

August 15, 2019  
Volume 21, Issue 4

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[findleylakehistory.weebly.com](http://findleylakehistory.weebly.com)

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Sponsor:  
Pam & Dick Watrous  
In Memory of  
Sally & Herky Porter

### Spread The Word

**Yoga - Free**  
**Walk-ins Welcome**  
Every M, W, F @ 8:45 am  
Community Center Gym



**Young at Heart Senior Lunch**  
Mondays @ 12noon  
Call 716-581-3426



**Chautauqua County Antique Equipment Show, 43rd Annual**  
Firemen's Grounds, Stockton, NY  
Fri. Aug. 16 - Sun. Aug. 18



**Dunkirk Great Lakes Offshore Grand Prix**  
Aug. 16 - 18

Dunkirk City Pier and Harbor



**Chautauqua Institution Week 9**  
Aug. 17-25: Exploring Race and Culture in America  
and the third annual Chautauqua Food Festival



**Sherman School Board Mtg.**  
SCS, Rm. 118  
Mon., Aug. 19, 5:30 PM



**Clymer Historical Society**  
"Intelligence in Revolutionary War"

Michael Ganske, Speaker  
Mon., August 19 at 7:30 PM



**Lunch & Learn: Prevention Works**

Tue. Aug. 20 at 11:30 AM  
Community Connections @ FL



**Tall Ships Erie 2019 Festival**  
Thur. - Sun., Aug 22 - 25  
U.S. Brig Niagara (814) 452-2744  
150 E Front St, Ste 100, Erie, PA



**Jaws the Movie on the Lake**  
Aug. 25  
Paradise by Campground



**FLASH The #1 Queen Tribute**

**Show in the World!**

Sat. Aug. 24 at 8 PM

Lakeside Park, Mayville, NY  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/queen-flash-ultimate-queen-tribute-tickets-60977131241>



### Support Received for Reconstruction of Outdoor Courts

It's been in the planning stage for a number of years and now reconstruction of the outdoor courts on School St. is becoming a reality. Besides new sports equipment, the project includes resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts with the ability to convert the tennis area into two pickleball courts. Under the leadership of the Town of Mina Recreation Committee (Nancy Roche, Lex Brumagin, Barb Cooper, Chuck Carter and Marshall Dixon), funds have been secured and the project is underway. To be eligible for grant monies, the ownership of the property needed to

transfer from the Findley Lake Volunteer Fire Department to the Town of Mina. With that accomplished, the Recreation Committee worked with the Community Support Group of Southwestern NY, and enlisted local volunteer Andy Travis who wrote a grant request to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund for Youth Sports administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The Ralph Wilson grant was awarded in the amount of \$24,206. That funding, along with \$20,000 from the Town of Mina, \$5,300 from the Findley Lake Community Foundation and \$5,600 from individual donors, is making this dream become a reality. The Town of Mina Highway Crew has been working on a drainage ditch on the east side of the court and has brought in gravel to enhance the parking area (see photo). The Town of Mina along with JMI/Tabone Construction will install a new asphalt playing surface. The asphalt has to cure before color coating and lines can be painted. So, continue to be patient, it will be awhile before the outdoor courts will be ready for shooting hoops and serving aces.



Marijo Russell O'Grady & father Jerry Russell

Since 1886, 207 ticker-tape parades have been held with the Mayor of New York City deciding who receives the prestigious honor.

Amid the excitement, Marijo saw a full sheet of paper laying on the sidewalk that was thrown from the historic 55-story Woolworth building across the street. It was a page out of Bender's Forms of Pleading (see excerpt at bottom right), published in May 1989 referencing a lawsuit from 1956, The Findley Lake Property Owners v. Town of Mina, Supreme Court, Chautauqua County. On Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Marijo came back home for Sherman Day to visit her father, Jerry Russell, and brought the footprint covered sheet of paper with her. She is shown in a selfie with her dad holding the recently-found book page. NYC's ticker-tape parades attract millions of onlookers. What are the odds that among the confetti there would be a paper referencing a historic legal decision regarding Findley Lake and the Town of Mina and that a Sherman native whose ancestors were from Mina would find it – one in a million, a billion, a gazillion? It's mind-boggling.

<sup>1</sup> Individual can bring action for public nuisance.—A public nuisance, when accompanied with special damage to the owner of lands, will give the owners a right of private action based on the public nuisance. See Kavanagh v. Barber, 131 N.Y. 211, 30 N.E. 325 (1892). Findley Lake Property Owners v. Town of Mina, 31 Misc. 2d 356, 154 N.Y.S.2d 775 (Sup. Ct. Chautauqua Co. 1956).

