

The lake he loved, the forest
paths his feet
In other days were wont to
fare along,
Are lush with summer opul-
ence, are sweet
With sunshine and with
song.
—Cooper.



THE O-TE-SA-GA, LAKE STREET OR SOUTH ELEVATION.

The air is tinct with afar
faint and fine
That morning from the
dewy loam distills;
Through it, with what tran-
scendent beauty shine
His wooded home-land
hills!
—Clinton Scollard.

“O-TE-SA-GA”

Cooperstown's Palatial Summer Hotel Open for Guests.—Description and History of the Enterprise.

Without any formal ceremonies the O-te-sa-ga, Cooperstown's palatial new summer hotel, erected by the Clark Estates that this village might boast a stopping place in keeping with her natural surroundings, was opened to the public, Monday, July 12, 1909. The first meal served was the noon luncheon but it was Edward Severin-Clark who figuratively set in motion the machinery of the big institution when he inscribed his name upon the first line of the new register attested by Theodore C. Turner, D. H. Gregory and J. A. M. Johnston. The first guests to register were Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair Tonsey, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Fuller, Mrs. H. S. Blackford and Mr. and Mrs. William L. Seyforth, all of New York City, who had made the trip here to be present at the opening.

Those familiar with resort houses, who have visited the new hotel unanimously agree that the O-te-sa-ga, in the charm of its location, in its architectural beauty and in the convenience and sumptuousness of its appointments, easily leads the hotels of the north.

No more fortunate location could have been chosen for a hotel. The building stands upon the southern shore of Otsego Lake, the “Glimmerglass” that Cooper has so admirably described in the Deerslayer.

From its windows and broad verandas a view as charming as the Divine Hand ever painted fills the eye while refreshing breezes from over the gentle waters fan the brow.

The Holt-Averill property upon which the O-te-sa-ga is built included about eight acres at the time of its purchase by the Clark Estates but some additions have since been made so that the building really stands in the centre of a park of about ten acres fronting fully 700 feet upon the lake shore. Landscape gardeners are now at work upon the grounds and when completed no hotel will boast more beautiful surroundings. There is an abundance of shade from trees that formed a part of the original forest while promenades along the lake front and grounds for all sorts of pastimes will furnish most enjoyable features of a stay at the O-te-sa-ga. A wharf well supplied with row boats and launches is also provided by the hotel.

None of the cheap methods of construction sometimes used in summer hotels have been employed

in building the O-te-sa-ga. The structure is of brick with limestone trimmings and the exterior woodwork is painted white. The massive white columns which support the porte cochere at the Lake street entrance and the pillars of the piazza on the side facing the lake give a colonial touch to the architectural design that adds dignity as well as beauty. The building is about 350 feet long and 144 feet wide over all.

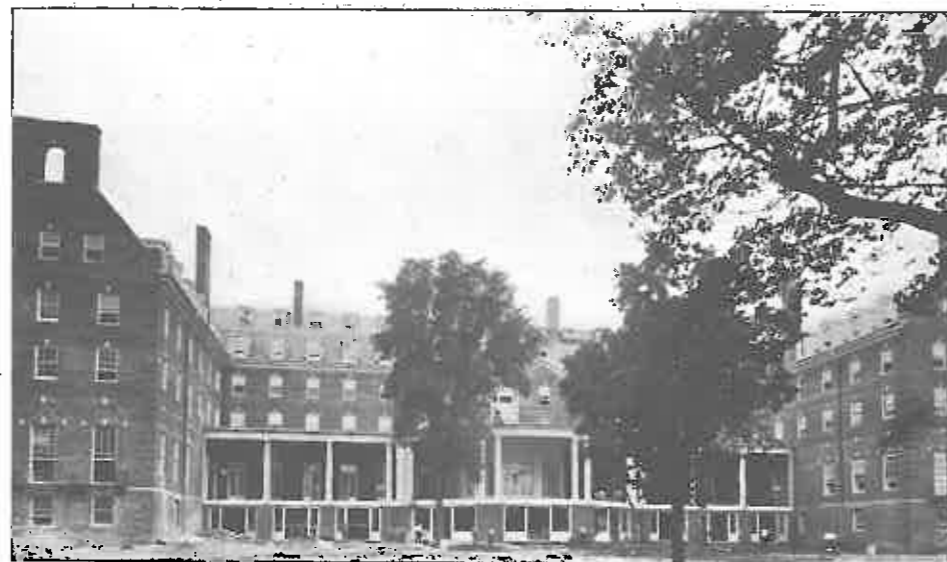
In the centre of the ground floor is a large lobby, sixty-four by thirty-two feet in dimensions opening directly upon the lake side lawn. To the left of this room as one looks toward the lake is the grill room which the management announces will be open this summer, sixty-four by twenty feet with the grill kitchen attached. The grill is especially designed for the accommoda-

