

Ray Bentley and the Newaygo Brewing Company

My grandparents, Charles and Anna Lampert, bought a cottage at Bills Lake in the summer of 1939. Grandpa Lampert died in 1941 but Grandma kept the cottage because we Waits grandchildren from Jackson plus two Van Loo grandchildren from Grand Rapids loved to spend time there in the ensuing summers.

But my grandmother “got on” in years and my father, an electrical engineer at Consumers Power Co, was tired of being the only one in the extended family to work all week and then journey to Newaygo to work on the place during the summer weekends. Besides, believe it or not, we emerging teenagers wanted to stay home in Jackson where the social life was. You have to remember that at that time, there were no jet skis or speed boats or other such toys. Our row boat was powered by a two-horsepower Evinrude that rarely started.

So in 1957, my grandmother sold her cottage to Ray Bentley, a pharmacist in downtown Newaygo. She let 300

lakefront feet on the tip of Vanderstel Point (you could get a clear view of both the public access and turn your head left to see the rest of the lake) go for the princely sum of \$7,500. I sometimes kid visitors by saying that I returned to the lake in 1995 to rectify this error.



Ray and Jean Bentley, as with others, used this place as a summer cottage although living so close to Bills Lake, they were undoubtedly able to visit in other seasons of the year. But in 1982, they tore the cottage down to build a year-around home. Jean, bless her heart, kept a few of the Lampert mementoes for me.

According to current Bills Lake resident, Davey Vanderhyde, Ray’s pharmacy was “a happenin’ place.”

“I went to Newaygo schools through 5th grade” he says, “and as a 5th grader at the (Velma Matson?) middle school on top of the hill, we were allowed to go down the hill at lunch time and the pharmacy was “the place.””

Friday & Saturday
July 10 & 11, 2015



At Newygo
Brewing Co.

On Tap

Irish Red
Kristal Wheat
North York English Ale
70 Shilling Scottish Ale
Citrus Summer Wheat
River Country Pale Ale
Cloud Mountain IPA
RW Bentley Coconut Brown
Brooks House Milk Stout
Newygo Gold Ale
Rooftop Knights Rye IPA
7 Cousins Double IPA
CASK Brooks House Milk Stout
CASK 70 Shillings Scottish Ale

Also Available

House Root Beer
House Cream Soda
House Peach Ice Tea

Lunch & Dinner!

Live Music

Friday 7p-10p

Junior Valentine Duo

Saturday 7p-10p

River Bank Brothers

