



# THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

[WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG](http://WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG)

October, 2016

## **FAST GUN** “YOU DIDN’T STOP AT MY SIGN, I WON’T FIX YOUR TIRE Stories of Three Town Marshals

By Mike Swygert

### DEDICATION

**This monograph is dedicated to Dune Acres security officials -- present and past -- who make our community safe and secure for residents and visitors. We thank each of you!**

The story begins by focusing on three men who were Dune Acres' Town Marshals and who held the office for a combined span of 63 years. Their anecdotal stories are an important part of the Town's lore. **Art Johnson** was the Town's first marshal and served for 27 years, **Joseph La Roche** for 9 years, and **Arnold Mauke**, also for 27 years. Each had a singular personality and interacted with people in distinct ways. This historical essay also answers a few questions. Why and when did Dune Acres hire marshals in the first place? Why and when did security officers stop carrying weapons? Why and when was the name marshal changed to security officer? *Sources include oral recollections related by present and former residents; documents, journals, and clippings; and earlier Town histories written by Margaret Doyle, James Newman and Mary Ann Tittle.*

### Dune Acres And The “Walk-Ins”

The Dune Acres walk-ins phenomena had its beginnings in 1908. That's when a group of Chicagoans formed *The Prairie Club of Chicago* -- an association of people who believed that periodically escaping the grimy and polluted city was both healthy and invigorating. Historian **Cathy Jean Maloney** (author of *The Prairie Club of Chicago, Arcadia, 2001*) puts it this way: “These people shared a love of nature and a reverence for the outdoors.” For decades, Prairie Club members travelled to places where they would take daylong walks in beautiful and serene environments.

In 1908, the electrified *Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad* began service from Chicago's Randolph Street Station to South Bend, Indiana -- about 100 miles apart, 40 of which bordered the Indiana dunes. Automobiles were few in those

days and no direct roads from Chicago to the dunes existed. So, the opening of a railroad service made it possible for Prairie Club members to easily get to the Indiana Dunes. In 1924, most Club members stepped off the trains at Tremont (near today's Dune Park Station). From there, they walked a short distance to the dunes and beaches. Many came not just for a day's hike, but also to camp out. From 1908 onward they came: first a few, then hundreds, and in the summer of 1917, according to Cathy Maloney, “thousands.” However, not all Prairie Clubbers left the city to hike in the dunes and lay on the beaches. One of the earliest members was **Dr. Henry Cowles** who did a great deal more than hike. Cowles, a University of Chicago botanist, did science in the dunes that pioneered the principles of ecology and ecological succession. Cowles Bog, an 8,000-year old fen, a part of which lies within Dune Acres, has been designated a National Natural Landmark in his honor.

In 1913, the Prairie Club of Chicago purchased 46 acres in the dunes. There it built a permanent camp for members. Though the camp was a huge success attracting scores of visitors, its permanency wasn't. In 1925, Indiana established the Dunes State Park, an area of 2,182 acres, 46 of which were the Club's. It had no choice but to sell the land to the State. That same year, *Highway 12*, “the Dunes Highway,” was completed. During the mid-1920's, South Shore Railroad expanded service to the Indiana Dunes with stops at Miller (Gary), Wickliffe (Ogden Dunes), Wilson (today ArcelorMittal Steel), Mineral Springs (Dune Acres), Port Chester (Porter Beach) and Tremont (Dunes State Park). Dune Acres residents of course were pleased to have

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## FALL IS IN THE AIR

## Planting Perennials This Fall?

Buy Local Natives!

With cool temps and ample moisture, Fall is perhaps the very best time to buy and plant native perennials. Summer-weary plants might look worse-for-wear, but their odds of surviving and flourishing next season are excellent.

Supporting wildlife—including birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinating insects—is a major reason Dune Acres residents choose native plants. Using plants grown from locally-collected, locally-grown seed ensures the greatest genetic diversity and adaptability. Unfortunately, often the only natives for sale at the local garden center are cultivated varieties or “cultivars.”

