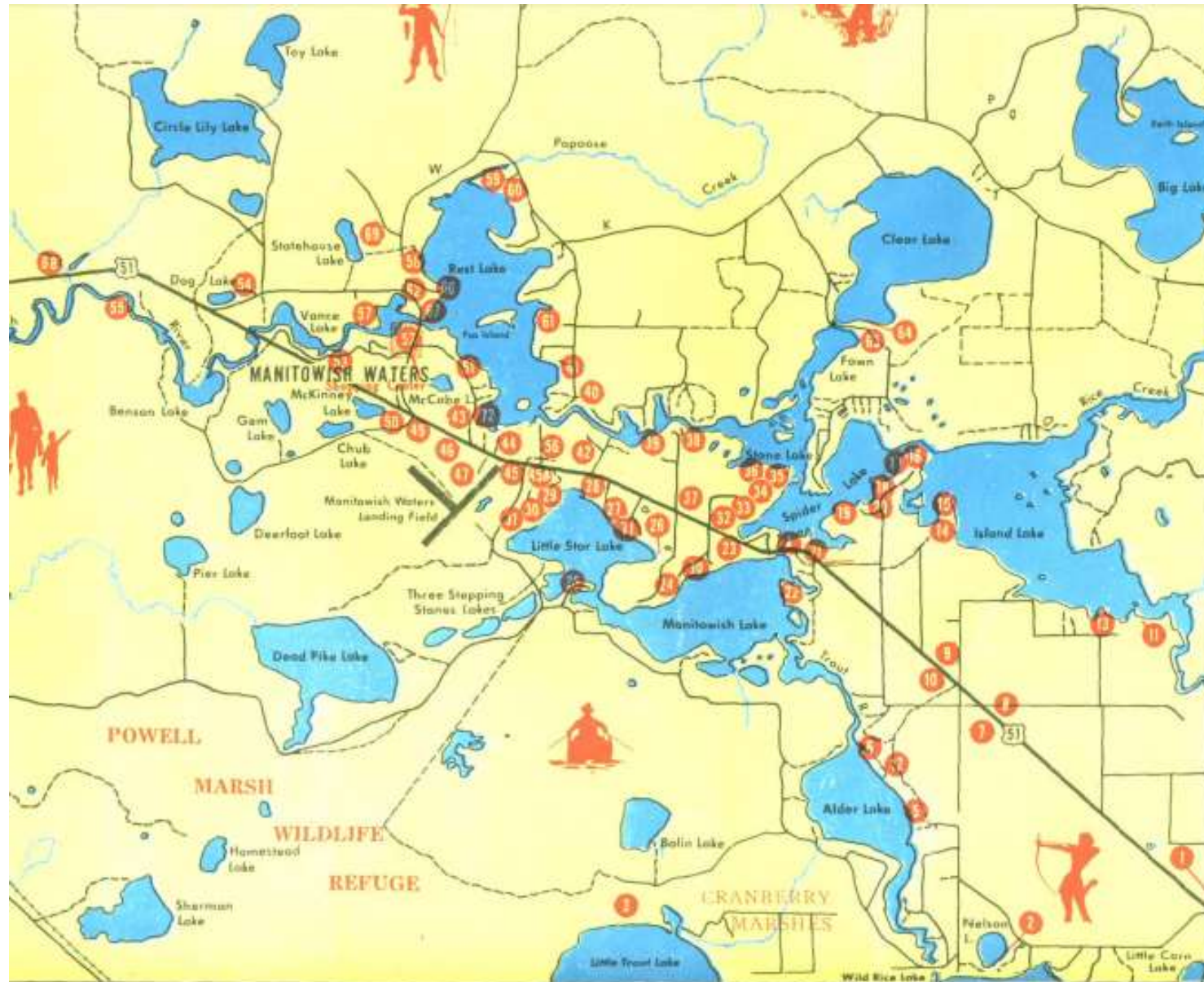
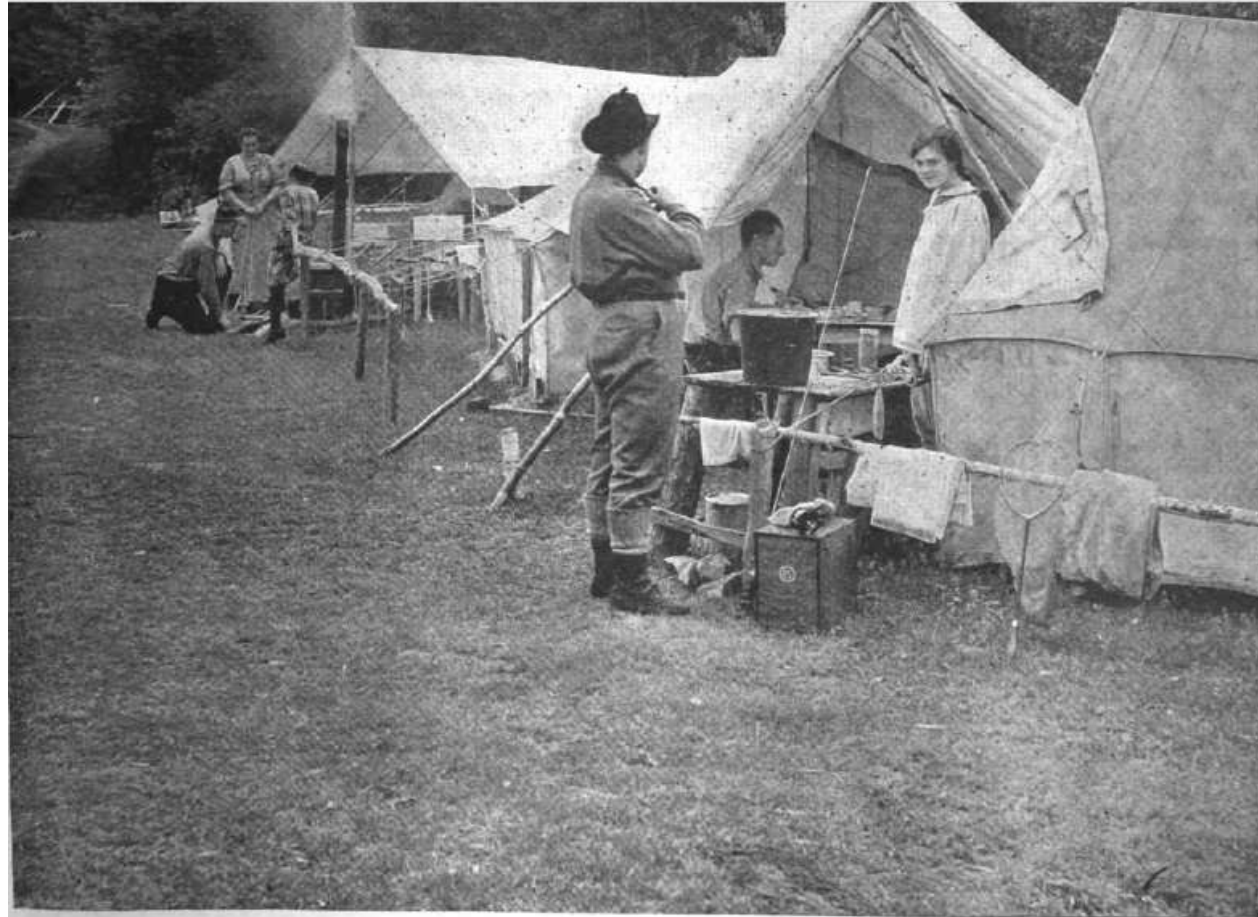


