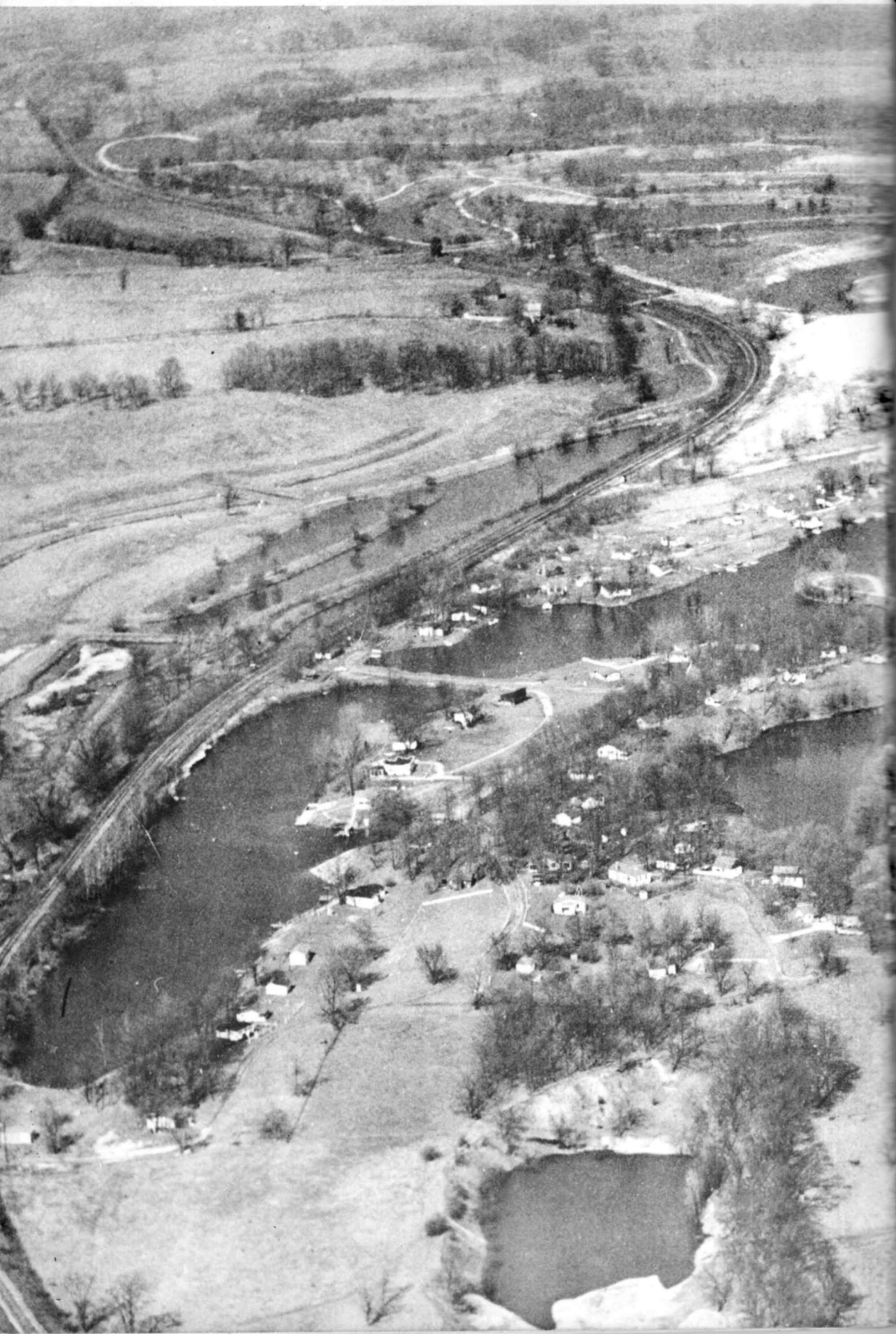


WAYNE LAKES

A PIONEER'S DREAM



By James M. Sage



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This book is dedicated to Crystal and all those like her who feed the ducks and birds, and look after the animals. When we no longer have the lesser creatures, and those who look after them, then we will no longer have a history.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Early Gravel Industry	7
The Wayne Lakes Club	18
Wayne Lakes Park, Inc.	31
Fish and Other Stories	41
Some Unique People	44
Perspective	46
At the Water's Edge	47

