

# THE LARSMONT LINE

*Larsmont Community Club • Spring 2013*



Home of the  
Little Red Schoolhouse  
Established 1914

If you are a resident  
of Larsmont,  
full time or visit part time,  
we invite you to get more  
involved in the  
community and meet  
your neighbors.  
Join the Larsmont  
Community Club for  
only \$10 per year.  
Paid members get  
one free use of the  
Little Red Schoolhouse  
during the year.

## *It's Time for the Annual Meeting*

Hello Neighbor:

The annual meeting of the Larsmont Community Club/Volunteer Fire Department will be held Monday, May 13 at the hall at 7 p.m. Since this is a Community Club, all residents of the Larsmont community are automatically members of the club, whether you live here full time or only part of the year. We'd appreciate your participation to help us maintain your building and grounds, so please come and give us your ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to see happen this year with your club/property. The meeting should last less than an hour.

We wish to thank each of you who has paid your voluntary \$10 per household membership dues to help our Community Club. As you probably know, these annual dues allow you to use the Hall once a year for a function for which you may need a larger area. We need these dues so we can pay insurance, electricity, gas, grass cutting, postage and miscellaneous repairs. Of course, an additional donation is always appreciated, especially for the Building Fund.

At our upcoming meeting, we will be planning the 25th Annual Community Picnic, which will be held in August. We need your input. Please use the enclosed label for an envelope and send your membership dues and comments or suggestions if you will be unable to attend this meeting.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Color versions of this and past newsletters are located on the Larsmont Website

[www.Larsmont.org](http://www.Larsmont.org)

## Attend 2013 Community Club Annual Meeting

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Other projects for 2013-2014 will be discussed. We need your input. Please send your membership dues and comments or suggestions if you will be unable to attend this meeting.

Hope to see you at the meeting.



President Bill Tranah and Secretary/Treasurer Marlys Wisch conduct the proceedings at the May 2012 Community Club Annual Meeting.

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### Larsmont Community Club

701 Larsmont Road  
Larsmont, MN 55616

#### President

Bill Tranah

#### Vice President

Margaret Glass

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Marlys Wisch  
218-834-5988

[mwisch@lakenet.com](mailto:mwisch@lakenet.com)

#### Building/Grounds

David Falk

#### Flag Tender

Dale Isackson

#### Newsletter Editor

Paul L. Hayden

### To Use the Little Red Schoolhouse

Contact Marlys Wisch  
218-834-5988  
[mwisch@lakenet.com](mailto:mwisch@lakenet.com)

### Visit the Community Website at:

[www.Larsmont.org](http://www.Larsmont.org)

- Community News
- Calendar of Events
- Links to Resources
- Story Contributions

Help keep the website active.

Send your info to:

[info@larsmont.org](mailto:info@larsmont.org)

[www.Larsmont.org](http://www.Larsmont.org)

## Ole and Lena's Bars (Danish Preserve Bars)

This dessert was presented to the members of the Larsmont community by Margaret Glass at the annual Larsmont Community Club Picnic in 2012.

1-3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp salt  
1-1/2 cups uncooked (old fashioned) oats  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 cup brown sugar, packed  
1 cup preserves (use your favorite preserves -  
I use Blackbury's Raspberry preserves)  
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts (if desired)

#### Lemon Glaze:

1 cup powdered sugar  
2 Tbsp. lemon juice



Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Mix together flour, baking soda, salt and oats. In a separate bowl, cream butter. Add brown sugar to the butter gradually and cream until fluffy. Stir in flour mixture.

Reserve 1/3 of crumbs for topping. Firmly press remainder on bottom of greased 9x13 inch pan. Spread preserves carefully over layer in pan (keep about 1/2 inch from pan edge.)

Sprinkle with reserved topping and nuts (if desired). Bake at 400 degrees for about 25 minutes. Cool pan slightly on wire rack, drizzle with lemon glaze. Cut into bars while slightly warm.

