

JONE'S OFFICE

Chuck Guarino



What was it like, Papa?

Even as they grow into young adults, my grandchildren still ask their “papa” about the wonderful days of Grand Beach, when the Canadian National Railways owned and operated it.

Recently, one of them asked me about Jones’s Office, which she had heard about from an old-timer who had a cottage at Grand Beach in that era.

Jones’s Office was a little white building, about 20 feet square, which was located about 20 feet beyond the “End of Track” at Grand Beach.

There was always the “fear” that if a train was unable to stop, that it would go right through the little office. People used to say that Jones always left his little office when a train was due to arrive. “Jones” was the affectionate name that Everyone used when speaking of Mr. Phillip Jones, who was the Superintendent of Grand Beach for many years.

He was an elderly gentleman with white hair and a humorous twinkle in his eye. He was liked by everyone. It was Mr. Jones, who hired me as the head lifeguard at Grand Beach from 1941 to 1943. I enjoyed working for him.

It was “Jones” who created the original sun-dial, which the Parks people have copied. His fondest project was the Sunday evening concerts that were held in the Dance Pavilion on Sunday evenings. He acted as the Master of Ceremonies and introduced each performance very eloquently and with humor. The

performers were usually the cottage owner’s children, who either gave a recitation, played an instrument or sang. The Don Wright Orchestra, who played regularly during the week, performed “free” for these weekly concerts.

Naturally, my grandchildren asked about the lady in the photo. They were surprised when told

that she is their grandmother “Verna Guarino”, who they have never known, who passed away in 1979, before they were born. This picture was taken in early spring, 1978.

I hope that you enjoy these little reflections about the “Glory” days of Grand Beach.

See you in our next issue of “The Grand Beach Realty News”.

Chuck (Papa Chuck) Guarino

