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## Schoodic Cove: A History, Chapter 2, The Gourley Years (1940 to 1972)

Mary A. Y. Gallagher

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**Schoodic Cove: A History**  
**Chapter 2: The Gourley Years**  
(1940 to 1972)

**Introduction to Chapter 2**

In 1940, an unlikely couple, Bill and Kay Gourley, bought the camps at Schoodic Cove from their previous owner. Bill was born in Willimantic into a lower middle class family and received little education. He was employed as a guide at Packard's Sporting Camps on Sebec Lake and earned money during the winter as a trapper. His wife, Katherine Stowe (Kay) was born in Nebraska into a family whose roots were in Maine. Kay did well in school, aspired to a college education, attended Simmons College in Boston in the mid-30s, and worked for several summers at Packard's Camps, where she met Bill, married him, readily adapted to life in the woods, and shared his determination to own his own camps. The couple managed to buy the camps at Schoodic Cove in July, 1940. They raised a family despite wartime hardship, developed a devoted and decidedly middle class clientele, modernized their operation to a degree without destroying the environment their customers cherished, and ran a successful business for 31 years at the end of which they sold the camps to a group of recreation directors and several of their former clients. This chapter explores the history of Schoodic Lake Camps and how the Gourleys managed by exceedingly hard work and charm to provide a few hundred families with outdoor vacations in the tradition of the Maine Sporting Camp.

## **Schoodic Cove: a History**

by Mary A. Y. Gallagher

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## Schoodic Cove: A History

### Chapter 2: The Gourley Years at Schoodic Lake Camps



#### Part 5: William J. Gourley and Katherine Maud Stowe Gourley

Who were Bill and Kay Gourley and how did they come to own the camps at Schoodic Cove? A note made by the Stetsons on the lease they issued to Bill in July, 1940, indicated that he had been born in Willimantic, a town about a mile from the western end of Sebec Lake, and that he was then thirty-five years of age.<sup>1</sup> His family was originally from Canada.<sup>2</sup> In his youth, Bill probably could not have imagined owning a group of sporting camps. The area around Willimantic offered little in the way of opportunity. His family lived mostly outside the cash economy and raised much of its own food. During the summer months, his father, Hugh Gourley,<sup>3</sup> worked as a guide at Packard's Sporting Camps, located at the west end of Sebec Lake.<sup>4</sup> In the winter, he worked in the woods for two dollars per day. Bill's mother, Lula Gilman Gourley, sold thread and cloth from a buggy she drove<sup>5</sup> and took in laundry.

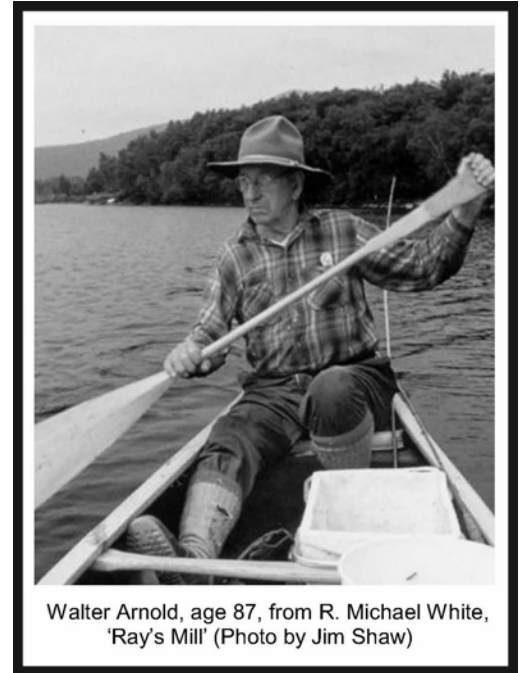
Bill's half-brother had died of appendicitis at a young age. This worried Bill, who was considered "sickly."<sup>6</sup> The local doctor had advised his mother that he would probably not live very long, suggested it was not worth giving him much education, and told her to let him do whatever he wanted.<sup>7</sup> Bill's education ended at the eighth grade. In 1929, as his father had done, at age twenty-two he hired on as a guide at Packard's Sporting Camp,<sup>8</sup> where he developed and displayed his expertise in the



Pictured at Packard's in 1936 are, from left to right, guides Bill Gourley, Duane Whitten, and Coney Packard, longtime guest Charlie Miller, and guides Burton N. Packard and Henry Foster. In one of many courtships begun at Packard's, Bill Gourley met his future wife, Katherine, who also worked at the camps in the 1930s. They married, and later purchased Schoodic Lake Camps, which they ran from 1940 to 1971. (Beth Cawley.)

woods and on the water,<sup>9</sup> and his ability to impress the sports who were his clients with his character and abilities . . . all skills that prepared him to succeed as owner of his own sporting camps.<sup>10</sup> During the fall and winter, he trapped with Walter Arnold, a famous trapper and guide at Packard's thirteen years his senior, also from Willimantic.<sup>11</sup>

Bill did more than earn a living at Packard's. He found a wife there – Katherine Maud Stowe, described in I.G. Stetson's note on the lease as twenty-five years old in 1940.<sup>12</sup> Kay was born in Falls City, Nebraska, on September 11, 1916 to Almon Rupert Stowe, a jeweler, and his second wife, Edith May Sawyer,<sup>13</sup> whose family was from Bangor.<sup>14</sup> Edith separated from her husband when Kay was three and brought her and her younger brother, Robert, to Bangor where they lived in a house on Royal Road<sup>15</sup> that her father had purchased for them. After some months she and the children rejoined Almon in Nebraska. Soon thereafter, the family relocated to Pueblo, then to Alamosa, and then to Monte Vista, all in Colorado. To end what they feared was a budding high school romance, Kay's parents sent her to live with her paternal uncle in Salt Lake City, Utah, for a year.<sup>16</sup>



Kay was an exceptional student and ranked fourth in a state-wide English test and second in economics. She graduated high school in 1934 and was determined to go to college, but this was not immediately feasible—the Great Depression was then in full swing and college was not common even for men. She stayed home in Colorado for a year, took typing and shorthand, did bookkeeping for a garage owner, worked in a local library, and filled in for vacationing secretaries in law offices. Skills she acquired through these jobs stood her in good stead when she owned a business.<sup>17</sup> She also studied various college catalogs, looking for schools that admitted women and had a strong curriculum in the sciences. Kay did not always get along well with her father, whom she described as a “difficult man” whom the children “steered clear of.”<sup>18</sup> He evidently recognized her abilities, however, for he sold the family car to help finance her first year at Simmons College in Boston,<sup>19</sup> an institution with an unabashedly progressive and feminist orientation, known for its excellent science programs.<sup>20</sup>

Kay's college career began in September, 1935. She lived frugally, kept her expenses to the minimum, and worked noon hours in the school cafeteria. When summer came, with the help of her aunt, Maybelle Sawyer Edes who lived in Guilford, Maine, she got a job waitressing at Packard's Camps, where she earned about \$15 per week including tips.<sup>21</sup> There she met Bill, ten years her senior, who very soon asked her to marry him. Kay did not immediately agree. She returned to Simmons in the fall and, although the college awarded her a \$100 scholarship, she still had to work at various jobs to pay her expenses. During winter break she visited her aunt, and Bill.

On New Year's Day, 1937, after going to the "pictures" with him, Kay's visit ended, leaving Bill to remark in his diary, "Left Kay at her Aunt's. Seems like an awful short two weeks."<sup>22</sup> Kay was able to visit briefly again at the end of March, but unfortunately the day she arrived Bill came down with the mumps. They were "no fun," he remarked, but "I'm still here to tell about them." It was not until early April that he began to feel better.<sup>23</sup>

### The Wedding and the "Honeymoon"

Bill spent the summer guiding fishermen, for which he earned \$3.25 per day.<sup>24</sup> Twice in the course of the summer (July 14 and 21) he was given \$5 tips. He also worked as a handyman doing various jobs—sawing, splitting wood, peeling logs, pitching manure—for several families, the Storks, with whom he developed a friendly relationship, the Westons, and Mr. Heigh. Kay returned to Guilford and to her summer job at Packard's in early June. Bill's journal began to include entries that read "Kay and I." Kay remembers that he "ceaselessly continued to ask for my hand in marriage." She did not immediately agree. She considered whether she could afford to finish college or to get a job once she had. She also recognized what a fine man Bill was, acknowledged her own feelings for him, and allowed herself to be persuaded.

Before they married, they combined their savings to buy a house for \$650 at Norton's Corner near Willimantic.<sup>25</sup> The purchase left them with little in the bank. Bill joked: "Oh gosh, you know we might starve to death." On Sunday, October 3, 1937, the Stork family, the last of the "summer folk" for whom Bill had been working, left their island for home. This freed him to attend to some personal matters. His journal noted: "Got furniture,<sup>26</sup> [got] paid \$19.86 final payment. . . . Married at 7:20 P.M." He provided more details in an undated note: "We were married in Monson at the Parsonage by Rev. Sorenson at 7:20 Sunday Oct. 3. Mrs. Sorenson was present only." He wrote to the Storks on October 6, thanking them for all they'd done for him and informing them about the wedding: "We decided not to wait any longer and were married Sunday night," and added that they planned to head to "Comfort," the next day.<sup>27</sup>

On October 4, with the leaves in full color after a very heavy frost, the newlyweds canoed to Bucks Cove at the western end of Sebec Lake where they built a foot bridge in the same place as there had been last year, "a much better bridge than ever before with stringers that were 34 feet long." Bill needed spikes and nails and so made a trip to a store where "Burton gave us 3 fine stew pans, aluminum." The following day, he went to Guilford where he spent his "entire check of \$19.86 at the A&P for grub,"

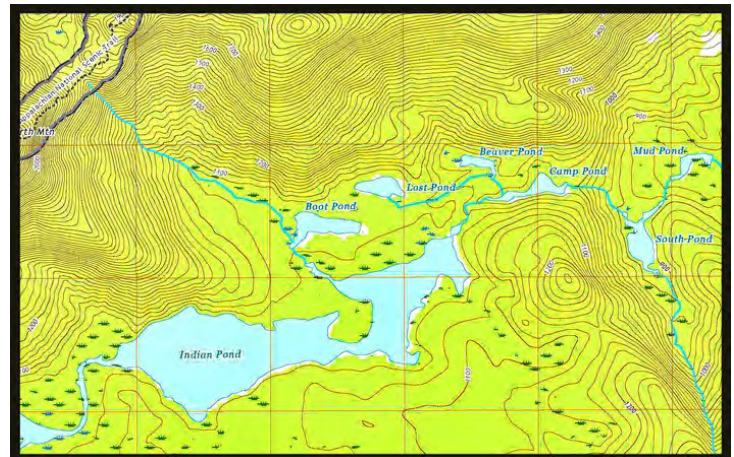


enough, he hoped, “to last until we can sell some fur.”<sup>28</sup> They left their car at Packards and then proceeded by canoe and boat up to the Third Buttermilk Pond, north of Sebec Lake, where “Third,” another one of the trappers’ cabins they used, was located. They found it in good shape: “stove down and dishes fairly clean and quite a bit of wood.” Kay cleaned the camp and fixed the chinking while Bill looked for beaver signs at Caribou Stream and set some “rat” (muskrat) traps. On October 7, they headed for home, retrieved their car at Packards, and discovered that their wedding had not gone unnoticed by their relatives and friends: “They certainly had our car well decorated. Christine, Burton, Tuni, Stella and the whole bunch.”<sup>29</sup> This first trip was a prelude to a longer one that began not long after. The fall and winter that followed were typical of the way in which Bill spent many winters even after he and Kay bought the camps at Schoodic Cove.

### Trappers’ Cabins

It was common for two or three trappers to share construction and use of cabins which from which they ran their trapping lines in directions that did not overlap one another. Walter Arnold and Bill Gourley had built a cabin on Camp Pond, probably “Comfort,” around 1945.<sup>30</sup> Like all structures, these cabins required maintenance and performing it was part of the trappers’ compact. In the fall of 1937, Bill attended to two small projects and, with Albert Turner’s help, one significant one. On October 24, Bill patched “Comfort’s” roof, made a pen for its stove and filled it with dirt.<sup>31</sup> A week later, on his way back to the woods after several days at home, he stopped at “Notch” a camp between Barren and Benson Mountains and discovered a big maple leaning over it, “very dangerous.” The next morning he cut it down “right after breakfast,” and continued on to “Corn Crib.”<sup>32</sup>

He and Kay then moved on to another camp at Bear Brook, east of Buck’s cove, where they met Albert Turner, another of Bill’s trapping buddies. The two men decided that, even though the roof didn’t leak, the cabin there was “ready to kerflumax” and had to be rebuilt. They selected a site for the camp near a “dandy spring,” and “swamped the place.” This done, they “cut logs 12 by 14. Very big spruce,” some of which had to be dragged a considerable distance to the site. Using a canoe they had found, they transported a



load of splits (shingles) to the site. Before they finished, the lake began to freeze over, and they had to break ice to make a path for the canoe. Over the next three days, they hauled boards, “got ribs in,” nailed the splits on, cut out doors and windows, and put on roofing. While the men worked, Kay cooked, cleaned, collected chinking and chinked. She also found an old cook stove, probably fifty years old, whose bottom Bill planned to use for a wash boiler. On November 6, after six days of hard labor, they put in drop logs, made a door and windows, and moved their belongings in. The finished camp was 12 feet by 10 feet inside. A week or so later, Albert laid the floor, built a bunk for the camp, and dug out the spring and a cellar. Together he and Bill put in a good supply of wood.<sup>33</sup>



### What's for Dinner? How It Got There

Trappers supplied their cabins with non-perishable food by backpacking it over considerable distances to their camps. Their “honeymoon” over, Bill and Kay headed for “Comfort” “via car to Drew’s and canoe on Onawa via Notch.” They reached that camp at day’s end after a long hike.

Bill noted tersely: “Quite tired, 70 lb. pack.” He spent the next day lugging “stuff” from the cache where hunters stored traps and other items at the end of the season<sup>34</sup> while Kay cleaned and picked boughs with slight bends that were interwoven and laid on top of one another to serve as mattresses.<sup>35</sup>

Two days later, Bill made another trip to his car at Onawa Lake to bring in another 70 lb. of grub and a gallon of kerosene.

Several days later he noted that he had a “very lame arch.”<sup>36</sup> Kay also remembered these hikes: “it’s hard to believe that at one time I used to snowshoe 10 or 12 miles a

day with Bill... Me with a back pack of 25 lb., & Bill a pack that I swear must have weighed close to 100 lb! He had to put it on a chair or a log to get it on, & used a tumpline strap across his forehead... and if the snow was really deep and/or fluffy, & no trail, we would take turns breaking trail.”<sup>37</sup>

On October 31, Bill recorded the food supply at “Corn Crib,” near Long Pond: “For grub we have: 7 qts flour,<sup>38</sup> baking powder, 1 coffee can lard, rice, 1 qt beans, 1 qt peas, 3 lb (salt) pork, 5 cans milk, 2 lbs. prunes, 1 qt. Molasses, 2 lb. Butter, salt, 18 potatoes and 7 onions.” Animals they



Bill Gourley, Lunch Time at Indian Pond, 1937 or 1938



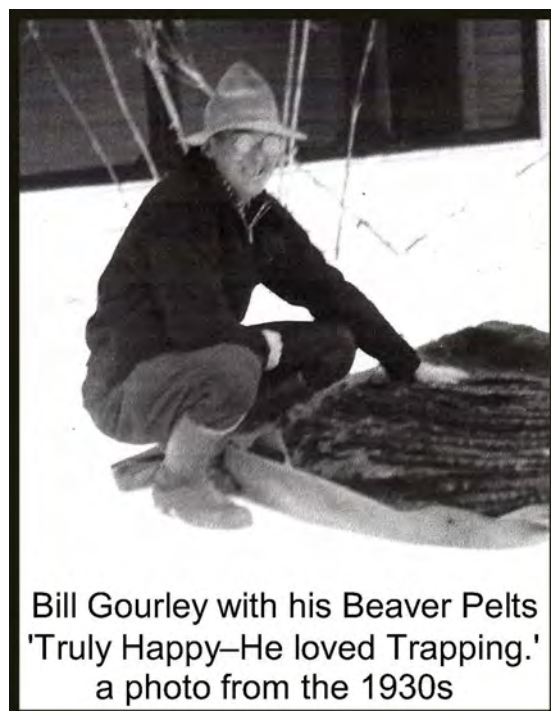
hunted or trapped provided the meat. Tucked in one of Bill's books, their daughter, Ellen, found the following recipe: "How to Cook Muskrat. Boil the saddles and hind quarters with onions and salt until tender but not until it falls off the bones. Cool. Roll in flour and fry using plenty of salt. Eat cold." Kay also contributed to the larder. Ellen related that "Daddy had showed Mama how to use a rifle so She could hunt too. On the first day of hunting they saw a deer. He quietly said, I will shoot when You do (did not want to miss the deer) so tell me when You are ready. As He said that, She shot and the deer dropped! No more lessons were necessary." Bill noted one day in his journal that Kay had shot a rabbit and a partridge, had a "stew going with the partridge and . . . the rabbit all parboiled for breakfast. Usually parboil them and then fry them in pork fat." Another day, he took the hind quarters and the saddles from a good sized beaver because Kay wanted to eat some. Bill found the beaver steak "very tender and tastes like pork, no wild taste."<sup>39</sup>

While transporting building materials one day, Bill and Albert Turner noticed a large nine-point buck floating in the pond they were canoeing. Intending to use it for "cat bait,"<sup>40</sup> they pulled it out of the pond and discovered that another buck had hooked it in the intestines, which had come out and strangled it to death. They were pleased to discover that the deer was "just barely cold" and decided to use it as food instead. Initially, Bill considered it a gift from Divine Providence, and commented: "With the help of the Lord our grub held out to nearly finish the camp" they were building at Bear Brook."<sup>41</sup> Several days later, he went back to town for another load of grub—"2 bags flour, 3 lb. butter, 2 cans lard (2 lb. each), 6 lb. beans, 3 lb. salt pork, 1 can baking powder, 5 lb., and one meat grinder"<sup>42</sup>—this last item, Bill noted, because "this meat" (possibly from the deer they had pulled from the pond) "is to tough to chew."

### Winter Trapping

Once the camp at Bear Brook was finished, Bill began trapping in earnest, interrupted only by trips to town for supplies. Kay was with him throughout the winter.<sup>43</sup> During a typical day Bill set traps<sup>44</sup> and collected what they caught. Kay sometimes spent mornings cooking, cleaning the camp, and filling water pails, but joined him after lunch while he checked his trap lines. When evening came, they skinned the animals Bill brought in—beaver, raccoons, minks, weasels, skunks, bobcats, muskrats, hedgehogs, fox, and otter—and prepared the pelts for sale by stretching them on large wooden hoops.

Bill and Kay allowed themselves a five-day Thanksgiving break. They went to Bill's mother's home and "had a fine dinner, you bet . . . sure did justice, turkey and everything." The next several days were spent on



Bill Gourley with his Beaver Pelts  
'Truly Happy—He loved Trapping.'  
a photo from the 1930s

business matters. Bill noted: "Went to Abbott and sold 26 rats, 2 mink and one otter. We kept the good mink and the foxes. Fur is pretty cheap."<sup>45</sup> They also got deer tags, wrote some letters, did some shopping, made a trip to the bank, and called on friends, arriving at one place just in time for dinner and at another just in time for supper. After visiting Bill's mother, they finally made it home. Bill commented: "Very tired. Harder than walking, this society business."<sup>46</sup> The next day, he and Kay headed back to their trapping territory, stopping at "Notch" the first day because they had heavy packs, and making it to "Comfort" the next.

Bill spent the first days of December, 1937, trapping otter, muskrat, hedgehogs and weasels and identifying good sites for beaver sets (traps), prior to the time, about a week later, when various areas were listed in the local newspaper as open to beaver trapping. Albert, he said had "the proclamations of lots of open country," which he planned to split with Bill to save a lot of traveling.<sup>47</sup> Once the beaver season opened, Bill's journal indicated he was very busy: "Did not stop for lunch. Got to camp at 4 P. M. Verrrry hungryyyyyy INDEED." Bill and Kay allowed themselves a week's holiday at home for Christmas. While there, Bill sent 75-80 Christmas cards, wrote letters on Christmas Eve and all day on the day after, and fleshed beaver. By December 27, they were back in the woods.<sup>48</sup>

1. Actually, not quite 35. Bill's obituary gives his birth date as April 17, 1907. His parents were Hugh and Lula Gilman Gourley. Bill was the son of his father's second marriage. Mary Gourley Mastin (MGM): 3/8/2018. Bill died on January 1, 1987, a few months short of his eightieth birthday.

2. Ellen Gourley Hinman (EGH): 4/20/2018.

3. The 1940 Census gives Hugh's birth date as "about 1862" his age as 78.

4. EGH: 3/5/2020. Packard's Camps are on the western end of Sebec Lake. They are believed to be the oldest sporting camps in Maine. See Bill Geller, *Maine Sporting Camp History on the Pisecatquis River Tributaries* (Farmington, Me., 2020) 134-136; [https://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/news\\_pph/15006/](https://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/news_pph/15006/); and Bill Breen, "Special To *The Christian Science Monitor*," 10/18/1988.

5. The 1940 Census gave her name as "Mula," her birth date as "about 1880," and her age as 60. MGM: 3/8/2018.

6. EGH: 11/3/2017.

7. Mary Gourley Mastin MGM: 6/4/2018.

8. Beth Cawley's photo comes from *Around Dover Foxcroft* (Arcadia Publishing). On Packard's Camps, founded in 1894 and in many ways similar to Schoodic Lake Camps, see Bill Breen, "The Buckboard Stops Here," Special to the *Christian Science Monitor*, <https://www.csmonitor.com/1988/1018/hpack1.html>, 10/18/1988.

