

Remembering Halverson's Supper Club, a Stoughton icon

By John McLaughlin
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doors for good. Halverson's Supper Club, a fixture in the community for nearly a century, shut down permanently after Saturday night service on

March 18. A public comment on the restaurant's social media page the next morning read "After 90 years on the shores of Lake Kegonsa, we regret to say we have decided to close our doors indefinitely. We love our customers and all the years of your patronage. We will miss you."

According to Wisconsin Supper Clubs, Inc., Halverson's was founded when its namesake, Harold Halverson, purchased several cabins on the shores of Lake Kegonsa, intending to rent them out to vacationers in the area. Shortly after, and with the assistance of his son-in-law, Bob Montague, Halverson's Supper Club was born. And while the restaurant changed hands several times in later years, it remained a hub for regulars and passersby alike, well-known for its Friday night fish fry and a warm, hometown atmosphere.

For some, like McFar-



Along the shores of Lake Kegonsa, Halverson's shut its doors on March 19. (Photo by John McLaughlin)

land residents Judy Thomas and her husband John, the supper club was more than just a good spot to eat, it was also a treasure trove of family history and nostalgia. Originally from the Rockford, Ill., area, Judy and her family would vacation on Lake Kegonsa since she was a young girl. Thomas' parents, George and Vivian Arvidson, who themselves met on the lake, owned a cabin in the area, as did both sets of her grandparents and an aunt and uncle.

"My parents bought a

cabin on the lake before they bought their first house, it was that important to be on Lake Kegonsa," she said.

To Thomas and her family, an integral part of going to the lake was eating at Halverson's. In the early to mid-1950's, she and her family would regularly stop by for the restaurant's fish fry and Sunday chicken and

dumplings. "Some of my fond memories were in the bar, playing on their shuffleboard table; this was in the days before pinball machines," she recalled.

It seemed as well that the lakeshore supper club was an all-purpose destination. According to Thomas, George Arvid-

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Judy Thomas (left) poses with daughter Jayne Sandine in front of a rental cabin just outside the supper club in 1999. Built by Harold Halverson on the family's waterfront property, the cabin was intended as lodging for vacationers to the Lake Kegonsa area. (Submitted photo)

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