



Tall Timber Lodge

the story of us...

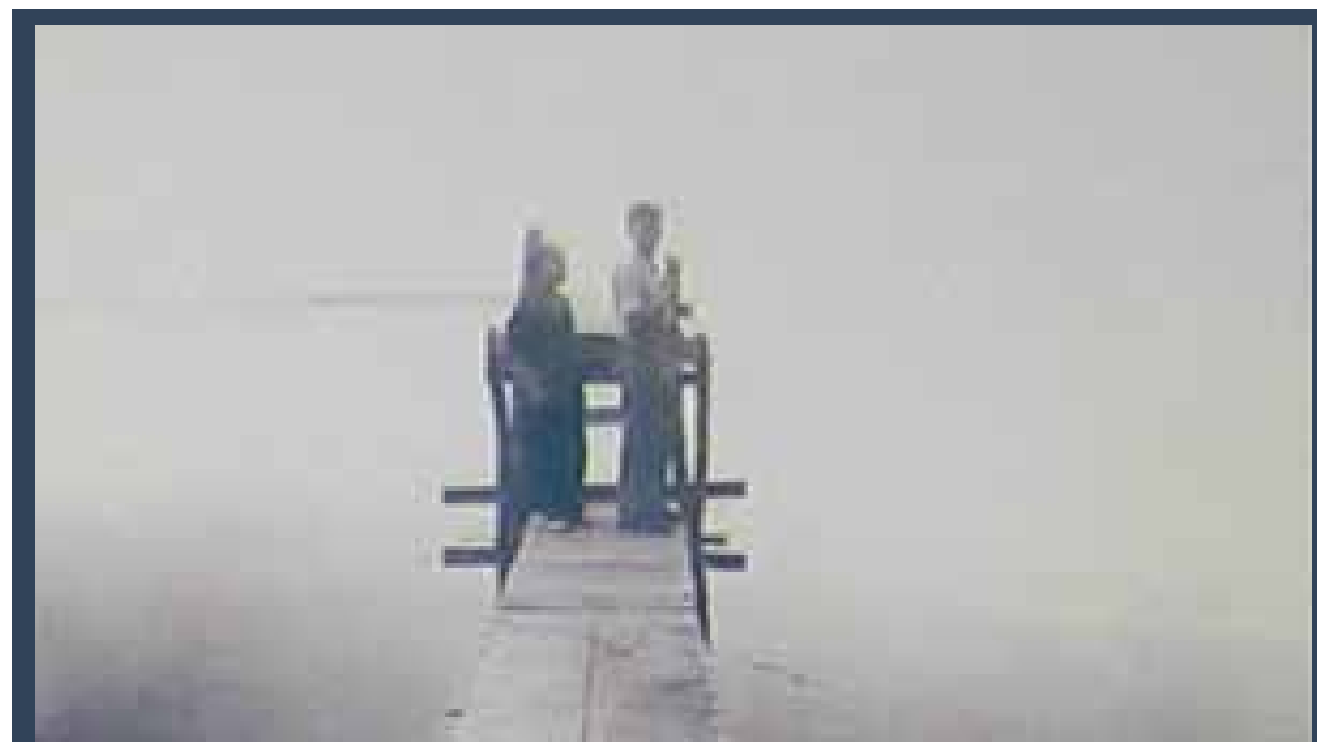


1946. The long and cold Winnipeg winter was finally taking a toll on the young Maryk family. Gusting winds were sweeping through city streets, while temperatures were reaching record lows of -48 degrees. George and his wife Anne were living at 586 Ferby Street in a home they built next to his mother's 3 storey boarding house. Trapped inside those sturdy walls they spent hours dreaming of warmer days to come.

George was as a Superintendent for one of the cities most successful contractors, Claydon Company Ltd, which enabled the newlyweds to raise their daughter Gina in a nice, respectable neighborhood. He spent years growing his career which offered infinite experience, a strong knowledge of construction and opportunities that would eventually become the backbone of their future endeavors.

Anxious to enjoy the summer sun on Lake Lac du Bonnet, George loaded up the station wagon while Anne packed snacks for the long trek out to the lake. Gina played on the front lawn with a girl from down the street. She loved time at the Diven's cabin and this weekend her nine year old friend would get to tag along. The curious little girl had never seen past the city limits so listened in awe as Gina described the big fish they would catch or the forts they would build amongst the gigantic trees. Sounds a dream; completely surreal for a young and curious mind.

In the early 1950's, George and Anne did not have a cabin of their own but would stay with friends out at Belly Acres development. Weekending there became a staple for the family, they loved the relaxed lake life and dreamt of one day having their own place on the water. Time passed and unfortunately Manitoba Hydro began construction on the McArthur Falls hydro electric dam, waters were raised and sadly Belly Acres saw its final days. The land was flooded, cottagers were lost and the Maryk's fond weekend getaway was quickly a memory.



George was an interesting man. He was always dreaming up the next project to build, idea to conquer, risk to take or business proposition to ponder. But before anything came the love for his family, he'd do anything to see them happy. One evening he caught a glimpse of his wife Anne combing her hair in front of the makeup table he built for her. She was such a classy lady with a love for fashion and a passion for fishing and the outdoors. He pondered, what they will do during those hot summer months without a place at the lake? How would Anne fish?

Not only was George a dreamer, he could bring anything to life. The following weekend, the family got in the station wagon heading back for Lac du Bonnet where he purchased 4.5 acres of waterfront property from the Goulet family at the mouth of Bird River. The area was vastly untouched wilderness and the fishing was amazing. In fact, the regions incredible reputation for plentiful walleye and enormous northern pike began drawing small quantities of people to Goulet's for a day of fishing. On some occasions the wife would cook up meals for the eager fisherman, while watching the great catches out her small kitchen window. Fisherman eventually began calling the small operation Tall Timber because of the vast amounts of large timbers densifying the area. This subtle gesture became a small hint towards what would unfold in the years to come.

