

2002

May 20 To June 2 Len, Carolyn, John Sara

Electric meter read - 11.58

High winds in late April damaged new boat (it was leaning against a tree, upright) and so the TV antenna was damaged.

May 22 new electric circuit breaker box installed by David Newcomb of Central Lake. 220 wiring is in for hot water tank and future electric stove. Unknown amount of propane remains.

May 23 new 40 gal hot water tank purchased at True Value in Manvelona at \$59.99, total cost with tax + fittings to install \$99.23 Jim Shereiff installed it on 5/28 in exchange for old propane ~~water heater~~.

New shingles (Colonial Slate) put on between Thur. 5/23 + Wed 5/29 many rain delays, alot of unwanted water in cottage, only minor mishaps to furniture. The place was still a total mess, no tar paper was put down under original roof so alot of stuff came through the cracks. It took us 2 days to get it back in order. The TV antenna was taken down it had caused damage to the roof + chimney.

Before they came to remove dumpster, we raked + cleaned up around cottage, filled it to the brim with pine needles + pine cones.

The new shingles really look nice. The new futon was delivered in April, it is a sturdy one and comfortable to sit on.

New wall lamps are in the Twin bedroom, they go on + off with a touch.

What a week here at the cottage. The place was in shambles inside during the roofing process. Between the water and debris, no area and surface escaped dirt. A BIG effort on Mom + Dad's part to cover, clean, and dry out the place when the roof was complete makes the place look beautiful. Sara + I did some raking of pine needles around the yard to take

advantage of the dumpster that was left behind. The bottle collection in the garage rafters were pitched (40+ bottles). Sorry to anybody that had sentimental value behind the consumption from these bottles (if we can remember them) — So, we'll just have to start fresh.

I was unable to put up the deck this time up due to the very cold water temp. Ice-out was less than a month from now. Sara and I found $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen large white morel mushrooms in the woods this week. We

are up here in the ideal conditions during their short season. Dad and I each mowed the lawn to get it under control. The original mower ran good and starts when you remove the air cleaner, however, the front wheel fell off as I finished, and could not fix it now.

The rowboat was found missing earlier in the season and soon found hung up on a white pine tree off the ground. Apparently blown off by a storm from the swim raft and dented the side near the transom. I had winterized the speedboat motor & lube change last season, but ran out of time to give the fiberglass a good clean and scrub. Any young muscles are welcome to buff her up before landing. I took my 30 HP Merc outboard over to the house in C.L. to reduce some clutter in the boathouse. Everyone spent a lot of time cleaning the inside to bring the cottage up to comfort range. The new futon looks good in the living room and should be comfortable to sleep on. Sara & I are looking forward to ~~see~~ seeing and talking to anyone during the summer or in the near future.

John & Sara

P.S. NEW Electric Water Heater!!! Make sure ~~the~~ ^{tank} is full before turning on heater in the new circuit breaker box (Plug pump in before and test at any hot water faucet.)

2002

June 23, 2002 - July 1, 2002 (Haway and Hana)
We arrived at 8:00 PM after a peaceful journey of 566 miles from. We left there at 1:00 AM. It rained as we stepped out of the car. Weather forecasts said crappy weather all week. Wrong. It was beautiful and hot all week - up to 92°.

Haway and I put up the dock, and he put out the swim float. I taught Haway to drive our stick-shift Escort. We had camp fire, and cleaned up the beach a little. We didn't use any boats.

Carolyn and Ben came on Tuesday and Ben and I worked together installing new cranks on the kitchen windows. They came over for dinner last night and we were over there one night. It was really nice. (There is a little (unlaquered) plaque to commemorate this.)

I mowed the very tall grass with the Toro. It took a couple days because I had trouble with the right front wheel buckling under, and I had to get a new belt from car clinic in C.R. I think I got the wheel fixed.

The week was so pleasant and relaxing, that it seemed like 2 weeks. I hope it is as nice for everybody.

It's been an... interesting getaway this time. Only my father and I came up, so needless to say things were much more quiet than usual. We've only stayed a week, but it's seemed significantly longer. Plenty of the 'regular' stuff - swimming, fires, and bicycling. It's good to have something dependable such as this to retreat to annually. My father and I have had solid opportunity to REALLY bond, we've both unwinded and will return with a fresh wind. Well, the fresh wind may only last a week or so but nonetheless it's been great. Enjoy your time this year, everyone.

Pull plugs of touch lamps when you leave, if the electricity goes off, when it comes back on the lights come on dim.

Copy + Harvey left Mon. July 1st. It was good to see them.

Len, Carolyn + John July 1st to the 5th

Len painted front of cottage (we found a gal. of paint from the original paint job). He also painted white trim on screens of porch, cleaned the screen, repaired and painted porch door. I took out all the screens in the cottage + cleaned them, also washed all windows inside + out, all the window hardware was lubricated (they work alot easier) I trimmed bushes at mailbox, also cut down very sorry looking bushes in front of cottage, if they grow back we'll keep them trimmed low, if not we'll replace them. I organized blanket + pillow cupboard in double bedroom, I used lower 2 drawers of chest for overflow, electric blanket, extra bed pads, etc. Didn't have time to tackle sheets in drawers of twin bedroom. The electronic TV rabbit ears, Copy bought at Radio Shack work just as well if not better than the old antenna. Copy fixed the leaks in the little washing machine, he said it works well. Copy also helped Len replace the window cranks, they had a hell of a time getting the windows back in the frame. They did + they work great!

We left the gal. of white trim paint, if someone gets the urge to paint trim around side + back windows

Jan, Cliff, Sam + Dan arrived Friday July 5th

Janet Cliff Sam + Danny July 5 - 13th

I must say it was one of the best weeks for weather we have ever had. We just missed the heat wave. The days were in the 80's + the nights went down to the 50-60's (heavenly for us Florida Folks). We spent most of our days down by the lake.

