

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2010, Issue 204

Resorts — Carol Spohler

A week earlier and meeting-goers would have borne the brunt of the 6"-8" of rain that flooded many areas. A week following, though, was a pleasant week, and meeting night was your typical Columbus Day. In attendance were Phyllis Beechert, Bob and Marie Shaw, Dot Blenis, Allyn and Mary Shaw, Dave Dorpfeld (Greene County Historian), David and Judy Rundell, Orrin and Shirley Stevens, Stephanie Ingalls, Ron Golden, Janice Webb, Walter Ingalls, Carol Spohler (guest of the evening), and Don Teator.

The subject of the evening was Greenville Resorts, and Don started by showing a circa-1960 Greenville Chamber of Commerce brochure, and then reading the list of resorts in the Accommodations section. Keep in mind that boarding houses that had closed before this date were not included. A reduced-in-size copy is included, as is a facsimile of the accompanying map. We looked over the list, identified the ones we knew (which was most of them, which of course should be the case, being only fifty years ago, but, still it was not as easy as one might think). There were a few names that needed some jogging of memories but I think we figured most (except for #18 and #32A).

And then we turned to the guest of the evening – Carol Spohler, former owner of

Spohler's Elm Grove on Red Mill Rd, who served as a microcosm of the resort business for this evening. (I worked at Elm Grove from 1970 until its closing in 1983.) Carol highlighted the resort experience, especially from an owner's point-of-view, and gave a slew of details that marked the essence of the facets of keeping this kind of business alive.

Following will be a list of details given during Carol's account, in no particular order:

- the original resort was run by Anton and Mary Fursatz, opened in 1921; called Fursatz Elm Grove
- original Spohler resort in Acra, 'merged' with Fursatz, and was renamed iSpohler's Elm Grove
- Anton's daughter Anne, married Fred Spohler, took over from her parents in 1955, Fred died 1967, and was helped by Fred (son) & Carol
- Fred (son) left IBM to take over resort in 1973, operated it with Carol until 1983 when it was sold
- Carol started working in the main office in 1957
- both Fursatzes died in 1969
- original farm had 110 acres  
more details
- spring cleaning
- in 'old' days, chambermaids worked seven days a week, as did waitresses
- preparing the swimming pool was quite an undesirable job

- Fred & Carol added rooms in Winter House for residence, kept own house in South Cairo at same time
- Anne Spohler married Clarence Beare, who helped with resort chores
- Carol took on cooking responsibility
- entertainment – music, bingo, horse racing, weenie roasts
- cooking of hamburgers late at night
- Carol at resort for 40 years
- Fred ran four H&R Block offices, one in Greenville (Bryant's first, then Baumann's)
- boiler inspections cost money
- music companies wanted royalties from music played
- Board of Health inspections
- insurance for every sport played
- keeping up with wants of guests
- three meals vs two meal days
- a set menu for each day of week (...if it is Wednesday lunch, then...)

Thank you, Carol, for sharing your experiences and for reminding us of a 'world' that many knew not so long ago.

Then, I went around the room to see who had any experience with working at resorts.

- Christine had worked at Sunny Hill
- David Rundell was a dishwasher at Ingleside for a year
- Stephanie had an inside look at Ingleside
- Janice has worked on the mountaintop
- Dot Blenis was, for this evening, the "Queen Worker" at resorts, recounting for ten minutes the different places she had been at: Boyd's, Lennon House (Purling), Weldon House, Shepard, 12 Maples, Colonial Manor, Balsam Shade, Sunny Hill, Pine Lake, Ingalside (her longest stint)

Marie Shaw had brought a couple dozen post cards of resorts in the area, and we viewed them after the meeting broke up. Thanks, Marie, for sharing.

Don had separate folders for each resort (actually, Edna Adams prepared them) and we took time during the meeting to browse

Also available this evening, but no time was allotted for reading, was the July 20 & 23, 1983, Daily Mail articles written by Edna Adams called, "Greenville Resorts in Review." These gave an overview of the current situation and some of the resorts, along with a brief history. This article begs to be reproduced some time.

Deb had made thin but chewy brownies for the evening.