Manitowish Waters Historic Mysteries

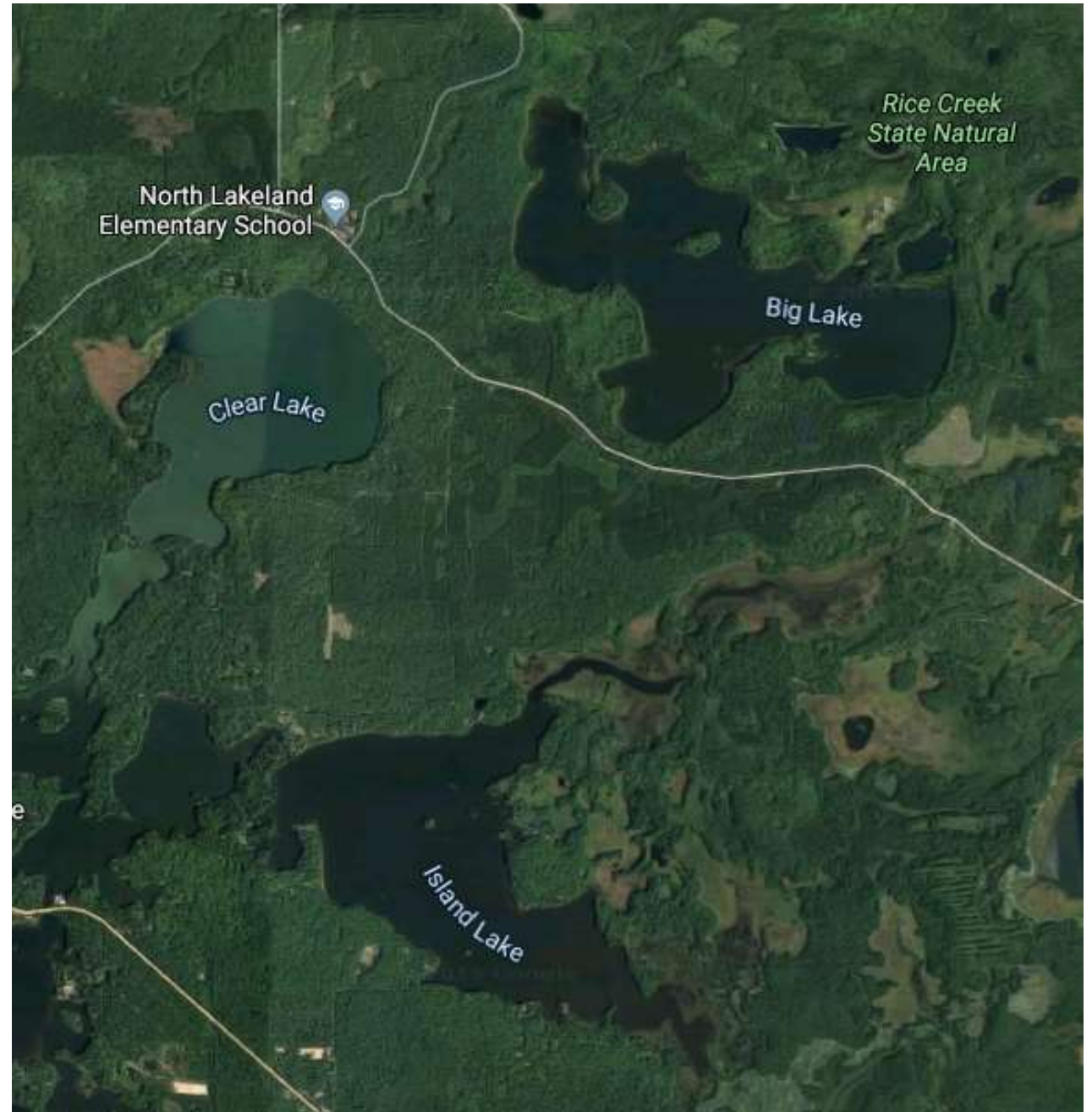


The Manitowish Waters Historic Mystery Project will reveal unsolved mysteries from all lakes connected to the chain through the Trout and Manitowish Rivers. These mysteries continue to challenge those interested in documenting and clarifying the robust history of Manitowish Waters.

