HEIDELBERG BEACH ASSOCIATION

"Rest, Read, Dream, or Play
come ye yourselves apart
and rest awhile"

The dream of a group of ministers to establish a Reformed Church summer resort on Lake Erie began to become reality with the decision in March of 1924 to secure the Knott Farm, with the moral support of the Ohio and Central Synod. The first trustees' meeting of "The Heidelberg Beach Association, a corporation not for profit" was held July 9, 1924, in the Mitiwanga Reformed Church, and the business of the Association was begun.

In the fifty ensuing years many milestones were observed as a result of the far-sightedness of the founding fathers and their successors...

The old apple orchard produced a small but marketable crop, and the decrepit barn that stood on the property furnished materials that were put to use in
building comfort stations, a well house, and a cabin on the hill in the orchard.

Timbers from the barn were to be preserved and used in the building of breakwaters and piers. Though the County Health Board disclaimed responsibility, they were consulted along with the State of Ohio Health Department concerning proper facilities to insure a satisfactory water supply and suitable sewage disposal.

In June, 1926, plans were approved for the erection of a five-room cottage which became the "Pioneer". Money from the sale of lots was needed, so several pieces of publicity were printed with pictures extolling the beach. Two more cottages were erected in 1927, a year which saw electric power brought in, log pier construction authorized, and an eight-foot steel re-inforced concrete bridge built over the creek. Leaseholders were given the choice of planting trees of their own choice on their lots as indicated by
the plat, or having it done by the Association and being billed. A contract was given for furnishing and planting the trees on the Promenade. Gifts during the early years from individual leaseholders provided the Association with pumps, a pavilion, and shuffle-boards. Arrangements were made by the superintendent of grounds for religious services to be held on Sundays beginning in the summer of 1930.

At this time the Association had little money for expenditures of any kind, so private initiative brought forth the boathouse and a tennis court which were independently operated and subject to the rules of those clubs. Out of the doldrums of the 1930's when the Treasurer's report showed a shortage of $1244.97, the Association rose to show an "out-of-the-red" 1943 balance of $230.36.

The decades of the 1940's and 1950's saw the rebuilding of the "L" at the end of what had become the westerly concrete pier-
construction of a monorail system for boat-launching - enlargement of the pavilion and the purchase of rolled awnings for it - removal of the old well house and pump - construction of another concrete pier near the easterly property line - and the purchase of a sound system for the pavilion.

The decade of the sixties dealt with the sublimities of such things as the purchase of an organ, the acceptance of an individual's gift of entrance lights, and the not-so-sublime matters of water mains (no more pumps on the beach) and sanitary sewer lines (hopefully to eliminate the septic tanks and insure proper drainage). Legalities involved in incorporation were explored as opposed to the trusteeship wherein the Association found itself, and in 1965 the articles of incorporation as proposed by the trustees were adopted. Major repairs and reconstruction of the west pier was approved in 1962.
The half-century has rounded itself out with the sophistication of a Heidelberg Beach periodical newsletter, the "Sandscribe" to keep us all informed of The Association's "goings-on", and the re-establishment of a tennis club.

These are the highlights of the facts involved in fifty years of development with no mention made of the specific individuals without whom there could have been no place such as HEIDELBERG BEACH wherein to

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