

Time Tracs

By Jim Ingram

The John P Kelly Farm

Part Two (see last week's issue for the first installment)

Homer J Kelly his wife Grace and their two children Barbara and Homer Jr were living at the Kelly house on Square Lake when Lucien Kelly died

It was now Homer Sr's turn to manage the Kelly Farm

He and Grace continued to run Kelly's Park. In addition Homer Sr was active with Orion State Bank and developed the Kelly Oil Co which provided heating oil to the area

Mr Kelly following in the tradition his father had established was active in civic affairs

At various times in his life he held the positions of Village Council member Village President and Supervisor of Orion Township

In 1965 Homer Kelly Sr sold 172 acres of the Kelly Farm to Connie Krajicek and Joseph Verbanac

Krajicek dredged canals from Lake Orion at Spring Lake Bay throughout the Kelly Farm. She developed Marina Park Subdivision with road access off of W Pine Tree Road

In the 1990's the acreage off Joslyn Road would be developed as Marina Point Subdivision by Pulte Homes



Kelly's Park on Square Lake circa 1940 Photos courtesy of Jim Ingram

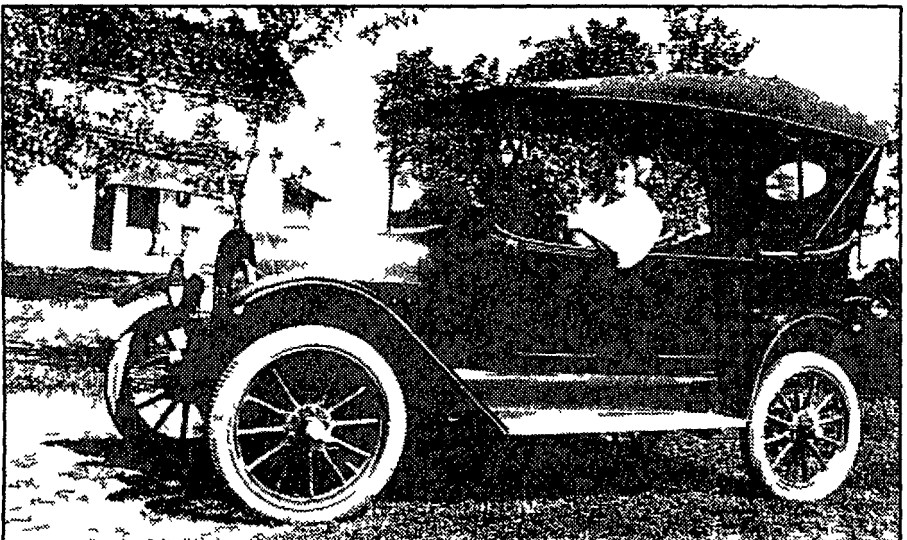
Verbanac developed the property on Dollar Bay for single family homes in the 1970's

The lake frontage on Square Lake which was the former Kelly's Park was also developed for single family homes in the 1980's and 1990's

The history of the Kelly Farm is representative of the development of Orion Township from farm to summer resort to suburban development

Barbara Kelly Keller is the last of the Kelly family residing on the Kelly Farm property

She is one of my neighbors living in the home her parents built on Lake Orion after selling the Kelly Farmhouse and farm



Sylvia Kelly in her automobile circa 1915 at the rear of the Kelly Farmhouse