One of the pamphlets in the Historian's collection is "Greenville in the Catskill Mountains: Where Nature Reigns Supreme: comprising the hamlets of Freehold, Norton Hill, Gayhead, Surprise, South Westerlo," a Greenville Chamber of Commerce publication. It is chocked full of advertising, page after page of boarding houses and farms ads. Based on clues inside, I think the book is 1937 or 1938 (one place mentions it has been two years since the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, which 1935). The advertising of Gentile management is a bit eye-opening. Some of the establishment are quite familiar, such as:

- Ingalside Farm, Warren T Ingalls
- Balsam Shade, B. E. Griffin
- Elm Grove House, Anton Fursatz, Greenville
- The Shepard Farm, (no name), Greenville

Others are not known or I'd like to confirm (in order of appearance in the pamphlet): **(look on back page)**

During our meeting, I mentioned the idea of a few projects to start, or continue, working on. One of them would to accumulate and organize information about a topic and then help figure out how to store the information and make it available. The three I had in mind were: 1) Resorts, 2) Churches, and 3) One Room School Houses.

Obviously there are many other topics to tackle but these three are ones we should try to do soon. If anyone would like to coordinate one of them, leave me a note and I'll try to help you in your efforts.

I'd like to start with Resorts but will gladly yield to someone who wants to tackle it.

Other items that fit into the meeting:

Phyllis apologized for cleaning out and submitting 'stuff' for the historian's files. No apologies needed, and I will gladly take most items for perusal. Thanks, Phyllis.

Also, with Orrin attending, I could ask about his Stevens family history, especially with Sarah researching hers (listed in a previous newsletter). Sorry, Sarah, but Orrin says he knows of no connection between Captain Jim Stevens and your line. Orrin's line going back, and starting with him, goes: Orrin C; Walter E; O. C.; Captain James; Orrin; and at that point, we stopped. Thank you, Orrin.

We noted that Mary Kruppenbacher was in the hospital (at the time of the meeting), hoping to be home soon. We wish Mary a speedy and full recovery.

And, most of you have heard or read of Harriett's passing. No matter how expected, these events still sting and shock. I won't attempt to recall Harriett's contributions in this newsletter. (see next paragraph)

Next meeting is November 8, a share session. In addition to the resort identification, I'd like to take some time to recount some of the things Harriett did for local history. Come with your favorite memory or story, and I'll bring some of the written material Harriett did.

As usual, for a share session, feel free to bring a story, an artifact, an idea and we will take off from there.

