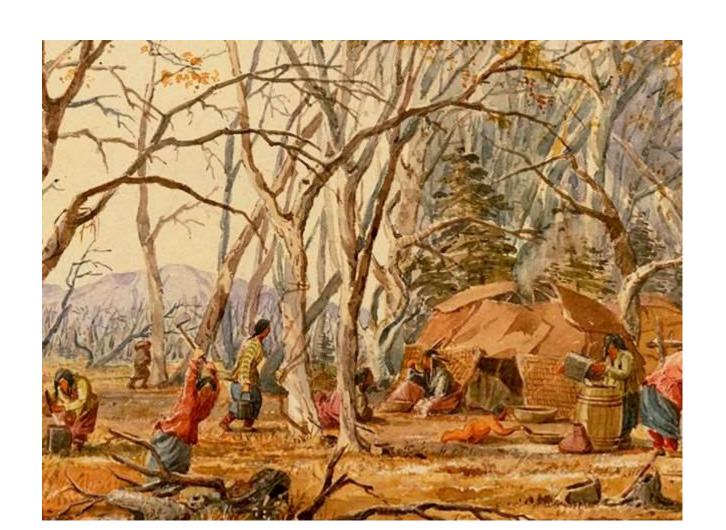
Earliest Pioneers of Manitowish Waters

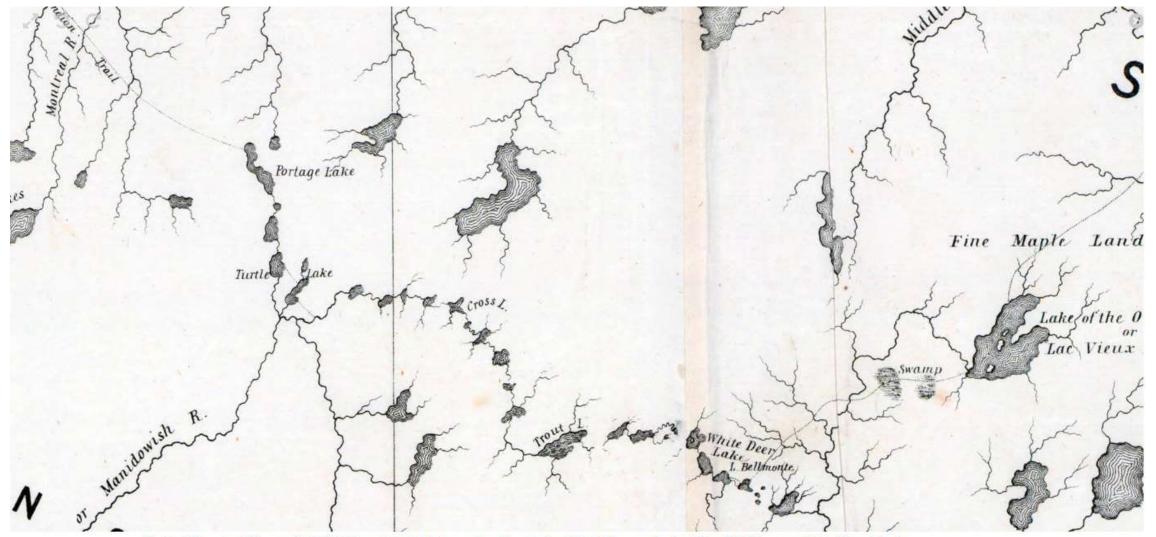
History of Northwoods First Families who arrived before 1900



For at least 10,000 years Native communities raised families in Manitowish Waters for all or a portion of the year

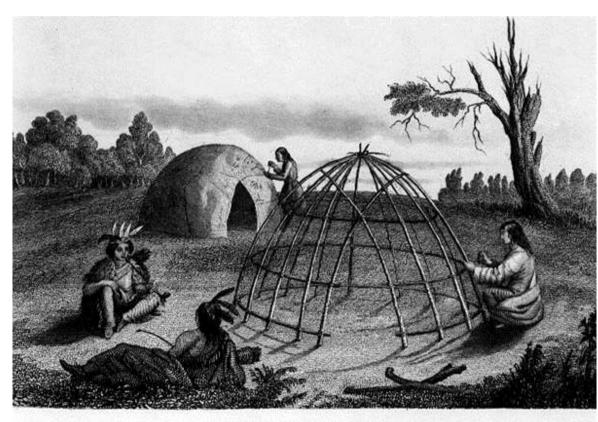


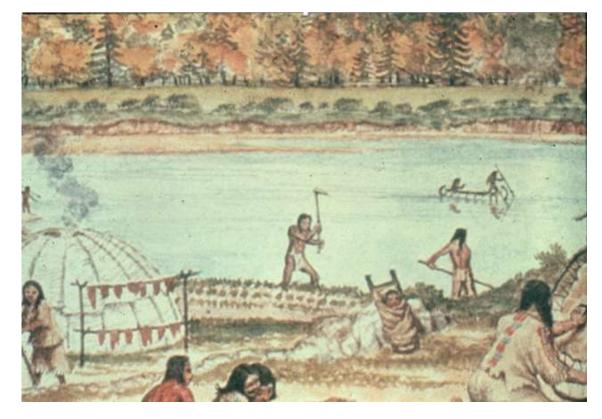
In 1846, LDF Chief White Thunder was documented as the head of the first family occupying Manitowish Waters



A. B. Gray's Map of 1846 Geological Survey-Traveled to "Cross Lake" in MW-possibly Rest Lake

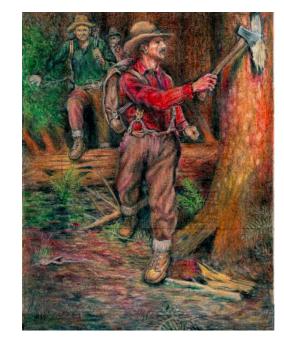
Rest and Manitowish Lake's historic Ojibwa communities





CHIPPEWA LODGE.

The first pioneers from 1870-1888 were timber cruising, trapping, and river drive white pine logging

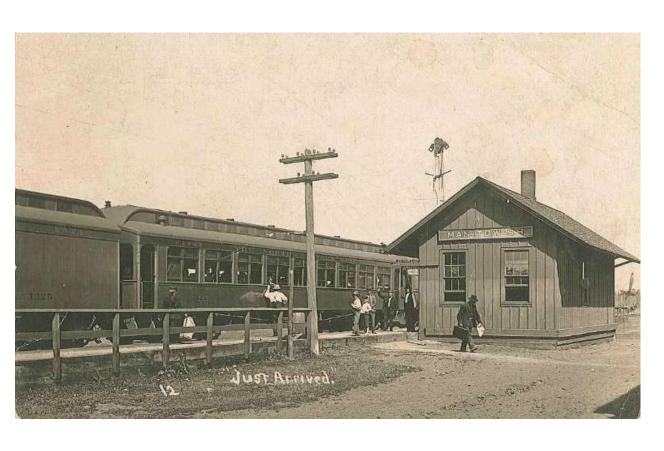






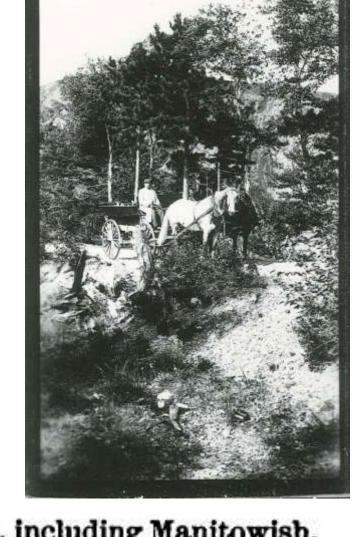
STARTING FOR THE WINTER CAMP.

Chicago Northwestern Railroad depots at Manitowish and Powell in 1889 ushered in railroad logging of all timber, guiding and resorts. By 1905 the Milwaukee Road added rail lines north of MW.





Wagons and stages were used to link railroads with the boat launches to deliver passengers and supplies to area resorts



1890 RR Ad from Shield's Magazine

MANITOWISH RIVER, WIS., connects quite a chain of lakes, including Manitowish, Rice, Alder, and Trout lakes, all of which contain bass and muskallonge, and some have been fished but very little. Boats and guides can be secured at Manitowish Station, and it is expected that a hotel will be ready at that point for the reception of guests on the opening of the fishing season of 1890.

Dan (not pictured) and Kate Devine

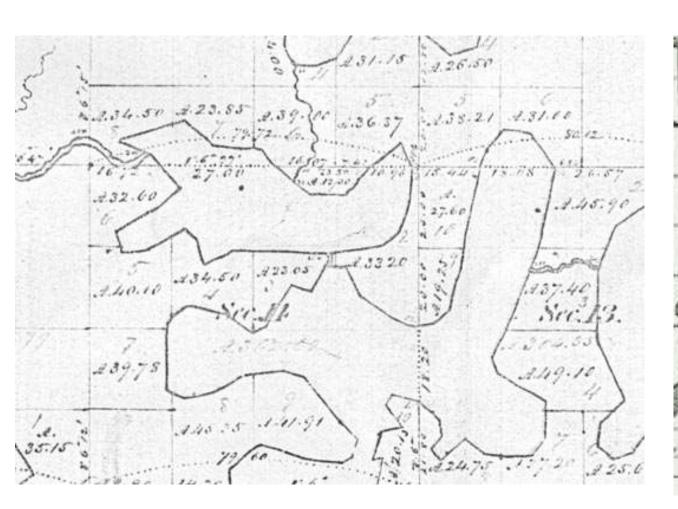


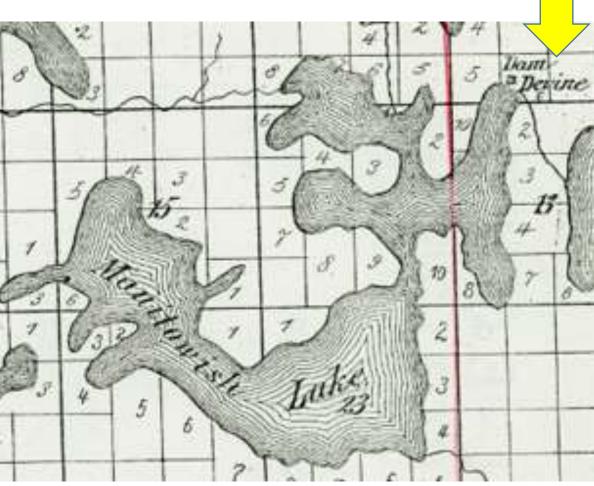


Dan Devine was a Civil War veteran that move back to Wisconsin working as a trapper, logger, timber cruiser, and guide. He married Kate in the mid to late 1870's

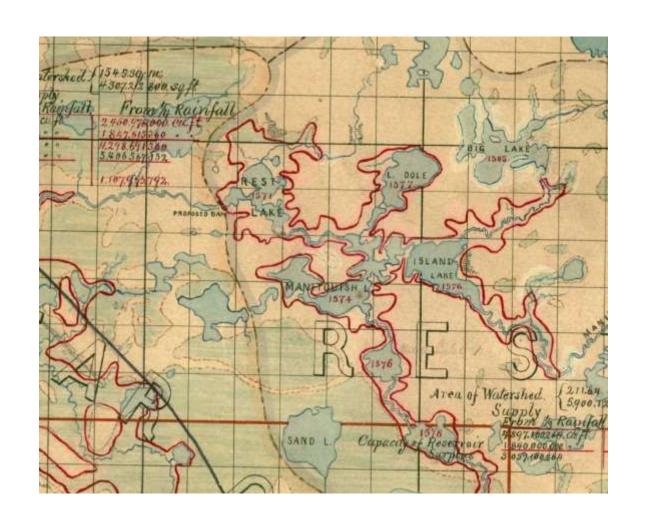


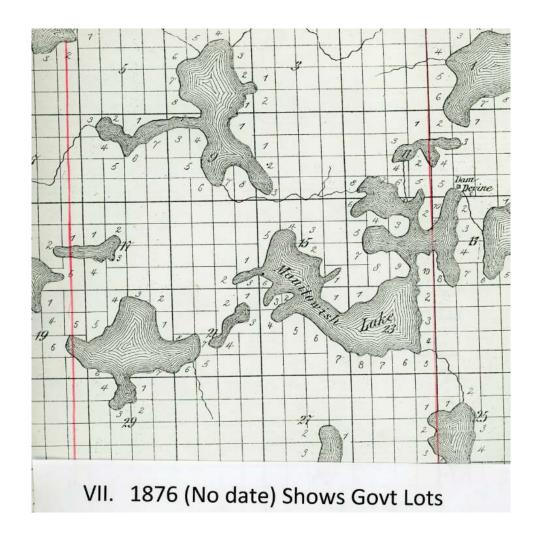
Left 1862 original survey map of Spider Lake Right map of unknown date (est. 1876) of Spider Lake





These two early maps show evidence of Devine in MW during the 1870's





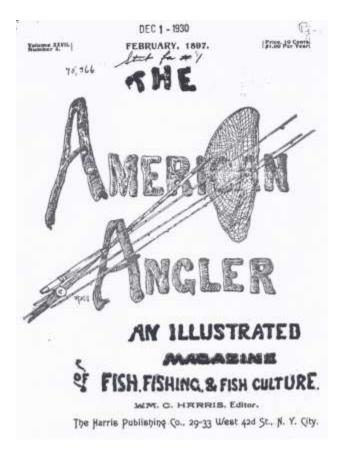
Dan & Kate Devine

told by Carl Christensen

Danny Devine was a trapper and also a guide and worked in the camps, lumber camps. He was married to a full-blooded Indian squaw [*sic*]. How they got the land and that I don't know because Mary could never tell... She was up close to her fifties when she was telling those things.

... Mary would tell us about all the different things. How the lakes were years and years back when she was a little girl. So one time I asked her, I says, Mary, I says, was you born here on the lake? She says no, she says, I don't know where I was born because we were on a trapping trip, my father was on a trapping trip when I was born. So she says I can't tell you where I was born. And that was the same way with one of the other ones...

1897 American Angler



Presque Isle, Clear and Pappoose Lakes, Wis.

Reached via Chicago and N. W. Railway from Chicago, Ill.

Arrangements have just been made by which fishing parties can reach Presque Isle Lake via Manitowish Station. Stage meets No. 11 each day, which takes passengers to Manitowish Dam.

Arrangements can be made to have Dan Devine meet parties at Dam with boats and take them to Clear Lake, and from there, 1½ miles, by good trail Pappoose Lake can be reached, where boats will meet parties bound for Presque Isle Lake.

Pappoose Lake is large, and excellent bass, pike and muscalonge fishing can be had from Pappoose Lake to Presque Isle. There are two short portages, one of one hundred paces and one of 40 paces, and you reach Presque Isle Lake, the resort at Presque Lake.

I spent one week there last summer, and have never had such bass fishing. Numerous small lakes surrounding it have hardly been fished, and some not at all.

Until present arrangements were made it was very hard to reach. Now it can be done in less than half a day from Manitowish, and the best of fishing all the way.

Parties desiring to make this trip should wire E. A. Ormes, Marenisco, Mich., care of agent, Gogebic or Wakefield, two days in advance, or write as per address enclosed cards.

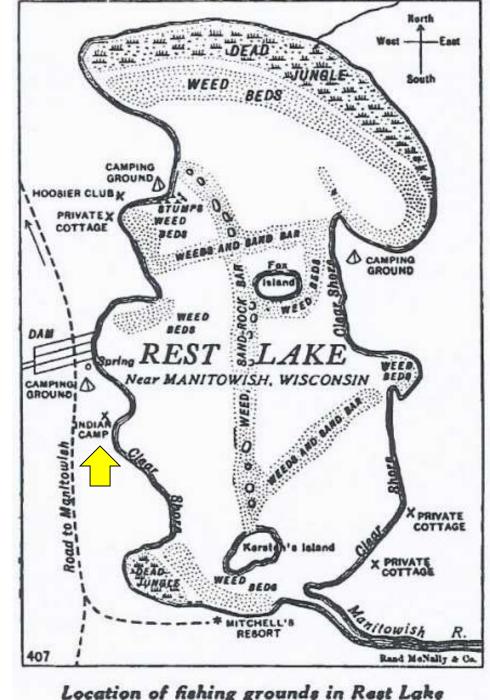
Dan & Kate Devine arrived in Manitowish Waters about 1880

told by Lottie Rintelman

The Devines lived on the Flambeau reservation for a few yaers, but mother Devine desiring a more quiet and secluded home for her children, urged her husband to give up his job and leave. Guided by his wife's council and good judgment, he moved his family to a site on what is now known as Rest Lake where the present Ilge Resort now operates. At that time it was entirely unpopulated or settled. Quietness and privacy was achieved here at the sacrifice of not having any neighbors for miles and miles. Here they carried on, the growing family assisting in their daily struggles of living. Conveniences were non-existant, engenunity was a necessity making use of every available growing plant, fruit and wild life wsa a natural duty. Hunting and fishing were not only for pleasure -- it meant food on the table. Wild Rice, berries, nuts, etc.

