

Dredging up a timely issue: Lyman Lakes

■ by Alex McGee and Bill Anderson

Despite the need to bundle up, the lack of sunshine, and the biting cold, Carleton is welcoming the onslaught of another harsh Minnesota winter. Do you ask why? The coming cold, to the delight of many, will freeze the murky Lyman waters, kill the unsightly algae, and hide the rancid stench. But there is hope on the horizon for the dredging of Lyman Lakes. It depends on how the Administrative Policy Committee (APC), decides to divide up and spend its \$282,000 surplus. Will they see the lakes issue the way so many students, faculty and townspeople do?

Those not familiar with the issue may like to know a little history. The George Huntington Lyman Memorial Lakes were created in the little ravine beside Goodhue in 1916, after years of efforts by students and administration. It served as a swimming, fishing and picnicking area for many decades, and Mai Fete Island was the stage for a May theatre production each spring. Both lakes were dredged in 1939, and the upper lake was dredged again in 1958.

In the past ten years, the need to clean up the lakes has again become apparent. Both faculty and students in the biology and geology departments have done research on the environmental impact of dredging. They have worked in conjunction with Carleton's grounds de-

partment once dredging does take place, the problem will not occur again so quickly. These measures have included taking Carleton-owned farmland upstream out of production, and instituting soil conservation.

Why is dredging now financially possible? The Administrative Policy Committee, a subcommittee of the College Council, is accepting proposals for various "one-shot" projects around campus, and Lyman Lakes will be on the list. They must accept such applications any time they run a surplus. Later this term, the committee members, who are students, faculty, and administrators, will decide how much money should be allocated. All the proposals cannot be funded, since another area of the APC's budget is running a deficit, and some of the committee members would like to see it covered by the surplus. This would leave only about \$60,000 for special projects.

One of the proposals concerning the lakes project will be submitted by Dennis Easley, Superintendent of Grounds, in consultation with the the Campus Landscape Committee and the Arboretum Advising Committee. It will almost certainly be endorsed by the CSA. The three student APC members, Jeff May, Susan Smedema, and Dan Hall, have all expressed support. It appears to be the feeling of the committee at large that this is a worthwhile project. Their main hesitation is the expense. It is also com-

plete include enhancement of the completed site. Most of this would be optional. The most expensive part is removing the carp and restocking the lake with other fish. This phase would cost about \$32,000. So the final cost could be anywhere from \$88,000 to \$151,000.

THE PROCESS

What does dredging actually entail? To prepare the area, the lakes would be drained by creating a temporary re-routing of Spring Creek. Another path would be found for the water to flow from Pigeon Field to the Cannon River.

The first step in the actual dredging involves bringing in large bulldozer-like machines to scoop the built-up silt. It would dry out in big heaps on the banks for a few weeks before being transported to whatever land it might fill. The rich soil may be used as the base for another playing field near the arb tennis courts. At one point on the lake's edge, an "access road" would be carved to allow the machines to get into the lakes for work. In the area we now see as water, a deep muddy plain would be twisting with paths for shovels and bulldozers.

Digging would go as deep as twelve feet in some places, but go no more than four in others. This is because sediment will flow through the lakes more quickly if channels are already present. The upper lake will have a telescoping trapezoidal bottom, and the lower lake will

include much more quickly. Furthermore, driving on frozen mud is easier than driving on wet mud, where there is risk of sinking.

THE FUTURE

The plan includes more preventative measures against sediment build-up: a retention pond will be built upstream to cut down on the silt reaching Lyman Lakes. This miniature lake is planned for the marshy area of Spring Creek by the big willow tree in the corner of Bell Field. This would not infringe on field space.

Once the removal of built-up material is complete and the lake is full again, the grounds department would begin the follow-up details. This would include choosing what kind of banks the lake would have. They would probably re-stock the lake with a variety of game fish, such as sunfish, while continuing to try to keep carp out of the lakes. The Department of Natural Resources may be willing to help fund this re-stocking with the stipulation that a public fishing pier be added to Lyman Lakes. But this is a questionable option; Easley worries that this new pier would encourage swimming, which could not be allowed for liability reasons.

These plans for dredging are in no way arbitrary or sloppy. Much careful work has gone into them. According to Dennis Easley, plans for the dredging have been drawn up by Schilling Environmental

Consultants. Joel Schilling, who heads the organization, has had close ties with Carleton in the past, worked for the college shop during high school, and now lives near the Cities. Even more to his credit, he has experience in water quality control, having worked for the Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Pollution Control. In the past, he has helped Carleton students with research projects on the Lyman Lakes environment.

