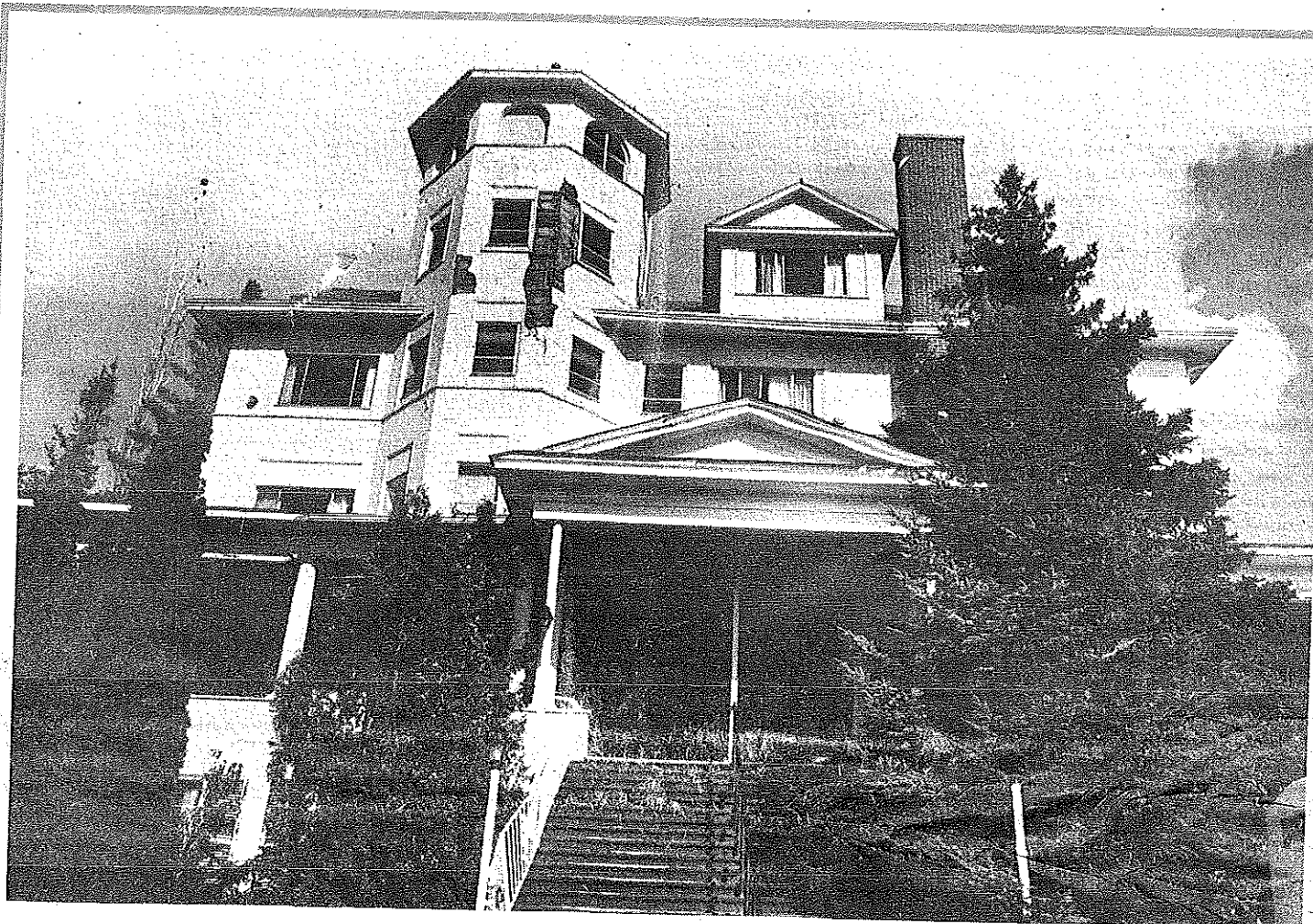


**RAMONA PARK HOTEL**  
{LATER RENAMED HARBOUR INN}

**HARBOR SPRINGS, EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN**



Little Traverse Twp.: The Harbour Inn, a Little Traverse Bay landmark since 1910, is slated for the wrecking ball. (NEWS-REVIEW photo by Stephen Brede)

## Destined for the wrecking ball

Harbour Inn will be auctioned, torn down

By **STEPHEN BREDE**  
News-Review staff writer

LITTLE TRAVERSE TWP. — Seen from across Little Traverse Bay, the Harbour Inn's white skin glimmers in the noonday sun, and its rakish red cap glows at dawn and dusk.