9. Bill was tutored there by Walter Arnold, a famous Maine Guide. See Bill Gourley to Randell B. Champ, 6/21/1986.

10. See Kay Gourley, Presentation to the Milo Historical Society, 1997, hereafter KG, MHS 1997.

11. Walter Arnold (1894-1980). After his service in World War I, Arnold ran a mail order business which sold trapping supplies, scents and lures. He also created trapping exhibits for sportsmen's shows, served as president of the Maine Trappers Association, edited its newsletter, wrote *Professional Trapping*, a widely used manual and articles for other publications. See Geller, *Maine Sporting Camp History*, 86-9; Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine, "Shaw (Wendell) Collection on Walter Arnold, 1800-1981" (2018). Finding Aids. Number 414.

<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/findingaids/414>, p. 3. For a picture of Walter Arnold and another of a trapper's cabin, see <https://mta.homestead.com/History.html>. For an excellent photo of Walter Arnold see "A Brief Historical Sketch of Ray's Mill" by R. Michael White <http://personalpages.tds.net/~lpwhite/Raytown.html>.

12. Actually, a few months short of 24.

13. Birth Certificate for Katherine Maud Stowe.

14. Edith's father, Andrew Chelsey Sawyer (b. 3/22/1844; d. 3/16/1931), enlisted as a musician in the 18<sup>th</sup> Maine Infantry regiment in 1862. He was honorably discharged in 1865, and began to work for a shoe firm. Eventually he became president of the Sawyer Boot & Shoe Co., whose office was the Adams Bldg, 21 Columbia St., Bangor. See [ME. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119117941/andrew-chesley-sawyer](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119117941/andrew-chesley-sawyer). Kay and her granddaughter, Amy, inherited his love of music; Amy made it her career. Andrew's wife, Ella E. Pendelton Sawyer, was descended from John Alden (1598-1687), who arrived in Massachusetts on the Mayflower in 1620. See the genealogy provided by Alden H. Sawyer to Edie Edes (Kay's first cousin), August 28, 1977.

15. Royal Road runs southeast from Hammond Street near its intersection with Route 95.

16. Amy Mastin (AM), "Katherine Gourley: A Free Spirit" (Winthrop, ME, 1991), 4-7, 21, 23-25; hereafter, AM: "Free Spirit."

17. AM: "Free Spirit," 26-28.

18. AM: "Free Spirit," 17.

19. Tuition was \$300 per year. AM: "Free Spirit," 26-31; EGH: 11/3/2017.

20. Simmons College was established in 1899 by a Boston manufacturer, John Simmons, who believed in giving women a liberal arts education that would prepare them for professional careers that would enable them to be self-supporting. Simmons graduated its first African American student in 1914 and did not, as was then common, impose admissions quotas on Jewish students. Wikipedia: "Simmons College."

21. Guilford was about ten miles south of Packard's Camps. EGH: 11/3/2017. AM: "Free Spirit," 32-33, 35-37.

22. William J. Gourley Diary (hereafter WJGD), 1/1/1937.

23. WJGD, 3/26-30, and 4/5/1937.

24. His diary of August 21 indicates that he had guided for 24 days.

25. The house had no electricity or running water. Gourleys sold this house soon after they purchased the camps. See WJGD, 10/4/1937, and AM: "Free Spirit," 40, 49.

26. The furniture was given to them by the Storks.

27. The Storks were Bill's employer, but also his benefactors and friends. Bill's mention that he needed thermometers at Third, Corn Crib, and Bear Brook (other hunting camps he used), suggests that Mr. Stork was familiar with the woods where Bill trapped and may have gone there with him on occasion. See WJG to Storks, 10/6/1937, private collection; and AM: "Free Spirit," 39-40.

28. The grub filled a 55 lb pack. WJGD, 10/5/1937.

29. WJGD, 10/5-7/1937; and quote from a letter filed with WJGD at October 7.

30. "Third," the cabin mentioned above, was one of "a circular series of little trapper's cabins . . . about fifteen miles from one another located on leased land in the Monson and Willimantic area." AM: "Free Spirit," 42. Geller notes that after their marriage, Kay's presence in a policy of "only one man at a time at the tiny cabins." Bill's journal however, records a number of instances in which they shared cabins with Albert Turner who was often accompanied by his wife, Maude. See Bill Geller, *Maine Sporting Camp History on the Piscataquis River Tributaries* (Mountain Explorations

Publishing Company, Farmington, Maine: 2020), 87.

31. WJGD, 10/24/1937.

32. WJGD. 10/30-31/1937.

33. WJGD, 10/27; 11/1-6, 15/1937.

34. WJGD, 10/9-10/1937.

35. "When done properly, "the boughs were springy enough to make a comfortable bed." Explanation provided by EGH.

36. There was, he noted, still a bag of flour, a can of lard, a pound of butter, 9 cans of milk and another gallon of kerosene left to be brought in another day. WJGD, 10/11, 14/1937.

37. KG to MG and PFG, 2/16/2000. Another such load included 2 bags of flour, 3 lb butter, 2 cans lard (2 lb. Each), 6 lb. Beans, 3 lb. Salt pork, 1 can baking powder, 5 lb, and one meat grinder. WJGD, 11/8/1937.

38. Kay evidently made some of the flour into bread and used potatoes to make yeast. WJGD, 10/31 and 12/29/1937.

39. EGH to MG, 1/11/2019; WJGD, 10/15, 12/4 and 17/1937.

40. Bobcat.

41. WJGD, 11/6/1937.

42. WJGD, 11/8/1937.

43. Occasionally Kay stayed behind to clean the cabin, fix chinking, fill water pails, and cook.

44. On November 12, Bill recorded that he had set a "very heavy load of traps" in the vicinity of Roaring Brook Mountain. The next day he set up a trap line from the south side of the mountains to the northeast corner of Big Houston. He mentioned that someone had stolen a trap that had been hitched with telephone wire, now untwisted and left sticking up in the air. On November 23, he reported the theft of another trap, "same as the other one on Miller tote road." WJGD, 11/12, 13, and 23/1937.

45. Bill sold "26 rats, 2 mink and one otter" but, noting that fur was "pretty cheap," kept the "good mink and the foxes." Earlier in the year, beaver pelts had brought \$20 apiece. WJGD, 2/8 and 11/29/1937. Beaver were valuable not only for their fur, but for their castors, sacs containing an exudate beavers used to mark their territory. At the time, it sold for about \$3 per pound. It is still collected and used in some perfumes and as a food additive. See WJGJ, 12/15, 18, 23, 24, and 26/1937; and Wikipedia.

46. WJGD, 11/25-29/1937.

47. The trapping season for mink, however, had ended on December 1. WJGD, 12/8, 10, and 16/1937.

48. WJGD, 12/21-26/1937.

## Part 6: Buying Schoodic Lake Camps and Raising a Family

When the trapping season ended, Bill returned to Packards to guide fishermen and to work as a handyman for private customers while Kay waited tables. They worked there during the camping season in 1938 and 1939. During the fall and winter of those years, Bill trapped in the area that extended eastward from Sebec to Big Houston Pond, near the west of the West Branch of the Pleasant River, where a group of camps owned by William Llewellyn Arnold ("Lell"), was located – about twenty miles to the west of Schoodic Lake as the crow flies.<sup>49</sup> The first mention of Schoodic appeared in Bill's diary in June of 1938, when he was impressed by the good bass fishing near Rand Cove,<sup>50</sup> several miles south of the camps at Schoodic's northernmost cove. In January of 1940 Bill used the Big Houston Camps as a base while trapping and in mid-February he began shoveling snow and cutting firewood for Lell. By mid March, hoping to gain experience managing camps, he and Kay agreed to start working for him on May 1.<sup>51</sup>

Bill's diaries do not mention when they learned that the camps owned by Frank and Ethel Andrews and Bessie Crandlemire at the north end of Schoodic lake were for sale or when they began discussions with Andrews about purchasing them. In a note of February 27, 1940, J. O. McKeen, lessee to the area south of Camp Humphrey, told the Stetsons that the Andrews were still at Schoodic, "altho they are expecting that the deal will go thru."<sup>52</sup> Approximately 2 months later, on May 24, Bill met with Lell, perhaps to inform him that he and Kay would be leaving his employ. On June 18, Bill noted that had "Put in Word in A. M." He visited Schoodic on July 1, but continued to work for Lell intermittently through July 7. The next day he and Kay "moved out from Big Houston" to their home in Willimantic. On July 9 Bill recorded purchasing the camps with his usual economy of words: "Been to Schoodic to see Mr. Andrews. Bought the place." Five days later, Gourleys began the move into their new home. On July 18, Bill's diary reads: "At Schoodic. Came over with a load. The Andrews left at 10.10 PM for Bangor. May God be with us."<sup>53</sup>

On July 20, 1940, Stetsons gave Gourleys a three-year lease on the land previously leased by the Andrews, the area north of the path from the railroad to the lake.<sup>54</sup> Rent for the first year was set at \$75.00. Gourleys considered themselves lucky they had not had to buy the land, because as renters they were not liable for property taxes.<sup>55</sup> The total cost of purchasing the buildings and equipment from Andrews was \$3,700. They sold their house in Willimantic, cashed in an insurance policy Bill had,<sup>56</sup> and applied the proceeds to the purchase. They

Commencing at a cedar post marked § 1939 and stones located on the easterly edge of the right of way of the Bangor & Aroostook R.R. about eighteen (18) rods southerly from the passenger station building at Schoodic, said post marking the northwest corner of the McKeen lot; thence northerly ninety four (94) rods more or less along the easterly edge of the B&A right of way to a soft maple tree standing on the edge of the right of way just north of a small brook running easterly out of the railroad culvert; thence south forty one degrees east (S 41° E) magnetic fifty (50) rods more or less to a cedar tree standing on the shore of Schoodic Lake; thence in a generally southerly and southwesterly direction following the shore of Schoodic Lake sixty eight (68) rods more or less to a cedar post marked § 1939 and stones, which mark the northeast corner of the McKeen lot; thence north eighty eight degrees thirty minutes west (N 88° 30' W) magnetic thirty one (31) rods more or less to the place of beginning, containing seventeen (17) acres more or less, as per survey made by I. G. Stetson Nov. 30, 1939; being the same premises heretofore under lease to Frank A. Andrews,

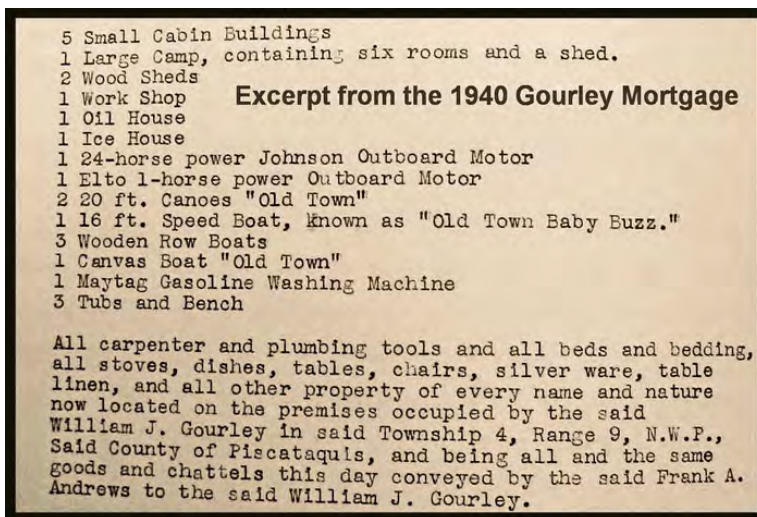
The first Stetson Lease to Bill Gourley of July 20, 1940 covered the same area as the Andrews Lease; it did *not* include the land on which Camps Fordyce and Dodge were located. Stetsons had leased this lot to James McKeen and Caroline Hackett on December 11, 1939; the lot was transferred to Ralph S. Perkins effective February 28, 1940 and finally added to the Gourley lease on May 17, 1946.

borrowed from a man whose name they did not mention but “who knew Bill well enough to know that he was trustworthy. We hated to ask him,” Kay remembered, “but we just wanted those camps, had to have those camps, so we got up our courage and went to ask him and he said ‘Yes.’”<sup>57</sup> Repayment must have been exceptionally difficult since Gourleys had to close the camps during the war years.<sup>58</sup>

Andrews himself helped to make the deal possible by giving the Gourleys a chattel mortgage<sup>59</sup> for \$1,700 for the property on the lease: “5 Small Cabin Buildings,<sup>60</sup> 1 Large Camp, containing six rooms and a shed,<sup>61</sup> 2 Wood Sheds, 1 Work Shop,<sup>62</sup> 1 oil house, and 1 Ice House;”<sup>63</sup> boats, motors, canoes, a gasoline-powered Maytag washing machine, and all sorts of tools and household items. Gourleys signed the mortgage on August 1. It carried an interest rate of six percent and a stipulation that it had to be paid off by the end of three years. An undated note on the document indicates that it had been.<sup>64</sup> Shortly before or after the Gourleys had signed the initial lease with the Stetsons and acquired the camps owned by Andrews, they bought Camp Kenfield (today Green Camp), located on their lease but owned by the Lanphear family in violation of a clause in the standard Stetson lease that prohibited non-lessees from owning buildings on another’s lease.<sup>65</sup>

With these transactions complete, the Gourley era began. Bill and Kay each brought important assets to the partnership. Bill was congenial, relaxed, superbly competent in the woods and on the water, and a master of public relations; Kay was a good businesswoman, direct, efficient, a competent manager, and an effective correspondent. The road ahead was not an easy one. Gourleys had very few guests in 1940. Bill guided a few hunters during the fall but spent most of his time getting a supply of fire wood and doing various small repairs. He also did some hunting and trapped during the winter.<sup>66</sup>

World War II had already begun in both Asia and Europe. Congress passed the Selective Training and Service Act on September 16, 1940. It required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. Bill went to Willimantic in October 1940, to do so; the following February, he noted that he had “filled out and fixed” his draft papers.<sup>67</sup> The United States entered the war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Before it ended in 1945, 10 million men had been drafted. Women, students, and retirees replaced them on farms and in factories where labor was in short supply. The economy was on a wartime footing. Food and gasoline were rationed. Gourleys opened the camps for the 1941 and 1942 seasons. Thereafter, Bill found work on a potato farm owned by Harold Kroemer.<sup>68</sup> He put in ten-to-twelve-hour days of



hard labor, but gained draft-deferred status as an agricultural worker. His job, he later told his daughters, was as full of hardship as military service would have been. Kroemer let the couple stay rent-free in a primitive, uninsulated shack on the property furnished only with a cook stove and a “pump sink.” They lived there through most of 1944.<sup>69</sup>

### **Raising a Family**

Undaunted by the prospect of raising children in an environment lacking physical amenities and remote from medical facilities, Bill and Kay started their family during the war years.<sup>70</sup> Kay became pregnant with their first child, Ellen, in the spring of 1942. Her birth was an adventure Kay vividly remembered. When she began to experience labor pains, Bill flagged a train and put her on it for the trip to Milo, where her doctor told her to go to the hospital immediately, which she did. Ellen arrived soon thereafter, and spent much of her infancy in the shack on Kroemer’s farm.<sup>71</sup> Kay took care of her, laundered her diapers and tilled the garden that supplied the family with vegetables, which they stored in a hole in the floor—the only refrigeration then available. She also managed their farm animals: a pig,<sup>72</sup> a goat because Ellen was allergic to cow’s milk, and a flock of chickens. The goat’s incessant bleating eventually became more than Kay could tolerate, however, and she dispatched it with a shotgun.<sup>73</sup> In early 1944, while they were still living at the farm, Kay became pregnant with their second child, Mary, born on October 5, 1944, a few days short of two years after Ellen’s birth.<sup>74</sup> World War II ended on May 8, 1945, and the Gourley family was able to return to camp.

Both parents were involved in caring for the girls and in providing for their needs. Bill sang to them, rocked them to sleep, and, when they were older, read them bedtime stories. When they were mobile, they followed him wherever he went. West of the Main Camp, at the end of a path next to two tall king pines that led into the woods, there was a barn surrounded by an electric fence where Bill kept a cow. Because the path to the barn was rough, he carried the girls out, one at a time, to watch him do the milking. He rode them around in the wheelbarrow when he brought milk back from the barn or moved firewood from place to place.<sup>75</sup> He allowed them to explore the carcasses of animals he trapped. Both girls liked to fish and, whenever he had the time, Bill went out with them.<sup>76</sup>



Mary was with Bill as he built what became Garden Camp. She remembers sitting on the log walls pretending they were horses, and being upset when they got too high for her to “ride”

them. She helped him chink the walls with rags. When she asked what they had done with the rags before they were used as chinking, Bill answered simply: "We wore them."<sup>77</sup> Using a treadle sewing machine she had at camp, Kay made many of her daughters' clothes and turned scraps of material into dolls' clothes. Mary remembers that Kay took her own beautiful bathrobe and made a jumper for her out of it.<sup>78</sup> As the girls grew older, they worked along with the hired girls<sup>79</sup> who helped Kay with various chores—washing dishes, cleaning the cabins, and laundry.<sup>80</sup> They learned to cook and sew and helped guest children acclimate themselves to camp life by showing them about and teaching them how to enjoy themselves.<sup>81</sup> Bill and Kay did not hesitate to assign them even more important responsibilities. When, in 1963, a pair of geologists made the Gourley camps their base of operations, Ellen guided them on an expedition to Endless Lake via Cedar Lake and back by West Seboeis.<sup>82</sup>

During the summer, the family slept in the Main Camp, the girls in the back bedroom perpendicular to the living room, and Bill and Kay in the loft.<sup>83</sup> When the weather grew cold, they moved to Winter Camp, which was much smaller than the Main Camp and thus easier to heat.<sup>84</sup> Moving day, Ellen recalled, was great fun: "We were like squirrels running back and forth with all the things that we needed." The move signaled that the summer work was done and life slowed down a bit.<sup>85</sup> Mary remembered her fright one night when the snow piled up so high against the camp's door that Bill had to struggle to force it to open.<sup>86</sup>



Kay applied for a permit to home-school the girls, but it was refused,<sup>87</sup> so, when Ellen reached school age in 1947, Bill and Kay bought a house on Albert St. in Milo. This did not completely solve the problem, however, since the camps opened in May and did not close until the hunting season ended after Thanksgiving. During these months, when both parents had to be at camp, the girls boarded with friends during the school week and returned to Schoodic by train on weekends. In the winter, they took along snowshoes Bill had made for them. Kay provided them with reversible tags to indicate where they should be let off in either direction. On Monday mornings, Bill flagged the train and sent them back to Milo.<sup>88</sup> They returned on Saturday morning since there was no Friday train at an appropriate time.<sup>89</sup> Stopping the train was expensive,<sup>90</sup> so, when the train arrived at Schoodic Station the conductor, the first black person the girls had ever seen,<sup>91</sup> "tossed them off" into Bill's arms. If the train did not slow down sufficiently, the girls were instructed to ride it to the West Seboeis Station, several miles to the north where the post office had been relocated, and walk the tracks back to camp from there.



Kay made sure that music was a part of their lives. There was an upright piano in the Main Camp, moved there by Bill alone when Kay, Ellen and Mary were taking piano lessons. Gourleys also had a piano in their Milo home.<sup>92</sup> Kay had the girls take piano, ballet, and tap lessons.<sup>93</sup> Mary inherited her love of music,<sup>94</sup> and when she was in high school, she sang in choral groups and played a mellophone; at Colby College she played the French horn in several bands. The band performed with bands from other towns in joint concerts that Bill and Kay attended and enjoyed.<sup>95</sup> On one occasion a number of the Gourleys' guests attended one of the concerts.<sup>96</sup>

The sense of family was very strong. Birthdays and holidays were important occasions and were celebrated with cards, special meals, and gifts.<sup>97</sup> After Ellen and Mary had left the nest, they often returned for a brief holiday visit or made their presence felt in some other way. That said, as Kay once remarked, she had raised her girls to be independent. In June, 1959, when Ellen was seventeen, Gourley guests Dr. Chester White and his wife, Melba, invited her to live with them, cook for them, and care for their children at their home in the Boston area. Bill noted in his diary that "Ellen went with them for a month in Boston. This is a day that we hate to see in one Way but in another glad Ellen is able to care for herself." Ellen spent the following two school years with the Whites, and attended Brookline High School.<sup>98</sup>

After her graduation in 1961, an anonymous Gourley client financed her attendance at Garland Junior College in Boston. She subsequently continued her education at the University of Maine at Orono where she met her future husband, Henry Hinman, Jr., whom she married in 1964 in a ceremony held in the terrace garden at the Hinman family residence.<sup>99</sup> The same anonymous client that had financed Ellen's education later made it possible for Mary to attend Colby College in Waterville, Maine.<sup>100</sup> Seven years after Ellen's wedding, the Gourleys celebrated Mary's wedding to William Mastin. The ceremony, held in the garden next to the Main Camp, was performed by one of the Gourley's regular clients, the Reverend Alex Nemeth.<sup>101</sup>

### **Part 7: Expanding and Improving the Business**

The Gourleys' purchase from Andrews included "5 Small Cabin Buildings," (Cheerio, Winter Camp, Dorothy, Dragon, and Humphrey), two fewer than the seven that then stood north of the path that descended from the railroad station to the lake shore. Missing from this list were Camp Kenfield, subsequently known as Green Camp, which the Gourleys bought from the Lanphear family<sup>102</sup> and Camp Doris, which the Stetsons had ordered to be destroyed before the Gourleys took over the Andrews lease since its owner, Caroline Hackett, was not a lessee.<sup>103</sup> Bill's 1941 diaries include references to work on a "new camp," possibly a replacement for the original Camp Doris, which he may have built by dismantling an abandoned cabin on one of the Five Islands,<sup>104</sup> floating its logs up the lake, and reassembling it on the site of the original Doris<sup>105</sup> (photo below, p. 64.) It is difficult to trace the matter further, since there are no extant diaries from 1941 until 1957, by which time diary references to Camp Doris abound.

