

A Bit of Ingenuity ~ 1966

House Moving Across Lake Quinault



by
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About May 1966 we bought the Forest Service office building located where the new addition and parking lot south of the Lodge are now. Three buildings were up for bid but we only wanted the office building so we bid on all three just in case we didn't get the first one. The second building was a warehouse and the third was a residence house. We successfully bid on all three and then the challenge was where to move them and how.

At first we planned to move them by highway around to the property we had purchased from Doug Osborn on Sunnyview Plat on the North Shore of Lake Quinault. We could not get permission to move on the highway as there were too many electric lines, etc. Pidge Perrigo and his two sons, Grant and Corky, had an idea - float it across the lake - wood floats!! Their idea was to find a place to put the house into the lake somewhere on the South Shore so the search was on. John found a place on Lake Lane



where someone had cleared a lot right down to the water's edge. He had to get permission from the Forest Service to use the lot. They gave permission but it would have to be returned to the same condition as before. Anyway, the men started jacking up the office building in preparation. John secured a special permit from the Forest Service to get timbers to put under the building.

We got the timbers from Haas Road. They jacked the building up and put the timbers under the house with axles under the back.

We had a truck that they put under the front and then began the maneuvering to pull, slide, push back and forth, till it was on South Shore Road.

It didn't take long to get to Lake Lane and on to the cleared lot. Then the work really began. When the house was on the lot

they laid logs crosswise and then slid the house with the logs under it, pushing and pulling with a cat across the lot.



John and Corky found a big cottonwood log in the lake and they pushed and pulled it over to the spot where the house was sitting. The log was anchored and then began the process of putting the house in the water.

We were the pastors of the Lake Quinault Chapel and it was Tuesday service night so everyone put their religion to work. All the men and a lot of neighbors also, went around and gathered up all the 50 gallon drums they could find. Empty, with the bungs in, they would act as pontoons. This was Pidge Perrigo's idea and it worked.

The big cottonwood sinker they brought over was anchored down and then began the process of pushing the building out over the log and slipping a 50 gallon drum under it on both sides. It took 54 drums to go around. It was wonderful to see it slide out and float just like a huge houseboat.





The first grade teacher brought her class down and stayed till the house was launched. Grant and Corky Perrigo had their mother, Freda, make a jolly roger flag which they ran up on the house just before launch. The little first graders were amazed because Grant

and Corky had full black beards and looked like pirates!

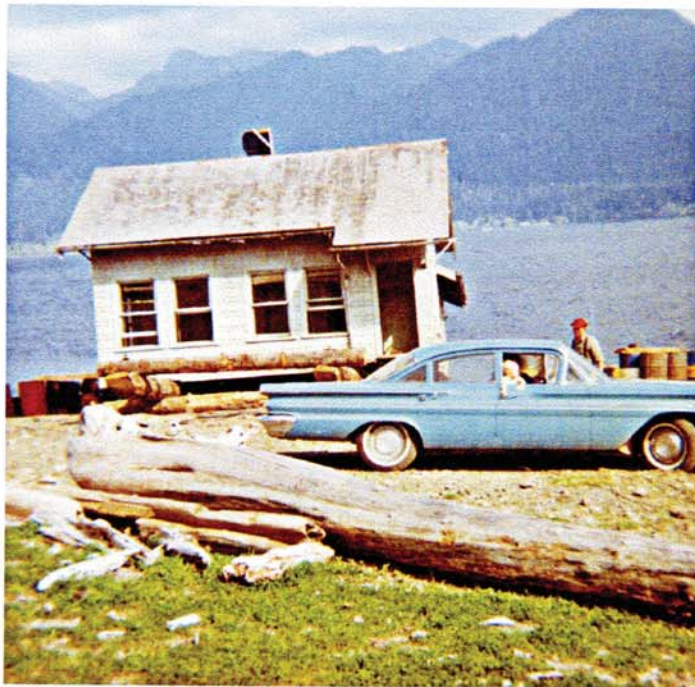
We had lots of fun during the month it took to get the building ready to move and up to the lot on North Shore. My mom and dad, John and Nina Poisel, came over and helped. Mom and I took lunch to the men everyday plus 2 snacks and then dinner was at

home. The days were long from daylight to dark but building a home for his 8 children was a goal John was pushing for.



The barrels were under the house and it was launched and straining to sail away. We had a motor boat guiding and a canoe and two motor boats pushing. Away we went. Avery Gates wanted a ride so he hopped in the back window. The school bussed some of the

grades to the Amanda Park end of the lake



so they could see this strange happening (a true house boat).

When the house was afloat Mom and I rushed to Amanda Park to get food ready for lunch, packed it up, stopped at the school, got David out of school (his class didn't get to view the sailing), went around the lake and got there just as the house landed. It didn't take long, about an hour, to

sail across Lake Quinault to the North Shore.

We had a reverse action taking the barrels out from under the house, pulling it up on to the beach, then pulling it up the road to



75 Lakeview Drive, where it now sits. The lot was still piled with stumps and debris. Then we returned to repeat the process with the warehouse which is now at 77 Lakeview Drive and converted to a 3 bedroom house. The residence that the Forest Service sold was bought by Avery Gates and moved across the Lake in the same fashion as

the first 2 buildings. The home now sits at 454 North Shore Road. Stephen and Nan Rutledge now own that home on North Shore. We moved into our house in November, 1966.

- Delma Gilroy 2001





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Home At Last!

