



MY PLACE

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE/DAVID H. CURL

## PINE LAKE LEGACY

### FAMILY'S ISLAND COTTAGE STARS IN A CENTURY OF SUMMERS

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SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

**P**INE LAKE — A plaque on the living room wall reads, "If you're lucky enough to live at the lake, you're lucky enough."

David and Georgia Lundquist consider themselves lucky to have spent 35 summers in a century-old island cottage on Pine Lake.

Georgia grew up spending summers here. Her grandfather, George Townsend, a Plainwell grocer, built the cottage in 1911 on Beech Island between Pine Lakes No. 1 and No. 2. David said the little house might have been the first on the island. Now, there are about 22.

The pale green cottage they call Beech Nut Inn has been in the family since 1911, except from 1953 through 1976, when the Rev. Park and Frances Newcombe owned it. When the Newcombes were ready to sell, they gave Georgia and David first chance to purchase it. It didn't take long for Georgia and David to make up their minds.

"If I put my foot on the island, you're never going to get it off," Georgia told her husband, who was practicing law at the time.

David practiced law for 25 years. Later, in 2000, he retired after 14 years as general secretary for the General Council on Ministries for the United Methodist Church. Georgia was an elementary school teacher for several years, managed the homefront and was an active volunteer in church for many years.

Most of their summers have been spent on the island. Since 1976, the couple has shared the cottage with their three children and their families. Still in the Kalamazoo area are daughter Anne Lundquist and her

husband, Allan Shackelford; and son and daughter-in-law Tom and Diana Lundquist. Daughter and son-in-law Sarah and David Leskovec live in Oregon.

For many years, family and visitors alike slept on hide-a-beds and made do with the tiny bathroom that replaced an outhouse in 1953. In 2002, they decided to make the place more comfortable by adding office space and a large bathroom and closet. They also enlarged the tiny bedroom that

previously had a low slanted ceiling and accommodated only bunk beds.

"We told the builder to make the bedroom as large as he could," David said. "We wanted a large bathroom, and we wanted windows on the south side."

The builder extended the house as far as he could — right up to a huge beech tree. The remodeling nearly doubled the cottage's original 400 square feet.

Five years later, a branch from a different beech tree fell on the roof of the bedroom and the resulting damage had to be repaired. There's always work to be done around the cottage.

Recently, the Lundquists' son-in-law, Allan, was doing yard work, and their son, Tom, was installing new doors.

A modern stove, refrigerator, freezer, microwave and wheeled island counter with cutting board were added with the remodeling. Various pieces of antique furniture have been kept, including the pie safe that Georgia said was there when she was growing up.

The couple now has a full-size bed; the hide-a-bed in the living room is for guests. The five grandchildren, who range in age from 5 to 26, bring sleeping bags to stretch out on the floor.

Sometimes, family and friends pitch tents in the yard. And when there's a real crowd, the Lundquists' next-door neighbors sometimes share their space.

The Lundquists also added a storage shed for kayaks, a lawn mower and tools.

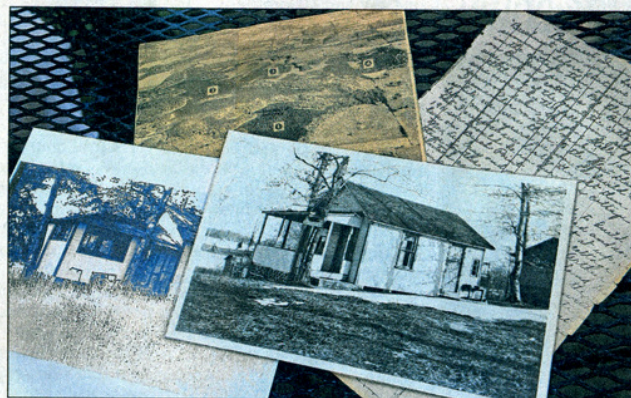
"We built this shed around the pump that was already here," David said.

Michigan's cottage season usually runs from May to October. Opening the cottage each spring

SEE MY PLACE, E2



**Celebrating a centennial:** Georgia and David Lundquist examine old photos, maps and a logbook (detailed below) that feature the 1911 cottage in its early days. The top photo shows the remodeled getaway as it looks today.



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**Easier to cook:** Cottage remodeling included updating the appliances and adding a kitchen island on wheels.