

Vol. 59

OTYC

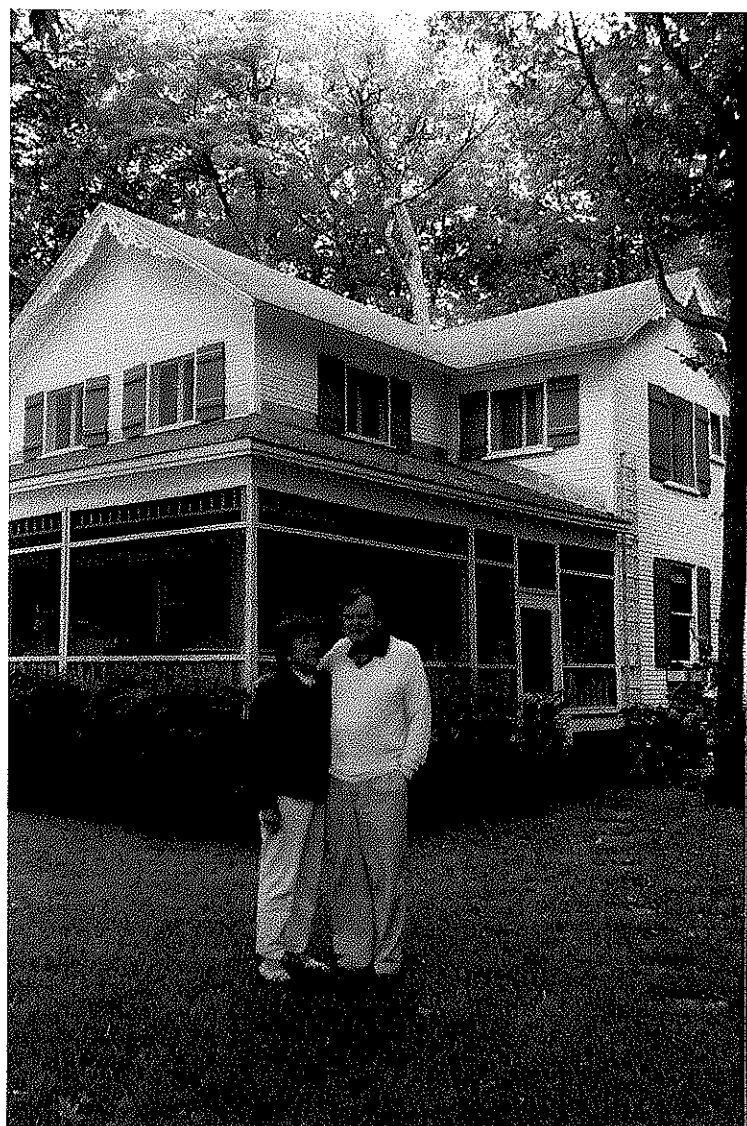
May 2003

OTYC

No. 2

## PENCROFT.....

..... "an inspiration for romance."



*Ed and Caroline Oberndorf*

One of the special benefits of editing the *Breeze* is the occasional opportunity to step back in time and explore the secrets and history of one of Omena's wonderful old cottages. We had such an opportunity last summer when **Ed and Caroline Oberndorf** shared the story of Pencroft, their 105 year-old cottage....a cottage that has been the scene of and inspiration for books, plays, community service and perhaps, most importantly, romance.

It all started in 1898, when **John W.S. Pierson**, a hardware store owner from Stanton, Michigan, and his wife **Clara** built the home. **John** supplied the "nuts and bolts." **Clara** brought her love for writing and the theater.

Between 1898 and 1924, **Clara Dillingham Pierson** wrote a number of books directed at seven to ten year olds with titles like *Among the Forest People*, *Among the Farmyard People*, *Adventures of Bobby Raccoon*, *Peter Cottontale*, *Grandfather Frog*, *Three Little Millers* and *The Millers at Pencroft*—tales of summer adventures in Omena. **Clara** had a fair amount of success as a writer and in fact named the cottage *Pencroft* because, as the story goes, her pen helped to finance the purchase of their "croft" or cottage site.

During her summers at Pencroft, **Clara** demonstrated a penchant for making friends of all ages. In the early 1900s, she struck up a friendship with **Mary Louise Frackelton** who visited Omena for the first time in 1910 at the

*(Please see page 4 - Oberndorf)*

### The Omena-Traverse Yacht Club Breeze

Official organ of the Omena-Traverse Yacht Club, authorized by its Board of Directors in 1948, published twice yearly.

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printed in and mailed from Auburn, CA

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(\$5.00 for teenagers).

#### Editorial Staff

Bill & Judy Knorp, Editors  
Dave Pohlod, General Counsel  
Judy Balas, Cub Reporter  
Legal Counsel  
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Vice Commodore, Debby Disch  
Rear Commodore, Mike Biskupski  
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##### Terms ending August 15, 2003

John Smart Larry Bensley  
and Michael Biskupski

##### Terms ending August 15, 2004

Debby Disch, Marsha Buehler,  
and Mary Tonneberger

##### Terms ending August 15, 2005

Judy Balas, Millard Mack and Mary  
Loveless

**Full Membership:** initiation fee (includes children up to 24 years of age): \$500.00.

**Family Annual Dues** \$220.00. \*

**Adult Annual Dues** (per single adult): \$110.00. \*

**Junior Annual Dues** (ages 14 to 23 as of December 31 of current year): \$15.00. \*\*

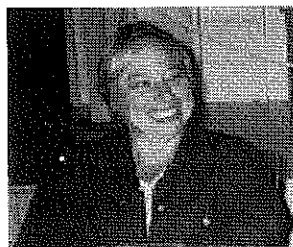
**Associate** - a person age 24-30 as of December 31st, and his/her spouse, if any, who has been a junior member each year since eligible 50% of Adult Dues. \*\*

**Guest Membership...** same categories and costs as above. \*

\* In addition \$15.00 Breeze subscription

\*\* \$15.00 Breeze subscription optional

**Web Site:** [www.otyc.net](http://www.otyc.net)



*"..... we must keep our membership vibrant, engaged and committed....."*

Although the Bay is frozen, the sun is bright, birds are singing, and the BREEZE deadline is upon me. Sure signs of Spring, all. Next week—the end of March—work on the new roof and ventilation will be underway. Thank you all for your support of that project and for your timely dues payments.

