

## Trails Meet Ferry

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White Lake Area Historical Society



*"Trails Meet" crossing White Lake to Murray's Inn*

In March 1926, permission was granted to Thomas Breen of this area to construct a drop-cable ferry which would connect Lau Road on the north with Murray's Inn on the south side of the channel at the west end of White Lake. It was not until 1928, however, that the ferry "Trails Meet" was operational.

The ferry was 20 feet wide by 40 feet in length and had a depth of about 3 ½ feet to the top of the protective rail. The power was supplied by a 40-horse power, four cylinder gasoline engine located under the deck. The propelling of the craft was by a five-eighth inch steel cable, tension adjusted by winch, which lay across the bottom of White Lake. It could carry up to four cars at a time (depending on their size) and passengers. It is reported that it took just seven minutes to load up, make the trip across and unload, which is considerably quicker than driving all the way around the lake.

The price for one car and its driver was 25 cents. It cost 10 cents apiece for passengers. (Twenty-five cents in 1928 would be about \$3.75 in 2021.)

The first year, the ferry was operated by owner Robert Deyman, nephew of Thomas Breen, and Robert's nephew Herb Paeth. Robert's brother James also worked the ferry.

From 1928 to 1941, the two brothers, James and Robert Deyman, operated the ferry. When it first started operating, it ran from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except on Saturday nights when it operated until 1 a.m. on Sunday morning. It primarily operated from June through August to service the tourist trade.

In 1934, it was reported that some 2,500 cars used the ferry.

In June 1935, owner Robert Deyman announced the beginning of 24-hour service across the channel and the ferry was going to operate until October 15.

In May 1942, Robert Deyman died, and that was the end of the line for the Trails Meet.