

Murray's Inn

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Murray's Inn from Indian Point



1928-41ca- Murray's Inn from Lau Road

In 1906, William Murray, assistant light house keeper at White Lake, purchased a portion of “The Flats” at Sylvan Beach from then owner A. J. Flitcraft of Chicago. The “flats” were originally camping grounds of Chief Wabaningo and his Ottawa Indian Tribe.

Murray built a basement in which he stored some 60 row boats, skiffs and sailboats which he owned along with Orville Lee, who conducted a boat livery at Sylvan Beach during the summer months. The following year he began construction of a 16-room house.

In 1909, Murray and his wife Annabel opened a resort business known as Murray’s Inn. (Annabel was the daughter of Lighthouse Keeper William Robinson and his wife Sarah.)

1915 saw the introduction of a casino at Murray’s Inn called “Kum-on-in”, with Leo Murray, son of owner William Murray, in charge.

In 1922, William Murray moved one of his existing buildings to the south in preparation for the construction of a 3-story structure with a spacious veranda on the front. This new building had a 40 ft. x 25 ft. lobby, a large lounge area, and two dining rooms (48 ft. x20 ft. and 36 ft. x30 ft.) in addition to a ladies room and a gentlemen’s room, and kitchen facilities. The wooden floors were highly polished walnut stain. The porch furniture was of the latest wicker style.

The second and third floors were occupied by the bedrooms – some of which were suites. All the rooms had hot and cold running water and many had private baths. All of the rooms had outside windows for fresh air and area views. This new addition gave Murray’s Inn a total of 60 bedrooms and a capacity of 150 guests.

All three buildings were connected by a trellis-covered pergola.

In 1927, a 50 x 50 foot building was completed which was used as a dance hall and amusement center.

In 1944, Leo Murray became manager of the busy popular resort. He continued to modernize the resort, built a motel on the channel side.

William Murray passed away in 1960.

In 1972, John Ozar purchased Murray’s Inn and renamed it the Driftwood Lodge. They also opened a restaurant and cocktail lounge in the former Recreation Building which they called The Galleon.

In June 1984, some of the former Murray’s Inn buildings were converted into the present twenty-eight condo units which are known as Driftwood Dunes Condominiums.