

# Breezy Pointer

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## The Evolution of the Breezy Point Resort, Part 4



Franklin Hobbs and 2 Resort employees broadcasting live from Breezy Point Resort in 1969. Hobbs was the late night host on WCCO Radio for over 20 years and on Clear Channel was heard coast-to-coast.

(Parts 1 – 3 covered the period from Captain “Billy” Fawcett’s 1921 purchase of the property through the fall of 1966.)

In 1966, Breezy Point Estates was in the hands of the bankruptcy court. Loyd Brandvold, a Twin-Cities businessman, acquired from the trustees two one-year leases on the resort and operated it during the summers of 1966 and 1967.

Guests who had been regulars during the Simms/Eastvold days

witnessed a stark contrast in the mood of the resort. The flurry of construction was absent and the aggressive land-sales office was quiet. The Marina Restaurant & Bar, the Supper Club and the front nine of the golf course were open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The lower level of the restaurant (later becoming the Dockside Lounge) was operated independently selling bait and offering boat sales and rentals.

Nevertheless, Brandvold was able to attract a good number of summer vacationers. Name entertainers packed the supper club at night, while golf and boating on Pelican Lake filled the days.

The leases bought time but, as expected, brought with it a decline in the upkeep of the resort. Maintenance attention was only directed at those activities necessary to keep it running. The cosmetics such as painting were ignored. The back nine of the golf course was closed and nature began to reclaim it.

As is the case in bankruptcies, the trustees’ primary interest was the sale of the property to settle the creditors’ claims. With only a lease, Brandvold had no incentive to improve or expand the resort operations. In the meantime, the operation of the resort under the lease agreement enabled potential buyers to view the property in a more favorable light than had it been closed.

The resort closed for the season in 1967 with a dim prospect of reopening.

March of 1968 saw another twist in the fortunes of Breezy Point Estates. Nine owners of the Hopkins House, a Twin-Cities restaurant, successfully negotiated with the trustees the purchase of the resort.

Included in the sale were the Marina Restaurant & Bar, supper club, grocery store, golf

course including the overgrown back nine, gas station, airport, 4 units in the Lodge Apartments and 47 of the 101 rooms in the Golfview Terrace hotel. The condominium owners or the court trustees held the rest of the buildings.

The task ahead of them was daunting. Their only real exposure to the resort was as past guests for 4th of July celebrations and other busy summer weekends. Hidden from their view was the actual condition of the facilities.

The first order of business was an overall assessment of what was needed to bring the facilities up to an acceptable condition. The list seemed endless. Mundane items such as cracked switch plates were accompanied by missing furniture and, in several units, missing water pumps for the sewer system. Painting, both inside and out, was started. The back nine of the golf course was cleared of weeds, reseeded and groomed.

The resort reopened with great fanfare as Hopkins House Breezy Point Resort on the Memorial Day weekend of 1968. This also signaled the return to the resort of Dave Gravdahl, now general manager of Breezy Point Resort. He had been working for Hopkins House in the Twin Cities.

Realizing that the tourist season didn’t get into full swing until the latter part of June, most resorts only operated their restaurants on weekends until late June and then would be open 7 days per week through Labor Day. Hopkins House, however, staffed the Supper Club with cooks, bartenders, waiters, busboys and musicians for the entire summer season. As expected, weekends were busy but midweek in June found no customers.

Recognizing the growing popularity of snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, the owners built an indoor/outdoor swimming pool in what is now the recreation center. Several meeting rooms were created in the teenage nightclub and became host to the 3 nights per week Don Stultz production of the Old Log Theater.

The 1968 summer season business was a dismal. The dark public perception of a bankrupt resort was a never-ending obstacle. Frequent and flashy ads, both in the immediate area and the Twin-Cities, were run to attract new guests. Word slowly began to spread that there was a rebirth at the resort.

