



**Jesse's Elm Shade**  
**Greenville, Greene County, N. Y.**

**A Written Narrative of My Family's Resort  
from 1946 – 1972**

Written by Charles (Chuck) Jesse and dedicated to his family:  
Warren & Grace Jesse, Joan Jesse, Minnie & Fred Jesse

## Jesse's Elm Shade (1947 – 1972)

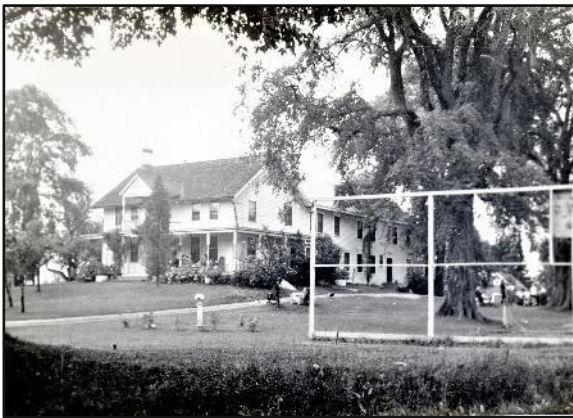
In April 1946, my grandfather, Fred Jesse, suddenly passed away from a heart attack. His wife, Minnie and he had owned Breezy Knoll Acres for about twenty years. My Dad, Warren, grew up in the resort business and was a dairy farmer during the war. After Grandpa died, Grandma and Dad were devastated, and didn't think they could run a Resort, a Bar, and a Dairy Farm without Grandpa Fred. Grandma understood and she put Breezy Knoll up for sale. The family moved back to New Jersey and thus ended the Jesse's presence in Greenville.

Circa late 1946, my dad started missing the Greenville area and decided to get back into the resort business. He contacted a realtor agent and was directed to "Elm Shade Farm" which was owned by John Lowe and his wife. It was an ideal location about a mile north on US32, across from Irving Road. John had an existing resort style farm which would require minimal preparation to open for the 1947 season.

Dad and my mom, Grace, made an offer for "Elm Shade Farm". The story I was told is that John didn't want to sell, but his wife was getting tired of the business and wanted him to get rid of it. He appeased her by pricing the property and business way over the market value for the time, but like today, inflation took over after the war. John didn't increase the price to compensate for it, so it got to the point where the business and property was suddenly a good deal. "Elm Shade Farm" became "Jesse's Elm Shade" when Dad and Mom bought it. The Jesse family was in the resort business again.

I was born after the 1948 vacation season. My personal memories start in the early to mid-50s. The stories and information of the earlier years was passed down to me by my family and several of our guests who followed the Jesse's from Breezy Knoll Acres. I am writing this narrative based on these memories, the stories I was told, and by reviewing the pictures and literature left to me.

The initial guest buildings consisted of the Main House with seventeen guest bedrooms (fifteen on the second floor and two with outside entrances), two outside annexes ("A" and "B") with four bedrooms and six bedrooms respectively, and a large auxiliary storage building, which would be converted into a recreation hall by Dad. The grounds had a "shuffle board", a tennis court, horse shoes, swings, seesaw, and other entertainment items. I am not sure whether the pool was already there, or Dad added it.



Original Main House as seen from the road. (Note the Elm tree behind the "back board")



Original Main House looking down the entrance and exit driveway. Note the large Elm tree in the upper right side of the picture.



Another front view of the Original Main House.



East side of the Original Main House. (The New Dining Room will be added here)



This is a closer look at the Main House as it appeared in 1947.



Basketball 'back board', "ping-pong", and "shuffle board" from Elm Shade Farm.



Another view of the 'back board" and tennis court from Elm Shade Farm. (I believe this is looking toward the road)



Guests sitting under an Elm tree.



"Shuffle board" court looking towards "Irving Road".



Two little girls on the "seesaw".



The Pool looking from "Shallow End" towards the "Deep End"



The Pool looking toward the "Main House"

There were also several farm buildings. The “Big Red” Barn was one the defining features of the property. It was one of the largest in the area at that time. Carvings on several of the beams dated it back to the mid-1800s. The barn could not be missed from the road as it dominated the rear of the resort property



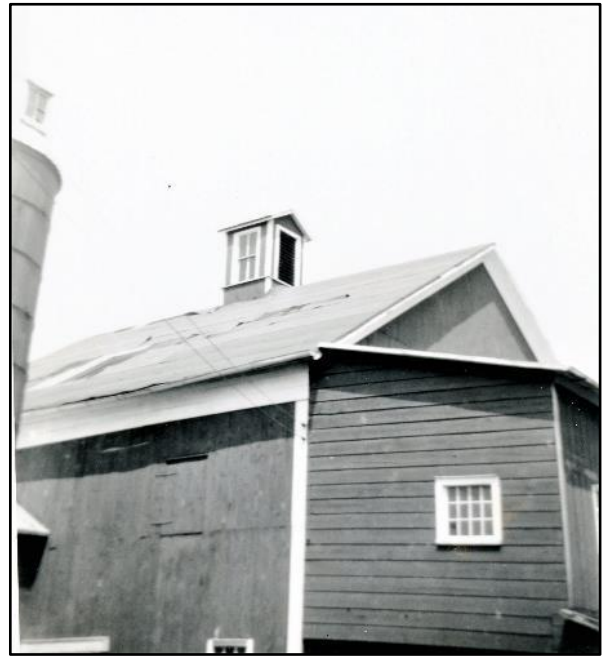
The “Big Red” Barn as seen from the east. The building to the left (behind the car) was converted into a “Recreation Hall”.



A closer photo of the Barn. (I believe the girl in the wagon is my sister Joan. I don't know the other girl is)



This photo shows the “Cow Barn” and the “Silo”. The Cow Barn was used for several years to house two cows that supplied milk for our guests.



Another photo of the Barn

Since John Lowe used Elm Shade Farm not only as a resort but also as a working farm to provide fresh dairy products to the guests, several farm buildings were also on the property. There was a “chicken coop”, “corn crib”, garage/storage building which was converted to a recreation hall, and several miscellaneous outbuildings used for housing small farm animals and farm equipment.