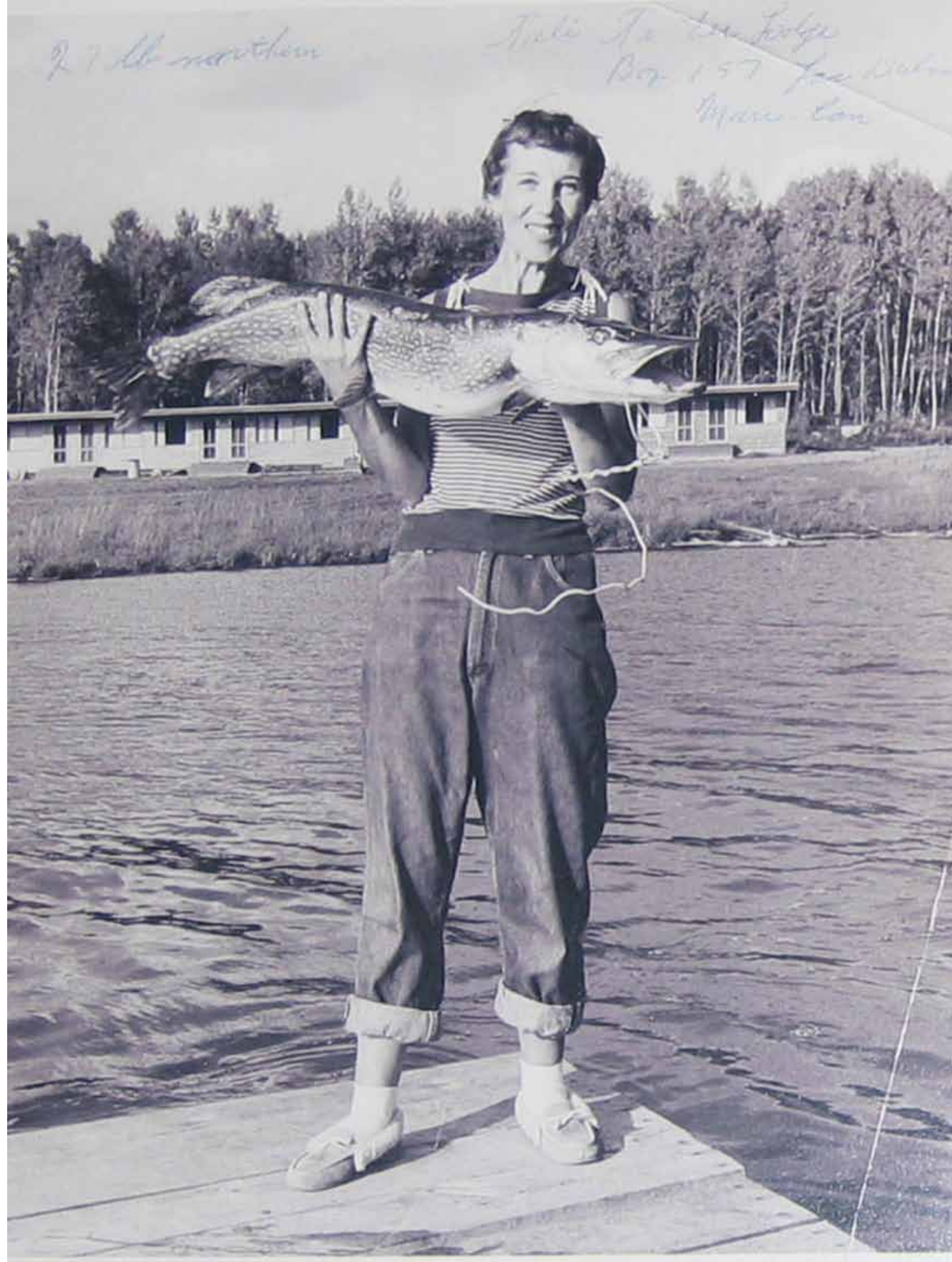


Nothing but a rough gravel road was in between the Maryk's newly purchased property and the flourishing streets of downtown Winnipeg. The land was a slice of waterfront heaven, but unfortunately was surrounded by Goulet's property with no car access. They cleared a small path to the road but quickly learnt packing light was essential for the 2 km hike through thick bush and rocky terrain.

Hours after the land title was exchanged, George was busy planning a new cottage for the family, construction began immediately. He was able to purchase lumber from the Larson's farm just down the road, which was convenient and forged a relationship for future resources. Not only did the strip of waterfront land become the site of the Maryk's lake home, but that of Anne's older sister Sally (+ husband) and their old friend Snorry. All three cottages, each one unique in its own way, were built by George himself that first summer.

During the long, cold winter months the lake had two feet of ice and snow so the trek became quite the adventure! Upon arrival Friday evening after work, they would park the car at Hedley Johnson's place just up the river. They were greeted with a cozy cabin, crackling wood stove and round of stiff Jack Daniels. A few drinks in, they strapped on the old wooded snowshoes and forged down the river. The journey home was a little less exciting.





27th anniversary

Lake St. George
Box 157
Madison, Conn.

The family quickly began spending all their free time at the lake. One day they were approached by the Goulet's who were looking to sell their property on the point and move to the city.

With great excitement, George made them an offer with one stipulation from Anne; the old Fortsen tractor be included in the sale. Its safe to say that old tractor made the deal! In 1957, George and Anne purchased 70 acres of what fisherman referred to as Tall Timber, they couldn't be happier.