The Gourleys acquired several other cabins in the immediate postwar years. Ralph Perkins, who had acquired the McKeen-Hackett lease in February, 1940, informed the Stetsons on May 18, 1946, that he had sold the two camps on it to the Gourleys. He authorized the firm to transfer his lease to them, and waived his claim to any rent paid in advance.<sup>106</sup> Stetsons were agreeable and, on July 20, 1946, they renewed the now-expanded Gourley lease for a six year term.<sup>107</sup> The exact nature of the transaction between Perkins and the Gourleys is not clear. Throughout 1957 and probably in the years between 1946 and 1957, for which no diary entries have been found, Bill routinely referred to the camp south of the path from the railroad station to the lake as the "Perkins Camp." During the months of March, April, and early May, 1957, Bill did extensive repairs on it.<sup>108</sup> By the end of May, the camp was ready for occupancy. On August 10, he reported that "Mr. and Mrs. Perkins left early," suggesting the possibility that Perkins may have given Bill the camp in exchange for maintaining their right to use it when they chose, thereby avoiding lessee status.<sup>109</sup> On March 23, 1958, Bill's diary entry included the note "Got telegram at noon Mr. Perkins dead." He last referred to the "Perkins Camp" on April 13 of that year. Approximately two months later and thereafter, he called it "Fordyce," the name it was originally known by.<sup>110</sup>

A year later, on June 26, 1947, the Stetsons transferred a lease in Aymar Cove<sup>111</sup> on the eastern shore of Schoodic a mile and a half southeast of Schoodic Station to the Gourleys.



Camp Doris has a history. The first Camp Doris (top) was one of 3 camps built on the 1904 Heebner lease. The land and the building was added to McNaughton's lease in 1912. In 1924 it became the property of Neil Cable who, in 1936, sold it to Caroline Hackett. It was torn down in 1940 at the Stetsons' request because it was not on its owner's lease. After the land on the Heebner lease was added to the Gourley lease in 1943, Bill Gourley rebuilt Camp Doris (bottom photo) with logs from an abandoned camp at Rand Cove. (See above, pp. 44-46.) The 1945 Camp Doris had an attractive gambrel roof.



Cove Camp, a favorite of guests who appreciated privacy, the only camp in which pets were allowed.

They called the camp, previously owned by George William Bears, "Cove Camp."<sup>112</sup>

During the fall of 1947, Bill built the last cabin to be added to the number of camps they owned, a one-room cabin with a front porch south of the Main Lodge, originally intended to house the girls Kay employed to help with laundry and other chores.<sup>113</sup> At some later date, probably in the mid 1950s when hired girls were no longer needed,<sup>114</sup> Bill converted this building into a guest camp they named Garden Camp. The Gourleys' camps then totaled twelve.<sup>115</sup>

At some time between 1941 and 1957, Bill also moved Camp Cheerio down from its original location near the north end of the Main Camp to its present, much more desirable location on the northern end of the lake shore.

### **A Typical Day's Work:**

#### **Doing what had to be Done**

Bill and Kay were on the job from about 5:00 AM until about 8:00 PM each day—eighty or ninety hours a week for each of them.<sup>116</sup> Kay handled all correspondence with the clients and all other business operations connected with the

camps. She promptly sent out impeccably written replies to each query, gave guests full descriptions of what they would and would not find, what they should bring with them, and what the charges were.<sup>117</sup> The fact that her letters were personal (see below, p. 66) was a powerful factor in attracting and retaining customers. At the beginning of each year she made a new reservation chart to insure against double bookings. She paid the bills and managed the finances carefully, as profit margins were very slim.<sup>118</sup> She was not above an occasional bit of trickery to make the



Bill Gourley built Garden Camp in 1947. We know little about its original construction other than what appears in the photo; it was a one room log camp with a porch on the front, built to house the high school girls whom Kay hired in summers to clean camps, do laundry, and attend to the guests in the Main Camp's dining room. Sometime between 1947 and 1969 Bill added a bedroom. During September and October of 1969 he undertook a major remodeling: installing new posts, sills, stringers, floor boards, linoleum and steps.



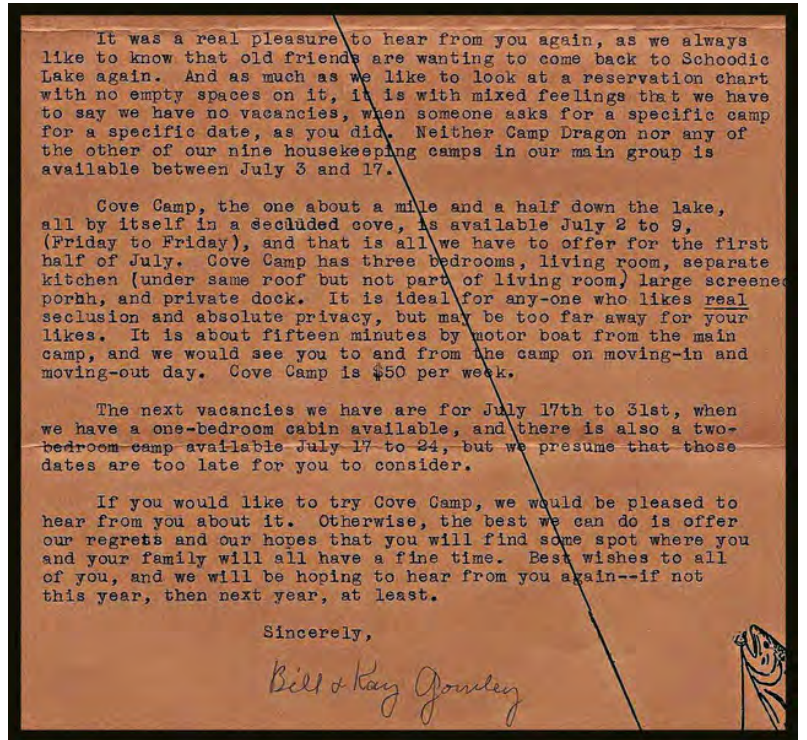
Camp Cheerio, up-close, north of Main Camp



fishermen's experience more satisfying. When weighing their catches, she admitted to slipping an extra weight onto the scale to enhance their bragging rights about their catches and the likelihood they would want to return another year.<sup>119</sup>

Before the season began, the entire Gourley family spent the April school vacation at camp: "cleaning week," Ellen recalled. Coming in the road one year, their vehicle sank into a muddy wet spot at the bottom of the big hill. They all worked to fill the area with rocks so Bill could jack the car up; Mary recalled that it was hard to believe how many rocks it took to fill the hole.<sup>120</sup> Once in, Bill opened the camps one at a time, built a fire to warm the building and swept their ceilings, a job he seemed not to mind: "Great weather for sweeping down camps. Have Windows open . . . dust not so bad."<sup>121</sup> The girls, supervised and aided when they were young by Kay, washed the log walls with rags and buckets of warm water Bill had hauled.<sup>122</sup> Kay encouraged them each successive year by noting that they could reach higher logs because they had grown so much.<sup>123</sup> When the season ended, camps were given another cleaning and minor repairs were attended to so as to minimize the tasks that had to be done while making them ready for guests in the spring.

Kay handled relations with guests before they arrived, Bill's contact with them began when they arrived. For most of the thirty-one years they owned the camps, he greeted them at the parking place and brought them and their luggage to their cabins, an occupation that filled most of his weekend hours. Guests arrived and departed on Saturday and, on at least one occasion, Bill didn't make it back from town in time to take a party and their luggage back to the parking lot on the far side of the railroad tracks. Kay explained the delay simply: "Bill loves to talk, you know."<sup>124</sup> Especially in the earlier years, when she provided meals and clean linens to the guests, her work often confined her to the Main Camp and the laundry, but she kept a watchful eye on what was going on from the wide kitchen windows in the Main Camp,<sup>125</sup> while Bill was outside, doing daily maintenance of one sort or another.<sup>126</sup>



## Feeding the Guests

Kay served meals to the guests at the Main Camp before the camps had refrigerators and cook stoves.<sup>127</sup> As she had had little experience as a camp cook, she hired one to prepare them. The hire was an unmitigated disaster, clearly remembered by every member of the family. Bill recalled with some bitterness that “the so-called cook” had poured lard down the sink, and that he’d had to dig out the dry well because of it.<sup>128</sup> The cook’s tenure came to an abrupt and definitive end when he discovered that she had thrown a cake that hadn’t turned out perfectly into the outhouse.<sup>129</sup> Thereafter, with the *Fanny Farmer Cookbook*<sup>130</sup> in hand and with some coaching by Bill,<sup>131</sup> Kay took on full responsibility for serving the guests breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

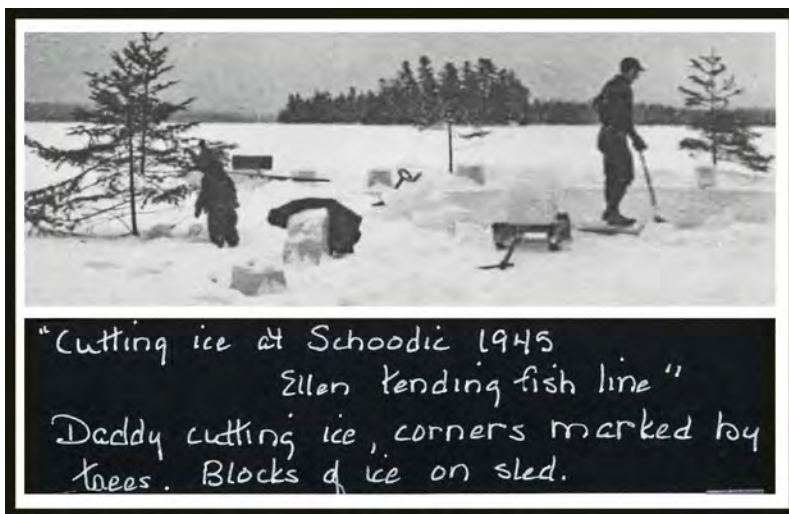
Her menu was probably a marked departure from the more elaborate food the McNaughtons had served their guests in the kerosene-lit dining room of Lakeside Camps’ lodge around 1910. Kay served a regular schedule of offerings: fish on Friday; beans with frankfurters (never called “hot dogs”), and brown bread to accompany them on Saturday and Wednesday;<sup>132</sup> chicken and potatoes with gravy on Sunday; steak on one day and pasta with a simple tomato sauce on another. There were cookies, kept in ten large jars,<sup>133</sup> and “Gourley Goo,” a combination of jello and condensed milk whipped together for dessert. Other dessert specialties were “icebox refrigerator cake,” a combination of whipped cream mixed with sugar and cocoa layered with graham crackers, pies made from apples picked on Five Islands, and homemade puddings topped with whipped cream.<sup>134</sup> Kay baked bread every other day for toast<sup>135</sup> and for sandwiches for the hunters and fishermen.<sup>136</sup> On request, she served guests the fish they had caught.



Especially before the road was put in, Bill and Kay tried to minimize the amount of food that had to be purchased in town by raising as much as they could. In the spring they harvested rhubarb, fiddleheads and dandelions, the first fresh produce of the season. Kay grew potatoes in a rocked-up patch between camps Fordyce and Dodge, and lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage, squash, beans, carrots, parsnips, beets and turnips in the garden adjacent to the kitchen. She canned vegetables not needed when they were harvested. She and Bill used a shotgun to defend crops

from local predators, although the results were not always what was hoped. On one occasion, Bill shot at blue jays pecking holes in the tomatoes, which had to be perfect if served to guests. He drove the birds away, but left the tomatoes riddled with buckshot. Apples and root vegetables were stored in a root cellar dug into a bank on the west side of what is now the road behind the camps. In late winter and early spring, Bill, accompanied by the girls, collected sap from sugar maples, but Kay eventually vetoed making syrup because the process filled Winter Camp with steam.<sup>137</sup>

At one time they had a cow that supplied some of the camp's milk. In the fall, it had to be moved to warmer quarters. Bill walked it via the Pleasant River Trail to a farm on the other side of Schoodic Mountain where it was wintered and "freshened" in the spring. When summer came, he walked the cow back to camp and brought its calf to camp by boat in a burlap bag. When the Gourleys returned from town one day, they discovered that the cow had escaped its fenced-in area, found its way to the garden, and feasted on the cabbage. Ellen remarked: "Bad day all around—end of cow!"<sup>138</sup> In some years, Gourleys also kept a pig and chickens in pens near the barn.<sup>139</sup> Meat was not a major part of their diet; it was generally served to the family only if it was left over from meals prepared for the guests or if it was brought by them to share with the Gourleys.<sup>140</sup> For a number of years they never went to the butcher to supply their own needs. They ate fish they'd caught and, during the fall and winter, they ate whatever game Bill hunted or trapped. He dressed the animals, gave them to Kay and, she said, he never asked her what she was serving.<sup>141</sup>



The "transportation revolution"<sup>142</sup> changed not only the way the guests came to Schoodic but also the way in which they were fed. In the early days, the camps had "ice boxes"—insulated wooden cabinets with a compartment that held a block of ice large enough to cool items stored in the remaining space. One of Bill's tasks was providing a summer's worth of ice for these boxes, which had to be re-supplied twice a week.<sup>143</sup> Before he cut the ice in the winter, he cleaned out the ice house, initially the building on the lake shore that eventually became Cheerio's boathouse, and

procured a supply of sawdust to insulate the ice blocks.<sup>144</sup> Once the lake froze to a depth of two feet or more, he made a track for bringing a sled down the snowbank to the lake and back up again, shoveled the snow from the area he intended to cut and then used an ice auger to open holes into which the ice saw blade could be inserted (photos above, p. 68). He also stood a small evergreen tree at each corner of the cut to warn of open water or thin ice. Long hours of tedious sawing followed: Bill was careful to make the blocks as uniform as possible so they would be easier to store. Ellen remembers the magic of seeing them bob up in the water when they had been cut free. Using ice tongs, Bill lifted each block from the water, loaded them three at a time onto the sled and hauled them off the lake and over the bank to the ice house<sup>145</sup> where Ellen and Mary helped him pack sawdust in the spaces between them for insulation.



Cutting ice from the lake was hard work, and possibly dangerous, but it was great deal of fun for Ellen Gourley who was 3 years old at the time. Bill cut the ice, put it on the sled, and hauled it up the bank to the ice house. Then they both got on the sled and rode down the bank to the lake. Fun!!

The girls felt amply rewarded for their part of the work when Bill sledged them back onto the lake to pick up another load.<sup>146</sup>

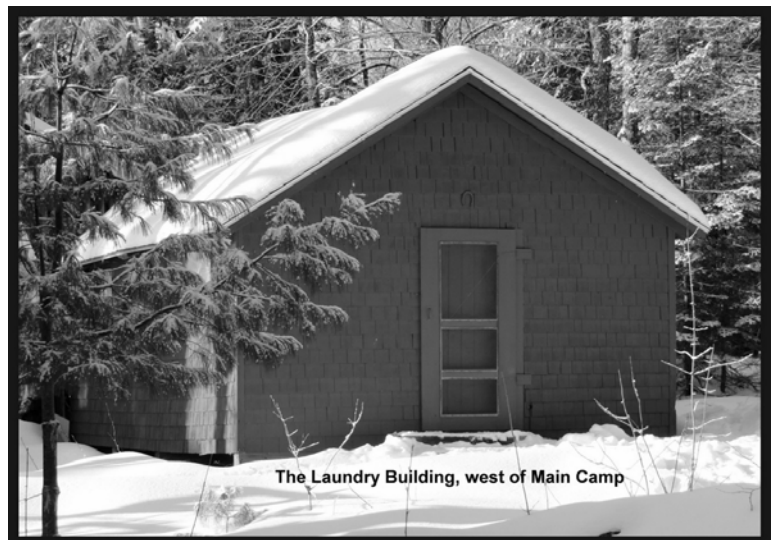
In 1954, with the camp road from Route 11 now open,<sup>147</sup> Bill and Kay made another very significant innovation in their operations. They replaced the ice boxes with gas refrigerators<sup>148</sup> powered by propane brought from town in 100-pound canisters that Bill installed next to each camp. The propane also fueled gas stoves and lamps. These improvements made it possible for guests to prepare their own meals and allowed Kay to end summer dining service in the Main Camp in 1957.<sup>149</sup> Installing gas refrigerators and stoves in one-room camps like Cheerio, Garden Camp, Dragon and Doris turned that room into a kitchen. Bill later added bedrooms to them. He found most of the materials for these jobs by dismantling abandoned camps on the northeast shore of the cove and re-using their logs or by cutting trees as needed.<sup>150</sup>

### Hired Help

Neither Bill nor Kay could manage all the work by themselves. For a time, Kay hired two local girls in one of their last two years of high school: a “cabin girl,” a first-year hire, who “graduated” to serve as waitress the following year. The girls came to camp as soon as school was out and stayed for the entire summer. They slept in Garden Camp, the one-room cabin just south of the Main Camp that Bill had built to house them.<sup>151</sup> Their work day began at 6:00 AM.

While the waitress served breakfast in the Main Camp, the cabin girl made beds, changed linens, swept the cabins, cleaned the kerosene lantern globes and trimmed their wicks. After guests had been served their meals, the girls washed dishes and set up for the next meal. After lunch, they had free time and spent it swimming, walking the tracks, and playing basketball with the sons of track workers who lived near the train station. They chatted with friendly guests, and told tall tales to spook those who were not familiar with their environment – until the guest realized that the girls were joking. They also had a battery-operated radio Gourleys provided for them. Occasionally, they flagged a south-bound train to Milo, spent an evening with their parents and friends, and returned to their jobs the next morning on the No. 1 train. Their pay varied a bit. One girl reported that, as waitress, she earned \$2 per day plus tips while the cabin girl earned \$4; another said that pay was \$10 per week for each position.<sup>152</sup> In 1968, after there was no longer full-time summer help, on many Saturdays Kay hired “Rose” to help her clean the camps to get them ready for the coming week’s guests. Ellen and Mary Gourley, their husbands, boyfriends, friends, children, and occasionally the Gourleys’ clients, also helped Kay and Bill with chores whenever they were at camp.<sup>153</sup>

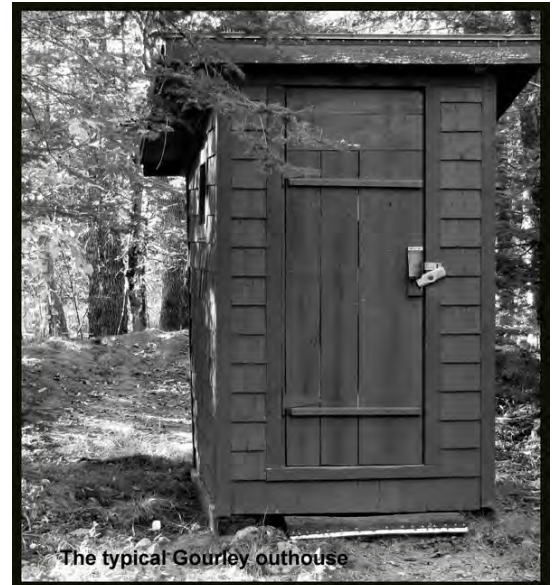
For most of the years they ran the camps, Gourleys provided sheets and pillow cases for their guests. Kay and the hired girls laundered forty sheets twice a week in the 1927 gasoline-powered Maytag washing machine that was among the items of equipment they acquired when they bought the camps.<sup>154</sup> Water for the wash was heated in large boilers on the laundry’s wood stove and poured into the washing machine and two slate set tubs used for rinsing. After the wash was complete, the



girls put the sheets through the wringer and hung them to dry. They then pressed them with irons heated on the wood stove in the Main Camp’s kitchen, folded them “precisely” and stacked them neatly in the “linen closet.”<sup>155</sup> Kay made the soap used at camp and the forms in which it was shaped. At the end of the summer season she did a complete laundry of all bedding materials, including the blankets. She also remade pillows, patched sheets and did other mending. There were more sheets to be washed when the November hunting season ended. Since Bill closed down the spring water system in October before its pipes froze, he or his helper had to lug water from the lake to fill the wash tubs.<sup>156</sup> Beginning in the 1960s Kay had their clients bring their own sheets. This and the fact that guests were cooking their own meals meant that she no longer had to hire full-time summer help, with the result that less of their gross income had to go to salaries.<sup>157</sup>



Bill's jobs were many and varied. Each cabin had its own outhouse, stocked with buckets of sand that Bill had dug from a pit behind the camp road that was used to cover droppings to prevent odors. Twice a week, he walked along a path behind the cabins from outhouse to outhouse, whistling as he approached each one to alert possible occupants.<sup>158</sup> He then dug out the droppings, covered them with dirt from the previous year's pile, and collected the garbage from covered metal containers lined with plastic bags that hung on nails on the rear outside wall of each cabin.<sup>159</sup> Kay washed out the plastic liners so they could be re-used. At week's end, Bill also shoveled ashes out of each camp's stove.



Bill began many summer days by mowing the grass and other growth along the paths with a scythe he sharpened on the grinding wheel in the tool shed. Mowing was a morning job because it made no noise and so would not disturb guests; weeds also cut more easily while they were still damp from the dew. Before guests arrived in the summer and after most had left in the fall, while the ground was damp and after he had gotten a fire permit, Bill set brush, leaves, grass, trash and debris from building projects ablaze at "burning places."<sup>160</sup> Safety and simplicity seemed to be his way. He taught those unfamiliar with the woods and lake how to enjoy them safely and his responses to their questions were often memorable. When one guest asked the name of a certain small bird, Bill replied simply, "we call them lit-tle birds."<sup>161</sup>

Like Kay, Bill had helpers. Art Pearl<sup>162</sup> and then Ralph Sargent each worked for and with him for a number of years. They were a presence at the camp when his responsibilities took him away from it. They slept in the back room of the laundry building. Ralph helped Bill with docks and other tasks that required "heavy lifting," worked together with him and at times took major responsibility for some of



the repairs and did other tasks as needed. "Ralph and I" was a frequent phrase in Bill's diary. It described both a friendship and a partnership. Bill trusted him to do much of the carpentry work on the various cabins while he ferried guests to and from the parking area, guided them on fishing trips, cleaned toilets, collected garbage, tuned motors for boats and trucks,<sup>163</sup> delivered groceries and kept the telephone working. Both men worked at the American Thread Company Mill in Milo<sup>164</sup>

during the winter months.<sup>165</sup> Ralph worked summers with Bill at Schoodic from at least 1958 through 1963 when he retired at the age of 76. He married his second wife in July, 1964.<sup>166</sup> He was the Gourleys' near neighbor in Milo and took care of their home there in their absence.<sup>167</sup> Before and after Ralph left, especially during the spring and fall, Kay took on some of the jobs he had formerly done: putting up screening, chinking, and painting.<sup>168</sup> Dave, a young man who had come to the camps for a number of years with his parents, subsequently hired on for a few years to help Bill with heavier chores.<sup>169</sup>

49. William Llewellyn Arnold (Lell) and the camps at Big Houston Pond, see Geller, *Maine Sporting Camp History*, pp. 78-79. Bill's relationship with Lell was longstanding. See, for instance, WJGD, 12/4 and 6/1941.