To the left is the "Red Barn", in the center is the "Corn Crib", to the right is the "Chicken Coop".

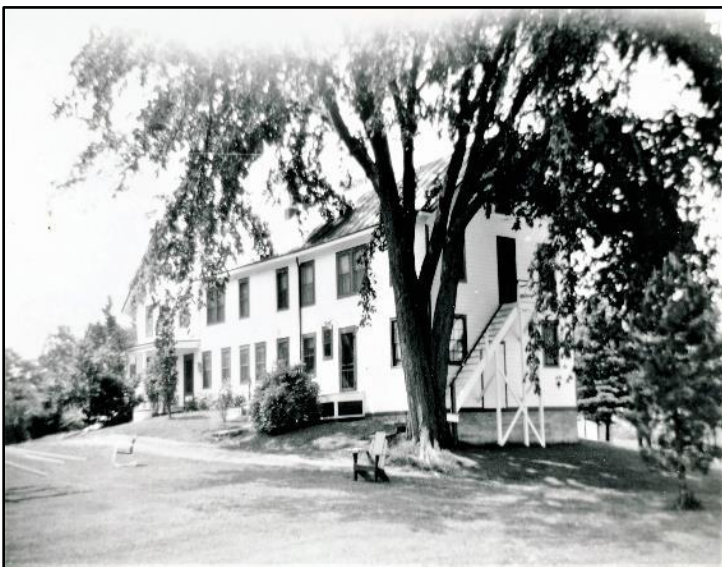


This is a picture of my dad, Warren, feeding the chickens. In the background is the "Corn Crib" and "Chicken Coop".

The Elm Shade consisted of approximately 186 acres. The resort was about 25 acres. There was a wooded/marshy area of approximately 40 acres. The rest was fields. We never used it as a farm. Dad kept John Lowe's chickens for the first year then sold them when the family returned to our winter home in New Jersey. The first 3 or 4 years of operation, Dad would buy two milk cows in the spring from Pete Carelas. Our Chef would pasteurize the milk every evening and it would be used for cooking and drinking. In the fall, Dad sold the cows back to Pete.

In the winter, Dad let one of the local farmers, he knew, use the barn to house his sheep. I don't think much money changed hands as it was a nice feeling just to have someone keeping an eye on the property. In May, the sheep would be sheared and return to their summer home. For several summers, Pete Carelis would have his farm hands come over and harvest the hay from the fields to feed his livestock. I have no other recollection of the Elm Shade being used as a farm while my family owned it.

The Farm was called Elm Shade due to the many large "Elm" trees on the property. Unfortunately, the Dutch Elm Disease hit and many of the beautiful trees had to be cut down. Luckily the two trees on either side of the main driveway were spared. One of our guests owned a Plant Nursery and recommended that we should plant "Willow" Trees as they grew fast, provided allot of shade, and would help dry up wet spots around the property. Dad took the advice and we ended up with more Willows than we had Elms



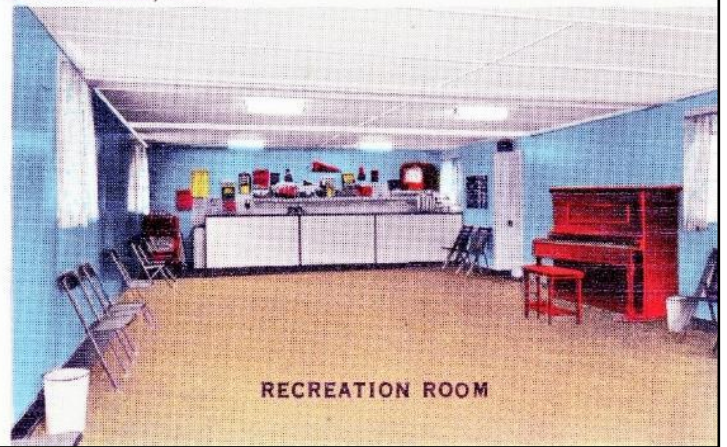
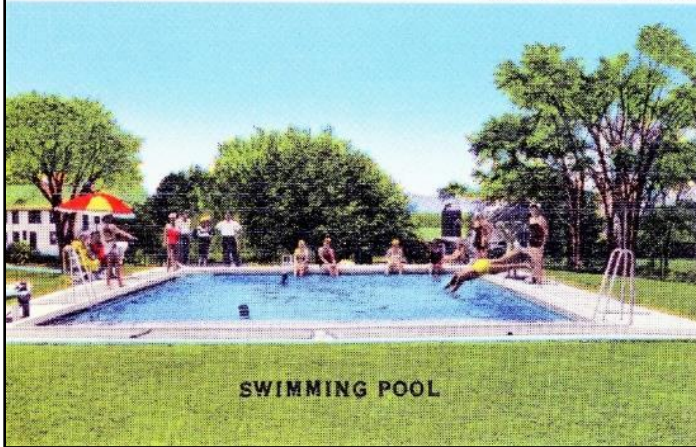
This is another photo of the Original Main House looking south. Note the Elm tree in the center of the picture.



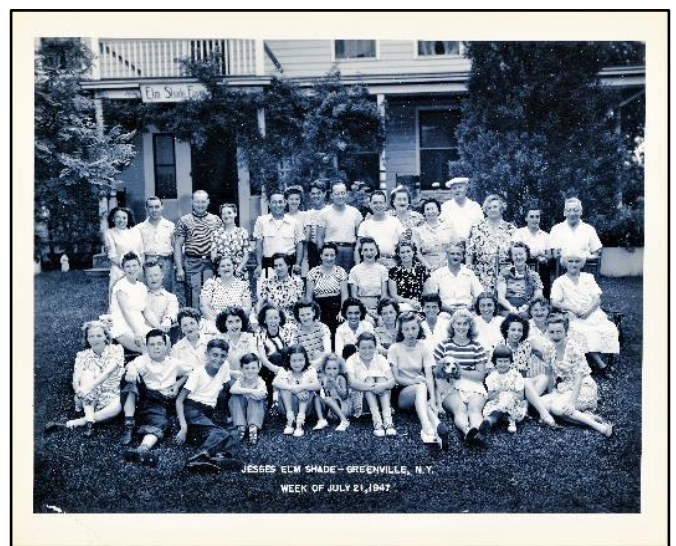
This is the Rear of the Original Main House looking east. The Elm tree to the left is the same as in the adjacent picture.