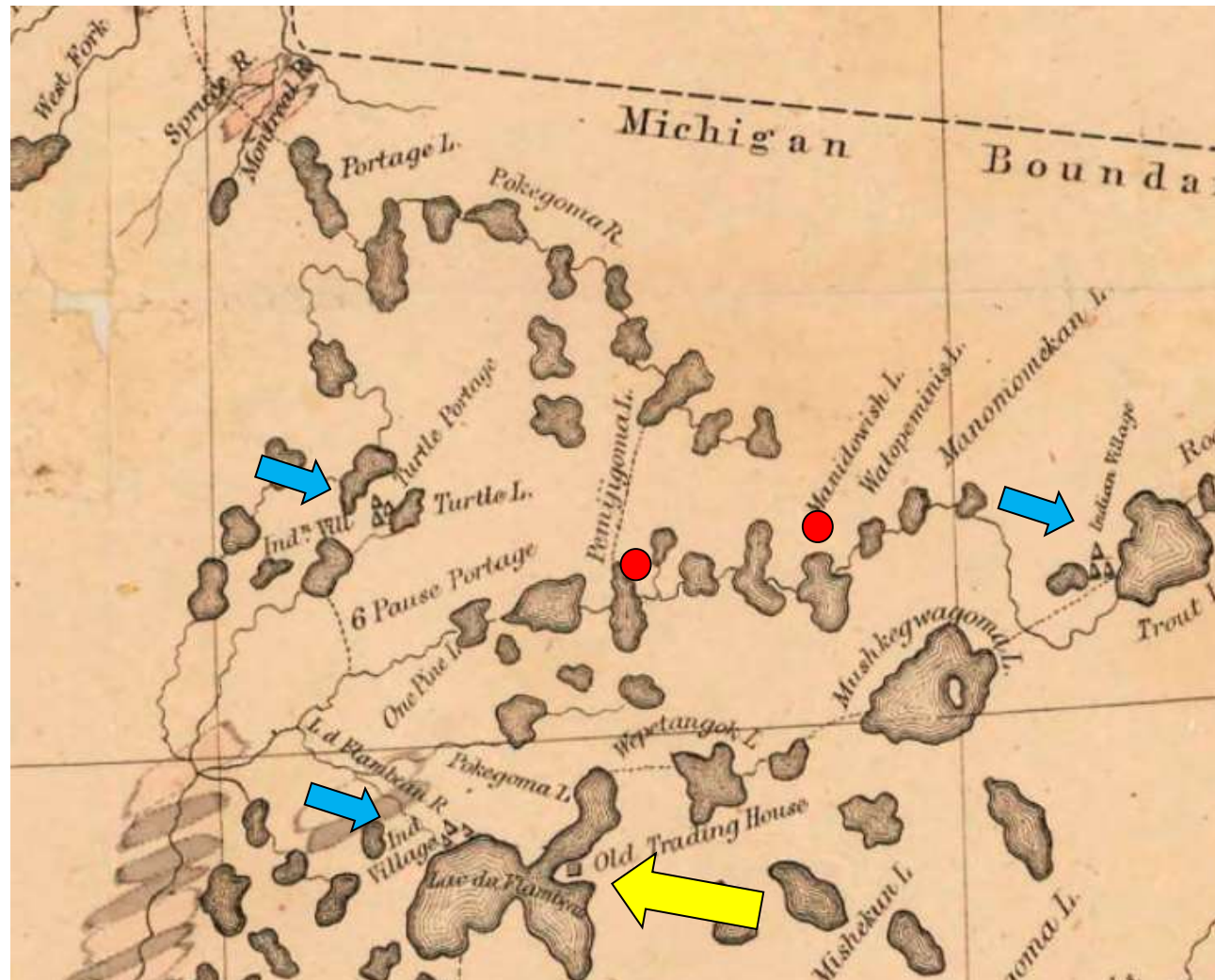


One of the many cozy camping spots in the Manitowish chain

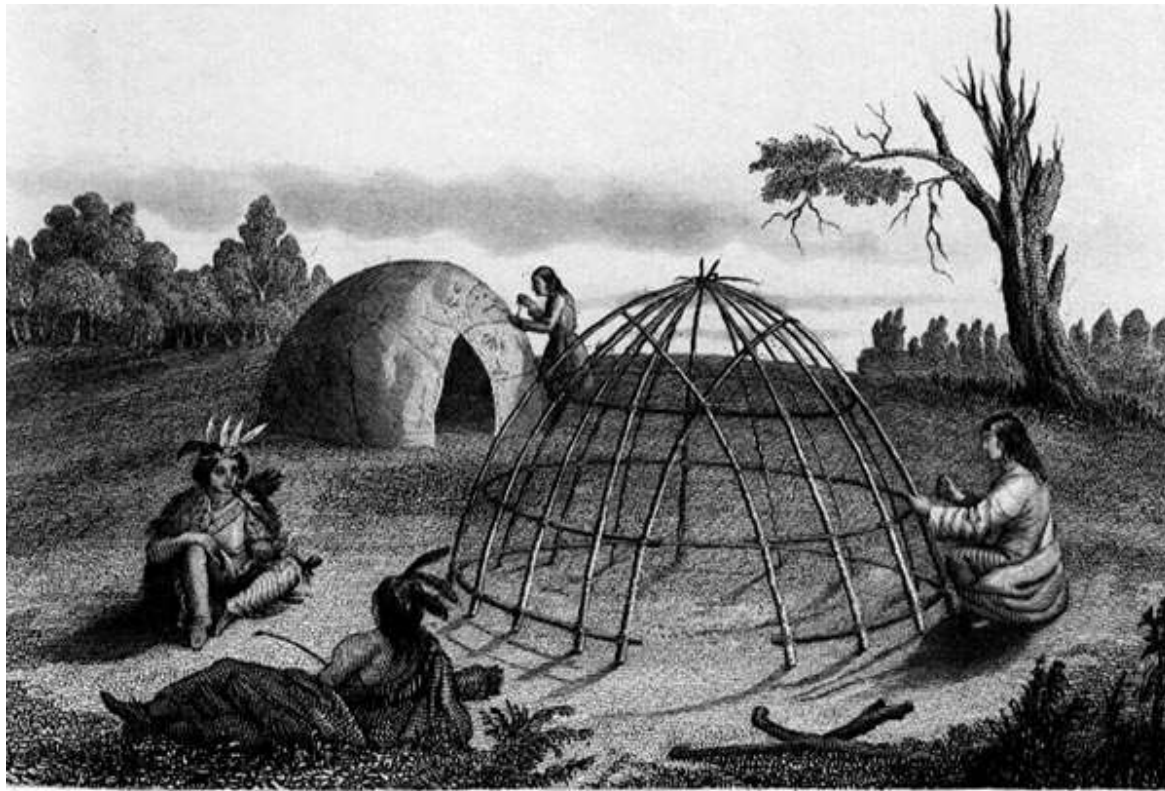
Clear, Island and Big lakes were an integral part of the MW chain's "guide culture" until the 1920's, were among the most utilized lakes by sportsmen and provided linkages to additional pristine water sheds



