

## Camp Nigge-Cu-Bing

Throughout the 1930's good friends and life-long memories were being made at Camp Nigge-Cu-Bing. A private camp for boys, it was located where Resort Tapatoo now stands. *Nigge-Cu-Bing* was the original Indian name of our lake, meaning *Lake of Many Otters*.

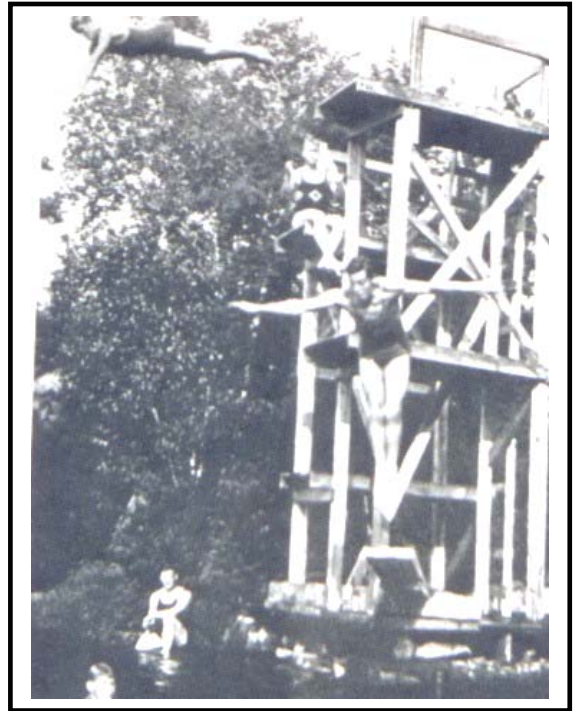
The Camp Director was John Percival Hagerman, known as J.P. He was first cousin to Fred Hagerman on Delta Is., and assisted in the building of the original cabin there in 1910.

J.P. built his own cottage near the Narrows in the early 1920's and named it *Joymore*. The original cabin actually came from Hocken's Mill in Little Otter, where it had been used as lodgings for some of the men who worked there during the logging years. Later it was used for the storage of grain. J.P. bought it for about \$25 and had it dragged up the lake on the ice behind a team of horses during the winter of 1923. *Joymore* was enjoyed over the years by J.P., his wife, Miriam, and their four children, and remains in the family to this day.



In 1930, with years of camping experience in the U.S. and Canada, as well as an outstanding athletic and education background, J.P. opened *Camp Nigge-Cu-Bing's* doors to boys of all ages. His own sons attended the camp as well. J.P. also made a point of having boys from the U.S. attend the camp in hopes that 'such associations would result in enduring friendships and the furtherance of international good-will' (as stated in the camp brochure).

They learned many skills there – swimming, diving, canoeing, sailing, paddling, etc. It was not your ordinary camp, as it was mainly an 'out-trip' camp, with organized canoe trips frequently planned. The junior boys, from age 8 to 12, would be gone for about three days, portaging through to Scott and Three-Legged Lakes. The older boys' trips (ages 13-15) would last at least a week, taking them as far away as Bala. Once a summer, the senior boys (over 15) would canoe all the way to Algonquin Park and back – a trip that would take them about two weeks. J.P. would ship crates by rail to Joe Lake in Algonquin so as to replenish their supplies for the return trip.



Regattas were always being held at the camp, but once a year they would hold a big one, inviting all the cottagers on the lake to participate. The campers would also compete in the Parry Sound Regatta against other camps who came from all over, including Michigan. Cottagers were also invited to a pageant one night each summer, where all the boys, dressed for the part, would perform Indian dances around a campfire. The camp ran until 1940, when most of the leaders were beginning to enlist in military services.

Those were the days! What better memories and outdoor experiences could a boy ask for than those from *Camp Nigge-Cu-Bing* on beautiful Otter Lake!

*Written by Cathy Morrison*