JESSE'S ELM SHADE, GREENVILLE, N.Y.



This post card is representative of what The Elm Shade looked like in its early years of operation. The upper left is a good view of the Main House, Annex "A" (behind the flag pole), and Annex "B" to the left. The lower left shows the swimming pool looking towards the Main House. The bottom right is the original recreation hall prior to the added kitchen and its enlargement.



These are pictures of guests from the first operational season of The Elm Shade Farm as Jesse's Elm Shade. They were taken July 7 and July 21, 1947.

COME TO  
**JESSE'S ELM SHADE**  
for a delightful, inexpensive vacation

We offer you the enjoyment of all sports and entertainment together with excellent food, attractive living quarters and clean airy bedrooms—all at rates so moderate that they will vary little from your present expenses at home.

- CAPACITY 75
- BEAUTIFUL SCENIC ATTRACTIONS
- ELEVATION 2000 FT.
- COOL REFRESHING ATMOSPHERE
- EASY WALKING DISTANCE TO CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CHURCHES
- FARM PRODUCTS

**AMUSEMENTS**

See! Swimming Pool - Shuffle Board - Ping-Pong - Hot Dog Roast - Casino (where we have movies twice weekly and dancing twice weekly with a Dance Orchestra) all these on the premises and free and for use of our guests only. Softball games arranged with other houses. We have a Juke box in the Casino and sell ice-cream - sodas - souvenirs - cards, etc. Saddle horses and bicycles are available near by for a nominal fee. Bowling - movie houses - numerous public dance halls near by.

**RATES**

May to June 20 ..	\$50.00 Weekly
June 20 to Sept. 5 ..	\$35.00 Weekly
Sept. 5 to Oct. 12 ..	\$30.00 Weekly
Daily Rate ..	\$ 6.00 Per Day

**INCLUDES ROOM AND BOARD. THERE ARE NO EXTRA CHARGES.**

All modern improvements. Running water in every room. Ample showers, baths. Reservations:—A deposit of \$5.00 is required from each guest, which will be deducted from board. All rooms to be vacated at 12:00 noon on day of departure.

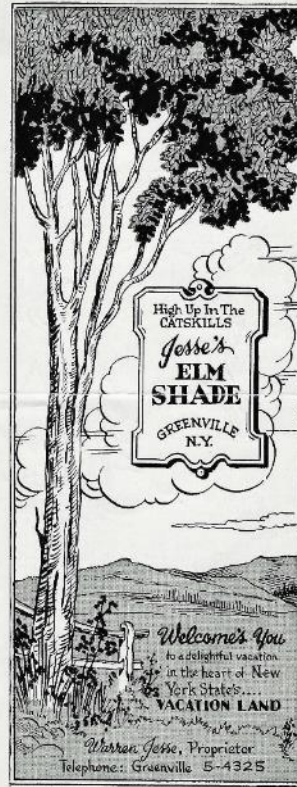


**TRAVEL ROUTES**

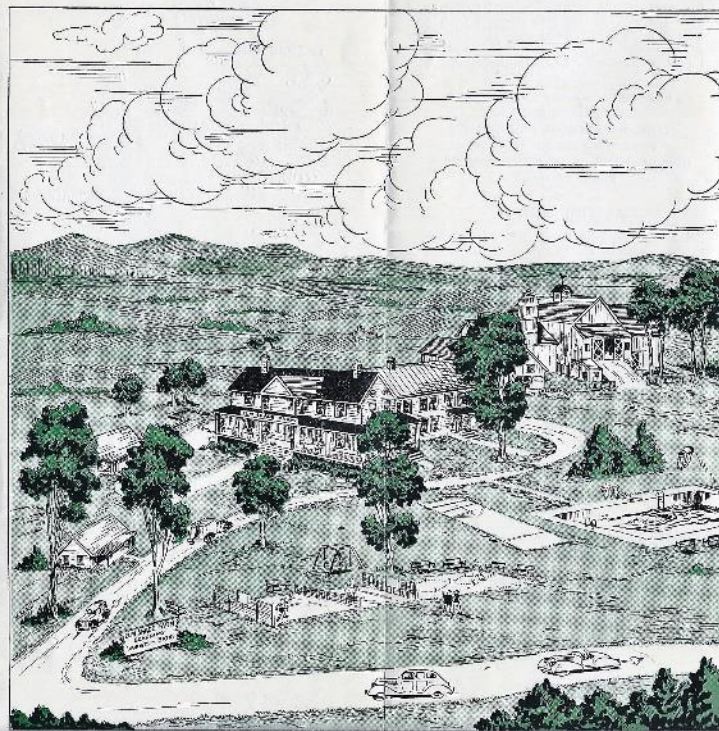
**Bus Transportation To Jesse's Elm Shade**  
Greyhound bus from Pennsylvania station—34th Street, New York City—direct to our door.  
National Trailway bus from 241 West 42nd Street, New York City—direct to our door.

**Boat Transportation**  
Hudson River Day Line - Day Line Pier - West 42nd St. N.Y.C. to Catskill—Leaves N.Y.C. 9 A.M.

**Rail Transportation**  
West Shore Railroad via 42nd Street Ferry to Weehawken. Then take train to Catskill. Taxi to house.  
New York Central train to Hudson. Taxi to house.  
Taxi from New York to our door can be arranged for guests for a nominal fee.



**THERE'S SPORT & FUN FOR EVERYONE AT JESSE'S ELM SHAD**



This is the first Brochure for Jesse's Elm Shade. It was very "stylized" and was an artist's impression of the property. It is interesting that it was possible to get to The Elm Shade by Bus, Boat, or Rail.





**Sports on Premises**

Among our sports and recreation facilities are a large, modern swimming pool, shuffleboard, horseshoe court, badminton, ping-pong, softball and parties. These are all free and for the use of our guests only.

Horses and bicycles are available nearby for a nominal fee. Bowling, movie houses and public dance halls are nearby.