The resort closed for the season



Bob Spizzo took the “first bite” out of the old Marina Restaurant & Bar on the morning October 3, 2007

## The Passing of the Marina Restaurant & Bar

October 3, 2007, signaled the end of a piece of history at Breezy Point Resort when the Marina Restaurant & Bar, built by Don Eastvold and Ginny Simms in 1963, succumbed to the wrecking machines of Hengel Redi-Mix & Construction. As a train of trucks lined up to haul away the debris, the hungry jaws of two excavators systematically tore the building apart.

Don Eastvold and Ginny Simms built the Marina in 1963. A crowd, including those who had been here when the Marina opened, first-time guests and Resort employees, gathered and watched in awe as the structure was quickly reduced to rubble.

The last weekend of the Marina’s life was a bittersweet affair. Saturday night, September 29, saw a capacity crowd for the music of Tami & the Bachelor. A boisterous mix of regulars, resort guests, curious locals and a wedding party that migrated from the Convention Center continued the Marina’s rich tradition.

The following morning’s breakfast buffet, the Marina’s last, saw a quieter, more reflective crowd. The Marina has hosted countless memory-making events such as family reunions, marriage proposals, wedding receptions, charity events, golf and fishing tournaments, 3 Governor’s Fishing Openers, celebrity entertainment, 13 seasons of the free Chris Olson Elvis show and just a cozy place to gather with friends. Many of the patrons were here to say goodbye to an old friend.

### There were obstacles

Plans to replace the Marina were formed as early as 1981. Over the ensuing years, economic downturns, bank failures and surging

interest rates delayed the project. In the mid 1990s the Resort renewed its efforts and obtained the necessary governmental approvals to proceed. Financing was arranged, contractors and architects were commissioned and demolition and construction timelines were established.

All seemed in order until two lawsuits were filed against the City of Breezy Point regarding its approvals of the restaurant project. The Resort joined the City in its defense.

Carl Kristufek and a group of Petitioners referring to themselves as the Concerned Citizens brought one of the lawsuits. They alleged that the City erred in its approval process. This suit was dismissed in Crow Wing County District Court. The plaintiffs then proposed to the City that they would not pursue an appeal of the judgment if the City agreed not to pursue from them the reimbursement of court costs. The City refused their offer. Kristufek and the Concerned Citizens then appealed the District Court decision to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, where it again was dismissed. The City and Resort were successful in obtaining from the plaintiffs the reimbursement for court costs.

The 11 timeshare associations

managed by Narveson Management, Inc. brought the other lawsuit. They alleged that the City’s approval of the restaurant project was flawed. Crow Wing County District Court found that in order to proceed with the project, the Resort needed to receive from the City a Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Ironically, the Resort had already applied and paid for the CUP before the Narveson group filed their suit. Nevertheless, and in accordance with the Court’s order, the Resort sought and received approval of the CUP at the Breezy Point Planning & Zoning Commission meeting of November 14, 2006. The Resort was amazed to learn that the same timeshare associations appealed the CUP approval to the City Council. At its December 18, 2006 meeting, the City Council denied the appeal and upheld the CUP.

It is not known if these groups were working together but the timing of the suits raised suspicions. Even though both suits failed, they did succeed in delaying the restaurant and it’s environmental improvements for another year.

As Bob Spizzo, Breezy Point  
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### Whitebirch, Inc at Breezy Point

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To build together the most preferred resort with the best people providing superior service to our guests in an enjoyable, safe, efficient and profitable manner.



# The Man and His Music



Accomplished Singer and Songwriter, Russ Carlyle

Picture in your mind Cleveland, Ohio. It's 1934, the midst of the Great Depression. A 19 year-old singer has just won a 13-week talent contest. His singing ability secured for him a 13-week contract for a 15-minute radio show on station WJAY. There was one catch to the contract...there was no pay! After several successful weeks, he met with the station manager and asked if he was ever going to get paid. The manager said, "No, think of the experience, exposure and the opportunity for singing dates you're

getting." As a compromise, the singer asked to be paid his 10-cent carfare for each round trip to the station. Fearful of setting a "dangerous" precedent, the manager refused the offer and the singer quit.