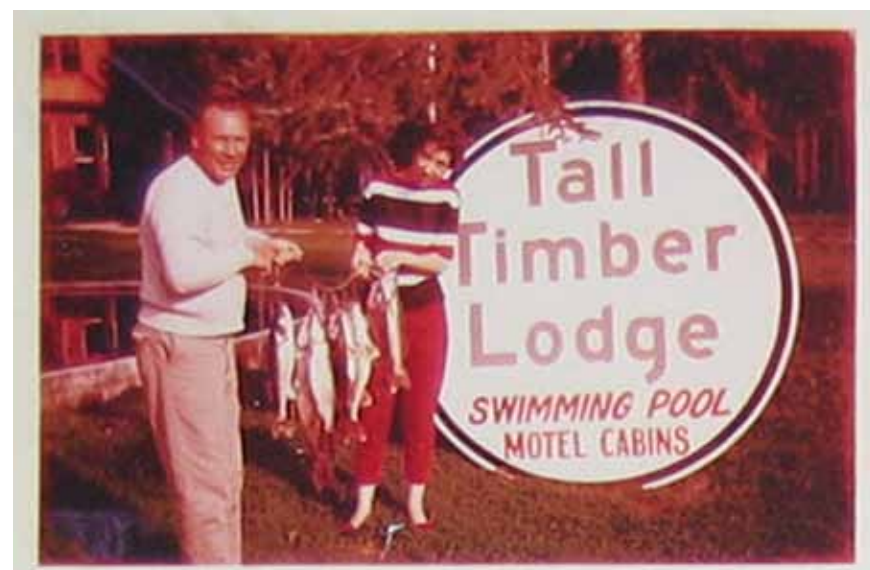
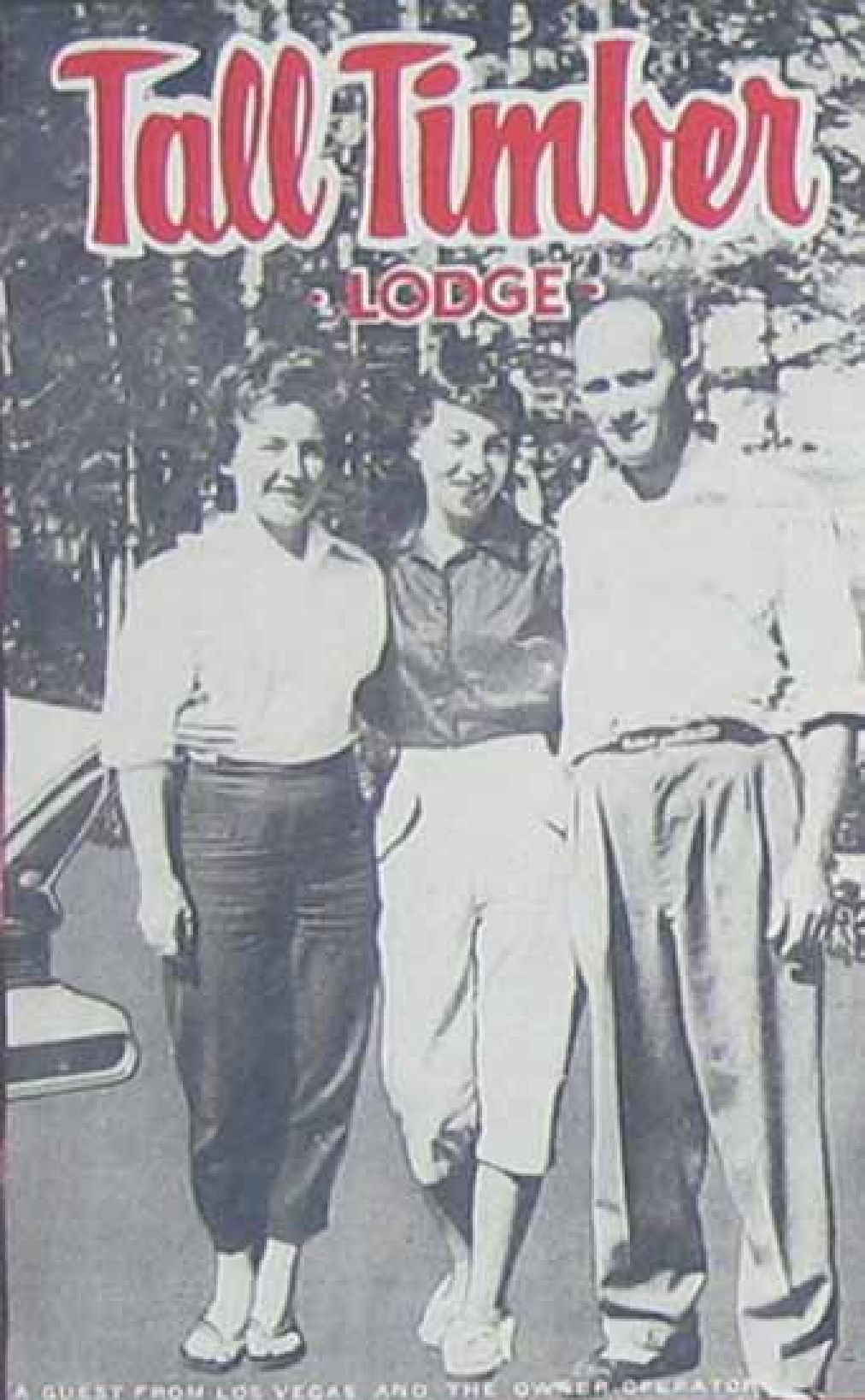
Not long after the purchase, George got his hands on a relic Model-T which quickly became transportation in from the main road. The car was hidden in the bush since the following weekend. Friday evenings they would crank it up, fill it with gear and roll on down to the cabin. They drove it right on its rims... over rocks, through mud and everywhere their city car could not go.

One cold August afternoon a red dodge pulled into the yard with Minnesota license plates. The dark rain clouds and wall of water was coming across the lake right for us. Anne and Gina were in the cabin preparing dinner while George was cutting wood before the storm. As the wind gusted through the trees, George walked over to greet the lost tourists. Two couples with interesting accents, Ann/ Buck and Velma/ Newby, were lost and looking for directions to Shoe Lake. Turns out they heard great fishing stories about the river system so decided to hop in the truck and check it out for themselves. They were not prepared for camping in the wilderness... one small tent, a few rods, some tackle and very little supplies. Just then the rain started crashing down, so George, invited the couples in for dinner and shelter.