Outers Magazine 1918

This is the Indian trading and outfitting camp indicated just south of the dam on my map of Rest Lake as "Indian Camp". I say public benefit advisedly, because it is. I believe it is the only one of its kind in the Northwoods,...It's "Factor" as the managers of the north west trading post have long been termed, while a member of the Chippewa tribe, is not an Indian but a gentleman from Texas, who would have made an ideal leading character for one of Zane Grey is charming tails of generosity of the primitive southwest.



Location of fishing grounds in Rest Lake

Logically, river drive logging operations and Rest Lake dam construction before 1887 caused Devine's to move

Seeing an opportunity to further his ecomonic needs, Daniel opened up a trading post on the location which recently has been known as Koerner's Resort on Spider Lake. Here he traded furs with the Indians and kept a small stock of household provisions. It was the first sign of a store in the area. We can imagine the stock was seanty when one realizes how far he had to go to bring it to his post. Wausau and Fifield were the closest trading centers in which he could buy such provisions as were needed in the north woods. So, by way of water, he carried in such things as flour,

1937 photo of Bucks or Koerner's Resort and Highway 10 site of Devine's first trading post about 1885

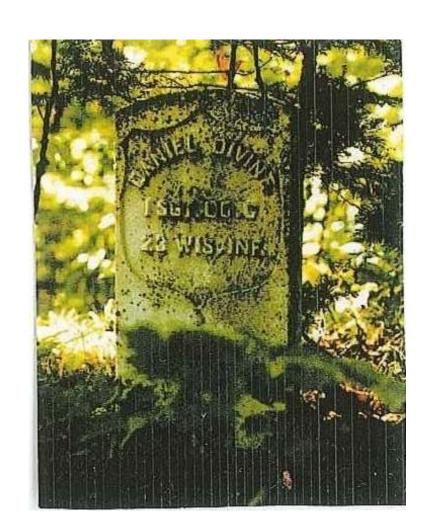


Devine cabin (left) on Clear Lake ultimately becomes the family homestead





Dan Devine Sr. tombstone on Clear Lake and Dan and Kate Devine's seven sons (daughters Mary and Lizzie not present)



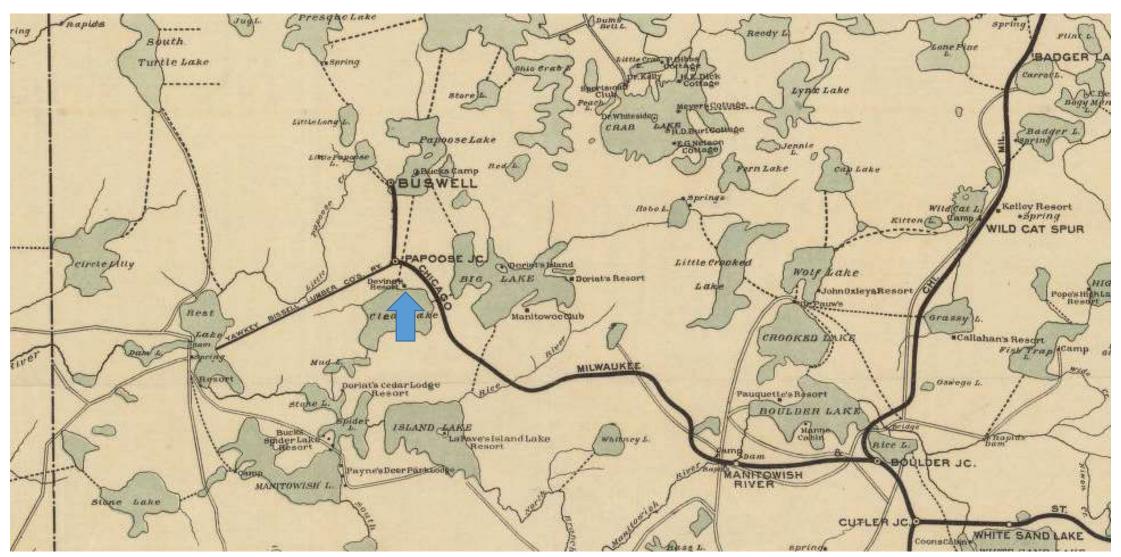


In 1905 the Milwaukee Road linked Devine's camp to the modern world

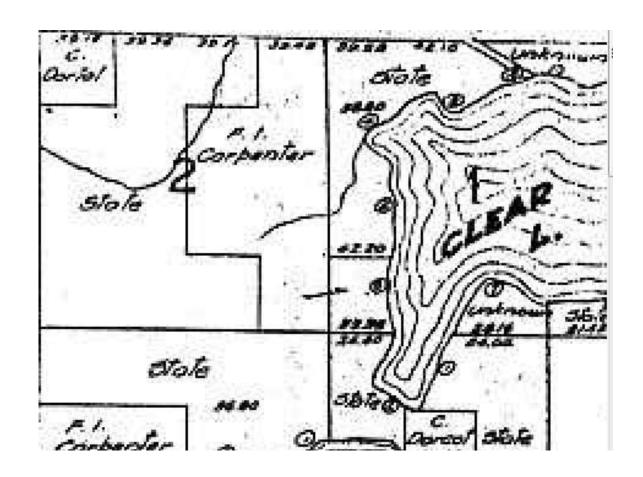
Star Lake-Buswell.							
1		401	-		402		
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		†11.30	77.	Lv Star Lake Ar	2.55		
		11.40		Ar Bailard Lake Lv	2.40		
		11.53	6.1	" White Sand Lake	2.25		
		12.06			2.10		
		12 14		" Boulder Jet	2.02		
		12 .24		u Oxley	1.52		
		12 44		" Rice Creek	1.32		
		12.55		" Papoose Jct	1.20		
		1.00	22.3	Ar BuswellLv	1 1.15		



1909 map illustrating Devine's resort



1913 Plat suggests the ownership of Devine's Clear Lake property was "Unknown"

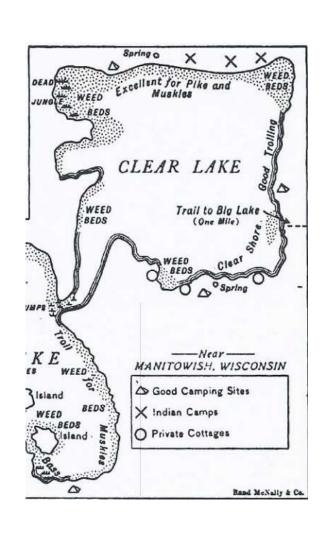


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Resident's and visitors sometimes criticized the Devine's and their Ojibwa heritage. Their service as veterans would be remarkable in any era of U.S. History!

What Vilas County gave in man power: Men enlisted, 270; in navy, 57; marines, 6; national army, 38; volunteers in special branches (foreign armies), 2; total, 373. Of that number at least two met death in action and two or more others died in the service; or as a result of it, as the death of one occurred after the war closed; the number of wounded and gassed w" 17. These figures apply to the white population, as some 40 or more Indians from the Lac du Flambeau Reservation got into the service, of whom at least one was killed and another died. In addition to the above several Vilas County boys enlisted outside the county. It is worth mentioning that six boys of the Divine family of Clear Lake served in the war and the seventh tried to enlist, while the family of Otto Flodine sent four sons and a son-in-law to the war.

1918 Map from Outer's magazine and Paul Devine Guiding





John Devine (far right) guided Roy Case (middle), recognized as the "Father of Wisconsin Bow Hunting" in arrowing the first legal deer taken by an archer in Wisconsin in 1931. Operating in the Big Lake area. John Devine lived near the Case property on Big Lake, was present during the 1920 shootout and was cited for moonshining. In 1930, John Devine was elected constable in MW.



Dan Devine Jr. died in a mysterious hunting accident

Clear Lake Haskin's Cottages

Cal Laport interview 2/2010

Thomas Haskins was an Indian and owner of property.

Thomas and Dan Divine were out hunting one day. They
met each other on Hwy. K and talked. Suddenly from
nowhere, a shot range out from the distance and Dan
dropped. He died of the gunshot wound.

No one found the killer and the shooting was thought to be on purpose because of jealousy. Dan was in his 40%. 60%.

Peter and Sarah Vance





Peter Vance was a colorful and beloved pioneer of MW

Peter Vance reports arriving at Rest Lake in 1884 as a timber cruiser who also supported logging camps and dam construction.

Vance also was a well known guide, logger, trapper, resort owner, and boat livery operator; who had a reputation as fun loving and entertaining.

Early on Vance operated several businesses on Rest Lake, but his resort burned in 1903 and was served a notice in 1905 to surrender property rights to Government Lot 5 on Rest Lake where he ran a business.

He remained in MW for decades building his later residence on Dam (Vance) Lake.

Photo from 1899 from Forest and Stream magazine



AN IDEAL LODGE IN THE WILD WOODS.

Excerpt form 1895-96 Wisconsin Gazetteer

MANITOWISH.

On the C. & N. W. Ry, in Vaughn township, Iron county, 23 miles southeast of Hurley, the judicial seat and nearest banking point. Population, 50. Exp., Am. Tel., W. U. W. Kleckner, postmaster.

Andrews A R, lumber.
Buck F L, boat livery.
Fouks H, propr Manitowish House.
Stage Line.

La Fave Abe, summer resort.
Paine A H, summer resort.
Stone H J, general store.

Johnston Wm, propr Murry House. Klockner W W, Railroad and Express Agent.

Le Fave A, boat livery.

Manitowish House, H Fouks propr.

Murry House, Wm Johnston propr.

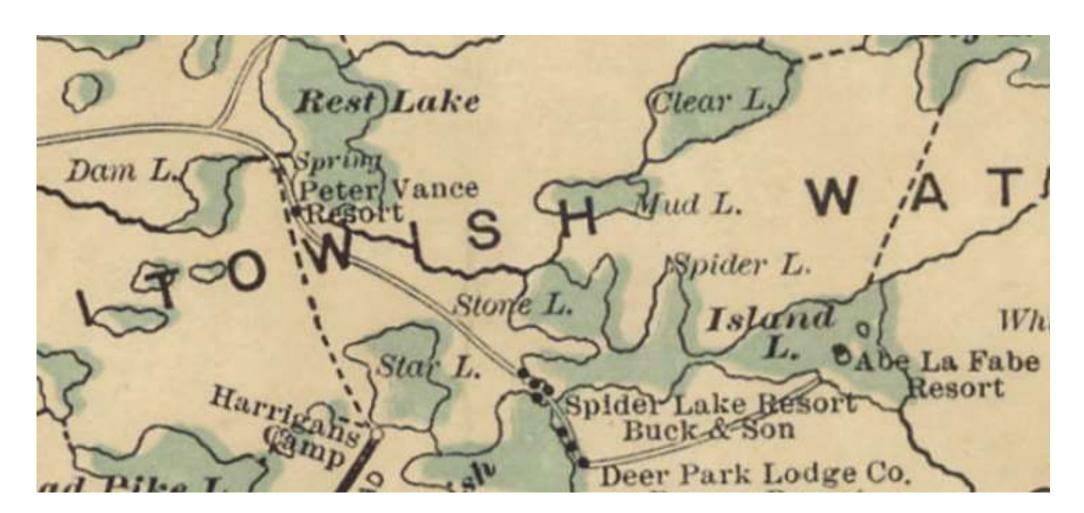
Riverside House, P Vance propr.

Staples E & H, lumber and shingle mill.

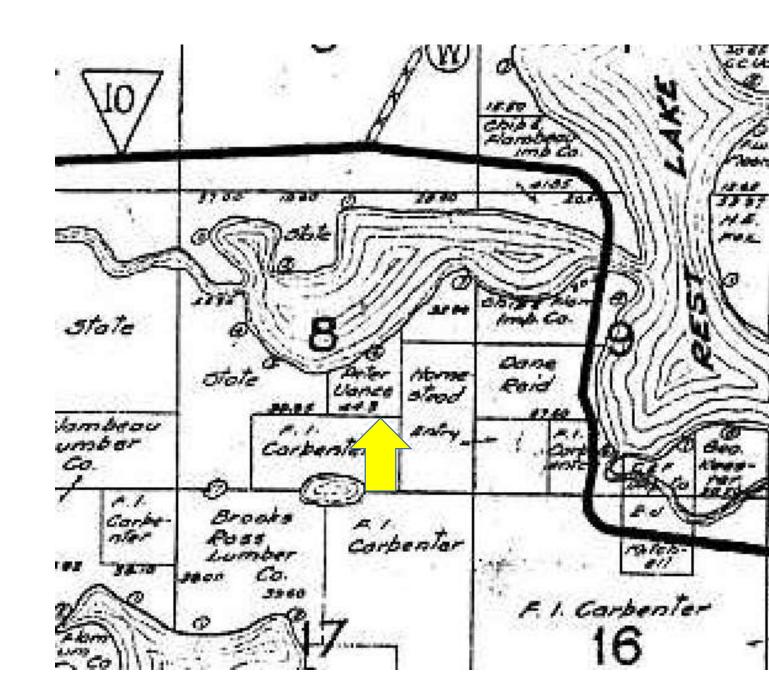
Vance P, propr Riverside House.

Vaughn E, boat livery.

Peter Vance ran a little "resort" about the same time, before burning out in 1903, but his was more a roadhouse or little inn with meals downstairs and a few sleeping rooms upstairs, on the shore of Rest Lake near the dam. (Historian Michael Dunn)



Vance Property away from Rest Lake illustrated on 1913 plat map



1899 MW guides delivering for clients

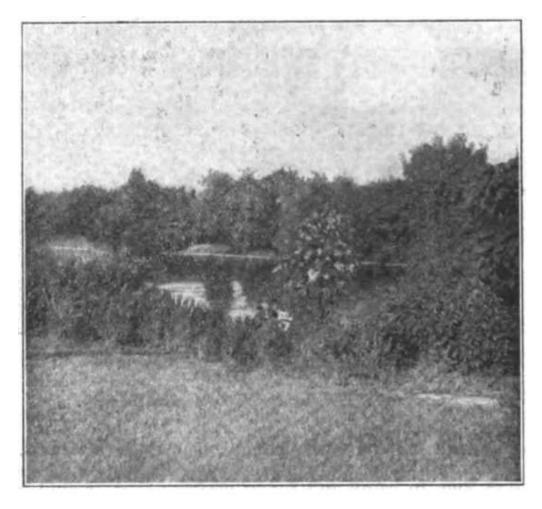
Both Joe and Pete are personal friends of mine, and are always ready to go into the woods with me whenever I come up. Joe, when you ask him his profession, answers, "I am blacksmithing by trade."

But Joe's great forte is cooking and guiding. Pete

is a humorist, as you will learn later on.

The first, Rest Lake, is a beautiful sheet of water. Pete Vance and his good wife own a fine lodge on its banks, and furnish good cheer to hunters or lumbermen. Pete is an ideal guide. Indefatigable, good-natured, knows every foot of ground for thirty miles around, a splendid shot, a tireless worker and a good companion. He is there to bid us welcome, and Joe La Vigne, a French-Canadian, also shows his smiling face.

Vance guides the author to a trophy black bear



A BIT OF RIVER SCENERY NEAR WHERE THE BEAR FELL.

