

property. The small settlement which grew up along this most southern bay of the lake during the mid-1870s became known as Prendergast Point, named after a family member of Jamestown's founding father. The bay to the west still retained its name of Burtis Bay.

With the completion of the railroad to Jamestown, the southern end of Chautauqua County was opened up to immigrants who began to settle in the area. The communities springing up around Jamestown were linked by three main roads with the main road being known as the Ashville Road (now Fairmount Avenue). The second road was called Sammis Road, and was later renamed Jackson Avenue. It was named after Townsend Jackson who owned the first farm near the Ashville Road. The third road, now known as Livingston Avenue, was called Pokefield Street until it crossed the village line where it became Scofield Avenue, named for Dr. E.M. Scofield.

Later, in 1891, Dunham Avenue was built in anticipation of a proposed park and suburb, and named after developer M.B. Dunham of the Celoron Land Company. The Prendergast Point estate laid to the west of Dunham Avenue and was sold at auction in May of 1891 to a syndicate of Warren, Pennsylvania businessmen known as Lindsey & Lindsey. They renamed the area Celoron, after the French explorer, and they became known as the Celoron Land Company. The Celoron allot-

ment was laid out for 300 cottage lots and broad avenues were arranged for exceptional viewing of the lake. The 500-foot "long dock" and Hotel de Celoron soon followed.

The oldest part of the village on the east side of Dunham Avenue was settled after 1891 due to the efforts of Charles L. Melvin and his brother-in-law, Alva Smith. Melvin and Smith operated a small plant that produced cement building blocks with a distinctive rough outer surface. These blocks can still be seen in many buildings throughout the village.

Railroad and double decker electric streetcars serviced the village and in 1893, 20 acres of the waterfront area was leased to the Jamestown Street Railway Company for the purpose of creating an amusement park/summer resort area which opened in 1894.

In 1893 electricity came to Celoron and in 1894 the area had telephone service.

In 1896 Celoron and the Town of Ellicott fought against being annexed by Jamestown. Lindsey, of the Celoron Land Company, was a strong advocate for the annexation. On election day, the 14th day of November, 1896, the resident taxpayers voted 29 to 2 to incorporate as the Village of Celoron. In 1906 the boundaries of the village were changed to their present locations, creating a smaller village.

In 1897 the fire department organized, waterline hookups were made with Jamestown, the post office was established

and a school was built on Dunham Avenue. The joint Village Hall and fire hall followed in 1898, the Dunham Street bridge was built in 1899.

Celoron Park continued in various forms until its final closure in 1962. In 1965 a seven-acre section of the former amusement park on the lakefront east of Dunham Avenue was purchased by the village for \$30,000 (of which \$22,500 was paid by the state). The area was renamed Pier Point Park and with the help of the Celoron Civic Improvement Corporation (CCIC) the ball diamond and dugouts were built and a dock was secured for the end of Dunham Avenue. In 1984 the CCIC purchased a 100-foot by 40-foot lot located at the old Imperial Hotel site on the corner of Dunham and Boulevard. Ground was broken in 1988 for a community building. The building and land were later deeded to the Village of Celoron and the "Log Cabin" stands ready today for all community uses.

After her death in 1989, the park was renamed the Lucille Ball Memorial Park in honor of our most famous resident. With the help of a New York State Parks "matching funds" grant the Park has been greatly improved with completion of the log cabin, paved walks, new lighting and plantings. It is one of the few areas remaining with free public access to the lake and is a much used and much appreciated community gathering place for nonresidents and the 600 or so village families alike.