After hours of chatting over American whisky and imported cigars, George and Anne invited the couples to stay for the weekend. Anne bragged their lake had much bigger fish than Shoe any ways. The new friends graciously accepted!

At the end of the week, the Americans piled back in their truck, over fed, over fished and anxious to come back again next year. They left with real fishing stories, rolls of pictures and over two dozen frozen fillets in the cooler. This random encounter led George to one of the most important project of his lifetime.





Tall Timber, the name wandering fisherman once called Goulet's homestead, would now become a modern fishing and tourist destination thanks to the hand work and aspiration of George and Anne. Tall Timber Lodge - a fishing outfit is created! In order to finance their dream, they had to sell off some land. They decided to subdivide a strip of waterfront property adjacent to their cabin and sell at \$400 a piece. In addition to selling the land, George helped plan and construct all 15 cottages to be built on it. To say the least his construction background was paying off !

During this period the young family was still living in Winnipeg, but spending all weekends, holidays and summers at the lake.



In 1955, the original lodge was constructed on their new property. It was a one-storey, wood frame structure and was built as a place for people to gather. One activity the community looked forward to, was the weekly Saturday night dances. Posters circulated the neighborhood and soon a tradition began. Six o'clock Saturday night cars would start rolling in the yard. Women with their finest dresses, kids at hand, while the guys would mix cocktails in their back seats. It was a big event for the area that drew people to the lodge and helped the Maryk's get associated with the locals.

The lodge building itself had one large communal space and three small rooms. The largest of the three was a butcher shop for packaging fish/game. Anne would also use the room to make hotdogs and sell at the dance. With business picking up, they quickly decided to sell the original cabin and move into one of the smaller rooms at the lodge. A room no larger than 100 sq/ft is where George, Anne and Gina would eventually call home.





In the meantime, George was still working construction in Winnipeg, so on top of everything happening at Tall Timber he now traveled back and fourth to the city everyday. Although exhausting, he had a vision and was willing to do anything to bring that to life. This decision soon became beneficial for the early days of the company. While Anne took care of Gina, manned the lodge and managed daily responsibilities, George would haul a box trailer each day to his various job sites loading with salvaged materials that would otherwise go to landfill. Everything from old doors and windows, to scrap lumber and basically anything he could get his hands on. Then would haul that loaded trailer back to the lodge each night where he would repurpose materials around the property.

Providing instruction to his workers for the following day, he would repeat that cycle over and over. Not only did this lower costs for building supplies, but it allowed George to build the lodge we see today!



During this period, George worked on various large-scale projects in downtown Winnipeg and throughout northern Manitoba. Some of the more significant projects include the Great-West Life building on Lombard, the Rupert Avenue Police station and his final job in the city, Eaton's monumental parkade.

Working during the 1950's flood played an important roll in his career. The city watched helplessly while the rising floodwaters devastated all in reach. Once finally lowering, the clean up was a high priority. Being associated with Great-West Life prior, Claydon Company was contracted to perform repairs on some of their associate houses on Scotia Street.

Aside from local projects, working up north constructing airports was something that interested George and potentially led to his future relationship with flying. In retrospective, all these avenues of George's career played a part in the growth and prosperity of Tall Timber.





Business was booming and the fishing industry was taking off. The lodge boats were constantly full and there was an abundance of fisherman arriving daily. George and Anne were ecstatic, but there was always more to do and further growth to happen! It was time to start accommodating fisherman and other tourists for extended periods of time. Over a two-year period a ten-unit motel and nine individual rental cabins were constructed. All using recycled materials wherever possible.

The original lodge was also expanded on, reserving the main floor as a small grocery store, then adding a second storey full service dining room. Anne prepared and served majority of the home cooked meals up there, while running the store below at the same time. She was an incredibly hard working, talented and passionate woman who put her heart and soul into every aspect of the family business.



Nearby at Blueberry Rock, just outside of Lac du Bonnet, the local natives from Pine Falls would gather to pick blueberries. George passed through the area daily on his drive to Winnipeg. He quickly became friendly with the group, one day offering to sell their berries in the city for a small fee. He was the type of man willing to do anything to save or make a buck.

Soon after, George offered this group and a few local farmers work at lodge. They worked on building various projects around the property including a staff house to accommodate the employees they took on over the years.



Fishing on the lake was incredible and soon the Americans began flying in. Not only was the lodge situated in the heart of the remote wilderness, it was reachable by road, rail or air and offered an extremely modern day facility for its time. Guests were usually prepared for roughin' it, but to their surprise the cabins were newly furnished, the lodge was fully equipped and the dining room served some of the heartiest meals you could imagine. Besides fishing, the lodge offered many other activities for guests such as Manitoba's first swimming pool at a resort, a wading pool, croquet, tennis and horseshoe pits.



THE AWARD WINNING CAMP

Tall Timber

LOGE

IN FRIENDLY MANITOBA, CANADA

Dogskin Lake

LOGE AND OUT CAMPS



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AWARD OF MERIT

PROVINCIAL MERITOR FOR
 Outstanding Achievement
 in the Field of
 Tourist Accommodation
 and
 Visitor Relations
 in the
 Province of Manitoba
 1975

PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION
 Anne and George Maryk - Dogskin Lake Lodge

TALL TIMBER LODGE
 AND DOGSKIN LAKE LODGE
 P.O. Box 157, LAC DU BONNET,
 MANITOBA, CANADA R0E 1A0



It was a hot and muggy afternoon, temps were reaching highs of 35+ degrees and nearly everyone was in the pool. Then out of nowhere, a Cessna 180 floatplane came out of the tree line buzzing the camp before landing on the lake out front. Guests watched from the pool deck in awe as the pilot taxied towards the main dock. The pilot's name was Art Ganchow, he was on route from Bissett when he decided to stop for a sandwich in Anne's kitchen.

