

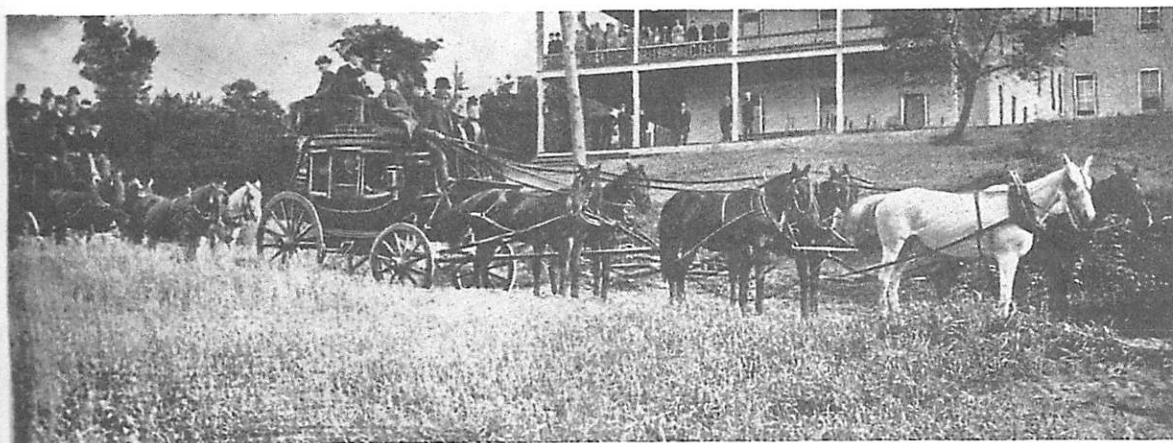
Larry and Monty Waterbury were to attain fame during the opening decades of the twentieth century as two of the great polo players of all time.

On August 16, 1882, the *New York Telegram* published the following account of an illuminated water fete held by night on Blue Mountain Lake:

The guests of the Prospect House, at Blue Mountain Lake, gave a brilliant *fete* on the water a few evenings since. It was one of the prettiest and most novel sights ever witnessed in this wilderness, where the only illuminations heretofore have been the "Jack lights" of the hunter.

The little steamer Toowahloondah having been chartered for the occasion was decorated with bunting, colored lights and lanterns, carried the band under the direction of Professor Henry Giessman, of New York, who is to be complimented upon his well chosen selections. During the interlude of the band the voices of several jubilee singers, who were at the extreme end of the line, added much to the enjoyment of the evening.

The steamer then started upon a tour among the numerous islands, having in tow the rowboats — some seventy-five or more — of the hotel and invited camps. These boats were all beautifully illuminated with lanterns of great variety, many of which were the handiwork of the ladies of the hotel. The night was dark, but Bengal lights placed on tiny floats upon the water and barrels of inflammable materials at various points flooded the scene with many colored lights, which were duplicated by reflection in the placid lake.



BLUE MOUNTAIN AND LONG LAKE TALLY-HO STAGE JUST ARRIVING AT BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE HOUSE



MERWIN'S BLUE MOUNTAIN HOUSE



CLIMBING BLUE MOUNTAIN
Photograph by E. Bierstadt.

One of the features of the evening was the firing of a cannon from a rock at the lower end of the lake, the echoes of which bounded and rebounded among the surrounding mountains. Merwin's Hotel, situated on the side of Blue Mountain, made an additional attraction to the brilliant scene by its large camp fires and the lights showing from the many windows and lanterns suspended from the flagstaff. Mr. Duryea's camp located near the Prospect House, also displayed many Japanese lanterns.

The spectacle, whether viewed from the boats or from the shore, was animated and beautiful in the extreme and elicited rapturous expressions of delight from all who saw it. For the success of the carnival thanks are due to Dr. W. B. Hubbard, of New York, who filled the position of grand marshal with much credit, and to his aides Messrs. J. A. Hance, R. K. Hance and F. C. Durant. To fully appreciate the novelty of this place one should have been here during the past week and witnessed the exciting sport attending the capture and killing of several deer.

During the 1880's, when there was no telephone in the region, Blue Mountain Lake relied for fast communication with the outer world on the telegraph line that connected Camp Pine Knot, the Prospect House, Indian Lake, North River, North Creek and seven other stations with Saratoga. When the key clicked at the Prospect House, all the other operators between Blue Mountain Lake and Saratoga could and did listen to the intimate financial and personal messages which poured over the line. During the late 1880's and early 1890's the telegraph operator during the summer season at the Prospect House was one