tion of automobile parties arriving out of the regular meal hours. Its service will be first-class in every particular. The bar is also entered from the left of the lobby. This room is thirty-six by twenty feet.

ing rooms, chauffeurs' dining hall, storerooms and the helps' lavatories are also located in this wing.

The main or office floor is entered from the Lake street side either by the stone staircase on the east end of the building or by the well planned ramp for vehicles. The ramp which has a limestone coping is sixteen feet wide allowing automobiles to pass without inconvenience. Underneath is a passage or entrance to the ground floor.

The front porch of the hotel is twelve feet in width and is of brick with limestone steps. To gain admission by the principal entrance one passes along the ramp under the porte cochere and directly into the foyer. This room is seventy-two feet long by thirty-six feet wide run-



O-TE-SA-GA, NORTH ELEVATION SHOWING LARGE PORCH AND GLASS ENTRANCE TO FOYER.

tion of automobile parties arriving out of the regular meal hours. Its service will be first-class in every particular. The bar is also entered from the left of the lobby. This room is thirty-six by twenty feet.

To the right of the lobby on the ground floor is the ladies' manicure and hair dressing parlor, the barber shop, men's lavatory while at the east end of the building underneath the ball room is a spacious billiard room, about seventy-two by forty feet in size.

At the west end of the hotel on this floor there is provided a large assembly room where the employees have their dances and other gatherings. There is also the porter's room where baggage is received equipped with an electric elevator running to each floor. The help's kitchen, din-

ing through the whole width of the central structure and its beauty of design and finish is very striking. Glass doors, curving toward the lake form the entire partition through which a view unsurpassed may be enjoyed. The doors open directly upon the porch overlooking the lake which is certain to prove one of the most attractive features of the hotel. This porch is twenty-two feet wide and about 180 feet long extending the entire length of the central portion of the hotel and opening at the left into the dining room and at the right into the ball room.

To the right as one enters the foyer is the office and directly back of it is a room for ladies connected with which are lavatories, check rooms, etc., while on the opposite side of the foyer is a similar room for men. These rooms are de-

signed particularly for automobile parties who may arrive for a brief stop. They will supply all necessities and comforts for such occasions without making it necessary to engage rooms. On the right side of the foyer there is a mezzanine floor for the orchestra and to the left are the reading and writing rooms, forty-eight by twenty feet, the drawing room of the same size and a bridge whist room twenty feet square.

In the east wing is the ball room which is not

ing the floors are all of iron with slate treads and landings.

