

## 1978 interview with Dr Scott

I'm Dr. Scott, I'm sitting here with Mr. Hedstrom, one of the owners of the Pine Island Resort which was formerly known as the Island Park Lodge which was first built, to the best of my knowledge, back in 1913. It consisted of 13 small log cabins. I don't believe there was any main lodge at that time. And it is my information that it was built by a man named Honeywell, who established the plant in Minneapolis known as the Minneapolis Honeywell plant. I remember when Mr. MB Hamilton was interested in buying this place. My family, Professor Carlisle Scott of the University of Minnesota, my family had built a log cabin out on Lake Beltaine in 1924. And the next year the MB Hamilton family came up from Leavenworth Kansas and built a beautiful home next to us. About the late 1920s, I think it was 1928 or 29, this beautiful island was for sale and Mr. Hamilton was concerned about what his son Andrew would be doing. Andrew, at that time, had graduated from college and was attending Harvard school of Business, with the idea of going into business. His father had been in the glove business and had just sold his interest in the glove business. He was a 1/3 owner with two other men who later became his partners as his business grew, and he sold his interest for about one million dollars. So he had money in hand and when he learned that this resort could be purchased for 25,000, he asked our advice. We came over here, my father and I, my mother and sisters and we all looked it over. We thought it was a wonderful idea, and Andrew, who was their son, was to be the manager of it. He fell in line with the idea, and so it was purchased.

And during the next year or two we watched the revamping of the old log cabins, which had to be jacked up and new logs put under them. Some of them were torn down, and other new cottages were built, and for a year and a half the main lodge was under construction by Mr. Johnson of Park Rapids. Well to continue this dissertation by this beautiful lake. We knew that Hamilton's for several years before they ever considered buying Island Park Lodge, which was the name it went by at that time. I had two sisters and the Hamilton's had a son and two daughters. So the three Hamilton children and the three Scott children were good friends. We were all teenagers or in college at that time. We were attending, my two sisters and I, the University of Minnesota, where I was studying medicine. But the Hamilton's, of course as I said before, came from Leavenworth, Kansas, and they invited us to come down one winter during the Christmas holidays, which we did, and went out to their country club for a dinner dance one night. And then Mr. Hamilton asked me if I wanted to go to the Leavenworth Penitentiary. The warden of the Penitentiary was a good friend of the Hamiltons, so Mr. Hamilton, MB as we called him, Andrew his son, and I went down to the Penitentiary and we were admitted and I remember the feeling that I had, which was a rather strange one, to hear that second big door clank behind me. We went in and went through the cell blocks and then ended up down the main dining room. And we ate with the trustees there in the dining room just off the main dining room. I was very impressed at the time. The men who were in the main dining room finished their dinner a little ahead of us, and they all marched out in double file in the cadence of their feet shuffling along. It was a very vivid memory of mine. We ate off tin plates and out of a tin cup and I remember we had pot roast beef. This is a little bit away from the subject I was supposed to be talking about here, but it's a little aside to the fact that we did know the Hamilton's quite well and just put that in for what it's worth.

But to get back to the story that they didn't know whether they should buy it or not, and they asked the Scotts for their advice. So I came over with my parents, and we thought that it was a beautiful piece of property. In the 30's, we were having a drought and the lakes were going down, but this beautiful Long Lake couldn't go down because of the dam down at the other end of the lake, Hubbard. And the fact that it was spring fed made this lake a lake that would be beautiful regardless of whether we had a prolonged drought. Which we did have in the middle 30's, from 1935 and 6, Lake Beltaine

went down to the point. You could practically walk out across to the property on the other side, it was a regular cow path. So my folks came over and bought a piece of property on Long Lake here. That is just adjacent to this island, and my folks had bought 50, I think it was 56 acres, right adjacent here on the mainland. And as you come into this property, this lake, there's a road that goes off to the right, and that road was put in by my parents. And we lived here, right next to the lodge, for a number of years. And then when Beltaine came back, we went back, and later sold this little cottage over here in this 56 acres of land that we had purchased.

Andrew was quite a formal sort of a person. Andrew's sister Jane was married to Morgan Savage. And Andrew and Morgan ran the resort. To get back to Andrew's personality, he was a very fine person, but he was very prim and very proper. He always wore a white shirt and a tie around the lodge. And they didn't cater to families with children nearly as much as they did to retired adults. Yes, that is right, they wanted a very prim and proper place, and not the type of place that we thought, the Scott's thought, should be the type of place that would be running here. I will say that after restoring the 13 original cabins, I think that most of them were jacked up, new logs were put under them, and then the logs were covered over on the inside. Which my folks thought wasn't the right thing, it should've been kept as the original log cabin, but that was our feeling. We had this cabin on Beltaine so we liked the rustic, nature of the place. But they did improve everything tremendously because they modernized the cabins, put in toilet facilities.

Ok, after the Hamilton's got the buildings built, and the main lodge built, and the resort running here they decided that in the winter months they should be doing something similar to this. They found a building in St. Petersburg, Florida that was built in the style of a colonial. The name of the hotel they bought in St. Petersburg, or the name they gave it was the Mount Vernon. It was a three story hotel, resort hotel. It had a large lobby where the elderly people who spent the winter in St. Petersburg could sit around and visit with one another, play cards. They had a dining room in it, and otherwise just the rooms where the people stayed. So there was really not much to do in the way of care of the place because the hotel was on one of the main streets of St. Petersburg Florida. We visited Andrew and his wife Helen down there about 12 or 15 years ago and went over to their home. They did have a lovely home, on one of the bays or inlets there in St. Petersburg, on a little street called Coffeepot Lane.

I might make this comment that one summer in the early years that the Hamilton's owned this, they had a guest here named Mr. Honeywell, who I was told was the man that established the Honeywell plant. He was, at that time, no longer active with the Honeywell Company, but he was retired. And he was the national bait casting champion of the United States. And so I was introduced to him, because I was interested in casting and he gave me some lessons right out in front here, how to cast. And then I went with him in the boat down the lake. And I recall very vividly that we went in by some stumps, about 5 miles down the lake, on the west side of the lake. And he said I will drop this bait right over by that lily pad. And he dropped the bait over there by the lily pad, and a beautiful black bass struck it. We hauled it in, and it weighed between 4 ½ and 5 pounds. He made 4 more casts, and he caught 3 more fish. So he brought in 4 bass with 5 casts, and not one of the weighed less than 4 ½ pounds. I've never been on a fishing trip quite like it since then.

There were three Hamilton children. Andrew was the oldest, his sister Jane was two years younger than he, and then they had a younger sister who was probably four years younger than Andrew. Jane married Morgan Savage who ran the lodge with Andrew. Betty married someone, I don't know his name, and unfortunately she died in childbirth I believe, or during an ovarian operation. She died on the operating table as a very young woman. she was in her early 30's at the time of her death. And then Andrew Hamilton died this spring of 1978 of the same disease the Lou Gehrig died of,

progressive muscular paralysis, similar to poliomyelitis. The technical name of the disease he died from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The tape ended.....