

A LITTLE HISTORY—

By: Ed LeFevre & Bob Goodman

I'm Sure you remember the morning of January 8th, when we awoke to the beauty of a Michigan Ice Storm. As the morning arrived the trees glistened with ice. Later that morning, as we surveyed the complex, we found several fallen trees and branches here and there. One big tree that came down was behind the units on the north side of Blue Spruce..



In the background you can see the home of Mrs. Lancaster who has lived there since the middle 1930's. In an attempt to determine the owner of the tree Bob G. contacted Mrs. Lancaster. During the course of that conversation, she offered several tidbits of information regarding the property now occupied by the River Pines Condominium Association.

Mrs. Lancaster and her husband were involved with "Ducks Unlimited" for years. During the conversation with Bob G. he mentioned that we have discovered the Pine Wilt disease on our pine trees and that we expected to lose all of them in the next few years. Mrs. Lancaster mentioned that she

and her husband planted many of the pine trees located on the River Pine complex. They were planted in the 1940's. Then she provided a couple of aerial photographs of the site that we have included on the next page of this newsletter. She told Bob these photos were taken in 1950. It is easy to identify 9 mile road but Drake road is difficult to distinguish. The area north of 9 mile is undeveloped and appears to be part of the farm on the north side of 9 mile road.

In the foreground, you can see the growing pine trees and to the east you can see what we now call the "Irrigation Pond". Mrs. Lancaster said the pond was dug in 1940 and was spring feed. Obviously, they used the water to irrigate the newly planted trees.

It's kind of fun to look at our property and see what it looked like nearly 60 years ago.