Viewed from its spacious grounds, however, the aging beauty's facade is crumbling and its lid leaks. Now, like its generations of guests, it's time for the grand old dame to check out.

Citing irreparable damage to the building, the owners of the inn have decided to demolish it. An auction of

building materials, kitchen and bar supplies, beds, fire hoses and other miscellaneous items ranging from milk dispensers to a cast iron sink will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, on the steps of the hotel.

"We are liquidating, since the building is beyond any kind of restoration," owner Richard Mooradian said Monday, adding that the building will be torn down after the auction.

Mooradian's family purchased the inn in 1979. Mooradian said they operated the inn up to about five years ago, and since then it's been vacant.

"We did the best we could for many years," he said. He said the wooden structure is collapsing, and if it's not torn down by the owners, the elements will do the job for them.

"Mother Nature never takes a coffee break," Mooradian said. "It's just something that common sense dictates I do.

"It was tough decision to make, but there was really no alternative."

Mooradian's son, Tom, part owner and former manager of the inn, said the family hasn't decided what it will do with the property.

"The building is coming down, and further plans are being discussed," Tom Mooradian said.

The inn was built in 1910. Named the Ramona Park Hotel, the original building included a tower, dining room, lobby and about 30 guest rooms. The large east wing was added in 1929, and the inn was renamed the Harbour Inn in 1962.

Tom Mooradian said the inn will be torn down by the end of the year.



Little Traverse Twp.: Jonathan Gafill calls room service at the Harbour Inn auction Wednesday. The historic hotel is slated for demolition. (NEWS-REVIEW photo by Stephen Brede)

# Memories

## Harbour Inn holds many as wrecking ball looms in future

By **STEPHEN BREDE**  
News-Review staff writer

LITTLE TRAVERSE TWP. — You had to have cold cash or a good check at the Harbour Inn auction if you wanted to take home a toaster, bed, lamp or one of the hundreds of other furnishings intended to make a hotel a home.

The memories, however, were free.

A visit to his past appeared to be Kenneth Lawrason's reason for climbing the inn's long flight of dilapidated stairs for Wednesday's auction. As he entered the inn's lobby, filled with tables heaped

with drapes, he poked his cane into the soggy carpets.

"Nice hardwood floors," the Harbor Springs native said. "I know these floors is all varnished. In those days they didn't have no carpets."

"Those days" were the late 1920s, when Lawrason was a 17-year-old hired to wash windows at what was then the Ramona Park Hotel. He recalled the people then were about the same as they are now — "two arms and two legs" — but they were a lot more modest about showing their body parts, as evidenced by long-sleeved bathing suits.

"Everything was covered up at that time," he said.

Lawrason said his father, Harry Lawrason of People's Dairy, used to deliver milk to the inn.

"Baby's milk our specialty," the younger Lawrason said with a smile.

Kenneth Lawrason only worked a couple of years at the Ramona Park, but continued to keep an eye on it from his new job at the tannery across Little Traverse Bay.

"We looked out the window with the

See HARBOUR, page 2

## HARBOUR INN, BUILT IN 1910, WILL BE DEMOLISHED

Continued from page 1

Spyglass and watched the girls on the beach," he said.

Lawrason was one of a steady stream of the curious dodging roof leaks while looking for history and bargains at Wednesday's auction. Citing irreparable building damage, the inn's owners have decided to demolish the inn, built in 1910.

Outside the inn's kitchen over the auctioneer's staccato, Bay View residents Charles and Barb Asbury recalled parties and dinners in the inn's dining room overlooking the bay.

"It was in the 1920s' Great Gatsby tradition," Barb Asbury said. "The dining room was wonderful, with a high ceiling. Very gracious-very different from the modern resorts."

The Asburys also recalled dressing in green and pink for the inn's annual Fudgie Ball. Harbor Springs musician Jon Gafill played for some of those Fudgie Balls, as well as other gigs in the bar downstairs.

"We used to have some great parties down there," Gafill said, as he worked his way through a musty hall in search of a toilet for the house he's building.

