

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

- SS Sho-Boat (Image from Utah Lake State Park), (Pg. 2)
- Turn of the Century Resorts (Image from Utah Lake Stake Park), (Pg. 3)
- Current Activities of Utah Lake (Image from Utah Lake State Park), (Pg. 4)
- Articles of Utah Lake Resorts (Pgs. 5-7)
- Images from the *Utah Lake: Legacy* Book
 - Saratoga Resort (Pgs. 8-9)
 - Geneva Resort (Pgs. 10-16)

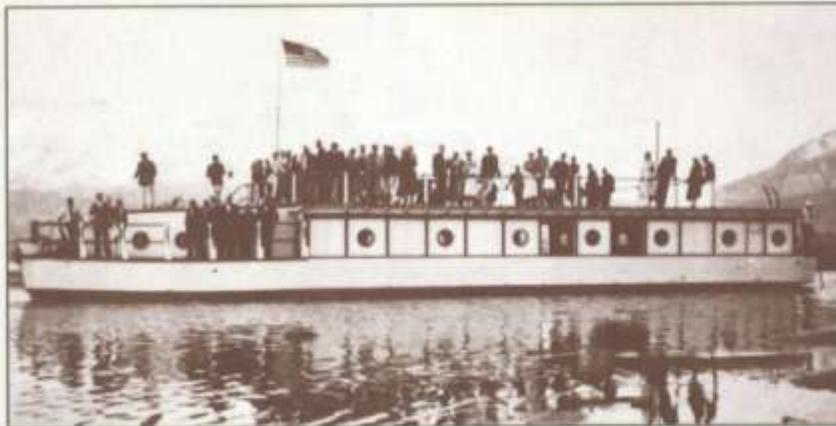
S.S. SHO-BOAT OF UTAH LAKE RESORTS

S.S. Sho-Boat

The S.S. Sho-boat was one of the highlights of Utah Valley during the Depression. Though times were tight, people felt the price of fifty cents per adult and twenty-five cents per child was worth a ride on Utah Lake.

The boat took passengers on tours to Bird Island and entertained them with performers who did ski stunts in the water. The Sho-boat also had a stage, dance floor, kitchen and bathrooms.

It was built in 1931 and ran for 14 years. At 90 feet long and 22 feet wide, it was the largest vessel ever to roam Utah Lake.



The S.S. Sho-boat was a popular diversion from Depression Era woes.

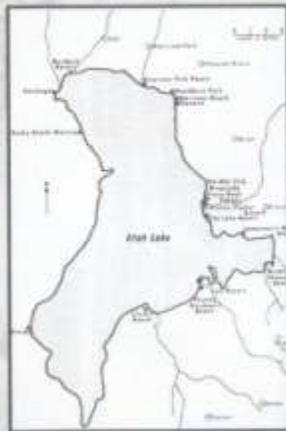


Hewitt Strong and Elmer Smith were two friends who built the S.S. Sho-boat. Construction took place near this spot. They often performed stunts themselves.

UTAH LAKE TURN OF THE CENTURY RESORTS

Turn of the Century Resorts

More than 20 "pleasure resorts" were scattered around Utah Lake starting in the late 1800s. These were similar to the resorts at the Great Salt Lake but boasted a fresh water lake experience.



This map shows the many hot spots for fun and relaxation available around the lake from the late 19th century to the 21st century.

The resorts offered music and dancing, dining and thrill rides in addition to swimming. They were popular places for locals to gather.

Though the resorts of that era are long gone, today there are five public and two private marinas along the lake. The lake is still a favorite place for boating, fishing, picnics and swimming.



Provona Beach The Resort Beautiful On Lake Utah

Let's go! A big swim, then nestle back to play on. Pure lake breezes. Basking! Basking! BASKING! ... and a world of fun and frolic.

Dancing, Parties! Outings!

Good music and a big solid single floor in an open air dance pavilion. Dainty dances and private dancing parties.

Refreshments at City Prices!

Complete fountain service from large new fountain just installed. Best Beer in the state! Hot Supper! Beverages! Refreshments and all readily and conveniently at city prices.

Real Pleasure At Provona Beach
At The Mouth of Provo River



At Provona Beach Sunset Bathing Is Great

It's great! Basking in the warm of Provona Beach. The excitement is there! A big broad, clean sandy beach. Bathing suits, bath towels and every convenience. The ideal place to bring the whole family for a swim. Jump in the car - it only takes a few minutes to get there. Drive straight west on Center St.

