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Third in a series —

Sudlow remembers people in her past

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Before Anna Sudlow was married, she worked at the famous Wawasee Amusement Co. or WACO as it was better known. She remembers owner Ross Franklin as a kind man. "It was a nice place to work and they were good to the help," she informed.

All the famous big bands of the "Big Band Era" played at the WACO ballroom on the south shore of Lake Wawasee. Sudlow said there were often so many people on the dance floor that dancing couldn't really be accomplished. Polite behavior was expected in the well-run establishment. She noted, "If anyone acted up, out they went."

"People came from far and wide to dance to the likes of the Dorseys and Cab Calloway. It was the place to go and was operated so nicely," she continued.

Excellent food was served in the restaurant. The only remnant of the WACO is the street name Waco Drive. Several homes now cover the large piece of property it was located upon. Sudlow said the big slide at the lake was at Ideal Beach.

Sudlow also was employed at Wilts Factory where the Syracuse Condominiums are now. She put hinges on small cedar chests manufactured there. Dr. B.F. Hoy had advised her not to work there. His name is familiar because of Hoy's Beach on Syracuse Lake next to his former residence.

"I loved it there. They were so nice to work for," she chuckled. The Wilts' daughter Miriam Wilt Disher Rock worked with her. Many will remember her for her antiques.

Another place she was employed was the Leacock Tea Room owned by Zella Leacock. It is where the Revolving Closet is now in uptown Syracuse. She is still friends and in contact with the owner's daughter Martha.

Sudlow does not expound much on the Spink Hotel (currently the Spink Condominiums) but will say she owns a desk from there among her extensive collection of antiques.

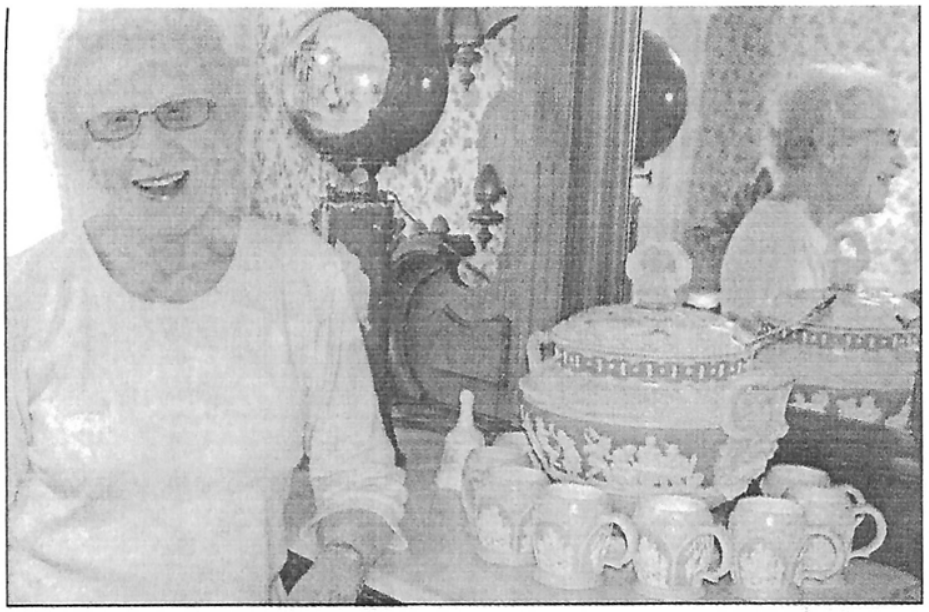
She commented, "Wawasee was the place to be. The renowned had homes at the lake. Among our acquaintances were Mark Honeywell and Frank Remy were just two among many besides Eli Lilly. We were most fortunate. People took an interest and really cared. We were in our 20s and just starting out and many of our customers and neighbors were very helpful."

Honeywell owned what is now Honeywell Inc., a multi-national company. He married a girl from Wabash, moved there and developed a hot water heating system. His name lives on in that city's Honeywell Center, which he funded with a foundation dedicated to the memory of his wife and parents.

Remy retired to Lake Wawasee from Anderson at age 30 when the company he and his brother started became Delco-Remy. He built and owned Wawasee Golf Course and owned it until Don Bryd purchased it in the 1950s.

Lilly, of course, was the grandson of the original druggist, Col. Eli Lilly, and owned the family business in Indianapolis, The Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Co., As a summer resident of Lake Wawasee, he had a profound influence on the way the lake and the community of Syracuse are today.

Next week more will be learned about her life.



REFLECTIONS — Anna Sudlow stands by the Sudlow family punch bowl set which came from the Charles Sudlow home in Indianapolis. It was made by Mettlach Pottery and shows a dancing scene. (Photo by Martha Stoelting)