The young singer was Russ Carlyle, whose fame as a singer and bandleader became synonymous with the big-band sound.

At the time, before the advent of TV, a band's exposure to the public was through nationwide

radio broadcasts from major hotel ballrooms. After Russ quit the radio show, he was recruited to go with a band to Troy, NY for an engagement. There, he was so well received that he and the band were kept on for 7 months.

The band returned to Cleveland and played on a nationwide radio hookup heard by the owner of New York's Edison Hotel. An offer to the band was accepted and the Edison became the band's base for the next 6 years.

Russ' fame continued to spread. His vocal style was similar to that of Bing Crosby and produced a great following.

Russ served in the Army's Special Services from 1942-1945 and teamed with Joey Bishop, then unknown, in a comedy act similar to what later would be performed by Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

After his military discharge, Russ continued with his band and played throughout the country. His billing was, "The Romantic Style of Russ Carlyle". He had also become an accomplished songwriter.

In 1960, the female singer in his band quit and Russ found himself searching for a replacement.

Thumbing through the yellow pages, he came upon a listing for a "Singing Schoolteacher". The listing was for Patty Clayton, whose audition convinced Russ he had the right girl. The fans loved her and so did Russ. In 1970, Patty became Mrs. Russ Carlyle.

Now comes the Breezy Point connection. Russ had crossed paths with Ginny Simms during his service years when she had been entertaining the troops. In 1963, Ginny contacted Russ' agent and hired the band for an engagement at Breezy Point Estates.

Russ had never been to this area and, upon his arrival, immediately fell in love with the country. He played several seasons at the resort, purchased land on Lake Ossawinnamakee and had a house built. Although he and Patty continued their show business travels, Breezy Point became their permanent home.

Russ and Patty have moved off the lake but still make their home in Breezy Point. They spend their winters in Arizona.

Editor's note: Russ Carlyle's CD, including the song, "You've never fallen in love, until you've fallen in love in Breezy Point, Minnesota", is available at the Gift Shop, 218 562-7152.

## What's new at Breezy Point Resort?

The first summer season for the new Boat House has been an overwhelming success and we have healthy reservations over the winter. Its 4 bedrooms accommodate up to 12 guests. Guests have reported that it's the perfect place for family reunions. Several have rebooked for the 2008 season.

A new indoor swimming pool, including an exercise area and community room, is under construction at Whitebirch Estates. This facility will further enhance the luxury amenities of this Gold Crown timeshare property.

This winter's hockey tournament schedule at Breezy Point Ice Arena will be the largest in its history. 172 teams are scheduled to compete between November and March. Several tournaments have been expanded from 8 to 12 teams to accommodate the increased demand. Area businesses will benefit greatly from these winter gatherings.

Plans are continuing for the creation of the Active Adult Residences. Planco Minnesota, Inc. has been selected as the architect along with Landmark Design, Inc. for landscaping (the landscape designers for The Antlers restaurant) and Landecker & Associates for engineering and surveying. Although still in the preliminary stages, our announcement of this project in the previous Breezy Pointer has resulted in numerous requests for more information when it's available.

Bob Erickson is the new manager at The Antlers restaurant. He brings a wealth of fine dining experience from Sunsets in Minnetonka.

A new well has been drilled to relieve the Whitebirch RV & Camping Resort from its previous water restrictions. Other recent improvements include new walking trails and a remodeling of comfort station #1.

**Whitebirch, Inc**  
family of Companies

## The Evolution of the Breezy Point Resort, Part 4

continued from page 1

in September. As an experiment, and accompanied by an advertising campaign, it reopened for Christmas. The results were surprising. There was a moderate winter market that, with the growing interest in snowmobiling, would later prove viable.