Sammy + Danny swam across ~~the~~ the lake with me coaching from the row boat. They started from the other side of the lake after

jumping of sail boat - leaving Cliff in ~~the~~ no wind.
Cliff then caught a good gust & left us
to swim! The cool night where perfect for
bon fires - (no bugs!) Most of our meals where
Hot dogs & marshmallows. We cleared the
beach of the weeds & mowed the grass.
The cottage was so clean. Mom cleaned
~~all the~~ all the screens & you can
really see out of them! The best of the
best is to be able to open the kitchen windows.
The cottage really is looking good. the
roof & the hot water heater sure make
a difference. I did not put up the
hummingbird feeder because I did not
want to attract the black ants. We really
missed it. There was no ducks until
the last day - we saw a mom duck with
3 babies. We hope everyone has a
safe & happy time up here. Till next
year love you. Janet

Marjorie, Walt, and Lady
July 13 to July 20, 2002

We had a great week in our refurbished
cottage. The new roof, water heater, and
furniture really make our family retreat so
much nicer. Reading in the log book about
the cleaning job that Carolyn and all ^{the} others
(John, Len, Sara(?)) did for us... Wow. We owe them
a big debt of gratitude.

Walt and I tried to do some things. I did
the flowers again. Carolyn cut back the yew bushes

and that is a big improvement. That garden below the kitchen window is infested with grass - so it is hard to keep it looking good.

Walt followed Carolyn's suggestion and painted the trim the rest of the way around the cottage. He also replaced the broken wheel on the lawnmower which was beyond repair. Then he fired it up and mowed some long grass near the boat house and road... While he did it he found that his new heart stents are doing the job real well. He also tightened the picnic table bolts.

We took Lady to the Bellaire Animal Hospital. She may have liver problems. She had ascites (liquid in abdominal cavity) and a shot of Lasix let her shed 7 lbs (almost a gallon) of liquid in 24 hours. We are taking her blood test records and X rays home to our vet. The clinic and veterinarians are really wonderful.

We enjoyed the flea market at Brownwood on Sunday, the Meadowbrook Fiesta, and the Friday evening concert (every week 7-9 at Bellaire Park.)

We enjoyed visiting with Janice and Cliff ^{and boys} the first few days we were here. We also saw the Greens several times and had them over for dinner. We missed being able to visit with Carolyn and Jennie for the second year in a row.

We swam several times. The weather was gorgeous with one nice rainstorm at night. God bless you all - and we hope you have wonderful weeks here.

2002

Saturday ^{to} Thurs
~~Sunday~~ July 20 - ~~Sunday~~ July 25.

Anne, Tina, Christopher + Sydney - we got here today at 11:30 am - left at 4:00 am - made great time - stopped alot and still got here early. Phoebe, James + Michael will be here tomorrow (Sunday) nite.

Bathroom switch shorted out as soon as we got here. Fortunately the hardware store in Bellane stays open late on Saturday. I went in and got the last switch they had - they blew the dust off - I replaced the switch + should be OK.

Phoebe, Michael + James came on Sunday - they would have come Sat but Michael got bad splinters under his nails at Rick's + they almost had to remove his nail bed - argh!!

The kids are having a blast!!!

Thurs - leaving early - weather bad - kids pouting, Grandma niks -

2002

Monday July 22nd

Phoebe is speaking here I have traveled many miles to see & show my kids the world. Tina, C.S., Sydney, Mike (the six fingered child) James and the one and only grandma (Ame) are having a much fun!!! I have been put in the cooking position, Mom is the chef and Tina is the ~~mommy~~ mommy the watcher. Every year I come, I like it more and more and can't wait to come back. I know no one has seen or heard about my Mike baby extra in every way 10 lbs & 5oz 11 fingers. I'm pregnant for the 3rd time with another. Please every one pray for me that my next baby will only be ok, ~~or~~ or have extra not missing anything. I know you will I'll write again. Bad children call me. Phoebe (the mommy girl)

Saturday July 27 to

Sunday, August 4 Bruce, Rickie, Pat + Judi Barrett

Arrived to a nice clean cottage - so nice after the long drive! We spent a thoroughly non-productive week, swimming, reading, cooking great meals, but mostly playing 39 rubbers of bridge. The weather was pretty hot, but not unbearably so, thanks to being able to open all the windows - ah, life's little luxuries! I'm sure that was a hellacious project, but what a great result.

We did do two very small projects: Bruce repaired the handle on the swimming dock, and I cleaned out the top two right hand drawers of the sink unit. I replaced the liner, but the drawers themselves are pretty rusty and probably need more work long-term. I also pitched a number of spices in metal cans, all of which were so rusted that I expect the only flavor they had left to impart was Fe_2O_3 . Probably would be best to purchase things in glass or plastic containers in future.

Oh-one other thing we did was to put up the magnetic Knife strip on the end of the cupboards. We really like not having to rummage through drawers for sharp objects, but use it or not as you prefer. We also added the set of three silver one-piece knives, and they are quite sharp, so use with care. It's kind of nice to have knives that actually cut without a lot of effort. We also brought up the lamp tables and think they look quite nice. The lights move side to side so you can position them nicely for reading, and they take 3-way bulbs - and the shades are not opaque so they actually give some light!

Pat + Judi left Sat. AM and Ethan + Stephanie arrived Sat evening - had a nice dinner & played some euchre. Packed up & left in the rain Sun AM. No sign of roof leaking as Anne warned, despite really heavy downpour.

I pitched the baking powder. It probably wouldn't leaven anymore, and besides you can't bake anything anyhow -

Saturday August 3 - ~~Sept~~ Saturday August 10
Ethan + Stephanie

Overlapped with Bruce + Rickie for a few days again this year. It's great to have someone waiting here to welcome you! My parents came up for a few days also and stayed at the Stonewaters Inn again. Had a gorgeous big room with a huge bathtub, gas fireplace, and private balcony overlooking the river.

Went to Charlevoix, since I think a swingset on the beach is just about the greatest idea in the world. Also tried out the new posh restaurant in Bellaire, Gulu's Bistro. Rather more expensive than the Bellaire Bar, but excellent service and delicious food if you're in the mood to dress up and go out of an evening.

The new futon is wonderful and the whole place looks great. We were too lazy to undertake any projects of our own, but hopefully didn't leave the place in worse shape than we found it.

