

for his daughter. At midnight that night the beautiful Neewana disappeared beneath the waters of Lake Geneva. On this spot every year blooms a lovely blue flower for one day. Whoever finds it will live a lucky life from then on.

Sometime later Father attended a lecture I was giving and heard me tell this legend. As soon as we had left the school house he began to laugh. "Where did you find that malarkey about Lake Geneva?" I told him in a borrowed volume of student themes from



Mrs. Sanford's literature class at the University of Minnesota. Then he remarked laughingly, "I don't see it sounded sort of familiar. I wrote it as a freshman in Mrs. Sanford's class. She assigned a local legend. I didn't know one so made one up. I didn't know my father could be so poetic. Legend of the Blue Flower indeed!"

In the July 19, 1900 issue the paper notes that Geneva Beach is much in the favor of the public and most guests return year after year. Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell of St. Louis are spending their nineteenth year at the Beach. Mr. Stone of St. Paul counts nine summers and Mr. Dillon of Chillicothe, Mo., just as many at Lake Geneva. Some who dropped out have returned this year because "they could not do as well anywhere else."

Also at the Beach in June were: Mrs. W. H. Still of St. Louis, Messrs. Virgil Dillon, Claude Oliver, H. C. Milbank from Chillicothe, Mo., Mrs. Herbert Tucker, Marion and Ward F. from Minneapolis. Other Missourians from Columbia, R. H. McBeane, Robert and W. E. Harske and Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Hatcher. One visitor commented that the bathing was delightful but the water was a trifle cold. The ladies are good swimmers, but the "heavyweights" find it quite difficult to overcome the "laws of gravity." The ladies also are proving to be the best anglers.



#### Lake L'Homme Dieu

Lake L'Homme Dieu is one of the "most beautiful sheets of water in America," a writer in the National Geographical Magazine wrote some time ago. The north shore area of this lake, called Interlachen Park, was named for Interlachen, Switzerland, which means "between the lakes." The naming of Lakes Carlos and L'Homme Dieu have been hard nuts to crack. In Dr. Warren Upham's book on Geographical Names in Minnesota, he says that G. A. Kortsch wrote him that they were named by Glendy King, an early homesteader in that area. King named Carlos and L'Homme Dieu for his two friends in West Point Academy. This story errs in

that a Mr. Napoleon Beedon got a U. S. patent in 1871 to this land between the lakes. He sold to a Charles Kingston in 1875 which may account for the confusion of names.

A short while ago, Dr. William Anderson of Minneapolis who owns property on Lake L'Homme Dieu, was interested enough to write the Academy to verify if all three men were there at the same time. It must have taken much searching, but the librarian



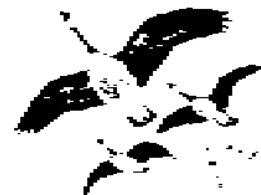
answered that in 1886 there were two cadets by those names BUT NO KING. There was a Charles Kingsley, however. In letters written by the Kirkeads, they speak often of their neighbor, Glendy King. We know from my early map that among the homesteaders listed on it was the name of Glendy King whose homestead was on Lake Winona close to the homes of W. J. Kirkead and Mary A. Kirkead. This land was where the airport in Alexandria is now located, reach-

ing down to Lake Winona. Will came in 1857. Mr. King must have come to Douglas County soon after. Oddly enough, the names of Lake Carlos and Lake L'Homme Dieu are on this old map. If Mr. King did name these lakes he must have done so before the 1860's. The Alexandria Mr. King could hardly have been at the Academy in 1886, nor could he have been the homesteader on the lakes, neither dates nor names jibe.

Unfortunately, we know nothing of Mr. King or his family. His name appears on the county tax list of 1867, but not after that. He must have left Alexandria some time after 1867. Where he went is unknown.