A winter operation would not be trouble-free. None of these facilities were envisioned for winter use. The insulation was not adequate for sub-zero temperatures, water pipes were prone to freezing and heating systems were overloaded. One observer noted that fuel trucks were often lined up to satisfy the voracious appetites of the furnaces.

The 1969 summer season was a disaster. Even though longtime guests who had given up on the place were returning, their numbers were few.

The popularity of the big bands that had wowed guests since the early 20's was waning. Recognizing this, rock-n-roll bands were added to the venue and younger crowds invaded the resort on weekends. Efforts to provide "something for everyone" showed promise. Bands like the Swinging Ambassadors

and Williams & Ree (still headliners in the casino circuit) performed in the Supper Club. The hot spot in the resort was the new dance floor and bandstand in the remodeled Marina Lounge featuring, among others, the Italian Show Band, Quasiar, Rainbow, Asian Society and The Jet & Toni. The room was loud, dark and exciting. Parties in their 20s, 30s and 40s from the resort and the entire Brainerd Lakes area swarmed to the lounge.

Unfortunately, the expectations and demands of the guests were changing. Gone were the care-free, easy-going days of the 50's and 60's. The war in Viet Nam and the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy had sobered the public's perspective. The resort's challenge was to create for its guests a few days of diversion and relief from their worries and concerns.

The resort remained closed during the winter of 1969/70. Plans for the next summer were underway.

To Be Continued...

## Jason Davis Meets Elvis

KSTP's broadcast journalist Jason Davis will feature Breezy Point Resort and Chris Olson's Memories of Elvis show on his On the Road with Jason Davis show on KSTP, channel 5, at 10:30 PM, November 4, 2007.



## What's in a NAME?

The Marina Restaurant & Bar are now gone. Construction of the new restaurant and bar is proceeding, all the designs are complete, but one looming question remains: What will we name the new restaurant?

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please send your suggested restaurant & bar names to:

Name the Restaurant Contest  
Breezy Point Resort  
9252 Breezy Point Drive  
Breezy Point, MN 56472

Winners will receive dinner for two at Antlers

Little Known Facts About WHITEBIRCH, INC. (Parent Corporation to Breezy Point Resort) - 2006 -

- Number of employees Full time - 125 • Part time - 430
- Employees residing in Breezy Point - 122
- Annual payroll - \$4,840,000
- Crow Wing County Real Estate Taxes - \$490,000
- 2005-06 Season Ice Arena Hockey Tournament teams - 160
- Attendance - 8,400

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George A. Rasmusson



The Passing of the Marina Restaurant & Bar



Demolition of the Breezy Point Resort Marina Restaurant & Bar

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Resort president, watched the demolition, he was asked if he was sad to see it go. He responded, "Absolutely not! This is a great day for the Resort, the community and the environment. It fulfills a major part of our long-term development plan. I think the only ones who are sad to see it go are the lawyers."

The New Restaurant

Construction of the new restaurant began as soon as the dust settled.

Footings for the building have been laid and the massive underground filtration system for the handling of storm water runoff has been installed. This system redirects storm water runoff from the building and parking lot to the filtration system thereby eliminating the direct flow of water into Pelican Lake. The setback from the lake has been increased and will be landscaped with a groundcover of vegetation.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has approved the design and environmental protections of the facility. Thirty

Lakes Watershed not only approved the project but recommended it be expedited.

At 28,000 square feet, the three level facility will feature striking amenities. The lake level will house the Dockside Bar. The restaurant and lounge will occupy the main level and banquet facilities will be on the third level.

The restaurant's design meets or exceeds all building codes. The kitchen will feature state-of-the-art appliances and fixtures. Handicap accessibility has been integrated into the entire structure, creating the need to enlarge restrooms, elevator lobbies and corridors. The interior design capitalizes on the

panoramic views of Pelican Lake.

