

Notes About George Albert Pearson Sr. (source: The Pavek Museum in Minnesota), Obituary, and Notes from Cecilia Jasuwan

Lost in the scramble of early radio design were several circuits whose sole purpose was to decrease the number of tubes necessary for adequate reception and reproduction. The Reflex circuit and its sibling Inverse Duplex enjoyed wide popularity. A few companies, like ERLA, David Grimes, and Acme Apparatus, were built upon the hope that these patents would carry them to long-term viability.

According to Alan Douglas in his *Radio Manufacturers of the 1920s*, George Pearson decided to go into the radio business “in the fall of 1921.” By 1924, his Electrical Research Labs, or ERLA, had ads in all the major radio magazines promoting a complete line of beautiful components, all designed to serve the hobbyist who wanted to build their own Reflex set. Articles on the ERLA Reflex circuit were in virtually every new radio publication on the market.

By 1926, ERLA’s only presence was in the form of little spots ads buried in the back pages. In September of 1928, Pearson sold the name and got out of the radio business.

Sometime between 1924 and 1926, Pearson also built a line of radios carrying his name (under the ERLA banner.) One of my favorite radios in the Museum comes from this era. Outwardly plain and unassuming, the interior reveals the company’s strengths and weaknesses: beautiful components that delivered marginal performance.

Despite ERLA’s short-lived success, George Pearson was a significant contributor to the *art of the individual component*, a concept that is all but lost today.



OBITUARY OF GEORGE ALBERT PEARSON

Source: Anderson/McQueen Funeral Home, St. Petersburg, Florida

Pearson, George Albert, 95, of St. Petersburg, died Thursday, April 13th, 2006. He was born in Indianapolis, IN, and came here (Florida) in 1939 from Chicago, IL. He was a self-employed real estate investor and during WW II, he served in the Army Air Corps.

He graduated from Duke University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and he was an accomplished musician and played the piano and bass fiddle. He was an avid sailor, fisherman, and photographer, and he loved to travel. He loved to fly and had a pilot's license. He was a member of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club where he was the oldest surviving Past Commodore, and he was a member of

the Exchange Club of St. Petersburg where he was Past President.

He is survived by his daughter, Cecelia A. Jasuwan of St. Petersburg; and 3 grandchildren, Angela S. Jasuwan of Seminole, and Albert and Adisuk Jasuwan of St. Petersburg. Anderson-McQueen Funeral & Cremation Centers-Tyrone Chapel.

See below for the Pearson Family Memories by Cecilia Jasuwan.

The Pearson Family Memories

This is the story of Skootamata Lodge and my father **George Pearson**. My Grandfather, George Albert Pearson Sr. owned a radio company in Indianapolis ,Indiana and later in Chicago, Ill. He had a salesman in Canada who was Ross Obornes' father. Ross's father came to my grandfather one winter day all bundled up and my grandfather said it must be cold where you come from. Ross's Dad said yes, but the summers were beautiful and he thought my grandfather should build a cabin for his family on Skootamatta lake. It was called Loon Lake then but was later changed because there were to many loon lakes.

My grandfather agreed and said that Ross's father should buy a large parcel of land and start construction of a summer home for his wife Wilhelmina and his son George Jr. my Dad. My father and grandmother took the train into Kaladar back then and were driven to the area known as Trails end. They then had to take a boat to their new summer home. This is the cottage currently owned by the Halperines. My father was 14 at the time which would have made it 1925.

Another family from Indianapolis who were friends of my grandparents were also building next door by the name of Moore. Their son Clayton would go on to play the **Lone Ranger on television for many years**. Unfortunately their cottage was burned to the ground some years later and all that can be seen today is the boat house next door to the Halperines boat house. Both buildings are as they were when originally built for the most part. My Dad's father hired local people to help with the running of our cottage. There was Jim Meeks who worked around the property and would hunt and fish with my Dad frequently. Nancy and Charlie Spencer helped with cooking and other chores around the piace. There were numerous fireplaces in the main cabin and adjoining guest quarters such as the stone room. No electricity except what was provided by a generator brought up later. No direct phone lines although my father rigged his own line to connect to the landing to send messages. Ice was cut in the winter for use the next summer and stored in the ice house at the foot of the hill. My Dad would carry the large blocks himself up the hill to the kitchen. Beer was always left in the saw dust for the men who would come to cut the ice each year. Eventually electricity did come to the lake and everything was updated.

My father also told stories about taking the local children he would see standing by the side of the road to school in his car. That was when the school was one room. He became so attached to the students of the local school that he later setup an award fund for graduating eighth graders that **still exists today**. My grandfather died around 1949. My Dad was stationed in Denver, during the war so did not have much time to go to Canada. After marrying my mother in 1948 there was not much time for the lake either. My Dad sold the cabin which was neglected for many years except for a brief claim to fame when it was used by a Canadian Movie company for one of it's movies. Eventually the Halperin's purchased it and returned it to it's previous use as a warm and happy family retreat. My father also owned most of what is known as the North shore gradually selling off all except for the shoreline we currently call home.

This year will be the **80th year** for the Pearson and now Jasuwan family to have been on the lake. We have come to know the people on the lake over the years and the people in Cloyne as well, and hope that many generations will come to know and enjoy this beautiful lake as my father and grandfather did before us.

