

THE HISTORY OF NORTH SHORE

The following article is shortened version of the only known written history of our community. This article first appeared in the 1967 North Shore Directory. There is much more that could be recorded, but that only exists in the memories of the early residents. Perhaps they could write their memories down and send them to the North Shore Association (History) P.O. Box 1028, Pasadena, Maryland 21122. Then Porthole could present a more complete history in a future issue. Credits for the history you are about to read go to Ginny VanBlois (1967 Editor, Col. M.J. Geraghty, Cora and Herman Koch, V.S. O'Keefe, M.L. Gibbs and Dorothy Logan.

"THE EARLY YEARS"

"North Shore was born through the search of a man for a small waterfront place where he could take his family for the week-end and have fun in the sun. Charles Koch looked the whole Magothy River over for this place. Some were too low, some were too swampy, some of the roads were too bad, some had no electricity, and the ones he liked were always too expensive.

Through Mr. Gordon Ewing, a real estate salesman trying to find a location for Mr. Koch, the property now known as North Shore was mentioned. After looking over the property and hearing the asking price, Mr. Koch decided this was too rich for him. Mr. Ewing then enlisted the aid of another salesman, a Mr. Burke, whose nickname "Windy" fitted him like a glove. Windy explained the virtues of this tract, he could see the homes along Silery Bay, along Grays Creek, he should see the gentle curve of Park Creek with the homes around the edge. In those days if you wanted to go from the Geraghty's to the community beach you had to use a machete to get through the brush.

In Windy's view, all that was needed were roads and a little surveying to lay out a few lots and we were in business. Mr. Koch felt this was far too involved for him – after all, he just wanted a small place on the water. Windy and Ewing located another gentle soul, Mr. Gilbert Wehr, who also merely wanted a place on the water. Mr. Wehr and Mr. Koch were finally sold. Thus the purchase of 170 acres known now as North Shore was consummated in 1932.

The land was purchased from a party named Kelly who was kin to the Rennerts of hotel fame in Baltimore. It has been said that at one time a summer hotel was planned for this tract, although this is only hearsay. The only building on the entire tract at the time of purchase was the residence of Colonel and Mrs. Geraghty, and it was unoccupied and in a state of disrepair.

After the purchase of North Shore, Windy and Ewing really went into high gear. The Roland Park Co. was hired to lay out the roads, survey, and lay out the lots. Building roads in the early 1930's was quite a chore.

Home building continued during the 30's. The outbreak of World War II slowed construction due to rationed materials

A significant event occurred in the early 40's, when on an Easter Monday a major fire, reinforced by gale winds, burned from the Lake Shore Post Office corner to Gibson corner. Able-bodied men and boys worked desperately to save their homes. Many homes were burned in the fire, but none on the North Shore. A big barn where Mr. Strong's house is now was burned, and woods all around, but no houses.

FOUNDING OF THE NORTH SHORE ASSOCIATION

The North Shore Association became a corporation on the 24th of March 1947. The first four directors were Homer U. Todd Jr., David D. Thomas Jr., H. Richers Watkins and Herman F. Koch. Forty members acknowledged the association and perpetration of a land holder's restrictive covenant.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

In the 1950's, North Shore had become more of a year round community than a place of summer residence.

The community beach lot was given to the North Shore Association in 1953 by the North Shore Land Development Co., of which Charles Koch was a principal holder. The lot was swampy with a strip of sandy beach. In 1958, a local contractor with idle equipment made an extraordinary offer to fill the lot. However, the Association could not financially accept until Bucher and Koch contributed the major portion of the costs and needed fill.

Two months later, we had the beginning of a community beach. As years past, the Garden Club planted a multaflora hedge, grass was sowed, a tennis court was built, a pavilion was constructed, pilings and a sea nettle net were installed, and most recently a concrete bulkhead and walk were poured.

The Community Pier lot was deeded to the North Shore Association. The first pier was built in the late 50's. In 1964 a permanent bulkhead was installed, and dredging to a depth of three feet.

On August 30, 1969 the community acquired about ¾ acre from the Fialkowski's and the Kenneth R. Nash Memorial Park came to be. Through the participation of the community the beach, pier and park have continued to develop into attractive recreational facilities for all.

The work is still going on, as these properties need care and maintenance for the continuing pleasure they provide for the community.