

Unprecedented Flood Reported at Conesus Lake

The Livingston Republican

December 8, 1927



The Livingston Inn at McPherson Point surrounded with flood waters in 1927

Waters Reach Heights Hitherto Unknown

Many Cottages are Surrounded

Bad Damage Reported Everywhere

Supt. Meeker's Figures Form Good Story

Conesus Lake - In all the stories this week and last of the floods in the Genesee Valley, the whole attention was centered on the river and its tributaries, and it was a story of unusual interest too; but Conesus Lake was either over-looked or just casually mentioned, and in reality, there were conditions there due to high water that were without any precedent, that will live long in memory and history and that should have constituted just as much of a newspaper story as the river floods.

The heavy and long continued rains of the late days of November filled the small streams flowing into Conesus lake and the water from the side hills ran down in copious quantities so that the lake rose to an

unprecedented level, and cottage property suffered. Cottages at different points stood in flood water as much as 200 feet from the new shore line, and on Saturday a severe storm lashed the water to fury and many windows were broken and other damage was done by the force of the raging waters.

Supt. George Meeker went completely around the lake and from his notes which are accurate and official we have obtained the data for this article.

At Pebble Beach, near Lakeville, the water is up to the supports of the cottages. At Gray Shore, it is even with the porches of the cottages, while at Gray Wood, just south, one cottage near the lake, The Lowe cottage, is surrounded by water.

At Eagle Point a remarkable scene has been presented. The point was covered with water which extended back 350 feet from the lake and rose over several of the sea walls. Dr. Zimmer of Rochester has a tennis court which is supposed to be above the high-water mark, yet this was completely submerged.

At the pump station the water in the well reached a height of 11 ft. 8 in. which breaks the record, the former high mark being 11 ft. 3 1/2 in., in May, 1916. At Sand Point the water reached the toilet house which is 97 1/2 feet from the lake.

Long Point seems to have escaped in a large degree, the cottages there having fared the best of any at the lake. Just above Long Point near the McGinn cottage the water came up beside the highway, and may have crossed it at some time, but not to any noticeable depth.

Colonel Tooley's cottage was occupied by a family who had to rush out at three o'clock in the morning as the water was coming in the windows and naturally were thoroughly alarmed. At John Colson's the water rose to within nine inches of the top of his sea wall, considered more than high enough for any Conesus lake freshet. For those who are familiar with the cottages by number it might be stated that this is cottage 135.

The Toney Aprile cottage, formerly the club house and later the J. V. Sturges cottage, has been beautified by Mr. Aprile and one improvement was a tennis court near the shore, which was completely under water. Many of the cottages in this neighborhood are on a high bank or hill and escaped damage. Cottonwood Point was partly under water which reached the floor level of some of the cottages.

At the head of the lake a freak condition was presented. There are two cottages there, one owned by Rev. George K. Ward, and in former floods these have been reached by the high waters, but last week when a record flood height was reached they were high and dry, presenting an unexplainable condition, as it is a law of nature that water seeks a level, and yet it failed to do so. But there was some natural reason for it, of course, which probably could be explained.

On the east side of the lake at the Joy farm near the head, No. 264, the water reached the steps of the cottages. A little to the south is the Dan Walkley place where a little box car cottage beside the lake is surrounded and just below which the water reaches to the highway. At Day's farm the water approaches close to the highway putting many cottages in the water.

At Excelsior Springs, there is a flight of steps down a bank leading to the lake, and the water reached these steps. The water reached the windows of cottage 326, and that cottage is ninety feet back from the shore of the lake at its ordinary level. William Houston's cottage, 334, is under water and was noticeably damaged by the Saturday storm. It reached the porch of Dr. Fraley's cottage.

At Hartson's Point cottages 365, 366, and 367 were in the water, which condition was aggravated because a small creek flows into the lake right there.

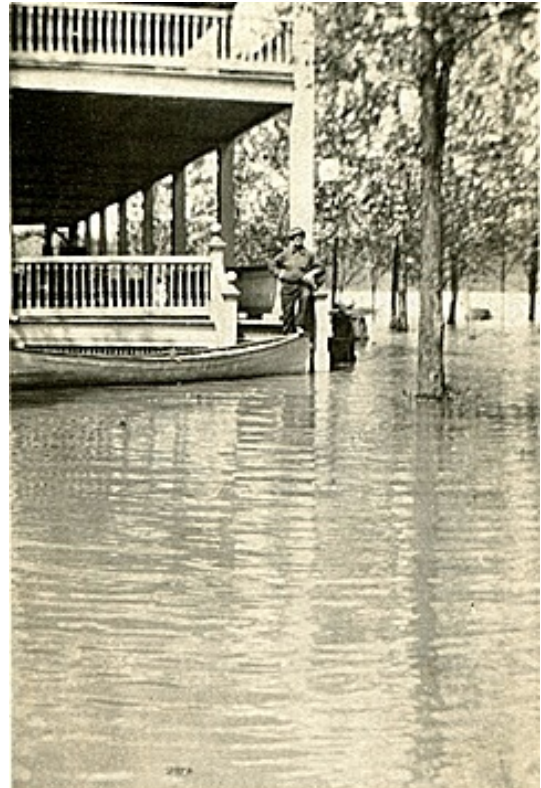
McPherson Point is almost completely under water. The big hotel is marooned and nobody attempted to approach it. The dance hall floor just to the east was not under water as had been reported.

On the south side of that point the water reached the windows of some cottages. The Tompkins store at the north of the Point was in water almost surrounding it. At cottage 433-D the water reached almost to the highway.

All the cottages at Orchard Point were in the water and the driveway was submerged, making it impossible to drive through. Between there and Cedar Crest conditions were similar, affecting the cottages from 472 to 480. The Whetmore cottage was reached by the water, a condition never known before. Half of Dr. Becker's cottage is in the water, also and unprecedented situation.

The beautiful new cobblestone cottage of the Hetzler family of Rochester saw the water over its sea wall, a condition that never was or possibly could have been anticipated.

Wilkins Point, 568-A, was a veritable swamp, and cottages 579 to 571-B were in the water, while from the Langlois property to the Lakeville ice house, a large low level tract, has been completely under water.



The Livingston Inn at McPherson Point surrounded with flood waters in 1927. The person is unidentified.

This describes conditions all around the lake, and it is noteworthy that it was the highest level ever reached, or at least on official record or within anybody's memory. May of 1901 saw a record height which was beaten in May 1916, the latter having stood as the record until last week when it was beaten again. The well in the pump station according to Supt. Meeker's figures showed a height of 11 feet 8 inches, while in 1916 mark was five inches below that. The average of November levels for the past 29 years has been 6 ft. 7 1/2 inches. It is interesting perhaps in connection with this there was one occasion when the lake was so low that no water flowed through the outlet, the date being May, 1899.

Some alarm was expected that this overflow of water might reach toilets and cause danger of a typhoid epidemic, but no uneasiness need be felt on that score as all toilets have been replaced by septic tanks and none of these were reached by the flood waters.

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