Lemon glaze: Mix together 1 cup powdered sugar and 2 Tbsp. lemon juice.

Note: I find the bars are tastier if your layer of preserves is not too thick.

Margaret Glass

# Larsmont Yesterday - a History

The following is the second excerpt as written from the short history book *Larsmont Yesterday*, written by Oliver Isackson (1906-1970) and published in July 1980 by Irene Hill Norgard. Part 1 was published in the Summer 2011 edition of *The Larsmont Line*, available online at [www.Larsmont.org](http://www.Larsmont.org).

## INDUSTRIES

**Logging.** Logging pulpwood was the first industry in Larsmont. In 1905, Hickox and Gillen had a logging camp at the site of Dr. Wallace's home at the eastern side of Larsmont. That camp burned down in the 1918 forest fire. The place where the logging was done was called "Hickox Hill." The Williams logging outfit and saw mill was located at the site of Keinonen's Store, and another logging company was at the site of Mrs. Sundstrom's home. Victor Sjoblom had pulpwood at his dock, and an old railroad went from his place to Knife River. The Alger Smith Line was built in 1898 and picked up timber. It was abandoned in later years. Charles Hill and John Coson had a saw mill in 1916 – and after the forest fire of 1918, John Strom operated a saw mill.

**Commercial Fishing.** This was first done by Mr. Hart at Marble Siding, a few miles east of Larsmont.

Then in 1888, the Thompson brothers settled here and began fishing. In 1902, Eric Johnson fished at Marble Siding, and in 1918 the Johnson family settled in Larsmont. The Goldish Co. of Duluth fished and freighted along the North Shore. Cargo boats and sometimes sailboats were used to pick up fish from the fishermen along the shore. Regular trips were made up the shore, and the fishermen would row out to them with their fish.

**Boat Building.** In 1916, Charles Hill and John Coson began building boats where the Barthell cabins now are. They built a fleet of small freighters, 65 feet long, called the "Mosquito Fleet." They built the *Esther M.*, *Esther A.* and *Goldish*, and also did work on the *Thor* and *Alvina*.

In the 1930s, Mr. Hill built the *Crusader I* and *Crusader II* for Carl Erickson of Knife River. On June 16, 1939, Crown Prince Olav of Norway,

during a brief visit to Duluth, was in Knife River to christen the new 35-foot *Crusader II* by smashing a bottle of Lake Superior water against the bow. It was an unforgettable experience for the Norwegians of Larsmont also, especially, the Thompson brothers and Ole H. Isackson. Following are some excerpts from the Duluth newspapers of that day:

"Crown Prince Olav of Norway thrilled a large gathering of Knife River, Larsmont and Two Harbors people Friday with his presence at Knife River. ... The prince singled out Theodore and Tollof Thompson of Larsmont, who have braved Lake Superior in fishing for the past 56 years, and chatted with them while viewing the storm which lashed the shore, and discussed the fishing industry of their native land. ..." "Happy men, too, were Theodore and Tollof Thompson, native Norwegians, who have been fishing off the North Shore for 56 years. The prince laughed and chatted with them while viewing Lake Superior's bristling whitecaps from a fishing dock leading into the water – and when he was about to leave later singled out the brothers for a last handshake. 'Oh, there you are,' he said as he looked into the faces of the crowd surrounding his car about to take him back to Duluth. He extended his hand to Theodore, 76 years old, and Tollof, 72 years old, with 'Good-by now and good luck. Good-by all, good-by,' as he waved his hand. ... Among others presented to Prince Olav was Ole H. Isackson, Larsmont. ..."

Mr. Hill also built an excursion boat for use at Isle Royale, several sailboats for pleasure, fishing boats for Knife River fishermen, as well as numerous skiffs for North Shore fishermen.