### Remembering the Local Public Nuisance Lawsuit

In the "Mind-Boggling" article above, a lawsuit involving local parties was referenced. In 1954/1955 a dispute between the plaintiff, FLPO (Findley Lake Property Owners, Inc., now the Findley Lake Watershed Foundation), against the defendant, Town of Mina, became a legal matter before the State of New York Supreme Court in

Chautauqua County. In 1955, the Town of Mina installed gates on the dam. A weed problem and public safety causing a public nuisance were cited by the Town Board as reasons for keeping the lake high. Three months after the gates had been removed by FLPO board officer Clifton Howard acting under authority of the FLPO board, he "was arrested on the charge of committing and maintaining a public nuisance ... by committing acts which annoyed, damaged, injured and endangered the comfort, repose, health and safety of a considerable number of persons". In the June 26, 1956, "Concluding Paragraphs of Decision of Judge Nathan D. Lapham, Official Referee in the Above Litigation", the judge held that FLPO "acquired title to 4.07 acres of land, embracing the dam, gates and spillway, and the right to flowage of the waters of Findley Lake in quantities permitted in said deed"; that the Town of Mina by installing and operating Town-owned gates, "trespassed upon the lands and premises" of FLPO; and, that FLPO is "entitled to continued, undisturbed and permanent possession of the premises". The referee also stated that FLPO has "failed to prove substantial damages as a result of said seizure & trespass, nevertheless, it is entitled to nominal damages of six cents (\$0.06)." Today the damages would be worth a whopping fifty-six cents (\$0.56).

### Blue-Green Algae Watch

The Chautauqua County Health Department has posted that blue-green algae bloom(s) have been spotted in Findley Lake. The posting reminds individuals using the lake to: not swim or wade near blooms or surface scum; don't drink the water; keep children and animals away from any blooms or scum; and, rinse with clean water if exposed. The posting also reminds you to consider medical attention if you have symptoms of nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea; skin, eye or throat irritation; allergic reactions or breathing difficulties. Report symptoms to the Chautauqua Co. Health Department (716-753-4769).

**Spread the Word (Con't)**

**Chautauqua Gran Fondo** Bike Ride: Sat., Aug. 24 Mayville, NY Info: 716.450.4630 [www.chautauquagranfondo.com](http://www.chautauquagranfondo.com)

**Paws at the Point**

Sat. Aug. 24 Bemus Point Bring your pooch to this dog centric event (leashes required) 716.386.2722 [parks.ny.gov](http://parks.ny.gov)

**Barbershop Harmony Parade**

Sun., Aug. 25, 2:30 PM Free (716-357-6263) Amphitheater, Chautauqua Institution Admission to the Grounds and Amphitheater is free on Sundays. (Parking is free until 2 PM)

**Clymer School Board Mtg.**

Clymer Central School Mon., Aug. 26, 7 PM

**Name the Game - Mahjong for Beginners!**

Wed., Aug. 28, 2 PM - 4 PM Community Center RSVP by calling Christy at CC@FL: 716-769-2473

**7th Grade Orientation**

Thur., Aug. 29, 4:30 PM Clymer School

**Doug Phillips Acoustic at Alexander's Findley Lake, NY**

Fri., Aug. 30, 6 PM

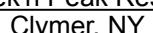
**Findley Lake Harvest Festival**

Aug 30, 4 PM – Sep 1 at 6 PM Friday - Sunday, Findley Lake Live music, unique vendors, delicious foods, tasty drinks and FREE admission!

[www.visitfindleylake.com](http://www.visitfindleylake.com)

**Bonfires & Brews with The Gilligans**

Sat., Aug. 31, 6 PM Peek'n Peak Resort



Clymer, NY

**Bull Dam Trail Run**

Sun, Sep 1, 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9843 Black Rd. North East, PA Register: <https://www.bigwhitetrailer.com/register/>



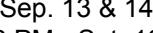
**Dorothy Seth, Special Olympics Skier for the Blind** Speaking on Visual Impairments Tue., Sept. 3, 11:30 AM - 1 PM Community Connections @ FL

**Findley Lake Library Book Club**

The Hideaway by Lauren K. Denton



Thur., Sep. 5

**Peek'n Peak Uncorked Festival**

Sep. 13 & 14

Fri. 6 PM - Sat. 10 PM

**93rd Annual North East Community Fair**

Sept. 19 - 21

North East High School Gym 1901 Freeport Rd. North East, PA [www.NorthEastCommunityFair.org](http://www.NorthEastCommunityFair.org)

