

LESTER H. FURNESS

TRUSTEE OF PINE TOWNSHIP

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FOR THE TIME CAPSULE - October 1, 1976

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Pine Township was first called Berry Township. In 1850 it was organized as an independent Township called Pine -- one of twelve such Townships in Porter County. Beverly Shores and the Town of Pines are a part of the Township. At the present time the population of Beverly Shores is 999, Pines is 1024, and the remaining rural area is 1205, making a total of 3228 people. The rural area is changing rapidly, with much new building taking place in the southern part of the Township. The northern part of the Township has been slowed, due to the influence of the Dunes National Lakeshore Park. A proposal is now before Congress to include the entire town of Beverly Shores in the Park and when this capsule is opened, it may no longer exist as a town.

At one time Pine Township had it's own school, but it has now become a part of the Michigan City Area School Corporation. When the State of Indiana ordered consolidation of schools, many rural schools had to incorporate with schools of larger cities so that students might receive the best education possible for the least amount of money. The rural areas could not furnish such an education without very high taxes. As Trustee of this Township, it is my duty to assess all real and personal property for tax purposes. This money is used primarily for the schools, a small portion is kept in the Township to help the poor and needy, to maintain our Fire Department, our Community Hall, and our Cemetary. The total assessed valuation for the entire Township this year is about \$9,200,000. Our tax rate for the Township is \$5.78 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

Our Fire Dept. is located in the Town of Pines, although it is owned by the Township. It consists of 24 men, all volunteering their help as a part of community service. They receive a small clothing allowance, but no other salary. Many times they are called on for help, day and night, not only for their own Township, but for surrounding areas.

Our cemetary is called the Eight-Square Cemetary, and is located at the south end of the Township on the Laporte-Porter County Line road, near Burdick Road. Burials date back to the 1850's. There are at least four Civil War veterans buried there, and as many as five generations of some of the original families. Many graves are unmarked because in earlier times wooden markers were used, and they are now gone. It is called Eight-Square because around 1850 an octagon shaped church was built there for the nearby Methodist families living there. It was a religious and social gathering place for many years. The cemetary was in back of the church. The building was converted into a schoolhouse after the Civil War. The original 8 cornerstones are still visible where the building sat at one time. The school was closed in 1914. It was used as a Red Cross center during World War I. The building was torn down in 1924. Some of the wooden benches from the church are still being used in the Community Hall today. The solid walnut altar still stands in the Methodist Church in Chesterton.

Our Community Hall was built by members of the Farm Bureau more than 50 years ago, as a meeting place for that organization. It was rented out to other organizations as a way of paying expenses. However, due to lack of membership interest, the members decided in 1975 to deed the Hall to the Township to insure its upkeep. It is now being used by 4-H groups, the Boy Scouts, many family reunions and other community activities. Perhaps in future years a second fire station will be built there, depending on the growth and need of the Township.

It would be most interesting to be able to be present when this capsule is opened -- to see all the changes that have taken place in 50 years! I hope that Pine Township has continued to grow and prosper!

Lester H. Furness

TRUSTEE