

Sun sets on Lake House Inn after 160 years ‘Patriot’ horseshoe happening is July 4

By Janice Redford
Special to the Lakes Edition

The historical building that was Lake House Inn for 160 years has closed for business. After three generations with the Axcell family, it is now shuttered and vacant.

The history and stories of Lake House Inn have gone into past time. The future of the building is unknown. The supper club is now a pleasant memory.

On July 1, 2016, the historic Lake House Inn changed hands from the second to the third generation of the Axcell family. Justin Axcell became the new owner of the business in partnership with Adam Patterson and they tried to revise and update the structure.

L.B.W Properties LLC (three neighborhood members) purchased the building, including the land. The ancient building needed upgrades and many structural changes to the exterior and interior. They did put on a new roof and remodel the porches to include the original historic design. Interior changes included new lights in the bar, a juke box and remodeling the restrooms.

Changes were also apparent in food offerings but not enough to keep the restaurant filled. They tried, but simply could not offer enough for everyone living near or visiting from



Having gone out of business late last year, the Lake House Inn sits empty. The historic building awaits its next chapter and faces much-needed renovations and repairs. (File photo)

far away.

As many new homes are still being constructed in the area, the friendly atmosphere of Lake House Inn will not be available to them. The plans were for a beer garden, outdoor parties and gatherings, street dances or block parties and family-friendly events but not enough interest was gathered.

The supper club was

cozy with hand-hewn styled wooden beams, a large field-stone fireplace and cloth table coverings; but all the modern amenities were from another era.

The inn's banquet room was part of the original stone farmhouse erected by Azor Kinney in 1857. Many additions to the building over the decades included ex-

pansions for sleeping rooms, porches, hunting lodge areas and food service. Legends of visitors who have stayed at the inn include outdoorsman, hunters and fishermen such as President Theodore Roosevelt during the 1890s into the early 1900s.

The ancient building is located at 1612 E. Hotel Drive in rural Edgerton.

The seventh annual "Patriot" horseshoe tournament will take place July 4 in Racetrack Park on IKI Drive in Edgerton.

There is a \$20 entry fee with a deadline of June 5. There will be cash and prize awards for everyone.

Local longtime horseshoe throwing enthusiast Kevin Brekke has been organizing the event since 2010.

"It started as an idea to bring new and old players together, sanctioned and non-sanctioned, to promote the game of horseshoe pitching," Brekke said last year.

The first year of the tournament, 16 pitchers signed up, he said. Now, the tournament annually draws the maximum of 48 players from several states.

All pitchers are in a class by ringer average. The results are on computer, and everyone gets a printout of how they did. Approximate class

starting times are 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information on the tournament, contact Brekke at 608-669-1218 or brekkekev3@netscape.net.



Horseshoe pitcher Ken Heinritz, past Wisconsin state champion, pitches during the 2013 Patriot tournament in Racetrack Park. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Brekke)

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