

## CHAPTER XI

### INNS AND BED & BREAKFASTS

During the late 1890s, when the railroad discharged visitors to Jaffrey several times a day in the height of the summer season, hotels and inns flourished. Then began a slow decline in the first half of the 20th century, a decline that accelerated as highways were greatly improved and tourists visited Jaffrey either by automobile on day-trips or remained throughout the summer in cottages built on the shores of Jaffrey's lakes and ponds. Of the hotels and inns, only Monadnock Inn continued in operation through the 1970s and to the end of the century, although a few boarding houses, among them the Butler House (now Michaels Jaffrey Manor) at Turnpike and Stratton roads, continued in operation until the late 1970s.

Throughout New Hampshire, as the old hotels were abandoned, converted, or burned, their role as tourist accommodations was taken up by motels, overnight cabins, or summer cottages that could easily be reached by automobile. There were also a few tourist homes where people with an extra room or two hung out a sign and took in overnight guests to make a little extra money. No motels were built in Jaffrey, but from the 1940s to the 1960s several groups of cabins filled the niche. Therrien's Cabins, originally Baldwin's, were built several miles south of town on Route 202. The Sawyers built cabins on the westerly portion of their property, and a number of cabin colonies were built in the area called Little Michigan on the westerly shore of what had been called Lake Sunshine, but by 1970 was known by the more dignified name of Contoocook Lake. By then the Sawyer cabins and most of those in Little Michigan had been converted into year-round dwellings. By the close of the century, remnants of the few long-since abandoned cabins and cottages near the lake could still be seen.

The next two decades witnessed the advent of an import from the British Isles, the bed-and-breakfast establishment. The bed-and-breakfast, or B&B as it is commonly known, consists of a series of rooms with private or shared baths in an existing house or in an addition built for that purpose. Guests are given a full or continen-



*Galway House*

tal breakfast in the morning, but the B&B serves no other meals. The B&B is subject to Jaffrey site-plan review and to New Hampshire health regulations. Joseph Manning, who started Galway House on Dean Farm Road in 1981, said, and no one has seriously refuted his claim, that in the fall of 1981, when he started the first B&B in New Hampshire, town officials didn't know what it was.

After retiring, Margaret Gould opened Gould Farm B&B in the summer of 1983. Today she still welcomes visitors to her home. The Benjamin Prescott Inn was established in 1984 in the former Vannevar Bush home on Turnpike Road by Richard Rettig. It was



*Benjamin Prescott Inn*



*Lilac Hill Acres*

purchased by present owners Janice and Barry Miller in August 1988. Also in 1984, Frank and Ellen McNeil opened the Lilac Hill Acres Bed and Breakfast (formerly the Kimball Farm), which has four rooms and was in operation until 1998. In mid-1998 Lilac Hill Acres was sold and returned to a private residence. From 1986 to 1989 Betty Ann and Scott Fitzgerald operated the Mill Pond Inn in Squantum, as they shared their home, the former Annett homestead, with out-of-town visitors. In 1998 a new addition to the bed-



*The Currier House*

and-breakfast scene was the Currier's House in Jaffrey Center. This 1810 house has three guest rooms and is operated by Nancy Lloyd.

### THE MONADNOCK INN

The Monadnock Inn is the only remaining hotel in Jaffrey, having been an active resort since the days when Benjamin F. and Sara E. (Sawyer) Lawrence started taking in guests in the late 1800s. It continues to do so today.

Maynard A. and Violet C. Dunham (see Volume III) managed the inn from 1961 to 1976, when they sold it to Joseph and Constance Christilles.

The Christilles came from Houston, Texas, where Joe worked for NASA. They had lived in Dover, New Hampshire, for several years, and when the opportunity to buy an inn appeared, both were delighted to return to New Hampshire. They were brief owners, and their major contribution was reopening the dining rooms that had been closed for the previous five years.

In 1977 an adventurous couple from Neshanic Station, New Jersey, bought the Inn. Herbert and Sally Roberts had no experience as innkeepers since he was a businessman and she was a physical education teacher, but they wished to return to their native New England. The Roberts found it necessary to make extensive repairs to the guest rooms, and they made major renovations in order to



*Monadnock Inn*

modernize the hotel. They redecorated all the common rooms, expanded the dining rooms, and created a lounge. They worked to retain the ambience of an old country inn and the trend toward the homelike atmosphere of small hotels.