You can identify cultivar by its consumer-friendly name (often in single quotes) which follows the italicized genus and species—like *Asclepias tuberosa* ‘Gay Butterflies’ or *Aquilegia canadensis* ‘Little Lanterns.’ Cultivars have been selected, bred, or genetically enhanced to showcase certain attributes like big flowers, brighter berries, or colored foliage. However, that which makes cultivars commercially appealing often makes them unattractive to wildlife. For example, *Echinacea purpurea* ‘Pink Double Delight’ is a cloned cultivar selected for its showy, double petal flowers. At the same time, it lacks much of the nectar, pollen and seed that make it appealing to bees, butterflies, and goldfinches. From an ecological perspective, it’s simply an inferior plant. Worse, it could even cross-pollinate with our native species to “pollute” the local genetic pool.



Dune Acres has an extraordinary heritage of land stewardship and environmental conservation. Let’s ensure the decisions we make for beautifying our own property are in concert with the natural surroundings. Use only native, locally-sourced plants whenever possible, avoid cultivars and hybrids (particularly those that have native “cousins” nearby), and keep known invasive plants under control. Need a plant list for reference? Go to: <https://goo.gl/ftFE3e>



Doing Fall yard clean up disturbed two praying mantis! Here is a photo of one!!!!

*submitted by Leah Harp*



When we gently poked this guy to determine if it was a leaf, it was revealed to be a walking stick!!!! what a wonderful insect day in the dunes!!!

### Let the Planting Begin!



As most have noticed, environmental restoration of Clubhouse Dune’s east-facing slope (above the ice rink) began last winter. Specialized contractors removed invasive trees and vines that had taken over the hillside. These had created the over-shaded conditions which prevents the growth of sun-loving native groundcover plants and wildflowers. Log terracing was laid to help prevent erosion.



Work continued on the hill this summer. Re-sprouts of Asian bittersweet, barberry, and other non-natives were treated with herbicide, and generally, preparation for the final stage of the project was conducted.



Now, with the fall season upon us, it’s time to start planting! This next phase of restoration involves installation of about three thousand native sedge and flower transplants along with “interseeding” several dozen native plant species that have been documented as growing on Clubhouse Dune. Plants like sky-blue Aster, thimbleweed, wild columbine, tall coreopsis, wild bergamot, blue-stemmed goldenrod and others will thrive in the dappled shade of the restored savanna. All plants and seeds are locally grown and sourced from “local ecotypes”—meaning plants that are adapted to the specific climate and soil conditions present in the Indiana Dunes.



The budget for the Clubhouse Dune ‘East-Face’ restoration is as follows:

- \$15,000 Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant (from NOAA, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration)
- \$ 6,000 Town Match, Dune Acres general fund
- \$ 9,000 Town Match, donations from residents
- \$30,000 TOTAL



Thank you to all residents who generously supported this and other environmental initiatives in 2016. Your financial support is significant and necessary. Environmental donations allow the town to continue receiving matching grants for ecosystem preservation.



*By Jan Bapst*



*Photos by Mike Swygert*

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## Town Marshals

nearby rail service to and from the city, but there was a downside. Chicagoans in increasing numbers got off the trains at Mineral Springs Road and then walked into Dune Acres heading toward the beaches. Many came after seeing large colored posters extolling the virtues of the Indiana dunes and pristine beaches, underscoring that the South Shore provided easy and comfortable access to “the playground.” Scores came with tents, blankets and provisions to camp out.

By the late 1920’s, Chicago’s weekend exodus of people to the Indiana dunes went far beyond Prairie Club members. The majority still got off the South Shore trains at Tremont, but more and more “derailed” two stops earlier at Mineral Spring. From there, they easily walked on the straight gravel and sandy road into Dune Acres, and to the Beach. These folks were referred to as “walk-ins.” Long-time resident **Dan Jenkins** (now 96 and living in Arizona) comments that residents became increasingly alarmed as larger numbers of walk-ins were going through Dune Acres’ residential properties headed toward Town beaches. A consensus arose, Dan explains, that non-resident-walk-ins, somehow, had to be restricted. To that end, in 1929 Town trustees hired a marshal. His primary job was to stand at the Town’s entrance, stopping non-resident walk-ins and drivers, explaining to each that Dune Acres was a residential-only community with no public access to the beach.