50. June 15: "On west shore of Schoodic. . . . Caught some big bass." June 23: "At Schoodic. Guide all day. . . Had a shower, got to Rand Cove just in time. . . 5 bass." WJGD, 6/15, and 23/1938.

51. WJGJ, 1/9; 2/15; 3/9 and 19/1940.

52. Stetson Family Papers, SPC MS 0480, Fogler Library, Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine. Future developments suggest that the deal involved the Gourleys.

53. On July 20 Bill noted "Cook left 5.17 AM." WJGD, 7/1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 18, 20/1940. When asked by an audience member at a presentation she gave at the Milo Historical Society in 1997 (hereafter KG, MHS 1997), why they had bought the camps, Kay stated emphatically "*It was a business*," not something they'd done for fun. She added that, while they'd never made much money, her two daughters both went to college, partly on scholarships and partly with help from some of their clients.

54. The lease, extended by their assumption of the Perkins lease, gave them 1300 feet of shore front. KG, MHS 1997.

55. KG, MHS 1997.

56. Ellen Gourley Hinman thinks that the insurance policy was Kay's way of putting their savings out of Bill's reach. She managed their money, since Bill was a free spender. "We have what we have because your mother is like that," Bill told Ellen. EGH: 11/3/2017; EGH: 3/23/2018.

57. AM: "Free Spirit," 45. The Gourleys have never mentioned the name of the lender. Gladys Swan, a long-time customer, recalls that Bill told her that one of his clients, a New Yorker whom he had guided for many years, had loaned or given him money to buy the camps. Gladys Swan (GS), "Sporting Camps Still Exist on Schoodic Cove," *Northwoods Sporting Journal*, December, 2011, p. 75; GS: "Days Before," p. 10. Jack Westney, a New Yorker who was a close friend of the Gourleys over the years, would have been able to make such a loan. On Jack Westney, see pp. 92-93. It has also been suggested that Gourleys borrowed money from the lawyer who handled the purchase of the camps for them (a suggestion for which no corroboration has been found).

58. The Gourleys may have applied the proceeds from the sale of their house in Willimantic to pay off the mortgage. EGH: 11/3/2017; EGH: 3/23/2018.

59. A chattel mortgage is an arrangement whereby the personal property (chattel), being purchased is used as security for the loan. Signing the mortgage made the Gourleys the legal owners of the property but if they failed to pay off the loan, ownership of the buildings and equipment reverted to Andrews.

60. The five small cabins would have been Winter Camp, Cheerio, Dorothy, Dragon, and Humphrey.

61. Kay later described the Main Camp as having a kitchen, a living room and adjoining dining room, and a loft above the dining room where she and Bill slept. There was also a separate bedroom attached to the west side of Main Camp off its living room end. Perhaps the sixth room was the pantry attached to the kitchen. Perhaps the "shed" was the laundry building (though it is not a 'shed,' architecturally speaking). KG, MHS 1997.

62. Would this have been what is today the Cheerio boathouse? This building served that purpose in the 1960s. But it was also at one time an ice house.
63. It's currently impossible to say whether this refers to the Cheerio boathouse or to the boat house north of Camp Dorothy. Significant amounts of sawdust show that both buildings were used as ice houses at different times.
64. Registry of Piscataquis, SS notes the mortgage as "Discharged." Volume 251, p. 483.
65. The Lanphears had purchased this camp in violation of the lease terms that forbid "subletting" by the lease holder. See above, pp. 42-44.
66. See WJGD, September/1940 - April 1941.
67. WJGD, October 16, 1940, and February 24, 1941.
68. There was a shortage of agricultural workers during the war. MGM: 3/08/2018. Harold Kroemer owned potato farms on the northern edge of Milo east of Route 11, on the Prairie, and in Lagrange. Charles Horne to MG, 8/27/2018.
69. EGH, 11/3/2017.
70. Bill later remarked emphatically: "Eskimos have babies too, with *no* facilities 'a-t'all."
71. AM: "Free Spirit," 50.
72. Pregnant with Mary, Kay chased down a piglet that had escaped from the henhouse where it had been confined. AM: "Free Spirit," 51-52.
73. MGM: 3/8/2018. AM: "Free Spirit," 51-52.
74. *Ibid.*, 52-53.
75. AM: "Free Spirit," 53-55; MGM: 6/4/2018. On the cow, see p. 68. The girls accompanied him as he did other jobs as well. On their involvement in ice-cutting, see pp. 68-69.
76. "Wanted to go fishing with the girls but too cold." WJGD, 9/28/1958; 5/24/1959.
77. MGM: 6/18/2017.
78. See AM: "Free Spirit," 10, 54-55. MGM: 6/18/2017. Years later, using the skills that Kay had taught her, Ellen made lovely quilt for her.
79. See pp. 69-70.
80. EGH: 11/3/2017; MGM: 3/8/2018.
81. KG, MHS, 1997.
82. See WJGD, 8/8/1963.
83. EGH: 11/3/2017.
84. Winter Camp had two bedrooms and a long kitchen that ran parallel, west to east, with the two bedrooms. See below, pp. 103-104. Bill piled snow against the walls to prevent winter winds from sweeping under it.
85. EGH to Gallaghers, 2/26/2011.
86. MGM to Gallaghers.

87. AM: "Free Spirit," 57.
88. Michael White reports that the Tweedie children (from the camp by the railroad tracks) also went to school by train.
89. Mary was pleased that this schedule allowed her to remain in town for Friday night dances with a favorite partner, Mike Lancaster, of Milo. MGM: 6/18/2017; 6/4/2018.
90. The cost of stopping the train was an issue raised in 1924 by the B&A's manager, W. K. Hallet, in response to a request from Maud English. See Schoodic Cove: A History, p. 27.
91. They decided his skin color was part of his uniform. They also remembered him for his kindness to them. MGM: 6/18/2017.
92. WJGD, 4/7/1963 and MGM to PFG, 4/27/2021.
93. Kay's maternal grandfather had been a musician in a Maine regiment in 1862. See p. 57, note 14, and AM: "Free Spirit," 57-60; and MGM: 3/8/2018.
94. Mary's daughter, Amy Beth Chisholm, is on the music faculty of Flathead Valley Community College in Montana.
95. WJGD, 7/23 and 9/5/1960; 5/6/1961; 5/2/1965.
96. WJGD, 5/6/1961; 3/31/1962; 3/23/1963.
97. Among the gifts Bill received was an unidentified "Thoreau book from Ellen. read it till 1:30 P.M." Eight years later, Bill noted that he was "Reading Thoreau in the maine Woods." WJGD, 12/25/1962; 3/21/1970.
98. WJGD, 6/28/1959; 9/5/1960.
99. See: Ellen Elizabeth Gourley Weds in Garden Ceremony," Milo Historical Society 180657.
100. AM: "Free Spirit," 63-65.
101. On the Nemeths, see below, p. 95. Bill noted in his diary that, among those present at the wedding were "6 Nemeths 2 Westenys.." He considered that "Mr. Nemeth sure done a good job." Mary had made a yellow tie for him to match the bouquet of yellow wildflowers she had chosen for her wedding bouquet. Yellow was not the Reverend's favorite color. See WJGD, 7/18/1971; and Beth Nemeth Edwards and Nancy Nemeth (BNE and NN), 7/9/2018.
102. See above, pp. 42-43.
103. McKeen to Stetsons, 2/27/1940: "Perkins will see that Camp Doris is torn down and cleared satisfactorily to you and Andrews."
104. Nelson McNaughton, the first owner of the camps at Schoodic Lake, had once managed the camps at Five Islands.
105. Recycling of building materials was a common and accepted practice. Bill had also gotten permission to take logs from some abandoned logging camps on the northeast shore of Schoodic. In 1965, he and Ralph were taking down the floors of the Milo hotel. Each got "2 loads apiece of bottom floor boards . . . where he had taken up the hardwood flooring." See WJGD, 4/18 and 4/19/1941 and 6/12 and 6/13/1941; 4/4 and 4/5/1965; GS: "Days Before," p. 7; MGM to Gallaghers, 06/18 and 10/08/2017.
106. On the Perkins lease, see above, p. 46. Bill continued to refer to "the Perkins camp" for a number of years (until Mr. Perkins died), and they seem to have continued to use it.
107. This lease would have expired July 20, 1952. While no further leases have been found, it was certainly renewed. In a letter of April 27, 1957, I. G. Stetson informed all Stetson lessees that I. K and I. G. Stetson had sold its interests in their lands to Oxford Paper Company on April 12 of that year. Stetson added that he had been informed that Oxford

would continue all leases then in effect in good standing if the lessees had complied with their terms.

108. Bill noted that he was tearing down the "Dowling hovel," probably one of the shacks near the railroad station that Stetsons had ordered him to destroy when squatters no longer occupied it. Bill used boards from the shack to repair the Perkins camp and brought its cook stove there as well. See WJGD, 3/2, 3/20, and 3/21/1957.

109. See WJGD, 3/2, 3/3, 3/7, 3/8, 3/18-21; 4/4, 4/8-10; 5/3-8, and 5/10/1957, on all of which dates Bill was making repairs on the camp. On May 18, 19, 22, 25, and 28 and June 6, 1957, the camp was clearly being made ready for occupancy. On August 10, Bill noted that Mr. and Mrs. Perkins had left early.

110. See WJGD, 3/23; 4/13; and 6/16/1958.

111. Maud F. Aymar was one of the previous owners of the camp.

112. See the Camp Lease to George W. Bears, August 1, 1943, Stetson Papers, SpC MS 480, Box 14, Folder No. 21. Bears had bought the camp only three years previously from L. A. McDonald. The annual rent for the lease was \$10 at that time. No further details of the terms on which Gourleys acquired the camp from Bears have been discovered.

113. Nails were scarce in the immediate postwar period, so Bill made wooden pegs to hold some of the logs in place.

114. See p. 70.

115. Bill also built a tool shed behind the Main Camp to house some of his equipment MGM:7/2018.

116. KG, MHS 1997.

117. When a guest asked about a matter that had to do with money, Bill referred the person to the "boss." The guest missed his point and sought out the hired man instead of Kay. MGM: 6/4/2018.

118. She once said that, in their best years, they never grossed more than \$6,000 or \$7,000. During most of the years they owned the camps, except for those when he worked for the American Thread Mill, Bill continued to supplement their income by doing some trapping. When, at the end of 1968, week-long trips to their traditional trapping camps with Al Turner became too difficult, Bill did day trips in the vicinity at Schoodic which he accessed with the help of the section men or by a snowmobile which he acquired in December, 1963. See WJGD, 12/4/1963; 12/6/1968. His annual earnings from trapping in the years 1964-1966, 1968, 1969, and 1972 ranged from \$272 to \$745.

119. KG, MHS 1997.

120. MGM: 6/4/2018.

121. WJGD, 5/2/1967.

122. MGM: 6/4/2018.

123. EGH: 3/23/2018.

124. MH: 3/13/2018.

125. Bill referred to the position as her "control tower."

126. On the prominent role played by women in managing sporting camps, see William Geller, "The Women Who Ran Sporting Camps: the Making of a Tradition in Maine," *Appalachia*, Winter/Spring 2021, 88-97.

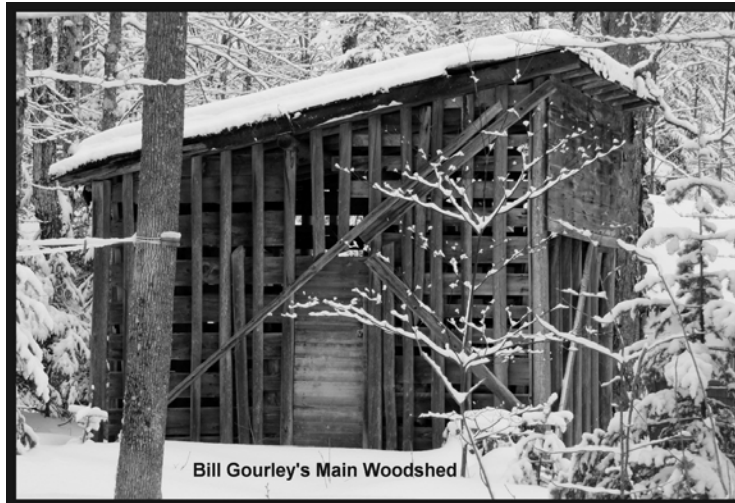
127. Guests who stayed at Dodge, a "housekeeping" camp, however, had the option of preparing their own meals on the wood stove there. Some, like Jean Donovan, were brave enough to bake pies and cakes in it by carefully moving them around to regulate the temperature. Green Camp was also a housekeeping camp. See Phyllis W. Hamilton, "Working at Schoodic Lake Camps the Summers of 1950 and 1951," 179, and Jean Perkins, "Jean Perkins Remembers," 183, in Sawtell, *SLR*.

128. One winter, Kay stored a case of lard in the stove and forgot she had done so. The next spring, she started a fire in it that melted all the lard and created a great mess. EGH: 11/3/2017.
129. Both Ellen and Mary remembered this story. MGM: 6/18/2017; EGH: 11/3/2017
130. Doughnuts made from its recipe were a special favorite with guests. Tom Donovan, Jr. (TDJ): 7/8/2018.
131. Bill had had much more experience than she. One thing he had learned was that “when you get to a job, the first person to befriend is the cook.” MGM: 6/4/2018.
132. Kay made enough beans on Saturday for both days. EGH: 11/3/2017.
133. Those the guests didn't eat became “family cookies.” MGM: 6/18/2017.
134. MGM: 6/4/2018. Apples from trees around the camp were not considered good enough.
135. Bread was toasted directly on the cookstove – without a griddle, and then brushed with butter. MGM: 6/18/2017.
136. On occasion, there was store-bought bread. When Ellen and Mary were allowed to make sandwiches with it, they thought it was a special treat. MGM: 6/18/2017.
137. EGH: 3/22/2018; MGM: 3/08/2018.
138. EGH: 11/3/2017; MGM: 3/8/2018.
139. Mary enjoyed riding the pig. They kept a pig for only one year, however, as butchering it proved problematic. EGH: 3/23/2018; MGM: 3/8/2018.
140. MGM: 6/18/2017. Guests with whom the Gourleys had become close friends like the Mynghears, who eventually moved to the Dexter area, occasionally came to visit and often brought steak, lamb, or other treats Bill and Kay would never have purchased for themselves. Bill regularly recorded his enjoyment and appreciation: “great feed.”
141. EGH: 11/3/2017; EGH: 3/22/2018; KG to P & M Gallagher, 2/16/2000.
142. See below, pp. 80-82.
143. MGM: 6/4/2018.
144. Possibly from the sawdust pile at Five Islands which at that time was enormous.
145. Now the boat house belonging to Camp Cheerio.
146. EGH: 11/3/2017, 5/5/2018; GS, “Days Before,” 15.
147. See p. 81.
148. Bill noted in his diary that they had “Wheeled up 3 old refrigerators to the burning place took off hinges and latches.” See WJGD, 4/16/1957. Kay later considered destroying the ice boxes had been a mistake, since they subsequently became prized as antiques, but added that she had felt that if you didn't use a thing for a couple of years, it didn't deserve floor space. KG, MHS, 1997.
149. When guests prepared their own meals, Kay placed their orders for food with Perry's Market in Brownville Junction. As late as 1962, however, guests were allowed to sign up to have a meal cooked for them. During the fall, however, those who were friends of the Gourleys ate with them in Winter Camp. See WJGD: 11/28/1965; KG, MHS 1997; BNE and NN: 7/9/2018.
150. MGM: 6/18/2017.

151. See above, p. 65.
152. See Phyllis W. Hamilton, "Working at Schoodic Lake Camps The Summers of 1950 and 1951," and Jean Perkins, "Jean Perkins Remembers," in Sawtell, *SLR*, 179-183.
153. See WJGD, 7/13, 7/20; 8/3, 8/24, and 8/31/1968; 6/28/1969; 7/11, 7/18; 8/1, 8/15, 8/29; and 9/5/1970; 7/10, 7/17; 8/14 and 8/28/1971.
154. In 1961 Kay traded the old Maytag in for a new one. See WJGD, 1/5/1961; AM: "Free Spirit," 62-63; and KG, MHS 1997.
155. See Phyllis W. Hamilton: "Working at Schoodic Lake Camps The Summers of 1950 and 1951," in Sawtell, *SLR*, 179-183.
156. At the end of September, 1965, Bill noted that she had done "60 blankets so far." See WJGD, 9/27 and 9/28, 1965; 11/26 and 11/28/1962; and EGH: 3/22/2018.
157. KG to PFG, 4/9/1971. Ellen notes that this modernization enabled them to operate the camps for many more years than would otherwise have been possible, and that, while keeping up with the times, her parents were able to preserve the "Schoodic" feeling. EGH: 3/22/2018.
158. Michael Hueston recalls that Bill would whistle on his way to the outhouse to warn anyone who might be in it of his approach. MH: 3/13/2018.
159. MGM: 6/4/2018.
160. WJGD, 4/16/1957.
161. Thomas Donovan, 7/11/2018.
162. Art Pearl was employed sometime during the years (1942-1956), for which there are no diary entries.
163. Bill enjoyed "tinkering."
164. The Milo and Lakeview mills made spools for the American Thread Company out of birch that had grown up on acreage near Milo affected by the 1825 fire. See Bill Geller, *832,000 Acres: Maine's 1925 Fire & Its Piscataquis Logging Aftermath* (Farmington, Maine: 2020), pp. 42, 136, 157-165.
165. Bill began to work winter months there beginning in the fall of 1958 and ending in the spring of 1961. In subsequent winters, Bill did day-long trapping expeditions in the vicinity of the camps at Schoodic.
166. The last day he worked at Schoodic with Bill was August 29, 1963. In April, he bought the Nutter house on Albert St. in Milo; on July 28, he took his family to Millinocket, possibly to meet the woman he married in 1964. See WJGD, 4/26; 7/28; 8/29/1963. The Gourleys frequently socialized with them and supported them when they were ill. A frequent summer client, accustomed to seeing Ralph, missed him, asked Bill about him, and misinterpreted Bill's reply: "Ralph is no longer with us," to mean that Ralph had died. Tom Donovan: 7/8/2018; EGH: 5/5/2018; MGM: 6/18/2017.
167. Ralph lived at 6 Albert St., the Gourleys at 21 Albert St.
168. See, for instance, WJGD, 5/6, 5/7, 5/9, and 5/10/1957, before Bill had hired Ralph.
169. Michael Hueston (MH): 3/13/2018. Dave worked for Bill in 1965 and 1966.