NATURE ENCOUNTER OF THE WEEK:

WE WERE DRIVING DOWN INTERMEDIATE LAKE RD. TOWARDS BELLAIRE WHEN A HERON LANDED IN FRONT OF US. WE WENT TO GO AROUND, BUT IT DIDN'T LIKE THAT, SO HE TOOK OFF AGAIN. I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THAT CLOSE BEFORE. (5 FEET AWAY) IT WAS REALLY COOL. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE

SOMETHING THAT BIG CAN GO AIRBORNE
WITH SUCH APPARENT EASE.

WEATHER GOOD WITH ONLY ONE RAINY
DAY, WHICH CLEARED UP AND TURNED OUT
NICE IN THE AFTERNOON ANYWAY. ANOTHER
GREAT WEEK!

August 10th - 17th 2002

Liz, Justin, Karla, Rose, Paul

We had a week full of fun, we went
to the dunes, Charlevoix, and Big Buck Brewery.
The kids hung out with the Greene Girls &
they had bon fires at their house every night.
The weather was good and it would rain at
night. The hummingbirds are very active. We
named one Squeaky because of its vocal
when feeding. The only boat we got out
was the sail boat, we had a windy day
that was perfect. We missed having a
motor boat for water sports. We swam and
enjoyed the tranquility of the area.

I thought both tanks were empty or
close to so, I had a tank delivered.
The ~~left~~ ~~right~~ was $\frac{1}{2}$ full the guy said and
the ~~right~~ ~~left~~ is a new one. (right). I think
the cottage looks great, many rainy nights
proved the roof to be sound & snug.
Until next year

August 29 (Thur) John & Sara → Sept. 3

This was a beautiful Labor Day weekend to enjoy the area as well as closing down the place for the season. It was fun seeing our Nephew MAX (Jenny & Harry's Boy) at 2½ years old discovering the beach and the Lake, while they stayed at Monty's house in Co. Lo → Hey!!! the flowers and perennials(?) look great around the cottage to add a nice restart of the flower beds. The futon is also great, especially for intimate coziness in front of the fire-place before the pizza gets cold. I wasn't able to get the speed boat out for a good cleaning and outfit; but winterized the motor to run another year. Looking forward to next year to visiting my beloved family members up here!!!

Note: The fire-place flue handle has become weakened and should be used with caution before it breaks off.

To Tris Oct 8 Len & Carolyn closed cottage

2003

Meter reading 12.56

Propane tank in use ?

June 3, 2003 Cottage weathered well during the winter.

Len & I primed the pump & got everything up & running. The epoxy patch on the water pipe into the shower gave way when the water was turned on. Bruce repatched it with a new application of epoxy, no leak now. Thanks Bruce!

The huge short needled pine cone producing spruce tree behind garage by road is dead, it will have to be cut down before it falls onto garage

When I opened the freezer door in the refug., the door fell off. We need a new refrigerator

2003

JUNE 4-7 - BRUCE & RICKIE - WE CAME UP FOR A SHORT VISIT TO BRING THE NEW "AUSSIE" CHARCOAL GRILL AND TO INSTALL NEW CURTAINS & RODS IN THE KITCHEN & LIVING RM AREAS. CAROLYN AND LEN HAD ALREADY OPENED THE PLACE, SO THERE WAS MINIMAL HASSLES SETTLING IN. IT WAS COLD & RAINY ALL THE WAY UP... WET AND 50°. ... SOUNDS LIKE JUNE IN MICHIGAN TO ME! WE MADE A FIRE THE FIRST NIGHT, BUT READY HAD A TOUGH TIME GETTING IT TO BURN PROPERLY..... THE FIREPLACE ISN'T DRAWING ENOUGH AIR. ITS EITHER BECAUSE ITS CLOGGED UP AND/OR BECAUSE THE DAMPER IS BROKEN AND DOESNT OPEN ALL THE WAY. I CAN SEE THAT. THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR QUITE SOME TIME BASED ON THE BLACK SOOT ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE FIREPLACE. WE NEED TO GET THIS FIXED -

OUR SECOND DAY WAS SUNNY AND IN THE LOW 70'S - BEAUTIFUL - I DECIDED TO MOW THE GRASS. AFTER SURVEYING THE LAWNMOWERS I DECIDED THAT THE TORRO OFFERED THE BEST POTENTIAL..... MISTAKE! THE OLD ONE STARTED RIGHT UP. WE DIDNT PUT UP THE DOCK BECAUSE RICKIE IS JUST RECOVERING FROM A COLD AND TAKING ANTIBIOTICS. I THOUGHT THE AUSSIE GRILL WOULD OFFER A LARGER GRILL

2005

SURFACE, BUT ABLE TO BE FOLDED UP FOR MORE EFFICIENT USE OF OUR LIMITED SPACE - WE HAD DINNER AT LULU'S BISTRO IN BELLAIR... A BIT PRICY, BUT REALLY GOOD. AT LAST, ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE TO THE BELLAIR BAR! THE CURTAINS ARE ALMOST DONE... JUST NEED TO FINISH UP THE PANTRY NOW - WE'LL INSTALL IT WHEN WE COME BACK IN AUGUST.

Had fun doing the curtains. They were "ready made" but needed to be remade to fit the windows. I thought I'd have enough to do the pantry cupboard, but it turned out that the tab tops I bought weren't really, so by the time I made all the tabs, ^{in places} I was short of material. And by the way, I wanted red & white check, but couldn't find it anywhere. Even looked for material on line & found only hand-woven cloth from VT. - not in our price range!) so we are settling for what was called "ruby red" but looks more like raspberry to me. Oh well.

Recovering big chair seats is also in the plans. TOOD2
WE SAVED THE OLD CURTAINS THINKING THAT THEY MIGHT BE USED IN THE GARAGE??

Dinner @ Lulu's: expensive if you go all out (drinks, dessert, appetizer) but you can go for pizza too. Everything we had was exceptionally good (even ⁱⁿ Mich. moral sauce). The jeans was what we wore & they were quite happy to take our \$.

