

The Little Log House

A log house which had a Golden Lake address for 100 years has moved to Kelley's Corners. It will be ready to receive visitors at its' new address – Opeongo High School before the end of the New Year.

In the meantime, OHS students, appreciating the fact that the old house was broken up by the move from familiar surroundings, will help pull itself together.

The move was made last spring. The job of reassembling the house is now in progress. Resurrected and fitted with a new roof, the house will become a museum, filling a dream of Principal Don Whillans who has a penchant for log houses, and Teacher Roy Valiquette who collects antiques.

Last occupants of the museum-to-be were John Lehman, a railroader and his wife, both of whom died about 30 years ago.

The daughter-in-law, Mrs. George Lehman of Golden Lake said that John Lehman's raised five children in the three room log house. They bought it from the Larochelles in 1906, but were never able to find out when it was built. Rudolph Lulof is 87 and his father said the house was here when he was a boy, so it is more than 100 years old.

The house was taken apart by OHS students under direction of teacher Carl Krose, before school closed for summer holidays. The logs consecutively numbered, were trucked to the school yard and piled for the summer.

Most of the rebuilding was done by boys in vocational classes. When completed, the museum is to play a prominent role in the school curriculum.

Displays of tools and instruments used 100 years ago will coincide with special courses on related subjects. Area residents have been invited to lend antiques to the museum.

The house which ended its 100 year sojourn in Golden Lake when 15 ft. of a black top highway will eventually find itself in what, to a dwelling of advanced age should be more acceptable surroundings. Mr. Whillans plans to call for landscaping to include log, rail and stone fences and crops that were grown 100 years ago. However, the Little Log House was burned to the ground Nov. 20, 1978.

Written by Lena Lehman on Oct. 1973 (information about the fire added).