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## Origin of Name Unknown

# Lake Odessa Has No 'Lake Odessa'

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Journal Staff Writer

**LAKE ODESSA**—There's no village in Lake Odessa. The settlement is situated on Jordan Lake and Tupper Lake is by.

Bob Reed, past president of the year-old Lake Odessa Area Historical Society, said Lake Odessa was named for Odessa, Russia, but why the name was chosen for the settlement is unknown.

Settled in 1886, Lake Odessa began to boom a year later when the railroad arrived. Reed said the original town is located north of the present village. It was called Bonanza. The settlement had a general store, a hotel and a lumber mill.

### TOWN ON WHEELS

When the railroad was built, Reed said, residents put the

buildings on large wooden wheels and moved the whole settlement down to the railroad tracks with teams of oxen.

The present Calvary United Brethren Church, although it has been remodeled several times, is one of the buildings moved to the Lake Odessa site from Bonanza. The church located near the railroad tracks as were all the original buildings.

"It's quite amazing to think that there are people living here in town who can remember when there wasn't a Lake Odessa," Reed said.

The historical society has done quite a bit to preserve Lake Odessa's history, Reed said. He said they have had all pre-1947 copies of the Lake Odessa Wave microfilmed.

The society has also collected and catalogued all available old photographs.

"I've always said that even if we disbanded in a year or two we would have done a service to the village," Reed said. The attempt to preserve



BOB REED

some of Lake Odessa's history came as the result of two things, Reed said. Lake Odessa's Women's Club was celebrating an anniversary and gathered old photographs. At about the same time, Reed met with a few of the oldest residents and talked to them about the beginnings of the town.

### NO MUSEUM

With a membership of 185, the society meets six times a year. Reed said a newsletter is

put out quarterly. Reed said there are no plans for a museum because of the size of the town. "We probably couldn't get enough volunteer help to man it," he said.

The village commission has been quite helpful, Reed said. Meetings of the society are held in the Page Memorial Building, the village offices. He said the commission had also allowed the society to store microfilm in the village vault.

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