To put this in wider context – Chicago and northwest Indiana people were becoming more aware by word-of-mouth and through South Shore Railroad enticements that only an hour outside the city were majestic dunes with “singing-sand” beaches. For many Chicago region families, coming to the Dunes was irresistible. My family is an example. Starting in the early 1930’s, my parents and older brother Bob (and me after ‘39) frequently came from Hammond to spend a day in the Dunes State Park. My parents hoped someday they might live in the dunes. From 1951 on, they did so.

### Dune Acres First Marshal: Art Johnson

Over the decades, Dune Acres has hired scores of security officers. From 1929, when the first marshal was hired through the present, these officers have performed admirably in making our Town safe and in protecting both residents and property. This is the story of three of them.

Dune Acres’ trustees appointed **Art Johnson** in 1929 to be the Town’s first marshal and also to help with maintenance. Before coming to Dune Acres, Art farmed land along Tremont Road. After coming, he lived in a small beach cottage at 21 Crest Drive.

According to **Dan Jenkins**, Art was the Town’s first paid employee. He was the sole marshal for twenty-seven years, having a deputy for only five years.

Town residents appreciated his security services as well as his mechanical skills. Art’s work was top-drawer and his knowledge about the Town grew and became indispensable. He could locate wells, septic tanks, and water lines throughout Town. In addition, he responded to residents’ requests for help such as removing a fallen tree or disposing of raccoons that knocked over garbage cans or worse, invaded homes via window and door screens. After becoming marshal, Art built a small “Guard Shack” at the Town’s entrance, one replaced in 1933 by a small log cabin that in turn was replaced in 1955 with a larger log building. Its architect, resident **George C. Smith**, and Art Johnson each wanted to name it: Smith “*Gate Lodge*” and Johnson “*Gatehouse*.” Gatehouse was chosen because it was *conveniently unwelcoming*, while “Lodge” was less so. The unwelcome notion idea was punctuated by a stop sign in the middle of Mineral Springs Road:

**“DEAD STOP  
PRIVATE PROPERTY  
NO TRESPASSING”**



MARSHAL ART JOHNSON at the Gate House, circa 1938

The Town hired Gus Williams in 1951 (as Art’s assistant) and Joe La Roche in 1955 as deputy marshals. Art often carried a weapon throughout his service, as did several later marshals. Arthur Studebaker recalls that Johnson once shot the light out at the South Shore station, though why remains a mystery. The Town having no vehicles, Johnson used his own car, an REO sedan manufactured in Lansing, Michigan. A final note about Marshal Johnson: he was a two-fisted smoker.

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## Town Marshals

Look at his picture standing in front of the Clubhouse. In one hand he's holding an always-present pipe, while in the other he's holding a lit cigarette, often smoking both at the same time.



MARSHAL JOHNSON IN FRONT OF CLUBHOUSE, circa 1953

### **“FAST GUN” JOE La ROCHE: Town Marshal & Owner Of The Bailly Homestead**

In 1956, the Town appointed **Joseph La Roche** the Town Marshal, remaining in that position until 1965 when he retired. During Joe's period, the former **DEAD STOP** sign was replaced. According to Town historians James Newman and Margaret Doyle in their *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History of Dune Acres (1998)*, the new sign exclaimed:

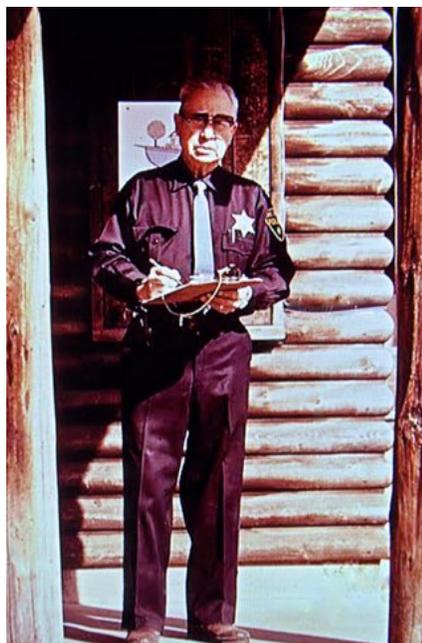
**“PLEASE COME TO A COMPLETE HALT  
The Marshal has cataracts and cannot see well”**