Stopping in the drizzle outside the inn, Cross Village resident Rand Shackleton took time to talk about his

former "home." Through a friend of a friend, Shackleton was a 16-year-old from East Lansing when he landed a summer job at the inn.

My parents dropped me off, and it was the greatest moment of my life," he recalls. "It was like summer camp with no counselors.

"I made \$1 a month, got room and board, and had ox-tail soup a lot."

The young man's duties included mowing the lawn, taking care of the pool, waiting tables, serving as life guard and desk clerk. He recalls the University of Michigan music students who split their time as bellhops and the house band.

"They were bellmen by day and great jazz musicians by night," Shackleton said. "The problem was the owner didn't like jazz." So another of Shackleton's duties was lookout for the group. If he saw the owner descending into the bar, he'd send a high sign. Right in the middle of some great riff, they'd break into Harbor Lights," he recalled with a laugh.

Shackleton spent his fourth summer running his own "carriage service" out of the inn's parking lot. He and partner Max Bunker put benches on a hay wagon, rounded up a pair of mules and hung a for hire shingle.

For the first day in operation, the inn owner had lined up a group of 15 women staying at the inn. After Shackleton and Bunker succeeded in loading the group, the mules lurched ahead for a trip into Harbor Springs. Shackleton, dressed in a top hat and gloves, managed to control the rig and make up some local history until he dropped the right rein.

The mules started to gallop, but had he tried to pull them in they would have turned left into the bay. So he took off his hat, tied the left rein to the seat and, with a screaming chorus behind him, "did a Roy Rogers."

Climbing out on the wagon tongue between the animals, he reached down between the galloping hooves, grabbed the right rein and made his way back to the bench. After he finally got the wagon pulled over, he turned to his riders and explained. "That's something we do every time for something a little extra."

The late Ray Brown bought the inn after World War II, and his son, Tim, recalls it was his father who was responsible for painting the inn's walls white and the steel roof red. He recalled his father also brought big bands, including Glenn Miller to the area.

"It was something," Brown said. "Lots of local people and resorters came to the hotel for the bands." They also came for the gambling that took place in a nearby casino. "It had nothing to do with us, but my father was happy it was going on," Brown said.

Brown said the hotel was originally built as a drawing card for a proposed subdivision, Ramona Park. "They built the lovely hotel to build up the land and develop it," Brown said. "They had a huge plot of land, but most of it never came about."

Brown owns the Colonial Inn, which his father bought after selling the Ramona Park in the 60s. He has two couples who used to stay at the inn who continue to summer at the Colonial. "They still, when they check out in July, remember when I used to charge them a nickel to look at the bullfrog pond.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review Thursday, September 1, 1994, page 2