No detail of equipment is lacking. There are two Otis plunger elevators fully equipped running from the ground floor and all rooms have telephones which not only connect with the office but with the Bell telephone system so that guests may telephone anywhere without leaving their rooms. There are four stand pipes distributed through the house with hose connected on each floor for fire protection and additional protection is furnished by the fire escapes on the rear and each end of the building. These precautions are taken in spite of the fact that the building is practically fireproof. There are 106 bath rooms connected with the sleeping rooms and for public service with lavatories, etc., on each floor. The plumbing is so arranged that there is a circulation of hot water at all times. Connected with the hotel office is the telephone switch board and two telephone booths for guests. In the neighborhood of 2,000 electric lights are used in the building. These lights are conveniently placed in the rooms while on the office floor single lights are



VIEW OF OTSEGO LAKE FROM THE PORCH OF THE O-TE-SA-GA.

only the most ornamental room in the building but pronounced by Manager Price one of the most beautiful hotel ball rooms in this country. It is eighty-eight by forty feet in dimensions and the beauty and detail of its finish beggars description. The walls are done in panels with a beautiful lattice effect while colonnades relieve the monotony of the sides. There is a large fireplace with a mirror on the west side of the room and the mezzanine balcony for the orchestra looks down upon the floor from the south end. The floor is finished for dancing in the best possible manner. The room is entered through a large rotunda with a domed ceiling. At the south of the ball room is a suite of rooms with bath.

The west wing on this floor is taken up by the breakfast room which is forty-five feet long and forty feet wide and the main dining hall equal in size to the ball room.

The kitchen of the hotel is designed to be one of the features—a place where guests may be taken at any time. This department occupies an extension that is separated from the hotel proper by brick walls—a wise precaution in case of fire catching from the ranges. Leading off the kitchen are the butcher shops, bake shop, pastry room and a large serving room. The kitchen equipment has been carefully studied by practical men and it is considered complete in every detail. It was furnished by the Duparquet Huot & Monense company of New York.

The refrigerators furnished by the Jewett Refrigerator company of Buffalo, are most complete and interesting. The kitchen refrigerator has a capacity of thirty tons of ice which is carried on a hand elevator to the top of the cooling devise. This large refrigerator is divided into compartments, which are in reality separate rooms which the cooks may enter for butter, milk, vegetables, meat and poultry.

Above the office floor there are four stories which have in all 179 sleeping rooms. The house is furnished in birch, both the wood trim and flooring throughout. The office floor is finished in white and all the halls above that floor are finished in the natural wood. In all the rooms on the top floor the furniture is of natural oak. On the next lower floor mahogany furniture is used and the doors are stained mahogany to match. The woodwork of the rooms on this floor is white. The next two floors below are provided with silver veneer furniture and the woodwork stained to match. The staircases connect-

with the Ames engines. The elevator pump and a large switch board also occupy this room. These furnish the light for the building and all the electric motors with which many of the different machines are run.

The machinery is surrounded with a brass railing and a ditch seven feet wide, at a level with the boiler room floor allows the exhaust steam to be carried through the feed water heater and then through the 300-foot conduit to the hotel building where it is used for heating the water in the baths, etc. This supply in itself is not expected to be sufficient for the purpose and an additional supply of live steam has been provided for.

There is a three-inch live steam line carrying high pressure steam to the kitchen and a six-inch return water line carrying the water of condensation back to the pumps, which are claimed to be the finest in the world. There are two of these pumps, six by three and one-half by six feet in dimensions.

The boiler room is fitted with two 172-horsepower Babcock & Wilcox water tube boilers of the best type. They are fitted with automatic boiler feeds, high and low water alarms and safety stop valves so arranged that if any accident occurs to any boiler it automatically cuts itself out or should any trouble occur with the steam line the flow of steam is cut off in the mains.

The heating arrangement exemplifies a new idea. It is known as the atmospheric system. By it the occupant of every room in the hotel can heat as much or as little of each pipe of the radiator as he desires simply by turning a valve. There is neither noise nor leaking of steam. There are no air valves of any kind on the radiators. Heat



THE DINING HALL OF THE O-TE-SA-GA, SHOWING JAMES H. ST. LEGER, HEAD WAITER IN THE FOREGROUND.

The Power House.

To those interested in mechanics a description of the equipment of the power plant will appeal. The machinery occupies the northern half of the brick building known as the power house which is situated about 300 feet from the hotel on Nelson avenue and practically concealed from it by the foliage.