**Churches**

Churches of all denominations are within walking distance of Jesse's Elm Shade. For those who wish to ride we furnish free transportation.



—NYS Pic-Commerce

**For Your Nightly Entertainment**

We have a full schedule of nightly entertainment all planned for your enjoyment.

Saturday: Dance orchestra

Sunday: Soft Ball Game

Monday: Bingo - Prizes

Tuesday: Broadway Movies

Wednesday: Dance Orchestra

Thursday: Outdoor Barbecue

Friday: Broadway Movies



Adirondack Resorts Press, Inc.  
Lake George, N. Y.

**Transportation**

Jesse's Elm Shade is conveniently reached from New York City in 3 hours driving time.

**Motor Routes from New York City:** From Brooklyn or Long Island use new Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, Tri-boro or Whitestone Bridge to Hendrick Hudson or Bronx River Parkway or Saw Mill River Parkway, then follow Taconic State Parkway to Route 199, approximately 20 miles above Poughkeepsie. Use Route 9G across Rip Van Winkle Bridge, then take Route 23 to Cairo and 32 to Greenville. We are located 1/2 mile north of traffic light in village. Also via New York State Thruway.

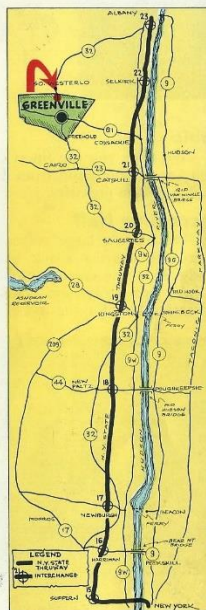
**From New Jersey:** Take New York State Thruway to Catskill, Exit 21. From Catskill take Route 23 to Cairo, turn right onto Route 32 to Greenville and proceed 1/2 mile north of traffic light in Greenville to our place.

**Greyhound Bus Lines:** From 34th St., Penn. Station and 50th St., and 8th Ave., direct to our door.

**Adirondack Transit Lines:** From Dixie Terminal, West 42nd St., to Catskill. Bus will be met there by Kelsey Bus Line which will bring you to our door.

For further information write

Jesse's ELM SHADE  
Greenville, N. Y.  
Tel. Greenville 5-4325



*Jesse's ELM SHADE ... In the Land of Rip Van Winkle*



Our Swimming Pool



Large Recreation Hall

**Location**

Jesse's Elm Shade is ideally situated in one of New York State's scenic beauty spots, 2000 feet above sea level and is an ideal spot for a healthful, restful and informal vacation.

**Accommodations**

We have accommodations for 100 guests. Our rooms are clean and comfortable, all with running water and all beds have innerspring mattresses. There are ample shower and bath facilities.



**Table**

We offer you the finest of home cooking served at tables accommodating from 4 to 6 persons. All baking is done on the premises.

**Recreation Hall**

We have a large recreation hall on the premises where we have a snack bar and one can purchase candy, soda, ice cream, smokes, sandwiches and coffee. A juke box, television, radio and piano are in the recreation hall for the use of our guests.



**Reservations**

Reservations should be made as early as possible. Rooms must be vacated by 10 A. M., on day of departure, in order for us to get room ready for new guests arriving.

Baggage may be left on porches or in office until you leave, as you may stay on the grounds as long as you wish.

A \$5.00 deposit is required from each guest to confirm reservation, which will be applied on account.



This is the second Brochure. Note that the Map shows the New York State Thruway and included picture of the Pool, Recreation Hall, and Main House. This was first used around 1954 or 1955.

Starting in the early-fifties, several major expansions were made. The main house was renovated to add a larger Dining Room that could accommodate 120 guests at a single seating. The kitchen was renovated so that it could handle the increased number of guests. A well was drilled to improve the water quality and eliminate dependency on the town system. The Recreation Hall was enlarged and a small kitchen was added. Annex "C", with six bedrooms, was added between Annexes "A" & "B". The chicken coop was removed to make room for Annex "D", with eight bedrooms.



The new Dining Room could easily serve 120 guests. It was added to the east side of the Main House.



The Dining Room addition can be seen as viewed from the north.



Memorial Day Opening, circa 1956. Celebrating the addition of the enlarged Dining Room and Recreation Hall. (My mom and dad), Grace and Warren Jesse, can be seen in the black dress and blue jacket.

TEL. GREENVILLE 5-4325

**Jesse's Elm Shade**  
Greenville, Greene County, N. C.

**RATE CARD - Per Week**  
(Per Person - Meals Included)

MAY 19th - JUNE 23rd-(All rooms running water) .....	\$35.00
NEW ANNEX-(All rooms hot and cold water) .....	\$37.00
JUNE 23rd - SEPTEMBER 3rd .....	\$40.00
NEW ANNEX .....	\$42.00
DAILY .....	\$ 7.00
NEW ANNEX .....	\$ 7.50
SEPTEMBER 3rd - 22nd .....	\$35.00

A \$5.00 deposit is required to confirm each reservation.  
Money refunded in case of cancellation if given 10 days' notice.

Rate Card circa 1957

The outdoor recreational area was also improved. A "Water Slide" and two sides of the pool was paved to create a patio. A second "shuffle board" court was added and a "badminton/volleyball" court replaced the Tennis Court. The original gravel driveway was paved along with all the walkways to the Annexes. During a very dry summer, when the pond dried up, an excavator was brought in to deepen and enlarge it.

The sixties brought another round of additions and improvements. A fifth annex was added, Motel "A", which was convex in shape, and consisted of nine rooms with private baths. The "Red Barn" was taken down along with the "corn crib" and the remaining farm buildings. Motel "B" was also added which was concave in shape and included ten rooms with private baths and a "TV" room. The recreation hall was re-sided to match the rest of the building. Annexes "A", "B", and "C" were converted to private baths. A "Bocci" ball court was added at the request of several of the guests.



Motel "A" as viewed from Irving Road. Annex "D" can be seen to the left of the tall tree. The "Red Barn" is located to the far left



Another photo of Motel "A" as viewed from Irving



Model "B" view from the south. The "darker" center structure is the TV Room.



Model "B" view from the north. Note the plastic cover on the lamp posts indicating the picture was taken "off season".



