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Center Improvements

Every year the Fish House Community Center holds breakfast events and of course, the rummage sale as a way to raise money to not only pay the bills but to also improve the Center.

In the recent past we have completed several improvements: buying a new furnace, redoing the kitchen (including installing a commercial vent hood and fan and rebuilding the back wall), putting on a new metal roof and even evicting bats. This year our major project was to

finance the installation of an emergency exit and stairs. Dennis Roberts worked hard to install this door before our first August breakfast.



We are always striving to improve the center's appearance and its safety so we can continue holding community events! Thank you to all who contribute by participating in our events!

Bottle Drive 2014

The bottle drive continues to be a wonderful success. There are so many people who bring bottles to the back of the center that path has been worn by the cars.

In an effort to make it safer, rubble has been spread to smooth the way.

Fish House T Shirts & Sweatshirts for Sale!

We have light blue T Shirts and navy blue sweatshirts for sale. As per request, we now have gray scoop necked T-Shirts.

Final Breakfast -Labor Day

Yes,,Labor Day! This year it is EARLY!



The last breakfast of the summer will be **August 31st**

MEN ESCAPE DEATH WHEN ICE ON SACANDAGA LAKE BREAKS AND AUTO SINKS TO BOTTOM

Louis Walthousen and Ralph Trevett Forced to Break Glass in Door and Swim 15 Feet to Surface; Men Nearly Across Lake When Ice Cracks and Car Plunges Into Icy Water

Crashing their way to freedom when imprisoned in a heavy closed car under 15 feet of icy water, Louis Walthousen and Ralph Trevett of Amsterdam, formerly of Broadalbin, narrowly escaped death from drowning about 3 P. M. yesterday, when the machine which they had driven across the lake, broke through the ice and sank to the bottom of Lake Sacandaga, about 150 feet from the shore near the old Northampton bridge.

Something of a desperate struggle ensued inside the big car as it sank beneath the ice-crustured surface of the lake, and it was only after the water began to rise rapidly in the closed vehicle that Walthousen and Trevett broke the glass from a door and wriggled to the surface. Both were good swimmers and they hoisted themselves to safety upon the ice, helping one another in the effort.

Charles Vollmer was notified and, by means of a large truck and block and tackle, he brought the inundated car ashore. It was considerably damaged and decidedly water-soaked.

Walthousen and Trevett had driven over from Amsterdam to visit their camp near Northampton. They had driven their car nearly across, the wide expanse without any indication of thin ice when, suddenly and with practically no warning, the ice gave way beneath them, and the car sank almost immediately.

Water seeped into the body of the auto rapidly as both men sprang into immediate action. The heavy glass at first failed to yield to their blows, but finally cracked sufficiently to permit them to remove most of the pane and crawl outside.

Fish House's First Break Through?

The newspaper article to the left is from the Gloversville NY Morning Herald, Dec. 30, 1930.

Six months after the dam closed, two men, Louis Walthousen and Ralph Trevett, attempted to drive over the frozen lake near their camps in Fish House. It was Louis's first brand new car. The car broke through the ice and the two men were lucky to survive!

Sandra Walthousen and Doris Trevett Johnson still live here in Fish House. Doris lives in the original camp built by Ralph Trevett. Sandra lives on the same lot where Louis Walthousen built his camp

The area in which the two men broke through is where a stream feeds into the lake. Quite a few snowmobiles (and a Kubota) have broken through the ice there over the years.

The first commercial snowmobile wasn't built until 1954, so does this incident in 1930 count as the first ice break through on Sacandaga Lake?

Barns of Fish House



Before the Sacandaga Lake was created, Fish House was located on the shores of the Sacandaga River. It was not a perfect place for farms as the hills to the east were rocky and rose up 1000 feet from the Sacandaga Valley. The Vlaie, comprising 1000's of acres, while great for fishing, was not good for farming as drainage was a problem. But the rich soil near the river was alluvium which is good for farming, if a farmer was willing to move some rocks. Many of the residents of Fish House were listed as farmers in the early censuses,,even though they might have only been farming a few acres. Every farm, no matter how small, needed a barn.