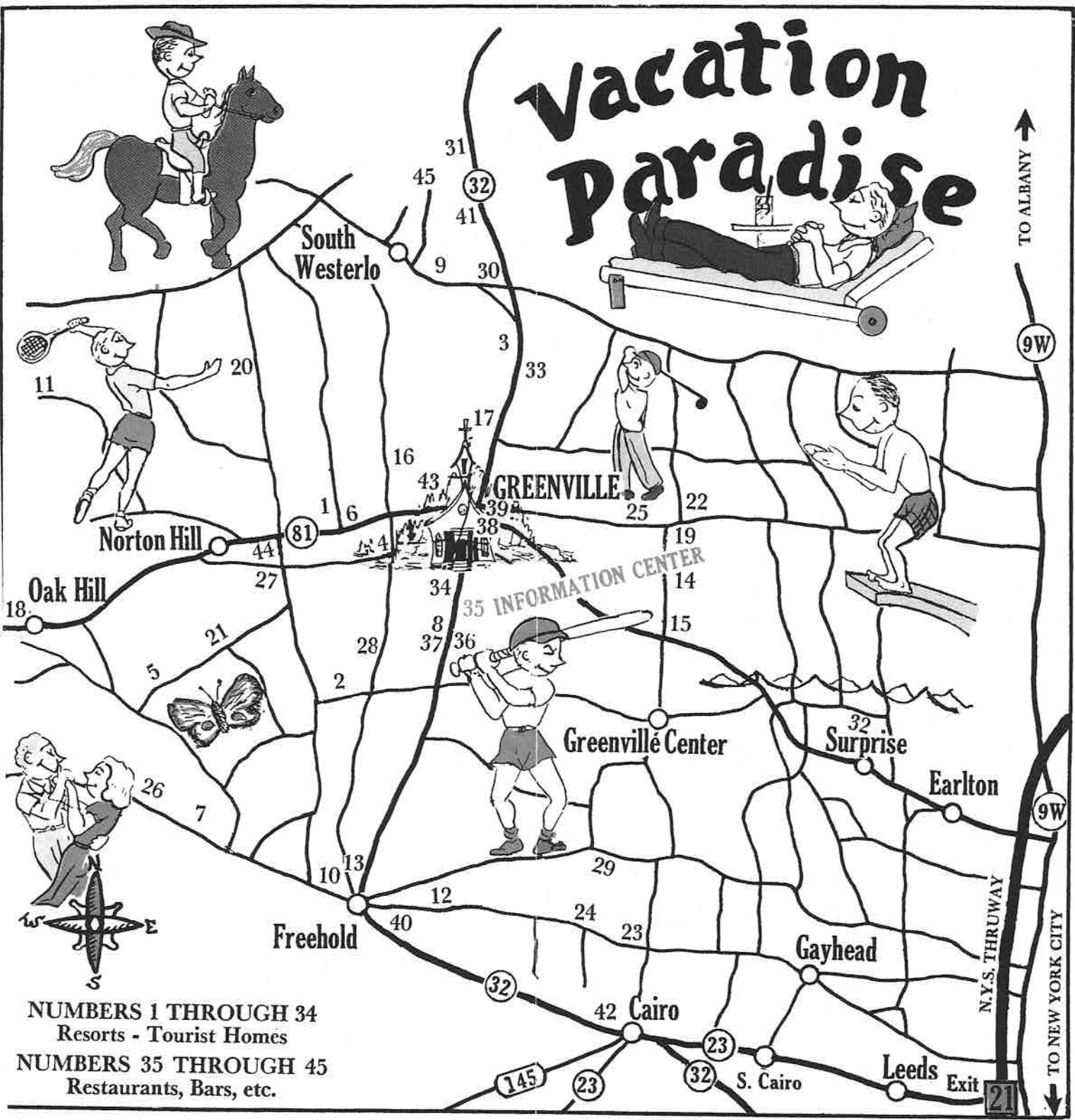
Thank you, Carol, and the rest who pitched, for another entertaining, and worthwhile, meeting.