Eat Your Luncheon In Cool Breezes
Under the Trees at Provona Beach

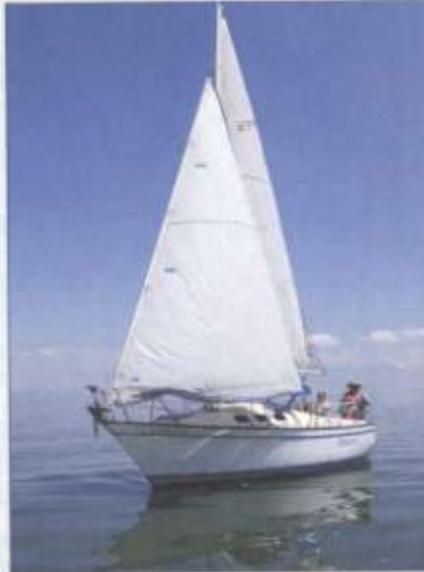
CURRENT UTAH LAKE ACTIVITIES

Welcome To Utah Lake

Utah Lake is the largest naturally-occurring freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River. It is a unique lake in many ways. It is home to the June sucker, a federally endangered species not located anywhere else in the world. Currently, the lake boasts five public marinas and 98,000 surface acres of water. It is warm enough to waterski in the summer and cold enough to go ice fishing in the winter.

As you walk along the trail, you will learn about the different uses of the lake throughout history and the important issues facing the lake today.

Please be aware that this is a wetlands area. It is home to many types of wildlife. Help us in our ongoing efforts to restore and protect this area by doing your part. Throw trash in garbage cans and stay on the trail.



The Cleanup

In 2006, a major cleanup of the area removed 226 tons of material. The haul included junk from mattresses and old dryers; and green waste chipped on site by Utah South Valley Solid Waste District.



UTAH LAKE RESORTS ARTICLES

Utah Lake as a gathering place

D. ROBERT CARTER | Posted: Saturday, June 24, 2006 11:00 pm

(Editor's note: This is an excerpt from "Utah Lake: Legacy" by Robert Carter)

"With the development of 'pleasure resorts,' as they were called in the late 1800s, came an awakening of a new side of popular culture. ... More than 20 resorts have been in operation around Utah Lake, including the big three: Saratoga, Geneva and Provo Lake resorts. Other popular recreation sites included Utah Lake Resort (also known as American Fork Resort), Lehi (Murdock) Lake Resort, and Provona Beach Resort.

"The great possibilities of Utah Lake as a boating and bathing center are gradually being impressed upon the citizens of Provo. Strangers who visit it are surprised that more interest is not taken in this beautiful sheet of water." (Excerpt from "Andrew Jensen's Private Journal," July 4, 1893. Translated from the original Danish by himself.)

One of the first resorts to cater to the new crowds of pleasure seekers also enjoyed the longest life. Saratoga was named after the famous New York resort. It made its debut on July 24, 1884 to a crowd of 1,000 people. .. Saratoga advertised regularly and continued to change with the times. In 1943, a newspaper advertisement screamed, "SWIM Saratoga!" The ad boasted such sanitary features as "modern chlorination" and "fast filters" in an attempt to calm the rising fears that polio was spreading through the use of Utah County's public bathing areas. ... In 1968, a fire destroyed much of the resort. ... The resort operator quickly called in crews of workers to remove the charred debris and rebuild the resort. Saratoga had a successful Memorial Day reopening three weeks later.

In 1893, John Dallin opened Geneva Resort. It was located on the east shore of Utah Lake where the Lindon Boat harbor is today. Geneva offered boating, picnicking, dancing in a beautiful pavilion, a comfortable hotel complete with a bar and a bowery where lunch was served every day. ... Ads touted the best of everything, including "bass fishing ... superior to any in the territory," "grand moonlight excursions," and special resort discounts to fishing and excursion parties. ... The Provo Band or the Oleo Jazzy Orchestra often provided the music for folks who felt like kicking up their heels.

Neils Omanson opened Garden City Resort near the mouth of the Provo River in June of 1889. ... After Garden City Resort closed, the Provo Lake Resort was born. Its managers beckoned Provo locals to visit and enjoy the resort "owned by Provo people managed by Provo people." ... The resort also offered locals a dance pavilion, a restaurant and bar, a boathouse and convenient transportation via rail, thanks to the Provo City Railroad.

