

At Lake George

Boat squad gets priests to the church on time

By BRIAN BAKER
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Chances are you don't know many priests who come by speed boat to say Mass.

But for the families that spend their summers at Huletts-on-Lake George, having priests come over the water to them has been a natural thing for the past 20 years.

According to Margot Kapusinski, who now manages the resort with her husband, Albert, it all began in the late fifties when her father, George Eichler, bought a hotel on a tract of land on the east side of Lake George.

Community

"Father wanted to build a Christian community on the

lake," said Mrs. Kapusinski, "so he took down the hotel and used the lumber to build houses for vacationing families who wanted to be with people of like beliefs."

The only problem was that, in those days, like today, there weren't enough year-round residents at Huletts Landing to warrant having their own pastor.

Since the early twenties, priests from the Church of the Blessed Sacrament across Lake George in Hague had traveled around the northern tip of the lake through Ticonderoga and over the Adirondack Mountains to say Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Chapel in Huletts Landing.

The trip is well over 30 miles one way and, in a time of slower cars and even worse roads, sometimes took almost two hours.

"It was a very long, drawn-out procedure. To say a nine o'clock Mass, a priest would probably have to leave the Hague at about six in the morning," Mrs. Kapusinski noted.

That a young priest had been killed on the road from Hague to Huletts Landing in 1948 added to the concern for finding an easier way, she said.

When the Eichlers came to Huletts Landing, it was George who came up with the idea to send a boat and chaperone the priests across the lake. Not only would it be easier for the priest,

but it would be quicker. It takes only ten minutes to make the trip over the lake in a speed boat.

Squadron

"That's when we started the 'boat squadron,'" Mrs. Kapusinski said.

The 'boat squadron' is a group of vacationers at Huletts Landing who volunteer to escort a priest to and from the parish at Hague to celebrate at their own chapel.

"The people here have always been cooperative in participating in this. They donate their time, their boat and their gas. With gas prices the way they are now, I'd say it's

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