P.S. Freezer door in fridge was broken - clothes pin keeps it from falling off, & it still made ice cubes, although getting them out was a project.

~~6/17/03~~ 6/17/03 to 6/21/03 Copy, son & ~~Randy~~ RANDY.

2003

I DOUBT MY DAD'S TO WRITE ANYTHING THIS YEAR SO I'VE ASSUMED COMMAND. WE ONLY STAYED A FEW DAYS ~~BECAUSE~~ BECAUSE THIS WAS NOT OUR SCHEDULED WEEK. SO, MY DAD F___ IT UP. HE TRIES NOT TO BE AN ANARCHIST, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE IT SEEMS ON OCCASION HIS SUBCONSCIOUS, -TROUBLEMAKING- DESIRES KICK IN. SO FOR WHOEVER DEEMS IT VALID YOU HAVE OUR APOLOGIES FOR RUINING THE ORGANIZATION AND COMING THE WRONG WEEK. HONEST MISTAKE, GUUNAH.

ASIDE FROM THE -HARM- DONE, IT WAS YOUR TYPICAL WEEK UP HERE. THE TIME WAS ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO SIMPLY SIT AND ENJOY ~~SOON~~ DUE TO THE AFOREMENTIONED. MY DAD AND I PLANNED ON TAKING THE DOCK AND SETTING IT UP AGAIN THIS YEAR, BUT APPARENTLY WE F___ IT UP SO BAD LAST YEAR WE'VE BEEN BANNED FROM DOING IT AGAIN. I BROUGHT THE MARKER OUT TO THE SWIMMING DOCK BUT DECIDED AGAINST LAUNCHING THAT. WHO KNOWS, PROBABLY WOULD HAVE MESSED THAT UP, TOO. I ENJOYED THE TIME WITH MY ~~DAD~~ FATHER AND BUDDY, BUT COULDN'T ENJOY THE PLACE. SO, WE LEAVE WITH A BITTERSWEET TASTE, FEELING PRETTY STUPID FOR COMING AT THE WRONG TIME. I'LL FORCE MY DAD TO GET HIS TIME TATTOOED ON HIS ARM EVERY YEAR FROM NOW ON.

7-17-07-21-03 Copy, Harvey ~~to~~ and Randy

We found the cottage spotless after a long, but leisurely trip. ----

I bought Kerosene - 10 gallons and put 5 in the tank. The heater works perfectly, and we used it several times as it was cold at night.

The Toro lawnmower had a bad condenser and the carb was also flooding it out. I put the gas tank/carburetor unit from the other lawnmower on the Toro, and it now works perfect, or at least for me it did. I plan to rebuild the Toro carb.

2002
June 29 → July 10 - John & The Gibson Family.
(Dave, Alberta, Jacob, Jessica)

Got up here on a Sunday to beautiful weather. We had connected in Toledo and followed each other up here (Dave from Loveland/Cincinnati, me from Columbus). Things went smooth setting up the dock and launching the swim raft. The cottage looked in tip top shape upon arrival. We spent most of the time out on the Lake boating, swimming & hanging out. Dave & I took a day trip to DeTour/Drummond Island in the U.P. for a bicycle tour. He went the 23 miles, I did 11 mile along Lake Huron. He had also cycled the Mission Point peninsula, Glen Lake/Dunes area, and around Lake Charlevoix. The kids had a great time with Chris & Lindy from next door and spent the whole week together. We all went to the C.L. 4th July parade to a monster crowd & the festivities afterwards. The weather was perfect all week (apparently I had paid the price years ago to the Rain God.) I spent 5 afternoons up at the sand bar on the Lake and everyone there had a ball. After ~~Dave~~ Dave left on Sat., Janice & Cliff arrived for the makings of another blockbuster week. Sara was unable to make it up this trip because she was stuck working over the holiday (She had 3 days verses my 3 weeks off.) She has just got a new job she has been trying for years to get as a Network Systems Tech for the State Health Dept. Believe me, she was missed. I stuck around for a few more days while the weather was good and to catch opening day of sweet cherry picking. Overall, this had been a classic visit for myself and would hope that others will have the same John

July 5th - July 12th

Joined Cliff Sammy & Danny. We arrived to beautiful sunny weather. The cottage looks great with the new curtains. They really update the place. The boys enjoyed swimming canoeing & rowing around the cove. The lake was hopping w/ boats & jet skis. On Tues. Cliff's Brother Denny & his family joined us. A total of 11 people - just like the old days! They totally enjoyed themselves even when it rained for 2 whole days. On Friday when we returned from Charlevoix we found the swim raft was gone. It was found around the Smiths so we tied it to their dock until the wind & the rain died down. On Saturday morning when we tried to reconnect it to the barrel we found that the loop on the barrel had broken & there was no way to reconnect. So we pulled it up to shore. We don't even know how to fix it - Get a new Barrel? Add it to the list. We had a great time looking forward to next year. Remember if you want to visit Florida - give us a call we would love to have you!!!

Note* Sammy & Cliff did some serious sailing in the little Sail Boat. It still is running good.

Please water
flowers if dry and take dead flower heads from
the gallardia -- big plant on lakeside of cottage

July 12 - to July 21st 2003

Marjorie, Walt, and Bill and Kathryn Brugge
We brought our friends this year. Bill was
a classmate of mine. The four of us have enjoyed
each other's company at various class activities.

I guess you could say we have had a very
cherry and a very berry week here. We've done the
orchards - oh have we done them! We've canned
and jammed and are really ready for a long
cold winter - us in Ohio - and the Brugges in
Virginia.

It seemed we had something to attend or see
or do every day. Meadowbrook Fiesta - Central Lake
Craft Show - Charlevoix - movie - Brownwood and
its flea market....even the church rummage sale
in Bellaire....and of course, twist cones at Ruthie's
and the Rosebud!