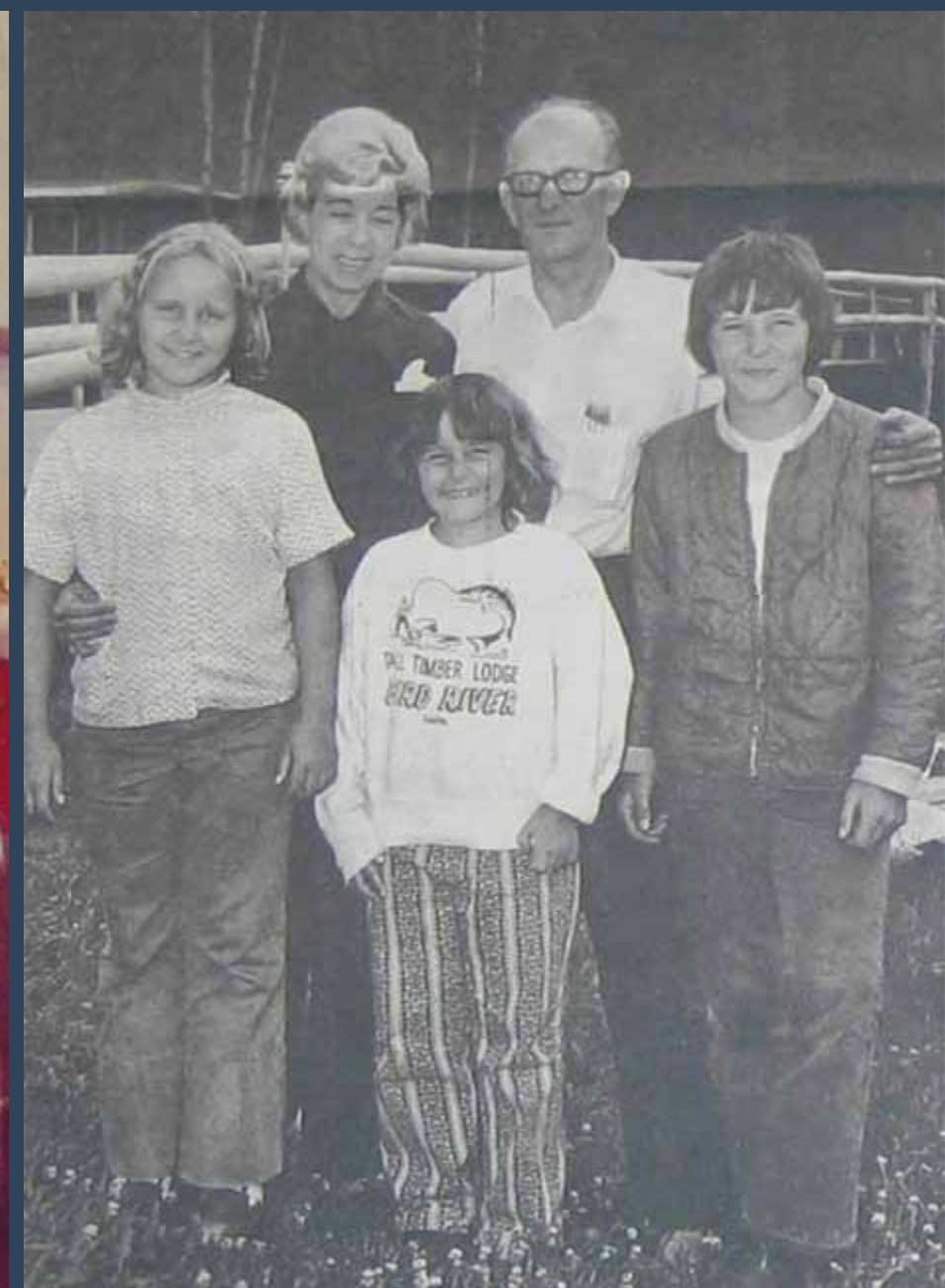
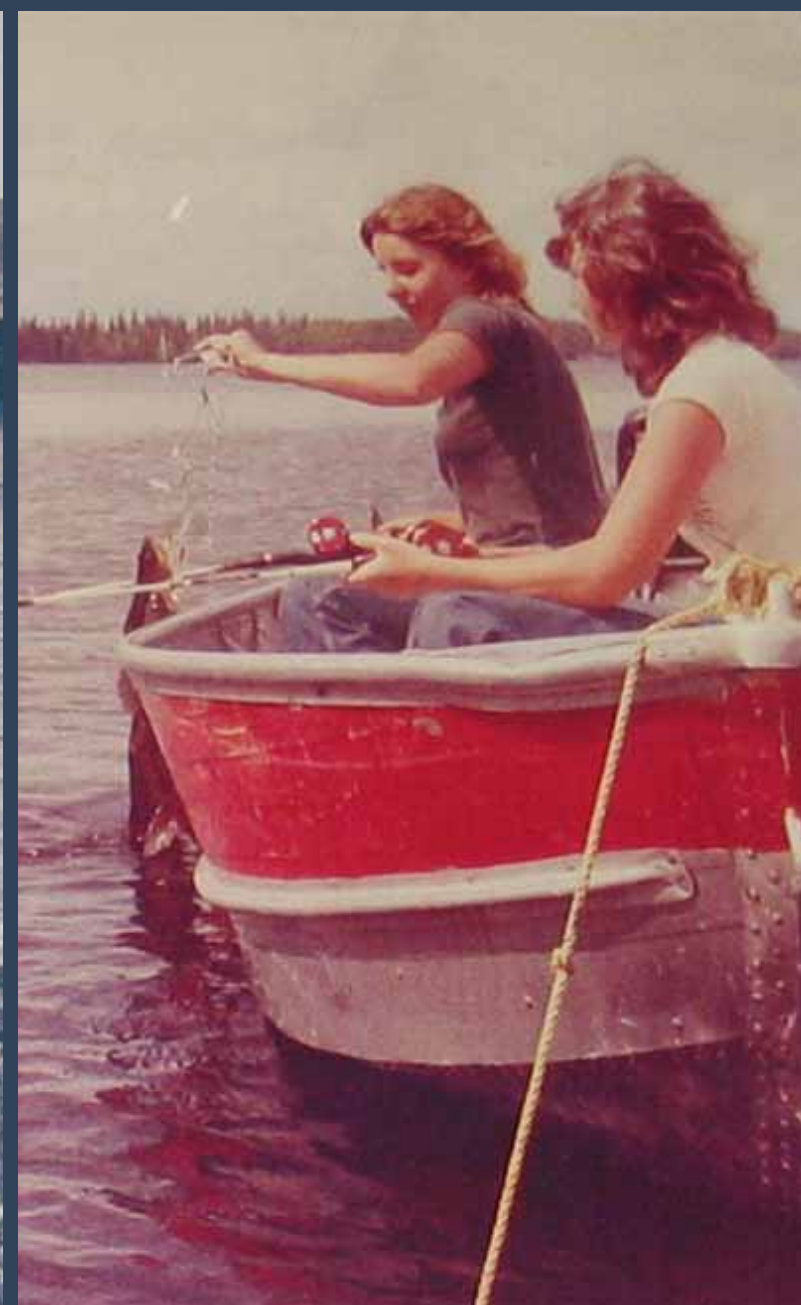
George was very interested in aviation so struck up a conversation with the young pilot as he tied up the plane. Art heard of Tall Timber and its success in the fishing industry, so was excited to meet the founder with a proposition. Why not take fishing to the next level he said. At this point the local lakes were slowing down due to ease of accessibility. "Have you considered building fly-in outpost camps in the north that can only be reached by air" proposed the pilot. He claimed the lakes were untouched and never fished... George was very intrigued! After lunch, Art struck a deal to become their first pilot and would end up working with the lodge for the next 35 years to come.

