

FROM THE DESK OF

*Shea Smith*

DATE

REAL ESTATE BROKER

Phone — Midway 2-5100

East Troy, Wisconsin

RESORT HOTELS

With the sale of Beulah Island to the Jesuits, a new summer hotel was built by John Porter on the property now comprising Beulah Park, a level plot of ground and a beautiful and extensive sand beach. That was in the year 1887 and was operated up to the autumn of 1895 when it burned down.

Mr. Porter immediately planned and built another hotel, which for those days was a luxurious hostelry accommodating 500 guests. At the time it was the largest frame building of its kind in the southeastern part of the state.

It was U shaped with a receiving court at the rear and had extra wide covered verandas on three sides with a view from the front across spacious lawns and down the lake.

The main building was four stories high with a six story tower in the center.

Nothing was omitted in order to provide for the comfort and convenience of the patrons.

A large steam electric plant furnished electrical power purposes, known in that era, and the trees on the lawns and the waterfront twinkled with colored lights making the one and only gay spot on the lake.

A five piece orchestra <sup>was</sup> hired for the season <sup>and</sup> played <sup>on the veranda</sup> every evening at the "tea Time" <sup>hour</sup> for the promonaders.

On Saturday nights the ballroom echoed to the strains of waltz and two step music.

Bowling alleys were in constant use.

There was a long wide pier extending into the lake, ~~with~~ row boats galore and the inevitable steam launch for excursions along the shores. <sup>the</sup> large bath house, with dressing rooms for the swimmers, and a baseball field to the south of this building, which attracted local teams ~~of great rivalry, if not of~~ ~~professional~~ who were great rivals if not of professional status. There was a livery stable ~~giving~~ which gave "bus service" to and from the depot, and also rigs were available for special hire.

The only telephone in the whole surrounding countryside was located in the hotel, and was strung from Milwaukee, giving much needed contact with the outside world. Messages would be delivered by the steam launch crew on their daily rounds. Four blasts of the whistle meant "come and take it".