Walt -- had a great time per usual.
We were on the move every day doing a
variety of things. The twin/dock chain
broke off evidently - Cliff and the boys
found it down the shoreline. They
couldn't do anything with it - I found
the barrel and dove several times trying
to locate where the chain broke off but
was unsuccessful. Maybe we need to make
a new anchor barrel - enough of that -
We used the new grill almost every day.
It was great - good steaks!
I brought my guitar - so they made
me give some concerts during our stay.
So long - till next year - Love to all

The new curtains and drapes look
beautiful -- Thanks, Richie and Bruce,

New mirror in the
bedroom - brought
at Brownwood

Sunday - July 20, 2003

Thanks to Marge and Walt and all your family, we have had a wonderful relaxing week in this beautiful state of Michigan! This is God's country! If we're lucky hopefully they will invite us again sometime.

Mayorie writing again;

A few things that I want to mention...

Bill & Kathryn Brizze
Suffolk, Virginia
(Tidewater Area -

Hampton Roads for all
you ex Navy people)

The kitchen sink worked all right for us. Janice and Cliff had worked on it. You just can't expect it to take huge amounts... of water.

Bruce mentioned the fireplace not drawing very well. We had very cold weather a few times, so did build a fire --- kept it from smoking into the room by leaving the door cracked --- Bill told us that trick from experiences at their daughter and son-in-law's house.

^{hard} The beach looks really great. Someone has been working on the weeds. The new curtains, drapes, and those fantastic sharp knives on the magnetic bar are all wonderful improvements. If you happen to notice the ^{cottage} ~~place~~ has some really clean places that often get neglected, you can thank Kathryn who took it upon herself to do some serious cleaning - bless her heart. Walt raked the beach and swept the roof.

In saying goodbye to another wonderful stay at our retreat, we all four enjoyed ourselves - accomplished much - and are looking forward to our next visit... PS... Forgot to mention - we brought the bigger microwave up...

Sat July 26 2003

Joe, Anne, + grandchildren - James, Michael, Sydney + Christopher - Trip up was the typical 8 hr / 4 children drive up - fighting, crying, teasing, pinching, agitating, you know - 7 yr old, 6 yr old, ② 3 yr olds. Wonderful.

Weather chilly. That's ok - locked the kids suitcases outside with them so we can calm down + won't be a headline in Sunday's paper.

Ma sez Harvey might be joining us - OK by me. This is his week anyhow - he was good enough to let us horn in on his time - I sincerely appreciate his generosity. Besides - he can savor what it's going to be like in a couple of years when he brings Kelli's baby up.

Sunday -

Brought up ③ inner tubes from Dad's old cars - weather is cold - kids are swimming anyhow + have gone thru all their clothes by 11 am. Only a matter of time before the people downwind have ③ new inner tubes. Joe is chomping at the bit - kids are driving him nuts.

Monday

Another cold windy, cloudy day - temp is 67°. Went to Gaylord to the "Call of the Wild" museum - A great day trip for kids!!! Very good for adults, too!

Aunt Carolyn + Uncle Jen arrived today - left us some wonderful cinnamon bread that the kids inhaled.

2003

Sat Aug 9 - 16

⁴⁰ Liz, ⁴⁴ Danni, ²⁰ Karla, ¹⁸ Rosemary, ¹⁸ Katie Sholley: ^{5 1/2 months} Karl's Friend, my new Dog
Great weather the entire week, Sunny and breezy 70-80's°
One cloudy day we went to Gaylord's Big Buck Brewery for
steak and beer sampler. Full Moon on 12th and we observed
it in the telescope. Lake Michigan was calm and not too
cold to swim at the Charlevoix Beach. The Sear's warehouse
castle is a few miles past K-Mart. It is real cool looking
and they give tours on Wed and Sunday. We saw it from
the street and we learned about it from a newspaper article.
We did NOT visit the Sand Dunes this year and we did NO
boating. Our boat was not ~~launched~~ launched so we had fun
swimming. The Smiths put our dock back to original spot
with a new anchor made out of a tire with cement in it.
It was anchored on their hook up over at the sand bar to the
left. We swam to it one day and the next day it was
here when we got back from Charlevoix. I yelled to the son-in-law
and two kids, "Thank You for Fixing our dock!" They swim
on it often so it was kind of them to help us out with it.
My dog is a brave swimmer @ 5 1/2 months old she tried to
swim to us at the dock. She gets tired and is still learning
her limitations. This week has been a time for 5 women to
bond, refresh the body, mind and spirit and laugh, laugh, laugh
We enjoyed playing Euchre and Dice. Had one fire all week
and we cooked Hobo pies and had a great beach picnic.

What a wonderful week, to me this was as
close to heaven as I could get. The company, was
great. - Liz & Girls - we had so much fun.

It's so very nice to have a wonderful friend
who would share such a wonderful place.
Thank you!! Danni 8-2003

until next year, Liz

Sat August 16th - Sat August 23rd 2003

Jess, Keith, Jenna & Teak

This was the first year we've been able to come up here since 1999 - and the first year for Jenna to experience the "magic of Michigan." We left about 8pm on Friday after Keith got home from work & drove as far as Flint before finding a hotel (which was harder than we expected since many people up here were still without power ^{because of} ~~that~~ that huge blackout in the northeast part of the country). Then we were on the road by 10 am the next morning & got to the cottage about 1:30 in the afternoon. I think breaking the trip up like that made it easier for everyone - and we had a TV/DVD player for Jenna & I'm sure that didn't hurt! Anyway, we have had a great time showing Jenna all about why we love this place... and I think she's enjoyed herself thoroughly - lots of swimming, ducks eating out of our hands, finding a swan family to feed, finding sand in every crevice of our bodies... ☺ ~~the~~ a trip to Charlevoix to see "big waves" & swing on the swings, trips to the grocery store at least once a day, fishing, etc. This has been a very different trip to Michigan for us - we did much less but seemed much busier! In a good way.

Mom & Dad came up on Weds & it was nice to overlap with them - Keith & Dad fixed the ladder on the swindock (which needed welded) & also fixed the rear outside lights. Other than that we've been pretty lazy & unproductive, & it's been wonderful. It's so special for me to be here & look around & see happy memories at every turn - and for us to be able to share them with Jenna (& let her begin to make her own memories) gives us great joy.