When the elevation lines were determined in 1927, in preparation for the lake, it became alarmingly evident that a good portion of the hamlet of Fish House would be underwater. Twelve houses were moved and six were torn down. These numbers were stated in past historical documents. As of this present day, most of the 12 houses have been identified. But there was no documentation on the barns. Most were probably burned down as they were too big and/or fragile to move. A few barns, that did not have to be moved, are still standing today.

The William Stark barn, now owned by the Detweiler's, still stands near the corner of CR 109 and CR 110. This small barn was part of William Stark's 200 acre farm. In the census of 1910 he is also listed as running a feed store. There is possible evidence inside this small structure that indicates that it could have been used as the feed store. (In Elizabeth Hudnut Clarkson's book, the feed store is referred to as being next to the brick house)

Up on Shew Hill, behind the Greek Revival house (now owned by the Newton's) built in the 1800's by Alexander St. John, for his grand daughter Parnel, there is a large barn. As for when the barn was built, again, no documentation to be found. It looks mostly unchanged from photos of it taken during the 1930's.

The barn to the left of the Community Center is also old. It probably was owned at one time by Willis Hayden, as he was a farmer who owned the land that was donated for the building of the 2 room school house, which is now the Community Center.

There will always be unsolved questions when it comes to history. The newspapers in the 1920's were not very forthcoming about houses being moved before the valley was flooded. Photos were rare. So people try to piece together history as best they can. The barn behind the old Shew house (now owned by Floyds) has no documentation, but was probably moved, as its original foundation is no longer there. Another barn on Ryder Road, sits next to the old Humphrey farm house that was moved from the center of Fish House. As the barn appears very old, it is assumed that it was also moved with the house. The Humphrey house and barn are now owned by Gary & Dee Yonkers.

As for the huge barns of the Emily Stark farm and the Sinclair farm, there is no sign of them, so it must be assumed that they were destroyed.

It is said that a barn on Rt. 29 was moved from Fish House. As that barn is very old, who is to say it wasn't originally in Fish House?

Emily Stark barns, now gone

Humphrey Barn, on Ryder Road

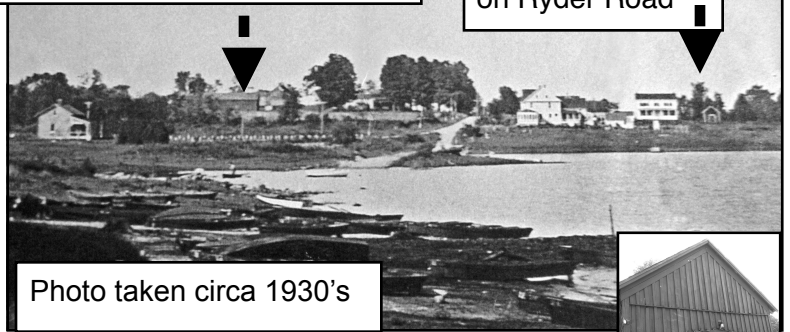


Photo taken circa 1930's



Humphrey Barn today, now Yonkers.

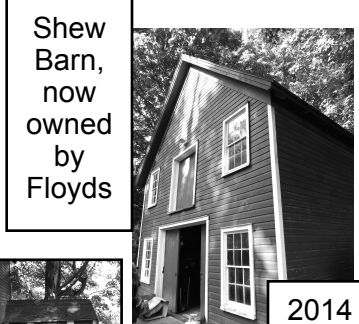
2014

William Stark barn, now Detweiler's.

2014



circa 1920



Shew Barn, now owned by Floyds

2014



Barn next to Community Center



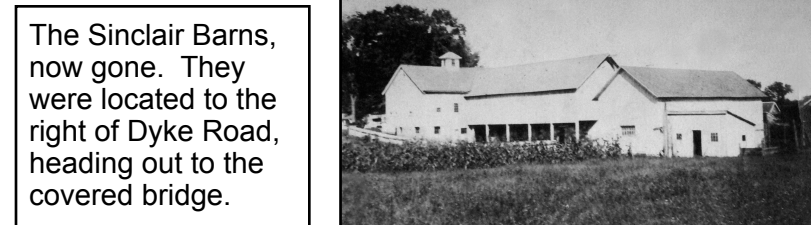
Outhouse, next to Shew barn



Circa 1930's

Barn on Shew Hill

2014



The Sinclair Barns, now gone. They were located to the right of Dyke Road, heading out to the covered bridge.