

## The Cabin

As I reminisce about high school and college days during the late 1950's and 1960's, I recall how us guys would try to impress their date on special occasions by taking them to a downtown movie (at the State, Allen or Palace) and follow it by a steak dinner at The Cabin in Willowick. The Cabin provided the perfect setting for a romantic evening. Preparing for this date required cleaning and waxing both our car and ourselves plus wearing a sport coat and tie. The show (at \$0.90 each), a pack of Winston cigarettes, a couple of dollars in the gas tank and a couple of \$2.50 Steaks at The Cabin – a big night for just under \$10.00 – wow that was living! My “steady girl” (now my wife) and I did this on a few occasions – thus The Cabin became “our place”. Over the years we have returned to dine by the fireplace and listen to the entertainment on special occasions. However, we never knew the history of this old establishment. This past Holiday season, while we were enjoying a cocktail and a dance, staff members informed us of The Cabin's history and presented us with a “History of The Cabin” paper. Below are some excerpts from that paper.

“In 1933, during the Great Depression, an unemployed tile setter, who was also pretty much a dreamer, saw an old cabin deep in the woods off Lake Shore Boulevard, and fell in love with it ... his name was “Andy” Anderson.” “The Cabin was made of rough-hewn logs, consisted of two rooms and a lean-to kitchen. It was built fifty years before as a hunting lodge for the Bliss family on Western Reserve land.” “The only heat was from the big fireplace and the bar was an old plank across two saw horses.” “It was Andy's vision to preserve the atmosphere of the hunting lodge”.

“In 1944, Bud Handy teamed with Andy, and took over the operation of the kitchen. He took great pride in cooking delicious food and providing personal services”. Although Andy passed away in 1955, Bud Henry and Betty Hylkema continued The Cabin's tradition.

Following a devastating fire, the Beliches and Durkoskes rebuilt The Cabin in 1994 to closely resemble the original structure and preserve the “Willowick landmark”. So as Paul Harvey used to say, “and now you know the rest of the story”. We are thankful that this establishment remains in business – thus allowing us to relive those long ago special memories.

Frank Zalar  
Class of 1959