 22, 1921

LIBER 33, DEEDS PAGE 38

SANFORD W. BUCK, TRUSTEE OF GAYLORD VILLAGE, MICHIGAN
TO

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DATED OCTOBER 18, 1922

ACKNOWLEDGED, OCTOBER 18, 1922

RECORDED NOVEMBER 3, 1922

LIBER 33, DEEDS PAGE 357

The following additional land was acquired and added to the Otsego Lake State Park:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY
OF AGRICULTURE BY GROVER B. HILL, ACTING SECRETARY

TO

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DATED APRIL 26, 1940

ACKNOWLEDGED APRIL 26, 1940

RECORDED SEPTEMBER 7, 1940

LIBER 40, DEEDS PAGE 566

CONSIDERATION A CONVEYANCE TO STATE OF MICHIGAN BY AND
THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION OF APPROXIMATELY 17
ACRES OF LAND IN GOGEBIC AND ONTONOGAN COUNTIES, MICHIGAN