

Tourist Accommodations

In **1848**, passenger service on the Erie Railroad was extended to the Delaware Bridge/Tusten and Narrowsburg Stations. Farmers started taking in boarders for the summer and found that they could earn more from boarding than from farming the remainder of the year.

Shortly after **1900**, local farmhouses (**Ness Cottage, Rock Lake House**) began taking in boarders, mainly from New York City and the **Half Moon Lake Resort** was constructed. In **1917**, the former **Van Allen Residence** opened as the **Crystal Lake House** and later **Villa Switzerland**.

Ads for these establishments appeared in N.Y.C. newspapers, especially in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

Switzerland at TMR - In the decades before TMR opened, most of the individuals on the property were likely to be of Swiss origin. Three of the proprietors of these establishments were Swiss or French-Swiss: **Hans Howald** (Half-Moon Lake Hotel), **Fred A. Keunzil** (Crystal Lake House) and **Emil Girard** (Villa Switzerland). Their properties were especially popular with tourists of Swiss origin.

Crystal Lake

Crystal Lake Resort

Crystal Lake House

Construction of the 100-person Van Allen residence on Big Pond (later Crystal Lake) began in **1883** as part of the 4,000-acre Van Allen Grange. Nearly every room in the house was supplied with hot and cold running water, and gas manufactured by a machine on the premises. Its foundation is still visible today near the Camp Keowa COPE Course.

In **July 1917**, Fred A. Keunzli leased and then purchased the Van Allen Grange property from Otto Gassmann with the intention of operating a summer resort, called the **Crystal Lake Resort**. He leased the **Crystal Lake House** and started accepting borders. Keunzli's parents were Swiss Inn keepers and he proposed conducting his resort on the Swiss plan. In **October 1917**, Emil Girard, a French-Swiss and a cafe and restaurant owner, purchased the Crystal Lake property from Fred A. Keunzli for \$60,000.



View of Crystal Lake from Crystal Lake House



Crystal Lake House/Crystal Lake Post Cards

Villa Switzerland

In **1920**, the Crystal Lake House reopened as “*Villa Switzerland*,” with bowling, boating, fishing, bathing and bourgeois kitchen. It was popular with guests from Brooklyn. In **1922**, the property was referred to in ads as the **Crystal Lake Resort** and characterized as “*a fine resort and has been liberally patronized both winter and summer for several years.*” In **1923**, Villa Switzerland was described as “*The most beautiful spot in the world, with a private lake, 4,000 acres of forest land, and fishing, bathing and tennis.*” Access was via the Ontario Western Railroad to Monticello, Erie Railroad to Shohola, or by auto from the Dyckman street ferry. Proprietor William J. Ramsey advised patrons that he had only a few reservations left. In **1924**, the **Crystal Lake Resort** was a favorite site for group picnics, including a clam bake with 400 guests.



June, 1922 Postmark

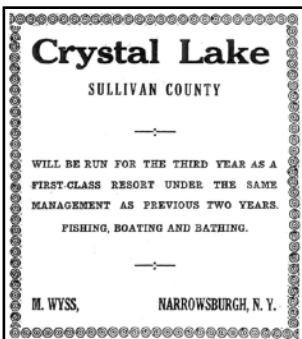


July, 1922 Postmark



**Villa Switzerland and
Crystal Lake Post Cards**

Boating on
Crystal Lake



**Crystal Lake
Resort Ad -
Monticello
Republican
Watchman - May
26, 1922**



**Brooklyn Daily
Eagle - May 30,
1923**

In **1925**, the Crystal Lake property was sold to Isidor Liebow of Brooklyn, who opened it that summer as **Camp Utopia**, a youth camp.

Half-Moon Lake

Freund's Cottage (Before 1901)

Conrad Freund opened his three-story "Freund's Cottage" before **1901** on the hill overlooking Half-Moon Lake in Beaver Brook. Freund was Swiss and his hotel was popular with tourists of Swiss origin.



Freund's Cottage Post Cards

Halfmoon Lake Resort/Half Moon Lake House (1901-1913)

In **1901**, it was known as the Half-Moon Lake House, with room for 25 guests and a cost of \$7 per week. Boating, bathing and fishing were available. Conrad Freund was the proprietor. In **1902**, it was known as the *“Halfmoon Lake Resort,”* *“A resort of rare beauty, situated at an elevation of 2,000 feet above the level of the sea.”* Conrad Freund was proprietor. The rooms were described as “cheerful and light.” Boating, fishing, and bathing were enjoyed, free of charge, using a bathhouse on nearby Halfmoon Lake. Rooms cost \$8 - \$10 per week. In **1905**, Pickerel fishing and hunting were available. The resort now had a telephone connection with the nearby Narrowsburg Erie Railroad station. By **1912**, a music parlor and outdoor bowling alley were added.