Until next year! ☺ Love,

Jess, Keith & Jenna

WEDS AUG 20 - SUN AUG 30 2003
BRUCE + RICKIE CAME UP TO JOIN JESS & KEITH
& JENNA. THE WEATHER WAS VERY HOT & HUMID
(THE FIRST HOT WEATHER ALL SUMMER ACCORD-
ING TO THE GUYS AT THE BARBERSHOP). IT
WAS FUN TO WATCH JENNA ON HER 1ST TRIP
TO MICHIGAN. SHE TOOK TO THE WATER LIKE A
DUCK. WE GOT A COUPLE OF THRILL RIDES IN
KEITH'S BOAT.... IT TAKES ABOUT 3 MINS TO
GO TO THE CENTRAL LAKE BRIDGE! ~~AND~~
~~FROM SAT~~ JESS & KEITH LEFT EARLY SAT.
AM. WE HAD BEEN STAYING AT THE BELLAIRE
INN, WHICH IS A REALLY NICE PLACE. WE
MOVED IN TO THE COTTAGE AND PAT & JUDI
BARRETT JOINED US IN THE AFTERNOON.
WE HAD A COUPLE OF VERY HEAVY RAINS
DURING THE NIGHT.... THE ROOF LEAKED
ABOUT 20 DROPS RIGHT BY THE CHIMNEY IN
THE BIG BEDROOM. WE FINISHED UP THE
WINDOW TREATMENTS BY INSTALLING NEW
BLINDS AND COVERED THE "PANTRY" OPENING,
AS WELL AS COVERING THE 2 CHAIR SEATS.
WE TOOK A TRIP TO VISIT ELK RAPIDS, BUT
OTHER THAN THAT, STAYED AROUND THE
COTTAGE PLAYING BRIDGE. GOT TO VISIT
WITH CAROLYN & LEN AND JEANIE &
HANK. JOHN AND SARA CAME UP ON
FRIDAY AND WE GOT TO VISIT WITH
THEM AS WELL. WE LEFT ON SUNDAY
BEFORE LABOR DAY TO AVOID THE
TRAFFIC - HAD A WONDERFUL TIME!

NEEDS AID 20-2003
BRUCE + RICKIE CAME UP TO JOIN JESS + KEITH
4-2003. THE WEATHER WAS VERY HOT + HUMID
(THE FIRST HOT WEATHER A - 2003. ACCORD-
ING TO THE GUY AT THE GARDEN SHOP). IT
WAS FUN TO WATCH JESS ON HER 1ST TRIP
TO MICHIGAN. SHE TOOK TO THE WATER LIKE A
DUCK. WE GOT A COUPLE OF THILL RIDES IN
KEITH'S BOAT... IT TAKES ABOUT 3 MINS TO
GO TO THE CENTRAL LAKE BRIDGE! ~~THE~~
A - WE HAD BEEN STAYING AT THE BELLAIR
INN, WHICH IS A REALLY NICE PLACE. WE
MOVED IN TO THE COTTAGE AND PAT + JONI
BARRETT JOINED US IN THE AFTERNOON.
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AS WELL AS COVERING THE 2 CHAIR SEATS.
WE TOOK A TRIP TO VISIT BK RAPIDS, BUT
OTHER THAN THAT, STAYED AROUND THE
COTTAGE PLAYING BRIDGE. GOT TO VISIT

Oct 20 2003, Closed cottage for the winter.

Electric Meter 1368

The dead pine tree by road has been cut down by the electric co.
The trunk was left, cut in about 36" lengths, [yule logs].

BEFORE LABOR DAY TO AVOID THE
TRAFFIC - HAD A WONDERFUL TIME!

2004

Opened cottage Monday May 23, Electric Meter read 1368

Len, John, Sara & Carolyn moved the refrigerator into the garage next to the dryer (it weighs a ton!) it survived the move, looks good out there, it will be great for pop, beer, watermelon, etc. In its place is a clean, well kept, simple Hotpoint refrigerator with a nice size freezer compartment. It fits right in, not too big, not too fancy.

The linen was moved by Len, we picked up lots of sticks, they are on the beach waiting for the first bonfire. All is ready for the season.

THURSDAY JUNE 10 - SAT JUNE 12 - BRUCE & RICKIE CAME UP TO DELIVER THE "NEW" STOVE ... AN ELECTRIC TAPPAN TO REPLACE THE OLD GAS TAPPAN. THANKS TO ASSISTANCE FROM CAROLYN & LEN, IT WAS A VERY SMOOTH PROCESS TO SWITCH STOVES. I WILL TAKE THE OLD STOVE HOME AND ATTEMPT TO FIND A NEW HOME FOR IT VIA EBAY. I DOUBT THAT IT WILL SELL, BUT YOU NEVER CAN TELL. I HAVE 2 OTHER "OLDIES" LIKE IT AT HOME, SO IT WON'T BE LONESOME - IT RAINED DURING MOST OF THE TRIP UP, BUT WE HAD THE STOVE TIGHTLY WRAPPED IN A TARP SO IT DIDN'T GET WET AT ALL. WE HAD DINNER IN BELLAIRE AT THE BELLAIRE BAR ... THEY MAKE A GREAT HAMBURGER! I TRIED TO START THE LAWN MOWERS WITHOUT SUCCESS ... THE OLDER ONE STARTED BUT WON'T KEEP RUNNING BECAUSE THE FLUTTER VALVE IS NOT WORKING PROPERLY - THE TORRO WAS COMATOSE. SO, LEN CAME TO THE RESCUE AGAIN AND LOANED ME HIS MOWER. I ALSO SWEEP UP A BUNCH OF PINE NETTLES FROM THE ROOF AND AT THE BACK OF THE COTTAGE BY THE OIL TANK ... IT WAS A

HUGE PILE. I TOOK SOME INSIDE PHOTOS FOR OUR "INVENTORY", AND WE TRIED REARRANGING THE BACK BED ROOM. I THINK THAT PLYWOOD STORE THINGY SHOULD GO... WE CAN REPLACE IT WITH SOMETHING MORE SPACE FRIENDLY.