## Part 8: Maintenance: Wood, Water, Telephone and the Camp Road

Keeping five woodsheds and a kindling shed supplied for an entire year took a significant amount of time, especially before chain saws came into common use in the 1950s.<sup>170</sup> In early spring and late fall, and during the summer



occasionally, Bill felled and limbed trees, cut them into four-foot lengths and split them in half on the site where he found them, around the camp or along the roads. When the road was sufficiently hard he loaded the four-footers into the dump truck and brought them to the main woodshed, where he cut them into 16-inch lengths with a motor-driven saw that had a circular blade about three feet in diameter. As soon as there was snow on the



ground he “tread trail” down to and over the frozen lake to create a path along which he could drag sleds of wood to the front of each camp, where he piled the wood. Then or later, he hauled it up the banks, some of them quite steep.<sup>171</sup> In early spring, at free moments during the summer and during hunting season, he split the wood into stove-size pieces and piled it into the sheds. He split cedar into kindling and stored in its own shed near the Main Camp. Occasionally loggers working for the lumber company would call Bill’s attention to left-over “nubbins” and advised him to get them quickly before they were pushed out of the way. Bill did not miss the chance, went up immediately, and often got a “dandy load.”<sup>172</sup>

### Water

Supplying water to the camps was not a simple matter. When Gourleys bought them, all buildings, including the kitchen in the Main Camp and the laundry, hand-pumped their water from the lake until Bill discovered a spring at the near side of the railroad tracks from which he ran  $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanized pipe<sup>173</sup> to a covered tank set on an elevated mount near his tool shed. This supplied



running water to the Main Camp, the laundry building, Winter Camp, Garden Camp, and to a faucet in front of the Main Camp from which guests could draw spring water for drinking.<sup>174</sup> After a train derailed and spilled tar into the spring, rendering it useless, Bill found another spring several hundred feet west of and above the tracks that produced a reliable supply of water. Every May he chlorinated the spring and the line from it to the tank behind the tool shed to eliminate any contamination, and then



had the water tested. He recorded only one instance when the water sample failed the test and took immediate steps to remedy the situation.<sup>175</sup> During the course of the summer, he occasionally had to re-establish the flow when the line got disconnected or air locked. He drained the line completely during the month of October to prevent it from being split by a freeze.<sup>176</sup> Before it was reconnected in May and after it was disconnected in the fall, Bill had to haul water from the lake for Kay to use when she cleaned the camps or laundered sheets used by the hunters.<sup>177</sup>

### The Telephone

Bill was also responsible for collecting mail at the end of the camp road or occasionally at West Seboeis, where the post office formerly at Schoodic station had been relocated for a while,<sup>178</sup> and for maintaining telephone service to the camp.<sup>179</sup> After the camp road was built, he ran an

uninsulated steel phone line along it that connected to telephone wires along Route 11.<sup>180</sup> To maintain the connection, he patrolled the road regularly to remove twigs or branches dropped on the line by wind or rain: "This P.M. I went down the telephone line 4 miles, a lot of stuff to take off."<sup>181</sup> The line was vulnerable to all sorts of attacks. One day, when the phone went dead, Bill and his helper went out to see what the problem was. They discovered that a large bull moose had gotten its antlers tangled in the



wire. When they cut the wire to free him, the moose took off with 30 feet of it still tangled around his antlers.<sup>182</sup> Nature was not always kind either. Bill noted that a "Tereffic thunder shower" one evening had blown all the telephone fuses and complicated delivery of the guests' groceries the

next day.<sup>183</sup> He was generally able to restore service, and rarely had to call the telephone company to send someone to fix the problem.<sup>184</sup>

The telephone not only allowed Kay to book reservations and stay informed about changes in guests' plans; she also used it to phone grocery orders to Perry's Market in Brownville Junction twice weekly. On Wednesdays and Saturdays Bill picked up the orders<sup>185</sup> and Kay would see that they were delivered to each cabin and that perishables were stored in their ice boxes or refrigerators.<sup>186</sup> The phone was also useful if an emergency arose, as when a young boy required stitches after pinching his hand between a dock and a boat. The friendly doctor Kay called arrived by boat, took care of the wound, and then took a group of the young folks over to nearby "Birch Beach" on the northeast shore of the lake for a swim.<sup>187</sup> There was another emergency of a different sort in which the phone played a role – a diaper crisis. A Pennsylvania lawyer, his wife and their young baby stayed for some weeks at Cove Camp. He arranged for a diaper service to ship a weekly supply of diapers to them by rail. The company agreed to this on condition that dirty diapers be returned before a new batch was sent. When the dirty diapers did not arrive on time, the service refused to ship more. The lawyer arrived at the Main Camp, phoned the diaper service and complained loudly, amusing the guests who were there having lunch.<sup>188</sup> There was also a crank-up phone that ran only from the parking lot to the kitchen, used by guests arriving by car in the parking area before Bill finished the road from the tracks to the camps. On reaching the parking area, guests called ahead for transport the last half mile to camp.

### **The Camp Road: The Gourleys and the Transportation Revolution**

When Nelson McNaughton established Lakeside Camps in the early twentieth century, his upper class clients came to them by rail and provided the B&A with a revenue source that it advertised aggressively to attract. For a number of years, the B&A published an annual 'book,' "In the Maine Woods," to attract upperclass visitors.<sup>189</sup> In 1900 and 1907, however, paper mills opened in Millinocket and East Millinocket. Although not immediately, the railroad concentrated more and more on transporting pulp, fuel, chemicals, and paper, while its interest in conveying passengers to sporting camps along the route gradually diminished.<sup>190</sup> Postal service to Schoodic Station was discontinued on January 31, 1919 and a few years later the B&A began to limit passenger service to it.<sup>191</sup> While some trains would take on passengers at Schoodic if flagged, other stops had to be arranged by phone in advance.<sup>192</sup> When Bill and Kay became owners of Schoodic Lake Camps, many of their guests came on the Canadian Pacific Railroad which had stops further down the lake, first near Knights's Landing<sup>193</sup> and then, for a few years after 1947, at Lake View, where Bill picked them up in a large boat powered by a rented motor and brought them to the camps.<sup>194</sup>

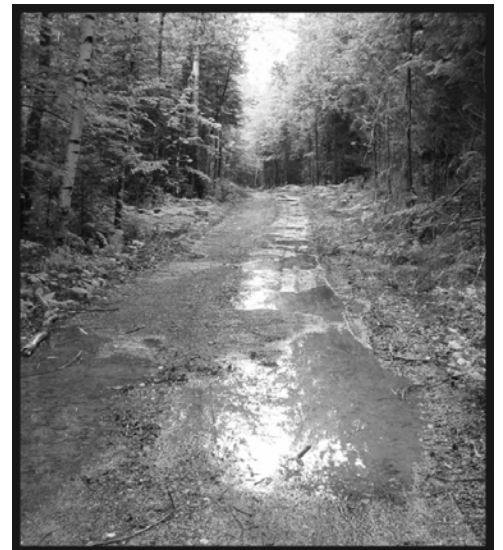
Procuring needed supplies was another major challenge before there was a road. The station master telegraphed orders to suppliers, and canisters of kerosene for lamps and stoves, and Kay's orders for flour, sugar, tea, coffee, and other bulk dry goods came to Schoodic Station

on the B&A RR.<sup>195</sup> On arrival, the goods were unloaded at the station's freight shed, built to be level with the doors on the freight cars, and then brought to ground level by means of a down-ramp.<sup>196</sup> Bill then rolled kerosene barrels down the hilly path by Camp Humphrey until they met the path along the lake where he loaded them on a wheelbarrow; goods that did not roll were wheeled the entire way.<sup>197</sup> He also brought in supplies by boat from Knights's Landing.



In the 1940s, the automobile made its appearance. Demand for a road that would connect Millinocket, Norcross, Brownville, Milo, Dover Foxcroft and Bangor led the Maine Legislature in November 1937 to appropriate \$10,000 to support construction of Route 11. Work began the next year. In 1941, the Stetsons granted a right of way through T4 R9 for the highway, which opened for travel in January, 1944, fifty years after the first train came through on the B&A tracks.<sup>198</sup>

The Gourleys realized that they had to react to these changes in transportation and in clientele—a growing middle class that owned cars and had paid vacations gradually replaced wealthy “sports.” In 1949, they began building a road that started from a parking area Bill had created west of the railroad tracks and followed the old Nahmakanta Tote Road<sup>199</sup> for about 3.5 miles to Route 11, a project that took them about three years to complete.<sup>200</sup> Bill had the road rough-bulldozed, and then blasted the rocks out of it by himself.<sup>201</sup> Work to maintain and improve this road was a continuing project thereafter. Here and there streams, some of them sizeable after heavy rains, crossed the road. Heavy precipitation caused swampy areas adjacent to the road to flood across it. Puddles formed in low spots along the way. Bill built wooden culverts to take the flow under the road and repaired them when necessary, or laid corduroy in wet spots. In 1961, the old bridge nearest the railroad had to be replaced. Bill and Ralph got suitable logs for each side of it, “dead pine;” “a good load of rocks for the ends of the bridge;” and a “load of gravel” from the heap at the main road to stabilize it.” Although Bill considered the finished work “a dandy,” there were still problems to be contended with.<sup>202</sup>



In early spring, before the frost was fully out of the road, vehicles sometimes sank into the mud – including Gourley vehicles.<sup>203</sup> Cars driving through wet spots created ruts, washed the gravel off the road, and exposed rocks of all sizes. In one of his diary entries Bill noted that he had “Counted rocks in road that ought to come out 198.” Occasionally, when a logging operation

used the road, the lumber company would remove some of the most dangerous rocks and bring gravel in to make it passable for heavy trucks.<sup>204</sup> They did not remove all the problem rocks, however. Bill noted in a diary entry that a customer's car had hit a rock and lost all its oil 2 miles out. A wrecker had to be called to bring the car to Millinocket to be repaired. Bill reported the next day that the car's transmission was "really busted." To prevent another such accident, he looked for the place where the accident had happened, "put some brush to steer the cars over to one side," and "repaired the road some."<sup>205</sup>



Since hiring an outside contractor to rock-rake the road would have been costly, Bill dealt with the problem himself. He had an old dump truck he used only on the camp road since it was not registered. He hauled gravel with it and created his own rock-rake by bolting a heavy log to a long steel bar with an edge. Pulled at an angle behind the truck, the device scraped the road, raised rocks that could be jarred loose, slid them off toward the edge, and leveled the road's surface somewhat. At first Bill, then later Kay<sup>206</sup> or Mary, took the wheel of the truck while the other walked behind, picked up stones dislodged by the bar and tossed them off the road. Though it was never smooth, with continual effort the road remained passable."<sup>207</sup>



This is the truck with which Bill carted gravel, logs, and stones, and which he used to 'rock rake' the road. "Cut new logs for the road drag this A.M. Made drag this P.M. and got big truck ready to drag." (Diary, May 16, 1957) He spent many hours in almost every year keeping this essential helper running.

Once the road was completed as far as the railroad tracks,<sup>208</sup> although a bumpy ride, guests drove to the parking area and used the "crank-up" phone Gourleys had installed there to notify Kay of their arrival. In due time, Bill drove to meet them in his "stake-bed" truck whose rear gate hinged down to facilitate loading luggage. Men and some of the children rode in the back of the truck with the luggage while ladies rode in the cab with Bill. Bill always turned off the truck's engine to listen for oncoming trains before he crossed the tracks. The truck stopped at the Main Camp ("Office"), where guests signed the register and bought fishing licenses, and where Kay kept a glass case stocked with candy, playing cards, and fishing lures for sale.<sup>209</sup> Since there was no road behind the camps for a number of years, Bill and a helper loaded their luggage on his

wheelbarrow and brought it to their cabins. Food that the parties had pre-ordered was already stored in their ice boxes or refrigerators.<sup>210</sup> Throughout most of the years the Gourleys owned the camps, getting their clients to and from camp occupied much of Bill's time.



Shoveling Snow Off Winter Camp, 1971



Snow Storm, March 1971

The road did not completely replace the train as a means to get back and forth from town. In early spring or late fall when he went to camp to shovel snow off roofs or to split wood, Bill hitched rides to and from Milo with the "section men" who maintained the rails.<sup>211</sup> Although there was no scheduled stop at Schoodic, trains continued to pick up occasional passengers there.<sup>212</sup> Both Kay and the girls frequently road the train back and forth from camp to Milo when the girls were of school age and Kay was needed in both places.<sup>213</sup> For a few brief years, between 1958 and 1961, there was regularly scheduled bus service on Route 11. This gave the Gourley women and an occasional guest a way to get to and from camp.<sup>214</sup>

By the spring of 1968 the Gourleys were able to resolve insurance issues, amass enough money to afford the necessary gravel, and secure permission from the railroad to bring the road over the tracks<sup>215</sup> and down to the southernmost camp. They hired a local road contractor, Harold Tourtelotte, who brought in nine truckloads of gravel to make a road bed and fill soft spots. When more was needed, the bulldozer operator took sand from a hillside deposit behind Green Camp. Bill dug culverts to carry streams under the road and laid logs to bridge them. Work on the road behind the camps ceased during July and August but was completed in September, after most of the summer guests had left.<sup>216</sup> The returns on this major project were extremely significant. Guests could now drive directly to their camps, and could now come and go as they pleased without having to wait for Bill to take them to their cars. Bill was spared the time-consuming labor of trucking them and their baggage back and forth from the parking area and wheeling the baggage from there to their camps, so he now had his weekends free for other tasks. Where he had previously had to bring firewood and heavy building materials down to the lake and float or sled them to camps to the south, he could now simply drive them down the road to where they were needed.

## Part 9: Docks, Boats, Motors and Guests—Fishermen and Hunters

When the Gourleys bought the camps, there was only the one dock, located in front of the Main Camp, that served all the camps. It was pulled back on land for the winter and “swung back into position” for the summer season.<sup>217</sup> Over time, Bill provided each camp with its own dock. He cut and peeled long logs for “stringers,” one end of which he positioned on the shore, high enough to be level with the other end when it sat on top of a “horse” made of a piece of cedar or pine about four feet long and a foot in diameter into which he had drilled four holes at an angle with an augur. He then fitted maple legs into the holes, making two “A” shaped figures long enough to keep the horse mostly out of water. Once the horse was “set” level, he mounted the stringers on it and nailed boards to them. Finally, he tied the docks to their “horses” with heavy uninsulated telephone wire to hold them together.



The docks were sturdy but far from permanent structures. When ice formed in the lake it raised them up from the lake bottom. When it melted the docks could be tossed around by chunks of moving ice. Docks occasionally got away and had to be “hunted up . . . and toed . . . back.” Legs, horses, boards and stringers had to be replaced periodically, and then the docks lifted back on to the horses, repositioned and re-anchored to the shore, a task that required great dexterity, strength, and balance.<sup>218</sup> In addition to the twelve “camp” docks, there was also a swimming raft, anchored in front of Green Camp where the bottom was sandy. The raft had to be poled into position for summer use and relocated in toward land in the fall so it would not be swept away. This raft and the nearby sandy beach made Green Camp a favorite choice for families with children.<sup>219</sup> After Ralph retired, Bill did all the dock work without a helper.



### **Boats and Motors**

The camp rental fee included a boat, wooden or aluminum, or a canoe.<sup>220</sup> Some guests brought their own boats and motors with them.<sup>221</sup> Gourleys also had a supply of 3-horsepower motors they rented to those who wanted them. Bill regularly traded old motors and an occasional boat for newer replacements at the Milo Sport Shop owned by the Pickard family.<sup>222</sup> Bill stored the boats



in the building adjacent to Camp Cheerio which had initially been an ice house. After refrigerators replaced ice boxes, the building that had formerly served as a second ice house became the “No. 2 boathouse.” Gourleys wintered the motors in the cellar of their home in Milo.

Getting boats and motors ready for guests was a job begun in May and continued through June.<sup>223</sup> Bill carefully took the heavy, well-used Old Town canoes and square-ended wood and canvas boats off the crossbars of the boathouse where they were stored and inspected them for damage. When needed, he replaced dry-rotted pieces of their structure, mended tears in the canvas with a patch made of old sheets glued in place with Ambroid cement to prevent leaks, and then repainted the exterior.<sup>224</sup> Kay shared the work of washing, painting and varnishing the boats and sealing their seams. Bill also spent a good deal of time and effort keeping motors in working order.<sup>225</sup> Throughout the season, boats were bailed after a rain storm and cleaned for use by each new guest.

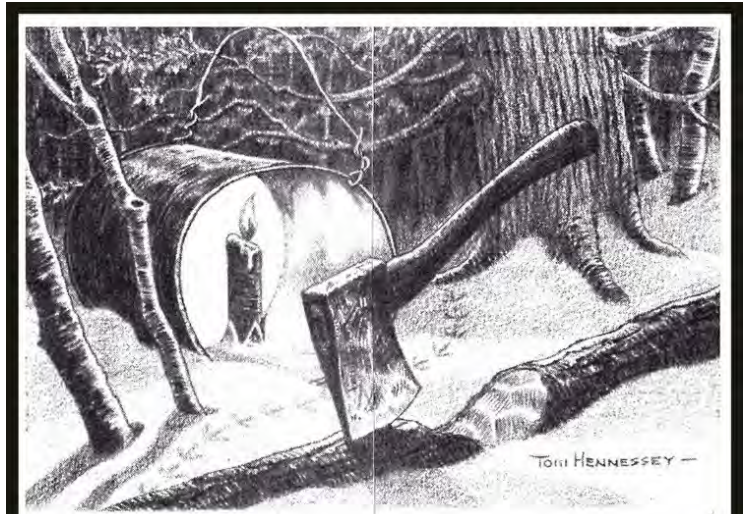
### **Hunters and Fishermen**

Hunting season began in late October and lasted through November. Hunters often came in groups of five or more and were usually assigned to the larger camps: Dodge, Fordyce, and Dorothy. Most hunted deer, although occasionally someone shot a bear. While they were generally able to take care of themselves, occasionally one got lost and spent the night in the woods but found his way back the next day. Bill was always concerned when a hunter did not return by evening. On one occasion when a man was out he brought Kay and girls to Milo then “Came back man found so back to milo.” He searched for another until 2:00 AM the first night,

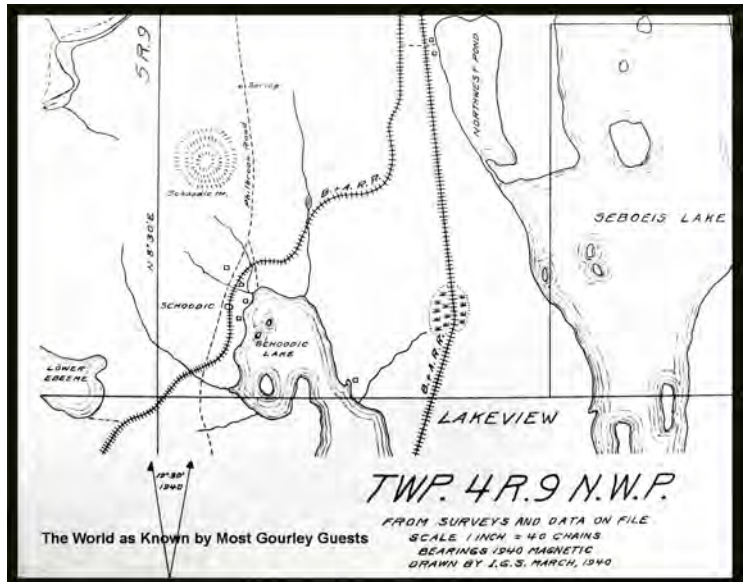
returned to the search early the next day and continued searching. The man was not found until the third day.<sup>226</sup>

The larrobino party, a group of five hunters, unintentionally presented Bill with an unusual and memorable companion that caused him to remark: "Now I have seen everything." The party arrived in a Cadillac hearse packed with cardboard boxes and a "small pig alive for a barbecue. The pig took an instant liking to Bill and followed him back and forth as he wheeled the group's possessions from his truck to Camp Fordyce. Although the hunters tried to confine it to their porch, it escaped and arrived outside the camp where Bill was staying. Because the night was very cold, he made a nest of leaves to keep it warm, but the pig was not satisfied so Bill let it inside, where it found a warm place underneath the stove and "talked" to him every time he added more wood to the fire. The next day, Bill returned the pig to the hunters, but it found its way back to Bill, who mused that he "must have had the right smell." The hunters left without roasting the pig, so Bill found a home for it on a Milo farm. He was careful to clean the camp where he and the pig had been staying. "Wash all three floors with lots of Mr. Clean. looks good now no pig pen."<sup>227</sup>

One of the services Bill provided for fishermen was trapping minnows for bait. To get his supply, he hiked up the railroad tracks in the direction of Millinocket to a favorite stream where he enticed minnows into a square net baited with saltine crackers. When it filled with minnows that had gathered in a feeding frenzy, he raised the net and scooped them into his buckets. When they were full, he brought them back to camp and transferred them to a minnow trap attached to the main dock, where guests could help themselves.<sup>228</sup> Guests often asked Bill for advice on how to catch fish and on where to try their luck,<sup>229</sup> others asked him to clean their fish or came to him for help when they had



Bill Gourley's 'Tin Can and Candle Light' from Tom Hennessey's 'Feathers 'n Fins' column, *Bangor Daily News*, December 9-10 1989. "If you were lost in the woods at night and I was looking for you, I'd rather have one of those lights than all the flashlights I could carry."





problems with their equipment. When asked for glue, Bill did not have to be told what the problem was: "Broke a rod tip, huh?"

Day trips to Rand Cove or to Seboeis, a sparsely occupied lake to the north and east of Schoodic that offered ample opportunities to catch bass, pickerel and white perch, were a much



Bill with 'The Catch' - September, 1954. Part of the Guide's job was to prepare the sportsmen's catch of the day, not just to take them to the best fishing spots.



After a few hours of trolling, Bill's party of sports pulls in to a rocky shore, poses for a photo, and gets ready for a lunch prepared by Kay or cooked by Bill.

favored outing for fishermen, with or without Bill as a guide.<sup>230</sup> If he was available and accompanied a group to Seboeis, they were in for a treat as Bill was a master at producing a lakeside lunch or dinner. Parties motored down Schoodic to Rand Cove, unloaded gear<sup>231</sup> and divided it among themselves for the .7 of a mile hike across the 'Carry Trail' to the Seboeis landing

place, where Bill kept two boats ("cedar boat" and a dory, which was rowed). One carried the boat motor, mounted on a pack board,<sup>232</sup> others carried fishing gear, lunches, utensils, and beverages. Pickerel

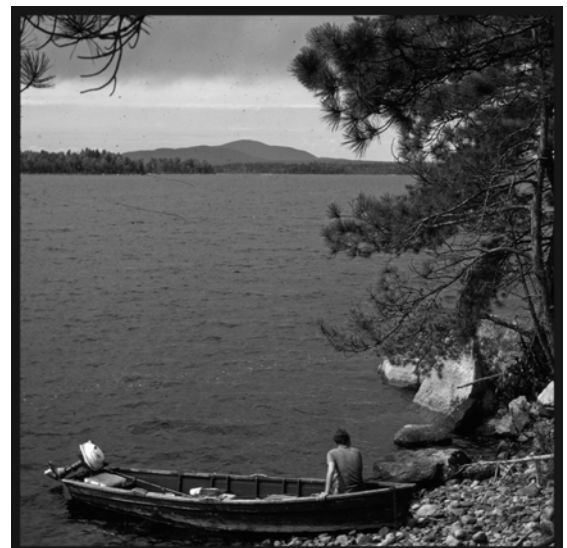


Bill Gourley preparing a dinner at Rand Cove, 1941. Note the remarkable amount of kitchenware—skillets, pots, a heavy iron grill and a trunk. These items were transported by the canoe in which he carried his 'sports.'