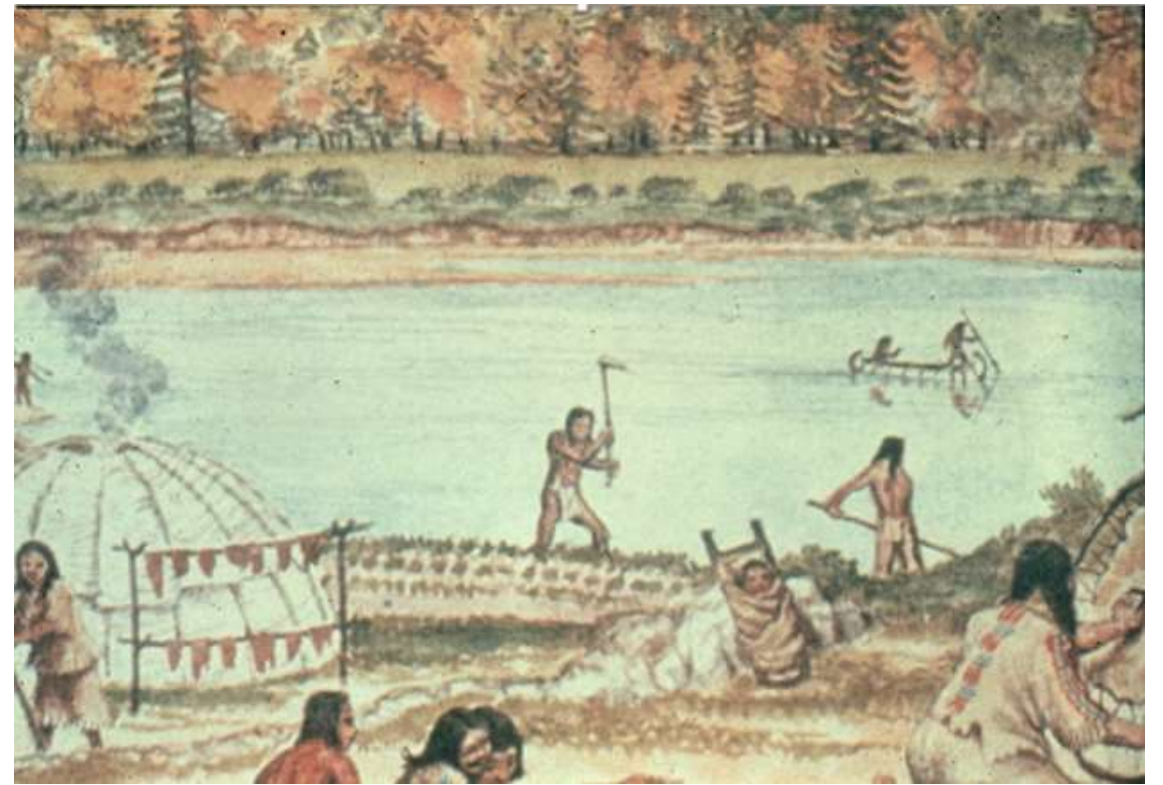
1847 Manitowish Waters Ojibwa communities, fur trade post, and nearest interior Ojibwa villages



Rest and Manitowish Lake's historic Ojibwa communities reached throughout the region



CHIPPEWA LODGE.



After the construction of logging dams, gathering wild rice became a dominate resource in Big Lake and Rice Creek



OJIBWA INDIAN WOMEN GATHERING WILD RICE
From oil painting by Seth Eastman, in room of House Committee on Military Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

By the 1860's itinerant timber cruisers and the first government surveys documented the land for both harvest and sale



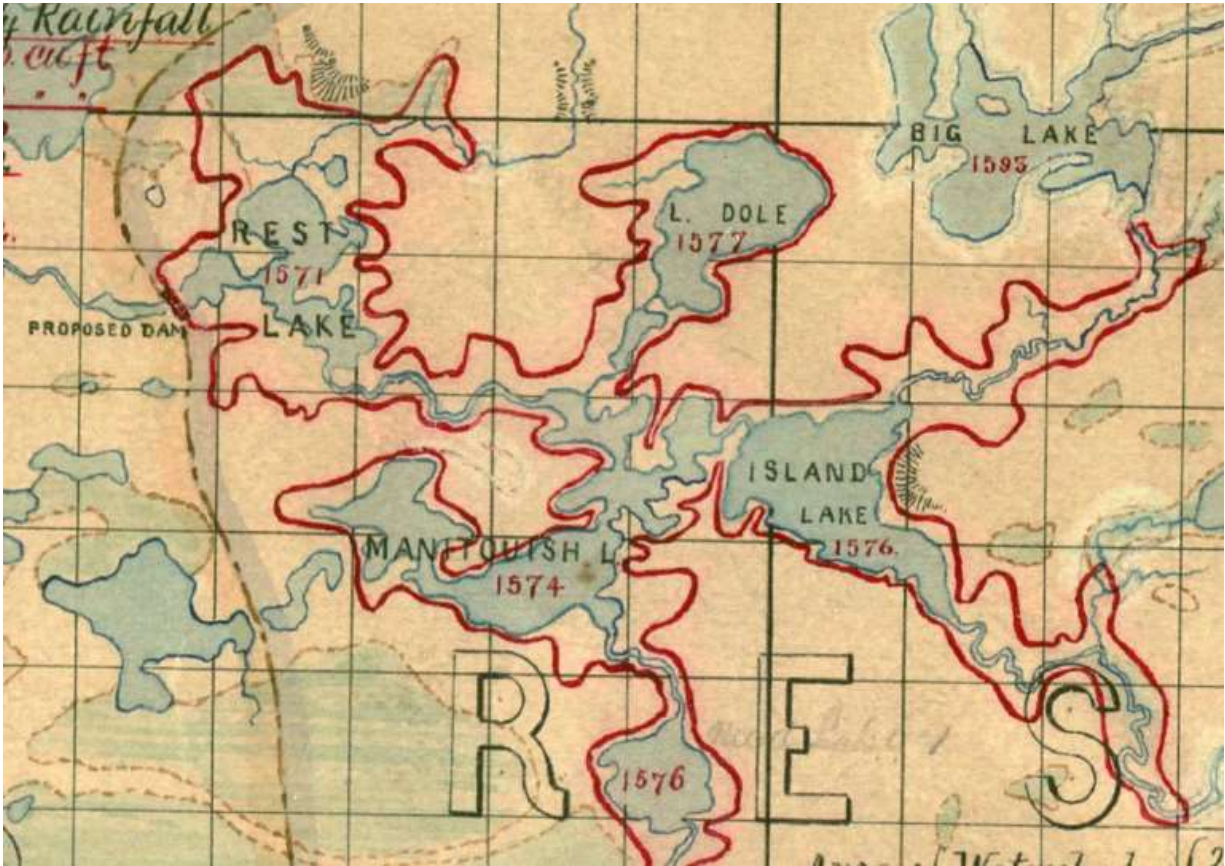
| | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 226 | | 227 |
| | Township 42 North | Range 5 East 4th Prin Mer |
| 64 | See Section 6 again | General Description |
| N 60 W | 3.00 Var. 6" 6' East | In the South part |
| N 68 E | 2.72 To meander post | of this Township there |
| | Between Sections | are two extensive |
| | 5 & 6. Banks high | marshes that are |
| | Timber Pine, Birch | entirely worthless. The |
| | & Aspen | remainder of the |
| | See Section 5 again | Township is dry and |
| 65 | Var. 6" 6' East | gently rolling. The |
| N 83 E | 3.60 To meander post | soil is sandy and poor |
| 66 | in Township | as is generally the |
| | line on East | case in pine timbered |
| | shore of Lake | tracts. There is in |
| | Banks high | this township a large |
| | Timber Birch | amount of pine timber |
| | & Aspen | much of which is |
| | Oct. 6th, 1862 | valuable and will |
| | | very soon be taken to |
| | | market by floating |
| | | down the streams |
| | | which are sufficiently |
| | | large and are well |
| | | adapted to the running |
| | | of lumber |

