

NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

Friday, December 18, 2020

The North Shore's best source for local news & information 10,000 copies printed & delivered along the north shore

Christine Mallory, Editor

FREE Copies available at the following locations: • **Two Harbors:** Super One, Lake County Courthouse, Bay Breeze Laundry, Moosecellaneous Gifts, • **Silver Bay:** Zup's Grocery Store, Bri-Esa's Convenience Store, Julie's True Value Hardware, Americlnn • **Beaver Bay:** Holiday Gas Station, • **Finland:** Finland Co-op • **Ely:** Ely Public Library. **Viewable** at Silver Bay Public Library

Founder of Penmarallter Campground Turns 90, Oldest Resident of Larsmont

By Kitty Mayo

You may have passed the Penmarallter Campground that lies between the Highway 61 expressway and old 61, or Scenic Drive, and wondered about the origin of that name.

The root of it goes back to the man who started the campground in 1968, Cliff "Ted" Hanson, and his wife, Lee. Born and raised just a stone's throw from the campground, Ted bought the property and moved his family back to northern Minnesota after 20 years away. He named the campground after his four children; Pennie, Marilynn, Allen, and Terry. Penmarallter!

Hanson turns 90 years-old this month, and he and his daughter, Pennie Burton, shared some stories of his life.

Burton says that at this point she is fairly certain that her dad is the oldest person living in his own home in Larsmont, a point made especially notable since he was also born there.

In 1929, just a year before his birth, and seven years after the Scenic Drive was transformed from a dirt road to pavement, Hanson's father built his home on old Highway 61. That house, where Hanson was born and raised, still stands just a piece down the road from where he lives now.

But, during a December snowstorm in 1930 the old homestead became the location for great excitement. Hanson was about to come into the world, and with the

weather causing bad roads, his father did not dare risk taking his laboring wife and 19 month old daughter in his Model T to the hospital in town. Instead Hanson was born at home.

Growing up Hanson remembers his family raising chickens to sell, along with eggs, and having cows. A battery operated radio provided information and entertainment.

When asked how life on the North Shore has changed in his lifetime, Hanson replied; "We've got electricity and running water in the bathrooms, and there's a lot more people now!"

Hanson recollected idyllic winter days with fast-paced downhill sledding adventures, long before the modern-day expressway was put in. The Larsmont kids would mountain-climb to the top of the long, steep hill of the ridgeline where a cut had been logged out just for that purpose.

"Sliding down that hill was so steep and so bad that we would come down that hill going 45 to 50 miles an hour! Then we would turn around and carry that toboggan all the way up that hill," said Hanson.

The high-speed trek ended next to the Little Red Schoolhouse in Larsmont, a place that Hanson remembers going to club meetings in his youth.

Burton recalled a story that her Grandma Hanson (Ted Hanson's mother) used to tell about his childhood.

"Grandma said that when dad was around 5-years-old in 1936 it was the hottest summer. So hot that grandma had taken a blanket and put it under the apple trees and they were sitting in the shade. In town, where the railroad ran by the lumber yard, a fuel oil tank blew up and there was a big fire. Fire trucks were brought up from Duluth, and they went screaming by with lights and sirens. Dad had never seen a fire truck before, and being just five, grandma says he was so scared!," said Burton.

With permission from his parents, Hanson signed up to enter the Navy when he was just 17 years old.

Over the next 20 years Hanson would have many incredible adventures, including being on-hand the day John Glenn splashed down in the ocean after becoming the first American to orbit the earth in 1962. Hanson was in the helicopter that carried a news film crew, and later he was on the carrier to help Glenn out of his spacesuit and into the waiting Airstream onboard where Glenn would quarantine. Hanson was on hand again during the Cuban Missile Crisis as part of the blockade.

"I think his military career got him ready for civilian life," said Burton, referring especially to the time he was stationed with his family in Meridian, Mississippi.

At the new base in Mississippi Hanson became manager of the chief petty officers' club. After proving his skills as a leadership



Ted Hanson, 90, dubbed oldest resident of Larsmont.
(submitted photo)

school, he was promoted to Mess Management. At his appointment in Meridian, Hanson managed the base's bar/club/restaurant. He brought in acts from all over the country, including Tommy Cash, and Johnny Pineapple & His Island Review, an act from Hawaii that included musical performers and dancers.

"They had even been on Ed Sullivan, I remember the acts coming to the house after shows and my mother would make breakfast, it was like a party," said Burton.

After leaving the Navy in 1968, in addition to starting to create the now well-known Penmarallter Campground that Burton now runs with her husband, Hanson was hired to work at London House, a five-star restaurant that used to be on London Road.

See details in the veterans' column on page 12 of this week's Northshore Journal for a birthday celebration for Hanson on December 23rd.

Public Health Asks Minnesotans to Stay Home for Christmas

By Kitty Mayo

Greg Ruberg, CEO/president at Lake View Clinic & Hospital says that it appears that a vast majority of residents of Lake County have been doing the right things to limit the spread of the virus by avoiding gatherings, wearing masks, and maintaining social distancing. Those measures appear to have slowed community transmission and allowed frontline health care workers to be at work where we all need them.

"Thank you from us in health care at Lake View for making good decisions in Lake County and taking the pressure off so we can provide the care needed for those with Covid, and all other conditions," said Ruberg, adding that the need to maintain the same measures is vital.

Lake View is planning their

rollout of Covid-19 vaccines to be delivered to physicians, nurses and frontline health care staff by early next week. Ruberg reports that the clinics in Two Harbors and Silver Bay have officially been approved as vaccine sites by the Minnesota Department of Health. Lake View doctors are enthusiastic about getting the vaccination, and are planning to share the event on the clinic's social media page.

Cases in Lake County total 502, with 11 deaths as of presstime, and Cook County is at 97 total cases.

Keep it Simple for the Holidays

A leveling off of Covid cases in the region appears to indicate that many people followed public health advice to limit or cancel their Thanksgiving gatherings. Now public health officials are urging everyone to continue on that

course over Christmas and the New Year to keep the virus from spreading at an outbreak speed again.

The Minnesota Department of Health is advising that travel and gatherings between households should be avoided. From the CDC: "As cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to increase across the United States, the safest way to celebrate the winter holidays is to celebrate at home with people who live with you."

Ruberg says that his family is going to be doing Christmas this year the same way that they handled Thanksgiving: staying home with household members and not having any visitors.

Protecting Health Care Workers Could Save Your Dad

My father had emergency heart

surgery last week for a triple bypass. He was admitted to a rural Minnesota hospital located away from the north shore, and had an excellent surgeon competently attend to his life-threatening condition.

After moving to ICU, it rapidly became apparent to our family that the hospital did not have enough staff. It was increasingly difficult to reach anyone on the phone to check on dad. Suddenly, three days later he was discharged to a curbside pickup with no information, other than some handouts. With vitals that were not stable, dad probably should not have left the hospital.

He traveled over two hours home to find hospital staff had not packed his medication, or a

Continued on page 3