Wednesday June 16, 2004 Harvey (Cory) and Harvey (hebs)

We got here at around 4 PM after a stay-over at Fremont, Indiana, where we bought a bunch of non-exploding fireworks at Shelton's. We shared driving pretty equally.

It was very hot - in the 90's, but cooled off later.

Thursday was cool and rainy. Everything is very green and lush - even our grass! Harvey and I just relaxed the first couple days. Danny came of from Pittsburgh by Greyhound on Saturday and we picked him up in Traverse City.

MON. 6/21 Today is Summer Solstice Day. The weather has been much cooler than the day we arrived. It was 48° and rained all day Thursday, and in the 60's and low seventies since. Dan ("damnit") arrived by bus in Traverse City Saturday at 8:45 PM. We were waiting for him. I also called Mary and told her we wished she was here. --

I wire-brushed the porch walls and applied a coat of linseed oil, color, and thinner. I filled some gaps with Rocktite. It looks "attended to," if not great. I would like to do the ceiling also, but since the mixture is pretty thin, a roller would be the best way to apply it. I'm working on that.

NOTE → I have placed receipts in a blue folder in the front of the record file (large box). The smaller one could be an

2004

(copy 6-16 to 24 cont'd)

archive file for stuff from the past that's not around anymore.

NOTE → New starting instructions for the Toro are on it. I'm not saying it's easy, only possible. I mowed the grass with it, anyway. It runs good once you get it started.

NOTE Harvey broke up one of the white plastic lawn chairs. We will replace it in August. Sorry- Copy

Sun. June 27 to July 4^{* * *} John & SARA

We arrived to the cottage on a bright sunny afternoon. It was left clean and a welcome note from Copy & gang. ^{Thanks} The first night was cold in the 70's and had to use the space heater overnight that worked very well. The weather only got better for the whole week for sunny, warm, and windy days plus comfortable nights. The best part was the bug population was way down because of the previous cold snap. Full "Summer Moon" for most of the week that really lit up the Lake at night. The only bad-weather day was on the 4th of July (Sunday), which rained on & off most of the day, even as I sit here now inside during what would of been total Lake pyrotechnics. Sara's Brother-in-law Hector and Diane (previous visit 6/99) came to visit on Saturday the 3rd until we all left together before Marj & Walt arrived on the 4th to stay with Mom & Dad at the house on Central Lake. While Sara & Hector went to make charitable contributions at the Chappell of Turtle Creek (CASINO) in Traverse City, Diane & I went boating & swimming on the Lake sand-Bar and got some good tans that day. The holiday fireworks display on the Lake has evolved into an entertaining competition of who can spend the most ^{money} and get the most attention all over, up and down the Lake. Between 10:00pm to 11:00pm, we ~~take~~ took a boat

out to the middle of the Lake and enjoyed the panoramic view of pyro wars. The best are some of the illegal bangers that some people get their seconds of glory. The parade in Central Lake marched on despite the downtown "Beautification Project" going on with No sidewalks, narrowed streets, and construction equipment. It lasted 45 minutes and was a good show. → A Great Week!!!

Cottage Updates during this Week: A Factual Rundown

Monday:- Cabinet installed in Kitchen next to new electric stove.

Note: This was made from scratch by Leonard and ceramic tiled by Carolyn — Nice match

- ~~AAAA~~ DRAIN in Kitchen Sink Unplugged!!!! - It Works
→ 15 ft. of drain plastic tube was dug up and Replaced.

Tuesday - Dock put up → Repairs to be made in Fall this year
- Trimmed & cleared Cottage Lot on South beach side. This opened up a view of more Lakeside. → 20 ft. of beachfront.
- Sara & Carolyn deweeded and cleaned the beach.

Wednesday - We messed up the beach by having a Massive burn of all the previous days trimmings. We did this near the water's edge and not in the fire pit to avoid scorching any nearby trees. This was done in the morning during the calm & light of day. We cleaned out all the trimmings.
- The evening we had a corn/Rib fest and got thugged.

Thursday - Carolyn painted the Swim Raft
- John & Len launched speed boat (four Winns) & Row boat & motor
- The boat rides begin - Works done → Let's Party

Friday - Leonard reworked and installed shelf above stove
- Carolyn dealt with PetGas about full propane tank. ★ Refund ★

Saturday - Big Thanks to Neighbors Craig & son Chris for Launching Swim Raft while we were out having Fun ~~~~~ John & Sara ~~~~~

Marjorie and Walt July 4 to July 10, 2004

Woo -- should we feel honored being here during the coldest, rainiest, and grayest Michigan summer in the past 40 plus years? Thank goodness for the stove, and Copy's instructions on how to work it. We didn't have swimming, but we had a comfy cottage and a bunch of neat movies from Carolyn and Jennie's library. Just having Carolyn and Len here during our stay was great. We had some nice visits, and they took us out to lunch to celebrate our fifth wedding anniversary.

We made our annual trip to Charlevoix so we could have a fudge sin-session. We also planted flowers; did some detail cleaning; and gave the cottage a few presents, one being a much-needed new shower curtain.

I walked two miles every morning with Carol Hilda. We visited with Tom one day. He's 81 and Sharp as a tack.

About our trip up on Sunday, July 4... it was unreal. The highway was almost deserted. Even by Flint.

Arriving, we saw all the new things in the cottage and know everyone will love the improvements.

Flowers *

Here're the names of new perennials: Front - Blue Salvia and Pink Aster. Side garden: Coreopsis (shorter version); Dianthus; and Physostegia (variegated).

Walt - AAAAAAAH!!!! What a cold and rainy week. We didn't get to swim but we had some great indoor recreation like - "bed checkers" - "couch hockey" and some I will neglect to mention!

All in all though it was great to be no matter what - Good company - Carolyn and Len - Johnnie - Sarah - Sarah's brother and his wife made it all worthwhile.

"I think the 'cottage fairy' has visited us."
Love to all. Walt

Lost 2 weeks in July

Janice Cliff Sammy & Danny
Jenny Harry & Max, Penny Kat Christopher
& Heather.