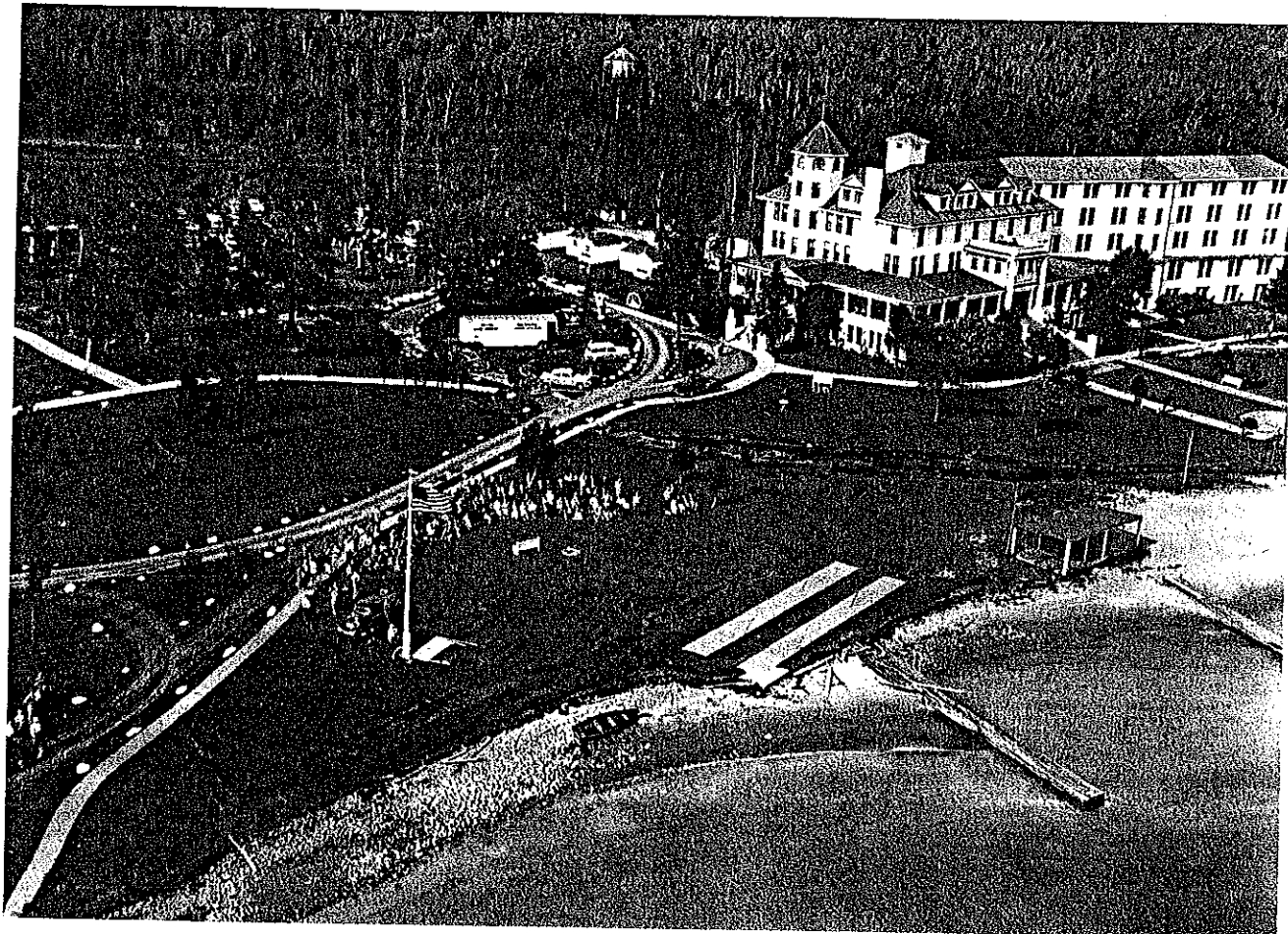


*Ramona Park entrance with Casino on the left*



As a special event, helicopter rides were available near the beach of the Ramona Park Hotel, summer 1951.

The Ramona Park Hotel from a helicopter-eye's view, summer 1951.



# OLD HARBOR SPRINGS



*Ramona Park entrance with Casino on the left*

*Views of the Past*

from **Graham** Real Estate





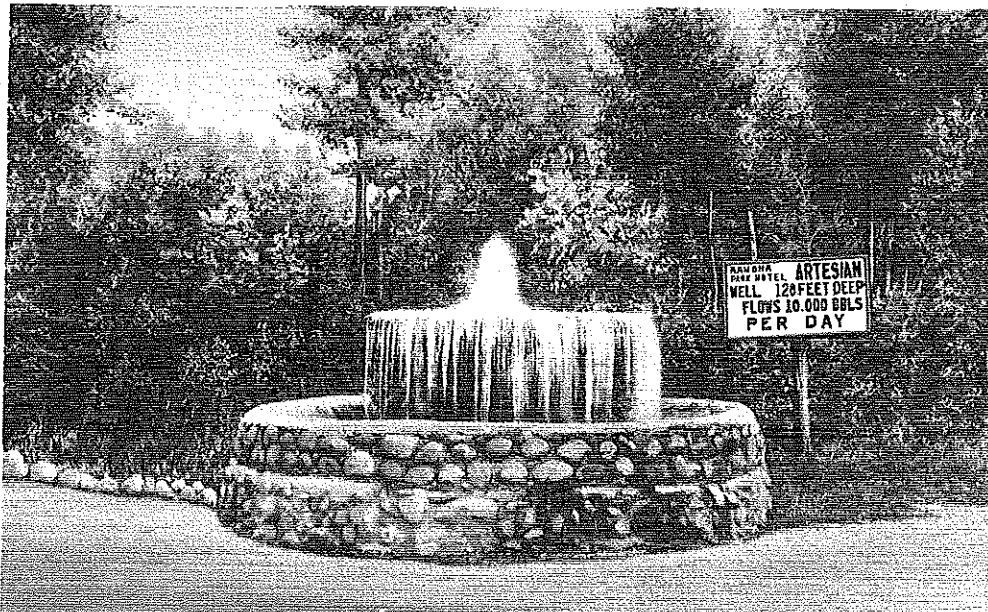
*Harbour Inn on the Bay*

Harbour Inn on the Bay. A registered historic site.  
 1157 Beach Street, Harbor springs, Michigan 49740  
 {616} 526-2107

"It's like coming home."