One of the recreation areas showing the second "shuffle board" and "Bocci Court" as viewed looking toward Irving Road



A view of the Pool before the Patio was added. Annex "D" can be seen in the background.

**JESSE'S** ELM SHADE

**IT'S FAMILY FUN-TIME!**

Large filtered pool, pvt. stocked lake, recreation hall, snack bar, movies, orch, shuffleboard, ping pong, etc. all on premises. Delicious home-cooked meals, Rates incl. all Meals & Activities Rooms with Private Bath.

**RATES:** May 24 to June 23—Aug. 31 to Sept. 13—\$50 to \$60  
**RATES:** June 23 to Aug. 31—\$60 to \$85

Write: W. Jesse, Greenville, N. Y. Phone: (518) YO 6-3325

New York City daily newspaper advertainment from the mid-sixties.

Code 518 — TEL. Yorktown 6-8325



**Jesse's Elm Shade**  
 Greenville, Greene County, N. Y.

**1967**

**RATE CARD — PER WEEK**

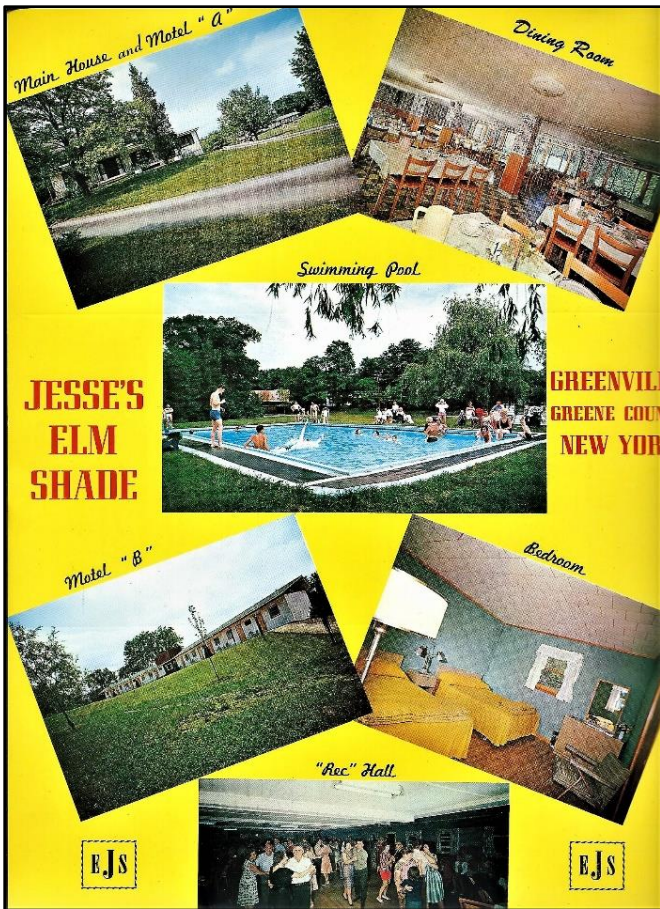
(Per Person — Meals Included)  
 NOTE — Plus 2% New York State Tax

<b>MAY 26th to JULY 1st</b>	
MAIN HOUSE AND ANNEX D .....	\$50.00
ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATH SINGLE AND DOUBLE .....	\$60.00
<b>JULY 1st to SEPT. 10th</b>	
MAIN HOUSE .....	\$55.00
ANNEX D .....	\$60.00
ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATH .....	\$70.00
SINGLE WITH PRIVATE BATH .....	\$80.00
<b>DAILY RATES — INCLUDES 3 MEALS AND SLEEP</b>	
MAIN HOUSE AND ANNEX D .....	\$10.00
ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATH .....	\$12.00

**Extra Meals for Friends of our Guests**  
 including use of our grounds  
**\$2.50 Per Meal**

A \$10.00 deposit per person is required to confirm each reservation.  
 All Board Subject to a 2% New York State Sales Tax

Rate Card for the 1967 Season.



This is the last brochure used by "The Elm Shade" before it was sold in 1972. I shall always remember the day my dad picked them up from the printer's. It was November 22, 1963, the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. I had been sent home from school and was watching the news when Mom and Dad got home. Dad was very upset and his thoughts were for John Jr. and Caroline losing their father. This was also a loss to the entire nation.

Top Left: The Main House and Motel "A" looking north

Top Right: Main House Dinner Room

Center: Swimming Pool before the Patio and Slide

Center Left: Motel "B"

Center Right: Typical Room for 2-4 guests with Private Bath

## Jesse's Elm Shade Extends

### A Personal Invitation To You

This popular, informal and friendly resort has for years been catering to vacationers just like you and knows how to make your vacation a delightful one. Our home-style meals are delicious and plentiful, and all baking is done right in our own kitchen. Our beautiful dining room is immaculate and you'll find the service excellent.

JESSE'S ELM SHADE can accommodate up to 150 guests and we have a wide variety of accommodations. Motel units are spacious and as modern as we could make them, and feature large double beds, for 2, 3 or 4 person occupancy; and naturally, all have private baths. Motel rooms are air-cooled by cross ventilation and all have individually-controlled heat. Rooms in the Main House and Cottages have hot and cold running water, with ample and convenient bath facilities available. To assure you of a good night's rest all beds have comfortable innerspring mattresses.

You'll find our rates surprisingly moderate.

## Sports . . . . and Recreation

Our large, modern filtered swimming pool is the center of daylight activities for those who like to soak up the sun as well as for the swimmer. Softball, volleyball, shuffleboard, horseshoes, badminton and ping-pong can be played on the premises. Horseback riding and bicycling are available; bowling and roller skating nearby; with several golf courses in the area.

We have a full schedule of entertainment planned for your enjoyment;

SATURDAY: Dance orchestra  
SUNDAY: Soft Ball Game  
MONDAY: Bingo - Prizes  
TUESDAY: Broadway Movies  
WEDNESDAY: Dance Orchestra  
THURSDAY: Outdoor Barbecue  
FRIDAY: Broadway Movies

We maintain a snack bar in our "rec" hall, open from 7:00 A.M. to Midnight. Here we have a juke box, television, radio and piano for the use of our guests. There are many interesting and scenic places to see in the area and include the Catskill Game Farm; Carson City; Point Lookout; Rip Van Winkle Trail; Howe Caverns; Sartatoga Race Track; Baseball's Hale of Fame at Cooperstown; and the Shrine at Auriesville.

