

Old Boarding Houses In Moultonborough – February 2001

by Jane Rice

I posed a question in the Meredith News of where some of the old boarding houses were located, that I saw mentioned in old news-paper clippings, and of course, Adele Taylor and Marion Goodwin were the ones with the answers. Back in the 1930's, Mabel and Henry Boyle owned what is currently Maurice's Family Restaurant, also known as the Country Fare, Berry Pond Inn, and Moultonboro Inn, that I can remember. When the Boyles had it, it was Hill Crest Tavern, and what is now the Holland Hill House was Hill Crest Farm, and the former Larrabee place, also on Route 109 North, Hill Crest Annex, which had rooms for visitors. The "Fairmont" was at Green's Corner, and Mansfield's was on Route 109, probably where Pat Carrasco lives.

The "El-ni-do" restaurant was where Dr. Hope lives, and Ethel Carter was famous there for her fried clams; and there were also three overnight cabins. There are still more details to be learned, but this is a great start on learning about some the businesses related to the end of the farming era and the beginning of the era of "summer people" being the main industry of the town.

There have been many restaurants, stores, boarding houses, and overnight cottages that have come and gone, but they need to be a part of our published Town History, and we also need to include the story of the current businesses in town, which will some-day be a part of our history, too. Even now, who remembers Doc Mallard's Restaurant, the Kracker-box store, Tilton's Store, the Hi-There Cafe, or the Teepee Tub Laundromat? How about MacCormack's Store when it was still in the MacCormack family, or Arey's Marina when Howard Arey ran it and Hazel Straw clerked in the "Superette"? These things need to be recorded, or they will go the way of blacksmith and wheelwright shops, gristmills and shook mills, and no one will remember the details.

One of the old hotels which saw the beginning of the tourist era in the Lakes Region, but which is no longer in existence, is the "Island Home", which burned in 1962, at which time it was said to have been unoccupied for at least 35 years. It was located not far from the Long Island Bridge. The hotel was also known as Blake's Hotel, named after the builder, and a picture, taken in 1947, shows a

pleasant two-story mansard-roofed building with a porch on both level, at the time of the fire. Carroll Lamprey of Tuftonboro noted that it was flour-ishing in 1878, and supplied a copy of an advertisement published at that time

"Island Home"

Long Island,

Lake Winnipisiogee, N.H".

The Island can be reached by either of the following routes. Boston and Maine, Eastern, or Boston, Concord and Montreal Rail Roads, Steamer Mt. Washington, or Lady of the Lake. A Steamer for pleasure parties will be in attendance, also small boats for rowing. The Lake abounds in fish and the woods with small game. A Post Office on the Island where visi-tors will receive their mail daily. Post Office address until July 1, 1878, Lake Village, N.H. Blake & Lamprey,Proprietors."