Take care,



Name, Address, Operator and Telephone No.	*Number of Guests Weekly Rates
1. A-BAR-A RANCH, Greenville 9, N. Y. Nick Wells, Tel. 5-9368	*35 \$45.00
Guest ranch, Main house and bungalows with semi-private showers. Horseback riding and expert instruction on gentle horses. Swimming pool, dancing, bar, hayrides, and all activities. Children welcome.	
2. ALBERTA LODGE, Freehold 3, N. Y. John and Isabelle Singer, Tel. Greenville 5-4549	*75 \$45 to \$58
Modern deluxe accommodations, rooms with private showers, filtered swimming pool, all sports, large casino, cocktail bar, movies and dance orchestra twice weekly, free dancing instructions. Golf and churches located nearby. Special June and Sept. rates. Free booklet.	
3. BALSAM SHADE, Greenville 9, N. Y. B. E. Griffin, Tel. Greenville 5-5315	*140 \$42 to \$66
New Ranch Type Annex, rooms with private baths and shower. Heat, large lobby. Filtered swimming pool, casino, movies and dances, tennis, softball, shuffleboard. Golf nearby. Free transportation to church. May 25 - Oct. 5.	
4. BAUMANN'S BROOKSIDE, Greenville 9, N. Y. Russell J. Baumann, Tel. Greenville 5-4218	*100 \$37 to \$62
Concrete swimming pool, casino, round and square dancing, movies, television, tennis, shuffleboard, ping-pong, soft ball and near all churches. Golf course within a short distance.	
5. BEVERLY FARM, Freehold 9, N. Y. Frank Brusini, Tel. Freehold 7660	*45 \$42 to \$55 weekly, \$9 daily
Restful, charming place. Comfortable accommodation for about 45 guests. Private cabins with hot and cold shower. Filtered swimming pool and other simple recreations. Italian-American cuisine. Memorial Day-Labor Day.	
6. BREEZY KNOLL ACRES, Route 81, Greenville 9, N. Y. Telephone, Greenville 5-4214	*125 \$43 and up
Excellent accommodations. Fine food. Bath and showers. Filtered swimming pool. Tennis, baseball, recreation hall, movies, dances, cocktail lounge. Everything on premises. Special spring and fall rates.	
7. BUTTERFLY FARM, East Durham 9, N. Y. Max and Anna Richter, Tel. Freehold 7759	*20 \$38 to \$58
Airy rooms, some with semi-private bath. Magnificent mountain view, continental atmosphere, German-American cooking, mountain stream swimming, pine groves, lawn sports, recreation hall. Butterfly museum (booklet).	
8. CARELAS LAKE HOTEL, Greenville 1, N. Y. Andrews & Youngs, Tel. Greenville 5-4613	*175 \$36 to \$42
Ideal resort—500 acres, scenic lake, casino, orchestra dancing nightly; planned activities, concrete filtered swimming pool. Tennis, shuffleboard, baseball diamond, boating. Golf course nearby. 1 mile to village and churches.	
9. COLONIAL MANOR, Greenville 4, N. Y. Charles Simpson, Tel. Greenville 5-4238 or 5-9395	*125 \$48 to \$65
Filtered swimming pool, rooms with private bath, tennis, shuffleboard, movies, dancing, softball, recreation hall, home cooking, social director for day and night activities, television. Booklet on request.	
10. CREEK SIDE LODGE, Freehold 9, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Rudolph, Tel. Freehold 7715	*40 \$35 up
Informal homelike pleasant atmosphere. Noted for delicious German-American cooking. Natural large swimming pool, shuffleboard, ping-pong, pool table, recreation hall, house parties. Near village.	
11. DIANA FARM, Greenville, N. Y. Peter and Margarette Andresen, Tel. 5-4256	*36 \$35, children \$20
Swimming pool, shuffleboard, recreation hall. Lake for fishing and boating.	
12. LAKE EVERGREEN, EVERGREEN CROFT HOUSE, Freehold 9, N. Y., John and Gunda Schmelz, Tel. 7796	*55 \$42 to \$50
Modern family resort. Near village and lake. Large rooms with hot and cold water. Bungalows with private bath. The finest German-American meals. Sports, television, swimming, recreation hall. Free booklet on request.	
13. FREEHOLD MILLS FARM, Freehold 9, N. Y. Emil Ondrcata, Mgr., Tel. 7413	*60 \$38 up
Large natural pool, lawn sports, ping-pong, dancing, television, private bath-rooms. Family resort open all year. Cottages with private bath. Fishing on premises. Near churches. Golf Course and Riding Horses.	
14. HIGH LAND FARM, Greenville 9, N. Y. J. A. Meyer, Tel. Greenville 5-4339	*25 Rates on request
All conveniences, scenic beauty, healthful relaxation, congeniality. Excellent table. Write or phone for moderate rates and booklet.	
15. HORTON HOUSE, Greenville 9, N. Y. Mrs. John J. Sullivan, Tel. Greenville 5-9379	*50 \$30 up
Near amusements, churches. Modern rooms, fine food, private baths. Sports, shuffleboard. Golf course within a short distance.	
16. INGALSIDE FARM, Greenville 9, N. Y. Gerald T. Ingalls, Tel. Greenville 5-5316	*130 \$36 up
Swimming pool, tennis, handball court, shuffleboard, baseball, recreation hall, dancing, movies, amateur night, square dancing. Golf course and riding academy nearby. Home cooked meals. Churches nearby. May 30 - Sept. 29.	
17. JESSE'S ELM SHADE, Greenville 9, N. Y. Warren Jesse, Tel. Greenville 5-4325	*80 \$40 to \$45
Swimming pool, movies, dancing, ping-pong, shuffleboard, lake, all on premises for use of our guests only.	