During the past five years the Yacht Club has been enhanced by a number of significant projects undertaken as a result of the Preservation and Safety Committee Survey: New roof, new kitchen, new landscaping, tennis court resurfacing, restroom upgrades—as well as a number of smaller improvements too numerous to mention. The support of you, the members, has been most heartening. It really is no fun to vote assessments, but that method of funding does serve to keep our dues low and ensures that each major project is well researched and discussed before approval. My thanks to all the Board members past, present and future who work toward our common enjoyment of this special place—and particularly to Mike Biskupski, who concludes six years on the Board. His thoughtful and amusing contributions will be missed.

One of my great pleasures as Commodore—aside from the raw power, pomp, & prestige—has been the opportunity to work with the committee heads—you are all commendable, as are your host and hostesses, bartenders, and ready helpers of all types. No one has ever declined to undertake a task. Bless you all, and thank you. Special thanks to Judy and Bill Knorp, who continue—with a vengeance—the proud tradition of BREEZE editors. Thanks to Jay Grosmark for initiating, designing, and maintaining our great website, [www.otyc.net](http://www.otyc.net). I think the best way to thank Jay would be to send him something to put on that site. Thanks to Barb Harris, who for many years as membership chairman has been diligent in her efforts to keep accurate address, phone, and e-mail listings as well as membership status records. She is an unsung OTYC hero. Thanks to Judy Smart for her relentless social event planning—I think she is truly a born hostess, and feel lucky to have her energy and talents to call upon. Most special thanks to my life-long House and Grounds Chairman, Tom, who will have a busy spring indeed.

So many to thank, so little space. Thanks to Mary Woolford for her "camp spirit" and for her generous gift of a tennis ball machine. Thanks to Cindy and Jeff Standley for sponsoring last summer's contra dance, and to Cindy for taking over potluck duties from Kathy Turner's capable hands. Thanks to Vin and Ginna Moore for their continuing generosity.

We must keep our membership vibrant, engaged, and committed, and to this end I encourage members whose families enjoy the OTYC as guests each summer to invite them to join us, to become members in their own right. The continuity of family participation is integral to the OTYC tradition. We need to have these folks on our phone list! You may have noticed that you see the same names frequently, and I'll tell you a secret. These folks—the most active and involved members—are having the most fun. I urge you to join in.

*Marsha*

## CLUB NEWS ..... plus in pursuit of trivia, nicknamia, and so much more!

**I**N PURSUIT OF TRIVIA ... What infamous member donated the elegant Sun Fish Race trophy prominently displayed behind the bar at OTYC?

**N**ICKNAMIA ..... "Gig" has been coming to Omena since the mid 1940's. Her maiden name would give away her identity so we won't reveal it here, but it is one of the reasons for her nickname "Gig". She was dubbed "Gig" during her Girl Scout years because she spent a whole night giggling. "Gig" is "Gig" to all her old Girl Scout, high school and college friends, and now she is "Gig" to us!! Who is "Gig"?

*..clues to these questions are blowing in the Breeze.*

**T**HE WORK ON THE ROOF as we go to press has begun by Weatherhead Roofing, Inc., a factory certified GAF contractor. This certification will substantially extend the life of the warranty. The scope of the project includes installation of three power attic ventilators which should make us all more comfortable on those hot summer evenings.

The contract price is \$19,200 including everything except the cost for extension of electrical power to the roof and for any bad structural wood which needs to be replaced. The overall price will be substantially less than anticipated last summer when the project was authorized.

For information about which size nails are being used or anything else you may want to know about this project, call Tom "B".

**N**OMINATING COMMITTEE: Judy Knorp, chairman of the Nominating Committee, along with members Kathy Bosco and Sam Knoll, are pleased to announce that Bill Mason, Larry Bensley and John Smart will be nominated for the Board of Directors for the term of 2003—2006. These nominations are recommendations to the membership and will have to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting in July. Congratulations to Bill, Scrub and John. Also our thanks to Mike Biskupski for his six years of service to OTYC as a Board Member.

**E**ARLY SOCIAL EVENTS: Liz Schleef invites everyone to come to the Memorial Day Reception on May 25<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 to 7:00 – BYOB and hors d'oeuvres to share. On June 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a Victorian Ladies' Tea, Luncheon and Program to be held at the Club. This event is planned by various Omena ladies groups and Joan Blount is the OTYC representative. Please check out the enclosed flyer for more details.

The Opening Dinner on June 28<sup>th</sup>, chaired by Caroline Oberndorf and Marcia Biskupski, will get us off to a good start on the official social season. Enclosed is a flyer with details and reservation form. Since this is always a "sold out" event, it is recommended that reservations be returned early.

Finally, on July 4<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 and 7:00 is the OTYC Independence Day Celebration. Chairman Nana Kennedy wants everyone to bring your family and guests along with your own picnic for this casual and fun time. Check out the creative, Suzie Mulligan-designed flyer for more details.

**T**HE YOUTH PROGRAM will start Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> and will run through Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The price this year is \$65.00 per week for member's children or grandchildren; \$80.00 for all others. Each session will start at ten a.m. and end at one p.m. Thursdays will be special days for field trips and water play days with tubing and games. This year more race days for the sailors are being planned. For the tennis players, full use of the new ball machine is anticipated.

The 2003 staff includes Alison Biskupski, Mike Okma, Woody Parker, Chelsea Mason, Sam Cooper Clark Gulsby and Betty Smith. All hulls, sails and masts are being repaired and will be in good shape for the opening.

For more information, contact Marsha at [buehler@traverse.net](mailto:buehler@traverse.net). Advance sign ups will be greatly appreciated.

**M**ARSHA "B"'S INSIDE INFORMATION: For those using the launch ramp, the combination is 1990. To open the lock, set numbers, push top of lock in and pull open.

**Burgees:** a limited number of OTYC burgees are available - \$20.00 to \$25.00.

**Logowear** – Land's End OTYC burgee-logo – 800-338-2000, customer # 3549865; logo # 0143417. In Traverse City, Screen-Plus, 918 W. Front Street, 231.947-1977 – will apply our logo to your items or you can order from them at [tcscreenplus@aol.com](mailto:tcscreenplus@aol.com).

Please watch the bulletin board for special events, adult sailing clinics, youth activities, and preschool playgroups.