This was the beginning of northern fishing camps that would soon become a big success and a major part of the Maryk's legacy. After purchasing his first plane, George leased land from the government on a few northern lakes, Black and Cole Lake, which were the first of twelve outpost camps to come.

With an average of five float planes at the main dock daily and over a dozen aluminum fishing boats, the waterfront at Tall Timber was taking on a very unique character for its guests to experience. Whether it be large groups of American fisherman, tourist families or even Parliament cabinet meetings, the lodge was an exciting place to be. This created the opportunity for interaction; stories to be shared and memories to be made. The main lodge, as well as the developing outposts were booming. George and Anne were exactly where they were meant to be!



Meanwhile, Gina the only child was beginning a family of her own. She married a banker named Dave Smith in 1958 and began moving around western Canada for his work; nearly 10 times in 18 years. Together they had three beautiful children... Wayne, Debbie and Judy. The Smith's enjoyed visiting Tall Timber during the summer and would come out as often as possible. While Dave and Gina helped with the business, the children loved being at the lake and looked forward to endless days of fishing. The lodge was an extremely important part of their life. George and Anne would do anything to have them around, family was everything to the Maryk's





When 1969 rolled around, Tall Timber and its outposts were thriving. They were up to six in the north and it was now time to take the fly-in fishing camps to the next level. Dogskin Lake Lodge was started as an outpost but because of the superb fishing it was developed into a full service camp with a lodge, lounge, dining room, store and eight individual cabins. Supplies were flown in by air for construction, and George's workers built a modern day facility in no time.

With a fleet of boats, the Saulteux Indian guides would help you catch endless amounts of fish in their own backyard. You would enjoy a daily shore lunch, prepared with the morning's fresh catch and an abundance of stories to be heard around the fire. Dogskin became an instant success, with people visiting from all over North America including the Manitoba Premier and multiple City of Winnipeg Mayors.



Surrounded by beautiful scenery, a remote location, friendly faces and good old-fashioned times, there was something for everyone. Not only did it bring people together, but it also forged life long friendships and priceless memories. Everyone knew that with George and Anne as their hosts, their vacation was sure to be a good one.



**CAUTION: KEEP HANDS INSIDE BOAT
WHERE HUNGRY CANADIAN FISH LURK**

Annual lodge and outfitter sport shows were something George looked forward to. The journey south to Detroit, Minneapolis, Chicago, Fargo and other US cities was an exciting road trip for the couple. They would load up the illuminated display booth George built into the back of their Volkswagen van. They loved sharing their story, meeting new faces and reconnecting with old ones. Prior to the internet, this was the best way of getting your name out and creating a presence across the country.

