

During February and March of 1900 Gray, Harbert, and a surveyor worked on plans for completing a road from the river road to the lake. A description of their plans appeared in the paper, where it said that the biggest cut in the dunes was to be made just behind the Pokagon Inn. They had expected to start work immediately but heavy snow slowed down the workmen.

The Forward Movement magazine in its early issue of 1900 was to give wide coverage to the Saugatuck/Douglas area and was to have some 25,000 copies.

Not as much newspaper coverage was written about the 1900 summer season, but apparently it was successful for the management. But two articles were written which ought to have left some readers shaking their heads in wonderment or relief.

During July about 50 boys were in Swift Cottage for dinner when an electrical storm blew in off the lake. A bolt of lightning struck the building, with part of it hitting the chimney. One of the camp staff was knocked down by it but not injured.

The second item would probably only be noticed by another camp director. In August the David C. Cook group of Sunday School workers had "100 tents pitched on the beach and in the woods" with 500 people. In this, the second year of operation, and only a dining hall completed one has to wonder just what they did for sanitary facilities. Even today with state and county inspectors regulating the operation the camp is only licensed for 250 capacity. In a newspaper account of March 1901 they said that they hoped to have an even larger Sunday School convention than last year.

Three newspaper accounts in 1901 mentioned additional work on the road into the Park. Six to eight teams of horses worked on getting the road ready, and the final notice said that it was 2,950 feet long. The next year another account noted that a road was to be made in the Park to connect the "present road" from the ferry to the Lake Shore Drive. This road may have been the south end of Vine Street. In 1910 work was being done on Vine and Maple Streets, and also a road just south of "Mrs. Chase's" to Swift Villa.

In another account there was a description of a change in the use of Swift Villa. The building could accomodate 100 people. The new plan would apply only to young women who wished to come to the Park, but who could not pay more than \$2.50 per week room & board. Each woman was to bring a letter of recommendation from the pastor of her church or the principal of her school. This requirement was to be a "guarantee" to her mother that the daughter would be protected.

As hard and as honorably as George Gray worked he was still subjected to criticism, though there are no existing examples of the nature of that harassment. We do have letters in his defense from friends who knew both the operation of the Forward Movement Settlement House in the city and the Park. In May 1905 a letter in the Saugatuck paper by the Rev. Fred Millar said that Gray had worked for "eleven years" without pay to assure the success of the Park, and that many important people supported his work. Two existing letters of October 1911 defended Gray's work. One was addressed to George Lytton (of Chicago's Lytton Department Store) and complained about attacks on the Forward Movement Park. The second was written by H. Augustine Smith (Director of the choir of the First Congregational Church of Chicago) who defended the work that was being done at the Park. A third letter also defended Gray's work, and was written by F.B. Ornbly (Principal of the Perkins Bar Public School of Chicago). It is still a mystery as to just what the commotion was all about.