**The Omena Breakfast Society** is now in its third year under the leadership of “Admiral” Dick Kennedy. Last summer there was a very close vote whether or not to change the name to the Boys of Omena Breakfast Society (BOOBS) and with 21 people attending, the vote was 18 to 17 to keep OBS as the official name. It was further decided to have the following membership categories: – “Fellow” those who attend on a regular basis; “Associate Fellow” – those who attend regularly on a seasonal basis, and “Odd Fellow” – one who occasionally attends. The society wants even you *odd fellows* to know you are welcome to attend any of the Friday morning breakfast meetings.



## SECOND ANNUAL DOCK DAY PARTY

Saturday June 7th (rain date June 8th)

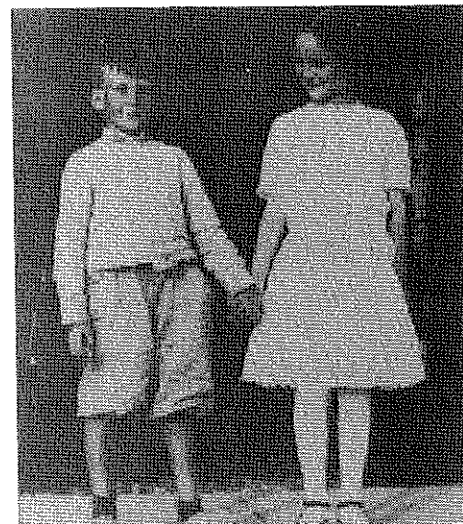
9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Bring rakes, shovels, and smiles.

Coffee, juice, donuts & thanks to those who attend!

(Oberndorf -  
continued from page  
1)

*This Omena picture was taken in 1912. Left is Bobbie Saxton, future father-in-law of Jane Saxton, and Mary Louise Frackelton, age 10.*



age of 8. **Mary Louise** stayed for many summers with her Aunt (Mrs. James A. Parsons) in the cabin now called the Dry Rot Yacht Club. In 1994, at the age of 92, she wrote down the following reminiscences of her early memories of Omena and her relationship with **Clara Dillingham Pierson**: “Mr. and Mrs. Pierson of course were distinct memories of my childhood for they were great walkers, traveling separately because they were also great talkers. They always stopped in front of the cabin if any of us were on the big porch, Mrs. Pierson to converse interestingly, Mr. Pierson to skip from odd unrelated subject to subject, drawn from a mind Auntie said was like an old fashioned roll top desk with quantities of pigeon holes.

Mrs. Pierson wrote two plays for us, an early one in 1914 which I produced behind a blanket hung between two trees by the Saxton house. This masterpiece in which Elizabeth and Betty Saxton took major parts was about a German spy on our Point.

The other play, in 1919, with me as the leading character, had a plot only vaguely remembered but with the unforgettable title: ‘The Deadly Amorita’ We practiced the play on the stage in front of the Pencroft cottage stairwell, and it was performed at the Pavilion, now the OTYC.”

With memories of Omena in her head and her future ahead of her, **Mary Louise** went on to complete her education. After graduating from Laurel School and Wellesley College, she earned degrees from the Cleveland School of Art and the New York School of Fine and Applied Art, Paris branch. Later she married **Charles Gleason**,

and they had two children **Charles** and **Caroline**.

Memories of Omena continued to remain strong, and **Mary Louise** and **Charles** were soon bringing their family to the Omena area each summer. For a while they lived like gypsies, staying at a lodge in Northport, a cottage on Ingalls Bay and at the **Moore** cottage. In 1954, **Mary Louise** realized one of her long-standing dreams when she and **Charles** purchased *Pencroft* from the **Pierson** heirs, commencing the **Gleason-Vail-Oberndorf** years. Sadly, **Charles Gleason's** enjoyment of *Pencroft* was brief as he died in 1956. In February of 1965, **Mary Louise** married **Herman "Dutch" Vail**.

**Mary Louise** brought a lot of character and style to Omena Point. **Caroline** recalls her mother as having a good head for business, a passion for the arts and was always a great role model for future women leaders. She was a trustee and the only woman to have served as President of Cuyahoga County Hospital. Her commitment to public service was well recognized in Ohio, and over the years she received numerous awards including the United Appeal Distinguished Service Award, Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Gold Medal for Public Service, and a commendation from the Ohio General Assembly.

Fittingly, people on Omena Point still remember *Pencroft* as **Mary Louise's** stage. From the very first days at *Pencroft*, she royally entertained her Omena and out of town friends there. The parties were legendary. Uniformed maids served the guests cocktails and appetizers, and everyone was expected to dress 'to the nines'. She was a gracious hostess who believed in spirited, high energy gatherings. Often to stimulate conversation, she had guests change tables as the courses progressed during dinner.



Breeze Photo - Dec. 1958

A founder of the Omena Woods Association, **Mary Louise** was also a strong supporter of the OTYC, its youth program and tennis in particular.

The time was right for the next generation to

experience the joys of *Pencroft*. **Caroline**, following her mother's footsteps, graduated from Laurel School and Wellesley College. On a blind date, she met Dartmouth graduate **Ed Oberndorf**. *Pencroft* would play a key role in the development of their relationship.

On **Ed's** first visit to *Pencroft*, he fell victim to the magic of the cottage and to romance, and when he saw **Caroline** on the steps of her historic cottage framed by the backdrop of the blue waters of the bay, he was powerless to do anything but drop to his knees and propose. They were married in the fall of 1958, and *Pencroft* soon became an important part of their life together.

**Ed** and **Caroline** have three sons: **Charlie** is a teacher and writer of science fiction books; **Michael** is the senior vice president of KeyCorp Bank; and **Rob** is an attorney-adventurer. They all have wonderful memories of summers in Omena and the OTYC youth program.

In the tradition of her mother, **Caroline** is very involved with the Omena Woods Association, is a gracious hostess and a tireless, enthusiastic and able volunteer for yacht club activities. She also has a marvelous sense of humor and is lots of fun.

**Ed** has developed a keen interest in the history of Omena. One warm summer evening in 1982, a group was gathered at *Pencroft* and **Ed** suggested that they organize for the purpose of studying the history of Omena. **Mary Louise Vail** immediately jumped to her feet and offered to contribute \$1000 to support this endeavor. Thus, the Omena Historical Society was born. **Ed** and **Caroline** have been very active in the Society, and **Ed** has served as President and lately as a source of inspiration and direction in the development of the first written history of Omena ..... *Omena....A Place in Time*. Appropriately, the idea for the book was born on the porch at *Pencroft*.

