

## **John and Lilian Witt**

By, Gladys Heppard

John and Lilian Witt bought property on the northwest shore of Diamond Lake, in the summer of 1920. The property consisted of eighty acres (some in the lake) and one mile of lake frontage. Eighteen Mile Creek has its headwaters in Diamond Lake and runs through this property. The cabin was begun in 1921, built of logs. The work was done mostly by Ed Zehner. The logs were planed horizontally.

Our family spent every year on the lake from May to October. Also, there were many winter visits. There was no road into that end of Diamond Lake except from "D" to Porcupine Lake, then to Nettie Fox's, and then home on a logging road. Usually we left our car at Zehner's, now "Little Bear" and rowed a boat to our place.

Around 1937 the road was built, now known as Diamond Lake Road. Ed Zehner and his team of horses were part of the crew. From 1920 on, for a good many years, there were just four families on the lake: Nettie Fox, Zehners, Thorpe (now Twin Pines) and us. In the spring of 1938, my husband, son and I moved here permanently. My son, John Bennet, finished grade and high school here and then located elsewhere.

The lake was one of the deepest, coldest and cleanest in the area. Fish were bountiful then, mostly bass (small and large mouth), northern pike, crappie and German Browns. Wild animals and game birds were also plentiful.