Churches are within walking distance of Jesse's Elm Shade and for those who prefer to ride, we will furnish free transportation.

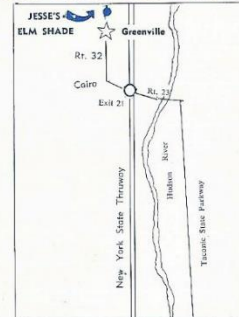
Ad-View Post Cards, 259 Clifton Ave., Newark, N. J.

## IT'S EASY TO REACH

### Jesse's Elm Shade

RT. 32, GREENVILLE, N. Y.  
(GREENE COUNTY)

PHONE YOrktown 6-8325 (area code 518)



JESSE'S ELM SHADE is convenient to reach in 3 hours driving time from New York City.

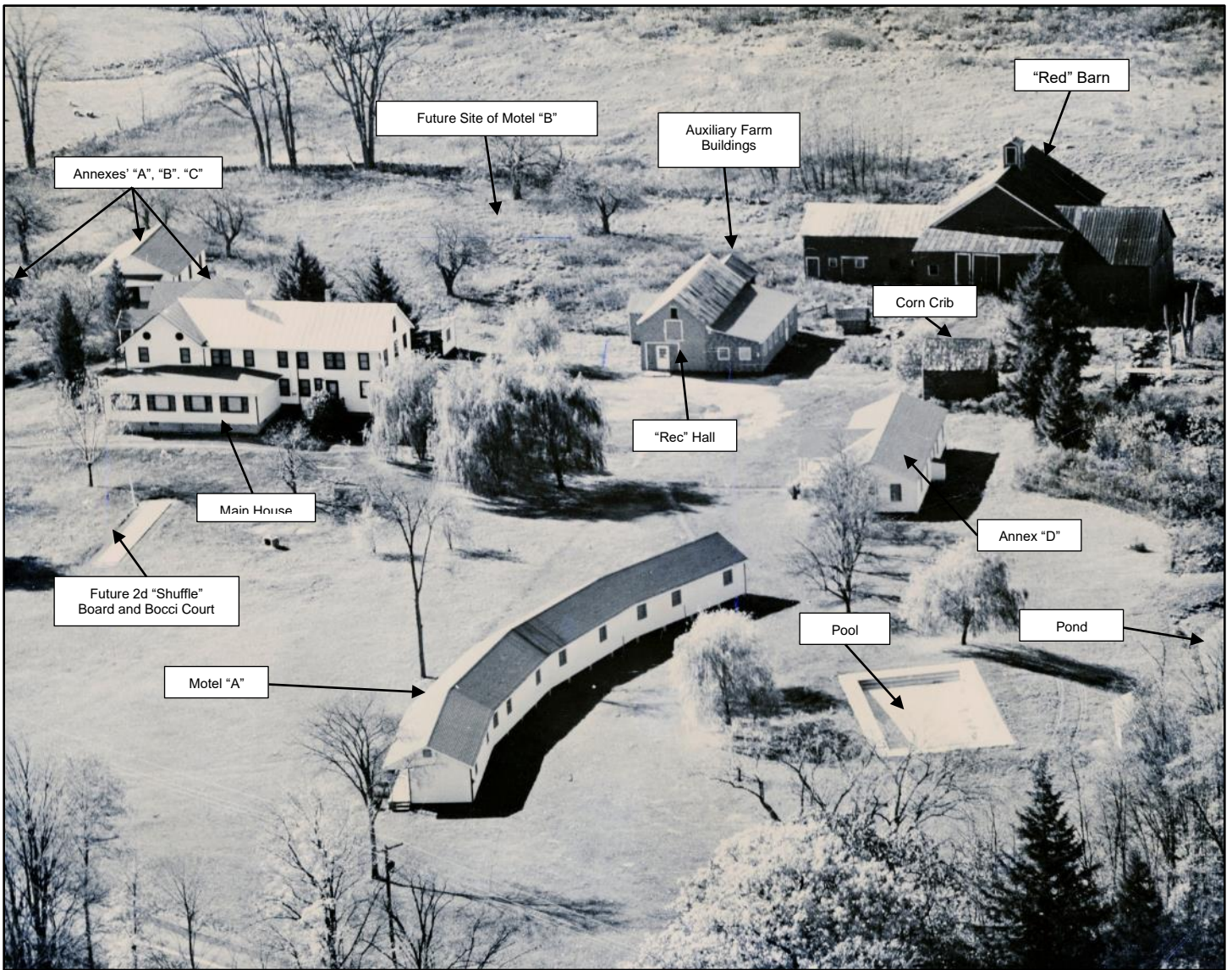
By Car: Take New York State Thruway to Exit 21; turn right on Rt. 23; follow Rt. 23 to Cairo By-pass, where it joins Rt. 32; follow Rt. 32 to Greenville. JESSE'S ELM SHADE is on Rt. 32, 1/2 mile past the Greenville traffic light.

The Taconic State Parkway, on the east side of the Hudson River, is a scenic alternate route; about 20 miles north of Poughkeepsie take Rt. 199; then Rt. 9G; Cross Hudson on Rip Van Winkle Bridge; then Rt. 23 to 32 at Cairo; Rt. 32 to Greenville and JESSE'S ELM SHADE. By Bus: Greyhound or Short Line Bus from Port Authority Bldg., 41st St. & 8th Ave., New York City will take you direct to JESSE'S ELM SHADE.

JESSE'S ELM SHADE  
Warren Jesse, Prop.  
Rt. 32, Greenville, N. Y.

Telephone YOrktown 6-8325 (area code 518)

Please make reservations as early as possible. A \$5.00 deposit is required for each guest.



Aerial Photo of Jesse's Elm Shade Circa Fall of 1961.