*Pencroft* reveals the warmth, love, caring and happiness of the families who have lived there. In recent years, **Ed** and **Caroline** have been sharing this special place with their grandchildren **Michelle**, **David**, **Christy** and **Andy**.

A walk through the cottage exposes inscriptions carved on the walls, probably done in 1898. The message in the living room reads: "To Rest: a field that has rested yields an abundant harvest."..... a fitting testimonial to the restorative powers of summers at *Pencroft* and Omena.



## A DAY AT THE OTYC RACES by Ace Turner

The Sunfish Regatta was held on Sunday, July 28, in a brisk west wind. At the start of the race, the OTYC Clubhouse porch was filled with spectators sipping coffee and digesting their brunch.

Everyone immediately knew it was going to be a fun day when **Mary Woolford**, with a twinkle in her eyes, announced: "Let's eat, drink, and make **Mary!**"

Ten boats competed for the elegant **Biskupski Trophy**. In keeping with a long-standing tradition, the trophy's namesake, **Mike Biskupski** piloted the race chase boat. His crew was last year's winner of the trophy, **Caroline Turner** and **Alison Biskupski**. Two races were completed, and in both races the top five finishers crossed the line within two minutes of each other.

The difference between the first three boats to finish the second race was less than 10 seconds. In fact, it looked for awhile like a traffic jam at the final buoy with the **Mulligan**, **Emmert** and **Bosco** boats all trying to occupy the same 30 square feet of Omena Bay. If their Sunfishes had been equipped with horns and turn signals, there would have been a cacophony of beeps, honks and toots along with a blaze of flashing lights. At the end of the jostling, the **Bosco** boat squeezed across the finish line first.

The final results of the race took awhile to calculate due

to the closeness of both races and the limited mathematical abilities of the race coordinator. In the end, however, the complicated calculus demonstrated that **Mark and Abby Bosco** were the winners of the **Biskupski Trophy**. **Karen, Claire** and **Katherine Edgley** took second place with a



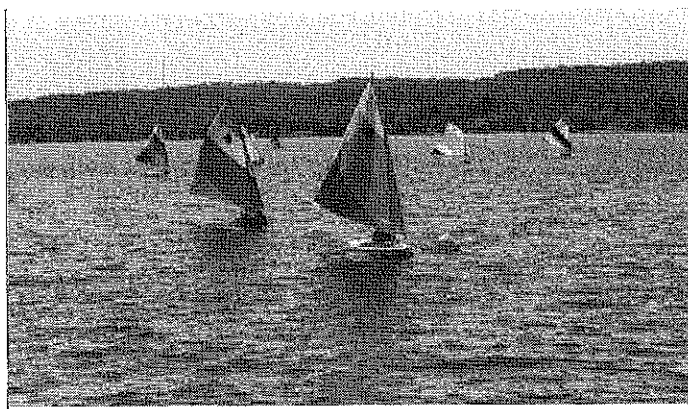
two second edge over **Taylor** and **Brandon White** in third place. The Good Sportsmanship Award was given to **Stu Mulligan**.

Congratulations to the winners and all who participated, and thanks to the chase team which successfully avoided making any rescue attempts and interfering with any of the competitors.

## BIG BOAT RACING by Bill Emmert

The Big Boat race was held on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. The course was the usual run from the club to the buoy off **Stony Point** and back. The wind was blowing like hell from the south at approximately twenty-five knots. Seven boats showed up, six started, and three finished.

**David** and **Barbara Hildner** took one look at the wind and decided that a cup of hot tea in their living room sounded good.



Finish of race #1.....Bosco first - Edgley Second

Bill and Nancy Sandt and Judy and Bruce Balas actually started the race but neither got out of Omena Bay. The Sandts reached the head of the Bay and decided to turn back to the safety of their OTYC slip.

When Judy and Bruce Balas arrived at the red buoy off the "Gardner" property, they turned North and sailed for home.

According to Bruce, "the only way I was going to be able to keep our *courtship* in tact was to get off the bay as soon as possible.....only crazy people sail in those winds!"

Ace Turner commandeered Matt Roll and his 22 foot *Ensign* along with champion helmsman Caroline Turner in an attempt to recapture the club's trophy. They were the first to sail their lightning fast boat out of Omena Bay. Unfortunately, on their way to Stony Point, the *Ensign* broached forcing them to turn back.

This left John and Paul Harris with friends Joseph and James Mooney sailing *Sure*; Geoff and Woody Parker on *Gryphon*, and Captain Judy and Bill Knorp joined by Scrub and Joey's granddaughter Kara Bensley on *Anelare* to duke it out for the trophy. Kudos to all the sailors who braved the heavy winds, and congratulations to the winner, *Anelare*. *Gryphon* finished second, and *Sure* was third.

Geoff Parker wrote: "Our boat was crewed by Woody and me. It was a sparkling clear day but very breezy, with gusty winds from the south frequently reaching 30. We surfed back home from the Stony Point mark, clicking close to 9 knots. It was a glorious August afternoon."

Following the race, Commodore Marsha hosted a picnic which was so much fun that another is planned for this year.....this time the picnic will be before the race.



Captain Judy Knorp with Bill "K" and Kara Bensley

## DUNE CLIMB CONCERT

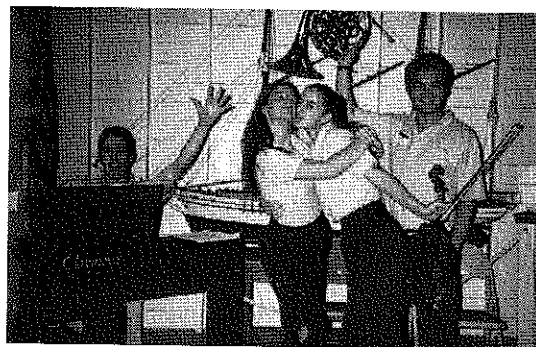
The winner of the contest to publicize an unusual family event is **Bob Grabowski** who suggested the annual Dune Climb Concert.

OTYC members who would enjoy spending a delightful summer evening at the Sleeping Bear Dunes listening to some very special classical music should mark their calendars for July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. That's the date and time for the 2003 edition of the Dune Climb Concert featuring the Manitou Music Festival Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Interlochen's Matthew Hazelwood.