In contacting the Minnesota Historical Society, Mr. Brook, the research librarian, wrote that his name (King) does not occur on the census roll. My conjecture is that since his neighbors came from Wilmington, Delaware, Mr. King came from Delaware too, probably soon after the Kirkeads, for Mary A. Kirkead comments on the boat rides she took with him on Lake Winona.

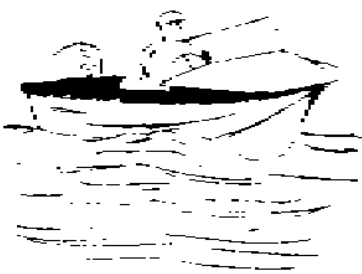
Carlos and L'Homme Dieu would be a long ride from town to go fishing, but King evidently was adventurous. He could have discovered the lakes and having no family, named them after friends "back East."



Since the name Glendy King seems to have disappeared from the Minnesota records, I am going on the theory that he <sup>went</sup> back to Delaware. I shall continue to be a James Bond in the matter of Glendy King, an unusual name, split up. Which shouldn't be too hard to trace.

Since I have spent so many summers on L'Homme Dieu, I've been curious about its name, but accepted Mr. Upham's story.

In 1941 I noticed in a magazine the name of Mr. S. Y. L'Homme Dieu as an officer of the American Spentiel Club. I wrote to him at once, asking him what I live on a lake by that name and could he tell me the background of its name? Did one of his ancestors go to West Point and know a cadet by the name of King? His answer interested me so much that I quote: "There are not many of our name in the United States, but I have never heard that anyone of the family had a friend by the name of King. Benjamin L'Homme Dieu, the first of the family to arrive in this country, came in 1689, he was driven out of France with the rest of the Huguenots.



His party came from Rochelle and so they named the spot on Long Island where they landed, New Rochelle. He later was given all of what is now Shelter Island, and built a Manor house, which still stands and contains some of the original pictures and furniture. His great-great-grandchild, named Nathaniel L'Homme Dieu was my grandfather and sailed on the frigate "Constitution." The name in France was Gilbert, but one of

Benjamin's ancestors did some valiant deeds and was knighted by Henry of Navarre, and this knighted name was given to him because he was a man of God. King could have known a L'Homme Dieu but how about Carlos?

Lake L'Homme Dieu is separated by a narrow bar from Lake Carlos. It has two arms: the Big Lake and the Bay.

About halfway down the Big Lake a long point juts out which came to be called Government Point. The original Government Point was the one known as "Boy's Point" later when the "boys" of Alexandria bought 3 acres. In the early days the point we now call Government Point was quite high, gradually leveling down to where it is now, hence perhaps it wasn't considered a point in the early days. But when "Boy's Point" was renamed it became "Government Point" probably because it was Government land.



Mr. N. B. Ward, a merchant in Alexandria, built the first lake cottage in this area on Government Point. His brother, G. B. Ward, the banker, followed shortly with his cottage. Mr. Walter Noonan later bought it and leveled down the point. It is now a clubhouse for a large construction company.

Directly across the point, opposite the N. B. Ward cottage, Mr. P. B. Warhoeser, another banker, built a two-story cottage for

same summer. And to the left of N. P. Ward's cottage, Mr. George G. S. Campbell, who owned a flour mill in town, also built a two-story cottage. This house was later used by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Walter Campbell, as a tea room. She served delicious food and it became very popular. I understand the Colville's tore it down and built their summer home there much later.



These four were the only cottages on the Point for many years. The men used to ride to their businesses in N. P. Ward's grocery wagon, drawn by a smart-stepping brown horse. My father, who didn't like horses, rode a bicycle to his law office. We tented there for several summers.

Everyone on the Point was very sociable. If someone was having some special dish for breakfast or lunch, she would "yoo-hoo" from her back porch, and the waves would join her, then play cards afterwards.

The lakeshore on both sides of Government Point is dish-shaped. On the Campbell's side of the Point, another point juts out which is called "Boy's Point" which I have already mentioned and across from it is another, named "Cleveland Point." A sand bar joins them so that one can walk across if the water is low. These points separate the Big Lake from the Bay.