NEW YORK, Beaver Brook, Sullivan County
Halfmoon Lake Resort A resort of rare beauty, situated at an elevation of 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. The pleasure of boating, fishing, and bathing may be enjoyed to the fullest extent from private lakes located near the house. The rooms are cheerful and light, the table board is superb; no charge for boats, bathing. Terms \$8 to \$10 per week. Address CONRAD FREUND.

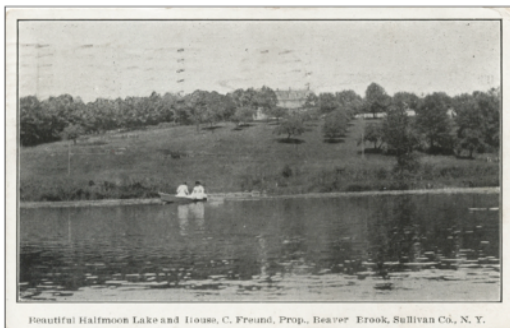
Outing Magazine
 - Sept. 2, 1902

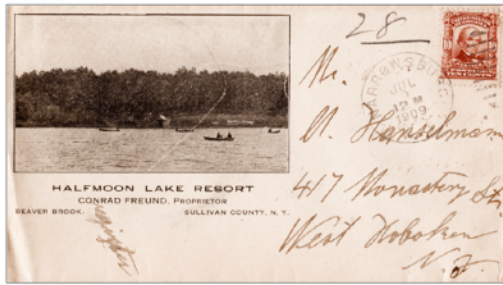
Half Moon Lake House,
 Beaver Brook, Sullivan Co., N. Y.
 A Mountain Resort of Rare Beauty.
 TWO NICE LAKES AT YOUR DOOR.
 Bathing, fishing and hunting; no extra charge for boats; pickerel fishing O. K. Tel. connection with station.
 A Wonderful Country Place.
 Cool and shady; large woods; pine grove.
 On main line of Erie R. R.; station at Narrowsburg.
 Terms \$8 per week and up.
 For illustrated booklet and further particulars address
CONRAD FREUND, Prop.

The New York Press -
 June 18, 1905



Half Moon Lake House post cards





**Halfmoon Lake Resort
Postcard - July 9, 1912**



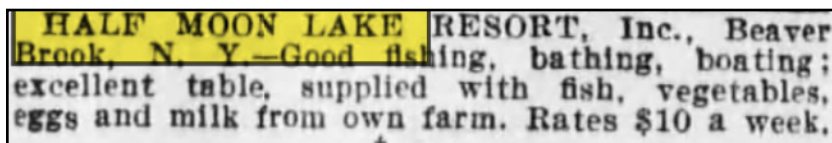
**Brooklyn Daily Eagle
- June 2, 1912**

Halfmoon Lake Resort (1913-1921)

In **1913**, the property was sold to Hans Howald, Otto Gassmann and Carls Michel for \$10,000. Gassmann and Howald were listed as proprietors. Mr. Howald, a native of Switzerland, previously served for ten years as headwaiter in the Ritz-Carlton hotel in New York. Howald first came to Narrowsburg in **1912** as a summer guest. In **1915**, the resort had room for 65 guests and supplied them with fish, vegetables, eggs and milk from its own farm. The resort was extolled for *“the wooded shores of beautiful Half Moon Lake; the shaded and well graded walks and drives; the lake, woods, hills, bowling alleys, spacious veranda. and music parlor.”* In **1916**, it charged \$10-\$12 per week.



**Brooklyn Daily Eagle -
June 6, 1915**



**Brooklyn Daily Eagle -
June 26, 1915**

In **1918**, Hans Howard and his wife Lily made the hotel their permanent home.

Half Moon Lake Hotel (1922-1942)

By 1922, it was renamed the “Half Moon Lake Hotel,” with room for 70 guests. Hans Howald was the sole proprietor and made improvements. The resort was one of the outstanding summer resorts in the Delaware River Valley and became the regular vacation place of Swiss singers and other Swiss visitors from New York City. Hans tended the bar and ran the hotel while Lily managed the kitchen and did all of the cooking. Mr. Howald also raised large St. Bernard dogs. After Mr. Howald's entrance in local politics, it was a favorite rendezvous for county and town politicians and others.



