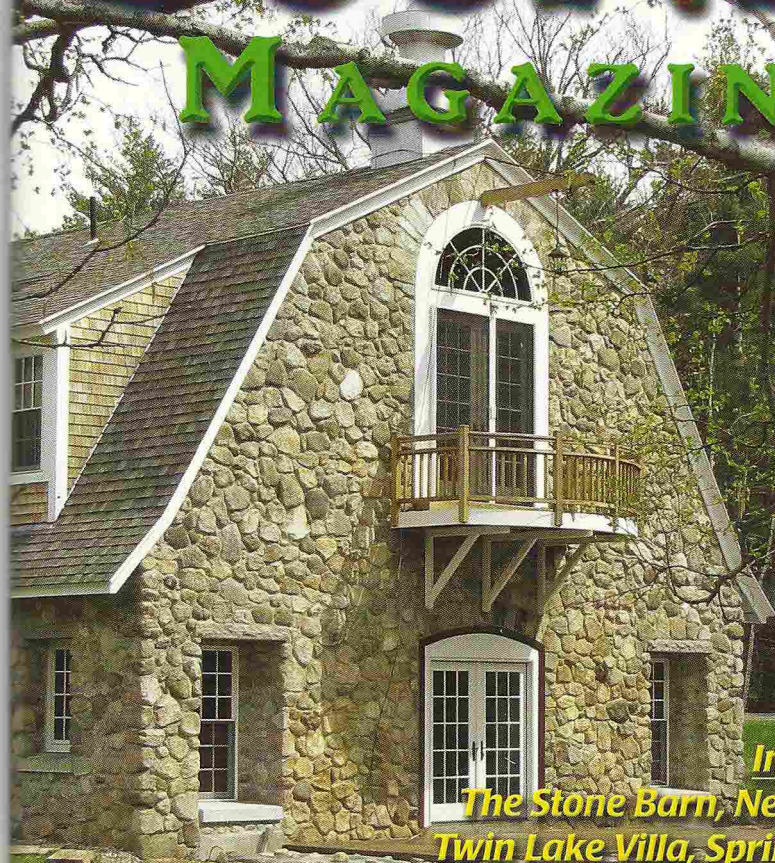


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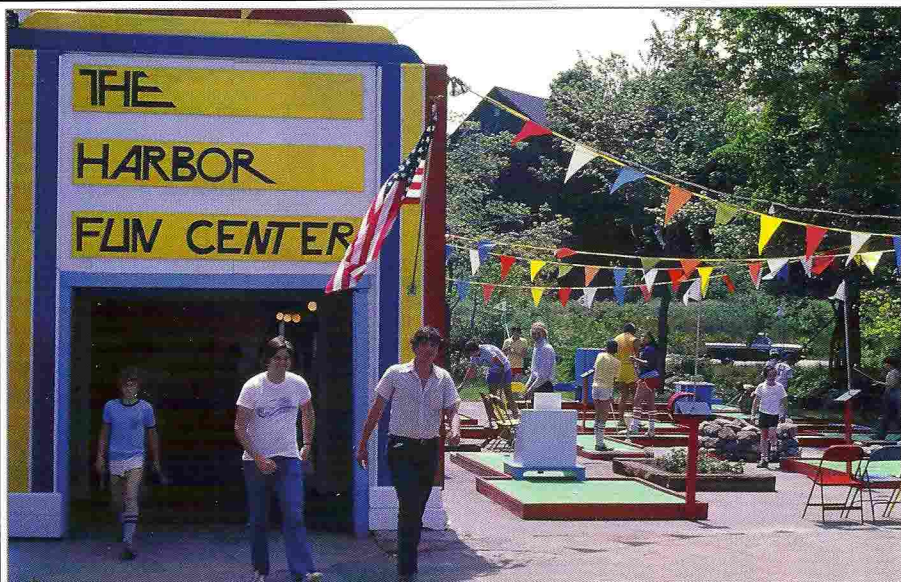
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The Lake Sunapee Region's Favorite Magazine!

Harbor Gameroom



1982 - Entrance to the Harbor Gameroom, miniature golf course at the side. Mark Humphrey, Doug Cooper and Allan Murray. Photos from the collection of Bret Wirta.

THE HARBOR GAME ROOM

By Bret Wirta

Pike's Hall was a colorful part of Sunapee Harbor history for many years. It was a cavernous building, tottering along the west bank of the Sugar River where the Quack Shack now stands. My grandfather saw vaudeville on a big stage there. My mom loved it back when it was a roller-skating rink, and my dad remembers watching movies there. But what I remember was one of Pike's Hall's last chapters: when Dennis Hurd, Joel Thomas and I turned that old ramshackle barn into the Harbor Game Room, the largest arcade in the Lake Sunapee Region.

We first opened the Harbor Game Room for business thirty years ago. Now 1979 is pretty recent history, but it was the dawn of the electronic gaming industry. Back then the first video games like "Pac Man" were just becoming popular. It's hard for my teen-agers to fathom that there wasn't always an unlimited number of electronic games available on TV, computer,

or cell phone. If you wanted to shoot up a few space invaders, help Pac-Man munch dots or drive an Indy race car, back in those days you grabbed some quarters and headed down to the Harbor Game Room.

Dennis, Joel and I were just eighteen years old. Bubbling with youthful exuberance and with lots of help from our friends, we cleaned out truck-loads of trash, jacked-up sagging floor joists, painted a huge pinball machine on the floor and pinball logos on the walls, patched the roof, replaced broken windows, plumbed a bathroom, designed a snack-bar counter, built dining tables, and hung out some big signs above the double-door entryway and on the roof. On that Memorial Day weekend of 1979, the Harbor Game Room opened its doors as it would every spring for the next five summers.

We filled Pike's Hall with about thirty video games. We had pool and foosball tables