Boy's Point received its name because the land was purchased by some of the "boys" from Alexandria. They were Wood Hicks, W. T. Cowing, Robert A. Campbell, S. D. and W. Moles and C. J. Gunderson. They planned to build a clubhouse but never did.

At the end of the Bay later Mr. DuBeau built the "Gangplank," used for dances and roller skating. It is now a busy place occupied by a store and a resort. It is still known as the "Gangplank" to old timers like me. On the bay side of Boy's Point, two cottages were the only ones for a number of years—the Harland Campbell cottage and the Mueller cottage. Mr. Mueller was a druggist in Alexandria for some years, and Mr. Campbell was city manager for a number of years.



Following the bay to the west, the shore is very high, and so was called Bay Cliff. It became a popular spot for cottages. At one time a dance pavilion was erected there, called "One-Step Inn." It burned later. The last nine holes of the golf course runs up to this area.

On the other side of the bay, a group of Texas families built large summer homes. The Tenisons, the Felders, the E. Prathers,

Mrs. Jourdan later bought the Tension cottage which she willed to her niece, Marie Fisher. So it became known as the Fischer Place. It was razed this past year.

Mrs. Krueger Smith, who has spent the many summers at Blake's Hotel, was a Tension and watched this razing with tears in her eyes, having spent so many happy years in that house. The children and grandchildren of these early visitors either occupy the older homes or have built summer homes of their own.

Cleveland's Point, across the bay from Boy's Point, was owned by Cleve Hicks, son of W. E. Hicks. He was a secretary to Senator Knute Nelson for many years. He gave his name to the point. Today it is known as "Lena Point," a combination of the names of Tom and Lena Rose, the first owners of Traveler's Inn, who turned the big cottage into a night club some years later.



The big house on this point was built by a wealthy St. Paul, businessman, Mr. McDonnell, who also owned the Onal Stock farm, which is now Crestwood.

Down the hill from Blake's corner on the bay side of the road we built our first cottage in 1913. Mr. Spear, a wealthy hotel operator from Chicago, built his home beyond at the top of the hill. For a while these two homes were the only ones on that side of the road. In fact, Mr. Spear and Father had to build the electric line extension to our houses until the city took it over. Now there are large all-year-around homes on both sides of the hill. A few years later Judge Chandler of Tulsa, Oklahoma, built next to us. We all looked forward to his "shore dinners," cooked by that expert cook, Walter Leuthner. "Shore dinners" seem to be a lost activity, sad to say. The men would go out early in the morning to catch the fish, the women and kids came at noon. Walter had fish steaks for everyone and we watched with watering mouths as he expertly tossed them in the hot skillet. The usual menu was fish, fried potatoes, sliced tomatoes, fruit, and coffee, lots of it. No backyard barbecue could make things taste so good. Drive-ins are no substitute in my opinion.



Crossing the Carlos-L'Homme Dieu bridge and turning right, the north shore was the first to have cottages built on it. At one time it was known as "Nebraska Beach" for most all the summer cottagers were from Nebraska. I remember Dr. Stein particularly, a short man with a white Van Dyke beard. He was an avid fisherman, to say the least. Paul Thompson told me this summer that Dr. Stein took an evening dip each night in the lake in his birthday suit.

Hard to believe about such a dignified person.

Mr. A. A. Secord built some of the first cottages. They were occupied mostly by ministers.

The first cottage at the east end of the shore was built by Mr. and Mrs. George of Lincoln, a fashionable stationer there. Next to them were the Wakes, then the Rush cottages, owned by Mrs. Rush of Carlos, which she rented to the same people each year.