The engine room is to the right of the boiler room and its floor elevated five feet above it. The engine room contains a 100 Kw. and a 50 Kw. Croker-Wheeler generator directly connected

is provided sufficient to maintain a temperature of 70 degrees in every room when the outside pressure remains at zero.

To heat the water for the 106 baths with which the O-te-sa-ga is provided two 640-gallon Berryman heaters have been installed capable of supplying 1,000 gallons of water per hour at a temperature of 180 degrees. There is a heater of the same kind for the kitchen and one for the laundry. They are automatically controlled to hold the temperature at any point.

The southern half of the power house is occupied by the laundry which is probably the most fully equipped laundry in the state. The ma-

chinery is all from the Troy Laundry Machine Company.

Above the laundry there are thirty sleeping rooms for the accommodation of the male employees.

On Nelson avenue is a dormitory with sixty-five sleeping rooms, two sitting rooms and a laundry for the accommodation of the female employees. In the rear of this building is an ice house which holds 900 tons of ice.

It is planned to make the laundry, engine and boiler rooms one of the features of the hotel, where guests can be received at any time and it is needless to say that branches of the big plant will be kept at all times in perfect condition.

How the Work Progressed.

During the week of March 22, 1908, J. A. M. Johnston, agent of the Clark Estates, announced through the newspapers of Cooperstown that Edward S. and Stephen C. Clark had purchased the Holt-Averill property, comprising about ten acres and fronting 700 feet on Otsego Lake, for the purpose of erecting thereon a large, new summer hotel. The plans had not yet been drawn and on this account the first statements regarding the enterprise were necessarily lacking in detail but Mr. Johnston assured the people that the structure would be the finest resort house in New York State. Now that it has been completed it is conceded to be the finest summer hotel of the North.

When the Holt-Averill property was purchased by the Messrs. Clark the large house, the history of which appears elsewhere, stood at about the location of the centre of the new structure and the work of razing this building had to be completed before actual operations on the new works could be taken up. This work was completed about the middle of June and the builders ready to begin on the foundations of the new hotel.

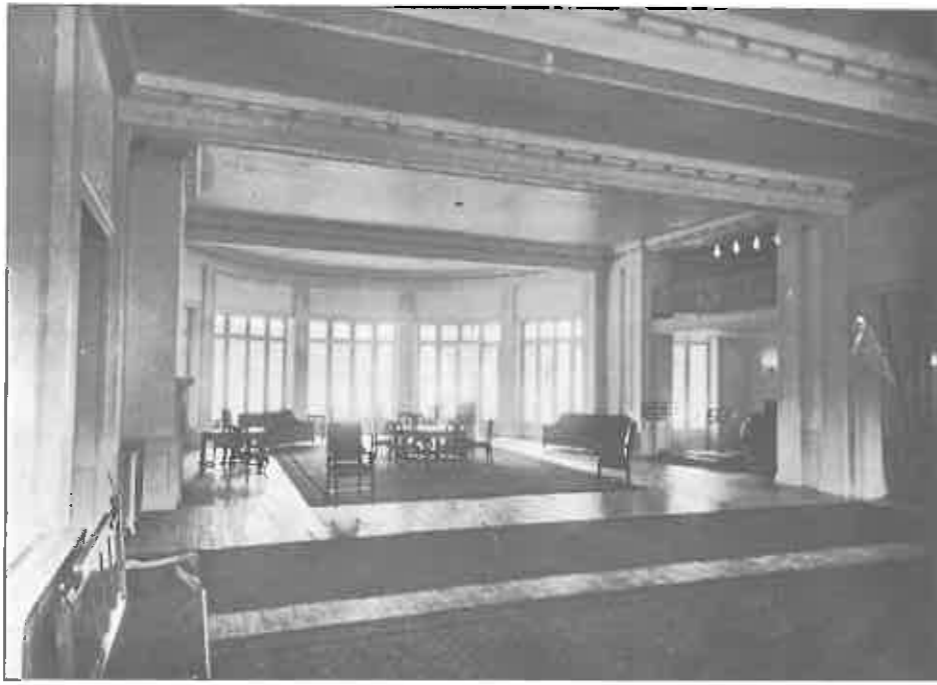
During the week of July 12th the digging the trenches began. This work progressed rapidly but a delay was encountered when it was found that a bed of quicksand lay under a portion of the hotel. To prevent the hotel settling, fully 500 piles were driven in the trenches and upon them the foundation walls rest. The piles are from twenty-five to thirty feet long and go down to hardpan.