18. KEOHANE HOUSE, Oak Hill 27, N. Y., Katherine M. Keohane, R. N. Tel. Oak Hill 2-4204—N.Y.C. Tel. IL 8-6640	* \$35 to \$75
A resort with a real home atmosphere. The finest table—in abundance. Every modern facility. Near all churches. Swimming and fishing nearby. Special diets to doctors orders.	
19. MAPLEWOOD ON THE LAKE, Greenville 9, N. Y. Jack Welter, Tel. Greenville 5-4415 or 5-4104	*11 \$45 to \$80
Modern resort with finest recreational facilities. Deluxe rooms with private baths. Social Director. Filtered pool, large private lake, boating, fishing, all sports. Golf course within walking distance. Colored brochure on request.	
20. McNAUGHTON FARMS, Greenville 9, N. Y. McNaughton and Flinn, Tel. Greenville 5-4588	*11 \$40 and up
Filtered pool, tennis, shuffleboard, softball, movies, archery, ping-pong, handball, cocktail lounge, orchestra. "Bring your appetite."	
21. PINE CREST FARM, Freehold 9, N. Y. Rene & Pierrette Stern, Tel. Freehold 7637	*11 \$40 to \$60 wkly., \$8 to \$9.50 dai
Large filtered pool, tennis, shuffleboard, recreation hall, movies, dancing. Modern rooms, main house or cabins. Twenty cabin rooms with private bath. Our meals are our reputation. Churches and golf course nearby. May 17-Sept. 20.	
22. PINE LAKE MANOR, Greenville 5, N. Y. Reinhold Schermer, Tel. Greenville 5-5645	*11 \$40 to \$50
Private lake, swimming, boating, fishing, tennis, shuffleboard, softball field, recreation hall, dancing, movies, free entertainment 6 nights weekly. Snack bar. Cabins and rooms with bath. 9 hole golf course five minutes walk.	
23. PINE SPRINGS HOUSE AND COTTAGES, Freehold 9, N. Y. Mike Garzilli, Tel. Freehold 7711	*11 \$40 and up
Swimming, baseball, all sports on premises, entertainment and orchestra nightly. The best in Italian-American food served.	
24. PLEASANT VIEW LODGE, Freehold 11, N. Y. Eugene C. Schmollinger, Tel. Freehold 7734	*15 \$45 to \$75 wkly., \$7 to \$12 dai
Year 'round resort. Cottages, rooms with bath for honeymooners or vacationists, filtered pool, private lake. Own riding stable, softball field, planned activities, cocktail lounge, orchestra. Informal atmosphere. Excellent meals.	
25. RAINBOW LODGE, Greenville 9, N. Y. Walter J. Birmann, Tel. Greenville 5-4213	*12 On request
Swimming pool, tennis, handball, boating, shuffleboard, bar and grill. 9 hole golf course on premises.	
26. RAVINE FARM, East Durham 9, N. Y. Gus Schneider, Tel. Greenville 5-4355	*50 \$35 to \$38
Recreation hall, dancing and entertainment, swimming, shuffleboard, bocci and other lawn sports. Family resort.	
27. STANTON-BROWN FARM, Norton Hill 9, N. Y. Mrs. Cora Brown, Tel. Greenville 5-4498	*11 On request
We are noted for our quality food, clean rooms and beds. All lawn games. Golf course, churches and village nearby.	
28. SPOHLER'S ELM GROVE, Greenville 9, N. Y. Anna & Fred G. Spohler, Tel. Greenville 5-4193	*6 \$38 up wkly., \$7 up dai
Filtered swimming pool, shuffleboards, all sports, recreation hall, movies and dances, hot and cold water in all rooms, showers. German-American cooking. Home baking. Saddle horses, bowling, churches and golf nearby. Folder. May 1 - November 1.	
29. SUNNY HILL FARM, Greenville 9, N. Y. Arnold Nicholsen, Tel. Freehold 7693 - 7642	*19 \$35 to \$50
Large, filtered, all-concrete pool; shuffleboards, tennis court, ball field, lake with fishing, boating, recreation hall, free Broadway movies and planned entertainment.	
30. THE SHEPARD FARM, Greenville 9, N. Y. Mrs. Gladys Shepard, Tel. Greenville 5-4236 and 5-9380	*18 \$43 to \$61
Large filtered swimming pool, 2 tennis courts, all sports, volley ball, shuffleboards, movies and dances. Recreation hall. Modern rooms, hot and cold running water, some with private bath. Near all churches and golf course.	
31. WHEEL IN, Greenville 9, N. Y. Florence E. Young, Tel. Greenville 5-9384 or 5-5342	*8 On request
Modern rooms, hot and cold running water. Private bath accommodations. Filtered swimming pool, sports, shuffleboard, lake, boating, motion pictures and dances. All churches and golf course nearby. Excellent home cooked meals.	
32. WILLOW BROOK FARM, Surprise 9, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. John Parks, Tel. Greenville 5-4393	*31 \$35.00
Modern, small resort with friendly homelike atmosphere. Natural swimming pool, shuffleboard and stocked lake for fishing. Near all churches, dances, movies and golf. Home cooking.	
32A. HOLIDAY LODGE, Gayhead 9, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Smith	*12 By request
Modern rooms, filtered swimming pool, all sports, spacious lawns, families welcome. Near churches, golf course and riding academics.	
<b>TOURIST HOMES</b>	
33. THE EDMAR, Greenville 9, N. Y. Edwin B. Brown, Tel. Greenville 5-4338	* \$2 day up
Hot and cold running water in rooms, television.	
34. GREENVILLE ARMS, Greenville 9, N. Y. Ruth T. Stevens, Tel. Greenville 5-4219	*4 \$2.50 per person and up
Rooms overnight or by week, many with private bath or shower. Breakfast and dinner when desired. Near churches, movies, stores. Open all year.	