Mr. Block and his 12 Schoodic Lake Togue

often hid in the lily pads near a large rock where the two boats were beached and were a prime target for the first cast of the trip. Groups spent long days on Seboeis and occasionally didn't make it back to Schoodic until after dark. Bill watched for their return and guided them home by setting a lighted lantern on the main dock. Always concerned for safety, at the end of the fishing season when the lake level was down, he painted the tops of dangerous rocks to prevent damage to boats, motors, and fishermen.<sup>233</sup>



170. Bill earned some extra money by also cutting for Rodney Ross and the Robsons. See WJGD, 4/8-10/1941 and 12/9/1958.
171. On at least one occasion when Bill had planned to haul wood on the ice he desisted because it "buckeled some." "WJGD, 12/22/1959 and 3/29/1961.
172. See WJGD, 10/18/1969.
173. Bill subsequently replaced the metal pipe with ¾" vinyl pipe because the metal pipe was easily split by freezing water. The vinyl pipe, however, was occasionally vulnerable to attack by animals who mistook it for a snake.
174. Early on Bill supplied spring water to Winter Camp where they lived in the fall and many winters because it was impossible to sufficiently heat Main Camp in the winter. He later extended the water supply to Garden Camp where they lived when he undertook the rebuilding of Winter Camp in 1965-1966. KG, MHS 1997.
175. "Spring Water didn't pass, so first thing I chlorinated it in good shape, run the Water fast for a While the[n] have had it running slow all day not verry cloriency now." See WJGD, 6/25/1964.
176. He once had to drain it in May when the temperature dipped to the low 30's. WJGD, 5/20/1964; KG, MHS 1997.
177. See WJGD, 11/26 and 11/28/1962.
178. See WJGD, 6/26/1961.
179. Guests who knew the Gourleys well sometimes picked up the mail for them if they were making a trip to town.
180. There was also the "crank phone" in the parking lot on the far side of the tracks that guests used to announce their arrival.
181. See WJGD, 5/28/1957.
182. A year later, Bill went out the road and put the line up higher so it wouldn't catch another moose. See WJGD, 9/9/1960; 9/1/1961.
183. See WJGD, 8/25 and 8/26/1961.
184. See WJGD, 12/1/1961. "Ralph and I been the whole length of the telephone line lugged ladder all the Way and looked every insulator found only one slight ground.... At the parking ground we cut the wire and the telephone worked fine. At camp still grounded bad. Trouble between camp and parking ground." Also 12/2, and 12/4/1961.
185. Bill refused to fill orders for liquor, however. MGM: 6/4/2018.
186. There was no charge for this service. KG to Phil Gallagher (PFG), April 9 and 17, 1971.
187. TW: 5/13/2018.
188. In retelling the story, Mary Gourley commented wryly: "They could have washed a few."
189. For a sample of its coverage of camps around Schoodic and McNaughton's Lakeside Camps, see Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, "In the Maine Woods: The Vacationers' Guide Book, 1905 Edition" (1905) *Maine Railroad Publications*, cited above, in Chapter 1: p. 11 and notes 76, 77, and 78 on p. 17.
190. See "Bangor and Aroostook Railroad," Wikipedia.
191. See above, pp. 26-27.
192. KG, MHS 1997.

193. Bill also kept a car at Knights's Landing. EGH: 3/22/2018.

194. Using a steel cable, Bill winched the boat up to the shore on steel rails a few hundred yards to the south of Camp Dodge. The rails are still visible in the water. MGM: 6/18/2017; EGH: 11/3/2017.

195. The station agent transmitted Kay's orders to suppliers by Morse Code.

196. The girls frequently accompanied Bill on trips to the freight shed. Ellen remembers that the train crew gave them small licorice candies shaped like a person. EGH: 3/22/2018; 3/23/2018.

197. One of Bill's workdays went as follows: "Burn leaves pile wood roll gas & oil from station dig cespool at Humphrey cut tree around garden" See WJGD, 4/25/1941.

198. See *Piscataquis Observer*, "Millinocket-Brownville Road Made Possible," 11/4/1937; "Work Underway on Millinocket-Brownville Road", 12/15/1938; and "Brownville-Millinocket Road Open for Travel," 1/27/1944; and the Memorandum of Agreement of 14 April 1941 between Great Northern Paper Company and I. K. and I. G. Stetson. Stetson Family Papers, SPC MS 0480, Fogler Library, Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

199. Early in the century, maps referred to the Nahmakanta Tote Road at this point as the Filbrook or Philbrook Road, since it led to Camp Philbrook on Upper Ebeemee Lake. See above, Chapter 1, pp. 6-7.

200. KG, MHS 1997. 1949 was a memorable year for another reason. In May, while the road was being worked on, a forest fire broke out near Brownville and the Prairie and another four miles to the north at Packards siding, where the main line of the B&A joined the Medford Cutoff (which ran from LaGrange along the east side of Schoodic Lake to West Seboeis). Fearing that the fire might engulf them, Kay bundled up their financial records, her typewriter, and as much clothing and bedding as she could and brought them to the dock while Bill put boats in the water and attached motors to them in case they had to leave. Luckily, on the second day the wind changed and the camps were spared. Kay recalled that it took them four days to put things back in their proper places. AM: "Free Spirit," 60-61. On the fire, see Bill Geller, *Maine Sporting Camp History on the Piscataquis River Tributaries* (Farmington, Maine, 2020), 48-9. The area burned by the fire has since grown up in birch; KG, MHS 1997.

201. Ellen and Mary were with him as he did this. They were, Mary said, carefully warned away from the blast area. MGM: 6/18/2017.

202. See WJGD, 11/14 and 15/1961.

203. On May 2, 1964, Bill noted "We came in the road fine till we struck Ralphs rise. When down we Wen't in the soup. Jacked up and filled with rocks, but down We Went again. So we left her there and walked in." On May 6 he tried again. "Wen't out the road and got truck out of the first hole, Went out and got the mail, got back as far as 2 mi. spring Where I Wen't in again. Left truck right there brought the battery for the dump truck back to camp. Rigged up the dump truck. After supper I went out With it and tried to pull the small truck out, didn't make it. Bill Lerch is coming anyway There are several soft places." It was not until May 7, a hot dry day, that he and Kay went out with the dump truck again and succeeded in pulling the "small truck" out. Three days later he commented that the road seemed to be "preety good now." On May 6, 1970, he experienced a similar problem. "We left milo before 9 A.M. got gas at Graves and mail at Pauls. Got in the road as far as the long hill When down We Went guess there isnint any bottom so we Walked in. Will go out tomorrow for another load. No use trying to get out for a few days." See WJGD, 5/2, 5/6, 5/7, and 10/1964; 5/6, 5/11, and 5/17/1970.

204. In 1969, Prentice and Carlisle assured Bill that it would put the road in good shape by June 1. They planned to take out some troublesome rocks, bulldoze, rock rake, and gravel it where needed. The next year Prentiss and Carlyle told Bill to let them know when the road was ready so they could rock rake it and put in some gravel. See WJGD, 5/5, 27, 28; and 6/2; 7/30 and 31/1969; and 5/4/1970.

205. WJGD, July 30 and 31, 1969.

206. Although Kay drove the truck on the camp road, she did not have a driver's license until 1971, when she took the driver's test, passed it "with flying colors," and was free to go whenever and wherever she wanted in her VW. See WJGD, 9/ 22/1960; 4/7 and 6/30/1971.

207. WJGD, 4/7, and 6/30/1971.

208. For a number of years the road did not go all the way to camp because the B&A was hesitant to give permission for Gourley's clients to drive across the tracks. This was presumably an insurance issue.

209. Children were limited to one candy bar per day.

210. Tom Weeks (TW): 1/29/2013; and Tom Donovan, Jr. (TDJ): 7/8/2018.

211. See, for instance: "The section men came down about 2:30. I rode clear to Milo with Ash." WJGD, 3/31/1961.

212. In June 1958, Bill noted that he had received one party arriving by train and had brought two others to the tracks. See WJGD, 6/21 and 6/22, 1958; 6/21/1959.

213. Benjamin C. Cole who ran Camp Philbrick noted in his memoir that in early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century B&A northbound Nos. 1 and 7 trains arrived at Schoodic Station at about 5:00 AM and 4:40 PM respectively; the Nos. 2 and 8 southbound trains arrived at 11:00 AM and 9:00 PM respectively. Benjamin C. Cole, *It Happened Up in Maine* (Stonington, ME, Penobscot Press. 1980), p.12.

214. See WJGD, 11/26/1958; 5/31/1959.

215. To insure that their guests would stop, look, and listen before crossing the railroad tracks, Bill Gourley put up rope barriers that had to be let down on each side of the tracks before vehicles could cross. KG to PFG, 4/17/71.

216. Bill gives a rather full description of how the camp road from the tracks to Camp Dodge was built. See WJGD, 5/28; 6/10, 6/11, 6/12, 6/13, 6/17; and 9/14, 9/15, 9/17, and 9/18/1968.

217. In 1964, Bill put legs under it. See WJGD, 5/23/1961; 5/9/1962; 5/3, 4/1964.

218. One June, Bill fell in when working on Dodge's dock. He was surprised that the water was "nice and warm." On another occasion he remarked: "Ralph and I put new legs in Dodge dock and lifted the Fordyce dock. What a hard place to get a horse to set." WJGD: 6/14/1957; 6/26/1959; 5/26/1963; 5/22/1968.

219. Beth and Jill Nemeth, 8/1/2020. One year Bill towed the swimming dock in behind the point opposite Rosses' island. He noted that he had to break ice to get it into a sheltered place and had to cut the anchor rope. WJGD, 11/28/1964.

220. The Gourleys had acquired some of these boats when they bought the camps. Their 1940 mortgage with Andrews included the clause: "all other property of every name and nature now located on the premises." See above, p. 60.

221. One family brought its own sail boat with them. See WJGD, 6/30 and 7/1/1961. Bill repaired and stored boats and motors owned by some of his regular guests. See WJGD, 9/1 and 7/1958; 8/23 and 9/11/1959; and 6/7/1960. Gourleys also had a sponson canoe rigged with a sail and rudder. See WJGD, 8/ 7/1961.

222. "Traded 5 old motors in towards 2 new 3 horse Evinrudes with Pickard;" "Went to Picards with 2 motors he gave me credit towards new ones." "Bought 2nd. Hand Aluminum boat from Pickard \$130 Blue Star Serial no. C.S. 1234." He once noted that Pickard had had a "load of boats come 30 some on a big trailer," that were "sure battered up, what sent loaded right for such a long trip about 1800 miles." See WJGD, 3/14 and 9/28/1957; 11/2/1959; 4/25/1964; and 4/12/1965.

223. See WJGD: 6/29/1964.

224. MGM: 6/4/2018; GS: "Days before," 13.

225. "Boy lost motor overboard so had to dry and drain it runs on one cylinder." "Put one new condenser in motor runs fine now." See WJGD, 6/17 and 6/18/1957.

226. See WJGD, 11/3/1957 and AM: "Free Spirit," 56-57.

227. Bill described the men as "good fellows." See WJGD, 11/27-12/2/1960. Bill described his affair with the pig in detail in a Letter to Randall Champ dated June 21, 1986, pp. 1-3.

228. TW: 8/12/2017. Minnows were also taken with hook and line near Ross Island. MGM: 6/4/2018.

229. MH: 3/13/2018. Bill referred one of them to his daughter, Mary, who recommended using frogs. After a bit of a struggle the guest netted an 18-inch eel instead of the large bass he'd hoped for.

230. Experienced fishermen often wanted him along for the pleasure of his company. MH: 3/13/2018. Bill also blazed a trail to Turtle Pond, to the east of Seboeis, where (Mary Gourley Mastin recalls) he kept "an old canoe that was humped up in the middle." MGM, 4/26/2021. Tom Weeks, however, remembers it as "a flat bottom barge like boat with black tar/pitch between the boards." TW: 04/26/2021.

231. Tackle, gasoline, berry buckets and lunches, sometimes including a frying pan to cook fish on the spot, were packed in an old canvas rucksack and carried by one of the party.

232. One guest remembers that the three horsepower motor was "heavy enough to prompt my father in the 50's to buy a Neptune Mighty Mite 1.7hp motor to go to Seboeis and fish." TW: 5/15/2018.

233. TW: 8/12/2017.

## Part 10: Those Who Came to Camp



Who were the Gourley's clients and where did they come from? Unfortunately, the records needed to answer this question in detail – the camp's register – have not survived. At the beginning of the century the Reverend Brugler described the patrons of Maine Woods camps as "worth while: Generals of the army, leaders of finance, professors, physicians, lawyers, clergymen, travellers," who enlivened "the camp-fire with conversation that would render attractive the most select salons or dinner tables," and the women as fully competent woodspersons."<sup>234</sup> By the time the Gourleys owned the camps, many of the guests fit into the same occupational patterns but probably came from somewhat less prestigious middle/upper middle class families from nearby states although a few came from afar; one family from Australia and another from Hawaii.<sup>235</sup> Some of them learned about Schoodic Lake Camps through a publication called "Maine Invites You;"<sup>236</sup> others by writing to the Maine Chamber of Commerce; still others from friends. Many of them developed strong loyalty and affection for the Gourleys and their camps, an affection the Gourleys returned. Approximately two-thirds of the guests who came once, came again. Some were annual visitors for a number of years, and some remained after the Gourley Era came to an end.<sup>237</sup>

One such family was the Stouts. Ray was a successful businessman from Somerville, New Jersey. His wife, Penny, was enchanted with the camps. Young Mary Gourley noticed that Penny used to cry when it was time to leave. This led her to believe that the place where the Stouts lived in New Jersey was "awful."<sup>238</sup>

John (Jack) and Bea Westney also became close friends of the Gourleys. Jack was not from a privileged background. He was born July 27, 1913, in Yonkers, New York. At age 9, he began delivering newspapers to help his family. He subsequently worked as a grocery clerk and delivery boy, and then spent a year in the engine room of a ship operating in the Gulf of Mexico. His career trajectory changed dramatically in 1932 when he was hired by the New York Bank of Savings. Jack had been at camps on Schoodic Lake as early as 1935. By 1938, his social status

had improved enough that his engagement to Beatrice Lawson, a Connecticut College student, was announced in the *New York Times*. In 1941, he was assigned to the bank's real estate department. Soon thereafter he began three years service in the Navy in the Philippines. After the war he returned to the bank and rose through the ranks to become its executive vice president and chief mortgage loan officer. He brought his family regularly to Schoodic.<sup>239</sup> Jack and Bea Westney once invited the Gourleys to visit them in New York City during the Christmas holidays and took them to Radio City Hall and other interesting sites. Bill later remarked that he couldn't understand how anyone would want to live in such a place.<sup>240</sup>

Charles and Isabel Myngeher, who owned a farm in Wolcott, Connecticut from 1932 to 1969, were regular guests at the camps for a number of years.<sup>241</sup> They often came on Memorial Day weekend to take advantage of spring fishing, and again later on in the summer. Over time, they became friends with the Stouts and Westneys and fished with them on Seboeis and other neighboring lakes. Bill occasionally joined them. Charlie was mechanically handy, helped Bill with chores and repaired motors for him on occasion. In 1968, the Myngehers decided to sell their farm in Connecticut and began looking for a place in Maine. They resettled in Dexter in 1969 and regularly socialized with the Gourleys thereafter, both at their home in Dexter and at Schoodic. On such occasions they contributed roasts, lobsters, and other treats that Bill always described as "dandy."<sup>242</sup>

As time passed, more of the Gourleys' clientele were middle class families with paid vacations who wanted a place where their children could hike, swim, fish, pick berries and see wildlife or younger people just starting out on their careers. Schoodic Lake Camps offered them a place to vacation at a price they could afford. In 1971, the last year the Gourleys ran the camps, the largest cabins rented for \$75 per week, boat or canoe included. Motors cost an extra \$18 per week.<sup>243</sup> Bill was occasionally available on request to serve as guide.<sup>244</sup> Where wealthier clients had expected to have meals prepared for them and served in the Main Camp's dining room, clients now prepared their own meals in the kitchens of their camps. One young couple, with little experience in the kitchen or with camp arrangements, honeymooned at Garden Camp and celebrated their wedding by cooking themselves a lobster dinner. When they mentioned this to the Gourleys the next day, Kay discovered that they had cooked the lobsters in the large pot they'd found under the bed – the chamber pot.

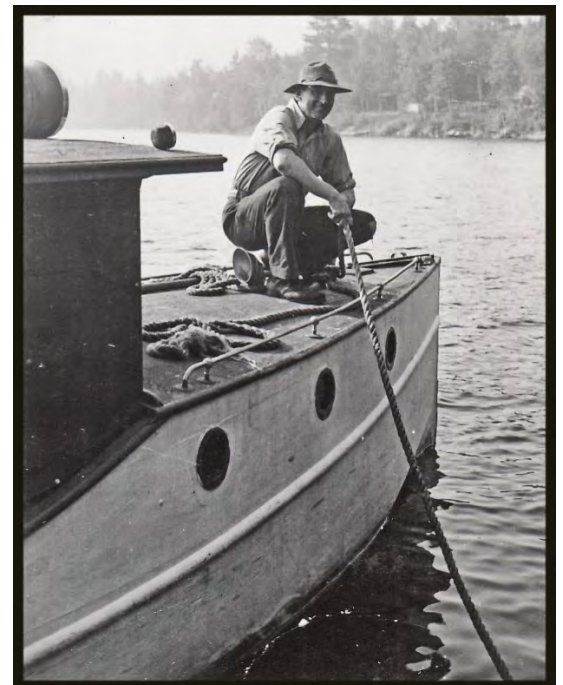
Schoodic's waters were crystal clear. Its bottom was easily visible at ten to fifteen feet. Jumping off the raft and swimming around it was popular with young and old, although on occasion the water was so cold few people went in. Youngsters caught frogs to be put in Bill's "frog cage" in



the footbridge area and occasionally also picked up leeches there.<sup>245</sup> Hiking along trails that Bill maintained to the north and south of the camps or in the nearby mountains was another favorite pastime. Kay advised parents that children should always be put at the head of the line of march. Putting them in the rear, she noted, would lead to dawdling. Wild strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries<sup>246</sup> followed in season and were there for the picking.

The railroad was another attraction for children, who ran to see oncoming trains and put pennies on the tracks to be crushed and saved as souvenirs if they could be found after the train had passed. The tracks also became walking trails; two young campers walked all the way to and from Brownville Junction on one occasion.<sup>247</sup> Another youngster remembers Bill making her a whistle out of bark. The instrument was successful enough that her father thought it too noisy. Bill responded that it would at least enable her parents to find her.<sup>248</sup> When evening came, guests, both young and older, would read, do puzzles, and play cards or other games by kerosene or propane gas light,<sup>249</sup> or sit on the porch, chat, and listen to the loons and other forms of wildlife scampering in the ferns and bushes.<sup>250</sup>

Dr. Bertram Weeks, an army doctor and avid fisherman began coming to Schoodic with his son in the late 1940s while he was stationed in Washington D. C. On their first visit, Bill met Bert and his son, Tom, at Lakeview and brought them up the lake in his big boat. By the mid 1950s, Tom's mother, brother, and sister came along for August visits. Until the camp road came in as far as the tracks, the family arrived on the B&A. Bill always had a dozen minnows waiting on the dock so that Bert and his children could get their rods in the water immediately. Young Tom shared his father's love of fishing, and came with him several times in May, when lake trout were near the surface and could be fished with streamer flies.<sup>251</sup> He was pleased and proud when he was old enough to be allowed to run the boat and motor. He also enjoyed playing in the barn and the old train station with Ellen and Mary





Gourley. Tom remembered, however, that the girls were under strict orders from Kay never to enter any of the guest cabins. The family's final trip to Schoodic was made without the doctor, who had been assigned to Korea for a year. Thereafter, the family went to Hawaii and fished in salt water.<sup>252</sup> Several years after the Gourleys sold the camps, Tom returned with his wife, Mary, and continued to visit in later years.<sup>253</sup>



Tom Weeks and his Dad,  
Dr. Bert Weeks



"My first memory of Schoodic Lake Camps was me sleeping in the boat that Bill drove to Lake View Plantation to pick up my parents and me . . . . Sometimes we would ride the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad to the train station behind Camp Humphrey. Later on, Bill made a road in. . . . We would stop at the RR tracks and call on the crank up phone to the main camp to let Kay know we had arrived. Then Bill would bring up his flatbed truck to get us and our baggage to bring us to the Main Camp. My dad would sign the guest register and buy fishing licenses. Then Bill would load our bags on his wheelbarrow and take us to the Green Camp."

(Tom Weeks to Mary Gallagher, January 29, 2013)

The Nemeths were another family that came often to Schoodic Lake Camps. They had learned about the camps through the Gardener family, from New Jersey, who had five children.<sup>254</sup> The Nemeths first came in 1962, when their three girls, Beth, Jill and Nancy, were aged 5, 3, and 1.<sup>255</sup> They returned annually until 1971,<sup>256</sup> and usually stayed for the month of July. They often came with several other families with whom they were friends; they also came with relatives – Reverend Nemeth's parents, his sister and her husband. In 1970 Reverend Nemeth's secretary and her husband rented Camp Doris.<sup>257</sup> Nemeths stayed at Camp Humphrey at least once. One of its attractions for the girls was its proximity to the path to the railroad. The girls' favorite camp, however, was Green Camp which they liked because it was very near the sandy beach and the swim raft. They also loved its double bunk beds and its porch, where they played cards. Propane gas had not yet been installed in Green Camp during the first few years they stayed there. They used kerosene lamps and cooked on a "spider," on the Franklin stove, and occasionally on a camp fire outside the kitchen door.<sup>258</sup> The Nemeth girls enjoyed fishing for sunfish with hooks baited with American cheese. They canoed to Birch Beach on the east side of the lake, and once swam over to it. They caught frogs near the bridge near Green Camp. Their Dad liked to go to Seboeis fishing and they often went with him. On Seboeis days they got up at 5 AM, had a quick breakfast of Kellogg cereal eaten from packages and had sandwiches of Spam, corned beef, or peanut butter and jelly for lunch, with carrot sticks for snacks. They caught a lot of fish,<sup>259</sup> but lost some of them to turtles as they hung over the side of the boat as it moved along.<sup>260</sup> On Sundays, the family

would “have church” on the back rock of what was then known as “English Island.” Responsibility for giving the sermon alternated among the five girls.<sup>261</sup>

The Swan family, Dick and Gladys, both professors and their girls, Andrea and Leah, came to the camps from Indiana



Bill Gourley poses in 1967 for a photo after transporting his guests by truck from the parking area on the far side of the railroad tracks. In 1968 he improved the road from the tracks to camp and extended the road from Main Camp to Camp Dodge, eliminating the burdensome task of lugging baggage to each camp by wheelbarrow.



beginning in the early 1960s. As the girls were close in age to the Nemeth girls, they and their mothers became friends. None of the Swans were fishermen so, except for arrivals and departures, they did not figure frequently in Bill’s diary. Dick liked to row; Gladys and her daughters were excellent swimmers. The entire family enjoyed picking blueberries and the pies that followed.