The weather was the best we ever had.
I don't think it rained one day! It
made it very hard to make side trips
because we didn't want to waste our
lake time. We all got plenty of
Sun (Sunburned). John gave the
kids tubing rides with his boat.
Mom & Dad let us ^{leave} have the pontoon
boat down here so that was where
we spent our time - Along with the
swim dock. The Cottage is unbelievable.
It just got better each year. The stove
has made it so much easier and the
refrig made it easy to eat even more!!!

Ice cream every night!!! We all had
a great time and lots of ~~fun~~ fun. Janice
BRUCE & RICKIE — PAT & JUDI BARRETT

AUG 19 — AUG 28 — ARRIVED THURSDAY AT
AROUND 3:00. IT POURED RAIN IN OHIO,
BUT CLEARED AS WE GOT INTO MI AND
TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL DAY BY
THE TIME WE ARRIVED — THE COTTAGE
WAS IN GREAT SHAPE... THANKS!

CAROLYN AND LEN CAME IN TO VISIT
FOR A SHORT TIME... THEY WERE
HEADING FOR HOME IN THE EARLY AM.
IT GOT VERY COLD THE FIRST NIGHT...
INTO THE 40's — THANK GOODNESS
THAT THERE WAS PLENTY ON FUEL OIL.
THANKS!

THIS WAS THE 1ST TIME I'VE NEEDED TO LIGHT
THE HEATER IN YEARS - I FOUND 10 GALS
OF FUEL OIL IN THE GARAGE WHICH I
ADDED TO THE TANK. THE "FUEL GAUGE"
AND SIPHON TUBE WERE MOST HANDY!
IT GOT DOWN TO 40 THE 2ND NIGHT!
WE WENT TO MACKINAC ISLAND ON
FRIDAY.... IN GENERAL, WE WERE NOT
IMPRESSED. PAT AND JUDY CAME UP ON
SATURDAY AROUND 4:00. AFTER THE 1ST
FEW COOL SUNNY DAYS, IT WARMED
UP AND WE HAD SOME GREAT WEATHER.
WE ENJOYED COOKING DINNERS AND
PLAYING MANY HANDS OF BRIDGE. AND
WINE AND BEER, IT RAINED ALMOST
EVERY NIGHT, WITH A SEVERE STORM
ON THURS WHICH KNOCKED OUT THE
POWER IN BELLAIRE. WE HAD ONE
CAMPFIRE WHICH USED UP THE LAST
7 LOGS OF FIREWOOD - WE BURNED
3 OF THE LARGE PINE LOGS FROM
THE DEAD TREE. WE WENT TO
TRAVERSE CITY TO GET A NEW
DOOR AT HOME DEPOT. WE STOPPED
AT A REALLY GOOD GOODWILL STORE
ON AIRPORT RD AND FOUND A
GREAT DEAL ON A MICROWAVE TABLE.
I WAS VERY HAPPY TO REPLACE THE
RED METAL CART BECAUSE IT WAS SO
UNSTABLE WITH THE BIG MICROWAVE
ON IT... I WAS AFRAID OF IT TIPPING
OVER ON A LITTLE KID. I HOPE

YOU LIKE THE REPLACEMENT, I
THINK THE KITCHEN WORKS REAL
WELL WITH THE NEW STUFF AND
LEW'S SHELF UNIT. THE AUSSIE GRILL
WAS NEW LAST YEAR, BUT LOOKS
10 YEARS OLD NOW... WHAT HAPPENED?
THE NEW LARGER YARD/LAKE VIEW
IS GREAT... WHY DIDN'T WE DO
THAT YEARS AGO? I MISSED THE
NIGHT MUSIC CDS.... I WILL BRING
UP ANOTHER COPY NEXT YEAR. ALL
IN ALL, WE HAVE A WONDERFUL
TIME!

★ THURS 9/16 to THURS 9/23 Mary + Copy Hi Bro, Rick,
& et al; The weather has been real nice - up to 80°
yesterday, down to 58° at night. The kitchen is great
especially the fridge. As I speak, beer is in the old
cage in the garage. I am ecstatic! The stove is a lot
like the ones I clean on night shift. It does the job.
I have to talk about the lawn mower. I envisioned and
wanted ~~one~~ the one that would work for anybody/everybody,
not just me. Neither one would start for me or anybody else.
Tom Greene said "sounds like you have bad gas." It started
on the first pull with fresh gas. I mowed.

Carolyn and her car came ^{ON} Wednesday AM. Jeany + Hank
are due later on.

I brought back the Rossini Hibachi grill renovated. I
was appalled at the condition of the Aussie new grill.
Somebody is really f---ing up the grills, and it pisses
me off.

It's 80° as I speak, a little wind, sunny, beautiful.
We seem to have cold spring times, but nice weather into fall
in recent years.

Copy

Mary - Just wanted to write a quick note,
to say thank you for such a beautiful cottage.
I've not been able to come up for the last
five years. A lot going on in our lives!! Our
wonderful son Harvey graduating from College. I'm
so very proud of him, and all his hard work. Also
we have a brand new beautiful granddaughter.
Cassandra Marie Mechling. She's a wild one, on the
go every minute. Grammie has been babysitting
a lot! She's a joy. The weather here is out of sight.
in the 80's every day and no rain — WOW —
This is the first time in 24 years I've been
here without children. What a difference!
Every thing looks so pretty, the flowers, the drapes,
the lake, the trees, everything. I'm so at peace.
— thank you —
Love Mary

October 12, 2004 Len, Carolyn, John + Sara

Electric meter: 1487

Deck taken down (it will be repaired in the spring)

Cottage closed for the winter

John + Sara 10/9 → 10/13 We drove up here through Ann Arbor
when a Michigan/Minnesota Home game was starting in an hour.
Bad timing for us OSU Buckeyes. Too much traffic to Blue.
The weather has been sunny & warm in the days & 30's at
night. The leaves are in peak colors for most of the area.
Got in some Fall boat rides before the fit-out. We went
for a beach walk at Fishermen's Island State park in Chautauque.
What was neat was the land bridge to the island because of
low water. We were able to walk the island without the swim.