This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page A1.\

Utah Lake Resorts

UTAH LAKE RESORTS Settlers of the Utah Lake area, attracted by its sandy beaches, built resorts which provided dancing, boating, swimming and picnicing. The earliest sites and their proprietors were "Woodbury Park" Pleasant Grove 1880, B.W. Driggs Jr., "Old Lake", first called "Snail Island", Provo 1883, Don H. Corry and R.H. Dodd; "Geneva", Orem 1888, John Dallin; "Lincoln Beach", 1892, John Hallett; "American Fork", 1892, Chas. Roberts & Samuel Dean; "Murdock", Lehi 1894, George Murdock. "Saratoga", a warm spring resort near the lake west of Lehi was built in the late 1860's by John Beck, and is still in operation in 1970.

UTAH LAKE RESORTS ARTICLES

Developers propose Utah Lake resort idea

BARBARA CHRISTIANSEN - North County Staff | Posted: Wednesday, June 21, 2006 11:00 pm

Developers are hoping that north Utah County is ready for a resort on the shores of Utah Lake.

Several years ago, the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council updated its land use plan to designate an area surrounding the boat harbor on the north end of Utah Lake to go into a resort zone.

Now the owners of nearly 17 acres of land have expressed interest in creating a resort adjacent to the city boat harbor.

Ruben Adams, a property owner who appeared before the Planning Commission June 17 to present a proposal for the property, said the area had great potential.

"There is an undiscovered location in central Utah where we can have a complete experience -- that is in American Fork," he said.

"Our whole idea is to give something to the community that can last into the future," Adams said. "It can give a great deal of enjoyment. It is a convenient place to recreate. It is not Lake Powell, but it is not 300 miles away, either."

Adams appeared before a work session of the Planning Commission on Saturday morning.

He suggested making the land a destination resort.

"Each resort we are aware of has many of these common components in their commercial plan," he wrote in the document he submitted. "Our property is extremely well suited as a part of the overall destination. Our goal is to provide a commercial location that is pleasurable to the eye and convenient for everyone to use.

It could include boat and RV storage, a convenience store and restaurant, condominiums, time shares or a hotel, and a facility to sell and/or service boats and other watercraft.

Commissioner Joe Gordon questioned some of the commercial uses proposed.

"The question is, when the city identified it as an overlay zone, were they thinking about things that would augment the harbor itself" he asked.

Gordon said there had been several resorts of various types located near the lake, including the Lindon Marina and Saratoga Resort. Some were privately owned and others were owned by municipalities.

"There has to be a profit for a private sector," he said. "You have to have enough diversity and base for them to succeed."

Adams said the proposal would accomplish that while not detracting from the harbor.

"We are trying to accomplish several things and enhance what is going on at the boat harbor," he said. "There would be storage facilities as an ancillary benefit. Valet boat launching would mean people would not have to bring their trucks and park along the road.

"We would hope we could provide something that is not an eyesore," he added.

Planner Rod Despain said there was a continuum of options for the area, starting with camping, which is already being done.

"There is the issue of housing," he said. "A few rental cottages would probably be consistent (with the resort zone as written). High rise apartments are not consistent."

UTAH LAKE RESORTS ARTICLES

Despain said he would prepare a proposal for a recreation resort zone, which the city could use to guide development in the area.

If the Adams property is to be used for resort plans, the city could have to change its general plan since some of the land Adams owns is outside the area designated to be a resort.

Despain said the city needs to be aware of unintended consequences, something he has championed for years as he writes ordinances.

People looking at a profit aren't going to put in things the city wants that don't make money, Despain said.

"I feel very uncomfortable with what I have proposed (for the initial draft of an ordinance). It created unintended consequences," he added.

Adams called attention to Garden City, at the south end of Bear Lake on the Utah-Idaho border.

"Garden City stopped thinking 'resort' and starting thinking 'destination,' " he said. "It has eye appeal."

He reassured the commissioners.

"We are not professional developers. We are neighbors," the Highland resident said.

This story appeared in North County on page A1.

Posted in [Local](#) on *Wednesday, June 21, 2006 11:00 pm*

UTAH LAKE RESORTS – SARATOGA RESORT

SARATOGA RESORT.