Work on the kitchen extension went forward in advance of that on the main structure on account of the pile driving and by September 18th the brick work on this part was half completed while the stone foundations for the main or central part were all up and carpenters putting on the joist. One hundred and fifty men were employed upon the job at that time. The first stone on the kitchen extension was laid on August 8, 1908.

October 23d the walls of the first story of the hotel proper were completed and the mechanics were fitting the iron girders. By this date excavations for the power house which stands on Nelson avenue, 300 feet from the hotel, were started. By November 6th the second story of brick had been completed. The framework of the kitchen extension was completed and the roof timbed. It was early in this month that some of the force tore down the old Jackson house which stood on the grounds in just one day.

On January 1, 1909, THE FARMER stated that the last brick had been laid on the structure and the masons discharged. Over 100 men were then employed. During the cold winter months the builders supplied coffee twice a day to the workmen, Charles F. Kenney acting as chef. On Thursday, January 21st, the roof was completed and a short time later the 400 windows placed in position.

The servants' dormitory was begun on March 10th. This building is 40 by 100 feet in di-



THE FOYER OF THE O-TE-SA-GA.

mensions and contains about sixty-five sleeping rooms.

Work upon the interior of the building progressed rapidly and the plastering was completed before the middle of May.

Since that time it has been a merry race against time to have the rooms finished, furnished and the thousand and one details necessary to the opening of a big hotel all provided by Tuesday, July 13th, when the hotel opened its doors to the members of the New York State Press association.

The magnificent new hotel is but another evidence of the enterprise and public spirit of its builders, Edward Sererin and Stephen Carlton Clark, with which Cooperstown already abounds. Although it is only one of their many benefactions it will give this place a preeminence among summer resorts and the fame of the Land of Leatherstocking thereby will be immeasurably enhanced. The citizens of this village and com-

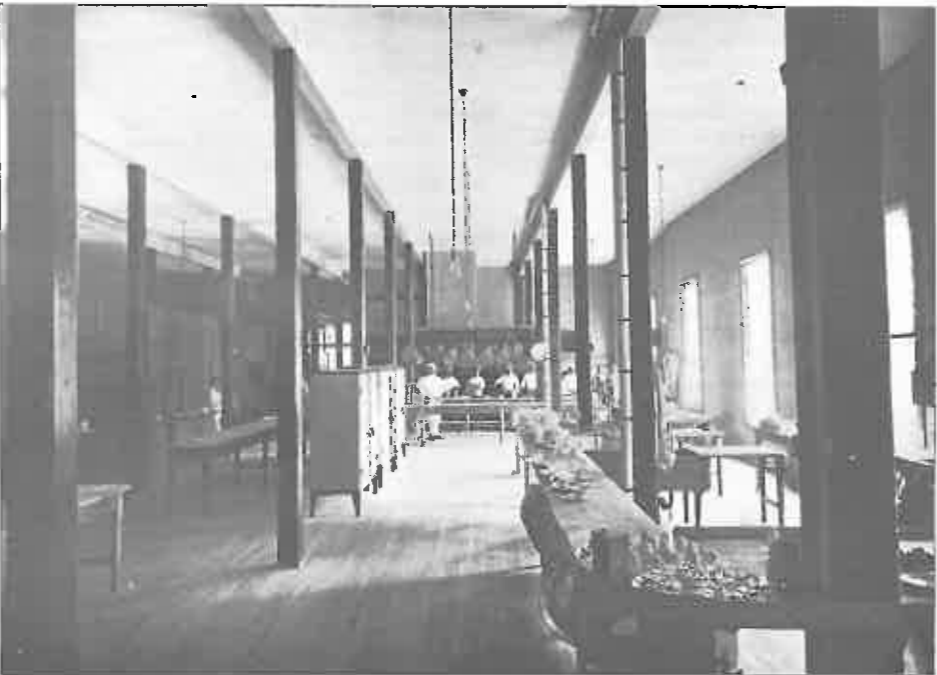
munity can only show their appreciation by giving the new caravansery their hearty support.

