

Glendale has seen many changes in last fifty years

By Mark Niblett
MUSSELMAN'S LAKE - "I haven't had to evict anyone in eight years."

Stu Patrick, the owner of Glendale Beach, is obviously proud of this record. "We get almost all couples here," he says, waving his hand at the dance-floor, "we offer all kinds of music: country and western, rock, waltzes. We never have any trouble."

The floor is empty now, on a quiet Friday afternoon. Its hundreds of square feet of hardwood gleam dully; the tables around its edges - enough to seat 600 people - are all covered with upturned chairs. You know that within twenty-four hours there'll be hundreds of people here.

Stu Patrick bought the dance pavillion in 1951, when he retired from the meat business. He and his family have been running it ever since.

It wasn't easy to get started.

"In the first three months I must have put two hundred thousand into this place," Stu says.

The pavillion itself was just a shell, then, which had stood empty for years. There was a garbage dump a hundred yards away.

Today it's immaculate. The waste disposal system is one of the most modern in the area. The lake is tested every two weeks.

More visibly, the grounds are attractive. Trees, many of them planted by Stu himself, offer plenty of shade. A sandy, well-graded beach leads down to the water. Lawns are green and close-trimmed. The buildings have obviously been given a lot of care.

Just across the lake, on the north shore, you can see Vern Davies' Cedar Beach Park. Vern and Stu are rivals, in an amiable fashion.

"We don't attract the same kind of people," Stu will tell you "for instance, we don't offer facilities for large groups, or camping, the way Vern does."

"But we both do all right. On an average summer weekend, we get three or four thousand people here at Glendale. I mean, the parking lot holds 1100 cars, so you can figure it out."

Stu is frankly proud of his place. He'll show you the immense bar with its mirror, over 100 years old and originally from a hotel. He'll talk about all the changes made while

he's been there, an obvious note of pride in his voice.

It's not all roses, though. Stu dislikes the powerboats on the lake; but, with over 500 cottages, there's not much anyone can do. The boats Stu rents are

all about five horsepower - ideal for fishing, but not water-skiing.

He actively hates the gravel trucks using the south shore road. While they don't come through or too near the park, they produce

unpleasant noise.

All in all, though, Stu Patrick is a contented man. He's worked hard, and he now has a park he can well point to with pride. It is, in fact, an object of pride for the entire area. Stu might seem like

a pretty tough guy at times.

But that image falls apart when you see him give a dime to a little girl so she can ride the mechanical pony. He shrugs, and points out that he'll get the dime back.

Maybe so. But not everybody would do it.

Wife: "I've lost two pounds again."

H u s b a n d : "Astounding! That makes 936 pounds you've lost since we've been married."

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