

1928 Trip to the Cabin by Barbara Curtis

Barbara Curtis shared a story recently with some Long Lake Ladies from her childhood. As Barbara recalls, she was 6 years old. It was 1928. Her family, the Tams, would come to Long Lake all the way from Des Moines, Iowa to their cabin on Pine Haven Beach in their Dodge car. (West side of Long Lake)

Their car trip took them 5 days to get from Des Moines to Hubbard. They had 3 tires blow out on the way. Barbara could predict when the tire would blow as she could smell the rubber. They would stop in parks along the way and sleep in the car. In Backus they stayed with old friends who had previously lived in Des Moines. Jon Tam, being the oldest boy was 15 at the time. His job was to walk in front of the car for the last leg of the trip from Backus to Hubbard (about 30 miles). There were enormous potholes in the dirt road that he would locate and then direct the car safely around. The trip of about 446 miles is less than 8 hours today from Des Moines to Hubbard with the current car technology and paved highways.



Barbara will share more Long Lake memories for the LLAA History now that she is a full-time resident of Park Rapids. She encourages each of us to share our Long Lake History also.