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



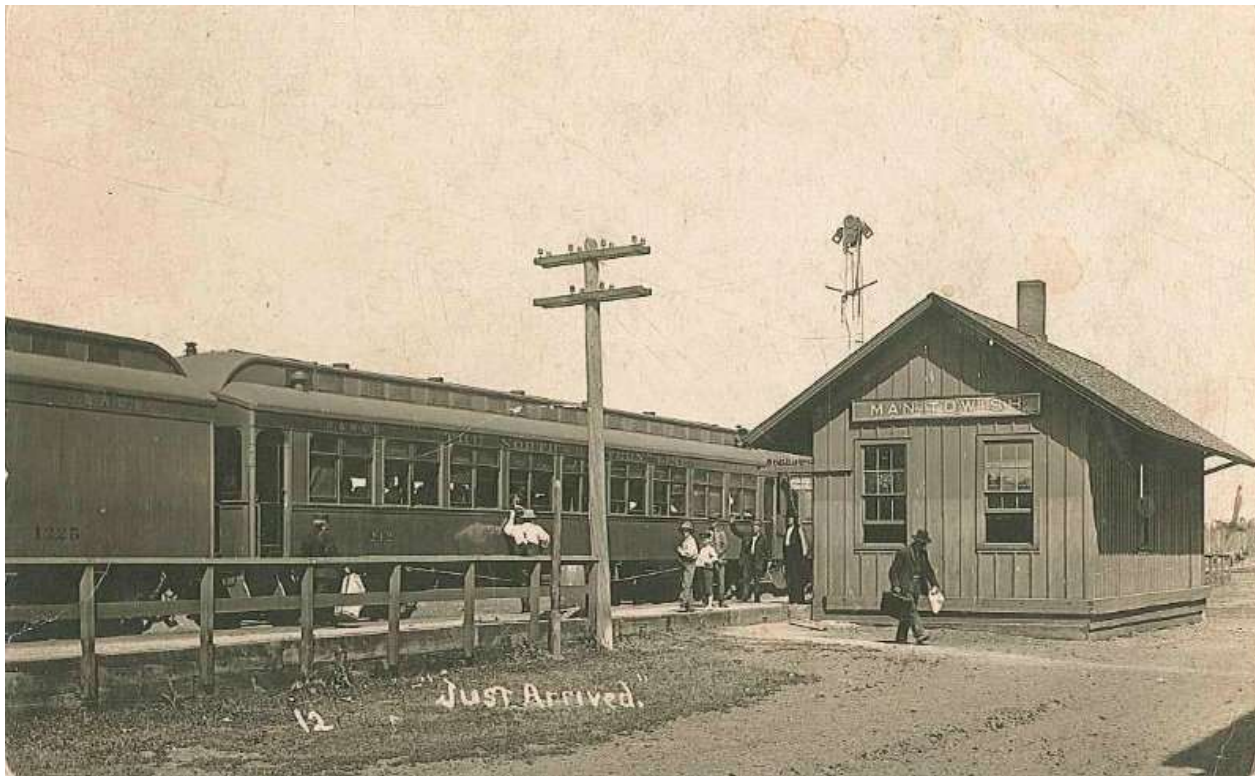
STARTING FOR THE WINTER CAMP,