— PICTURE SECTION —

The Gatehouse	50, 51, 52
Clubhouse Scenes	53, 54, 55
Horse Show Scenes	56, 57
Wayne Lakes Barn	58, 59
Fish Hatchery	60, 61, 62
Park Entrance Today	63
Wayne Lakes People and Places	64, 65, 66
Fold-Out Map of Wayne Lakes Park	67, 68, 69, 70
Wayne Lakes People and Places	71 through 81

— PARK CHRONOLOGY —

Geology	82, 83, 84, 85, 86
Wayne Lakes Club Rules	87, 88
Letters to Cottage Owners and Club Members	88, 89
Early Electric Bill	91
Letter to Cottage Owners	92
Wayne Lakes Park, Inc. — Code of Regulations	93 through 99
Fred Coppock's Drawings for Clubhouse	100, 101
Early Deed to Park Lot	102, 103, 104, 105
1951 President's Report	106, 107
1951 Annual Report	108, 109
1952 Annual Report	110, 111
Letter About Proposed Dues Increase	112
1953 Annual Report	113, 114
Property Owners Protests	115, 116
1954 Letter to Stockholders	117
Revised Rules and Regulations	118, 119, 120, 121
Selections from Wayne Lakes News	122 through 130
Notice of Court Decision	131, 132
Feb. 1958 President's Letter	133, 134
Proposal to Sell Park	135
Notice of Keys To Park Gate	136



FRED COPPOCK
1878-1972

INTRODUCTION

Imagine a place secluded in rolling hills of the countryside. A peaceful place surrounded by trees and fields, and studded with sparkling lakes. A place where folks are friendly and take time to chat, and to occasionally get together. A place blessed with wild-life, beauty and a touch of serenity. Such a place is Wayne Lakes.

From its beginning, Wayne Lakes has enjoyed the reputation of being a fine resort area—a retreat in the country where one could find rest, relaxation and excellent fishing. Even today this holds true, but many changes have occurred over the years and the Wayne Lakes of today is a much different place from the Wayne Lakes of forty years ago.

Wayne Lakes is a phenomenon. It is the result of the dreams of a farsighted, pioneering individual and can be described in many ways. Indeed, it has been many things to the many people who have come and gone, and who live here yet. My interest in writing an account of the evolution of Wayne Lakes stems from the unique way it came to be developed, and the unique character of the man who made not only Wayne Lakes possible, but many other things in the Greenville community.

In this year of celebration, we look back to another time in order to gain insight and find examples. We look to the pioneers and wonder at their virtues of self-reliance, initiative and hard work. Sometimes it is hard to look so far back. After all, they lived in another time and are like a dream to us now. Perhaps it is easier to look a little closer to home. In this day of ever-growing powers that seek to do everything for the individual, and reduce his importance, it is refreshing to learn about one who took the opportunity and the initiative to create and develop a large concern vital to all of us. Though it is true we are all workers, and hopefully doing our parts, it is also true some are more able, or more inspired. May our country always be one where the opportunity is there for those who would be different.

Many people would point to Wayne Lakes and say it is a development, a community, fitting to be a model. They would be right. Some would point to Fred Coppock and offer him praise for making this unique site for us. He would disagree. Consider a man who plants a garden. He works hard preparing the ground, and carefully plants his seeds just so. He lovingly waters and looks after the plants as they grow to maturity, thinking not just of the great amount of plump, ripe vegetables he can show off to his friends. Rather he works in his garden simply for the pleasure of feeling the dirt beneath his nails, and of seeing the life grow and blossom under his care. Just being in his garden, tending to the necessities, is his pleasure. This is the greater reality.

I am indebted to Fred Coppock's family and friends who gave both insight and information. I am also grateful for the help and information given by Wayne Lakers, some of them pioneers in their own rights, having been here from the beginning. I would like to give special thanks to Lew Williams, and to Mary Abbott, for the tools she gave me.

*Jim Sage
December 28, 1976*