Joe and Minnie LaVigne as shared by grandson Bill Maynard

- Left British Columbia Canada and moved to Hurley and then to Manitowish Waters in 1895. Married a women named Peterson.
- Was a guide, blacksmith, builder, resort owner.
- Resort was called The Oaks. Had many cabins and a ice house that was loaded from Alder lake. Some of the cabins burned over time.
- Purchased a 40 from Robert Loveless or Lutheran Aid Association ??? And built a farm
- Rowed and canoed a great deal, but got an Elto outboard later to guide from
- Joe worked at Little Bohemia and filled Dillinger's automobile with gas. Dillinger called him slim.
- Joe arrived back at Little Bohemia early in the morning and saw suitcases of Dillinger's money in the bench by the entry of the establishment. Later that money went missing.
- Cal LaPorte would marvel as Joe LaVigne expertly ate his peas with a knife.

Guide banter and feats of strength as rowing guides

Just as we start, Pete thinks something may have been forgotten, so he shouts:

"Joe, did you put drinking cups in the boats?"

"Yes, sir, she is in. One in your boat, and I have an empty can of condensed milk!"

Joe looks a little hurt to hear Allen and myself laugh

at this reply.

With the French language dominant, therefore recognizing no gender, and suspicious that Pete has caused this burst of merriment at his expense, Joe becomes sarcastic, and turning to Allen, he nods toward Pete and says, "She thinks it's smart."

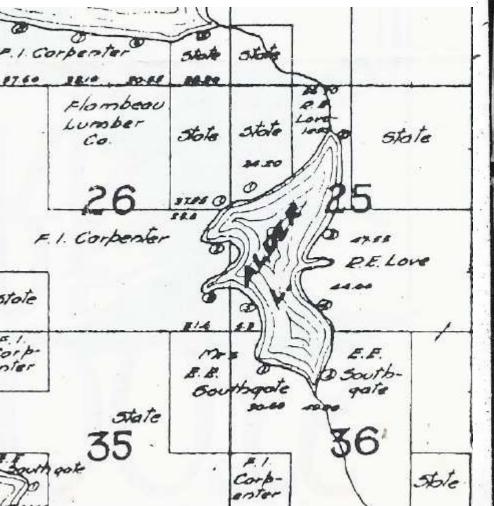
The guides throughout all these waters are expert rowers, and never seem to tire. Using a constant, steady pull, we are through the Creek and Island Lake and eight miles up the thoroughfare toward Wolf Lake by 3 o'clock.

Joe LaVigne as the premier camp cook



At 3 o'clock next morning we were not only up, but eating a breakfast consisting of fried pike, potatoes, eggs, bacon and coffee. Lunch for four was put in the basket. Fishing tackle, guns (both rifle and shot), ammunition, gum coats, were put into our boats, and by 3:30 we were speeding for Clear Lake trail at the lower end of the Big Lake.

1937 air photo of Alder Lake & 1913 Plat map





Additional farms along the southern end of Alder Lake which was part of the LaVigne homestead.



LaVigne boat livery on Alder Lake, Cal LaPorte suggested this property also supported the canal system under Southgate

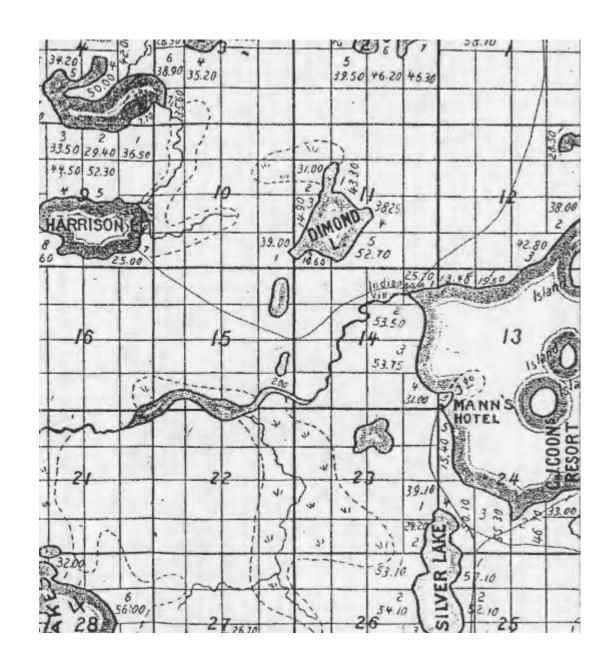


Abe and Sarah LaFave





...reaching the age of nineteen. He then went to Point Sable, Mich., where he found work in the neighboring woods as a logger and general employee in the lumber business, being thus engaged until 1888. In that year he came to Vilas County, of most parts of which he soon acquired a sound geographical knowledge, and was employed as a guide on Trout Lake and the vicinity by John MANN.



After spending a short time in Mr. MANN'S employ, he went to work in the woods for the Chippewa Logging Co. at Grandfather's Dam, and remained with then subsequently for four years. His next move was to Price County, where he spent three years in logging and driving, by the end of which time he had discovered an easier and pleasanter way of getting a living. Buying a camping outfit he began work as a guide for fishing parties on the rivers and was thus occupied during the summers until 1897.

Excerpt form 1895-96 Wisconsin Gazetteer

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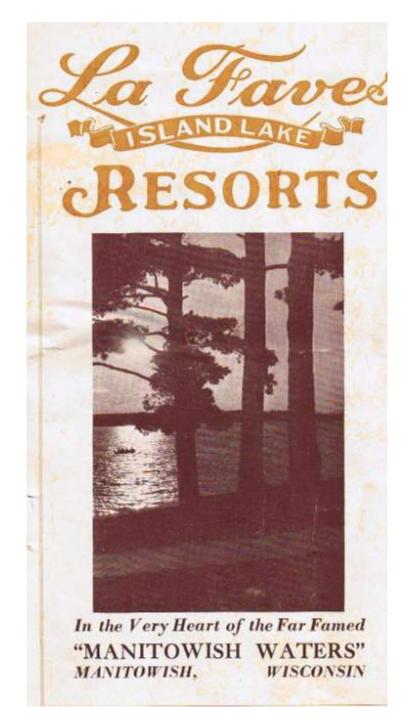
Riverside House, P Vance propr.

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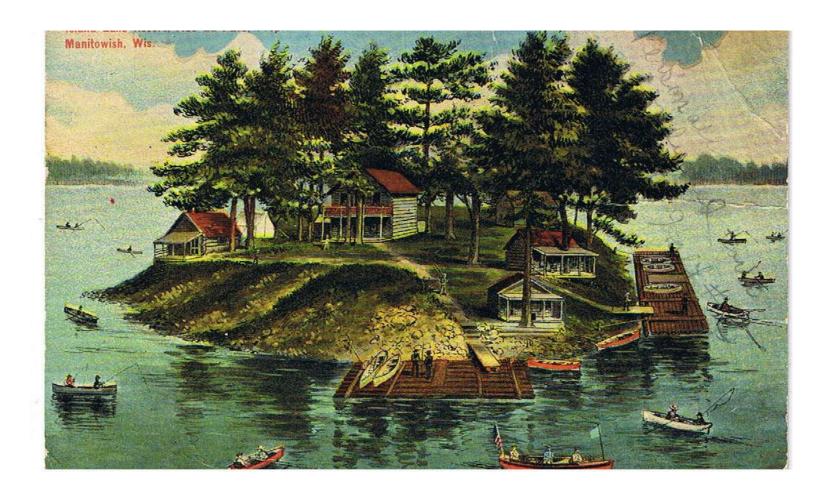
Vaughn E, boat livery.

He then started the Island Lake Resort, located on an island in Island Lake, of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, which, with the assistance of his wife he has built up very successfully. In 1920 he established Inland Resort on the same lake and now conducts them both. The Inland Resort consists of 80 acres of land, a main lodge and four cottages, while the Island Resort, with a main lodge and five cottages, is also well developed.



Abe LaFave and his famous Island Lake resort

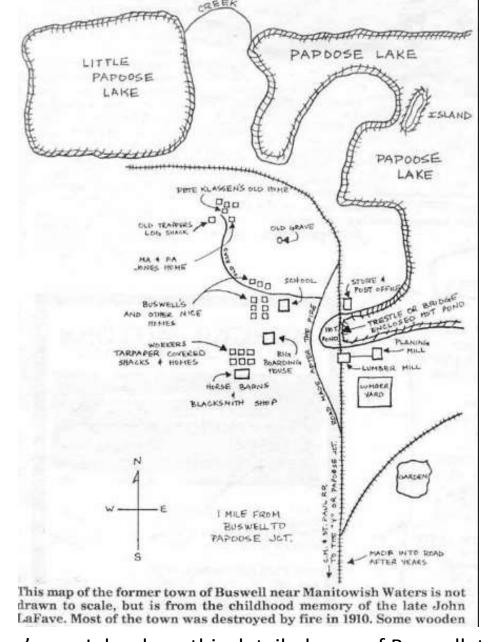




The interior of LaFave's resort



if you didn't understand him, he could be thought to be a hard-nosed person. But he was interested in his six children, and taught them everything he knew. They had a good upbringing and were taught to be careful (especially important when living on an island) and learn manners. Formal education, in those days, didn't mean what it meant now, but still John LaFave had 9 grades of education and a couple months of training in a business school.



Abe LaFave's son John drew this detailed map of Buswell, the large logging community that burned in 1910

Famous fight at Koerner's Resort

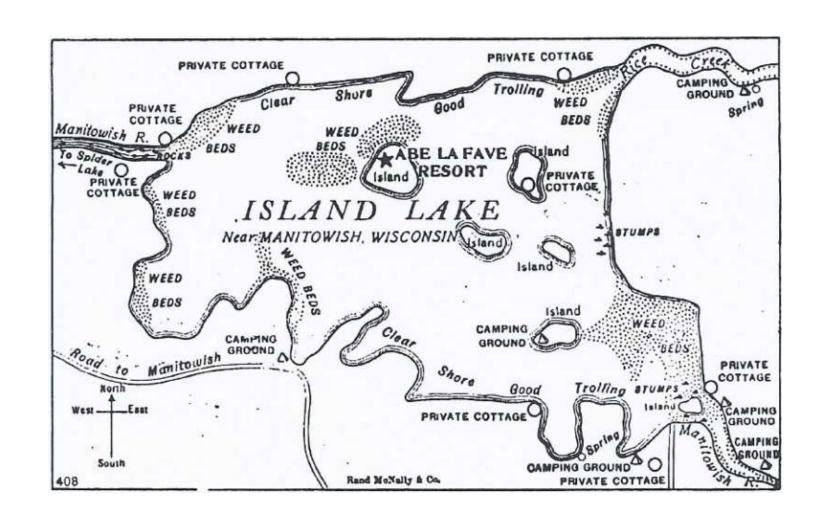
Over at Kerner's Resort, which was Kerner's in the old days, right at the bridge over by 51, he got into a brawl over there at the tavern one night. And there were some "pugs," your dad called it. A boxer from Chicago. He got talking, and he heard this old guy over here (Abe) is awfully tough. "I wonder how tough he really is" They started this way at the bar. And Abe was in there. He was drinking too. And he ended up throwing the first one completely out the door. The two of them. Then the boxer came after him, the "pug." And Abe almost killed him. In fact, they got into a fight, and the boxer got hit down, down on the floor, and he bit off part of Abe's nose. Which to the end of his life was sawed off, right to the end. Guy bit him on the nose when they were fighting. But that was the end of the fight because then Abe had just cleaned his clock like he ever saw.

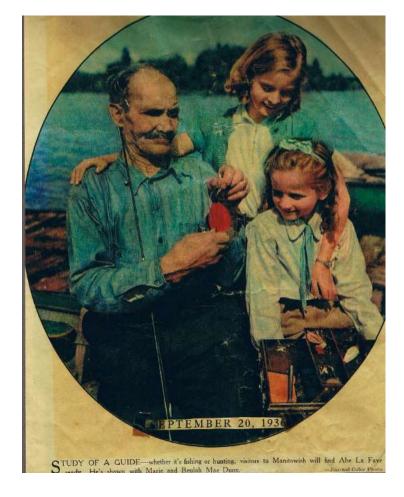
Abe and Sarah LaFave

- Abe had been a fur trapper in Canada, and his family was part French and part Ojibwe. His brother, who was Ojibwe, attended the boarding school in Odanah, Wisconsin. Abe himself spoke English and French fluently, and he also could speak some Ojibwemowin.
- Abe was a towering man at 6'4", and bore legendary strength. He was also notoriously hard-nosed.

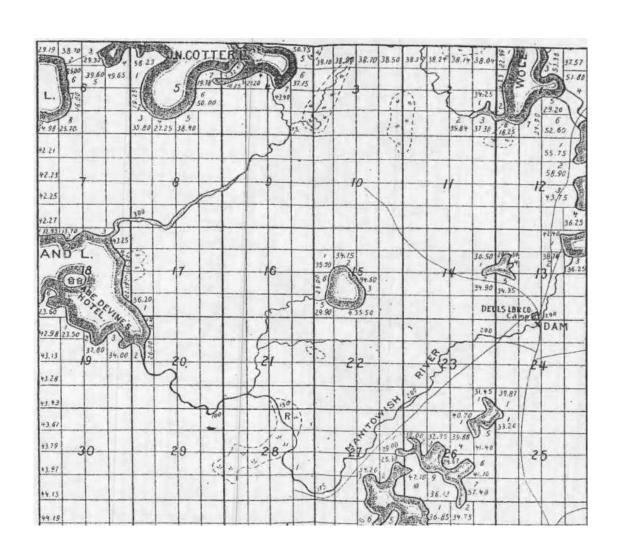


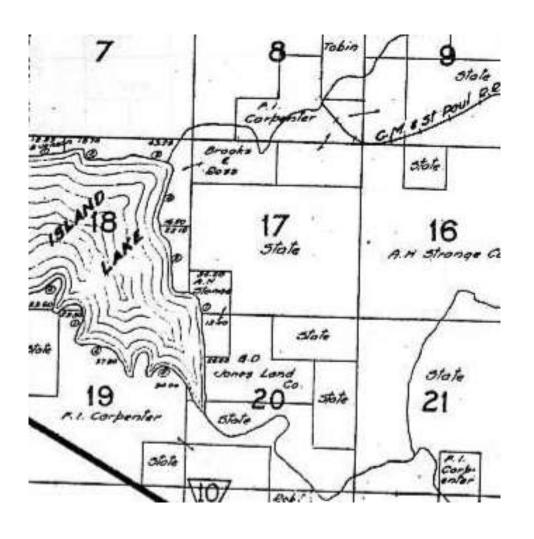
Abe LaFave emerged as a leading Northwoods Resort owner and guide



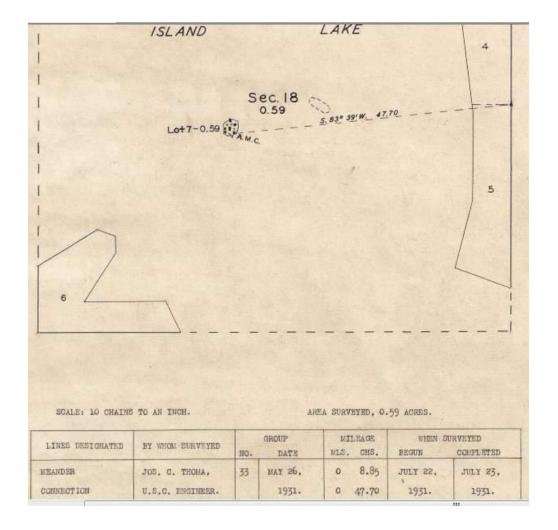


1898 Plat marks LaFave's Property incorrectly and a 1913 Plat has no land ownership by LaFaves





Many of the earliest MW pioneers had land disputes with county and federal government.



General Land Office 04805.

4-3040-R

The United States of America,

Co all to whom these presents shall enne, Oceeting:

MHRREAS, a Certificate of the Assistant Commissioner is on file in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the claimant Abraham la Pave according to the provisions of the lot of Congress of April 24, 1820, entitled "in Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the Lot seven of Section eighteen in Township forty-two morth of Range six east of the Pourth Principal Meridian, Wisconsin, containing fifty-nine hundredths of an acre, according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, on file in the General Land Office:

NOW ENUT IE, That the UNITED STATES OF ARCRICA, in consideration of the presises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAS GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DOES GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said claimant and to the heirs of the said claimant the Tract above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and useigns of the said claimant forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I. Pranklin B. Hoosevelt,

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made
Palent, and the Beal of the General Land Office to be because effect.