One of the most significant improvements was the establishment of a gourmet kitchen that was complimented in the September 1980 issue of GOURMET magazine for its fresh ingredients and careful individual preparation. The inn became a meeting place for the local community as Mrs. Roberts welcomed use of the facilities by Jaffrey organizations.

Many famous guests from both the worlds of politics and entertainment have stayed at the inn. One such visit was that of then future president Bush along with Governor Sherman Adams and other dignitaries.

Anne Scarbrough purchased the inn in 1995. She plans to bring it into the present by adding computer hookups, but she will keep the country tone of the inn by continuing the tradition of no television in the rooms. She would also like to develop tourist packages for golfers and cross-country skiers.

Because Ms. Scarbrough believes that the inn should be involved in community activities, she is the coach of the Conant High School field hockey team. At this writing, in 1998, the future of the inn is uncertain.

## MONADNOCK LODGE

The Monadnock Lodge opened in January 1973. William Burke, owner and operator of the 300-acre establishment, built a full restaurant, cocktail lounge, and coffee shop dedicated principally to snowmobilers. There were 16 guest rooms. Many trails for snowmobiles were created on the varied terrain, and there was a snowmobile service center.

Because it was not too successful, it was sold by the Cheshire National Bank at a foreclosure sale in 1974.

In mid-December 1976, firefighters from Jaffrey, Peterborough, Dublin, Meadowood, and Fitzwilliam were called to the five-year-old wooden structure off Dean Farm Road in the early morning hours to find the building in flames. The building was leveled in about an hour and a half in spite of intense efforts to save it. Fire

Chief Paul Leach said there was not as much water as they would have liked, and most of their efforts were directed toward keeping the fire from spreading to the wooded area and away from some propane tanks. The fire started in the furnace room of the building. The owner, George Morgan, placed the loss at around \$400,000.

In 1979 William Burke received permission to build a subdivision on the former snowmobile area, presently Crestview Drive.

### SHATTUCK INN RESORT

As mentioned in the last Jaffrey History, Shattuck Inn was purchased by the Congregation of the Sacred Heart and Jesus and Mary in 1952. The congregation used the inn as home for 60 to 70 seminarians and was referred to as the Queen of Peace Seminary. The order left Jaffrey for good in 1969.

In 1973 the inn was sold for \$116,000 to Hampton Park Corporation, which is located in Maryland. Richard Bryant, sole trustee of Hampton Park, allowed David and Virginia Asel to use the inn for a minimal charge. The Adulum Charismatic Conference Center was run by the Asels and used for more unfortunate individuals seeking refuge while making contributions to the community. Twenty to 30 people lived there until 1983, when septic system problems forced the community to move out. Youth with a Mission was another group that lived there for a time.

Eventually a decision was made to build a golf course and to upgrade the inn, which by this time was in need of serious help. The Shattuck Inn Associates, Richard Bryant and Edward Pittman, took out a mortgage for \$11,500,000. The Associates decided to refurbish the inn as part of the condominium plans for the golf course that was built in 1988. In 1987 a cross-country ski trail was designed, built, and put into use with the Shattuck Inn as a starting point.

As time progressed the planned upgrade of the inn never took place and, in fact, a systematic pilfering of the inner guts (doors, light fixtures, bathroom fixtures) occurred despite all the promises that had been made to fully refurbish the structure. Eventually financial constraints forced one of the partners, Edward Pittman, to leave.

Edward Bardsley was hired to manage the golf course, and the real process of destruction took place. A slow and consuming death

to the inn began in earnest.

Walls were bared. What was left of plumbing and electrical fixtures and all other manifestations of a previously vibrant hotel disappeared. A 40-acre piece of forested property was clear-cut in order to pump money into a losing proposition.

In an ensuing court battle, Bardsley was forced to leave. All that remained was a decaying shell. If a person didn't look closely, the inn seemed salvageable from the outside. A closer look at the inside of the structure told the inevitable truth of the matter.

In 1996 Championship Golf Enterprise, a subsidiary of Cherokee Industries and owner of 42 other golf courses around the country, bought the inn and surrounding acreage for \$2,500,000 and began demolition on Tuesday, March 26, 1996. At the end of the week, rubble was all that was left.

The upgrading of the facilities surrounding the golf course and the permitting process that went along with the proposed upgrading got off to a shaky start as questions arose about the timing of the permits and what was actually going to happen to buildings new and old. Less than cordial meetings of the planning board took place with court action finally taken to uphold the board's decisions on various permits and the town's cease and desist orders on construction.