One of the first resorts to cater to the new crowds of pleasure seekers also enjoyed the longest life. Saratoga was named after the famous New York resort. It made its debut on July 24, 1884, to a crowd of 1,000 people. Saratoga, located on the north end of Utah Lake west of the Jordan River, promised comfortable, year-round bathing in water brought in from hot springs.

At one time during the early 1900s, the owners planned to create farm parcels and suburban homes on the lake front. It was to become a bonafied town, complete with sidewalks and streets, but plans for a city didn't materialize until nearly 100 years later.

Saratoga advertised regularly and continued to change with the times. In 1943, a newspaper advertisement screamed, "SWIM Saratoga!" The ad boasted such sanitary features as "Modern Chlorination" and "Fast Filters" in an attempt to calm the rising fears that polio was spreading through the use of Utah County's public bathing areas. By 1950, Saratoga had undergone major renovations. A new entrance and lobby was added to the resort's main building. In the dressing rooms, pipes circulating hot water were placed under the concrete floors to warm the feet of guests. In the pool, a new water filtration system was installed. Landscaping was also improved.

In 1968, a fire destroyed much of the resort. Lost in the disaster was the main building where the indoor pool, dressing rooms, laundry, ticket office, snack bar, and gift center were located. The resort operator quickly called in crews of workers to remove the charred debris and rebuild the resort. Saratoga had a successful Memorial Day reopening three weeks later. In the 1970s, the "Kamikaze" waterslide challenged resort patrons to take the plunge. Two stories in height, the slide took those who dared on a wild ride that ended in the former wading area. In the early 1980s, Utah experienced a succession of record-high water years. Utah Lake engulfed hundreds of miles of shoreline and rose to its highest point in history. Rumors that Saratoga was under water initially kept people away from the resort, but once the public realized that their beloved leisure spot was up-and-running, crowds of people returned. By this time, the resort was a full-fledged amusement park with a Ferris wheel and thrill rides.

Another set of plans surfaced to develop the area into a city, and today, Saratoga Springs is truly a lake community. Residents can easily access beaches and boating areas. Yet, memories of the old resort aren't the only pieces of Saratoga that are still around – remnants of the Ferris wheel and swimming pool can be found near the beach.

"What should be a very attractive feature at Saratoga this summer was added...this week. The new feature is a 20-passenger launch, "Utah Bell," which will be used for amusement and passenger service"

— *The Lehi Sun*, June 30, 1921.

UTAH LAKE RESORTS –
SARATOGA RESORT

SPLASH!

Saratoga

UTAH'S POPULAR SUMMER RESORT

NOW OPEN

EVERY DAY—EVERY NIGHT

Bathing Boating
Fishing Dancing
Cafe Service

DANCING EVERY SATURDAY
OPENING DANCE TONIGHT.



Everybody's Going!

UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT

GENEVA RESORT.

In 1893, John Dallin opened Geneva Resort. It was located on the east shore of Utah Lake where the Lindon Boat Harbor is today. Geneva offered boating, picnicking, dancing in a beautiful pavilion, a comfortable hotel complete with a bar, and a bowery where lunch was served every day. Dallin had also supervised operations for Harrison Park Resort which opened in 1889, but with Geneva, he had a winner. Ads touted the best of everything, including "Bass Fishing...Superior To Any In The Territory," "Grand Moonlight Excursions," and special resort discounts to fishing and excursion parties. Dallin catered to private groups as well as the general public and found ways to make both happy. The Provo Band or the Oleo Jazzy Orchestra often provided the music for folks who felt like kicking up their heels.

**"They had a hotel there
...and in the lobby...
was this little store
where you could buy
candy bars and ice
cream. I've never tasted
strawberry ice cream
as good as since then."**

— Rex Blake, 87, Vineyard, UT.