OLVES made my hand, at the Chy of Westington, the MMTH

day of Jill to the pure of our Land one thousand

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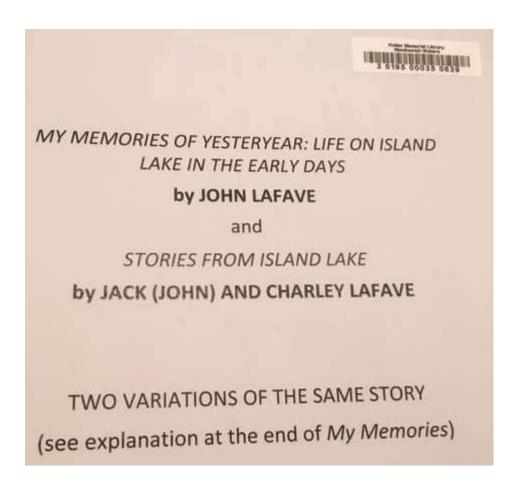
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SECOND OF PATENTS: Print Names 1085020

8-100

John LaFave's "My memories of Yesteryear: Life on island Lake in the Early Days."

A must read for MW history buffs, available at Koller Library!

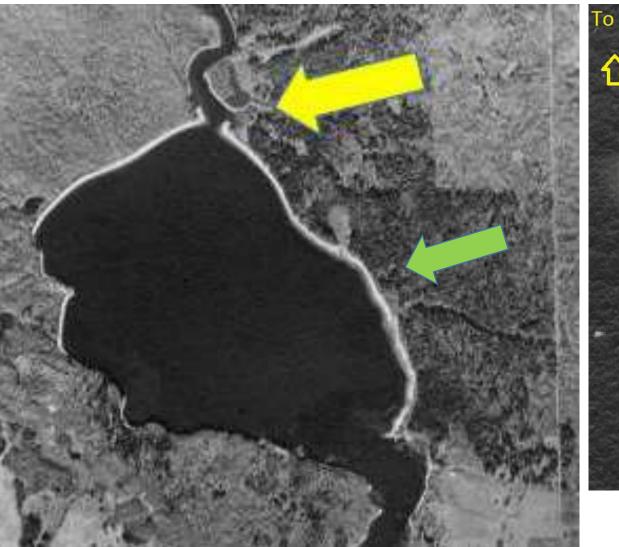


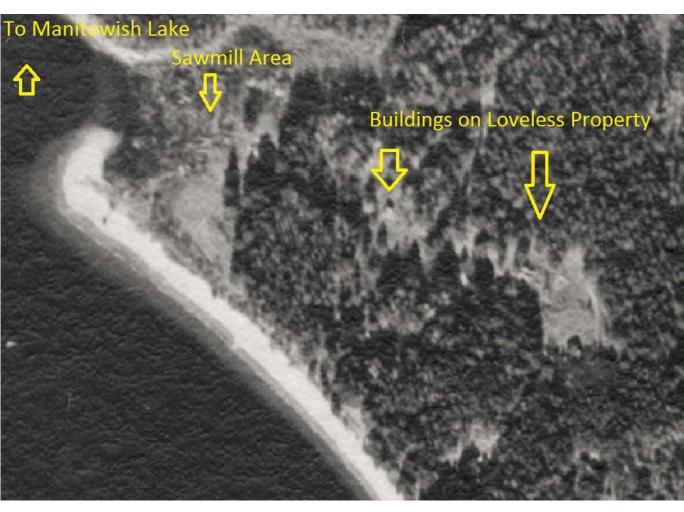
Robert and Hilda Loveless married in 1903



- Loveless could be considered the renaissance man of Manitowish Waters: Logging cook, market fisherman, guide, caretaker, builder, musician, saloon keeper, logger, daredevil tight rope walker, saw mill operator, entertainment promoter, dance hall operator, resort owner, roadside store, gas station, inventor, moonshiner and zoo keeper.
- As Carl Christiansen mentioned in his interview that Bob Loveless was "a good egg."
- Left Balsam Lake WI at young age and traveled to Mann's Camp on Trout Lake in
- Built a log cabin at Mann's Trout Lake property and began to guide, market fish, and cook for loggers
- Soon Loveless' prowess as a talented woods man and guide caught the attention of Richard Southgate and became the caretaker of an ambitious wilderness estate
- In 1903, he and Hilda were married and lived on Little Trout Lake

Loveless Virgin Forest Park and sawmill on Alder Lake

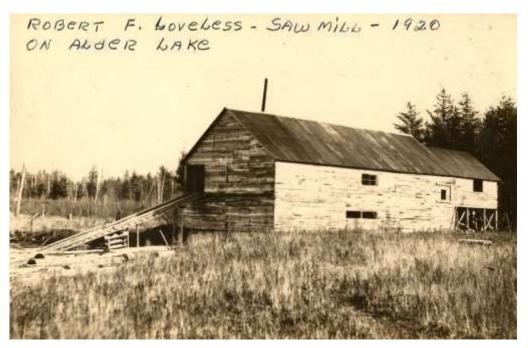




Spinning blade of the Loveless Sawmill prior to the construction of the building

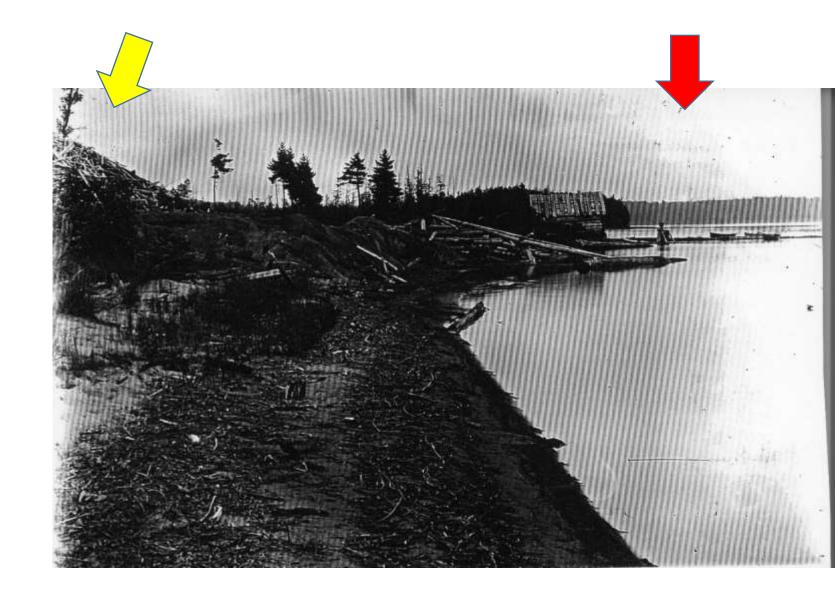


In the 1920's logging and lumber transitioned from large companies to smaller operations like the Loveless mill on Alder Lake

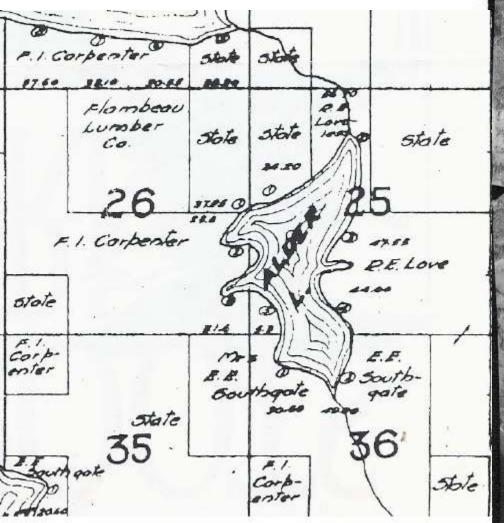




Loveless property on Alder Lake featuring the boat livery and a large pile of lumber waste



1937 air photo of Alder Lake





Loveless Virgin Forest Park and roadside zoo





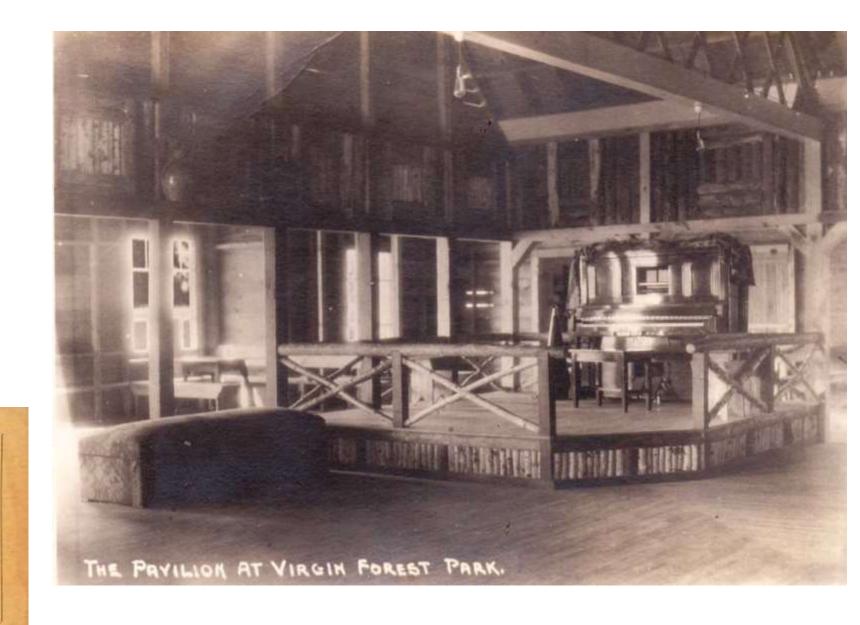
Loveless Virgin Forest Park Dance Hall or Pavilion



In May 1924, my parents opened a dance hall at Alder Lake. Known as Park Hall or Virgin Forest Pavilion, the 6,030 square-foot building could hold over 800 people. A generator provided electric lighting. Built with lumber from the Loveless mill, the hall had a 40- by 80-foot dance floor and a band stand with player piano. Flags and 30 deer heads adorned walls paneled in pine, birch, and spruce from the Loveless mill.

Player piano and band area from the Virgin Forest Park Dance Hall or Pavilion

- ONE MIDNIGHT LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1928
12 m. to 1 a. m.
WALTONIAN FROLIC and DANCE
VIRGIN FOREST PARK PAVILION
FIFTY CENTS



1924 ad from the Ironwood Daily Globe

Lloyd LaPorte Interview

Lloyd as deputy sheriff- in 1920's- prob 2 years--- living at Birchwood.

Had lots of trouble at Virgin Forest-was deputized to warn the dance hall after a fight (kicking doorway-gun drawing)

DANCE AT

Virgin

Forest Park

NEAR MANITOWISH

The most beautiful dance pavilion in the north. Spacious dance floor. Picturesque buildings. Situated on Adler Lake in a thick virgin pine forest.

DANCING

Saturday, Aug. 2

BLACK & WHITE BAND

Sunday, Aug. 3, Afternoon JITNEY DANCING Black and White Band.

GOOD MUSIC ALWAYS

Picpic parties are welcome to use our grounds and tables.

OBT. LOVELESS, PROP.

Carl Christensen remembers Bob Loveless

He had built a dance hall down there on Alder Lake and he would have dances. Usually always Saturday nights he'd hold a big dance party. So he was quite a character and he would always put on a pair of tights and he had a big rope stretched from one end of the dance hall to the other end of the dance hall. During intercession and that why he would get on the rope with a big pole and then he would tightrope across the hall to entertain all the people. They got a big kick out of him because he was really a clown, a good egg. That was moonshine days, see, so they were selling moon and I think that was his object of having all those different dances.

Ole Fisher's rum running car (left) Ole and Bob Loveless (right)

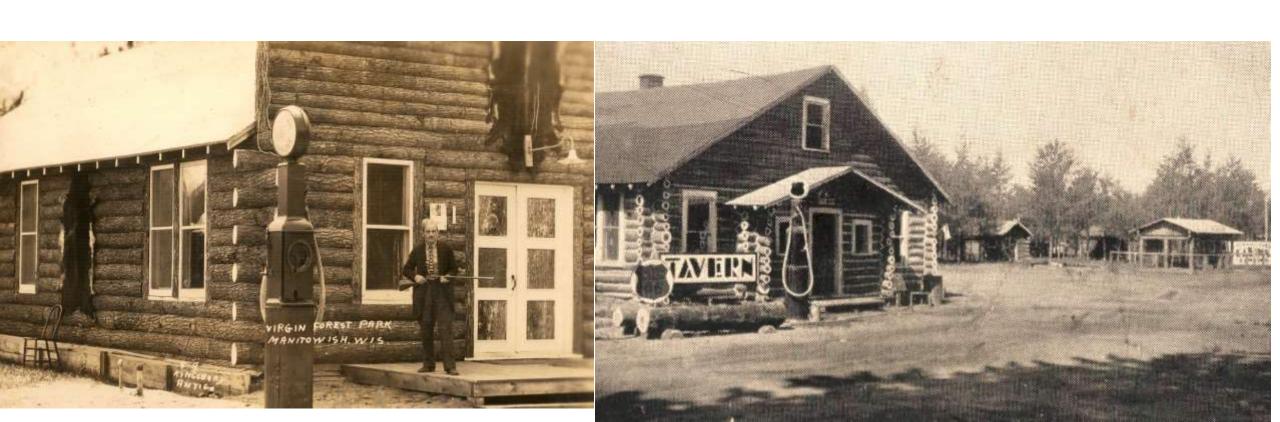




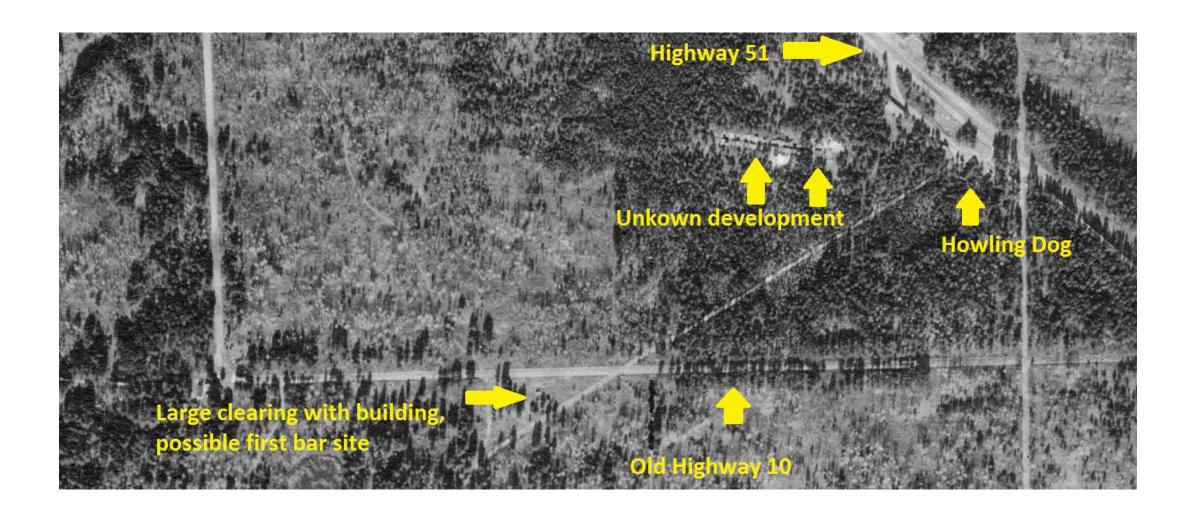
Milwaukee Sheriff Westphal shown here at Virgin Forest Park with his secretary, helped Ole Fisher continue his "trade"



Loveless's business extended to Hwy 10 and then to Hwy 51 with 2 taverns that included a gas station, store, hotel and zoo. The most recent property is currently the Howling Dog, the older Hwy 10 property was near the Junction of Loveless Rd and Twin Pine Rd.



