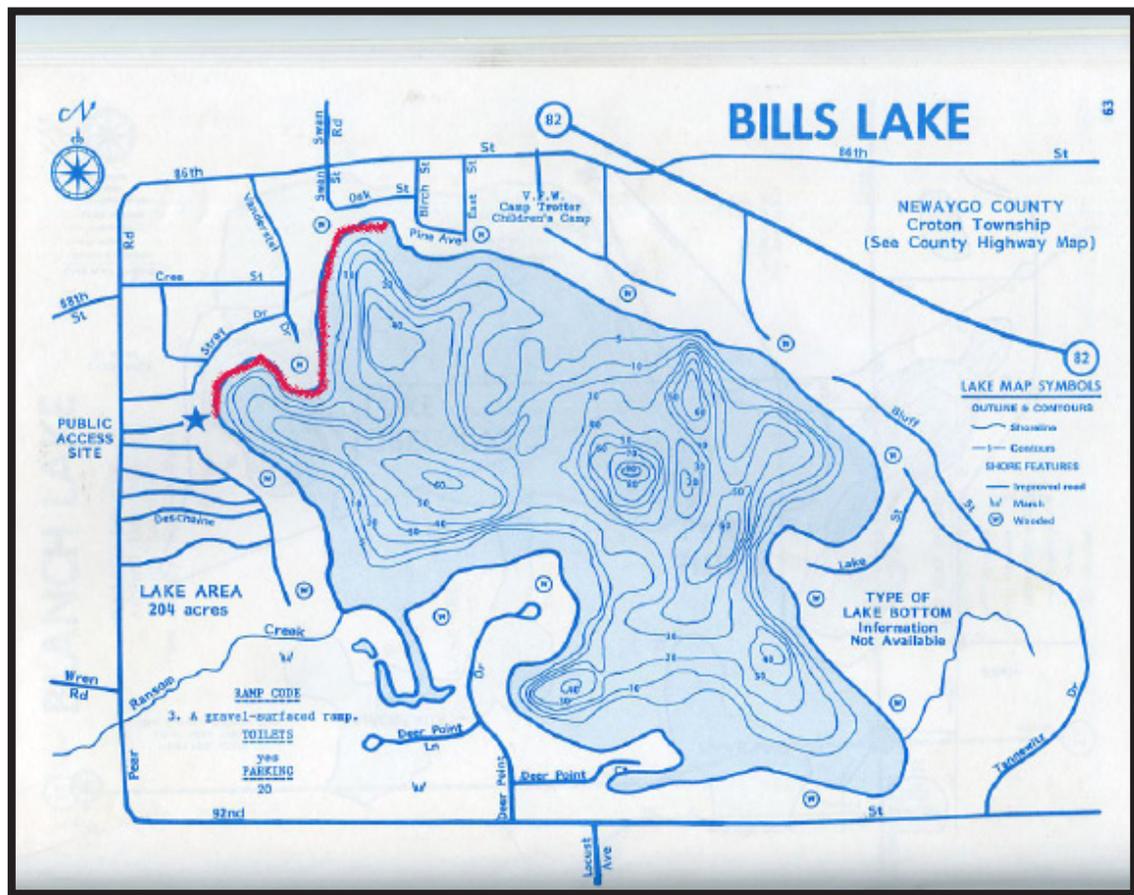


Earliest Owners of Bills Lake Shoreline

Orson Stray and his son, Charles Orson Stray



In 1857, Orson Stray married Mary Elizabeth Bills, the daughter of patriarch Abel Bills. The two put together considerable farmland property that reached down to the west side of the lake shoreline. This ran from the public access through Vanderstel Point and on down and around what became of Swift's Landing. It probably ended where the Bruce Brown cottages were established.