The O-te-sa-ga stands as a tribute not only to the owners but to the energy, skill and wisdom of J. A. M. Johnston, agent of the Clark estate, who has had general supervision from the time the first announcement was made down to the day of its opening. His grasp of detail and ability in foreseeing and removing obstacles have largely been responsible for the completion of the big enterprise in so remarkably short a time.

To the foremen also only words of praise are due. Charles F. Root, who has been in charge of the carpenter work has showed himself capable in many difficult situations and the same statement is true of Lewis Bogart, in charge of the mason work, Charles F. Tuttle, who acted with Mr. Bogart and John Coleman and Arthur Cooper who had charge of the plumbing.

The steam heating plant was installed by Otis & Son of Oswego.

Percy Griffin of New York was the architect.



THE KITCHEN OF THE O-TE-SA-GA.

The Official Staff.

The total force of the O-te-sa-ga numbers 150 and it speaks well of the management to say that all were on hand, organized and ready for guests on Monday of this week.

The manager is J. D. Price of the firm of Anderson & Price, whose management of the Mount Washington and Mount Pleasant Houses at Bretton's Woods, N. H., Bretton Hall and the Seymour, New York city, and the Ormond and Bretton Inn at Ormond Beach, Florida, has placed

one found a great similarity and lack of individuality although the general service was rich and elaborate, but at the Ormond the menus were a constant source of surprise for their freshness and individuality. The cooking was remarkably fine and the work of the baker and the pastry cook excited the unstinted admiration of all the women in the party—something no other hotel in any state had been able to do. If a guest desired some special dish peculiar to the south, and made his wishes known to the management, he found his desire gratified in a menu for the next day.



L. C. PINKERTON, THE STEWARD, AND CHEF BONO AND THE KITCHEN FORCE.

them in the vanguard of the resort houses of America. Guests at the O-te-sa-ga will find Mr. Price untiring in his efforts to provide for their comfort and unflinching in courteous attention to their wants.

Few very men are as gifted for hotel management as Mr. Price. He has an unusual faculty for mixing with his guests and winning their cordial regard. He does this not in the stereotyped way of many, but in a natural and sincere manner that leaves a warm place in the heart of every guest. In the actual management of his hotels Mr. Price is unsurpassed. He maintains a discipline and efficiency of service that is almost military in its character, yet his methods with his employees are so broad and fair that he secures unbounded loyalty and cooperation from them.

As a guest you will find on every hand evidences of taste, far seeing thought and great originality in providing an attractive public home. Last winter the writer traveled throughout the state of Florida, giving special attention to the subject in his stay at such hotels as the Continental at Atlantic Beach, the Alcazar at St. Augustine, the Ormond at Ormond Beach, the Royal Poincinar at Palm Beach, the Royal Palm at Miami, and others. Of all the houses in this well known state of hotels, the Ormond, under the management of Mr. Price was clearly in the lead, and by a very long margin indeed. Here one found a greater watchfulness for the comfort of the guest. The service from every employee in the house was willing, spontaneous and efficient. The conditions and general atmosphere of the hotel were superior to anything else we could find in the state. And if there is one department where Mr. Price excels it is his dining room. In all the other hotels on the East Coast

If the waiters knew that their guest was from the north and was omitting from his orders some particular dish that was rare and would appeal to a northern palate, they cleverly brought it to his attention. Such instances are not isolated but are a regular part of the unusual service given under the leadership of Mr. Price.