Loveless property 1937



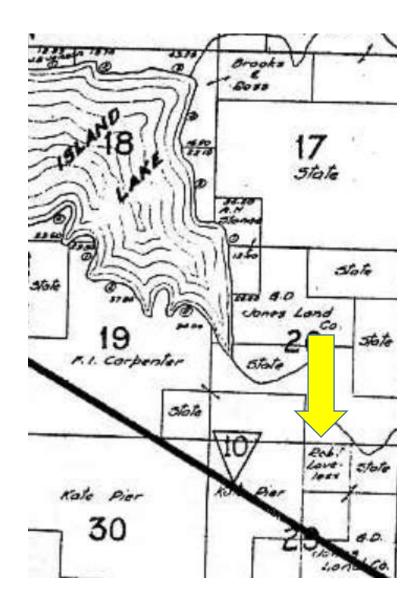
Loveless had cottages on highway 10, tent camping, and spectacular lake side Pavillion.







Loveless purchase property that ultimately became the Kassien Farm between county Highway H and the Manitowish River



Henry and Susan LaPorte



- Arrived 1889, according to Ruth Gardner, and worked at the Rest Lake Dam lumber camp, likely the Mississippi River Logging Co.
- LaPortes worked as timber cruisers, cooks, loggers, builders, blacksmith, and later as farmer.

LaPorte worked across the Northwoods





- Based in Marathon County, the LaPorte's traveled seasonally in order to make a living.
- Wintering in the Northwoods for logging, timber cruising during summer and fall but returned to Marathon County homesteads annually.
- The LaPorte's were very transient and industrious, relocating several times a year to new communities to complete a variety of tasks associated with the logging and lumber industries.

OBITUARY

Henry LaPorte

Henry LaPorte of Manitowish, a former resident of the town of Weston, passed away at home this morning at 2:30 o'clock after an illness of three years. He was a hotel and farm owner at Manitowish. The body will be brought to Wausau tomorrow afternoon and funeral services are to be held at 2:50 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the Helke funeral nome, the Rev. E. C. Grauer officiating. Burial will be in Pine Grove cemetery.

The deceased was born in the town of Weston in December, 1855. He was married in that town forty-five years ago to Susan Ferge. After living in the town of Weston forty-eight years he moved to Manitowish twenty-five years ago. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Surviving are the widow; five children, Louis and George La-Porte and Mrs. Henry Voss of Manitowish, Floyd LaPorte of Canada and Mrs. Emil Wanecike of Star Lakes two brothers. John LaPorte

Henry's LaPorte's
Obituary places him
moving to Manitowish
in 1904

Susan's LaPorte's
Obituary places her moving to
Manitowish in 1898

Obituaries

Mrs. Henry LaPorte

Mrs. Henry LaPorte, 92, of Manitowish Waters, died Monday at 6 p.m. at the Sky View. Nursing

Home, Hurley.

The former Susan Ferge, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ferge, was born July 3, 1867 at Manchester, Wis. She was married Dec. 23, 1883 to Henry LaPorte at Westen, Marathon Co., Wis. They moved to Manitowish, Wis., 62 years ago. Mr. LaPorte was a land cruiser and logger and had the first logging camp at Manitowish. Mrs LaPorte lived at the homestead at Manitowish until the death of Mr. LaPorte in 1929. Then she moved to Manitowish Waters, where she had since made her home.

Surviving are one daughter, Nancy Wanatka, and two sons, George and Lloyd LaPorte, all of Manitowish Waters; a brother, Fred Ferge of Wausau, Wis.; a sister, Mrs. Jessie Martin of Tomah, Wis.; nine grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

A son, Louis, died in 1939, and daughters. Mayme and Mrs. Ruth Voss, died in 1913 and 1958, res-

pectively.

The remains will lie in state at the Manitowish Waters Community Church Wednesday from 1:30 to 2 p.m. at which time a short service will be conducted with the Rev. Mr. Lupke officiating. The remains will be taken to the Helke Funeral Home, Wausau, where services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. with burial in the family lot

Joyce Laabs 1978 interview with George LaPorte

If, in the year 1905, you had been anywhere near the Chicago-Northwestern depot in what is now the Manitowish Waters area, you would have seen a young lad busily near the water tank...for it was George LaPorte's job to keep the great tank full so that the engines could take on water to keep their boilers rolling.

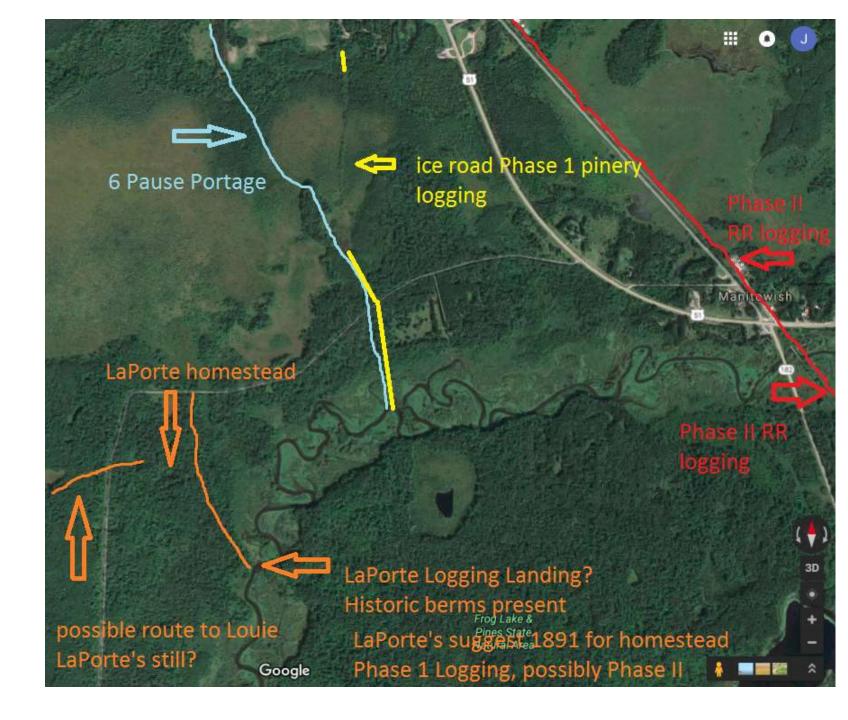
It was a nomadic life for the LaPorte family. In fact, George figured he had moved some 53 times with this family after he was four years old. Now these moves weren't easy, for everything moved---household items, horses, cattle, and even chickens were piled into the boxcar to be carried to their new destination.

Lloyd LaPorte Interview reveals a mystery regarding the old office from the log driving days

When LaPorte's came back around 1911 and logged back of Manitowish Jolly had meanwhile moved to the Manitowish River to a logging camp on a high bluff still known to old timers as Jolly's Camp. Shack was the old office from log driving day—about 2 miles from "town"; he had a lock (a hidden wire) on its door. He moved to Michigan ca 1910-1912



Cultural connections for the area near the LaPorte Homestead



George LaPorte interview with Michael Dunn

George LaPorte worked in 1908 logging with Brogan & Boland- he worked in their camp- they cut for Scott and Howe who would make 3rd bridge planks of tamarack. Also cut scrub pine too, for posts (fense posts, etc) about 2 miles west of Manitowish

George LaPorte and his dad logged in 1910-1911 as contractors on 3 forties-- camp where CCC camp was in the 1930. They put the logs into the river, boomed them to Manitowish, loaded them on rail cars to go to Scott & Howe, Ironwood.

George in 1911-1912- logging -built camp 1 mile west of Manitowish in fall 1911.- one big building 50 feet long with root cellar at one end and a 16 foot addition at on end for sleeping quarters.

The berms in this 1938 air photo suggests logging camp site that matches the citation from George LaPorte



LaPorte homestead near the Manitowish River



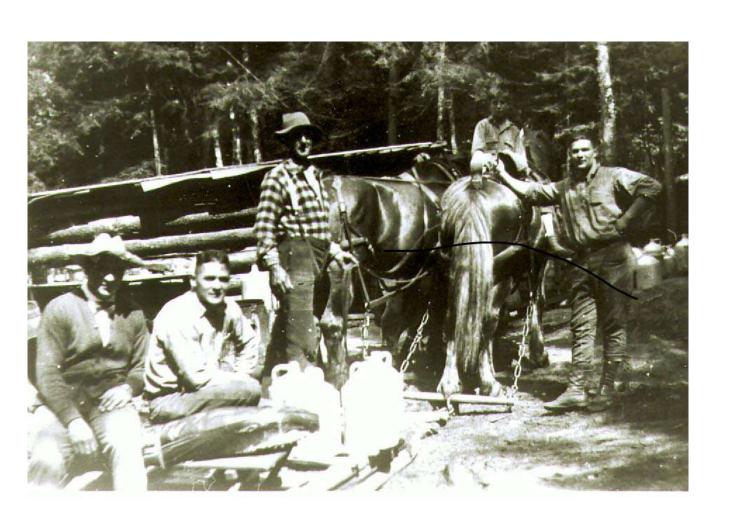


Henry LaPorte at his homestead and next to the Manitowish River





Louie LaPorte a Moonshine on Grant Lake a few miles from the Homestead

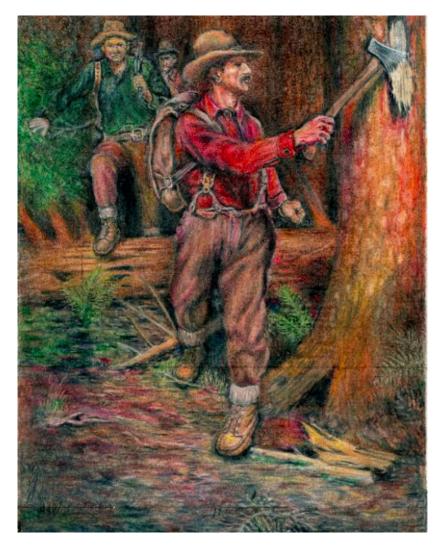


2 MANITOWISH MEN ARE FINED \$100 AND COSTS

Louis La Porte and Andrew Johnson, both of Manitowish, were arranged before Judge Griff Thomas in Hurley municipal court last night on charges of possession of liquor. They were expected to pay fines of \$100 and costs each today, said the court, as they were given an opportunity to attempt to obtain the fines and court costs to avoid going to jail. La Porte and Johnson were arrested by Ray Coates and C. Wing, state prohibition officers.

Richard Sr. (pictured as a child) later marries Albina Sleight





Interview with Dan Sleight

- Sleights were counted on the 1890 census in Manitowish and had been coming to the Manitowish and Mercer area from Wisconsin Rapids and Wausau.
- During the late 19th century performing timber cruising in the summer and logging or trapping activates in the winter.
- Sleights conducted logging operations in both the river drive white pine era and railroad hardwood eras
- The Sleights sometimes took cutover land as payment for their work.
- Around 1900-1905 the Blatchford's built a resort on Island lake was used by many famous persons from Chicago. Building log cabins Richard Sleight Senior

Court law 1894 one of the first cases conducted in Iron county

State of Wis, vs. Karl helz et al. Feb. 12, 1894. R. Sleight. L. A. Culkins.

The Sleight family acquired a great deal of land and had business interests stretching from Manitowish Waters to Mercer

To facilitate their large land acquisitions, The Lakeland timers reported:

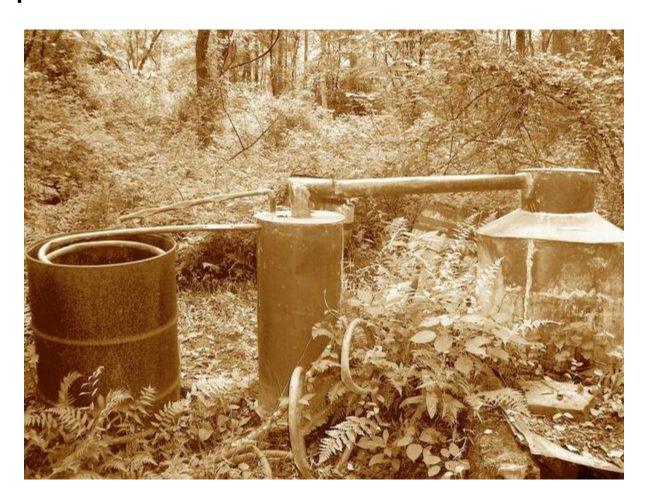
Richard Sr. accepted an 800-acre parcel of clear-cut land from the company and began a fishing and hunting guide service.

Building and managing in Manitowish Waters

Sleight's Wildwood started out as Island Lake Log Cabins in 1905 and was owned by Carter Blatchford from Chicago. Richard Sleight Sr. built the original cabins and also managed the resort for the Blatchfords. There weren't many roads and guests arrived by train at the depot in Manitowish.



At that point they were ferried up the Manitowish River to the resorts located on the chain of lakes. In the Roaring Twenties the resort hosted politicians and gangsters from the Chicago area, and even produced it's own Moonshine.

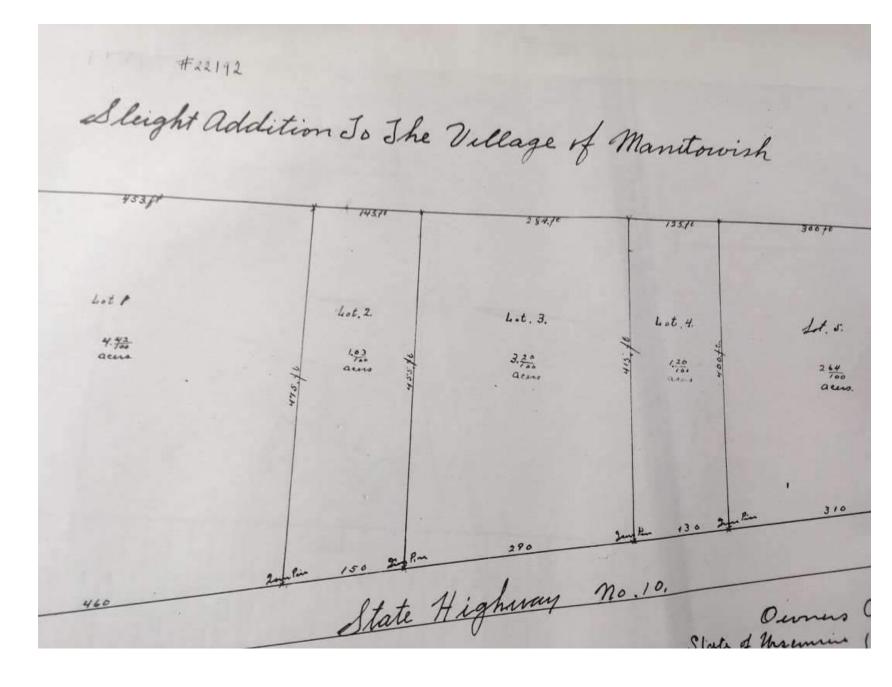


In 1956 Richard Jr. and Helene purchased most of the original resort, and began to remodel the existing cabins and build additional modern cabins.





Richard Sleight Sr. Properties in Manitowish



Sleights formalize their homestead into a subdivision of the town of Manitowish in 1923

2 th 130 2 th Owners Certificate State of theming Iss do hereby certify that I have carried the land Lynn Daughan to be surreyed and mapped as it represented on this map as owner of raid land. set my hand and seal this 4th day of June 923 Cland Thompson Country of Moneymon 185 Personally appeared before me Richard Sleight to me personally Know to be the person Executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same as the act and dud of himself Dated this 4th days of June 1923 MEBraud,

When he was 8, Sleight began accompanying his father on the guide trips. In all of the ensuing years, the only thing that stopped him from fishing and guiding was death itself.

He guided 100 days in 2008, the year before his death. Three weeks before he died, he had an anticipated schedule of 60 days of guiding planned.



Richard Sleight Jr.







Richard Jr. Sleight's continued family trapping traditions







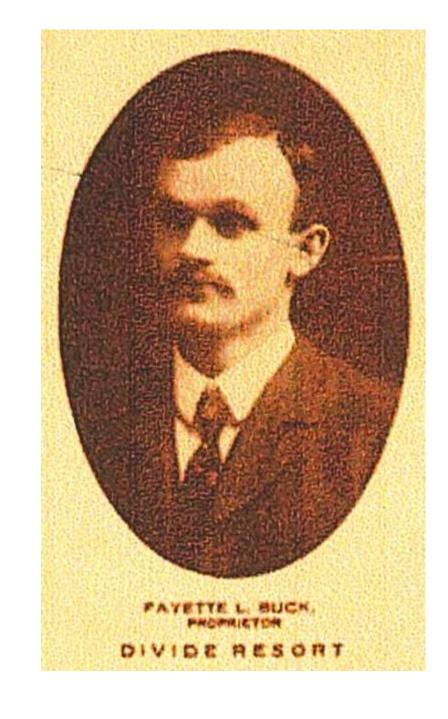


George and Mary Buck & Fayette and Anna Buck

George Washington Buck was the patriarch, but was limited in his role due to his age

Fayette Buck was 21 years old in 1895 and was highly regarded as a top notch trapper and did the bull work and communications to build the elaborate network of Buck Camp's

They moved to Mercer in 1890 and Fayette at 16 worked as a cook in a lumber camp, trapped, guided and ultimately joined his father creating G.W. Buck & Son in 1893



Fayette Buck started a small camp and boat livery out of Mercer and Manitowish in 1892, but immediately had his gear stolen or burned by Indians.

