

Letters from the caretakers at the Park (Repp & McCarthy) during the winter of 1912 tell of cold weather and so much snow that cutting on the river and wood in the woods is hampered. For many years ice was cut in the winter and stored in an ice house at the Park for summer use. The letters noted that finances were low. Repp wrote to Gray that he was also low on food. During this time there were a number of letters from Gray to others asking for contributions. In a letter to a friend in West Palm Beach, Florida Gray described his financial difficulties. The electrical plant he bought was to have cost about \$500. but would probably be closer to \$1,500. In reply to Repp's requests for funds Gray said he was having a hard time getting money, and hoped that some of the cut wood could be sold. In another letter he said that March was the worst month financially.

But financial difficulties were not only Gray's problems. There were ordinary annoyances. In May 1911 he wrote to the Graham & Morton Shipping Company to complain about the lack of heat in his cabin on the trip from Chicago to Saugatuck. During the early years of the Park it was customary for "guests" or campers to come to camp by boat. They could board one in downtown Chicago and come directly to the village of Saugatuck. They could also take one to Holland and then take the Interurban train to Saugatuck.

In that same year Gray wrote to George Lytton that he take care about endorsing any "movement". He continued by saying that he (Gray) had made inquiries about a Miss Gaston and her "cigarette movement". It is possible that she had wanted the Forward Movement to support her stand against smoking. In February Gray wrote about a family that he had let live in one of the buildings during the summer, and who then had sued him for an "unkown bill". The next month he wrote to General Young, a member of the Board, because the Women's Club of Young's church had not paid their pledge for over a year. Gray felt that they had been influenced against him by a "woman from Moddy Institute who said that his boys and girls, though growing up good, were not saved". In May 1912 he wrote to a friend about a trial where he had to pay something as a compromise. Then he wrote, "About once a year for the past 18 years I have been sold out by the very people I have tried to help...the next man who comes to have me take care of a team in order to help him through the winter, I will probably tell him to drive on, but the next fellow will have some other scheme that I will not be on to".

## Golden Anniversary

The highlight for George and Sarah Gray for 1912 must have been the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary held at the Union League Club of Chicago on March 3rd. With them was their daughter, Mrs. Charles Segar, and son, Dr. Edwin Gray. The party was recorded in three Chicago newspapers: the Record Herald, the Evening Post, and the Examiner. There were 150 guests at the Club with a reception at 4:00 PM and a dinner at 6:00. It was a celebration of both the Gray's anniversary and his work. The speakers and their titled speeches sounded impressive on the program though Gray later wrote that there was a great deal of exaggeration. The toastmaster was Dr. Charles Stuart, editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate (a Methodist periodical). The general theme of the evening centered around the "great social awakening in this country, and the forward movement in the last fifty years" as the Examiner described it.

A probably unintended spot of humor accompanied the announcement of the Record Herald when it stated that Adjutant General Edward Young had planned to speak on "How the Social Awakening Affects Business" but who said, when he rose to speak, that he preferred to honor Dr. Gray. The Director of the Art Institute, W.M.R. French, spoke about "How the Social Awakening Affects Art". Dr. H.M. Skinner of Lincoln-Jefferson University spoke on the "Social Awakening and Education". Two women honored Mrs. Gray. Mrs. O. Denslow read a poem she had composed for the occasion, and Mrs. B.P. Unsolt, a college class-mate recalled their days at school.