Since there was limited night life in the area and the majority of our guests just wanted to relax and not have to go off premises for entertainment, we provided something to do each night. Saturday and Wednesday we had a "live" band, usually a three-piece combo consisting of a piano player, drummer, and another accompanying instrument. The Recreation Hall was setup with tables and chairs around the dance floor. My dad was not against drinking, but his experiences at Breezy Knoll told him not to have a bar as it took a great deal of time and energy to run. During the first several years of operation, one of the Guests would take up a collection to buy a keg of beer. Since we didn't sell or supply it, there was no problem with not having a liquor license. The keg was purchased from World Top Acres, which at that time was owned by Pete Carelas before his daughter and son in law, Bob Young, took it over. Pete's relationship with my family went back a long way, probably as far as Breezy Knoll. The tradition of the beer keg was replaced when people would bring their own bottles of alcohol or buy the brand of beer they liked. We would refrigerate their six packs and supply cups as a convenience to our guests. All that we asked was that they purchase their mixes and ice from the recreation hall.



The front of the original Recreation Hall with the "morning after" remanent of the Beer Keg.



This is the first band I remember. They played for our guests for at least 10 years. The person at the microphone is Wally, one of our guests who enjoyed entertaining the crowd. (My dad is sitting next to the piano)



This is another trio that played at the dances. The guitar player is another one of our guests who joined in for a couple of songs.



Here's Wally again joined by another guest to sing a duet the crowd.

To continue with the entertainment schedule. Sunday night was a softball game between the Elm Shade and World Top Acres. (The weather and the ability of each Resort fielding a team determined if we played). We lost most of the time, but each side had a good time and the losing team would promise revenge next season.

Monday night was Bingo. We played fifteen games and gave a small prize to each game's winner. Margaret's Pizza would donate a pizza, and Frank's Sunoco donated five gallons of gas in return for a recommendation. Tuesday and Fridays were movie nights. Sullivan's Entertainment supplied the equipment, movie, and the projectionist. The recreation hall was set up with chairs like a movie theater. If it was very hot, we hung a screen on the outside of the building and set the chairs on the grass. Thursday was the "Weiner

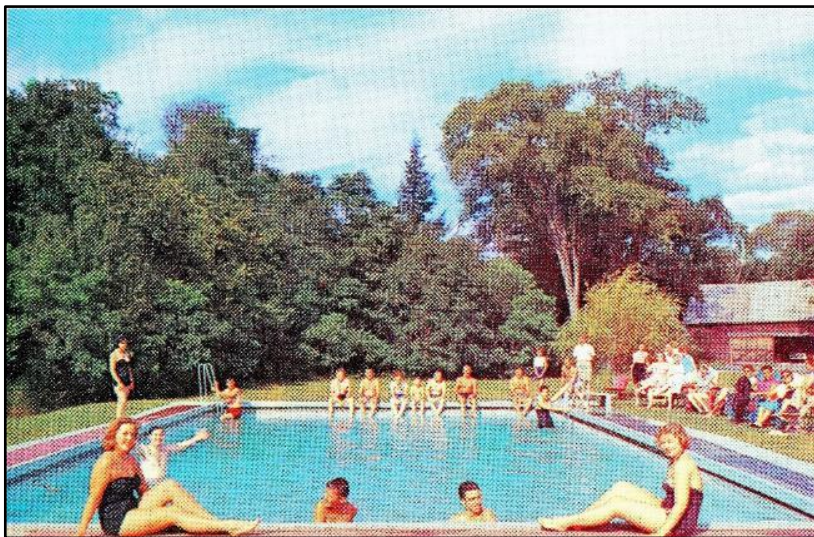
Roast". Everyone would sit around the fire place and just had good conversations. Most of our guests came the same time every year, and in some cases, it was more like an extended family.

Our season ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and we had "Weekend Specials" for the two weekends following Labor Day. (In the early years The Elm Shade opened in mid-May till the end of September) Since we catered mainly to families, the season was then based on the school year schedules. The week ran from Saturday to Saturday and the weekly rate included twenty-one meals. Meals were served restaurant style and the menu didn't vary week to week. Breakfast started at 7:30 and as long as you got in the dining room by 8:30 you got served. Breakfast consisted of hot or cold cereal, eggs your way, and toast, Bacon was available twice a week. Mondays we featured French Toast and Thursdays was Pancakes.

Lunch started promptly at 12:30 and Dinner at 5:30. Meals were announced by ringing an electric bell and by the traditional "Cow Bell". The Guest always knew when it was time to eat as they would be waiting on the porch for the doors to open. If the bell didn't ring on time, they would be looking in the window to see if anything was wrong. The food was plentiful and to my knowledge few people wanted seconds. Examples of a typical entrée would be Roast Turkey, half a Chicken, Roast Beef, Leg of Lamb, Meat Loaf, Pork Roast, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Steak, Corned Beef, Breaded Fish. Of course, each meal had all the appropriate trimmings, The meal would start with an appetizer such as soup, salad, or a fruit cup and end with a dessert. Each table had pitchers of Iced Tea and water on it. Milk, coffee and hot tea was provided for the asking.

The people who worked for us, in my opinion, were very special. Many of them were with us for years and always came back in the spring when we started preparing the resort for the upcoming season. I only remember two lead housekeepers over the years. Ella worked for us in the fifties and early sixties until her husband retired. Janet came to us soon afterwards and stayed till the resort was sold.

Our waitresses were usually high school students, many of them seniors, getting ready for college. Most were recruited either from local High Schools, or High Schools in New Jersey where our winter home was. Most only stayed one to two years. Between their pay and tips each one could earn enough to help defray college costs.



This picture of the pool area in the early-fifties featured two of our waitresses. They are the two "pretty" girls sitting in front.



These "Pretty" girls were waitresses in the mid-fifties. The fellow in the picture was our dish washer. The girl in the center, holding the family pet, is my sister.

There were four different chefs that prepared food for the guests. The first was Eddie who was semi-retired from the restaurant business in New York City. I remember he wore a large chef's hat and would chase me around the kitchen for fun. When I was caught, he would carry me to the freezer and pretend he was going to put me in it. He was a good person and would cook the apples and pears I picked to make me a fruit compost. Eddie passed away in the early fifties.



