Lot 11, Con. 9, Stanhope

In the Fall of 1921 Geo. H. McLaughlin along with R. J. McLaughlin were invited by the Gull River Lumber Company to survey some timber limits on Hawk Lake. Headquarters were made at James Welch's on Halls Lake. On their return they were very enthusiastic about Halls Lake and the abundance of fish. It was decided to make a trip in May 1922, leaving Elinor & Pamela with Mother Mac. So, G. H. McLaughlin, Carl, Olive, Pamela and myself started off one bright morning. We made the lake in some eight hours. Once again we made Welch's our stopping place. We caught fish with a copper line attached to reel made of two pie plates.

In the summer of 1922 we were spending our vacation at Torrance, four of us decided to try a cross-country trip to Halls Lake, but after going half way we found that there was absolutely no road through from a place called Vankonught.

We decided to spend our 1923 vacation at Halls Lake, so a tent we rented. Our first camping ground was located on the north shore of Halls Lake, just east of the Welch homestead. We were quite pupular at the square dances with our Coleman lantern as, apparently, ours was the first in the community. As there were no gasoline stations at Halls Lake we were obliged to fill up a five-gallon can at Minden on the way north. That same summer we made arrangements with Mr. W. J. Cooper to purchase a 100 ft. lot on the west shore of the lake, at .50 cents per foot frontage.

In 1924 we once again decided to spend our vacation on the new location, and we rented a large tent. This time we had our meals in the tent, and slept at Coopers, as we had Mr. & Mrs. Wood and Jane Carrette along as guests.

That same summer I made arrangements to build a cottage that fall. The

stonework was ready by October, so once again the McLaughlin Family journeyed north, and with the help of local labour we were living in the cottage at the end of ten days, being the first outsider to build at Halls Lake.

In 1926 I purchased another 100 ft. of lake frontage to the south at $1.00 per foot.

In the fall of 1928 when Frank was two years old we were spending a week at the cottage. Will Cooper and I were up fishing in Big Hawk Lake when we managed to spear and kill a black bear swimming in the lake.

Many happy summers were spent at this cottage. It was here that Mother had her first car, and where she mastered the art of driving with Mrs. E. J. White.

This cottage and land cost $700.00. We sold for $1,200.00 in 1932, due to the fact that other people were building too close.

Lot 12, Con. 7, Twp. Stanhope

On the Fourth day of November, 1931, I entered into an agreement with one Allen C. Hewett to purchase all of lot 12, concession 7, containing approximately forty-seven acres on the south shore of Halls Lake. At the same time he granted a right-of-way over part of lot 11, concession 7, for the purposes of ingress and egress to and from the above described property for all purposes, and being 33' in width, commencing on said lots 11 & 12, and following approximately the base of the mountain insofar as practical for a road in a northerly direction to the western boundary of said lot No. 12.

One Joshua Davis received a patent from the Crown on February 13th, 1874, for the above-mentioned parcel. He subsequently left the district forty to fifty years prior to 1931. Allen Hewett of Minden, a relative, paid the taxes for a number of years and granted a deed to W. C. McLaughlin on November 24th, 1931, by reason of possession. The consideration was $400.00 or $8.51 per acre.

Plans for a seven-roomed cottage and two-piece bathroom were prepared, so in the fall of 1932 we decided to proceed. The carpenters, plumbers and painters were sent up from Toronto, and together with some local labor the cottage was completed in October 1932 ready for occupancy.

We soon found that we were comparatively free from mosquitoes and black flies due to the prevailing winds from the west and north, so we gave our cottage the Indian name of "ANO-A-TOK" meaning The House Of The Winds.

Lot 13, Con. 7, Stanhope

On April 20th, 1936, I applied to the Department of Lands & Forests, Queens Park, to purchase Lot 13, Concession 7, Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton, containing 6 acres more or less for the sum of $150.00, being at the rate of $25.00 per acre. The sale being subject to the erection of a building valued at $500.00 within eighteen months from date of sale.

Plans were prepared for a log cabin with a stone foundation. The only logs available in the district were poplar. Considerable shrinkage would occur in this type of construction, so we decided to locate an old log house. Several houses were inspected, but in every case the logs would not fit into the new design. We toured all over the country in search of a suitable structure. Finally we decided to look for an old log barn with good sound logs.

Mother's eagle eye soon discovered an old barn at the rear of Hicks' grocery store in Carnarvon. She made a bargain with Mr. Hicks to sell the barn for $75.00. Jack MacCallum made the inspection and O.K'd the timbers. He then dismantled the barn in the fall of 1937, drew the logs up to Halls Lake, dumping them into the lake at Oliver's Beach, when all the logs were assembled, A boom was made and the logs floated across the lake to our bathing beach. There the logs were re-hewn to a uniform thickness of eight inches.

The erection commenced. All timbers were in position by November, and the roof completed. No more work was done until the spring of 1938. On Feb. 22nd, 1938, I received a patent or deed direct from the Crown. Finally, the cabin was completed by July, 1938. We made a trip to Stratford that spring, and purchased all new maple furniture.

As a token of our appreciation to Mr. E. J. White of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, Mr. & Mrs. White were the first people to occupy the cabin for the first three weeks in July, 1938. Then on September 10th, Dorothy Taylor, my Secretary for over ten years, was married to Cliff. Roberts. They spent their honeymoon in the cabin.

Looking around for a suitable name for the cabin, many names were suggested. Finally, Frank (who was only twelve years old) suggested the name "The House That Jack Built", and so it was named and labelled.