Written on back of picture of post card

Published by The Harrington group, Petoskey, Mi. 49770



FAMOUS RAMONA WELL at RAMONA PARK HOTEL — HARBOR SPRINGS, MICH. 4A-N1783

One of the purest Artesian Wells in the Middle West.  
 120 feet deep, temperature 42 degrees and flows 10,000 barrels per day.

The purest and most healthful water known to science.

This water is pumped to every one of RAMONA'S 100 rooms.

Hay Fever and Asthma sufferers find relief here.

Written on back of picture of post card above.

Published by Genuine Curteich-Chicago "C.T. Art Colortone"

## 1929 28 FT. GAR WOOD "BABY GAR" TRIPLE-COCKPIT OWNER RAY BROWN, OWNER OF RAMONA PARK HOTEL

### 1929 28 Ft. GarWood "Baby Gar" Triple-Cockpit

Excellent restored condition. Here's a chance to own a piece of history. There are only 3 to 6 of this raised-deck models left in existence. "Ramona" was originally purchased by J.N. Rauleigh in 1929. He owned her for a short time before selling her to the notorious Purple Gang during the beginning of the great depression. They used her as a rum-runner to bring alcohol from Canada to Harsen's Island, Michigan. The police could not afford such a fast boat at that time. Ray Brown owner of the Ramona Park Hotel in Harbor Springs, Michigan won her in a card game from the Purple Gang. He christened her "Ramona" and put her in service giving rides to his hotel guess. Most of the wood has been replaced, including the new decks, new bottom and new transom. Leather interior. Great attention to detail. The instruments are beautifully restored and operational. The hardware has been rechromed. The engine is the original, rebuilt Scripps 202, which we are told, pushes her along at 42 m.p.h. Triple-axle trailer with brakes included. New water-line cover. These don't turn hands very often, so don't miss your chance! \$225,000. Extracted from Antique Boats dated Tuesday October 28, 2008.







**OWNERS OF RAMONA PARK HOTEL  
1157 BEACH ROAD, HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN**

**Purchased 1941**

**Ramona Park Hotel {later known as Harbour Inn was built around 1910**

**RAY H. BROWN, 73**

Ray H. Brown, 73, longtime area businessman, died June 19, 1988, at his Harbor Springs home.

Memorial services will be held 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the Harbor Springs Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Brown was born Sept. 24, 1914, in Marion, N.C., the son of Hoke and Cora Lee Brown. He grew up in Marion and attended school there. He graduated from Miami Military Academy in Miami, Fla., and then attended Miami University.

He married the former Jeanne Brink in Park Ridge, Ill. Mr. Brown came to Northern Michigan in 1940 and bought the Ramona Park Hotel {now the Harbour Inn}. He also owned and operated the Par-4 Club {now LaSeniorita} in Petoskey.

For many years, Mr. Brown owned and operated the Colonial Inn in Harbor Springs. In 1987, the business was sold to his son, Tim Brown.

For 10 years, Mr. Brown served as a volunteer football coach at Pellston High School. He was coach from 1947-1957.

Mr. Brown is survived by his wife, Jeanne; three sons, Robert of Chicago, Ill., Richard of Toledo, Ohio and Timothy of Harbor Springs; a brother Pat of Erwin, Tenn.; five grandchildren, Peggy Julie, Kazzie, Marshall and Molly.

The family suggests anyone wishing to honor the memory of Mr. Brown, may do so by contributing in his name to the Harbor Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review dated Monday, June 20, 1988 & Greenwood Cemetery Records.

**JEANNE M. BROWN**

Jeanne M. Brown of Harbor Springs died at her home on Oct. 30, 1998.

A memorial service was held today, Monday, Nov. 2, at the First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs.

She was born in Park Ridge, Ill., the daughter of Lewis R. and Jessie Hanna Brink.

On Sept. 17, 1936, she married Ray H. Brown, of Coral Gables, Fla. She moved to Harbor Springs in 1941, when she and her husband purchased the Ramona Park Hotel.