Our second chef was John. He had owned a restaurant in New York City, but had to move to the country due to health reasons. He owned a small farm and would leave for a few hours between lunch a dinner each day to tend to his animals and crops. John came back in time and never missed preparing a meal. Unbeknownst to him, he helped train our fourth Chef. John was with us for about twelve years before he passed away.

Our third Chef was Lenny. He had worked at several other resorts in the area, but dad managed to get him to cook for us. Memorial Day weekend of his third year he was in a car accident which ended his ability to work until he mended. Our fourth and final Chef, Moses, called my dad up about eleven o'clock the Saturday night of the accident to tell him Lenny was hurt and was heading to the hospital. We had over a hundred guests for the weekend and no one to cook for them. Moses, who worked for us since he was sixteen, said he could do the "heavy work" if my mom would tell him what to do.

Moses or "Moey", as my mom called him, started with us around 1950 or 1951. My dad needed some help around the grounds and saw Moses sitting on a bench in town. Dad introduced himself and asked Moses if he would like to help out for a couple hours that day. He would be paid and fed lunch for his time. Moses accepted the day's work and never left. When he showed up the next day, Dad felt sorry for him and gave him a job for the summer working the grounds and whatever else was needed around the Resort. Moses always knew when we were coming up in the spring as he showed up the day we arrived. He helped open the Resort in the spring, washed dishes in the summer, and help close the Resort for the winter. Moses was my best buddy and I would try to do everything with him. He took me for my first horseback ride on my tenth birthday, and when I was twelve, he taught me how to drive "stick shift" on an old fifty-one Chevy pickup we used around the ground to take the trash and garbage to the trash pit.



Me sitting on Moses' lap  
(Circa 1950 or 1951)



Moses, our fourth Chef with my dad.

Dad met Moses's father when he drove "Moey" home after work. "Old Moe", as we called him, was a WW1 veteran. He suffered from asthma, after being gassed in the War, and was unable to work a lot. We needed someone to tend to the cows and milk them twice a day. He was hired and not only tended the cows, but did some work around the grounds. The Resort's acreage was small at that time and he was told to rest when he got tired. Since they lived about ten miles away, dad picked them up in the morning and took them home until Moses got his driver's license and a car. "Old Moe" worked for us about seven years until it was too much for him.

Moses worked for us several years before he was drafted into the Army and had to report for duty in mid-July. It was a tough two years without him. We missed him and his help around the resort. He came back to us after the Army and did dishes till that fateful Memorial Day. As promised, he showed up to help my mom cook until we found another Chef. Moses was a natural cook. He started cracking open the eggs with one hand and cooking them like he grew up around the griddle. My mom guided him through the next five meals till the weekend crowd left. Since he watched Eddie, John, and Lenny cook, he knew how to work around the stove. Dad offered him the job and Mom said she would teach him what he had to know. He reluctantly accepted as he doubted, he could do it. Mom taught him what she knew and he read cook books all summer. He was, in my biased opinion, the best Chef we ever had.

During the winter, he worked at an Assisted Living Home cooking for the tenants, but he would return to our family every spring on the first day we returned to Greenville. Moses was part of the family. I knew him from a baby until I grew up and had babies of my own. The last I saw him was at my dad's funeral. I recently heard that he passed away several years ago. He will be missed and always in my memories.

I should mention my family, as nothing would have happened if it weren't for them. My grandma "Minnie" tended the recreation hall from early morning till late at night. She was able to sit and relax until a Guest wanted to buy something. When it started to become too much for her, my sister, Joan would watch the Recreation Hall at night so grandma didn't have to. Joan did some baking and helped dish out meals. I worked with Joan in the Recreation Hall at night, set up for the evening entertainment, did minor maintenance and kept the grounds. Dad always said he was the brains and mom was the heart and soul of The Elm Shade.

Mom's season started before we even returned to Greenville in the spring. She started by sending out Christmas Cards in December, then our annual announcement in the spring, addressing and writing little notes to each past guest. She took the reservations and kept track of who was in what room for how long. Many time she would have to "shuffle the deck" when someone requested a specific room. I don't know how she kept it all straight. She would prepare a list a room assignment every week so my dad or I could greet the guests as they arrived and take them to their room. She handled the dining room seating assignments much the same as she handled the room assignments. Most important, she ran the kitchen and the dining room. I don't think there was a kitchen or dining room job she hadn't done. She trained the waitresses how to set a table, carry the food trays, and serve to guests.



Back Left to Right: Warren, Minnie, Grace, Mary & Charlie (friends of the family) Front: Charles, Ginger, Joan Circa 1954



Minnie (my grandma) and Joan (my sister)



Above: Joan (my sister), Charles (me) and Linda (my wife) (1972)

Right: Grace and Warren (my mom and dad)

The 1972 season was not only my parents 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year at The Elm Shade, but would also turn out to be their last. I had just graduated from college, married my “sweet heart”, and received an Army Commission. I had to go on active duty in the fall so Linda and I spend the summer of ‘72 at the Resort. My Dad wanted my wife and I to take over the Elm Shade. The family had many discussions to determine the direction we all wanted to go. I knew that business had dropped off the last several years and our client base was getting older. Their children were more mobile and it was easier to travel and see more of the country using the new interstate system.

My vision was to make the Resort a four-season getaway taking advantage of hunting and skiing close to the area. The basic problem was the buildings were designed for the summer and were not insulated and only had small room heaters to take the chill out of the summer evenings. The Main House would have to be rebuilt and reconfigured to operate all year. The cost would be a big gamble which I did not want to take on. The alternative was to continue operating as a summer resort like my parents did. I knew that life style and could not see myself looking for a job every year in the off season. I was an Engineer and wanted to pursue that career.

My Dad understood this and it was decided the best thing to do was sell The Elm Shade while my mom and he still had their health. Zany Bryant, had approached dad to purchase The Elm Shade anytime he wanted to sell. The sale was made in early 1973. I completed my active-duty training and moved to Michigan to pursue a career in Engineering. It has been over fifty years since I have been back to the Catskill Mountains. I shall always have good memories of my summers in Greenville and the Elm Shade. It was truly a unique childhood and I doubt that those times will ever happen again.