While program specifics weren't available when we went to press, OTYC members who have attended prior-year concerts give nothing but kudos for the performances.

Don't forget to arrive early and bring the fixings for a gourmet picnic, a bottle or two of wine and some good friends. What better way to celebrate the passage of life in Leelanau County. And best yet, the concert is free except for the charge to enter the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park.

For more information, contact **Bob Grabowski**.



## INTERLOCHEN STUDENTS royally entertain OTYC.

The past two summers, students from Interlochen have entertained our members with a concert after a potluck dinner. Last summer, four outstanding musicians performed selections composed by Liszt, Rachmaninov, and others. Contributions from the club and individuals attending went to the Interlochen Scholarship fund.

Pictured left to right are: Michael Finlay - Bryan, Texas (Cleveland Institute of Music), Michala Hansen - Marquette, Michigan (North Carolina School of the Arts), Diana Pepelea - Brasov, Romania (Cleveland Institute of Music) and Tianxia "Taylor" Wu - Shanghai, China (The Juilliard School).

**Omena Traverse Yacht Club  
Statement of Changes in Net Assets  
For Year Ended December 31, 2002**

**UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS**

## Receipts

## Memberships

Associate Single	\$ 200	
Family	19,215	
Guest Family	2,400	
Junior	765	
Adult Single	2,415	
Less: Dues Allocation to Bldg Pres Fund	(6,000)	18,995

## Programs

Youth Program	3,838	
Special Events Dinners	3,441	
Potluck	1,534	8,813

## Initiation Fees

Regular	1,700	1,700
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## Publications

Breeze Subscription	2,180	
Breeze Advertising	100	2,280

## Facility Rental

Dock Rental	1,500	
Mooring Rental	400	
Club Rental	200	2,100

## Donations

Gifts & Bequests	400	400
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## Interest Income

451

## Other

197

## Total Unrestricted Receipts

34,935

## Disbursements

## Building &amp; Grounds

Building Maintenance	2,349	
Grounds Maintenance	1,302	
Insurance	6,231	
Utilities	782	10,664

## Program Expense

Youth Program	6,684	
Special Events Dinners	1,884	
Potluck	1,484	10,052

## Publications

1,353

## Administrative

2,319

## Taxes

Property	8,914	
Federal	56	
State	416	9,386

## Other

492

34,266

## Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets

669

## Net Assets at Beginning of Year

18,394

## Net Assets at End of Year

\$ 19,063

UNAUDITED



**Omena Traverse Yacht Club  
Statement of Financial Position  
For Year Ended December 31, 2002**

**ASSETS**

Checking: Fifth Third	\$ 294
Certificate of Deposit: Fifth Third	10,564
	<hr/>
Total Current Assets	10,858
	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 10,858
	<hr/>

**LIABILITIES**

Payroll Liabilities - FUTA	\$ 61
Prepaid Dues	670
	<hr/>
Total Current Liabilities	731
	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	731

**NET ASSETS**

Building Preservation Fund	\$ 8,069
General Fund	2,058
	<hr/>
Total Net Assets	\$10,127
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$10,858
	<hr/>

**Omena Traverse Yacht Club  
Statement of Cash Flows  
For Year Ended December 31, 2002**

**OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Net Increase in Net Assets	\$ 669
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Adjustment to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to  
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:

Increase (Decrease) in Current Liabilities

Prepaid Dues	\$ 670
Payroll Liabilities	24
	<hr/>

Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	1,363
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**INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Allocations to Building Preservation Fund	6,000
Disbursements from Building Preservation Fund	(14,937)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	(8,937)

**FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(7,574)
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents as of Beginning of Year	18,431
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents as of End of Year	\$ 10,857
	<hr/>

UNAUDITED

Breeze Exclusive...

## ...YOUNG LADIES LURE LOVERS TO OMENA



Kathy Bosco



Nancy Cooper



Karen Edgley



Betsy Ehrhardt



Carol Knoll



Caroline Oberndorf



Mary Helen Ray



Charlotte Read

We have noticed that more OTYC women than men grew up summering in Omena and have brought their husbands and families here.

In order to find out why, we selected eight candidates and asked them to fill out a survey about when they first came to Omena, how they met their husband, and what his initial reaction was to our 'Garden of Eden'.

The responses were so much fun and went far beyond what we expected to hear. We hope you will enjoy their stories as much as we did.

Here is the deal.....pictured are the eight ladies we surveyed. The challenge for you is to match each story with the correct picture.

**#1** "My first memories of Omena were when we came after the war in 1946. I remember fondly being with Aunt Nettie Fordham and seeing the water and the beauty of Omena. To illustrate how times have changed, I spent hours in college writing the three restaurants in the County for a job. Cedar Lodge, Leland Lodge and the Blue Bird all replied that they had filled their jobs and didn't need any summer help even though I told them I smiled and laughed a lot and that my nickname was 'Gig'.

I met my husband on a blind date and earned my second date with him when he bet that I couldn't start the outboard engine on his boat. He didn't know that I learned how to pull and start a gas pump at the Smiley cottage to get water out of the Bay. The rest is history!

Oh yes, my husband thinks that fresh water isn't so bad after all...he grew up on Cape Cod."

**#2** "I came to Omena when I was ten years old when the community was much smaller. There were no phones and people went to the pay phone in Omena to conduct their business.

I met my husband on New Years Eve in Los Angeles when Michigan State University was playing in the Rose Bowl long ago. He came to Omena in 1956 for the first time and loved it... thought it was beautiful and fun. As our family grows so do our Omena experiences - engagements, weddings, fun with grandchildren, summers and Christmas."

**#3** "I came to Omena with my family to visit the Ray's cottage in 1966 or so. I loved the beach, as I can see in the old home movies.

I met my husband in Hong Kong just after I moved there to teach English at a local school. He came to Omena in 1987 and loved it a lot, since he loves sailing and the water. His parents have come from their native country to visit Omena twice. We can't look out at the bay without thinking of them."

**#4** "In 1950 was the first time mother brought me to Omena. We stayed in a perfectly horrid cottage....no hot water and only one bathroom. However, I thought I was in God's country. I still feel this way. By the way, that cottage is now occupied by Jeanne Hines and is now one of the most beautiful homes on Ingalls Bay.