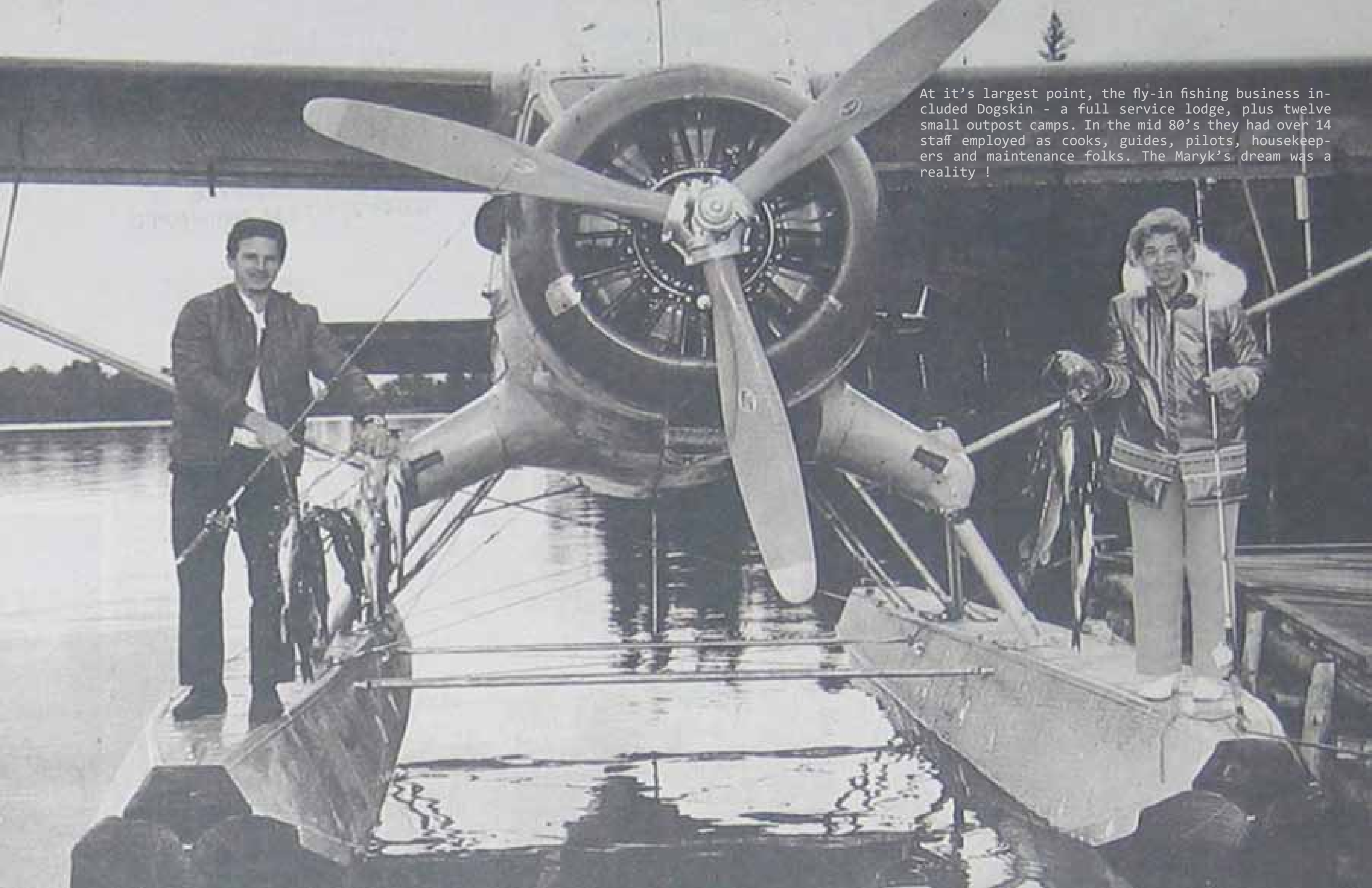
The sport writing industry also key in promoting the business. These writers would travel all over to fish the lakes, rate the accommodations and report on the experience they had. Great stories of fishing at Dogskin were published in newspapers, magazines and Tall Timber's annual brochure. Headlines included the Dallas Morning News and the Minnesota Flyer. The word was out, and it was a good one!





Being the only male grandchild of the Mayrk's, Wayne took a major interest in the family business. From the young age of fifteen, he took a real liking to working with his grandfather and began spending the majority of his time at the lodge. He was helping wherever he could; building, working in the yard, loading planes, preparing boats and went on to become a certified aircraft engineer, attain his private pilots license and learnt the mechanic trade.

This led to the development of Tall Timber Marine, which focused on boat/ engine sales and service, holding multiple dealership titles (Polaris, Evinrude and Lund) and providing indoor storage facilities for almost anything. Over time, Wayne became skilled at pretty much everything from flying and fixing the planes, to repairing boat motors, plumbing, electrical and operating equipment. To say the least he was a very talented and driven young man who was quickly starting to walk in his grandfather's footsteps.



At it's largest point, the fly-in fishing business included Dogskin - a full service lodge, plus twelve small outpost camps. In the mid 80's they had over 14 staff employed as cooks, guides, pilots, housekeepers and maintenance folks. The Maryk's dream was a reality !

With Wayne now flying and the aviation industry taking off, guests grew interested in flying directly to the lodge via their own private planes. George decided to purchase an additional piece of land off the main highway and clear a gravel airstrip. Therefore guests could fly direct and the business could fly year round.

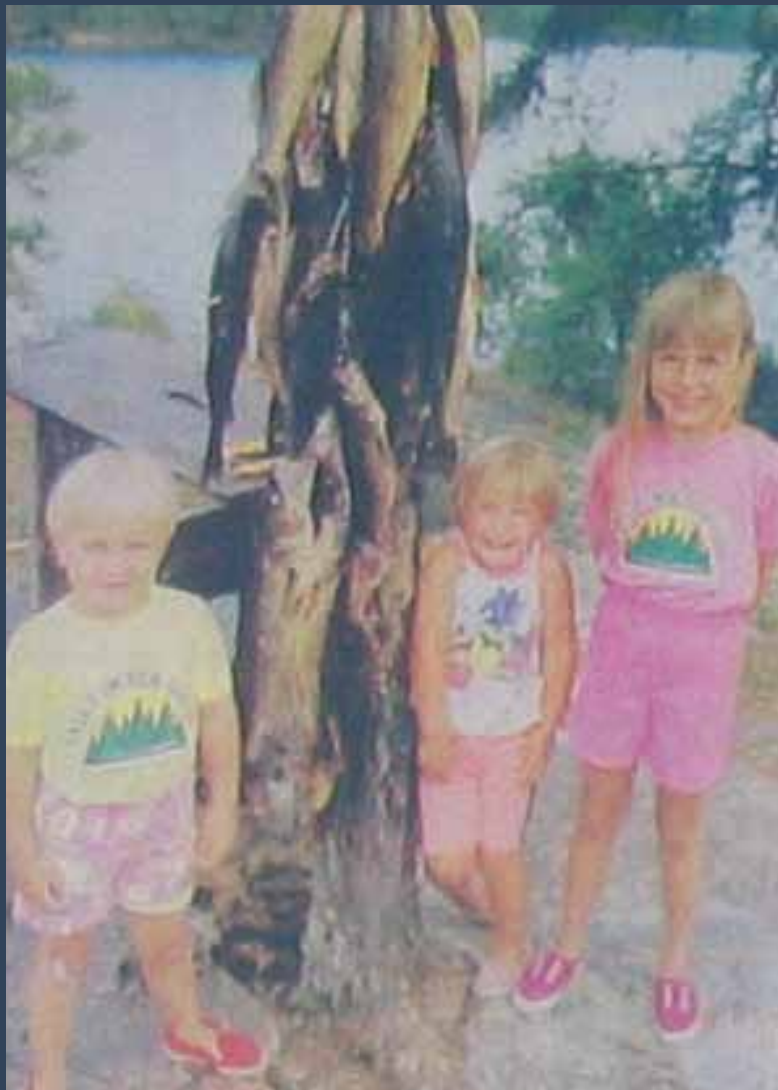
With George's newly purchased sawmill, the vast amount of trees removed from the strip would be milled into lumber for projects around the property. With heavy machinery in their fleet, the lodge would soon open its own private 5,000 ft airstrip. In addition, two large hangers were built to store planes as well as other equipment. Flying became a significant part of the business and over the years Tall Timber accumulated various different types of planes including, a few Cessna 206s, a twin engine Otter, a Widgeon, a Seabee and a Norseman. One of which they still own and operate to this day.