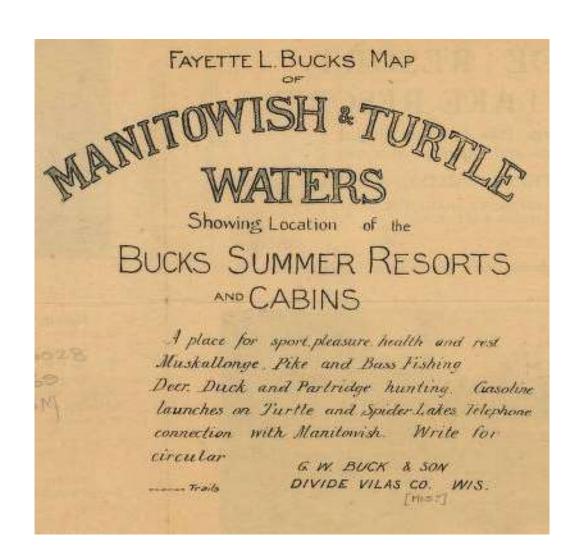
At 17, he threatened the Indians, pledging to place set guns on forest trails if his gear was ever again molested. Buck claims no Indian's came up river for 12 years after his confrontation.

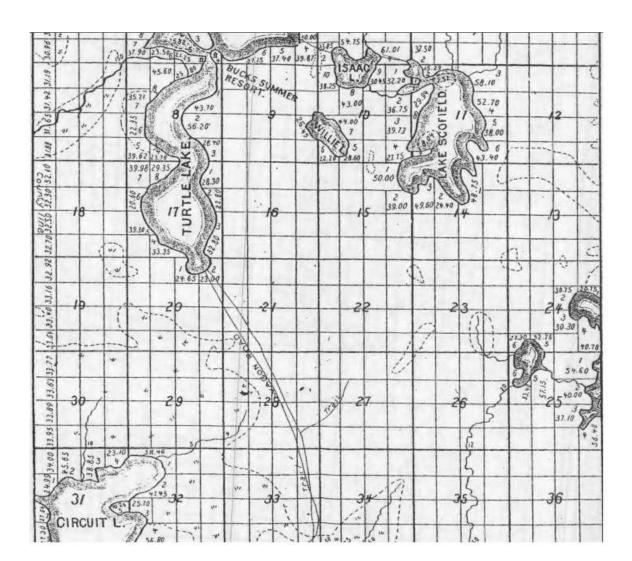
Fayette Buck ran a 75 mile trapping circuit each week during the winter and built a network of lodges and camps, where he served as proprietor and guide.

Buck drew detailed maps of his business and networked with Forest and Stream magazine to market his camp, ultimately branding the names Turtle and Manitowish Waters.

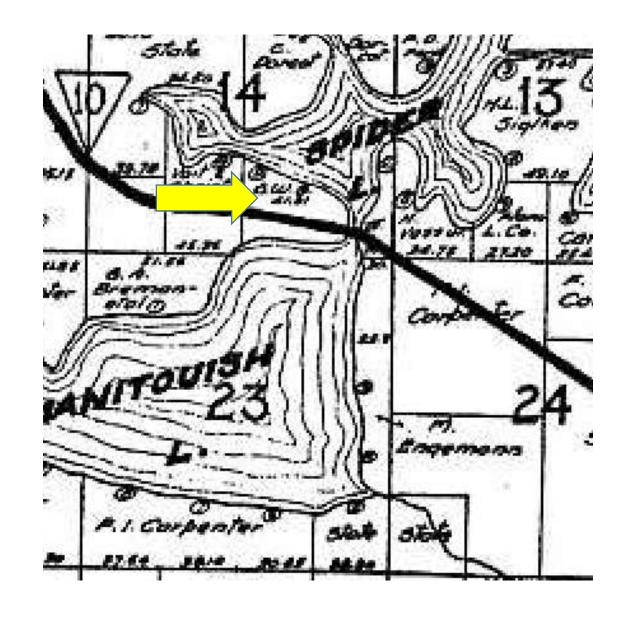
Fayette Buck married Anna in 1899 and she became an important part of the family business. Interestingly, Forest and Stream author E. Hough cited Fayette having a wife in camp in 1895 during a guided winter trapping adventure.

The Divide Resort in Winchester was the Buck family's flagship property





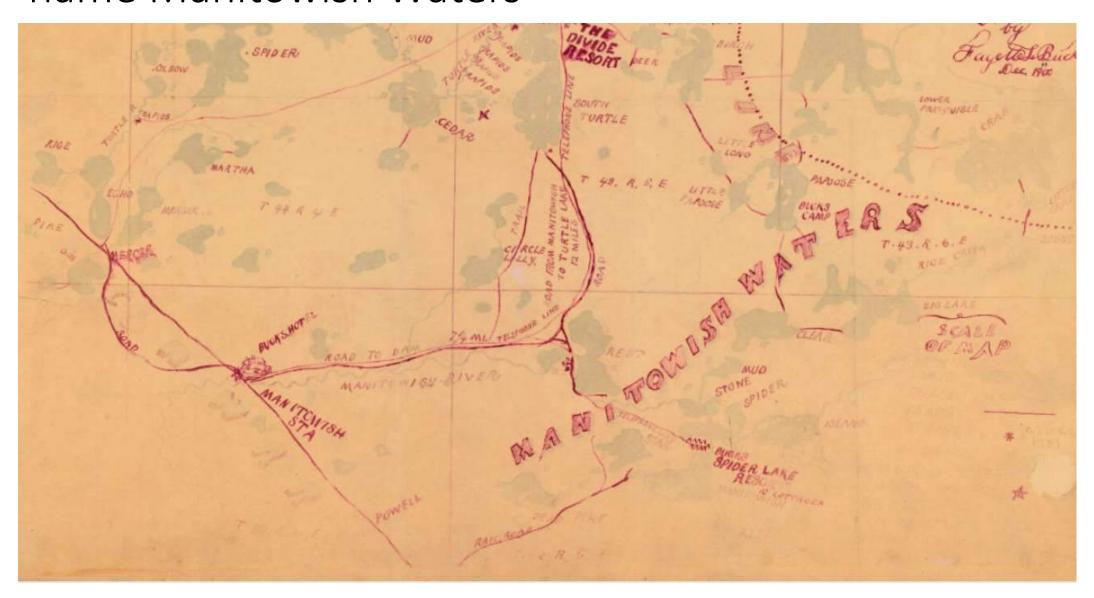
Buck's created a second high-end resort between Spider and Manitowish Lakes in 1900



1937 photo of Bucks or Koerner's Resort and Highway 10



Buck's 1900 map advertising their resorts branding the name Manitowish Waters



The United States of America.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

land , deposited in the MENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of Devrae Washington Buck

Sourteen in Township forty tue North of Range fine Bast of the Fourth Printerpal Meridian in his contin Containing forty one acres and ninety-one hundredthe for

to so been purchased by the said Leonge Nashington Buck

Office to be becomes affixed.

George Washington Buck's 1900 deed to Government Lot 9

In testimony whereof, I William M. Tinley

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made patefit, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed,

Siven under my hand, at the City of Washington, the thirtieth

, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred

and of the Independence of the United States the

one hundred and tuenty. Auth

1900 Forest and Stream

The largest "musky" I ever saw? A 48 pounder, and when he was opened a full-grown mallard duck was found. True as gospel. Judge Sears, of the Cook County Illinois bench was the fisherman, and the event happened on Alder lake, just beyond Spider, and if you doubt, ask Buck, The lodge keeper and guide with the musical heart, and he

will tell you it's true. Who would doubt Buck?



Exterior of Buck's Lodge and grounds



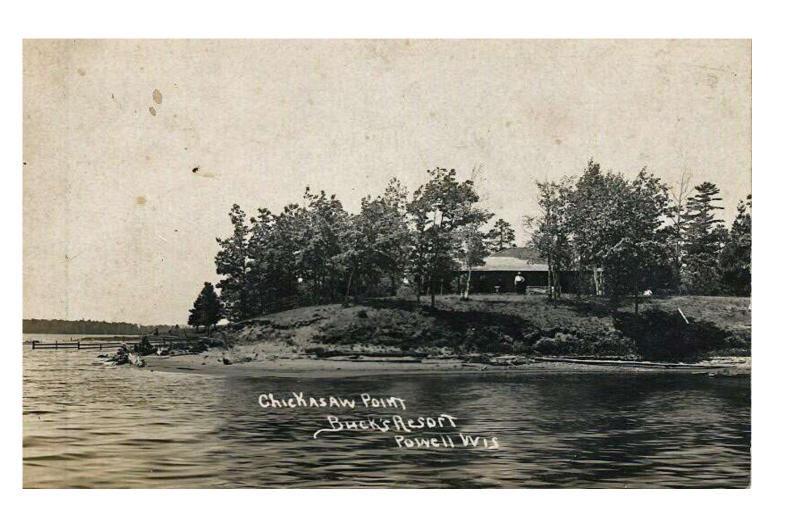


Interior of Buck's Lodge





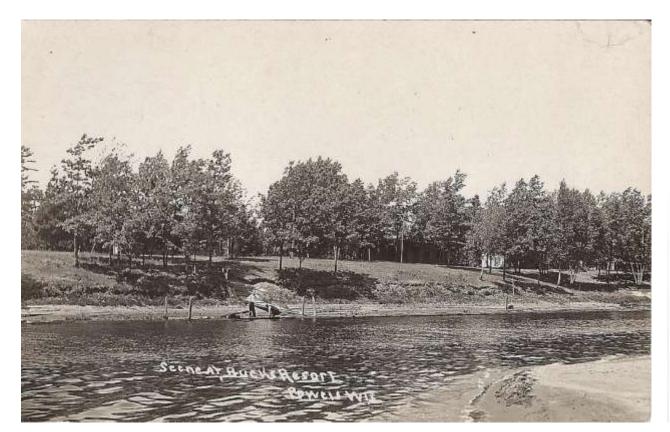
Buck's Resort at the Trout River inlet of Spider Lake and young Roy Buck engaged in the earliest Auto Livery



BUCK'S AUTO LIV. ERY AND GARAGE ROY O. BUCK, Prop. MANITOWISH, WISCONSIN Livery Rates FOR ONE PERSON Deer Park Lodge_____\$3.50 Spider Lake______3.00 Mitchel's Rest Lake Dam..... Winchester _____4.00 Big Lake Mercer ______2.00 EACH TWO PERSONS OR OVER Deer Park Lodge \$2.00 Spider Lake_____1.75 Mitchel's ______1,50 Rest Lake Dam Winchester _____ Rig Lake Mercer_____1.25 DAY TRIPS Ironwood or Hurley\$15.00 Woodruff or Minocqua_____15,00 Eagle River_____20.00 Rhinelander.... Wausau_____40.00

Buck's waterfront, launch & a recently discovered artifact from the property







In 1914, MW residents became environmental activists litigating the Chippewa & Flambeau Improvement Co.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

438

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

BEING THE REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS

STATE OFFICERS, DEPARTMENTS
AND INSTITUTIONS

For the Fiscal Term Ending June 30, 1914

VOLUME 5



MADISON
DEMOCRAT PRINTING COMPANY, STATE PRINTER

IN RE DETERMINING THE HIGH WATER MARK TO BE ESTAB-LISHED ON THE REST LAKE RESERVOIR OPERATED BY THE CHIPPEWA AND FLAMBEAU IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

Submitted June 19, 1914. Decided Nov. 24, 1914.

Complaint was made that the adoption of the high and low water marks suggested by the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Co. for its Rest Lake reservoir would result in injury to petitioners' property and to the fish of the lakes involved, and a further hearing was requested. It was alleged that a wide variation

Hearings were held throughout our community

affected. Hearings were therefore held on June 18 and 19, 1914, at George W. Buck's Spider Lake resort, and at numerous other points on the lakes tributary to the dam in question. At these hearings the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company was represented by W. L. Davis, Guy Waldo and C. B. Stewart, and numerous property holders appeared in their own behalf.

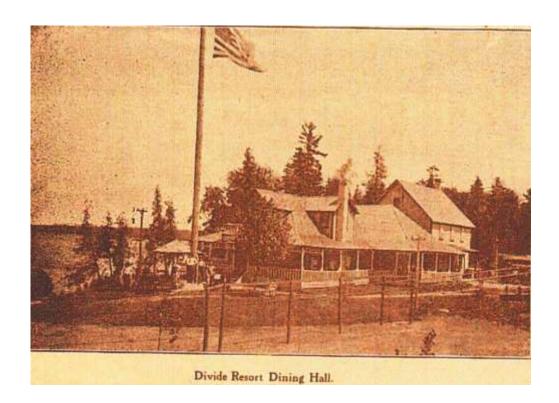




Buck's sell their MW resort to Koerner's in 1917 and Anna Buck takes over the Divide Resort

This consolidation suggests that Fayette may have died in 1917 and the aging G W Buck could not lead the business.

Fayette's son Clarence help his mother (Anna) run the Divide Resort. Daughter Pearl Buck ultimately moved to Manitowish Waters.



Calvin and Effie Doriot & Charles and Catherine Doriot

From: Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas County History 1924

Doriot, Charles H. was born at Kelly, Marathon County, Wis., July 3, 1885, son of Calvin H. and Effie (LA PORT) DORIOT. were residents of Marathon County until 1892 after their marriage, when they removed to their present home in Iron County.

Charles H. DORIOT was educated in the schools of Langlade, Oneida and Iron counties, and his subsequent career has found him in many and varied capacities, including those of logging contractor, guide, sawmill operator, and for six years, proprietor of a general store in Manitowish and postmaster of that village. In 1908 he established a resort on Stone Lake, known as Clear Lodge, and he operated this until 1917, when he sold it and took over his present resort, Deer Park Lodge.

