

GET CULTURED

Parents and children will enjoy music, folk dance, storytelling and hands-on arts and crafts at the **Korean Cultural Event**, 2 to 4 p.m. at Boise Public Library, 715 S. Capitol Blvd. 384-4200.

A 'JAZZY' BENEFIT

Miles for Miles is a jazz concert fundraiser for The Leukemia Society, 6-9 p.m. at Knitting Factory, 416 S. 9th St., Boise. Music by Bill Courtial, Bill Lyles, Jeff Baker, Ben Burdick and others. \$26. TicketWeb.

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MORE FUN THINGS TO DO, LIFE 2

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008

Shore Lodge is returning to its welcoming, family-oriented origins

New owners Joe Scott, John Sabala and Rich Hormaechea are giving a cherished Idaho icon back to the public that loves it.



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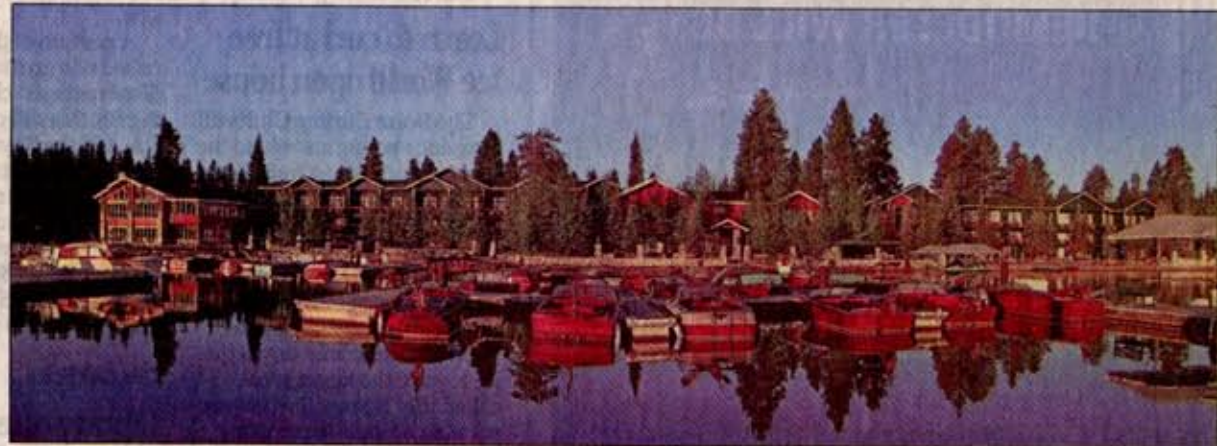
Somewhere in a back row of little used glasses in a cupboard is one of my Idaho treasures — a champagne glass with the words, "Shore Lodge, 50th Anniversary."

I didn't attend, but I did go to McCall to do an advance story on it, and the lodge manager was kind enough to give me the glass. It had come up in our conversation — probably more than once — that the lodge was a special place to me.

So the news that Shore Lodge is back, with its old name and new own-

ers who want to restore its traditions, couldn't have been a nicer surprise.

It isn't often something like that happens. Think about some of the vanished places dear to longtime Idahoans' hearts. Manley's and the Royal. The Miramar, the Interlude, the Book



Shore Lodge as seen from Payette Lake. The photo was taken before the Whitetail renovation.

Provided by Shore Lodge

See **SHORE LODGE, LIFE 8**

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SHORE LODGE

CONTINUED FROM LIFE 1

Shop, Braves Field. All gone for good.

With us once again, Shore Lodge has been a special place to Idahoans beyond counting. It epitomized the grand old mountain lodge, without the grand airs.

"I've been going there since I was a teenager," said Rich Hormaechea, one of its new owners. "It was a place where families felt comfortable. We wanted to get back to that."

My family started going to Shore Lodge when it was new. My folks couldn't afford to stay there — though it was reasonable compared with, say, Sun Valley — but that didn't stop us from hanging out. We'd swim, fish, play on the docks. My mother browsed at the shop in the lobby. No one booted us out because we weren't guests. We were accepted, comfortable.

That was unusual because, even though it wasn't Sun Valley, Shore Lodge was a pretty high-tone place for those days. Well-known guests included Spencer Tracy, Bing Crosby, Robert Taylor and Art Linkletter. It was one of J.R. Simplot's getaways. In fact, he tried to buy it. California developer Douglas Manchester outbid him.

Shore Lodge was built in 1948 as a lakeside gaming resort. It prospered until Idaho outlawed gambling in 1953. Hard times

followed, but it survived to become a destination for much more than the jackpot crowd.

Its most unusual "guest" was local character Eddie Cruzen. When his McCall home burned, Cruzen moved to the lodge and stayed 40 years.

For others, the lodge was an annual vacation retreat. Some guests returned annually for decades. It also was a popular spot for meetings, conventions, weddings and other events.

Our son was a toddler when I was asked to help judge a chili cookoff there. The judge sitting next to us was then-Gov. John Evans, and, being a Woodward, Mark managed to spill a bowl of chili on the governor's lap.

Everyone laughed, including Evans. He said it made him feel right at home, which is the way Shore Lodge made people feel. It wasn't unusual to see guests shuffle through the lobby wearing bathrobes and slippers.

I knew things were changing one weekend when my group — music has been a lifelong addiction — was playing in the lodge lounge. Friday night was fine, but on Saturday night we'd only played a few songs when the bartender asked us to stop.

"Mr. Manchester doesn't want any more music," he said. "He's having dinner next door and wants it quiet."

So everyone who came to dance had to leave. That was my first clue that the Shore Lodge we knew and loved was becoming a memory.

Manchester spent millions renovating it. It became less the kind of place where guests could toddle around in their bathrobes and more the kind of place where the wealthy would feel entitled and the rest of us would feel excluded. Higher rates and a new name, Whitetail, reflected the new attitude.

The contractor in charge of the renovation, according to the McCall Star News, was told to burn the venerable Shore Lodge sign. Instead, to his credit, he made sure it was saved.

Now it's back, along with the old, much-loved name and prices that should make many Idahoans feel welcome there again.

"It won't be \$49 rooms, but it will be affordable to families again because they'd been excluded," Hormaechea said. "It was even closed to the general public for a long time. You couldn't walk in off the street and go to the restaurant."

The formal look and feel of the Whitetail era, he said, will eventually give way to "a more casual, open look. We want it to be what it was, an Idaho-Northwest place to go and recreate."

Credit new owners Joe Scott, John Sabala and Hormaechea for something that doesn't happen often. They've given a cherished Idaho icon back to the public that loved it.

Chalk one up for the little guys.

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