Eventually camping started taking off in the mid 70's and soon became a fond interest for Dave and Gina. Considering George had a large plot of unused land east of the lodge, they suggested he look into seasonal camping. With George being so focused on fishing camps and rental cabins, he didn't see value in camping and brushed off the idea. Two weeks later a man named Jack Dierkens or Pilsner for short, a friend of the Maryk's, asked to park his pull behind trailer somewhere on the waterfront. Finally George agreed and said "park it wherever as long as I dont have to deal with it". Slowly more and more people such as the Dittmar's, Senkiw's, Didora's and Fotty's began doing the same thing.

Although disorganized at the time, this would eventually develop into the seasonal campground you see today! As time went on, camping looked more desirable so George and Wayne began clearing lots. Trailers got bigger and they ran out of sites large enough to park them, so decided to purchased more land overlooking the lake and develop what is now known as Park 2. Tall Timber was now into fishing, rentals and seasonal camping just in time for the tourism industry to skyrocket. Everyone wanted a place at the lake and the Maryk's were now prepared to offer that!





The Next Generation

Wayne made a life for himself next door to his grandparent's home, where he has happily lived ever since. He was married and had three beautiful daughters- Laura, Lisa and Sara, who would eventually become the fourth generation of the family business.

These girls were the pride and joy of George and Anne, who truly loved having them around. They too would grow up loving the lake and appreciating the place they now call home. The respect and admiration for their great-grandparents is something that will never be forgotten. The importance of family, working hard, being driven and chasing your dreams is something that will live on !



Over the past forty years, George and Anne endured a lot of hardship, but with that came much success. As the businesses grew, Tall Timber Lodge and Dogskin Lake Lodge became too much for the family to manage effectively. The two different lodges were shifting apart and because Tall Timber was no longer dependant on fishing, they were now completely different industries.


Sadly in 1994, George and Anne sold a small piece of their dream; Dogskin and the 12 outpost camps they built from scratch. Although gone, the memory of it will live on forever. As for Tall Timber, it continued to thrive under Wayne's management. With a fully stocked grocery/ convenience store, liquor/ beer vendor, three large trailer parks with over 150 full service seasonal sites, deluxe rental cabins, a marina and storage facilities; the lodge continues to grow.




DRIVE TO OR FLY TO

Tall Timber


- LODGE -
MANITOBA, CANADA



MODERN LODGE AND CABINS . . .



**DOGSKIN
LAKE
LODGE**




A REMOTE WILDERNESS WITHIN EASY REACH
BY ROAD • RAIL • OR AIR
Fun FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
☆☆☆☆ Government Approved

DRIVE TO OR FLY TO

Tall Timber

- LODGE -
MANITOBA, CANADA

☆☆☆☆ Government Approved



MODERN LODGE AND CABINS . . .
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

FOR RESERVATIONS WRITE:
TALL TIMBER LODGE
P. O. BOX 157, LAC DU BONNET,
MANITOBA, CANADA

TO PHONE — DIAL DIRECT: 204-345-2972 or 204-345-9175
BETWEEN APRIL 1st AND OCTOBER 31st—

FROM NOVEMBER 1st TO MARCH 31st ADDRESS:
Tall Timber Lodge, c/o George Maryk,
386 Furby Street, Winnipeg 3, Canada
OR PHONE 204-775-7234 Winnipeg



The Maryk's were extremely frugal and knew the importance of saving and making a buck. When George was first constructing the motel and outpost camps, he had a friend in the paint industry so when time came to paint all the buildings he knew exactly where to go. Turns out because of a discontinued label, he was given cases upon case of half pint cans of red paint (enough to fill an entire truck). His employees would mix up cans into large pails and go to town. All the buildings, boats, planes, machines and everything in sight at Tall Timber and Dogskin was painted with the same red paint!

Aside from being cautious with the business funds, George was also an extremely modest man. To him and Anne everyone was an equal and that's exactly how they treated everyone who passed through their doors. Over the years George went to great extents of purchasing the exact same station wagon, same color and everything to make sure people didn't know he purchased something new. Little did he know, it was obvious, but no one ever told him that! It is because of these values the Maryk's grew to where they are today.



In 2007 the Maryk/ Smith family celebrated the 50th anniversary of Tall Timber Lodge... they could not be more proud! Same as the day it started five decades ago, the idea of a family business remains at the heart of what they. It was George and Anne's hard work, dedication, strong roots and core values which grew them to where they are today. Their family takes great pride in what was started so many years ago and they will forever be grateful for the lake life the Maryk's created!



George S. Maryk

August 15, 1915 - August 31, 2002

Anne Maryk

December 16, 1918 - April 12, 2014