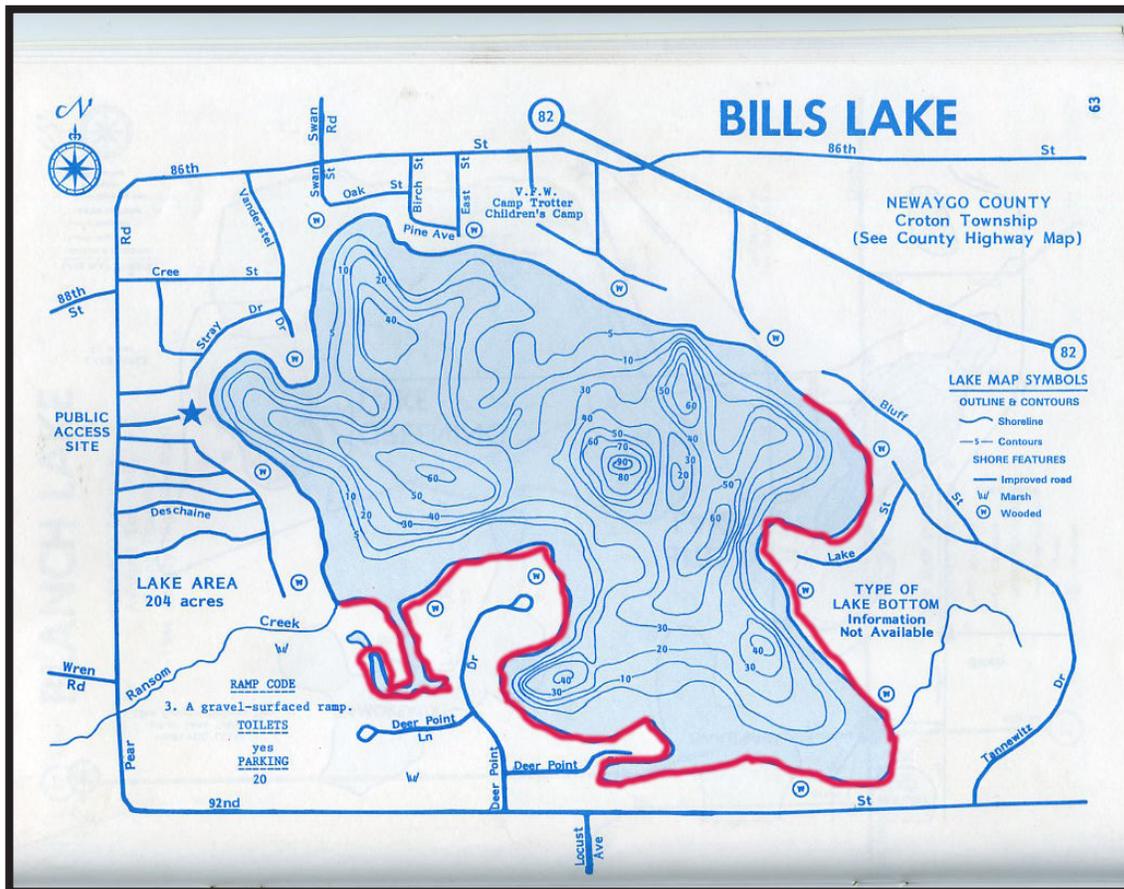
Their son, Charles Orson Stray began selling parcels sometime around the 1920. According to grandson Jim Morrison, he was not a very good businessman. His idea of lake lot parceling was to sell land "from that rock to that tree." It took some court appearances by Jim in later years to straighten things out.

My grandparents, Charles and Anna Lampert, purchased 300 feet of landfront property at the end of Vanderstel Dr. on land contract for \$1,000 in 1939. They bought from the previous owner, not Charles Stray

As late as 1970, John Stray, son of Charles Orson Stray, sold the land that now hosts the Ron Ford white round house. Up the street is the Rhodia home, a property once owned by Eleanor Stray Morrison. She gave it to her brother who in gratitude, named the short expanse of road Morrison St.

Earliest Owners of Bills Lake Shoreline

Joseph Tannewitz, Joseph Tannewitz Jr. and Frank, Charles, and Joseph E. Tannewitz



Since arriving in the Croton area in 1853, Joseph Tannewitz and his son amassed an amazing amount of shoreline property on Bills Lake including where their iconic barn resides. This included the entire Deer Point area, property running down 92nd St. and all of what is now the Apache and Blackhawk zones. This was adjacent to farmland that he owned across the road.

In 1925, grandson Charles platted "Tannewitz Park," where the current Apache and Blackhawk zones are located and began selling lake lots. Ilene Bultema's father purchased one of the first in 1927. Ilene still spends summers on the property.

In 1961, Charles signed away the Deer Point properties on behalf of his two brothers to a group of six investors headed by John Heemstra. Over the years, the development of Deer Point Drive, Dear Point Court, and Deer Point Lane brought the three Tannewitz brothers approximately \$100,000, chump change in today's dollars.