I met my husband on a blind date arranged by dear friends. Our first small talk, when he stated he was in the meat packing business and sold Maiden Forms, led me to believe that I would never forgive my friends. On arrival, I asked for a martini (first one ever) and they left for a kitchen consultation. After several martinis, dinner and dancing I knew I was going to marry him (I did not inform the man as he had a reputation for running out from commitments.) He still gives me my morning martini. My father made me promise (on his death bed) that any man I was interested in would have "Trial by Omena". He had seen too many of my infatuations turn to ashes on my part. He was invited in the summer of 1957. It rained. We walked in the rain, and on the beach in the rain (he had such cute legs and still does and that is why we are still together) and we watched rain from the porch. He passed the test with honors.

My husband's first impressions of Omena were threefold....the overwhelming beauty and quaintness of Omena, the bay and the woods....the warmth of the cottages and townspeople....and the vibrancy and loveliness of his future mother-in-law to be with whom a very close bond was initiated that was eternal. Lastly, he was promised that he would view his first treefrog. He never spotted one but one evening at twilight he thought he saw something flying through the treetops, wondering to this day whether it might have been E T visiting the unique and mystic world of Omena and departing knowing there is nothing like it in the universe."

**#5** "I was born in 1954, and I have come to Omena every summer of my life.

In December 1971, when my all girls' school, Hillsdale in Cincinnati, was putting on a play and needed guys, my husband tried out and got the lead role! He visited Omena for the first time in 1972 and he has never missed a summer here since then.

We love lots of things....multicolored northern lights; flashlight tag on the hill; "Killer" on the OTYC balcony; spoons at Granny's; sleep outs on the beach and in the tree house; watching my husband and kids grow to cherish their time here."

**#6** "I came to Omena when I was 14 years old. I loved it. We would get up in the morning, put on our bathing suits, eat breakfast and go to the beach. We were very serious about our tans; and not wanting to miss a moment of sun, my two sisters and I would "discuss" who was going to go up to the house and make sandwiches, etc. I can remember the agony of missing 15 minutes of sun. Those were the days!

I met my husband when he was in my sister's class in kindergarten, but he didn't make much of an impression on me then. I really noticed him in the summer of my senior year in high school. He was an older man having already completed two years of Yale. I was dating someone else but he was in Maine for a month. He came over to show my sister his new guitar and I made sure he noticed how wonderful I thought he was.

Fortunately, my sister left with another friend....he needed a date for a Proctor and Gamble Day at Coney Island where we stood in huge long lines and talked and talked. We had the best time. Too bad for the guy who went to Maine!

Since my "new friend" had gone to camp Hayo-went-ha, he knew the area and loved it. From the very beginning, he loved Omena as a place to get away from it all and relax. He loves to read and my mother, sisters and I would knit, work puzzles and play cards. Dad would always have jazz playing. And when it rained we would go into town and eat ice cream and fudge.

Many of these same traditions are continued at our new cottage on Ingalls Bay."

#7 "I first came to Omena in 1941 and stayed in the Herman Cottage (now owned by Jeanne Hines). I slept in a tiny dark room with my sister.

I met my husband when I was a freshman at Northwestern University. We were studying in the library across the table from each other. He came to Omena for the first time in 1957. I sent him a picture of an old run down house with no wires of any kind going into it and told him it was ours. He was quite relieved to find we had electricity and water and has been "in love" with Omena ever since."

#8. "I came to Omena in 1937 at eight months of age. I

can't recall many impressions but I am certain Omena was in my blood.

I met my husband at a Northwestern University football game. We were both working at Harris Bank in Chicago in the trust department. In July 1959, when we were engaged to be married, he came to Omena for the first time. His liking Omena was a major "test".

I am grateful that my parents had a strong friendship with another prominent Omena family and that they had the foresight to purchase in 1936 the only available home in the area at that time. I have always felt from a child until and including the present day that we tolerate 8-9 months elsewhere so we can spend 3-4 months in Omena."

Answer to the puzzler - Kathy #2; Nancy #5; Karen #3; Betsy #7; Carol #6; Caroline #4; Mary Helen #8 and Charlotte "Gig" #1

## DRAMA ON THE UPPER DECK.....

....." another generation of OTYC memories had its beginning."

One warm evening in July when Bingo was the "program" after a crowded pot luck dinner, **Marsha Buehler** went upstairs to secure the door to the upper deck, assuming that no one would be using it for the rest of the evening. Just as she was about to lock the door, she heard the low murmur of voices coming from the deck.

Opening the door, she found three young children sitting on the large upper deck chairs. **Marsha** said: "I am so glad that I heard your voices. I almost locked the door." Thereupon, the following dialog took place:

**Janey Capers Newland** : "I am so happy that you didn't lock us out."

**Marsha**: "There is bingo being played downstairs. Don't you want to play?"

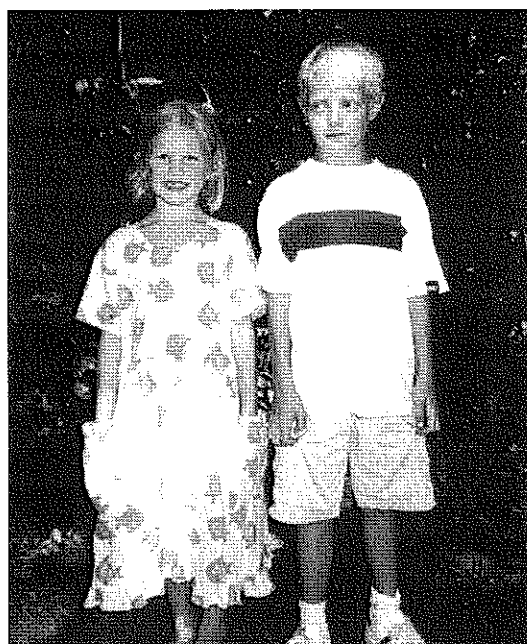
**Janey Capers Newland**: "Thanks, but we just wanted to enjoy this beautiful evening from the upper deck.....after all, we have not seen each other for an entire year and we just wanted to talk. This is **Sam List** and his guest **Jonathan Griffin** and I am **Janey Capers Newland**."

**Marsha**: "What would you have done if I had locked the door?"

**Sam**: "I would have just climbed down."

**Jonathan**: "I would have slept here."

Everyone laughed and **Marsha** excused herself, encouraging the young friends to enjoy the view and visit for as long as they wanted..... another generation of OTYC memories had its beginning.