Original and modern Water levels

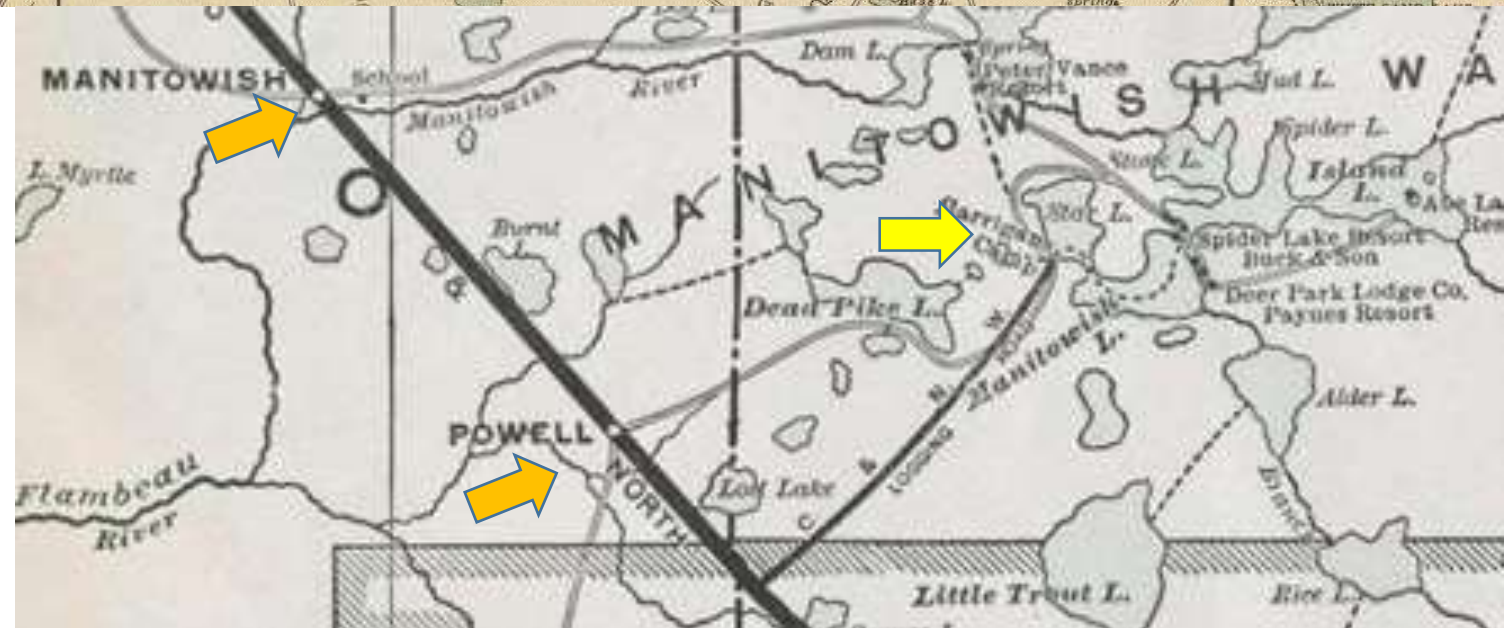
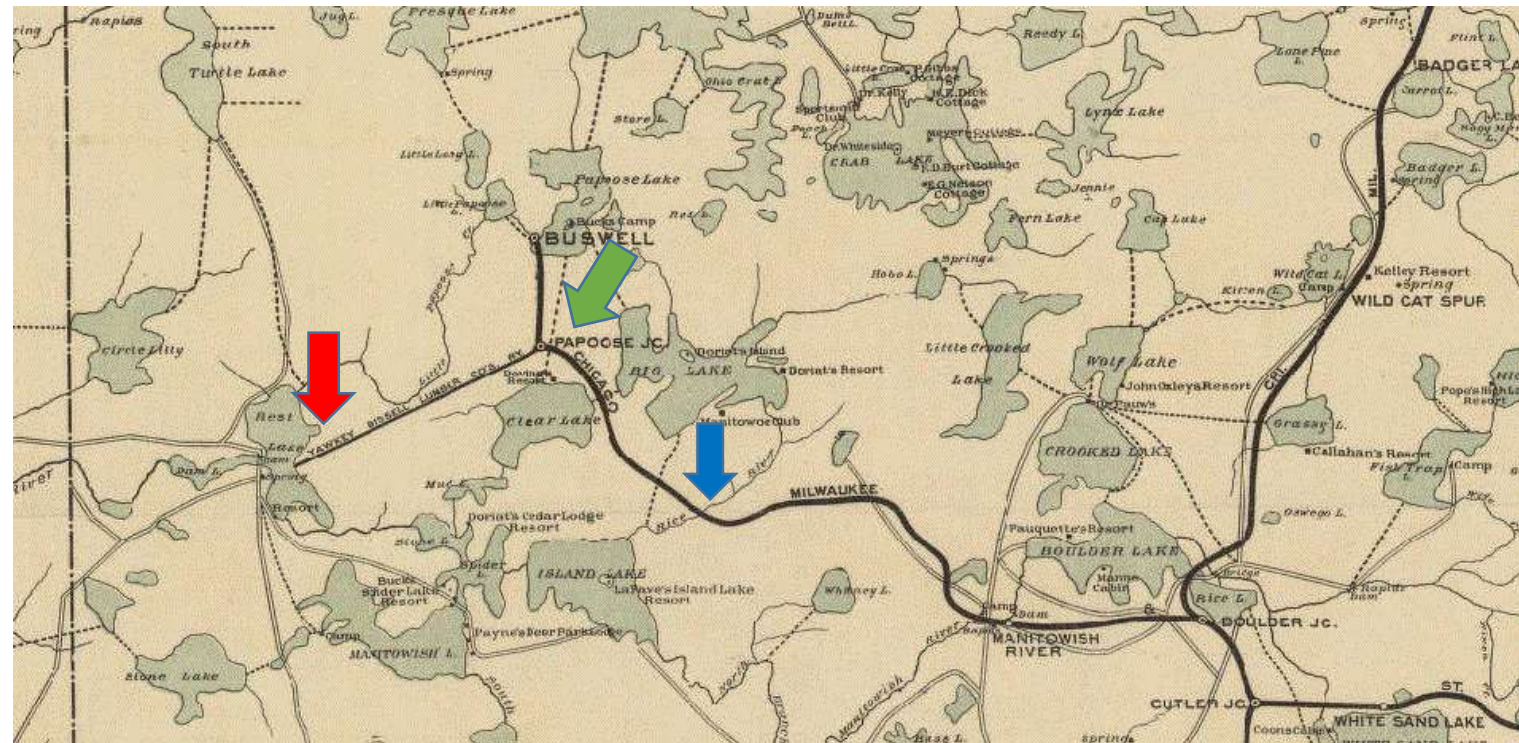