Art Johnson and Joe La Roche had strikingly different personalities and dispositions. While Art was easy going, Joe was not. While Art stayed calm regardless of circumstances, Joe was easily riled, and could become quite angry. Town resident **Chip Lesch** relates a great story. Once when Joe was at the Gatehouse, a person drove into Town whizzing by Joe and ignoring the stop sign. Within seconds, the marshal drew his weapon and shot out the car's tire, thereby causing the car to stop (and disproving that Joe had cataracts). La Roche was not happy, perhaps because the sign

began with **“Please”** before the command: **“Come to a Complete Halt.”** Not only was Joe peeved, so was the car's driver who jumped out of his vehicle demanding that Joe help put on the spare. Joe responded: **“You didn't stop at my sign. I won't put on your tire.”** This incident, Lesch recalls, earned Joe La Roche the handle of **“fast gun.”**

Joe used his fast-gun in another incident. Residents **Bette Norris, Chip Lesch** and others recall that a “boat party” was in progress late one evening on Dune Acres' west beach area. Hearing about it, Joe rushed to see what was happening. He found several boisterous youths, who had come by boat, gallivanting on the beach. Joe asked the group to gather their things, get into the boat, and leave. They ignored him. Displeased, Joe in a louder voice *demand*ed they get on their boat and go away. Again, they ignored him. Now Joe was really angry. He commanded: **“Get off the Beach.”** When they didn't, Marshal La Roche pulled out his pistol and shot a hole through the bottom of their boat. *That* got their attention. They hurriedly left the scene. What Joe didn't know, one was a Dune Acres resident.

Interestingly, Joe La Roche served as the Dune Acres Marshal at the same time he owned *The Bailly Homestead*. Today, it is a National Historic Landmark within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park. In 1822, fur-trader Joseph Bailly and his family established a trading post at the site where they later built a two-story log cabin (*the logs today are concealed*). La Roche purchased the *Homestead* in 1939 and sold it in 1965. He and his family lived in the historic home for nearly two decades.



MARSHAL JOE La ROCHE, circa 1965

At one point, Joe and a restaurateur partner opened a small public dining facility in the *Homestead*. Town historian **Mary Ann Tittle** remembers that large numbers of Dune Acres residents including herself and husband **Ray** dined at La Roche's *Bailly Homestead*, as did my parents, **Luther and Mildred Swygert**. After becoming engaged to Dianne in 1961, I took her to the *Homestead* for dinner in celebration of our future together.

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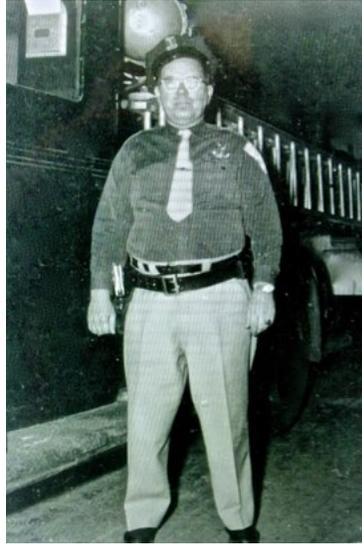
## Town Marshals

