

Get away from it all on Tenmile Lake

STORY BY GAIL OBERST

OBODY WHO STAYS at the Chapman family's vacation treat on Tenmile Lake has to rough it. With endless rooms full of amusements (pinball! pool table! shuffleboard! Wii! Playstation! five HD televisions!), a kitchen any chef would love, and a full bar spread under architecture that should be on the cover of House Beautiful, it would be a stretch to claim privation. But for those who are accustomed to chocolate ice cream runs at midnight, this awesome hideaway, accessible only by boat, may change some bad habits. So it was at midnight the first night, a chocolate attack growing from too much fresh air, that it dawned on me: Not only does it take some planning to be sure I have

This luxurious vacation retreat on Tenmile Lake was made from materials that were either milled onsite or transported on a raft.

ice cream for the next three days, but how in the Sam Hill did the Chapmans get the refrigerator out here?

My husband and I step into the Jacuzzi tub to consider this conundrum, but we are only further perplexed. How did they get that pool table here, and for that matter, the huge tub we're sitting in? What about those giant wood

beams in the ceiling, the king-sized beds, the stone fireplace that reaches two stories high?

The next morning, we go right to the source and ask our hosts, Duke and Carolyn Chapman, who tell us the amazing story of how their sons, Daryn and Tim, and their friend, Kyle Stevens, rafted or milled on site almost every piece of the three buildings on their property: A two-story main lodge, a charming three-level cabin around the point, and the two-story boat house, not to mention the two docks and all the equipment and furnishings. Duke Chapman rolls his eyes at my questions about time and money, both of which, he indicated, were far underestimated when the family began the project in



2006. "Let's just say it was a labor of love," he said.

Starting with a boathouse and dock, Duke and his sons built a mill onsite to cut some of the trees on the land. Those trees created the framework for the house. "And then it took about a thousand trips on the raft," said Duke.

The family hauled everything: an outdoor cooking island, more than 1,000 square feet of stone for the indoor-outdoor fireplace, a granite bar in the kitchen, and artwork ranging from small metalworks to the intricate Italian mosaic sunburst inlays that greet visitors at the entryway. The latest item to be ferried to the lodge was a Simpsons pinball machine that the family brought in when a special guest—Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart Simpson—came to stay with her entourage last summer.

Although it may take the Chapmans a few more years to feel the love, I didn't spend a lot of time worrying about how everything arrived at this remote point on Tenmile Lake, because thinking about all that hard work cut into my sheer enjoyment of the place. By day I hiked and boated with my brother and husband, and by night, after the games and the kitchen raids, we enjoyed the stars and the sounds of the loons on the lake.

One night, Michael and I cuddled by the fire as the wind howled, whipping up waves below us. We were talking about our visit to Lakeside, during which I went to the library, picking up a few good books on the history of the place. As the storm settled in, I looked out the dark windows and was haunted by one particular story I'd read about Indian ghosts who lurk just beneath the dark waves that gave this part of the lake-Blacks Arm—its name. My husband hugged me and told me not to believe everything I read. Credible enough, however, are the stories compiled by long-time resident Edna Skinner and

others who wrote about local Indian resident Tenmile Tom, so named because his response when asked for distance from the lake to anywhere was always "ten miles." The first settlers mentioned in history books were in the 1850s, and by 1907 photos began



The charming cabin around the point.



The boathouse.

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to show up of Blacks Arm and Prentiss Point—the point at the entry of the arm where the Chapman's lodge stands. Just as everyone has had to do for the past 100 years, the 1907 photos show a supply barge, large enough for a horse and wagon, landing supplies near Prentiss Point.

With the construction of Lakeside Lodge in 1910, rail service in 1916, and the World War I Spruce Production Division cantonment next door where Tugman State Park now sits, Lakeside for a time became a mini-metropolis of flappers and soldiers. The resort's popularity waned in 1925 when the lodge burned down, but then the town was discovered by the Hollywood elite during the 30s. The posh Currier's

Village on one of the lake's arms attracted numerous stars. During World War II, resident loggers and fishers left for the war, leaving the town with so few leaders, that for a time, it was disincorporated.

Lakeside has survived though, thanks to its eternal attraction to those who love to fish, swim, water-ski, and boat in a freshwater lake within earshot of the Pacific. My brother, who came to visit during our stay at Chapman's, sent me a great picture of his wife pulling a gigantic Chinook out of Tenmile Lake a few years ago. Those who salivate at the mention of the words "salmon," "bass" "sea-run cutthroat" or even "bluegill," will run out of saliva in this lake.

There are many other opportunities

for summer fun in Lakeside, including a Crawdad Festival, a huge Fourth of July celebration, cardboard boat races, and drag boat races.

Many of those visiting Chapman's lodge have their own boats, or they rent them from one of several businesses in Lakeside. Most come for the escape from the bustle of the city, but for those who nonetheless like modern safety measures, the Chapmans have installed a professional home security system, which is not only comforting in its watchfulness, but its cameras add another level of amusement for those who like to watch their husbands sneaking a glass of wine from the upstairs bar.

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When You Go

For more information about the Chapman family's vacation retreat on Tenmile Lake, visit http://chapmaninvestments.com. Nightly fees are from \$600 to \$700, with a five-night minimum. The cottage can be rented for \$195 to \$230 per night, with a five-night minimum.

Reservations can be made by calling Daryn Chapman at 360-609-1120 or e-mail him at dc@chapmaninvestments.com.

For more information on Lakeside and local events, visit www.lakesideoregonchambers.com.