*Janey Capers Newland (6)  
and Sam List (7)*

# Summer Fun in Omena.....

The youth program of 2002 was fabulous.

In an exclusive interview, **Marsha Buehler** commented: "Last year we had fifty-two kids participate as campers and eleven instructors and junior instructors. We had from sixteen to twenty-six each week. We had a blast, learned a lot and played hard. This year the program will be six weeks starting June 30<sup>th</sup>."

A new facet of last year's program was the addition of Junior Instructor positions, with an eye toward development of future program instructors from within our membership. These positions were announced in a flyer sent to parents of junior members, and six were interested in participating. The junior instructor positions will be continued this summer.

Instructors last year were **Alison Biskupski**, tennis; **Esther Johnson**, assistant tennis; **Mike Okma**, sailing; **Woody Parker**, sailing and lifeguard; **Chelsea Mason**, sailing and tennis assistant; and junior instructors **Haden Gulsby**, **Sam Cooper**, **Kara Bensley**, **Clark Gulsby**, **D.D. Drinan** and **Lucy Loveless**.

The parents, especially **Karen Edgley** and **Tim** and **Brenda White**, and grandparents played a key role in organizing the weekly special events. Everyone is looking forward to an increased involvement this summer and another fabulous youth program.

*Jumpers Katherine and Claire Edgley*

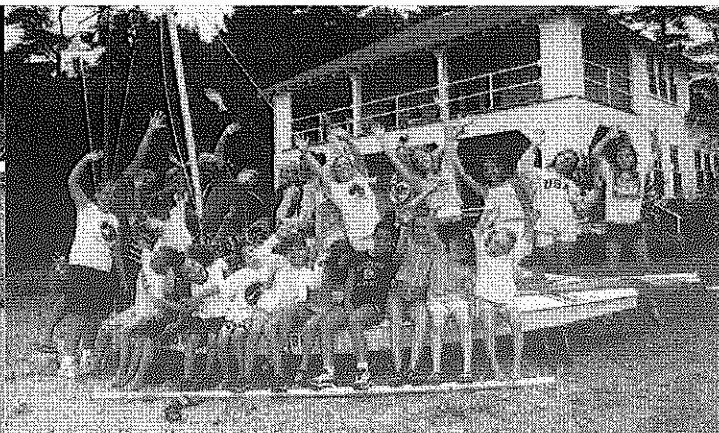
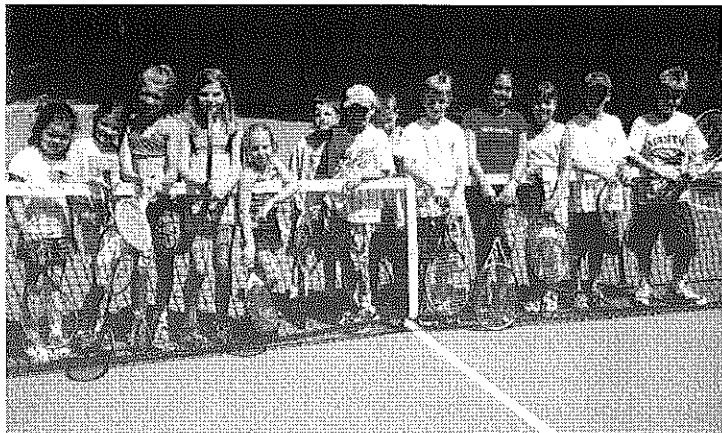


*"Mom..... I love these 'sailing' lessons!!"*

*Andrew Standley*



*Sailors Jackie Kohler & Crawford Smith*



## OMENA TELL TALES and TEEN TALK

**B**ill Renz writes ..... "Tish, Crystal and I are doing great. It has been a long, cold winter by southern Ohio standards and I'm passing the time by working with my father on a huge undertaking—finishing my basement. **Crystal** is enrolled in preschool, Kindermusic and a playgroup. We are looking forward to warmer climates in early March when we'll visit my parents in Sanibel, FL and we'll even spend a couple days in Key West with **Tish's** parents."

**F**rom **Bill and Rat Renz** ..... Cincinnati had "Snow Rollers" this February! Amazing things that we had never seen before. The snow literally rolls itself up into basketball size snowballs. They were in everyone's yards, with much bigger ones on the golf courses or other places where the wind could sweep through. **Cynn**ie and **Ron** swept in from Washington DC just in time to catch these snow rollers. In March **Bill** and I spent a little over two weeks in Florida, mostly on Sanibel, where we saw a lot of Omena people at the Omena Reunion."

**J**ohn and **M.H. Ray** .... "**Emily Ayars McKenzie**, daughter of **Linda** and **Mike McKenzie** and granddaughter of **Mary Helen** and **John Ray**, arrived February 26. All are doing well. Off to Sanibel Island, FL for 4 weeks. We're ready - it's been a COLD winter!"

**F**rom Florida, the **Mulligans** wrote..... "well the arctic weather in Dixie is phenomenal..... 45 degrees here today. We're eating well (too well!) of course. Tonight we'll have dinner at a favorite restaurant here on Perdido Key, then head into Pensacola for some culture: a comedy play at Pensacola Little Theatre. **Yesterday was Helen's 98th birthday. Imagine that!**"

**J**ohn and **Judy Smart** were seen at **Bill Mason's** Nub's Nob chalet for two days of skiing. Daughter actress **Amy Smart** has been spotted in Leelanau County over the winter filming Public Service Announcements for the Leelanau Conservancy. Kudos to **Amy** for donating time for this project.

**A**ce and **Kathy Turner** are simply delighted to be in their new downtown Dayton townhouse and are enjoying being able to walk to their favorite places. "**Caroline** is part of Sea Semester this winter. She is in Maine for now and then they will spend 6 weeks sailing from Tahiti to Hawaii while earning college credits. How come we didn't get a deal like this when we were in college?"

**M**ike and **Kathy Bosco** have purchased and are restoring **Janet Barth's** old cottage in downtown Omena. This is very exciting news for the preservation of our historic village.

**T**he annual meeting of Omena-South was held - cocktails at the lovely N. Ft. Myers home of **George and Annette Husted** and dinner at the Ft. Myers Country Club.

The group this year consisted of many regulars and a few new additions. Among the attendees were **Mary Helen** and **John Ray**, **Caroline** and **Ed Oberndorf**, **Rat and Bill Renz**, **Joan Kalchik** and **Mike Tenbrock**, **Charlotte** and **Alan Read**, **Delcie** and **Glenn White**, **Jo Ann** and **Jack Bishop**, and **Judy** and **Bruce Balas**.