Then the Roberts. Next to them the cottages of Professor Thompson and Marian from the University of South Dakota, the Olsons, the LeCompts, the Mellors, the Miskels, C. B. Anderson, the Gundzals, the Hugo and Ernest Wiggerhorns, Dr. Stearns, the Blums, the Rev. Mr. Medlar. Many cottages have changed hands, some are occupied by Alexandrians, but the Olsons, the Wakes, the Thompsons (Ruth is now Mrs. Cunningham), the

Kennedys (nee D'Comptel), Mrs. Gunzell, the Wiggerhorn daughters, Mrs. Frione and Mrs. Elster and the Johnsons, who belong to the Blum family (she was here this summer). For several generations they come back each year, having had such good times as children, they bring their own back to "dear old L'Homme Dieu."

In 1925 my father built a cottage next to the Medlar cottage. The J. A. Weddums soon joined us and later the Fitzgeralds, Dr. Latimore of Topeka, the Grangers and the Stewarts. The rest of the shore was a thick woods to old Highway No. 29.

It was customary then for all the cottagers to meet at the Mellor cottage on Sunday nights. Their house was large enough to hold us all and they had a piano. Since there were college professors, world travelers, and many fine musicians in the group, these evenings were stimulating and fun. Mr. Mellor always led the community song fests, closing with the song "Dear Old L'Homme Dieu" set to the music of "Moonlight and Roses" Sentimental, but nice.

On this shore, too, but on the hill a way back from the lake, Mr. Secord built a cottage because his wife didn't like the wind. Later he acquired property on Brown's Point and sold his north shore home to Steve and Elizabeth Beuter Miller of Carlos. They built two more houses and operated the place as Miller's Cottage Inn. It became a popular eating place and many parties were given there by tourists and town people alike.



After changing hands several times, the property is now the Theatre L'Homme Dieu, our fine summer professional theatre.

Since then, many new cottages and resorts have been built as far as Kroeger's Creek. Beyond is Crestwood, a fine residential area of new year-around homes. Most of the early cottages were named. Three that I remember were Islandy Lodge (The Andersons), Dew Drop Inn, and Take-Home-Tan (Mellers) — a newspaper item noted that the Cordesier cottage on Lake Victoria was called "Hot Tamale." Our cottage was named Orono, from the city in Maine from which Mother's people came. It is now a resort.

On the Van Biesen side of Government Point, the sandy camping shore for some distance was called Crescent Beach. Early families were from Minneapolis, soon followed by Enid, Oklahoma people. Some of these early families were, the Andersons of Minneapolis, the Brimsons, Mayberrys, Laslays, the Perrys, the Thomas Sands, and then later the Champlins. Mrs. Mayberry told me this summer that the Andersons had been coming to Crescent Beach for five generations to the same cottage.

On being asked how they happened to come to this region she said that "Uncle Wick" had lived in Alexandria a short while, representing Deere-Wabber. His father, G. W. Anderson, came to visit him and liked the country so much that he built a cottage on Lake L'Homme Dieu and the Andersons had been coming here summers ever since.

While tenting on Government Point I met the young people my age on Crescent Beach and have many campfire memories.

Many cottages and year-around homes dot the shore now. These were recently built.

### Lake Carlos

Lake Carlos is the source of the Long Prairie River. It has two inlets, Lake L'Homme Dieu and Lake Darling. Soundings have been made to a depth of over 150 feet near the Lake L'Homme Dieu inlet. Through the middle of the lake is a channel, 50 feet deep the entire length of the lake. The water of Lake Carlos is very pure and of a deep olive green color. Sometimes it seems to become very blue, both light and dark. It is a perfect lake to swim in because it never gets too warm, as some of the others do.

Blake's Hotel, was built on the east shore of Lake Carlos by John Blake in 1906. L. J. Brown, who owned much of the land on the east shore of Carlos gave a deed to Elisha Blake, Feb. 13, 1906. They began to clear the land in 1904 and the Hotel Blake opened in the spring of 1906. It was a financial success from the very beginning. Many were the dinner dances held on Saturday