# Vacation Paradise



NUMBERS 1 THROUGH 34  
Resorts - Tourist Homes

NUMBERS 35 THROUGH 45  
Restaurants, Bars, etc.

Resorts in 1937 Pamphlet — Need to Confirm Current Location

- Mountain Breeze Farm, Addie Baker, Surprise
- Pine Bush Farm, Catherine Baron, Greenville
- Joe Haut's Happy Days Bavarian Garden, between Cairo & Greenville
- Twelve Maples Farm, Omer Zeh, Greenville
- Raffo Villa, Mrs. Peter Raffo, Freehold
- Sanford Farm, Mrs. E. M. Evans, Greenville
- Meadow Dale Farm, Mrs. S. W. Joy, Greenville
- Brookside Dairy Farm, Harry Levers, Freehold
- Cherry Hill Farm, Carrie Matthews, Norton Hill, ½ mi to village
- Willow Rest Farm, N Schirmer, Greenville
- Basic Villa Farm, Helen Ditges, Freehold
- Horton Farm, Mrs. John Sullivan, Greenville
- Edmonds Farm, (no name), Greenville
- Erlowest, Mrs. E. R. Palmer, South Westerlo (on Rt 32)
- Park House, Mrs. Elsie Roe, Greenville
- Pine Hill Cottage, Lena Bishop, Greenville
- Pine Springs Farm, W & R Cravata, Freehold,
- Soltys Inn, (no name), Greenville-Cairo Rd
- Hulick's Dairy Farm, (no name), ¼ mi off Rt 81 between Greenville and Norton Hill
- Elysian Manor Farm, Mrs. Anna Ague, Greenville
- Pine Crest Farm, Rene Stern, Freehold
- Locust Shade Farm, Mrs. E. G. Morrison, Norton Hill
- Pleasant Valley Farm, Pierre Cruchon, South Westerlo
- Jesse's Breezy Knoll, Mrs. M. D. Jesse, Greenville (walking distance to new Catholic Church)
- Elm Shade Farm, J. W. Lowe, Greenville
- Brookside, C. Baumann, Greenville
- Rose Terrace, Mrs. Bertie Spalding, South Westerlo (in village)
- Bear's Farm House, Mrs. Floyd Bear, Norton Hill
- Far View Farm, Mrs. Adeline Augustine, Greenville
- Ravine Farm, Gus Schneider, East Durham
- Elliot Farm House, T. M. Elliott, Greenville
- Maplewood Dairy, LeRoy Hannay Greenville (milk & cream)
- Birman's Farm, (no name), Greenville
- Frixel's Blue Ribbon Casino, (no name), Greenville (Rt 32, 2½ north of G'ville)

Some of these, I know, are easily identifiable, but others are not. Let's verify as many of these as we can next month.