HALF MOON LAKE HOTEL, BEAVER BROOK, SULLIVAN CO., N.Y.



THE LOUNGE, HALF MOON LAKE HOTEL, NARROWSBURG, N. Y.



Half Moon Lake Hotel, H. Howald, Prop., Beaver Brook, Sullivan Co., N. Y.



HALFMOON LAKE HOTEL, BEAVER BROOK, SULLIVAN CO., N. Y.



Half Moon Lake Hotel Cigar Box



ENTRANCE TO HALFMOON LAKE HOTEL, BEAVER BROOK, SULLIVAN CO., N. Y.



Half Moon Lake Hotel post cards

Half Moon Lake Hotel (1942-1953)

In **1942**, Hans Howald nearly died of an illness, but later fully recovered. In **1943**, the Hotel lay virtually in ruins as result of a fire believed caused by an overheated chimney. Fire departments from four nearby communities fought the blaze for six hours and water was pumped in from Fox Lake. The damage cost over \$30,000. The lower part of the building was saved, although that was greatly damaged by smoke and water. The building was rebuilt with improvements, but with a smaller capacity.



Half Moon Lake Hotel after fire - April, 1943



Half Moon Lake Hotel after reconstruction - 1943-1944

In **1948** Hans Howald died at the age of 61. The Half Moon Lake Hotel continued operating.



Brooklyn Daily Eagle
- May 31, 1953

A **1953** newspaper ad described the Hotel as “*ideal for health, rest and recreation*” with room for 30 guests. The rooms were large and airy, all with hot and cold running water. A private lake provided excellent bathing and fishing. All home-cooked meals were tastefully prepared. Rates were only \$45 weekly, \$7 daily.

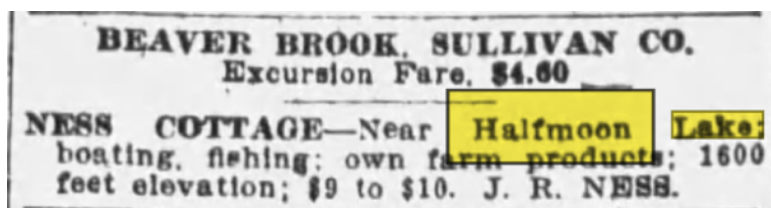
In **1959**, The Greater New York Councils purchased from Hans Howald’s decedents the Half Moon Lake Hotel and adjacent property and the Hotel was demolished. Its foundation is still visible today, on camp property, just off Route 26.

In **1968**, the New Camp Aquehonga opened on the former Hans Howald property.

Fox Lake

Ness Cottage

In **1913**, the Ness Cottage near Halfmoon Lake accepted summer guests. The Cottage was operated by J. R. Ness. Boating and fishing were available. Guests received its own farm products with a board of \$9 to \$10 per week. In July, guests came from Union Hill, N.J., Jersey City and New York City.



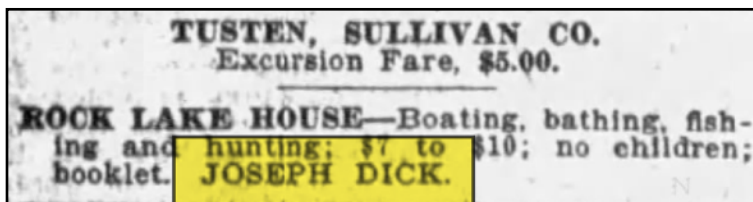
The Brooklyn Citizen
- July 12, 1913

In **1927**, the Scouts purchased the John R. Ness tract as part of the original TMR property purchase.

Rock Lake

Rock Lake House

From **1905** to **1907**, Joseph Dick operated the **Rock Lake House** out of his farmhouse on Canfield's Pond (Rock Lake). Mr. Dick was a professional paper hanger, decorator and frescoer, but for several weeks during the summer months he operated the Rock Lake House with his wife. The twelve guests enjoyed boating, bathing, fishing (presumably on Rock Lake) and hunting. Board cost \$7 - \$10, no children. It was popular with guests from Brooklyn. In **1907**, Joseph Dick died and was buried in the Ten Mile River cemetery. His wife continued accepting boarders until the end of the summer of **1907**.



The Brooklyn Citizen -
Jun 13, 1906