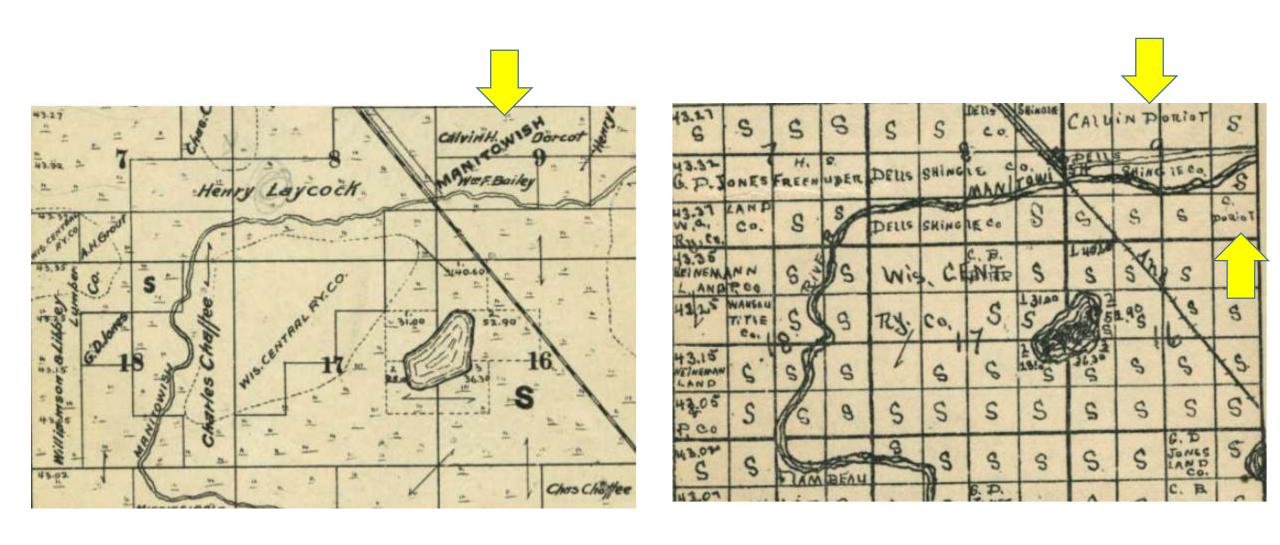
1894 land patent Manitowish Wi



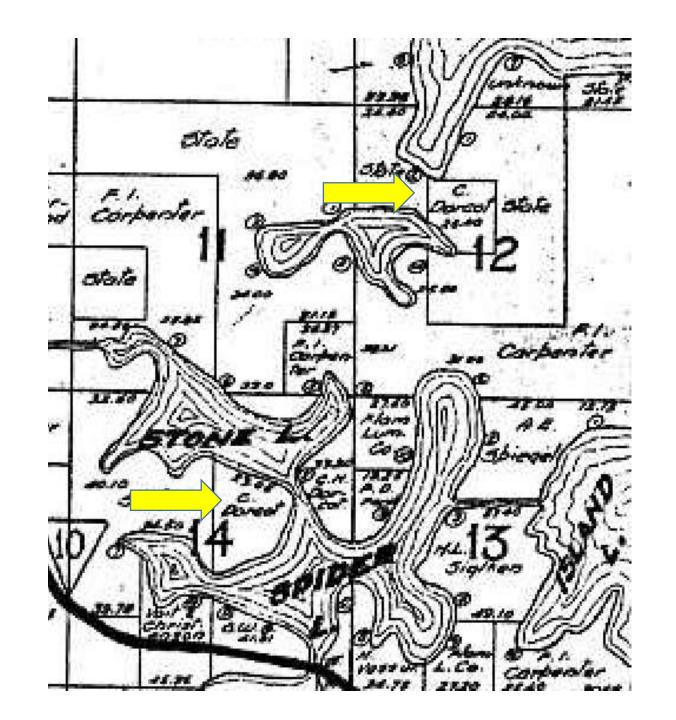
1899 land patent Manitowish Waters WI

The United States of America. To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Where, Collin & Donet of Some County, Morney by "regulation to the OCCENTEST, LACE OFFICE of the Council from a Continue of the Engineer of the Laure Office · Marin Radiner , wherein it is proved that the figure and that time, water to the said Company of Dynas the body Congress of the Bids of April 1989, control to an action by the top providing the form of the form of the English and a not be an agreement made in the Artist Coal against the Marchaelle Coal holy for Sall to Some for the first said modifies to office parallel every of his sale leads on part to the tipological of the behavior to pay. with cultimate for the period by the cultimate of the Section of Hote length up, that the Colod State of Learner, in conduction of the presion, but he becomes: to are also doubt, and former Contract of Contract and the control to the Manual Control of the Annal Street, the Name of the Annal Street, Annal Street, and the Annal Street, Ann predigit, beneative, and agreement. If thereare unites, investo bringing, and the ran CARRIE IN STREET and he was to have not assure home. Princeton of the Oliver Street, or Assess, but yourself that below to make principles of the extra the Grants. Doct 178% to be become ablance filigh was by had, if he the or thorogen, he come with at 10 20 20 20 20 and in the year of the first are the sent shall be about and Alexander Alexander and all the behavior of the trained Medicale and Contract of the Contr 100 In my Yearner of State of State Printings.

Doriot's Manitowish properties in 1903 (left) 1912 (right)



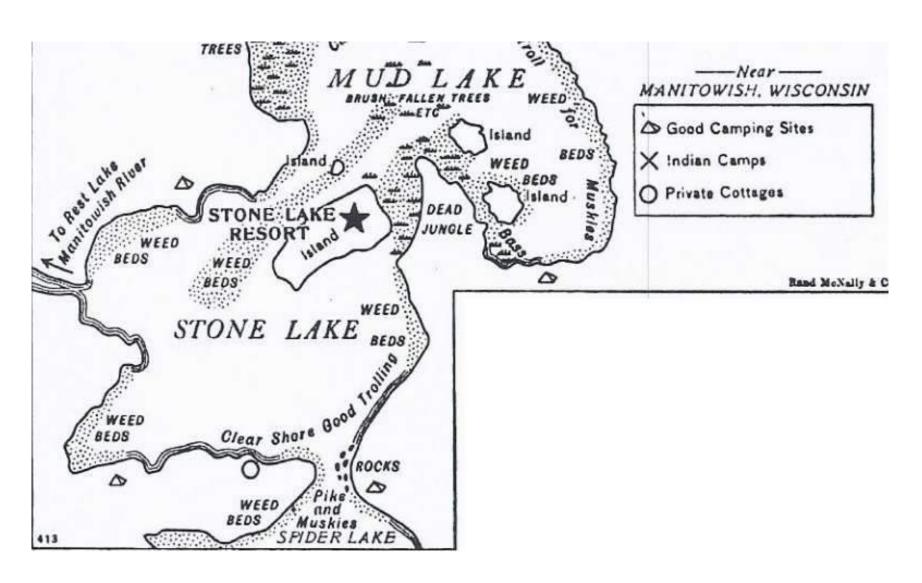
This early plat map (c 1913) of MW reveals several Doriot land holdings



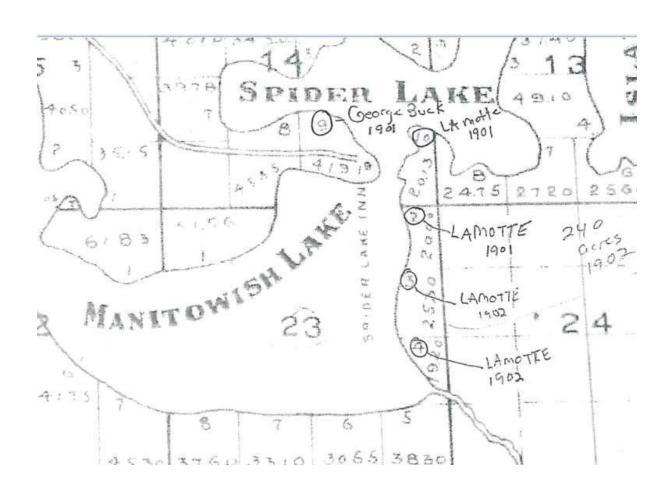
Doriot's Island Clear Lodge had a dance hall and "speakeasy" bar...where trouble sometimes occurred as described by John LaFave.

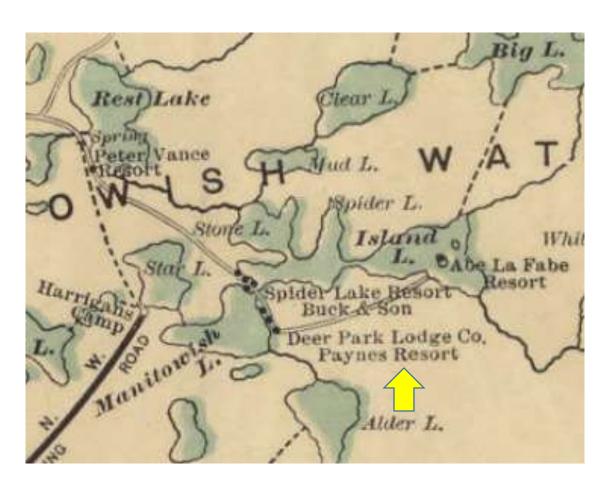
One time at a dance on what was Doriot's resort island on Stone Lake a fight started at a small bar. The bar was built back in the woods, apart from the dance hall and only patronize by men. It started between Louie LaPorte and George Devine, after George made some remark to Louie about a certain girl. As George raised up a bottle of beer, with his head back and his face toward the sky, Louie hit him a blow under the chin. George made a complete somersault backward but in a flash was on his feet, taking off his coat as he charged back Louie. The fight lasted for want seemed to be an hour.

1918 map from Outers magazine immediately after Doriot's sold the Clear Resort in 1917



LaMotte purchased the property in 1902 and Poole Railroad map show Paynes Resort in 1903, but some argue others ran Deer Park Lodge in the 1890's

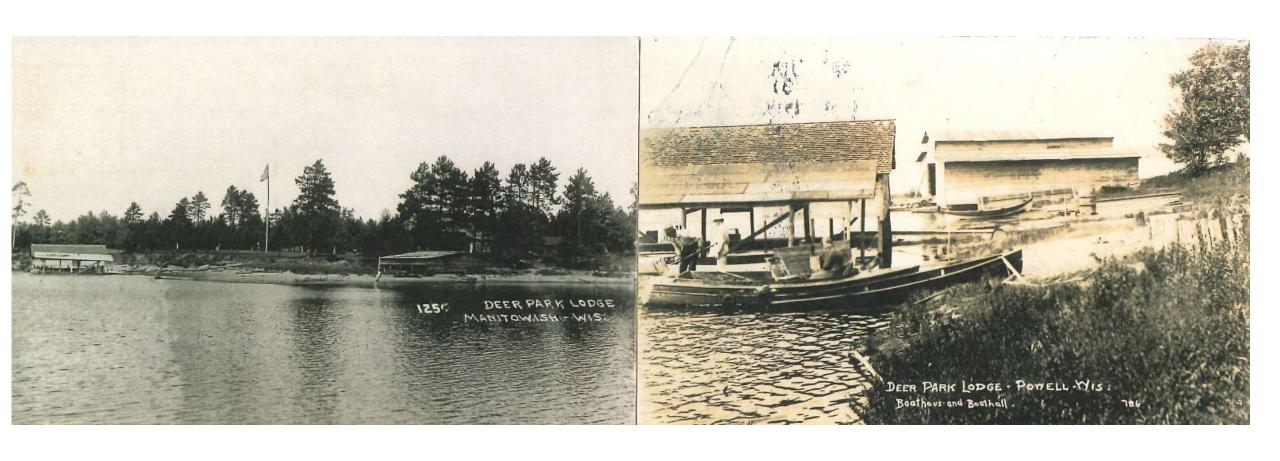




1916 Dorriot still operated Cedar (Clear) Lodge on Stone Lake and Max Engermann then owned Deer Park Lodge



Deer Park Lodge early lake front



1924 Doriot's launched new resort model on Manitowish Lake

....the resort was contrived-to supply the comforts of the most luxurious home in the midst of the wildest beauties of nature. The success attained in this most ambitious project has more than justified all the trouble and outlay, for Deer Park Lodge is the last word in summer resort hotels. Brains, taste and money have all contributed to this result. In the first place, the selection of the location was a happy one. Lake Manitowish is one of a chain of lakes making a fascinating waterway many miles in length. This high altitude and the fact that the hot southerly and southwesterly winds of summer must sweep across the cooling waters of the lake before reaching the broad porches of the hotel has a strong and very agreeable influence on the temperature.

Joe Ilg Sr.

In 1891, Joe Ilg Sr. as a young man traveled from Illinois to Manitowish Waters, falling in love with the area. Camping in summer on the shores of Rest Lake for the first years, Joe was later employed by the railroad and traveled to the region often. In 1917, Joe and his wife Lenore secured a large property on Rest and McCabe lakes and quickly launched their resort.





Joe Sr. (left) arrived in MW at age 19 spending his summers, he ultimately became a freight solicitor for the Canadian Northern Pacific Railroad



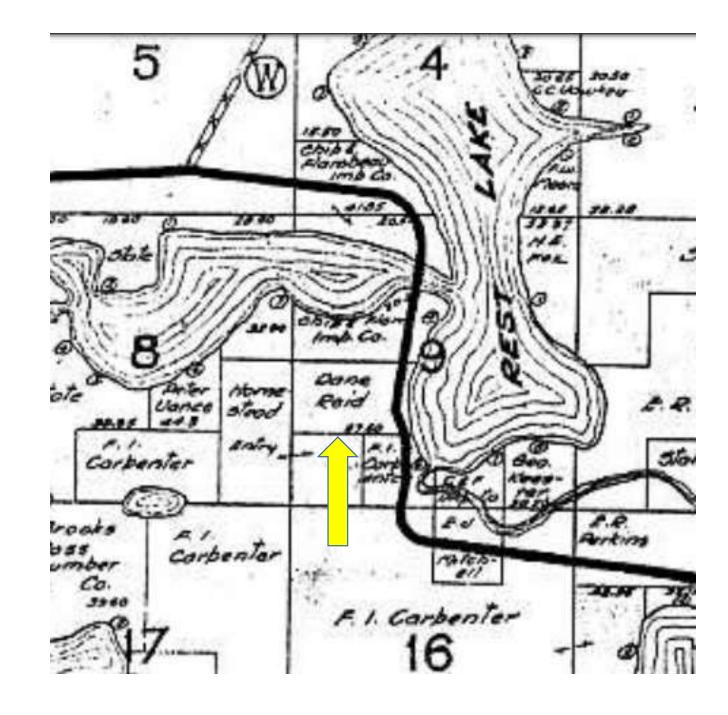
The Ilg family enjoyed strong connections to area Ojibwa families. Joe Jr, said, "Papa was an Indian lover-they all hunted together..."



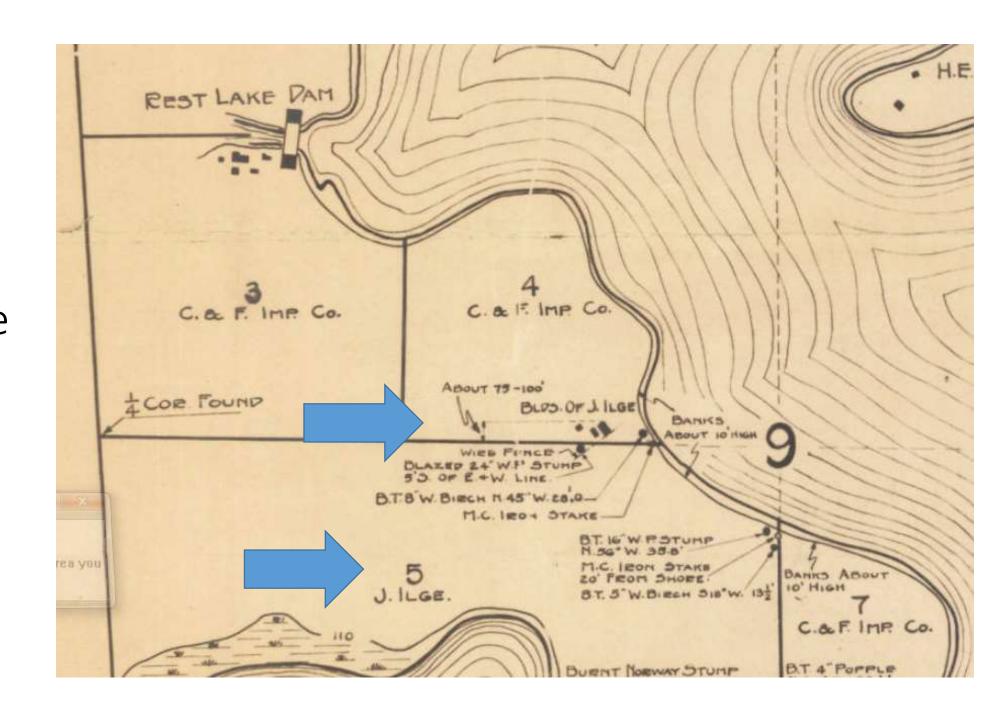
In the early years Joe Sr. and his family camped on the site of the Northern Lights Hotel (across the bay from Koller Park)



1913 Plat map shows Dan Reid's estate owned Government Lot 5--Joe Ilg Sr. purchased Government Lot 5 in 1917



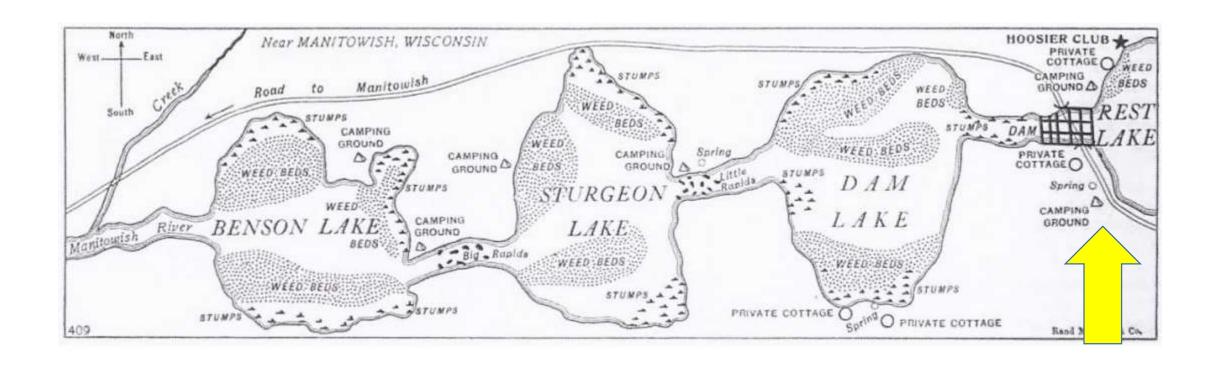
Ilg Property illustrated in 1917 map created by the Chippewa & Flambeau Improvement Co.