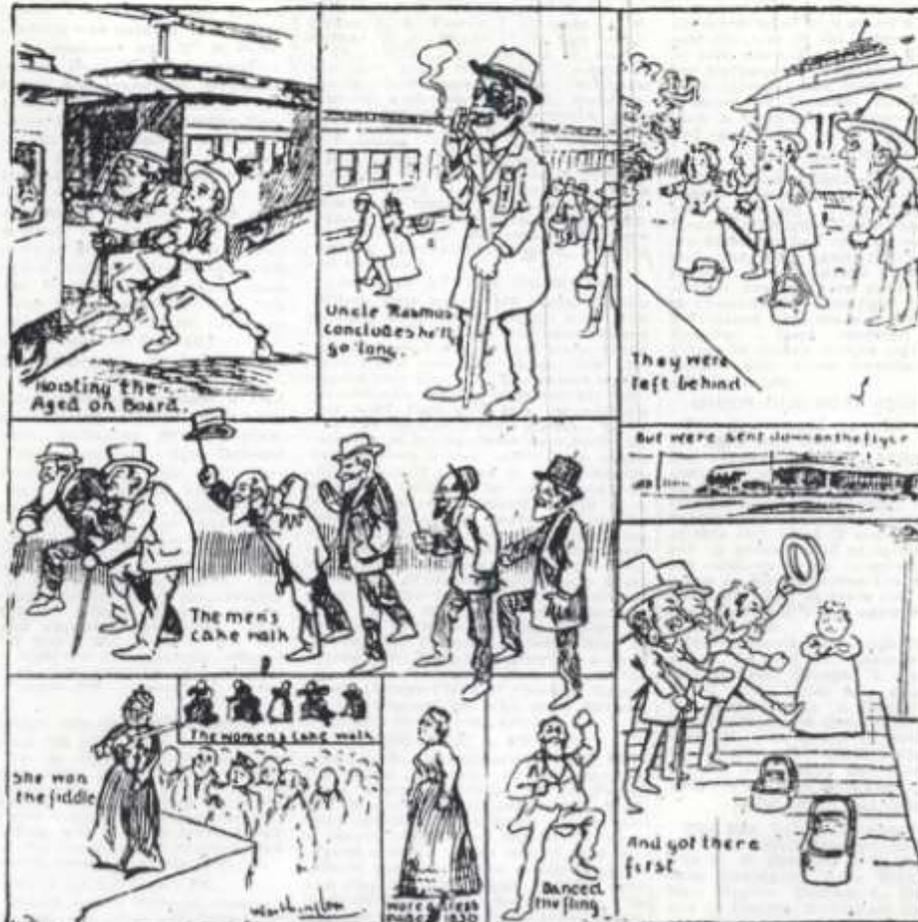
UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT



UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT

OLD FOLKS GO TO GENEVA.

Nearly Twelve Hundred of Them, all Over Seventy Years of Age, Enjoy Themselves
at the Utah Lake Resort.



UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT



Geneva, Utah Lake

UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT

Geneva.

This lovely fresh water resort, at Battle Creek station on the main line of the K. G. W. railway, and on the east shore of Utah Lake is now open to the public. Beautiful, shady, delightful fishing, splendid boating and bathing. First class hotel, with bar, lunch bowery and dancing pavilion. Finest place in Utah for a day's outing, summer excursions and picnic. Special arrangements Monday for the entertainment of societies, schools, etc. Only 15 minutes ride from Provo, and railway fare for the round trip only 25 cents.

JOHN DALLIN, Prop'r.



UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT

DURING THE JAZZ AGE, COUPLES FLOCKED TO GENEVA'S PAVILION TO DANCE TO THEIR FAVORITE RAGTIME TUNES. EVEN THOUGH PROHIBITION WAS IN EFFECT, CLANDESTINE HOLIDAY PARTYGOERS OFTEN POPPED A CORK. *AMERICAN FORK CITIZEN*, JULY 3, 1920.

The Salt Lake Famous
Oleo Jazzy Orchestra
WILL PLAY AT
Geneva, Saturday Eve.,
JULY 10 

Everybody is going—If you don't say this music is great—**MONEY REFUNDED.**

Tickets, 75 cents Extra Ladies 25c

UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT

GARDEN CITY RESORT.

Nelle Omanson opened this resort near the mouth of the Provo River in June of 1888. Visitors found everything they needed to have a wonderful time. There were bathhouses and swimsuits to rent. Provo's Silver and Opera House bands and Professor Kent's military orchestra furnished music in a large dance pavilion that catered to the dancing crowd. A half-mile horseracing track had spectators cheering with excitement for their favorite nag. The steamer *Eastmond* provided a way for residents of the north end of Utah County to get to the resort by water. As many as 125 passengers could take a grand ride on the vessel, which was 40 feet long by 12 feet wide, and cruised at a speed of about 7 miles per hour.

VISITORS FOUND EVERYTHING
THEY NEEDED TO HAVE A
WONDERFUL TIME.