Tom and Jean Donovan, from Connecticut, brought a family of three boys, Tom Jr., Dick, Mike, and their sister, Kate, to the camps during these same years. Their first trip, in August, 1962, was only for a week, but the following year and thereafter they stayed for two. Tom and his sons were fishermen and enjoyed themselves both at Seboeis and trout fishing. Bill noted in 1969 that the boys were growing, but didn’t comment on whether they’d been lucky with the rod and reel. In January, 1970, Dick Donovan and a friend made an unusual visit to camp from January 31 to February 2, and stopped to see Bill in Milo on their way home to tell him they’d had a great time.<sup>262</sup>

In July, 1966, the Hueston family, Bud, Blanche and their two sons, Robert and Michael, from Waban, Massachusetts, made the first of two trips to the Gourleys that year; they also returned in September. In subsequent years they were joined by two of their sons’ college friends, Phil Gallagher and Ken Jensen. All members of the party enjoyed fishing, especially at Seboeis, went there several times each year, and generally caught enough fish for Bill to mention in his diary.

Wherever the guests fitted on the social scale, it is certain that their expectations about what they would find at Gourleys had lessened from the early days. There would be no cook to prepare meals for them, no candles and linens on the dining room table and fewer service people to attend to their needs. Modernization was limited to propane gas stoves and refrigerators. The Gourley camps were still camps. The charm that drew their customers to them was derived from the unmatched environment and from Bill and Kay.



*Note:* In the early 1960s the Gourleys produced a brochure that well illustrates both what they aspired to offer their guests and what their guests prized about their vacations at Schoodic Lake Camps. A copy of the brochure follows the endnotes below.

234. Rev. Charles E. Brugler, "Vacation Life at Schoodic Lake," *The Vacationers' Guide Book*, published by B&A RR. Co. Bangor, *In the Maine Woods*, Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, 1905, 13-16. For specific examples of people who fit Brugler's description, see the discussion of the Reeds, Rosses, English, and Appletons above, pp. 24-30.

235. Possibly the Weeks family, on whom see below, pp. 94-95. Unfortunately the Gourley's Guest Registers seem not to have been preserved.

236. MGM: 6/18/2017.

237. GS: "Days Before," p. 12.

238. Mary also recalls that Penny treated Ellen and herself as adults, went for walks with them, and engaged them in meaningful conversations. MGM: 6/18/2017.

239. The source of this information is an obituary of Jack Westney composed by an unknown author, probably a family member. An obituary notice of his death at age 88 appeared in the *New York Times*, September 8, 2001.

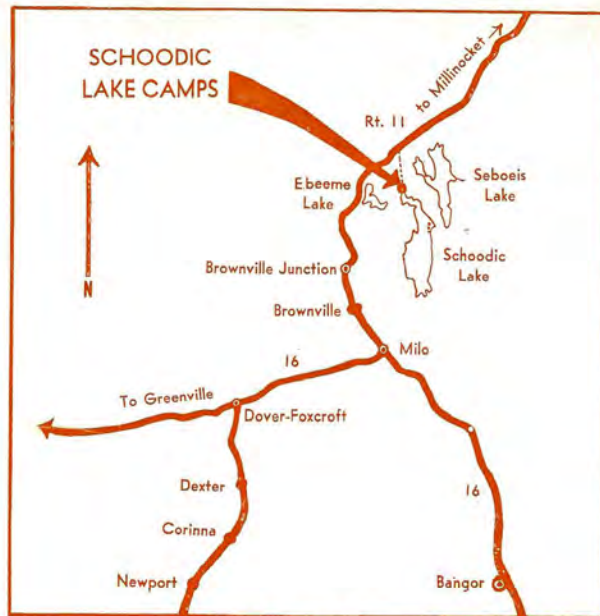
240. MGM: 6/18/2017.

241. On the Myngheer farm in Connecticut, see <https://web.tapr.org/~wa1lou/whs/news201605.html>. Their first recorded visit in Bill's diary was 5/30/1957. See WJGD, 7/8 and 7/15/1965; 7/7, 7/8, and 9/10/1966; 5/30/1968; 7/2, 8/4, 8/5, and 8/7/1969.

242. The admiration and gratitude that special guests had for the Gourleys was mutual; they admired and appreciated Bill and Kay, and that appreciation was returned.

243. KG to PFG, April 9, 1971. No information has been found about the cost of staying at McNaughton's camps in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but similar camps at the time charged a dollar or two per day. It cost an extra dollar or two per person to hire a guide, and fifty cents per day to rent a boat. While women were frequent customers and hunted and fished like the men, their children do not seem to have accompanied them. McCubrey, "Cultural Construction," 118, 122.
244. See Phyllis W. Hamilton, "Working at Schoodic Lake Camps The Summers of 1950 and 1951," in Sawtell, *SLR*, 180.
245. BNE and NN: 7/9/2018.
246. The Nemeths reported that one thing Bill did not share with his guests was where he picked his blueberries. BNE and NN: 7/9/2018.
247. TDJ: 7/8/2018.
248. Yvonne French, "Gourley Camps, in Sawtell, *SLR*, 178.
249. The Nemeth sisters remember that, when they first came to the camps in 1962, propane lights were not yet in use. BNE and NN: 7/9/2018.
250. One set of campers, unfamiliar with the loons, wondered at first whether they were fire horns. TDJ: 7/8/2018.
251. Fly fishing distinguished upper class "sports" from lower class "forage fishermen." Their equipment tended to be more expensive and the results less productive. See March O. McCubrey, "The Cultural Construction of Maine Sporting Camps," *Maine History* (1994, no. 34), 131-2.
252. TW: 5/20/2018.
253. Since there are no longer camps to rent at Gourleys, Tom Weeks, his daughter, Mary Pat, and his son-in-law, Norman, have in recent years rented a cabin at Camp Moosehorns on Northwest Pond of Seboeis Lake.
254. They were also friends with Ruth and Richard Oliver, who sometimes stayed at Green Camp with their two boys, and with the Lycettes.
255. A fourth daughter, Meg, was born in 1964.
256. This was not unusual among families who came to Schoodic Lake Camps. Once there, many guests simply fell in love with the camps and with the Gourleys.
257. See WJGD, 7/13 and 7/15/1968; and 7/14 and 7/20/1970.
258. Interview with Jill Nemeth, August 1, 2020.
259. Bill's diary notes "Mr. Nemeth Jill and Beth to Seboois 3 big bass 3 big pickerel." Six days later Bill noted: "The Paxtons and Mr. Nemeth Mr. Kilby Bruce and Jill all went to Seboois. The Nemeths got 3 bass 2 pickerel." See WJGD, 7/23 and 7/29/1965.
260. The Nemeths weren't the only family to lose fish this way. This was especially likely to happen if you anchored with fish over the side and forgot about them as you fished for white perch.
261. The service also included singing the hymn "This is My Father's world." Interview with Beth Nemeth, August 1, 2020 and BNE and NN: 7/9/2018.
262. See WJGD, 8/16/1969; 1/31 and 2/2/1970.

## Appendix: the Schoodic Lake Camps Brochure



Leave Rt. 95 Interstate at Newport

THE LAST 4 MILES to camp are by private road, built by us for the exclusive use of our guests. There is no traffic over it except for our guests. It is out of sight behind the camps, more like a private driveway than a road, thus giving our guests access to a secluded, quiet vacation at a genuine Maine woods camp.

### *Rates*

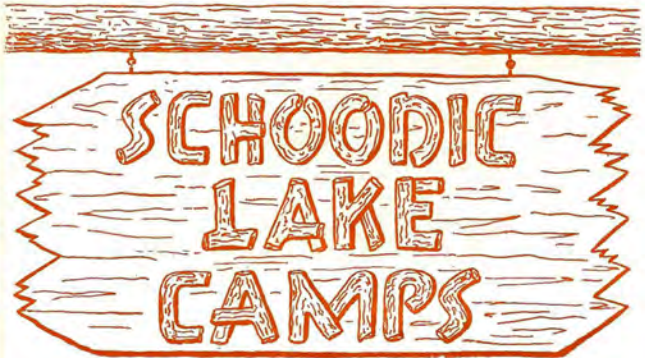
**HOUSEKEEPING CAMPS:** \$55, \$60, \$65 weekly, including a boat or canoe, your choice; wood for heat, gas for cooking, refrigeration and light; dishes, utensils and tableware, blankets, pillows and bedspreads are furnished. Sheets, pillow-cases and towels are not furnished.

**OUTBOARD MOTORS:** \$18 weekly, \$4 per day (or bring your own motor if under 10 h.p.) No launching facilities, no water-skiing.

**HUNTING SEASON:** (October and November) Rates on request.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED,** \$10 deposit requested. Weeks are from Saturday noon to Saturday 9 a.m. Please note, no dogs allowed.

**WILLIAM J. GOURLEY,** owner and operator since 1940. Until May 1, Milo, Maine 04463, phone 207-943-2226. After May 1, Brownville, Maine 04414, 207-965-7133.



- FISH AND HUNT •
- SWIM & HIKE •
- EAT and be CAREFREE •



**BROWNVILLE, MAINE**



# SCHOODIC LAKE



gas for cooking. The camps are widely and irregularly spaced along the shore to enable you to enjoy seclusion, peace and quiet, and relaxation. Dress as you please; come and go as you like.

**S**CHOODIC LAKE CAMPS are located at the north end of Schoodic Lake in the heart of the wild lake and forest region of Northern Maine. Here you are back in the woods away from the trials of civilization, and yet we can offer comforts, conveniences and the personal attention of the proprietors not found elsewhere. Schoodic Lake is nine miles long and one to three miles wide. Its rocky wooded shores, the crystal clear sparkling water, in many places 200 feet deep, is ideal water for lake trout, salmon, and bass.

The beauty of our lake and the spruce, fir and hardwood forest are hard to describe. You must see them for yourself to appreciate it.

## *Live in A Cabin*

WE HAVE TEN CABINS, no two alike, to accommodate parties of two to eight people. They include kitchen, living-room, bedroom(s), screened porch, private toilet, private dock, good beds, wood stoves for comfort and cheer on cool nights and mornings, gas refrigerators and lights, bottled

## *Recreation for All*

FROM SCHOODIC LAKE you can reach by boat, canoe or trails miles of fine fishing, hunting, camping and hiking country.



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**A Genuine Maine Woods Sporting Ca**

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# LAKE CAMPS



Whether you enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, picnicking, photography, or other recreations, there is plenty for all to enjoy. You will like the several sandy swimming spots close to camp.

Seboois Lake is only a one mile walk from Schoodic. It makes a good day for picnickers and hikers, as well as fishermen. Boats are provided at Seboois for the free use of our guests.

Many persons come to us year after year, indicating that we can make your vacation here one to long be remembered.



No special equipment is required — we suggest sport clothes, fishing tackle, a fly fishing or spinning outfit, a trolling outfit, as well as any other favorite tackle you may like. If you are new at fishing, we will gladly give you every possible help.

We maintain a supply of candy bars, chewing gum, postage stamps, post cards.

We sell non-resident hunting and fishing licenses at regular rates.

Mail, telegraph, and telephone facilities available.

**NO DOGS ALLOWED; PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR EXCEPTIONS.**

Groceries are delivered to the camp twice weekly on order during the summer months.



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**amp For All Who Like The Outdoors**

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## BLACK BASS *Fishing* LAKE TROUT

YES, YOU WILL FIND PLENTY OF FISH in Schoodic Lake, and big ones, too. The deep, clear water is the natural home of the togue (lake trout), the small mouth bass, and the famous land-locked salmon. In Seboois Lake you will find small mouth bass, pickerel and white perch.

Fishing for lake trout and salmon starts in late May, by trolling with bait or flies, Schoodic offers some very good fishing. They are real fighting fish and are excellent eating, not having the muddy taste of usual togue from other lakes.



They offer excellent sport when taken with flies. Salmon are common in our lake and some good catches are made during the early season.

Bass fishing starts June 1st, but is restricted to single-hook fishing until June 21st. After June 21st, they can be taken by any angling method, and good fishing is enjoyed all summer. Bass are the favorite game fish of most of our guests, for they can't be beat for fight and smartness, whether taken on plug, fly, or live bait.



## DEER *Hunting* BEAR

THE SURROUNDING WOODS are the natural home of Maine's famous big game animals, the white tail deer. The rolling hills and ridges make ideal hunting country. Although many fine deer are taken out each season, this section is not hunted excessively. There are also partridges, foxes, rabbits, etc., to add interest to a hunting trip.

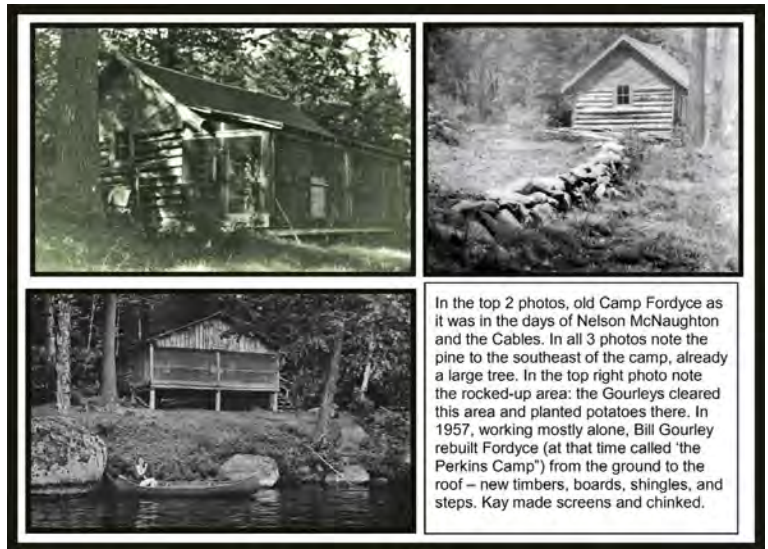
We have miles of hunting trails in country which is hunted very little. It is rare indeed to meet another hunter there—hence less danger from careless hunters. We can reach much of this back country without excessive walking. Season for birds, October 1st to November 10th; Deer, October 15th to November 30th.



## Part 11: Major Construction Projects

Most of the camps were many decades old. Over the years, they had been subject to the vicissitudes of weather: frost heaves threw the posts on which they rested out of alignment; log posts and sills became punky; roofs leaked; and more. Bill scheduled major repair projects for early spring or fall. Over the years, he reassembled Camp Doris;<sup>263</sup> built Garden Camp;<sup>264</sup> completely rebuilt camps Fordyce<sup>265</sup> and Dorothy; moved Camp Cheerio (formerly a guide's camp and originally located slightly to the north of the Main Camp)<sup>266</sup> to its current position on the lake shore. He also rebuilt a large kitchen on the south end of the Main Camp,<sup>267</sup> and added a kitchen to Winter Camp that extended west to east the entire length of the building. He added bedrooms to Winter Camp, Cheerio, Garden Camp, Dragon<sup>268</sup> and Doris, converted what had been sleeping quarters into kitchens where the Gourleys installed refrigerators and gas stoves. He also made other modifications to the larger camps: Dodge, Fordyce, Humphrey,<sup>269</sup> Green, or Dorothy.<sup>270</sup>

On March 1, 1957, with snow still covering the ground and the buildings, Bill, working alone since Ralph Sargent had not yet been hired, began a major rebuilding of Camp Fordyce, then called "the Perkins Camp." The rebuilt camp remained a log structure. Most of the lumber he used on the project came from the "Dowling hovel,"<sup>271</sup> which he dismantled piece by piece, carried the boards down to the lake, and sledged them over to Perkins for use on its roof and floor.<sup>272</sup> Over the course of several weeks



he shoveled off the old roof, replaced all the boards section by section, and then shingled it. At the end of March he dug more timbers from the hovel out of the snow and began reflooring the interior.<sup>273</sup> He completed the project by replacing the gables, putting new glass in five windows, building new cedar steps and making shelving. Kay installed screens and helped him with the chinking. Most of the year's work on the camp was completed toward the end of May, with a few occasional touches added in the month of June.<sup>274</sup>

In October 1, 1957 Bill began a month-long project of tearing down and replacing the kitchen of Main Camp. Kay, Ellen, and Mary arrived from Milo that afternoon, and the next day they worked with Bill, who commented "sure goes faster with help." By October 3, the demolition was complete and Bill was at work digging post holes for the new structure. By October 15 he had finished the floor timbers and started on the back wall; by November 1, he had the room all boarded in except for the back porch. Two weeks later, he finished the roof.<sup>275</sup>

The above summary is based on Bill Gourley's 1957 diary. Questions remain with regard to what the 1957 kitchen looked like. Photos, some inexactly dated, taken over decades, show that the kitchen was remodeled a number of times. Bill's diaries from 1943 to 1956 and 1967 are missing; with them we might have learned more about the chronology of the kitchen's remodeling.



Photo #1 comes from the Gourley photo collection. It was taken in 1945, the date confirmed by an identifying note on its back. The eastern end of the kitchen has a door on the left and a large window to the right. The building is shingled, presumably over lumber. A set of steps leads up to the entrance.



Photo #2 from the Gourleys is dated to about 1946 by the ages of Mary and Ellen Gourley seen in front of the camp. Ellen, born in 1942 (R), was about 4 years old; Mary was about 2. The photo confirms the observations of the previous view, and further reveals that the eastern end of the kitchen did not extend out as far as the eastern wall of the entire camp.



Photo #3 was taken by Dr. Bert Weeks, one of Gourleys' frequent guests between 1947 and 1958. Unfortunately it can't be dated more precisely. The kitchen has changed in two significant ways. It has been extended about 6 feet to the east and the extension has been built with logs, not lumber. The door looking toward the lake has been eliminated; a single window looks out to the lake. Was this the kitchen that Bill Gourley built in 1957?



Photo #4, seemingly taken in the 1960s, shows a kitchen that has been rebuilt once again. The logs on the east end are gone, the window remains. The extension is now shingled, like the rest of the kitchen. Perhaps this is the kitchen that Bill Gourley rebuilt entirely in 1957.



Photo #5, taken in 2010, shows the kitchen as it was structurally in 1972 (when the Gourleys sold the camps to Schoodic Cove Corporation) except that there are now two windows on the eastern end and board and batten siding (added by the Swans) has replaced the asphalt shingles.

Frost heaves regularly shifted the Main Camp out of level. In 1958, Bill began replacing the posts under the camp, attempting to bring the entire camp level, a job he would repeat most years. In September, he got a big log to replace the sill on the camp's east side and in October, he took out a sill, removed the steps and put three new posts under the camp's north end, an area that was a continual problem.<sup>276</sup> The winter of 1964-1965 was destabilizing. At the end of May Bill had to lower the camp's floor six inches to get the northern door to open. In June he cut posts off the camp's west side to let that side down. In November, he cut the posts off the north end: "let it down several inches it was up 9 inches." Three years later Bill cut the posts off in the middle of the camp to let the center of the floor down. Several years after that he tried jacking the north end of the camp to free the door but the ground was so soft the jack sank.<sup>277</sup> The Gourleys eventually concluded that it was next to impossible to achieve a stable leveling of the camp, and passed this judgment on to others when they sold the camps in 1972.