The construction schedule is ambitious. Work will continue over the winter with a completion date of early May 2008, coinciding with the Resort's hosting of the 2008 Governor's Fishing Opener.

Although the wait has been long and expensive, the new restaurant positions Breezy Point Resort as one of the finest family, timeshare, golf and conference destinations in the Midwest.

*Editor's note: Progress on the restaurant construction may be viewed on the Resort's webcam, at [www.breezypointresort.com](http://www.breezypointresort.com).*

Celebrities Frequented Breezy Point Resort



Wilford H. Fawcett

Wilford H. "Captain Billy" Fawcett rubbed elbows with movie stars, politicians and sports figures, often hosting them at his Breezy Point Lodge. Luminaries such as Jack Dempsey, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Delores DelRio, John Wayne, Rita Hayworth, Clark Gable, Gene Autry, Greta Garbo, Myrna Loy, Carole Lombard, Joan Crawford and others the frequented the Lodge as a getaway from the pressures of public life. Here they were treated as royalty, with their every need attended to.

Harry Truman was another Breezy Point guest. Edward McKim, a friend of Truman's since World War I, told of visits to the Resort in 1932 and Truman's success at the Breezy Point slot machine:

"Captain Billy was quite a shot with a shotgun. He was on the American Olympic team at one time. He had some traps out there, so we did a little shooting with him. He had a couple of guests, one of whom was Dr. Joe Mayo, the son of Dr. Charlie Mayo. Dr. Joe was killed a few years later in an automobile accident. He was the brother of Dr. Chuck Mayo who just retired from the Mayo Foundation. We did a little trap shooting at that time, but we went up there almost every night for dinner. It was a 35 or 40-mile drive. We stopped at a barber shop at Brainerd going up, and he hit

the jackpot in a machine in the lower lobby of the hotel. Then he hit the jackpot up at Breezy Point the same night." (Quote courtesy of wikipedia.)

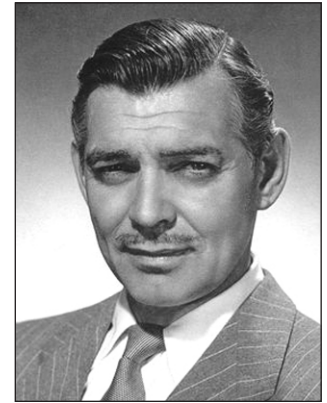
Sinclair Lewis, the first American writer to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature (1927), visited Breezy Point Lodge while working on his novel, Elmer Gantry. While not a guest at the Lodge, he reportedly spent many evenings in the bar, not socializing but just observing the other customers. He stayed in a cabin at the Hamilton residence on the north shore of Pelican Lake.

Most guests arrived by train at Pequot Lakes and were then taken by car to the Lodge. The road was gravel, the weather was

hot and the windows were open. By the time they reached the Lodge, the impeccably dressed guests were covered in a layer of dust. In response to complaints, they were told it's all a part of their "northwoods experience."

Occasionally a group would be furnished their own train car which was pulled from the Twin Cities by the regular train and then left on a siding in Pequot Lakes until their departure.

In more recent times, the Resort hosted Governors LeVander, Perpich, Ventura and Pawlenty, Hubert Humphrey, Bob Allison of the Twins, Viking Paul Krause, Indy 500 driver A. J. Foyt, boxer Scott LeDoux, George Miken -Mr. Basketball and Olympic great Mark Jenner, amongst many more.



Clark Gable



Myrna Loy

The City of Breezy Point Needs Your Help

The City is updating its Comprehensive Plan and needs your input. Whether you're a seasonal or full-time resident or a business owner in the City, your vision for the future of Breezy Point is valuable.

The following describes some of the components of the Plan:

- The Comprehensive Plan is a general, forward-looking growth plan for the city of Breezy Point.

- The Comprehensive Plan includes information relating to demographics, infrastructure, transportation, housing, public facilities, and future land use.

