LAKE RESORT HISTORY

The lake and clear crystal springs attracted many vacationers. A 1902 book published by the Reading Railroad entitled *Pleasant Places along the Reading Railroad*, describes Laurel Springs this way:

"Laurel Springs, NJ- Fare 29 cents; 10-day excursion 46 cents; 60-trip monthly \$5.65. Twelve trains each way on weekdays; four trains each way on Sunday." The chief feature here is the great Crystal Spring, said to be the largest in the United States. It is as clear as crystal and as cold as ice, and its value as a therapeutic agent has been testified to by numerous physicians. It offers superior attractions and advantages for a suburban home or summer residence, combining all the pleasures and amusements of a mountain resort with the advantage of an all-the-year-round place of residence. Laurel Lake, over a mile long, surrounded by a beautiful natural park of old oaks, with beautiful walks, etc., and offers splendid advantages for boating and fishing."



As early as 1878, the new Crystal Inn accommodated 60 boarders for \$5 to \$15 per week. It used to be located at the bottom of Lindsay at Lakeview Avenue and was cleared in 1959 to make way for new homes. On the opposite corner at 704 Lakeview Avenue (now a residence), the Lakeview Inn was able to accommodate 40 guests.

Early newspapers told of a park, prettier than any part of Fairmount Park on the Wissahickon and a well-kept bridle path with horseback riding around the lake. Canoeing and rowing were highlighted by the annual summer regatta from the boathouses at the foot of Tomlinson Avenue to the country club at

of Walnut foot the The clear, Avenue. crystal lake waters were supplied by numerous springs and sported pickerel, bass, catfish, sunfish, perch and The lake snappers. often froze in winter, providing many hours of ice skating. Water from Crystal Spring was sold in Philadelphia for 15 cents gallon. а