Discussed during the evening was the recent purchase of property in Ft. Myers by **Fred** and **Marsha Holtz**, who are considering moving there year round; the fabulous three week South American cruise taken by **Delcie** and **Glenn White** in celebration of their 20th anniversary; and the anticipated August wedding of **Joan** and **Mike** to whom everyone toasted.

The evening ended, after several hours of animated conversation, with many spouses waiting in their cars for their husbands, wives, or house guests to have the last word. We all vowed to "do this again next year."

**D**ale and **Joan Blount** write .... "Look forward to your return to Omena in Spring....It's really beautiful up here now with all of this snow. We are enjoying skiing and snowshoeing with our neighbors, often followed by hot wine and hot soup....what a life! We had a wonderful two and a half weeks in Florida in January at the "**Southern White House**", but are happy to be back home in Omena. We do miss the wonderful seafood, the sandy beaches, and most of all—**Tucker** (the **White's** black lab) Next weekend the **Pohlods**, **Deibels**, **Kennedys** and we are heading to the big city of Grand Rapids to attend the opera "**Rigoletto**". We'll stay at the Amway, having dinner before the opera at the 5-star "1913 Room". Pretty excited about it. We'll be joined by **Roxanne** and **Chuck (Deibels' daughter and son-in-law)**, too, as well as **Nana's** cousin from Grand Rapids. Do you think Grand Rapids is ready for us?!"

**S**crub and **Joey Bensley's** son **Bob** and family are spending six months in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. **Bob** is a professor at Western Michigan University and won a



Fulbright Scholarship to continue his studies of community health issues in Africa. They have a fascinating web page - [bensleyafrica.com](http://bensleyafrica.com). **Scrub** and **Joey** visited South Africa in February and on the website there is an hilarious account of **Joey's** reaction to an encounter with a herd of elephants. To see photos and read this and many more stories about the **Bensley's** wonderful experience in Africa, go to the web page, click on **Bob's** picture....scroll down to the elephant story.

**TEEN TALK** ..... We thought it would be fun to hear from our teenage members. To help with this project, **Chelsea Mason** contacted a number of her contemporaries and asked them to write what they have been doing over the winter months. The following are notes from those who responded:

**Haden Gulsby** ..... "Senior year has been a blast, I cannot get enough of it. I've been up to a lot of senior activities and senior formals. I am a dancer and this year I have been dancing with a company called Planet Funk, I do hip hop dancing. In April I am going to be in the Waco Cotton Palace Pageant where I will be a debutant. My grandmother (Jane Saxton) is very proud. After another amazing summer in Omena this year, I am off to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge where I will major in marketing and hope to pledge Delta Delta Delta or Kappa Alpha Theta."

**Jon Narlock**.... "This year has been a complete change for me. I now attend Hope College and what a difference it is from high school. You don't have anyone telling you what to do, nobody asking if your homework is done, and the worst of them all, did you make your bed? I must admit though, being away from the family has brought me much closer to them. Anyway, I don't really have much free time lately, it's all consumed by class, studying, and

football conditioning. There really isn't much else going on in my life. I can't wait for summer!"

**Catherine Buchholz**.... "Well, I am a senior at York High School in Elmhurst, IL. Next year I am going to be attending the University of Missouri-Columbia and I am going to major in Journalism or another related field. I participate in many activities at my school which take up a lot of time. The most time-consuming of these activities is Law Team (Mock Trial Team). It is just like a sport...we practice everyday after school and have competitions. I am also very involved in Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society."

**Woody Parker** .... "I became the President of my high school's SADD, students against destructive decisions, where I was one of the two who organized a mock car crash. I played on my school's JV Soccer Team and am currently playing on the school's Varsity Ice Hockey Team. My dad and I recently spent a week in the Colorado Rockies skiing."

**Chelsea Mason**.... "My fall was busy as a Junior on the Varsity Tennis Team at Heritage High School in Saginaw. I played number one doubles with my good friend, Susan Beckley, who has been to Omena several times. We shared many laughs! Also, since I am Class President, I was in charge of our class Homecoming float which won 1st place, of course! Over Christmas, I skied with my dad and sister Suzanne at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs. This Spring I plan to visit Indiana University and Miami of Ohio to begin my college visitations and in June I will be traveling to Europe for two weeks with my high school. Oh yes, I had a great trip to Kansas City in February, and I cannot wait to see everyone in Omena this summer!"

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### COTTAGES FOR RENT

**INGALLS BAY**, sandy wooded beach - 2 BR w/Jacuzzi. Available June-September. Perfect for families or romantic getaway. **Chris Bishop - 231. 386-7523.**

**ATTRACTIVE COTTAGE** on Omena Bay. Four BR, modern kitchen, screened porch, fireplace. NO PETS Available June-October. **John Ray 847. 256-1026**

**COTTAGE FOR RENT** - 3 BR - small marina. For more information, go on line [dryotyachtclub.com](http://dryotyachtclub.com) or call Sue Crossman 231. 386-5750.

**CREATE MEMORIES** - 4 BR Ingalls Bay Cottage-before June 16/after August 16. Great beaching, swimming and sunsets. Call **Cathy Stephenson 773. 975-9072**

**OMENA BAY RENTAL** - Cottage and/or Guest House - both fully equipped. Sleeps up to 15. For more information call **Jim Centner - 231. 883-6126.**

**OMENA CUT FLOWERS** will deliver a gorgeous bouquet of flowers weekly small \$12.00/large \$22.00. **Carolyn Faught 231. 271-6432** [www.faught3@aol.com](http://www.faught3@aol.com)

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**EPICURE CATERING** - full service caterers, large or small events. **Cammie Buehler and Andy Schudlich** Chef/ Proprietors **231.883-4180**

**JUNIOR INSTRUCTORS** for OTYC youth program. Must have some tennis or sailing experience to work for one or two weeks. Contact Marsha

### Photos Back Page from top left - clockwise

Kids and Teenagers at bingo; Marsha carrying her usual load home; Taylor and Brandon White off to their fabulous start in sunfish race #1; Omena Yachters disrupting the quiet town of Elk Rapids; John and Paul Harris and friends at the start of the Big Boat race; Gil and Annette Deibel (up to some mischief?)