- The Comprehensive Plan anticipates future growth patterns and makes future land use recommendations.

- The Comprehensive Plan suggests locations for future res-

idential developments, commercial developments, industrial developments, and parks.

- The Comprehensive Plan helps to ensure orderly growth and protection of the public health and welfare.

- The Comprehensive Plan is a legally adopted document. It functions as a guideline for the Breezy Point Planning Commission and helps steer Breezy Point planning policy.

Whitebirch, Inc. is most supportive of the Comprehensive Plan process. The City's continued dynamic growth and development need the rational guideposts that can only be acquired through citizen involvement.

Visit the Comprehensive Plan website, [www.breezypoint-plan.com](http://www.breezypoint-plan.com) and let your opinions and visions be heard.

Did You Miss a Copy of the BreezyPointer

Previous issues of the BreezyPointer are available at Breezy Point Resort's website: [www.breezypointresort.com](http://www.breezypointresort.com).



Rita Hayworth

"I don't care to belong to any organization that would have me as a member."  
- Groucho Marx

**Breezy Point REAL ESTATE**

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**Give the Gift That Always Fits**



The handy and easy-to-use Breezy Point Resort GIFT CARDS are now available and can be used for Stay & Play Packages, Antler's Restaurant & Lounge, Breezy Point Gift Shop and the Traditional & Whitebirch Golf Course.

Cards may be created for any denomination and additional value may be added at any time. To order or for more information, call (800) 432-3777.

*Give the gift that's...*



**Great to Give**

*...and Receive*

*Captain Billy's Whiz Bang*



**Best Man**—*"Doing anything special tonight, Jim?"*

Cartoon from the November 1933 issue of "Captain Billy's Whiz Bang". Wilfred "Captain Billy" Fawcett founded Breezy Point Lodge and launched his publishing empire with the Whiz Bang magazine.

*"I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to."*

- Elvis Presley

# ATTENTION

## Breezy Point Timeshare Owners

We have received a solid response from timeshare owners to the new ID Card but still have a number of owners who have not availed themselves of the new card.

As an integral part of Breezy Point Resort's security program, and as encouraged by local law enforcement, the new ID Cards protect our timeshare owners, guests, employees and facilities from unauthorized access to the Resort property.

The new ID Cards replace the original cards, some dating back to the 70s. Timeshare associations not managed by the Resort are not reporting to the Resort any ownership changes. Updating of these records and issuing new ID Cards, at no charge, are necessary for us to adequately monitor the facilities and individuals who use them.

An added plus to the new ID Cards is the discount available to the cardholder on food and gift shop purchases.

While we believe the benefits of the new ID Cards are obvious, owners who opt to continue using their old card should be prepared to show proof of their timeshare ownership while on Breezy Point Property.

**Please call 218 562-4207 to schedule an appointment for the new ID Card.**

*Celebrate the Holidays at*



**Antlers Restaurant & Lounge**



Post and beam construction, six-foot antler chandeliers and a fireplace makes Antlers a wonderful setting for your luncheon or dinner. Our Christmas decorations will enchant your guests. Check out the private room for groups of up to 50 people.

\*\*\* **Conference Center** \*\*\*

Large groups love our Conference Center. Select the Minnesota Room with its huge dance floor, or the cozy Governor's Room with a great view. We have rooms available for 25-500 people and, thanks to Chef Pete Gaylord, the food is the area's best.

\*\*\* **Special Party Guest Lodging Rate** \*\*\*

\$79 room rate (includes breakfast, but not tax). Valid November and December 2007 only. For reservations, call (800) 432-3777

\*\*\* **Gift Shop** \*\*\*

Breezy Point Gift Shop offers a wide variety of apparel and unique gift items, including customized gift baskets. It's the one-stop-shop for everyone on your holiday list. Shop at your convenience all year round. (218)562-7152