Who knows when the lakes will be dredged, if not now? The money may not be available again in the future. And with the rising costs of carrying out these procedures, the administration is not being financially conservative by postponing it.

The dredging will occur now if there is enough urging. Supporters include the biology and geology departments, the grounds department, the CSA, and many who enjoy the peaceful Lyman environment. If the solution is initiated now, it is quite possible that the incoming freshman class of 1989 will take sweet-smelling, clear lakes for granted. On the other hand, we could join the administration in ignoring the problem: allow the lakes to fill in, pave them, and simultaneously, eliminate the campus parking problem.

Alex McGee and Bill Anderson are CSA senators. □

partment, which has been in touch with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, environmental consulting companies and construction firms.

Basically, the lakes are getting more shallow at an increasing rate. The sediment filling them, run-off from farmland, is so nutrient-rich that algae growth is flourishing. Birds and water animals, consequently, don't have full access to this potential home. Carp, unfortunately, do inhabit the layers of muck, and thus prevent the bottom from settling. Preventative measures have already been taken against build-up of this sediment, so that

peting with many other attractive projects around the college community.

With the encouragement of Frank Wright and Keith Covey, Easley will be presenting the plan, the cost of which will be determined by the extent of the work selected. Planned in two phases, the project will first involve repair, site preparation, legal fees, and various other costs of the dredging itself. This could run from \$88,000 to \$119,000. The higher end of that range would include specified clearing, such as around the wooden bridge between Evans and Goodhue. The second phase would

retain a uniform depth. The islands will stay the same shape, with any changes in grooming left to the determination of the grounds crew. All of these considerations also involve creating a healthy habitat for wildlife.

Dredging should happen in the winter, for many reasons. Any heat to bake the piles of exposed mud would make life for Goodhue residents a smelly adventure. Another reason not to do it in the summer is so that the huge shovels would be less likely to have to work against rain. Snow does not cause a significant problem, Easley points out, since scooping dry material goes

GERECKE'S VIEW



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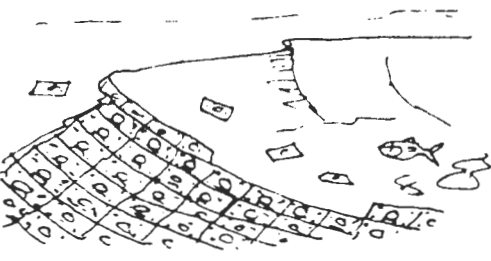
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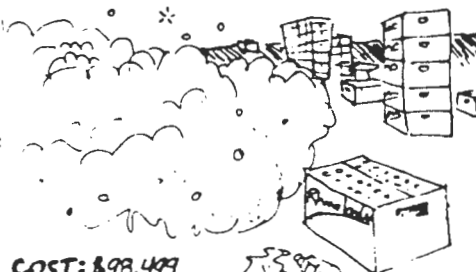
③ COVER BOTTOMS OF LAKES WITH ONE DOLLAR BILLS TO PREVENT FUTURE SEEPAGE.



COST: \$100,000

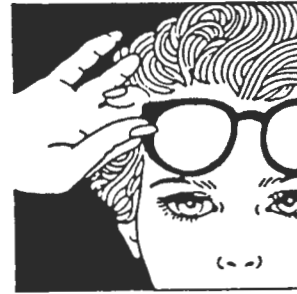
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Jr

1/25/66

DGL:EL

Re: "the daughter of the donor to Carleton of the Lyman Lakes"

The George Huntington Lyman Memorial Lakes , constructed in 1916-17 were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Lyman of Pasadena, California as a memorial to their son George Huntington Lyman (and also, according to Mr. Lyman's letter in the President's folder for George R. Lyman, to George Huntington, cousin of George R. Lyman and Carleton faculty member for 28 years.).

George Huntington Lyman was the oldest son of George R. Lyman. He had one other son, Henry D. Lyman whose wife's first name was Jessie.

George R. Lyman, druggist, was a Trustee of Carleton from 1894 to 1917, and an Emeritus Trustee from then until his death on January 14, 1935.

Other children mentioned in his folder are:

- Marjorie (married 9/10/23 to John Snyder, a realtor from San Diego)
- Alice (Mrs. Harry Abbott)
- Mrs. Rolf McCollum
- Florence (Mrs. Brainerd) who was ill and in an institution in 1934.
- Mabel (Mrs. Flocken; a Dr. Flocken was mentioned as a son-in-law)

The George R. Lyman family lived in Minneapolis before going to Pasadena. After the family moved to California they spent the summers at La Jolla - even after the children were married they seemed to get together there for the summers and eventually the children all returned to California and the Pasadena area.

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