In 1968, she and her husband acquired the Colonial Inn, which is now operated by her son, Tim Brown.

She was a member of the Petoskey-Bay View Country Club, the Wequetonsing Golf Club and was a supporter of the Christ Child Society.

Survivors are her sons, Robert L. Brown of Chicago, Richard R. Brown of Perrysburg, Ohio, and Timothy S. Brown of Harbor Springs; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Jeanne M. Brown Memorial Fund at the First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review dated November 1999 & Greenwood Cemetery Records.

Ramona Park Hotel, with its popular casino, makes a delightful playground for the carefree resorter, beautifully landscaped and located conveniently near Petoskey, boasts one of the largest Artesian wells in Northern Michigan.

Written on back of picture of post card dated 1940 published by Petoskey Post Card Co.



**NICHOLAS C. AND MARY C. {Coullie} BICKING  
PURCHASED THE ROMANA PARK HOTEL IN 1962  
OWNED AND OPERATED IT AS THE HARBOUR INN  
UNTIL 1981**

**NICHOLAS C. BICKING, 90**

Nicholas C. Bicking died Oct. 27, 2000, and will long be remembered as Mr. Hospitality and a true gentleman.

He was born in Budapest, Hungary, on Feb. 19, 1910, and immigrated to Chicago with his family in 1925.

In 1934, he married Mary Coullie.

He worked at the Chicago Board of Trade with Enyart Van Camp Fike until 1940. He entered the hotel industry working in sales at the Congress Hotel and Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Over the years, he owned and operated several small hotels in Illinois and Wisconsin.

He served overseas with the U.S. Army Rainbow Division Medical Detachment during World War II. He was in the first group that liberated Dachau.

In 1949, he joined the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in the sales department and from 1952-1961 he served as general manager. In 1962, he bought the Ramona Park Hotel and owned and operated it as the Harbour Inn until 1981.

He served as deacon and elder of the Irving Park Presbyterian Church in Chicago, president of the Hotel Sales Managers Association International and volunteered in a number of community projects.

He and his family resided in Harbor Springs during the summer months and Chicago during the winter. After his retirement, he greeted guests at Stafford's Bay View Inn and Perry Hotel, informing visitors of what to see and do in the area. Guests still ask for the dapper gentleman who wore ascots and gave candy to their children at breakfast.

He is survived by his daughter, Mary Ann, and grandson, Nicholas Stygstra, of Holland, Mich., and his long-time friend, Judy Honor, of Harbor Springs; his brother, Carl Bicking and wife, Marian, of Wheaton, Ill., sister-in-law, Margaret Snead, of Cupertino, Calif., nieces and nephews; and his special caregivers, Margret Johnson and Bonnie Bechek of Petoskey, and Deb Hardy and Chris Martin of Boyne City.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, in 1989.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at Stafford's Perry hotel in Petoskey. All are invited to attend.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mary and Nicholas Bicking Scholarship at the Bay View Association Conservatory of Music, in care of Bay View Association, Petoskey, Mich. 49770; to the Little Traverse Conservancy, 3264 Powell Road, Harbor springs, Mich. 49740; or to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements were handled by Schiller Funeral Home in Harbor Springs.

Extracted from Greenwood Cemetery Records.

**MARY C. BICKING, 80**

Mary C. Bicking, 80, of Chicago and Harbor Springs, died March 5, 1989.

Funeral was held Tuesday, March 7, in Chicago. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at Irving Park Presbyterian Church, Chicago.

Mrs. Bicking was born Dec. 10, 1909, in Scotland, the daughter of John and Isabel Coullie. She had been a summer resident of Harbor Springs since 1962.

Mrs. Bicking earned her master's degree in education from the University of Chicago and was an elementary teacher and administrator in the Chicago Public school system for more than 40 years. she continued to teach and was principal of the Cosmopolitan Academy in Chicago until her death.

On May 5, 1934, she married Nicholas C. Bicking in Chicago.

Mrs. Bicking was a member and past chapter president of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary educational sorority; a member of the Irving Park Presbyterian Church. Each summer she sang with the Bay view Association Choir.

She was recipient of a citation from the U.S. Air Force for her assistance in its recruiting program.

Mrs. Bicking is survived by: her husband; a daughter Mary Ann and a grandson, Nicholas of Holland, Mich.

