

Zaccari says goodbye to



DOROTHY ZACCARI

By Jason Francis
Reporter Staff

It's normal for Dorothy Zaccari to see her 'neighbors' leave each fall.

But this year is different.

She is also leaving.

Zaccari, the longtime owner of Lakeview Lodge & Campground, has sold her business and will be relocating to Florida at the end of the month.

She and her husband Jerry, who is now deceased, moved to Edgerton and started the business in 1976. Jerry was a carpenter at that time and Dorothy worked as a buyer for a Janesville department store.

The campground, located at 1901 E. State Hwy. 59 between Edgerton and Milton, was a risky business

venture that eventually paid off.

"We had \$27 in the bank when we opened the doors," Zaccari recalled.

The Zaccaris correctly calculated that the campground's setting on Lake Koshkonong would make for an excellent selling point.

"It has the most wonderful view. That's why we called it Lakeview," Zaccari said.

Located over 12 acres (originally it was 8 acres), the family-oriented campground includes 779 feet of shoreline and a natural sandy beach.

The setting was so good, the campground regularly filled up without even advertising.

"Word of mouth did it," Zaccari said.

Some people have been coming to camp at Lakeview for 30 years. Many of the campers have relatives and friends who also stay there.

"It's the only place I know where you can pick your neighbors," Zaccari said. "A lot of long-term friendships have been made there."

On an annual basis, Zaccari has thrown campground-wide parties in appreciation of her customers. The past four years, chef Ray Lampe has cooked the barbecue for the outing. Lampe, regarded as one of the country's top barbecuers, is known as 'Dr. BBQ.' He is an author and has appeared on television.

Zaccari said Lampe called her up one day to inquire about staying at the campground.

"Once I knew that he was a chef I hit him up to cook," Zaccari said.

The campground has also been used as a staging area for mock water

rescues for the Edgerton and Milton fire departments and emergency personnel.

A tavern on the grounds has been a popular spot for campers and locals. Zaccari has heard the tavern referred to as the 'Lakeview Social Club.'

The new owner of Lakeview is Bob LaBree of Beaver Resorts Inc. out of Roscoe, IL.

The decision to sell came only after LaBree approached Zaccari about the campground even though it was not on the market.

It turned out fine, however, as Zaccari had been building a house in Port Charlotte, Florida, and the home was completed in June.

Zaccari said she will greatly miss her campers, who have been like family to her. However, some have already told her they will be visiting her in Florida.

She will also miss the community.

"Everywhere I go people know me," said Zaccari, who has been a member of both the Edgerton and Milton chambers of commerce.

Because she is used to being busy – she has been the sole caretaker of the Lakeview grounds for many years – Zaccari figures she will probably get some type of job in Florida. She is also a painter and has dabbled in woodworking.

The question is, will she find a better view in Florida than what she had at Lakeview?

"It's a place that gives you tranquility. You look at the water and it is absolutely peaceful and relaxing. You almost get mesmerized," said

campground 'neighbors'



Campground with a view: Lakeview Lodge & Campground near Newville is coming under new ownership. Longtime campground owner Dorothy Zaccari, who is moving to Florida, said she will miss the view of Lake Koshkonong (above) that the campground afforded her over the years.

Zaccari about Lakeview.

Zaccari is closing her campground on Oct. 23. The campground will continue under the new ownership.