**Whittlesey/Grice Family Has Owned the Cottage on Shadyside for 103 Years**

Federal (F.E.) Whittlesey, co-founder of Raymond Manufacturing in Corry, and his wife Flora Heath Whittlesey had come to Findley Lake on

several occasions when they learned that the Bell cottage was for sale. In his memoirs F.E. wrote "we considered this spot the best location on the lake, and purchased the cottage and out-buildings, motor boat and two row boats, and all furnishings for \$1550.00 in October, 1916." Located on the point half-way down the lake on Shadyside, it became known as Whittlesey Point. The family was told that the cottage was only the third house to be built at the lake. In May 1934, a forest fire occurred near their cottage. F.E. helped many others fight the fire for several hours, stopping it at the private road (what is now Shadyside Road). According to Bob Grice, F.E. and Flora's great grandson, chestnut trees were cleared to build the cottage and it sat on stumps until his mother and grandmother remodeled it in

1965 putting a foundation under it. The cottage has had many improvements but it still retains its original shape. The acetylene gas out-building that was used to generate power for the cottage was removed. Six generations of the Whittlesey/Grice family have enjoyed this spot for swimming, fishing and boating.

The large oak tree that leaned over the water had a rope hanging from it for decades and was the source of a great deal of fun. The stump is still at the water's edge as a reminder of the pleasure the tree gave to those who swung freely from the rope and dropped into the lake. It is easy to see why F.E. & Flora considered this spot to be the best location on the lake.



F.E. Whittlesey and his grandson Bob Williams with a 47¼", 24 lb. muskellunge caught at Findley Lake July 24, 1929.



F.E. and Flora's granddaughter, Florence Holden Grice (Bob Grice's mother) in front of the cottage, circa 1925



Bob Grice holding sign "WHITTLEC Here & IS" (note the "c" at the end making an abbreviation of the name Whittlesey)



Bob Grice, his mother Florence, children Jeff, Bill and Karen (Wellman) in 2009 – photo taken by Ruth Ann Grice

**Findley Lake Triathlon Athletes Had a Blast!**

Swimming (750 meters), biking (14.29 miles) and running (3.13 miles) – on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Sprint triathletes did all of this. Many participating athletes went twice this distance (called the Olympics) and a handful went three times as far (called the Double Findley)! Professional Coach Mark Wilson, himself an accomplished triathlete with 25+ years of experience from Kennedy NY, organized the inaugural Findley Lake Triathlon Festival and was there encouraging all of the participants. Overall winners of the Double Findley were 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 46 year-old Mindy Lawson-Crabtree of Frewsburg NY (4:03:47), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 36 year-old Chad Ford of Buffalo NY (4:24:01), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 55 year-old Stephanie Barbaro of Rochester NY (5:03:50) and 4<sup>th</sup> Place: 48 year-old Diana Woolf of Streetsboro OH (5:41:44). Mark, and his wife, Tonia, are donating \$200 of the proceeds to the Town of Mina Recreation program and they are making plans for next year's event to be held on Sat., Aug. 1, 2020. Mark said they already have 70 athletes signed up for next year's event here.



Photos: Above left Organizer Mark Wilson; Bottom left Local Sprint athlete – Dave Wilcox; Above right Women's Double Findley winners - (L to R) Stephanie Barbaro (2<sup>nd</sup>), Mindy Lawson-Crabtree (1<sup>st</sup> Overall), Diana Woolf (3<sup>rd</sup>); Bottom right Men's Double Findley winner: Chad Ford

**Thanks to Christy**

Christy Ball (left) has been working part-time as Town of Mina Supervisor's bookkeeper for 18½ years. For the past 6½ years she has also been working for Community

Connections @ FL as the administrative director. With the recent announcement that CC@FL received a significant five-year grant from New York State, Christy's duties increased at CC@FL and she resigned from her position with the Town. Rebecca Brumagin, Mina Town Supervisor, is very appreciative of Christy's years of dedicated service and wishes her continued success in her expanded role with CC@FL.

**Wilda Misses Her Findley Lake Friends**

Even though our former postmistress, Wilda Resinger, doesn't live very far away, she isn't able to drive as far as Findley Lake anymore. A few of her good buddies visited her in July (see photo) and she shared with them that she would love to hear from her Findley Lake

friends. When you get a moment, give her a call or drop her a line. Her phone number is (814) 899-1884 and her address is 3791 Harbor Ridge Trail, Erie, PA 16510.



L to R: Diana Raven, Pam Watrous, Wilda Resinger, Sue Rhebergen and Ginny Smith

**Text 56512 and See What Happens**

Hop on your smartphone, text 56512, and then enter the password findley. You will be directed to a Guide by Cell app that you can use while on your boat, in your house, or when you are out of town - all you need is phone service. The app has information about historical sites and current Findley Lake landmarks. If you use the app while cruising around Findley Lake on your boat, it will show your location as you progress around the lake. The app is brought to you by the Findley Lake Nature Center.

