



News From 'Up North'

FALL/WINTER 2001

Say your goodbyes to the old Lady Slipper

(More like an old lady's old holy slipper) It's finally gone! For those of you who were so fortunate to have spent a vacation in #9 - the green trailer by the playground, you know why it had to go. Besides the little chipmunk visitors who stopped in - or thought they lived there - it was just on its last leg for the past few years.

As many of you know, several resorts closed this year and we were lucky to get dibs on one of the cabins. We got the call in mid-September that there was one available, so we drove out & looked at it & immediately said we'd take it - anything to replace the trailer.

Then, a few days later, we found out we looked at the wrong one (of course). So we drove the 20-some miles again & looked at our other new cabin. A much nicer one!

Once we knew we got the cabin we had to find a mover. Between the 40 phone calls and messages left, etc. - we finally got one to work us into his schedule and give us a price. We found out we had until December to move the cabin - plenty of time to move the old one and put in a foundation. Whew! Everything's going good.

Then, one day we got the news that we only have 3 weeks to move the cabin. Okay. Better kick it in gear!

We started the process of removing the trailer. That took a week or so since there was no axle & tires. We had to take the axle off #11 & borrowed some trailer tires for a few days. After it was finally ready to move, they spun it a little with the backhoe to get it into position for the old dump truck to pull it... with Jim's bobcat pulling the dump truck. Quite a sight!

Next, they worked on making another little road for our "new storage shed" to be rolled back behind our house. That took a couple more days - gave the trailer another tug and it was in its new place - which hopefully is its last place.

A few days later the area for the new cabin was staked out and the dirtwork and footing well on its way. The footing was poured on a Tuesday, the blockwork was done Saturday, and the cabin was due to arrive the coming Tuesday. We made it again.

Monday, the day before the big day, Jim stopped over to tell us our mover wasn't allowed to move our cabin. Someone had cut 9 trees down instead of the 3 that were okayed, and the mover was blamed and banned from the property.

That night we called the guy in charge of it all and he said we had a few days. We went through every phonebook looking for another mover...



(Above) The old #9 on its last season. Now it has become the new storage shed for the resort.



(Right) The new #9 pictured in its old location (#21) at Forestview.



Jim, Rick, Randy & Mike worked hard one Saturday, laying the block for the new cabin foundation.



This shows the cabin interior as it was at Forestview. The walls are covered in beautiful sandblasted yellow pine from Tennessee.

"Booked solid", "Nope", "Out of business", etc., etc., etc.

Looks like we're going to have to build. Uhg. Lots more time, lots more money. Uhg. After a few more phone calls to see who wanted a side-job for the winter, Mike called the guy back to tell him we couldn't find a mover. "Oh... well, we can hold off until December so you can get it moved."

Oh, well - good to know - after being on the cabin moving roller coaster for a month!

We got another mover for December - but until it actually arrives - we're not counting our chickens. Hope it gets here!

The new #9 is a spacious 2 bedroom cabin that we purchased from the old Forestview Resort on Leech Lake, which is being developed for housing. We thought of renaming the cabin, but now that it's as nice as it is, it deserves the name Lady Slipper.



The girls

Cara turned 4 this October. She got a new bike, which she's afraid to ride. Barbies, Barbies, Barbies are her favorite pastime. She has been a great big sister - helps selectively and has begun involving her in her daily "pretend you're the princess and I'm the mom" skits. Sometimes Dad gets to be the mom. This is her second year of preschool and she loves it. She can write her name, and you can tell what letters they are! In November she visited Auntie Michele and family down in Iowa for a long weekend - didn't want to come home after that.

Jessica turned 9 months on Dec. 10th. She's the happiest baby since... Cara. She's been crawling since October and has been standing around the furniture for about a month. By Christmas we expect her to take off running (and if not, at least we've prepared ourselves). She finally got her first tooth at Thanksgiving. Hardly a peep from her through all that teething - just a lot of chewing. Her vocabulary consists of "Da Da Da". Cara's "Da Da", Mom's "Da Da", food is "Da Da Da". Lately she's started sort of - yelling... "DA DA DA!" - must mean Daddy. She loves to giggle at her big sister and follow her around.

The year of the pontoon

With our plan to replace one of our cabins this fall, we didn't plan on investing in any watercraft, but, as with any other big purchase wanted, you bring the subject up multiple times throughout a small time period and present literature on the item... until you get it! (This process works for lawnmowers, too.)

We had looked at a pontoon last year and thought about getting one - well, it was still there this summer with a really good price on it. So after much debate, and a few pre-purchase rental agreements to help with payments, we got it.

It's a new 24' with a new 40hp Honda. Mike "tested" it out quite a bit the first week we had it - to make sure it ran good. Even goes good through 4-5 foot waves! And... you can park it in the harbor! The only thing - when going out to Walker Bay you have to put the top down to fit under the bridge.

That was August.

One day in September, Mike's brother Jim stopped by after garage saling with a "deal". Found out there's a pontoon for sale. (Gee - I think we already have one). But this one's a really good deal. So Jim went back and bought it whether we wanted it or not.

Mike and Jim went to get the next day and bring it back to put it in the water. Here it comes. We thought the other one was big. It's not a pon-

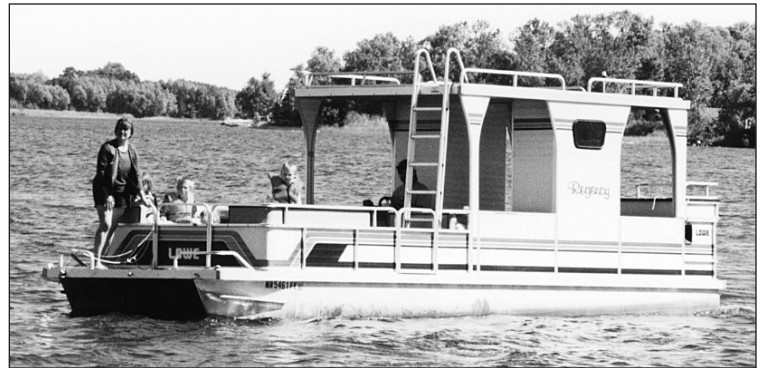


The 24 foot - out for a test drive with Dennis and Gloria.

toon - it's a ship - a double decker - which on the trailer coming down our lane looks the size of a n even bigger ship. (It's actually only 30 feet long) After cleaning it up and taking it for a ride, we were hooked. This one has a 115 hp Suzuki and

holds up to 21 people. 600 lbs. max on the top deck. NOTE - If the lake is really high, this one might not fit under the bridge.

So now (with no intentions) we're the owners of two pontoons. Let us know if you'd like to reserve either one - both are available by the week, day or evening. Deposits will be required to reserve. In the case of bad weather - deposits will be refunded.



The 30 footer - out for a test drive with Mike, Michele & the kids.

The weather's been great

This fall has been unbelievably warm - 50's & 60's thru November. Mike was actually too warm in the deer stand this year (got an 8-pointer). 100-some geese have been hangin' around the last few months, so the grass should be a real pretty green next summer. It snowed a few inches around the end of October, but melted right away. Then the whole state got dumped on after Thanksgiving (& it ain't meltin'). We got about a foot of snow over those couple of days. Mike has his new old truck to put his new old plow on, which he got last year. We'll probably have roads all over Kabekona Bay this winter!



Merry Christmas

This Christmas we are thankful for all our family, friends and our many blessings.

May you all have joy and peace through the holidays and the coming year!

Mike, Kelly, Cara & Jessica

