

1947



Grover “the Rover” Stout – seated and wearing white shorts and hat – was known as the Mayor of Oval Beach. He was famed for his convivial nature and deep tan.

OVAL BEACH



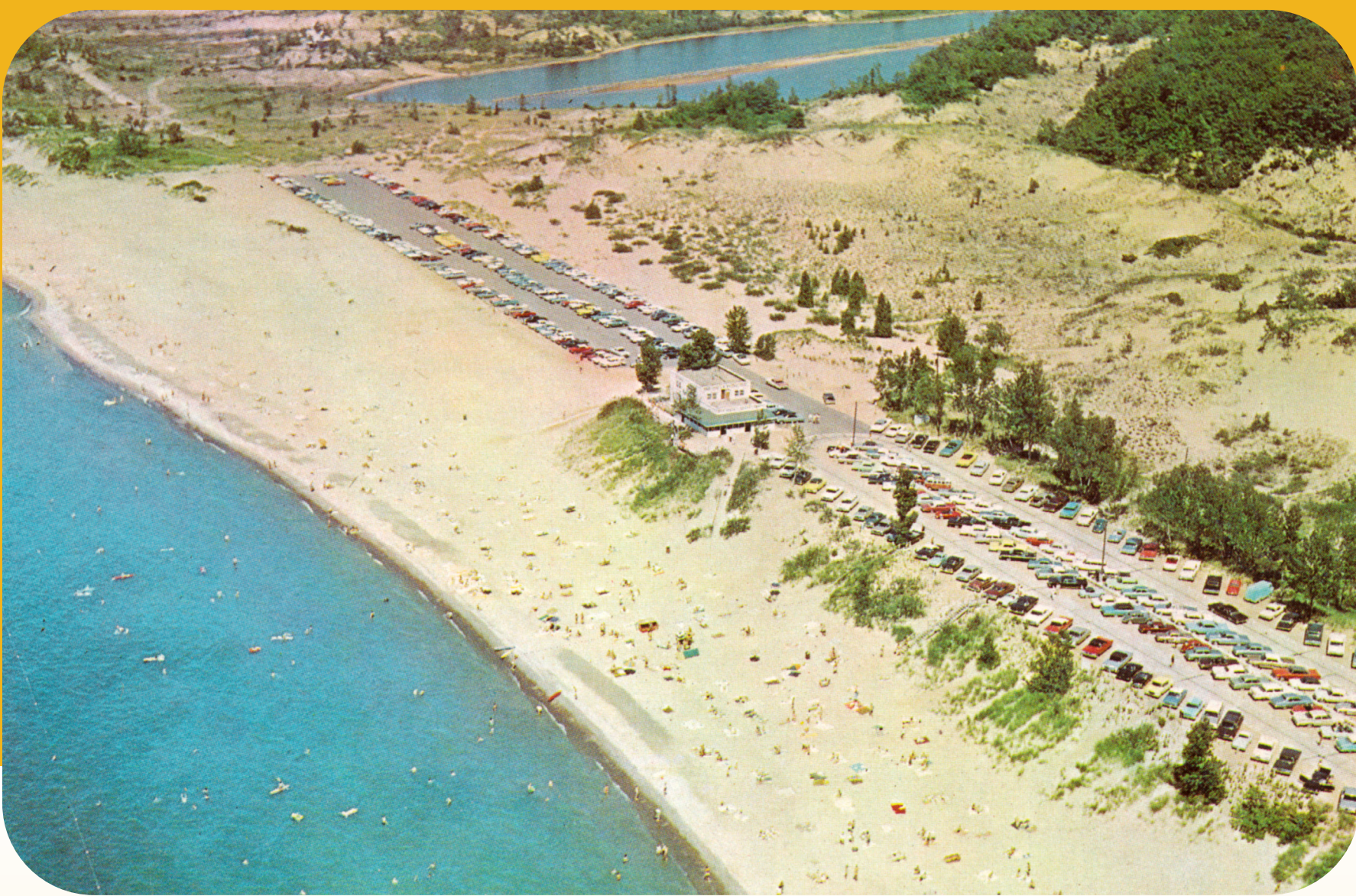
The Bird Bathhouse, circa 1905, was north of Oval Beach and only accessible by boat, rustic road, or a long climb over Mt. Baldhead.

Oval Beach has offered many amenities to visitors over time. Bathhouses were first built going back to the days of excursion boats at the “basin”. Refreshments were offered on site, and for many years Alice Pluim operated a concession trailer and later a stall in the beach house.



Beachgoers lining up for fresh popcorn and other concession treats.

In 1957, a tornado razed both the full-service Beach House (shown at right) and the decommissioned Saugatuck lighthouse.



The beach’s namesake Oval was originally located much closer to the water and further south than the main parking lot is today. It was frequently threatened by erosion and high-water levels that dramatically changed the surrounding landscape. In the 1960s the west edge of the parking lot washed out, and a new parking area was relocated to the north.