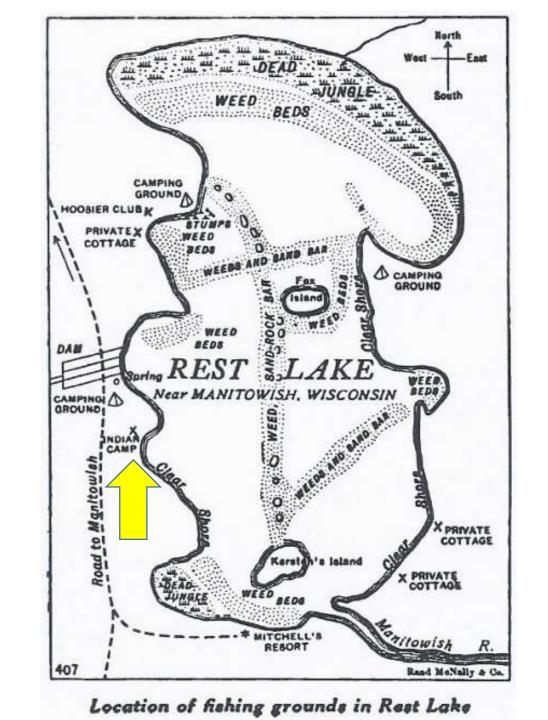
Joe Ilg Sr. (left) loved photography. He used a camera that took panoramic pictures and had a delay timer so he could also be photographed.



1918 Map from Outer's Magazine showing the Ilg Camp



1918 Map from Outer's Magazine showing the famous "Indian Camp" just south of Ilg Camp. The Indian Camp was featured in Outer's as one of the most unique trading posts.



1918 Image of Ilg Camp



Our camp on Rest Lake, near the Indian Camp on the west shore



1920's Image of Ilg cabins

Joe (Papa) Ilg with a 52 pound Rest Lake muskie



Tourists flocked to Manitowish Waters for the quality fishing and hunting. Historically, Government Lot 5 on Rest Lake was one of the key sites for boat liveries and RR wagon stops.



Carl Christiansen came to work for Joe Ilg in the early years of the Great Depression - excerpts from the Carl Christiansen interview

The Ilg family worked extremely hard to continue their resort tradition during the challenges of the 1930's

Then Joe decided that he wanted a log cabin. So we picked out all the nicest logs that we could find in that pile, put them aside, and we were going to use them to build a log cabin. Which worked out all right.

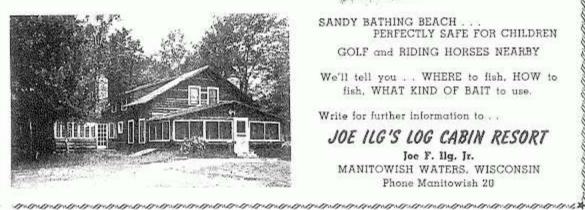
Famous Joe Ilg's Cabin Resort

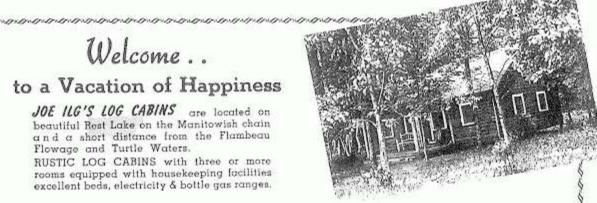
Welcome ..

to a Vacation of Happiness

JOE ILG'S LOG CABINS are located on beautiful Rest Lake on the Manitowish chain and a short distance from the Flambeau Flowage and Turtle Waters.

RUSTIC LOG CABINS with three or more rooms equipped with housekeeping facilities excellent beds, electricity & bottle gas ranges.





SANDY BATHING BEACH . . . PERFECTLY SAFE FOR CHILDREN GOLF and RIDING HORSES NEARBY

We'll tell you . . WHERE to fish, HOW to fish, WHAT KIND OF BAIT to use.

Write for further information to ...

JOE ILG'S LOG CABIN RESORT

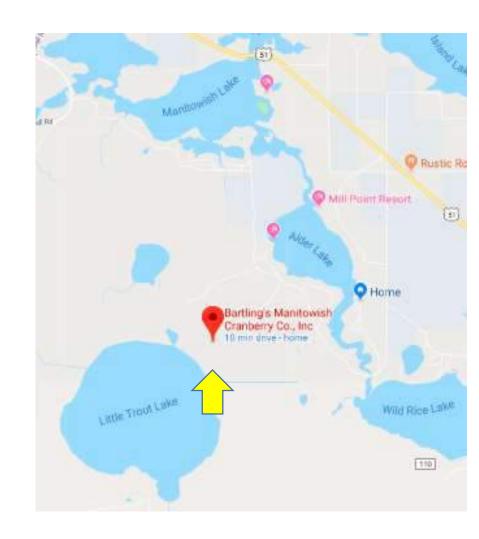
Joe F. Ilg. Jr.

MANITOWISH WATERS, WISCONSIN Phone Manitowish 20



Richard and Ella Southgate

SOUTHGATE, Bichard Henry, ex-pres. Congress Hotel Co.; born Cincinnati, O.; son Richard and Julia (Watson) Southgate; married Ella E. Hathorn, of Saratoga, N.Y., 1868. Has been identified with hotels as owner or mgr. during practically entire active career; was propr. Congress Hotel, Saratoga, N.Y., Windsor Hotel, Montreal, Long Beach Hotel, Long Island, N.Y., Brunswick Hotel, New York; assumed lease of the Auditorium Hotel, Chicago, in 1890, and in 1893 constructed the Annex, now known as the Congress, and was pres. of the Congress Hotel Co.; also vice-pres. of the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, and St. Paul (Minn.) How Owns 1,000-acre estate at Bobtown, Wis., where spends much time fishing. Office and Residence: Congress Hotel.



Richard Southgate partnered with Marvin Hughitt to build a "one-of-a-kind" fisherman's paradise

Creating an ambitious estate for fishing, using canals and the Chicago North Western Railroad for access, these men fashioned their personalized Northwoods community.

The canals created a link between the isolated retreat on Little Trout Lake and the modern world. Southgate and his guests enjoyed the finest delicacies of the world, furniture and decorations from Southgate's international travels, and modern conveniences like electricity.

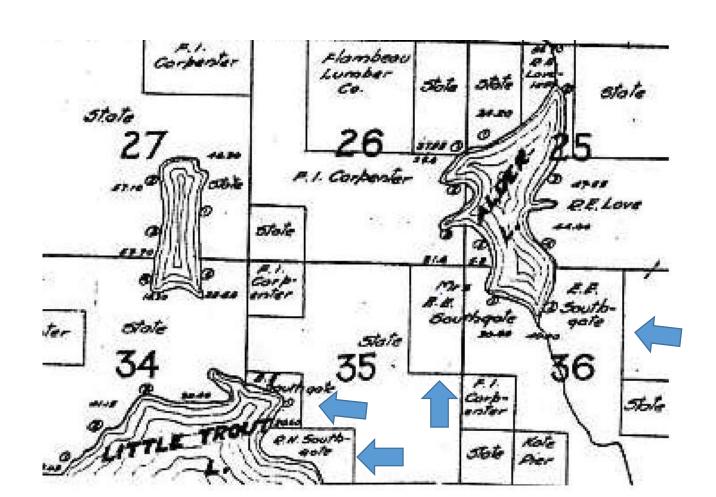
Dolly Tirpe (Robert Loveless daughter) reported:

Huge expenditures for French Champagne and barrels of live lobsters were common. Both Richard and Ella chose an open marriage, and their boyfriends and girlfriends also enjoyed time at Little Trout Lake.

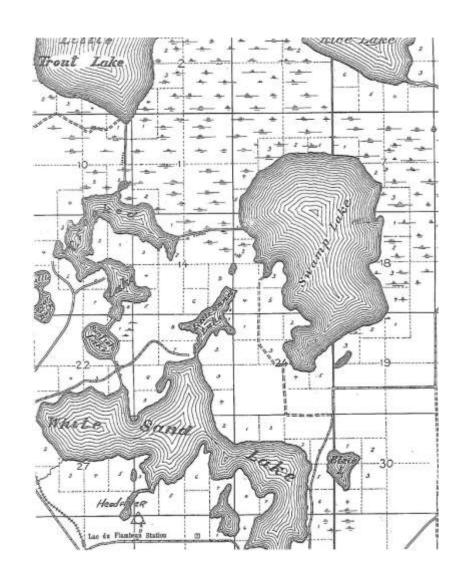
1889 Bob Town

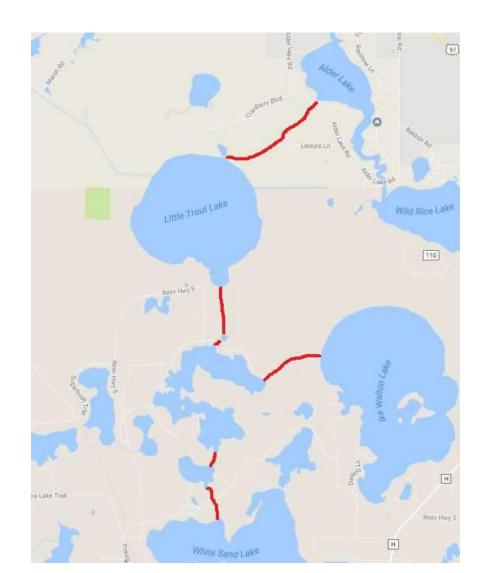


Tracts of Land owned by Southgate

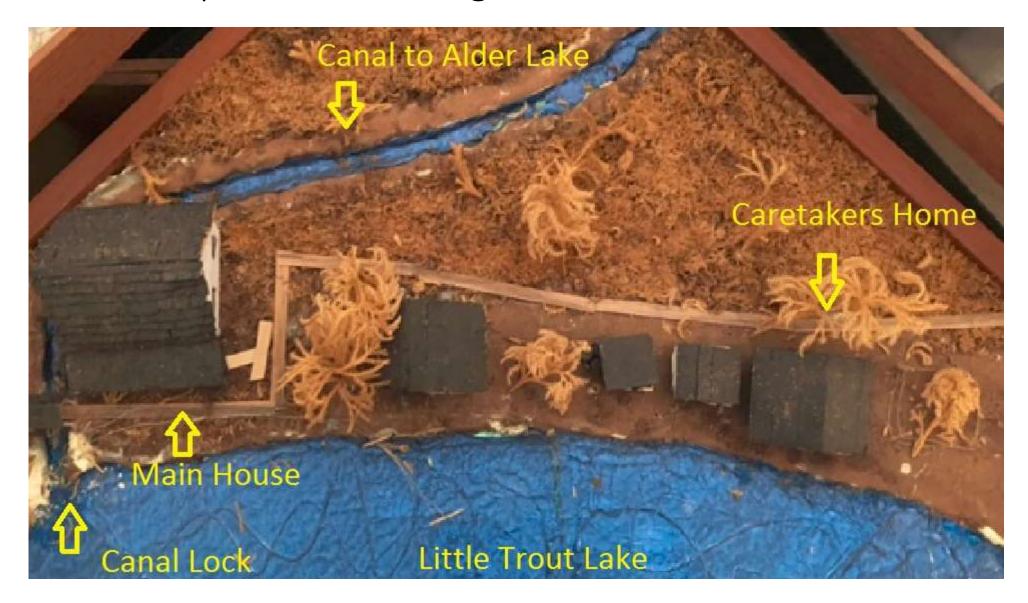


Southgate's and Hugitt's canal systems linking LDF and MW





Diorama of Southgate Property created by Steven Bartling under the supervision of his grandfather Cal La Porte



Lake view of the Southgate property. All of the property burned except the caretaker's house in the early 1930's Powell Marsh fires



Images of the Alder to Little Trout Lake canal and locks in operation constructed by Loveless and Lac Du Flambeau labor





Canal locks and boat house above Alder Lake





Southgate's launch on Alder Lake that came through the canal according to Dolly Tirpe



1911 Richard Southgate became ill and called for Loveless to help him in Florida. Sadly, Richard Southgate dies in 1912 and Ella marries one of her boyfriends (Richard Himes) who later squanders the Southgate fortune in oil shale speculation



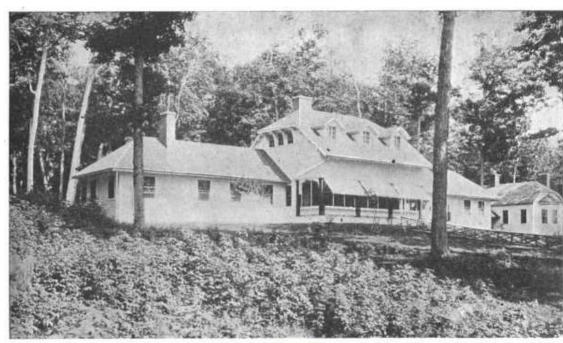
Marvin Huglitt upgraded his Watersmeet camp creating a similar estate (red)



1918 Hotel magazine
Ella continued Bob-Town
through the 1920's (yellow)

By a recent decision of the appellate court, the finding of the circuit court of Cook county was affirmed in the case of the Congress Hotel Company, which had brought suit against Mrs. Ella E. Southgate, widow of the late Richard H. Southgate, for the recovery of stock in that hotel company amounting to \$231,000. The courts decided that Mrs. Southgate was the rightful owner of the stock. The disputed stock had been given to Mr. Southgate while he was vice-president and manager of the Congress by the directors of the company. The stockholders contested the gift and sought to regain it.

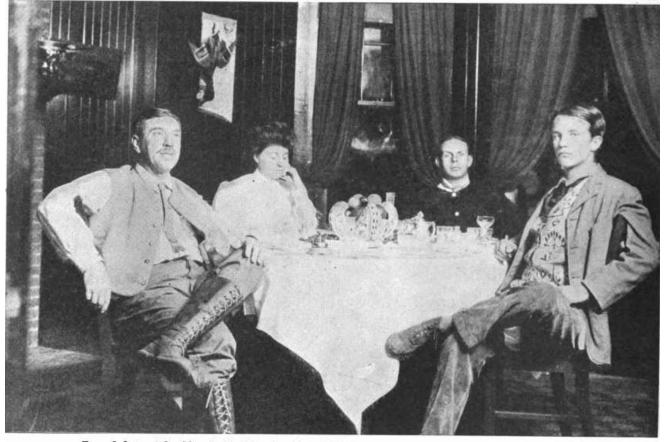
Marvin Hughitt's similar estate on Thousand Island Lake built around the time of Southgate's death



Maplewood, the hunting and fishing lodge of Marvin Hughitt, Jr., and F. H. Rawson of Chicago

Glimpses of Wilderness Luxury

Some Intimate Pictures of Maplewood



From left to right, Marvin Hughitt, Jr., Mrs. F. H. Rawson, F. H. Rawson and Kermit Roosevelt

Hughitt hires members of the Loveless family to run his Maplewood estate on the Wisconsin Michigan border



Interior of the comfortable and homelike living room at Maplewood

Hughitt even created a railroad runabout for lake transport like Southgate's canals on Little Trout Lake



An ingenious railroad runabout. Mr. Rawson (left), Mr. Hughitt (right)