The family suggests memorials to the Mary and Nicholas Bicking Scholarship Fund at the Bay View Association, Conservatory of Music.

Extracted from Greenwood Cemetery Records.

DICKRAN "RICHARD" and AUDREY {HOCHSTEIN} and SON TOM MOORADIAN  
OWNERS and OPERATORS of HARBOR INN 1979 - 1989  
BUILDING TORN DOWN 1994

**DICKRAN "RICHARD" MOORADIAN, 83**

Dickran "Richard" Mooradian, 83, of Harbor Springs and Bloomfield Hills, died June 25, 2007.

Beloved husband of Audrey {Hochstein}; dear father of Pamela {Glenn} Cumberland, Richard {Jane}, Thomas {Mindy}, Ann {Ian} Grant, Paul {Annie}; loving grandfather of Jessica and Christopher Cumberland, Marguerite, Andrea and Mary Louise Mooradian, Mackie and Flick Mooradian, Heather and Jack Grant, Allison and Morgan Mooradian.

Dick served in the Air Force in World War II and was founder and president of U.S. Automotive Radiator Manufacturing in Detroit.

A celebration of life memorial will be at a later date.

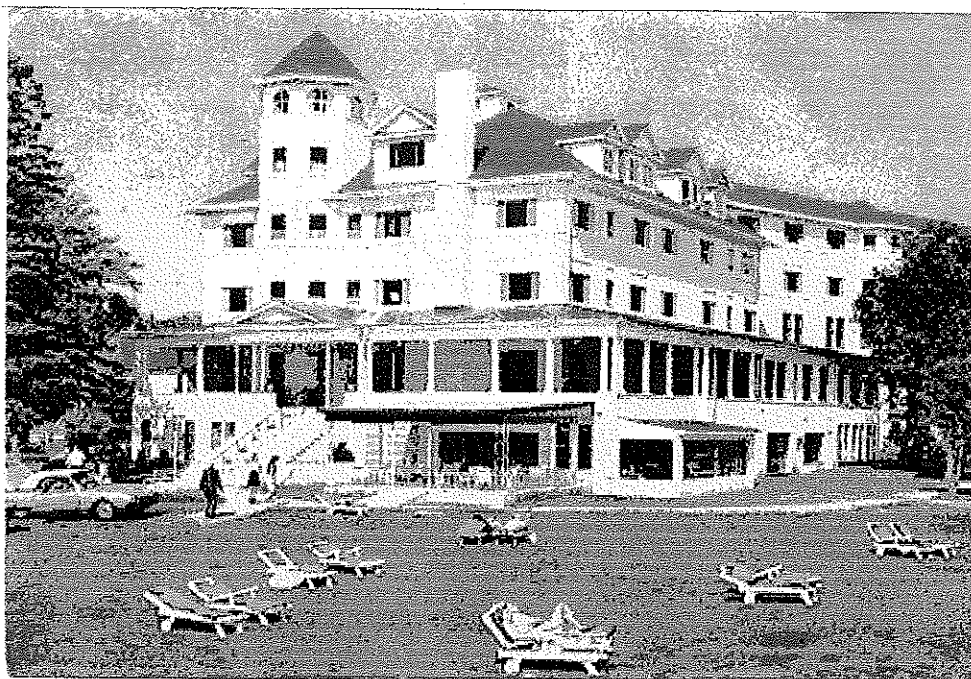
Memorial contributions may be made to Little Traverse Conservancy, 3264 Powell Road, Harbor Springs, Mich. 49740; or Crooked Tree Arts Center, 461 E. Mitchell St., Petoskey, Mich. 49770.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review dated Wednesday, June 27, 2007 and Greenwood Cemetery Records.

**DICK "RICHARD" MOORADIAN**

A memorial gathering for Dick "Richard" Mooradian will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, July 23, at Harbor Point Golf Club in Harbor Springs. Friends are invited to attend. Dick passed away June 25, 2007.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review dated Thursday, July 19, 2007 and Greenwood Cemetery Records.



**Harbour Inn, Harbor Springs, Michigan**

**Northern Michigan's finest beach front resort set in a jewel-like park of some fifty acres;  
Heated pool, sandy beach, tennis, golf, miles of scenic walk, and nightly entertainment.**

Written on back of post card above.

Photographed and published by F. Nolan Reynolds' Studio, Petoskey, Michigan