

# Time Tracs by Jim Ingram

*(A series on Lake Orion in the 1960s)*

Several prominent labor leaders have been associated with Lake Orion from the 1920s through the 1960s.

The first that I'm aware of was Robert Ewald, president of the Bricklayers Union in Detroit. He was on the Detroit City Council and Ewald Circle in that city is named after him.

In 1926 he built a summer home on Lake Orion. The estate, called "Alpine Villa," consisted of a large Swiss style cottage guest house, a two story boathouse, a large garage with entertainment room below and spacious well landscaped grounds.

The boathouse was known as "Noah's Ark" with Noah and his animals painted along the sides. "Alpine Villa" still exists at 480 Cushing Drive.

Walter Reuther, president of the United Autoworkers Union, lived on an estate in Goodison with Paint Creek running through it.

In the 1960s he was one of several persons living in that area to bring Paint Creek pollution to the attention of the state of Michigan. This in turn led to the construction of Orion's sewer system and the cleansing of Lake Orion and Paint Creek.

The most widely known of these labor leaders was of course Jimmy Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Hoffa had a cottage on Square Lake in the 1950s and 60s.

He would expand the cottage, add a guesthouse, garages, tennis courts and even paved the road from Clarkston Road to this property. The Hoffas later moved here year round.

It was often rumored that Jimmy Hoffa had a place on Lake Orion. I think this was the result of there being an estate on Heights Road with a large "H" on the barbecue fireplace at the lakeshore pa-

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**... and the waiting continues**

The front page of The Lake Orion Review in July 1975 and James Jr., coming to the Allen home to spend the afternoon cruising Lake Orion in their boat.

tio.  
But such was not the case. Hoffas did have their Chris-Craft on Lake Orion because Square Lake didn't allow motorboats.  
They moored it in the boathouse of Paul Allen on Bellevue Road. Allen, president of the Riggers Union, was a good friend of Hoffa.  
I can remember the Hoffa children, Barbara

The front page of The Lake Orion Review in July 1975 and James Jr., coming to the Allen home to spend the afternoon cruising Lake Orion in their boat.  
It was from his home on Square Lake that Jimmy Hoffa left that fateful day to keep his luncheon appointment at Macus Red Fox in Bloomfield. Mrs. Hoffa continued to live on Square Lake for many years after Hoffa's disappearance.