

YORKTOWN HOMES OF HISTORIC DISTINCTION

# Nabby Day Camp Casino

In the 1880s, the arrival of the Putnam Railroad created a link between the bustling metropolis of New York City and the rural communities to the north. Hotels and summer resorts sprang up as residents of the city became aware of the fact that an hour or two on the train brought them to cool and verdant destinations much closer to nature than their day-to-day lives. In fact, by the 1950s, more than a million people inhabited the summer world of bungalow colonies, camps and small hotels in upstate New York.

A little north of Yorktown, Mohegan Lake also developed into a summer community. For the first half of the 20th century, many resorts operated around the lake, offering lodging, entertainment and a rural respite for city families. Among the more famous were the Mohegan Country Club, the Sonoqua Lodge, Uncas Lodge on Crown Island, Tall Timbers, Lakelawn Cottages, Rock Hill Lodge, the St. Nicholas Hotel and the Mohegan Inn. And, in 1940, came Abraham Nabatoff, a contractor from the city who built 17 vacation bungalows around the lake and called his “colony” Mohegan Gardens.

To provide additional summer fun for children, Nabatoff built a swimming pool, and nearby, a dining hall—dubbed “the casino” because it was the center of activity for all the bungalow residents. Camp mornings traditionally began with Naba-

toff’s opera singer wife, Maria, singing the national anthem as campers gathered. Today, the bungalows are privately owned homes, but the casino and swimming pool remain stalwart components of Camp Nabby, Nabatoff’s namesake day camp. In 1970, Frank and Flo Bertino became the second owners of the camp, which has been lovingly operated since then by the Bertino family and is now directed by son Joe Bertino and his wife, Rita. Their historic casino is the latest addition to Yorktown’s Homes of Historic Distinction.

Nabatoff’s “casino” became a popular hangout for the bungalow children, and today, it still stands, with very few changes from the original 1940 design. The casino features a miniature stage for theatrical productions, a full kitchen for meals, a soda fountain with the original 1940s Naugahyde and chrome swivel bar stools and a vintage telephone booth with pay phone. Just as it was almost 80 years ago, the Camp Nabby casino remains a central summer meeting point for children.

All of the other Mohegan summer colonies are now gone, but thanks to the efforts of the Bertino family, Camp Nabby continues, both as a reminder of simpler times long past and as a contemporary summer daytime destination for area children.

The Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission is always seeking applicants for

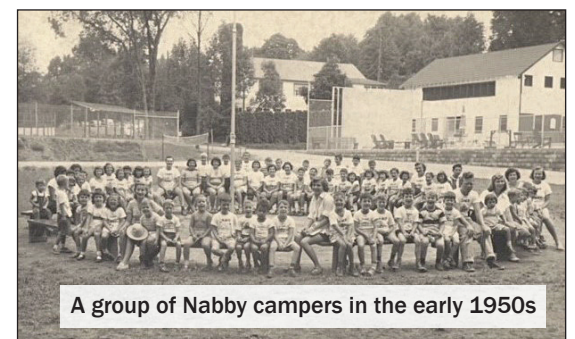
the Homes of Historic Distinction Program. To qualify, homes must have historical significance based on age, architectural style, past ownership or association with a person or event important to Yorktown’s history. Through the program, plaques designating the basic facts about each house’s history are fabricated and installed on or near the home. The commission will work with each homeowner on appropriate wording for the plaque and will assist in research. The cost for the application and the plaque is \$100. Applications are available online at [yorktownny.org/planning](http://yorktownny.org/planning) or by emailing [nmilaneseyorktownny.org](mailto:nmilaneseyorktownny.org).

The commission would like to acknowledge the assistance of Tim Beachak and Dustin Miller of Signs Ink of Yorktown in the design, preparation and production of Homes of Historic Distinction signage.

*This article was submitted by the Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission as part of a series highlighting Yorktown Homes of Historic Distinction.*



Camp Nabby directors Joe and Rita Bertino  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY NAUMANN



A group of Nabby campers in the early 1950s



## Do You Have Severe Arthritis in your Knee?

Discover the advantages of a mobile-bearing partial knee replacement...

### Ask the Doctor

**David Yasgur, MD**  
Director of Quality and Outcomes,  
Orthopedic and Spine Institute  
Northern Westchester Hospital

Learn more about  
**Dr. Yasgur, visit**  
[nwhorthoandspine.org/DrYasgur](http://nwhorthoandspine.org/DrYasgur)



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#### Q: What is a mobile-bearing partial knee?

**A:** Key to the durable nature and natural feel of the mobile-bearing knee is a plastic bearing that glides freely throughout the knees range of motion, hence the name “mobile-bearing.” Similar to the ball bearings that “bear the weight” and allow a wheel to turn freely, a mobile bearing allows your knee to move more naturally. In other partial knees, known as “fixed-bearing,” the bearing does not move.

#### Q: What advantages does it have over a total knee replacement or fixed-bearing partial knee?

**A:** The main advantages are faster recovery time and less pain. Total knee replacement is major surgery involving the removal of a substantial portion of bone in the knee and half the supporting ligaments. The less invasive partial knee replacement preserves all the ligaments and two-thirds of the healthy knee. Patients can often go home the same day and recovery time is cut in half.

#### Q: Why do some doctors recommend a total knee replacement even if the problem can be fixed with a partial knee?

**A:** Historically, physicians have favored total knee replacements over partial for almost all patients with severe osteoarthritis because they last longer than fixed-bearing partial knees.

But statistics show that the mobile-bearing knee is comparable to a total knee replacement in terms of durability. Twenty years post-implant, the mobile-bearing knee is still viable in 91 percent of patients. The comparable figure for total knee replacements is 93 percent.

#### Q: How do I know if a mobile-bearing is right for me?

**A:** Knee replacements are done only for people whose osteoarthritis is severe or “end-stage.” Your doctor will determine which type of replacement you need based on a physical exam and x-rays. In about 30 to 40 percent of patients, the osteoarthritis is contained only on the medial or inner part of the joint. If the rest of the knee is healthy, you might be a candidate for a partial knee replacement with the mobile-bearing device, whereas someone with arthritis throughout the knee or a torn ligament is not.

### Did you know?

There is a natural-feeling, long-lasting partial knee replacement that helps you recover faster with less pain.