Two other cabins received Bill's serious attention in 1958 – Humphrey and Dragon. He replaced the posts under Humphrey's east end in May; and in the fall, he and Ralph replaced some boards in the roof and shingled it.<sup>278</sup>

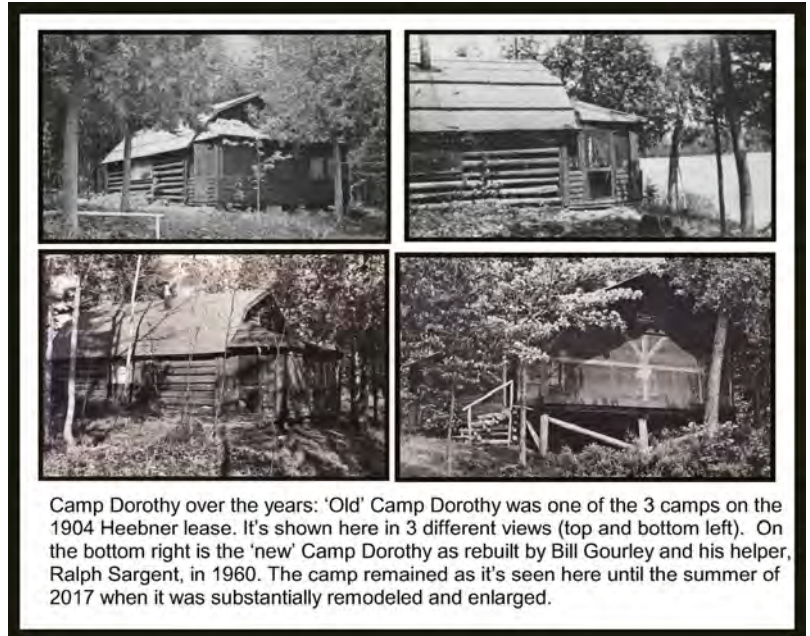
These were minor projects compared with much more extensive work on Camp Dragon, one of the one-room cabins to which Bill added a bedroom on its north side. Preparations began in August, 1958, when Bill and Ralph peeled poles for the project. In early September, Ralph, with occasional help from Bill, hewed a sill, positioned the posts under it, laid a floor for the bedroom, put up studding, and boarded and shingled the walls and the roof. Working together underneath the camp, they put in a center sill mounted on three posts and two rock bearings, installed new corner posts and a sill on the south end and replaced several



In the upper right Camp Dragon appears in an Elton E. Clement photo of the very early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The other 3 photos were taken at different times of the Gourley era. In the two bottom photos we see the shallow extension added to the back of the camp to facilitate cooking, after Camp Dragon became a house-keeping camp when propane and gas stoves were introduced and meals were no longer cooked and served in Main Camp. Camp Dragon was a very small camp – bedroom, living room, and kitchen in one room. Bill Gourley later built another room on the north side of the camp, allowing guests to limit the main room to cooking and visiting.

others. Kay stained the new wood. Finishing touches on the project were completed by the middle of October.<sup>279</sup>

Work on Camp Dorothy, another major project, began in September, 1960 when they moved its stove, refrigerator, and furniture into the “tent, toilet, and other places.” A week later Bill began hauling five sills, two long and three short, to the water, with “two more to haul and some small ones,” which he floated over to Dorothy and pulled them out of the water on the rig he’d put up there.<sup>280</sup> On September 28 he and Ralph began removing the “top” floor,<sup>281</sup> and the windows, porch, roofing and shingles from the camp. Ralph seems to have



Camp Dorothy over the years: 'Old' Camp Dorothy was one of the 3 camps on the 1904 Heebner lease. It's shown here in 3 different views (top and bottom left). On the bottom right is the 'new' Camp Dorothy as rebuilt by Bill Gourley and his helper, Ralph Sargent, in 1960. The camp remained as it's seen here until the summer of 2017 when it was substantially remodeled and enlarged.

done most of the carpentry. Bill gives few specifics about his own work on the project except to describe recycling of materials from the old cabin: they saved the shingles, removed nails from boards, and straightened spikes. Logs that could not be reused were sawed up and wheeled to various wood sheds where they were made into kindling.<sup>282</sup> Although hail storms several times interrupted them, final work on the camp – shingling the porch, making “corner bords,” a new screen door, shelves, a wood box and a hand rail – was completed early in 1961.<sup>283</sup>

In the fall of 1961 Bill worked on Camps Dodge,<sup>284</sup> Humphrey,<sup>285</sup> Green Camp, and Cheerio. On September 7, he and Ralph made a trip to the “burn” for a load of dry cedar to be made into posts for Camps Dodge and Cheerio. From that day until September 16, the two men dug holes for posts and repaired or replaced sills under Dodge.<sup>286</sup>



Later in September, 1961, they worked on Green Camp.<sup>287</sup> Ralph cut a door from its kitchen to its main room, worked on the other kitchen door to make it “higher and tight,” and made a back door for the camp and a



dish cupboard. Bill, with some help from Ralph, spent a number of days “laying” its floor.<sup>288</sup> In subsequent years Bill straightened the camp’s posts, pushed the kitchen back against the porch, braced it so it would stay, lifted the corner of the kitchen so the doors would close, and jacked the porch back in place, tasks that he completed in a single day each time.<sup>289</sup>



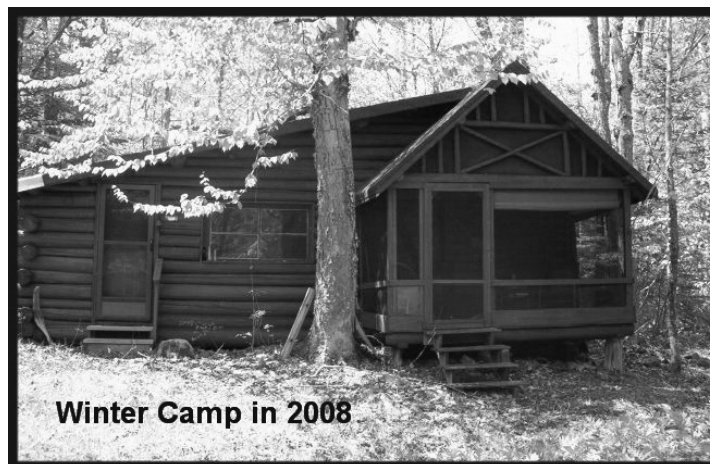
Camp Cheerio, originally located just north of Main Camp, was moved to the shore at an undetermined date at the request of one of the Gourley’s regular clients. At the time it was a small one-room camp; tradition holds that it was moved on skis during the winter. Camp Cheerio was Bill’s major construction project for the fall of 1961.

Work began in September. Ralph dug post holes for four days and had the posts set by September 18. On September 21, Bill began moving materials to the camp: “I got sills and floor timbers to the lake.... Hauled rest of logs for Cheerio.” It appears certain that he cut his logs somewhere around the cove, dragged them through the water, and hauled them out at the cabin. Although he generally found the materials he needed at hand, Bill went to Kelley’s mill to buy 100 feet of floor boards and 100 feet of matched pine. He bought 9 bunches of cedar shingles for the camp at “Webber Joneses.” After helping Ralph set up staging, from October 7 to the 20th the two men put the roof up, the plate under it, boarded it in, and shingled it. It was during this project that “the new part of Cheerio” was built as well as a “partition” that created a bedroom. Ralph made two window frames, took the big window out of the old part of the camp, put it up higher. They also worked on the porch; Ralph put up poles to hold the screen. Meanwhile Bill laid the floor in the bedroom which took him a long time, he said, because he was trying to save enough wood to make a door for Winter Camp. All but the finishing touches on Cheerio were complete by November 10.<sup>290</sup>

Although Bill did minor repairs on several camps in the years that followed, he did not undertake another major project until the fall of 1965, when he began work on Winter Camp—a camp that existed since the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a guide’s camp. It is clear from the 1965 diary that the long kitchen with its shed roof paralleling the two bedrooms to the north had already been built, probably in 1945 if we are correctly interpreting his note on the back of a photo

of the original one-room guide's camp. The note, in his handwriting, identifies the camp and says that he built a bedroom on the back and later, in 1945, the kitchen. Along with his usual chores and dealings with guests, working most days from September 23 to November 21, he took up the kitchen floor, removed and replaced the sills on its north side, put in new posts and logs there, straightened the back door, hung floor stringers in the kitchen and back bedroom, leveled the bedroom floor, dug a drain under the camp so water wouldn't stand, and laid the bottom floor boards of the two-layered floor. He briefly resumed work on the camp early in April of 1966. Progress was slower than he liked, leading him to reflect that he could have built a

*Guide Camp. I built on a bedroom in back later 1945 built kitchen on the side for our winter 191 W Camp.*



Winter Camp in 2008

new camp in half the time. He did some chinking on April 27, but the temperature was so cold he "wheeled wood a while." He finished chinking a few days later and then worked intermittently on a number of small jobs: hanging a screen door, making steps, working on the porch, hooking up the gas appliances, cleaning the cess pool, and preparing poles for the eaves. Four days of work in September on the roof brought this project to its conclusion.<sup>291</sup>

In 1969, Bill undertook a major rehabilitation of Garden Camp, replacing posts, sills and floors.<sup>292</sup> Beginning on September 2, he worked on the camp almost every day, pulling up the floors, jacking up the camp one side at a time, hauling sills, some of them twenty-seven feet long, digging post holes, setting the posts and then wheeling dirt to stabilize them. He hewed floor timbers to fit the kitchen and then the bedroom, spiked them to the sills, laid floor boards on top of them,



Garden Camp in May, 1972

splicing those that were too short, putting down tar paper, chinking log walls and making door steps. He also raised the porch floor to where it could be "fastened" to the camp with three supports.<sup>293</sup> On October 29, he was finally ready to say "All done with Garden Camp except the leneleum and wheeling rocks away." On November 2, after he stained the new logs with a mixture of used motor oil and red ochre and "sealed the nails,"<sup>294</sup> he considered the job done. He returned

on May 1, 1970 to make the door to the Garden Camp toilet higher: “bumped my head there to often.”<sup>295</sup>

In 1970 Bill added a bedroom on the back of Camp Doris.<sup>296</sup> It was his last significant construction project. After a few days of preparation in September, Bill worked steadily throughout October. He put in posts, sills, floor stringers, floors and studding. He boarded and shingled the roof on the addition, and dug its cesspool. He also “pushed the front of the camp over,” so the door would close and braced it there. By the end of the month, he was ready to turn his attention to the interior: he moved the bed and refrigerator back inside, hung the sink, gas plate and shelf, and made the necessary adjustments to them. Kay made paper templates, marked the boards to fit the rib ends, hung curtains, helped Bill lay the linoleum and put a new screen on the door. By the end of hunting season, all the essential work on the camp was done.

Of the twelve camps the Gourleys owned, the only one not known to have required much work was Cove Camp. In 1959 Bill and Ralph put new rafters in the back end of its kitchen and put up a frame for a woodshed. In 1962, they laid a new porch floor and a year later, hewed some poles for a screen job. That was that.

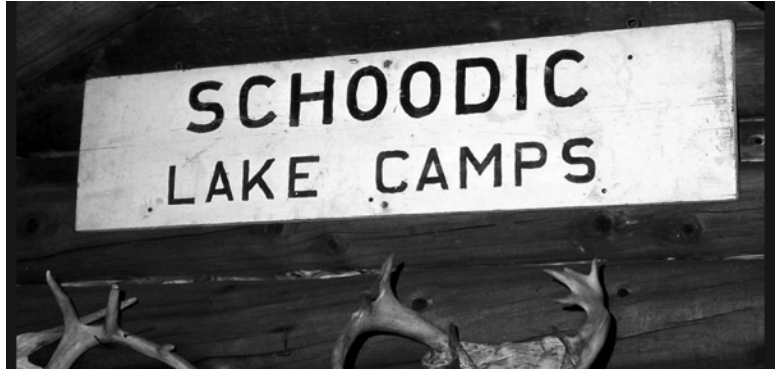
Bill’s workdays at Schoodic began sooner, lasted longer, and were more numerous than Kay’s, whose duties, when her daughters were young, required that she spend more time at their home in Milo. During the winter, by hitching rides with the railroad’s section men or snowmobiling down the camp road, Bill made regular trips to camp to shovel snow off the cabins’ roofs to prevent them from collapsing under its weight. As winter came to an end, he came to camp to get a head start on filling woodsheds, moving belongings from Winter Camp to the Main Camp, making preparations for construction projects and doing minor repairs. For the eight years after Ralph’s retirement in 1963, although occasionally helped by family and friends, Bill did much of the work by himself. The hours were long and the work often heavy and physically taxing. Occasionally at camp, more often on weekends in the off-season when he and Kay were in Milo, Bill found time for “luxuriating” – taking a nap, watching sports or other programs on TV. He was an ardent Red Sox fan.<sup>297</sup>

As hard and long as his days were, he did not underestimate Kay’s contributions. In a letter written to a friend a number of years after they had sold the camps he reminisced about the relative difficulty of the jobs he and Kay had done while running the camps:

K. has very bad veins in her legs has had them stripped which helped some, Week ago Friday another vein ruptured. Had to take pills and use hot pads for a while much better now luckily dont ache, this time like have before when one ruptured. To much standing especially at the cook stove and at the Washing machine and hanging the sheets on line, and the ironing board, and Many other jobs She done all letter writing, and all business she could set down to do them. I had it much better quite often, had to put in a day going over the 6 miles of telephone Wire, through the woods. Out on the lake trolling Whenever didn’t have to meet someone or take someone to . . . Lake View. K. Was tied right there also she had the 2 girls to look after. . . . Don’t know how she done it.”<sup>298</sup>

## Part 12: Time for a Change

Over time, Gourleys found a way to do almost all of the work of running the camps and keeping them in repair by themselves. Bill's unschooled understanding of physics enabled him to fix almost anything, and to figure out a way to move heavy items like boats and docks safely by himself. At home in the woods and knowledgeable about its ways, he had found a partner, a college-educated city-girl, who readily adapted to the environment he loved and who met all the challenges it presented. His relaxed and friendly manner endeared him to his guests. Kay's



intelligence and charm were blended with her business sense. Her attention to domestic matters, careful management of reservations and finances<sup>299</sup> and her willingness to enforce proper behavior on guests when necessary were equally important. To make ends meet and as a matter of principle, they re-used everything they could – jars, bent nails pounded straight, garbage bags, worn sheets that could be used to patch others that were not so worn, windows and logs taken from other buildings, used crankcase oil mixed with rust dust to paint logs. Equally and completely content to live without luxuries, their happiness came from their work, hard though it was, their dealings with their clientele, and their love and respect for one another. Their daughter Ellen remembers only one time that she ever observed them having a disagreement – over whether or not they should go square-dancing.<sup>300</sup>

They kept their business running through the waning years of depression, war, changes in the American economy and class structure that affected their clientele, and changes in technology and transportation. They selectively adopted elements of modernization but drew the line against any that threatened to destroy the traditional camp environment. They used liquid propane to run refrigerators, stoves and lighting, but refused to allow speed boats and jet skis. Two very extraordinary people, whose talents complemented each other, worked together through hardship, raised a family, invested their meager profits to develop and improve their business, and achieved a high degree of success measured by the satisfaction and loyalty of their customers and by the fact that they had managed the camps for over thirty years, far longer than any previous owner.

In 1969 the Gourleys decided to sell Cove Camp, the cabin a mile and a half down the lake that required a boat trip to service and maintain. On August 19, 1969, the Anderson family put a \$100 deposit on the camp and completed payments over the next year. On August 26, 1970, Gourleys joined them to celebrate the christening of their camp.<sup>301</sup> Not long after they decided it was time to sell the remaining camps and retire.<sup>302</sup> Shortly before they sold their business, they bought themselves a camp on the East Branch of the Pleasant River just off Route 11, a short five miles from the place where they'd lived and worked for over thirty years, and well-situated for



former clients to drop in on them. Their friends and former customers, the Stouts, bought a camp, "On the Rocks," on the other side of Route 11,<sup>303</sup> and the Westneys bought a camp on nearby Ebeemee Lake. Members of the Weeks family settled on a farm thirty miles to the east of Schoodic Lake; they and Tom Weeks have made annual visits to Camp Moosehorns on Seboeis to fish the lake he'd fished as a boy.<sup>304</sup> The Huestons bought the camp on Ross Island, and then the island itself. The Swans, Donovans, Gallaghers, and Nemeths figured in the next chapter of Schoodic Cove history, still being written one hundred and twenty years after Nelson McNaughton received his first lease from the Stetsons.



263. Above, p. 64.

264. Above, p. 65. Early work on Camp Doris and Garden Camp was apparently done between 1945 and 1956, years for which none of Bill's diaries have been found.

265. Ellen recalls that Bill used a horse to pull the logs for Camp Fordyce out of the woods, probably from the Dowling hovel. On the Perkins Camp, see EGH: 11/3/2017. She suggested that someone who stayed at the camp frequently and loved it very much (possibly Perkins) may have provided funds for its reconstruction and thereafter stayed there without charge.

266. See the Chapman map with I. G. Stetson notations, above p. 45.

267. See pp. 99-100.

268. See pp. 101-104.

269. Bill's diary of 10/2/1958 states: "We started shingeling Humphrey new extension on eaves and a lot of new boards in roff." There is no evidence as to when the bedroom in the rear was built. It is also possible that Bill is here referring to his practice of lengthening eaves to keep water off the wall logs.

270. Work on many of these projects was done in years for which there are no diaries.

271. Probably one of the old, temporary loggers' or squatters' shacks that the Stetsons had ordered him to destroy when no longer occupied. See above, p. 21. Reusing materials from abandoned structures was evidently a common and accepted practice. Bill had also gotten permission to take logs from some abandoned logging camps on the

northeast shore of Schoodic. In 1965, he and Ralph Sargent were taking down the floors of the Milo hotel. Each got "2 loads apiece of bottom floor boards . . . where he had taken up the hardwood flooring." See WJGD, 4/18 and 4/19/1941 and 6/12 and 6/13/1941; 4/4 and 4/5/1965; GS: "Days Before," p. 7; MGM to Gallaghers, 6/18/ and 10/08/2017.

272. Bill also brought the cook stove from the hovel to the Perkins camp.

273. WJGD, 3/29/1957.

274. See WJGD, 3/1, 3/2, 3/7, 3/8, 3/18-21; 4/4, 4/8, 4/9; 5/3-7, 5/10, 5/18, 5/19, 5/22, 5/25, 5/28; 6/9, 6/18, and 6/19/1957.

275. Daily entries were generally limited to "work on kitchen." See WJGD, 10/1-4, 10/8, 10/9, 10/11-26, 10/28-31; 11/1-2, 11/6-7, 11/13, and 11/24/1957. The following spring, Bill and Mary worked on shingling the Main Camp. WJGD, 4/14 and 4/18/1958.

276. WJGD, 9/24; 10/10 and 10/15/1958.

277. WJGD, 10/15/1959; 8/1, 8/10, 8/11, 8/14, 8/15, 8/17, 8/18 and 11/21/1961; 2/11, 6/26/1963; 4/12/1964; 5/26, 5/27; 6/1, 6/10 7/6, 7/11; 11/3, 11/4/1965; 5/16 and 5/20/1968; 10/31/1969; 5/25 and 6/7/1970; 7/6 and 7/14, and 9/29/1971; and 2/9/1972.

278. During May, 1958 Bill put new posts under Humphrey's east end and its porch. He and Ralph began shingling on October 2 and completed it on October 7. See WJGD, 5/15-17, 9/30, and 10/2, 10/3, 10/6, 10/7/1958. In 1961 Bill and Ralph removed the roof on Humphrey's porch, rebuilt and re-shingled it. See WJGD, 10/25-31/1961.

279. See WJGD, 8/5, 9/4, 9/6, 9/8, 9/9, 9/11-13, 9/15, 9/16, 9/19-21, 9/23, 9/26, 9/30, and 10/1, 10/7, 10/16-18/1958.

280. The logs no doubt came from the lands surrounding the cove.

281. That is, the top layer of a double floor.

282. The scope of the project seems to have included new sills, a new roof, replacement of at least some of the logs in the wall, a new floor, and leveling of the camp. Bill mentions that, on October 11, Ralph dug post holes while he worked on a big rock all day that he hoped could be moved "tomorrow." See WJGD 10/11/1960.

283. See WJGD, 9/14, 9/22, 9/28-30; 10/1, 10/3-8, 10/11, 10/20; 11/9/1960; 5/8-9, 6/2-3, and 6/5/1961.

284. In 1963, working without assistance from Ralph, who was hospitalized on August 29 and retired thereafter, Bill spent most of late September and early October re-doing Dodge's porch. Bill obtained 150 board feet for the project from the "old potato house." See WJGD, 9/21, 23-27, and 30; 10/1-8, 11-13, and 27; 11/4 and 5/1963.

285. For Bill working on Humphrey in 1961, see p. 102.

286. See WJGD, 9/7-9, 9/11, 9/13-16; and 10/5-6/1961. In 1963, they worked on Dodge's porch.

287. Bill had done minor repairs on Green Camp in 1958 and 1959: a new post, new back steps, a new cesspool and a "lift." See WJGD, 5/21/1958 and 6/6/1959.

288. See WJGD, 9/25, 9/27, 9/28, 9/30; and 10/3-5, and 10/14/1961.

289. See WJGD, 6/5/1964; 6/15 and 10/22/1965; 5/1/1968, and 5/18/1971.

290. See WJGD, 9/18-21, 9/23, and 9/28; 10/2-3, 10/5, 10/7-8, 10/10-13, 10/17-20, 10/22-23, 10/25-26; 11/6-7, 11/9-11, 11/13, 11/24, 11/26, 11/28/1961. On May 19, 1962, Ralph built steps at the camp.

291. See WJGD, 9/23-26 and 9/30; 10/1, 10/2, 10/4, 10/13, 10/15-23, 10/25-27, 10/29-30; 11/4-5, 11/7, 11/11-15, 11/20 and 11/21/1965; and 4/7-8, 4/10, and 4/27; 5/1-2, 5/10-11, 5/13, 5/17-19, 5/21, 5/24, 5/27-28, and 5/30; 6/1, 6/11; 9/7-10, and 9/14/1966.

292. It is not known whether Bill undertook any major projects in 1967 for there is no diary available for that year.
293. Bill regretted that he could not make the bedroom floor level with the kitchen floor (as he had hoped) because the building was situated on a slight downward slope. WJGD, 10/2/1969.
294. On November 2, Bill “sealed the nails” on Garden Camp. WJGD, 9/2 through 11/1/1969, when he stained the new logs in Garden Camp.
295. For all of Bill’s work on Garden Camp see WJGD, 9/2-6, 9/13-16, 9/18-23, 9/25, 9/27-30; 10/1-5, 10/7-12, 10/14, 10/16-17, 10/19-20, 10/25-26, 10/28-29/1969; and 5/1/1970. In 1971, Bill spent 5 days, putting roofing on the south side of the camp. See WJGD, 9/16-17, 9/19–20, and 9/22/1971.
296. In 1965, Bill had added ribs to Camp Doris’s roof and shingled it, a job that he was not satisfied with: “The roof is crooked cant make it look right.” He returned a few months later to “overhaul” the screen door, and “found a good bat hole under door casing. WJGD, 5/3, 5/5, 5/12, 5/14,-15; and 7/27/1965. Bats were again a problem in 1971, when Bill nailed the roofing around the porch “tight” in an effort to keep them out of the camp. WJGD, 8/12/1971.
297. “The Red Sox won horay.” “Watch the Red sox get beat by the Chicago White 6 to nothing.” “The red sox beat the Yankees horay.” WJGD, 4/21/1957; 4/19, 4/20/1964.
298. Bill Gourley to Randall B. Champ, June 25, 1985.
299. As a result of Kay’s careful management of their finances, they were also able to invest. Bill noted that “The stock salesman came this P.M. We bought 2 mutuals.” See WJGD, 2/3/1970.
300. EGH, 2/12/2020.
301. WJGD, 8/19 and 10/3/1969; 2/18, 8/9, 8/10, 8/16, 8/18, 8/26/1980.
302. This development is treated below in Chapter 3.
303. MGM: 6/4/2018.
304. BNE and NN: 7/9/2018.