**Post Office.** At first this settlement was known as Milepost 22. In order to have a post office, a name had to be decided on. One suggestion was Thompsonville, but there were other places with similar names. Most of the settlers had come from Larsmo, Finland, and they wanted to name it that, but the post office inspector suggested it should be a more American name, so they decided on **Larsmont** ... the "mont" because of the hills in the background. Gust Mattson, a brother of Mrs. Charles

Hill, was instrumental in this. On August 10, 1915, the first post office was established, with John Strom as postmaster. The mail bag was carried from the Strom home to the train and dispatched to Duluth. In 1919, John Sjoblom took over the post office and had it until 1935. Then Oliver Isackson was postmaster until his retirement in 1965. The mail came by train until 1950, and after that by postal truck from Duluth. After Ollie's retirement, his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles (Sandra) Isackson, was postmistress for some months, after which Ray Keinonen had the post office in his store, until he sold to James Kinlow in 1977. It was a sad day in 1978 when "Uncle Sam" chose to close our little post office, after 63 years of service to our community.

**Business Places.** The first store was owned by John Strom, in connection with the post office, between 1915 and 1919. Then Charles Hill had a store around 1920. In the 1930s, Ingvald Jacobson had a store, and Oliver Isackson operated a store and gas station from 1929 to 1965. Several have occupied "Ollie's Store" since his retirement, but is now out of business. Gordon Hendrickson also had a store, around 1940-1941.

**Contractors & Builders.** Hill and Strom were contractors and builders from 1913 to 1938. They built the Larsmont school, which was opened in 1914 ... also schools in Beaver Bay, Wales and Knife River Valley. The I.O.O.F. Building in Two Harbors (now owned by the Grace Baptist Church) was erected and dedicated in 1923.

**Tourist Cabins.** The tourist cabin business was started in the late 1920s by John Hendrickson. Many others along the shore then built cabins and it became quite a thriving summer occupation. The height of the cabin business was reached in 1936. There were about 100 cabins in Larsmont.

**Other Businesses.** There also was chicken farming by Oliver Isackson, turkey raising by Mr. Juenemann, a silver fox farm operated by the Jensen Brothers and mink farms by Maynard Kaldor and Lloyd Sande.

Go to [www.Larsmont.org/1108lccnwsltr.pdf](http://www.Larsmont.org/1108lccnwsltr.pdf) for Part One of this excerpt

## *Larsmont Calendar*

### **April -**

*Scot's Ridge Association  
Annual Meeting  
April 27*

### **May -**

*Larsmont Community Club  
Annual Meeting  
May 13 - 7 p.m.  
Pioneer School Days  
Congdon Park School,  
May 30*

### **June -**

*Rummage Sale  
June 9-16*

*Rummage Sale  
June 19-July 1*

### **July -**

*Reunion Float Construction  
Class of 1963  
July 12-13*

### **August -**

*Larsmont Community Club  
Annual Picnic  
August 19 - 5-7 p.m.*

### **September -**

*Pioneer School Days*

### **October -**

*Pioneer School Days*

## *The Community Club Building Fund*

In 2006, the Larsmont Community Club established the Building Maintenance Fund to accept donations from the members to be used toward repairs and upkeep of the building.

Members who donate are recognized through small plaques displayed in the Schoolhouse.

In 2012, donations were received from Judy & Len Beardsley, Margaret & David Glass, Cindy & Paul Hayden (in memory of

Richard Murphy), Ronald & Mary Holm, Wayne Johnson and Bill & Helen Tranah. The following individuals donated in memory of Joyce Muellerleile: Bev & Ken Erickson, Viola Hedvall, Terry Highland, Elaine Mattsen, Vivian Sande and Marlys Wisch.

You can make donations specifically to the Building Fund through Secretary/Treasurer, Marlys Wisch, at the Annual Meeting at the Schoolhouse on May 13, or send them to 489 Swanson Rd., Larsmont, MN 55616.

## *All Had Fun at Last Year's Annual Picnic*



## *Larsmont Community Club*

701 Larsmont Road  
Larsmont, MN 55616



## *Home of the Little Red Schoolhouse*