### Arnold "Arnie" Mauke: "A Real Character"

**Arnold Mauke** served as the Chesterton Police Chief before being appointed the Dune Acres Marshal in 1965, a post he held for 27 years, leaving in 1992. Mauke took his policing duties seriously. For one, he kept meticulous notes of incidents recorded in the Dune Acres Security Log (*Vol. 2, covering, 1978 through 1984*). For another, he rarely hesitated to respond to requests or investigate complaints covering a broad range including: "purported noises" around homes and issues regarding dogs -- missing dogs; biting and mean dogs; barking dogs. Arnie also dealt with rambunctious and irritating raccoons, the Town's number one critter nuisance. Mauke was once asked by a resident to shoot a raccoon but his weapon didn't discharge. He then picked up a shovel and bobbed it good. He also was called to investigate "suspicious fires", including a house fire that was caused by a teenager smoking in bed. On another occasion, he drove around Town searching for a purported felon said to be in Dune Acres and wanted by Chicago police. When residents contacted Mauke about "strangers in the night" on the beach, he, without hesitation and seemingly with delight, responded. Onetime, in the darkness of night, he investigated a parked Chevy sedan near the east beach and found two young people (one a Dune Acres resident) in the back seat exercising. In another occurrence, **Jim Savage** who lived on East Road called Mauke saying that a pickup truck was sitting in the lake in front of their house. Mauke found that the man had been driving on the beach during the night before and had driven the truck into the water causing it to stall; a DUI was suspected. Then there's the story of Mauke and Town Board member Dan Jenkins going to an unoccupied home where there was a problem on the second-floor. Quoting Dan, "Arnie and I found a shower with frozen pipes, frozen towels and a frozen skating rink floor."

Chip Lesch notes that Arnie had a weapon that was "really big." Once, Mauke shot himself in the leg by slamming his weapon against an object causing it to discharge. Mauke was flamboyant not only in actions, but also in words. He described Dune Acres' Guardhouse as "*The Pillar of the Town*." Mauke himself was described by residents as "a real character," "one of a kind," and by former resident **Nancy Wilhelm** "colorful." Nancy's husband **John**

notes that Arnie had a proclivity of snoozing while on the job. "Often we would drive into Town and see Arnie nodding off at his desk." John also remembers that Arnie "*ALWAYS had a big, lighted, smelly cigar; the Gatehouse REEKED.*"



MARSHAL ARNOLD MAUKE, circa 1987

Arnold Mauke's quirks and habits notwithstanding, he loved being Town Marshal. After his death in 2000, the *Chesterton Tribune* paid homage to Mauke for his police work of 40 years, 27 of which he served as Dune Acres Marshal. In time, his eyesight deteriorated and in 1992 his duties as marshal came to an end, but it was not because of diminishing eyesight. There was a more serious, problem.

### INDIANA LAWS CHANGE -- MARSHAL ERA ENDS

By 1992, Indiana law required that any law enforcement officer -- state, county, city, or town -- had to be trained in police work including weapon handling and its use as a pre-requisite to joining a public police force and being allowed to carry a weapon. To become qualified, one needed to attend a state-certified police academy, take required classes and pass qualifying exams. **Wilhelm**, former Town resident and Councilman, explains: in order for Mauke to continue to carry a weapon as Town Marshal, he would have to go to a state certified police academy and become qualified. Given his age and years of being a security officer, he, understandably chose not to. Under the circumstances, the Town had no choice but to let him go. He did so reluctantly. Arnold Mauke as it turned out was Dune Acres' last marshal. Indiana laws had changed.

Since 1985, Dune Acres has had a volunteer Police Commissioner appointed by the Town Council. He or she hires, oversees, directs, and coordinates the Town's security officials. Cecilia Call, a long-term resident, held the Police Commissioner's post for 15 years, doing an outstanding job throughout her term in office. Cecilia's successor is Bill Griffin. Over the past two decades, Dune Acres Security officers have provided a 24/7 presence at the Town's Mineral Springs Road entrance. Their visibility and presence have been enhanced by the Guardhouse being equipped with incoming and outgoing spotlights and with two-directional video cameras that continually photographs all persons and vehicles entering and leaving Dune Acres 24 hours a day. Modern technology, combined with

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## Town Marshals

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the expertise and skills of the Town's security personnel, protect our residents' and Town property. But, there is one other critical factor.

**Every Dune Acres resident must be forever vigilant in reporting possible criminal activities by FIRST dialing 911, and then calling security office at 787-8800.** Then, we're a team.