We believe the O-te-sa-ga and Cooperstown have been fortunate to a degree in securing the services of so thoroughly trained and talented a manager for the new enterprise. When opportunity gives the people of this community a chance to know Mr. Price for themselves and to see the esteem in which he is held by all who stay with him, we are sure they will agree with the estimates now given by this paper.

The official force of the house is as follows:

- M. A. Reardon.....Chief Clerk
- Jos. L. Nelson, Cashier and Bookkeeper
- J. Edward Hancy....Assistant Cashier
- Reginald Cattew.....Mail Clerk
- A. H. Evans.....Night Clerk
- Miss Anna Owens, Sec'y. to Mr. Price
- Miss Viola Montgomery..Housekeeper
- J. C. Pinkerton.....Steward
- Miss Winifred Hanning...News Stand
- Miss Elizabeth Owens } Telephone Operators.
- Miss Mabel C. Sibley }
- James H. St. Leger.....Head Waiter
- A. C. Bono.....Chef
- Thomas Riley.....Head Porter
- Mrs. M. Elliott.....Head Laundress

In addition to the main dining hall there are the officers' dining room, the nurses', maids', and childrens' dining hall, the chauffeurs' dining room and two dining halls for the help. A force of sixty waitresses and ten boys is required. Chef Bono is a graduate of a French school of

cooking and has served under Mr. Price for some time. His ability is unquestioned.

The orchestra under the leadership of Harry Meyer is sure to prove one of the most pleasing features of the hotel. It is composed of seven pieces and was furnished by William Fenrich of New York, a conductor of note, who has provided the music for the Aspinwall in Lenox for years.

In spite of the severe handicaps which the management suffers through the lateness in opening the house, both Mr. Price and Mr. Reardon, the room clerk, express themselves as highly pleased with the seasons' prospects. Mr. Reardon said: "In spite of the fact that the house was not ready for guests until July 12th, almost four months later than the date of opening nearly every other summer hotel in the country, we have been much surprised and very agreeably so at the large number of enquiries already received for accommodation. For these Cooperstown herself, and the judicious advertising and standing of the owners is responsible for fully one-half. With a few more good roads leading hither we can easily make the O-te-sa-ga a Mecca for automobile tourists."

The first meal served at the O-te-sa-ga was luncheon on Monday. The following is the menu of the first dinner, served Monday evening:

Potage O-te-sa-ga	Canape Caviar	Consomme Saffrono
Olives	Radishes	Chutney
		Boiled Halibut, Hollandaise Sauce
		Potatoes Parisienne
Breaded Lamb Chops, Monte Carlo		Banana Fritters, Glaee au Cognac
Roast Ribs of Beef, Dish Gravy		Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce
Boiled New Potatoes		String Beans
		Mashed Potatoes
Stewed Corn		Boiled Onion in Cream
		Asparagus Tips Vinaigrette
Cream Pie		Cornstarch Pudding, Strawberry Sauce
Cocoanut Cake		Rhubarb Pie
		Sponge Cake
	Vanilla Ice Cream	
Bananas	Oranges	Cherries
Nuts	Raisins	Figs
Young American and Swiss Cheese		Dates
		Water Thin and Graham Crackers
		Coffee

Holt-Averill.

The accompanying view is the Lake street elevation of Holt-Averill house which stood practically at the location of the O-te-sa-ga. The place up until the time it was purchased by the Messrs. Clark had been owned in the Averill family for over 100 years. About the year 1870 William H. Averill sold a small portion to Frederick G. Lee, who erected the first building upon the site where Holt-Averill stood. Later Mrs. Jane R. A. Carter



HOLT-AVERILL, THE HOUSE THAT STOOD UPON THE HOTEL SITE.

erected Holt-Averill. The beautiful grounds with their magnificent view of the lake long has been regarded as the ideal location for a large summer hotel. The last owners were Mrs. Jane R. A. Brown and Anna Grace Carter who are well known summer residents of Cooperstown.