### STORY CONTRIBUTORS:

*Arthur Studebaker, Dan Jenkins, Mary Ann Tittle, Nancy and John Wilhelm, Bette Norris, Chip Lesch, Bev Hubbs, Howard Silverman, Dianne Swygert, Heidi Studebaker, Cathy Jean Maloney, Bill Griffin, George Smith, Margaret Doyle, James Newman*

### EDITING / PRODUCTION CONTRIBUTORS:

*Irene Newman, Dianne Swygert, John Wilhelm, Bev Hubbs, Carolyn Mellen, Jan Bapst*

## Flu and Pneumonia Vaccinations

It's time to get our vaccinations.

I can arrange, through the YMCA, for Porter Hospital Nurses to administer these immunizations right here in DA. We can do blood sugar testing and blood pressure checks at this time as well.

If you are interested in this service, please RSVP to my e-mail ASAP and I will make the arrangements.

Medicare, insurance, and or cash, checks will be accepted.

Thank you for your timely reply.

Sharon Tutlewski  
stutlewski@comcast.net

## YMCA Corporate Membership

Dune Acres can now take advantage of a corporate membership to the YMCA. with no initiation fee. Call the Y at 219-926-4204 for more information.

You will have reciprocity to YMCA's throughout the USA.

*By Sharon Tutlewski*



We want to thank you all SO much for the overwhelming outpouring of support and immense love that we have received. We are so incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such wonderful people that have come to our aid in many ways during this terrible time. We appreciate each and every card, donation, gift, and act of love more than we can even explain. Words cannot express our gratitude. Thank you!

*Sincerely, The Carstens*

## Dune Acres Golf Outing

Saturday, October 15th

The Brassie 12:00 PM

All players welcome

Family & Friends

Drinks and Food to follow

At the Dune Acres Club House

Golf \$30 per person

Food & Drinks TBD



Contact Bob Lauer

rlauer4564@aol.com

call or text 312-405-5886

Please respond with number of golfers as well as number attending for food and drinks.

*Mr. & Mrs. Mark Taylor*

## Presenting Mr. & Mrs. Mark Taylor

After days of gloom and rain, the skies cleared in time for the sun to shine on the beautiful afternoon wedding of Mark Taylor to Julia Roames. Mark and Julia were married on Saturday October 1, 2016, at the home of Mark's aunt and uncle, Michael and Dianne Swygert. While Mark's younger brother Steven played quiet background music on his guitar, Richard walked his daughter down a stone pathway and gave her hand to Mark. With the lighthouse for their background, the couple exchanged their vows in Dianne's gorgeous garden overlooking Lake Michigan. Julia's friend Nick Orange performed the wedding ceremony. The Bride, elegantly dressed in a beautiful, simple, flowing gown, carried a bouquet of purple Calla lilies.

After the ceremony, Rob and Erika Carstens transported guests to the Clubhouse for a reception, dinner and an evening of dancing. Dune Acres clubhouse was lovely. Tables were decorated with vases of colorful Gerber daisies, purple Calla lilies and glowing candles. There was no bridal table, as Julia and Mark wanted to mingle with their guests and visited each table.

Poblanos catered, so of course the food was delicious. Dinner was topped off with a wonderful assortment of pies.

Mark puts so much care and effort into the upkeep of the Clubhouse – how fitting that he should celebrate the beginning of a new chapter of his life there. Congratulations Mark and Julia. May your life together be long and joyous.

*By Sharon Tutlewski*

Thanks to the following people who made this issue happen:

Jan Bapst	Irene Newman
Patty Carstens	Howard Silverman
Leah Harp	Mike Swygert
Bob Lauer	Sharon Tutlewski
Carolyn Mellen	

We welcome all submissions - news, stories, photos, ideas for articles, information about upcoming events, etc.

**The Fine Print:** *The Beachcomber* is published on-line monthly during the summer and periodically during the winter. All information, news, creative contributions, articles, reports, corrections, suggestions, Letters to the Editor, art work, comments and otherwise are welcomed and encouraged. *The Beachcomber* is a grass roots publication not officially affiliated with either the Town of Dune Acres or the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation, Inc. (DACIF). All content is believed to be reasonably accurate and reliable but not "guaranteed!"

Editorial Board: Irene Newman, Jan Bapst and Mike Swygert.

Email submissions to [inewman680@aol.com](mailto:inewman680@aol.com). Please use "Beachcomber," in the subject line.