| Lake | Winter water | Summer water |
|-------------------|---|---|
| | depth to pre-dam or original shore line (measured in feet) based on a 3 foot drawdown from maximum summer levels. | depth to pre-dam or original shoreline (measured in feet) |
| Vance or Dam Lake | 0 | 0 |
| Rest Lake | 5.0 | 8.5 |
| Stone Lake | 2.3 | 5.3 |
| Fawn lake | 1.5 | 4.5 |
| Clear Lake | Below original shoreline | 1.5 |
| Spider Lake | 2.2 | 5.2 |
| Island Lake | .1 | 3.1 |
| Manitowish Lake | 2.2 | 5.2 |
| Little Star Lake | 2.2 | 5.2 |
| Alder Lake | .4 | 3.4 |
| Wild Rice Lake | Below original shoreline | 1.2 |

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.



1899 Railroad lines from Powell and Manitowish were later expanded to include Little Star(1900) , Clear, Rest Lakes and Rice Creek (1905)



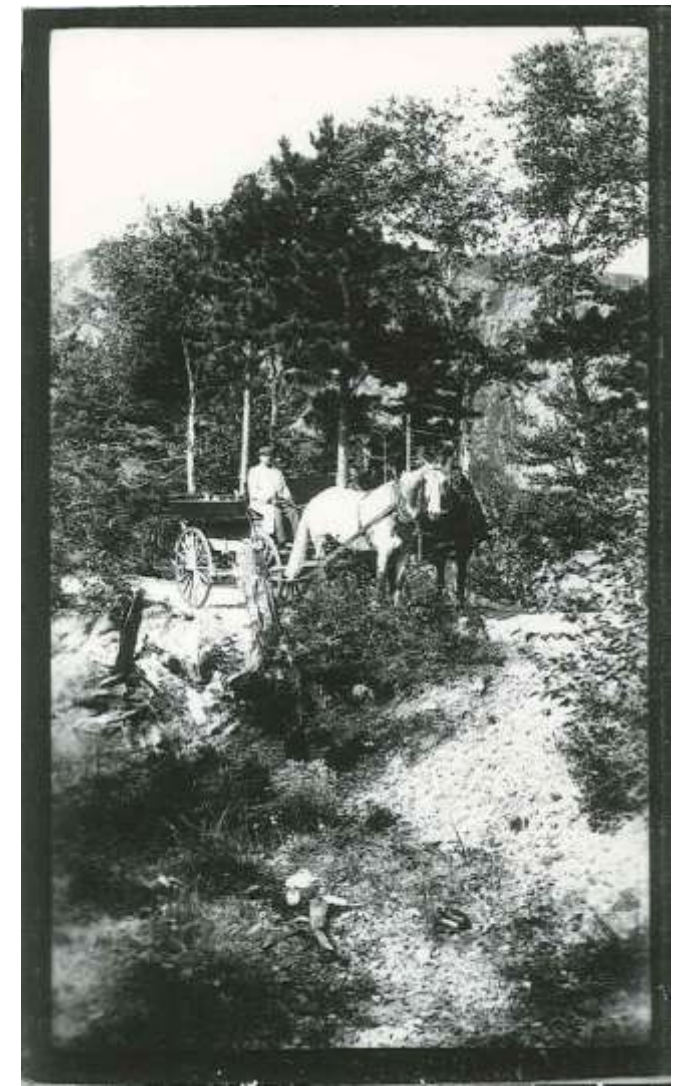
Milwaukee Road railroad depots at Rice Creek, Papoose and Big Lakes



Big Lake
Station
supported
rapid
development
of several
large estates
on Big Lake



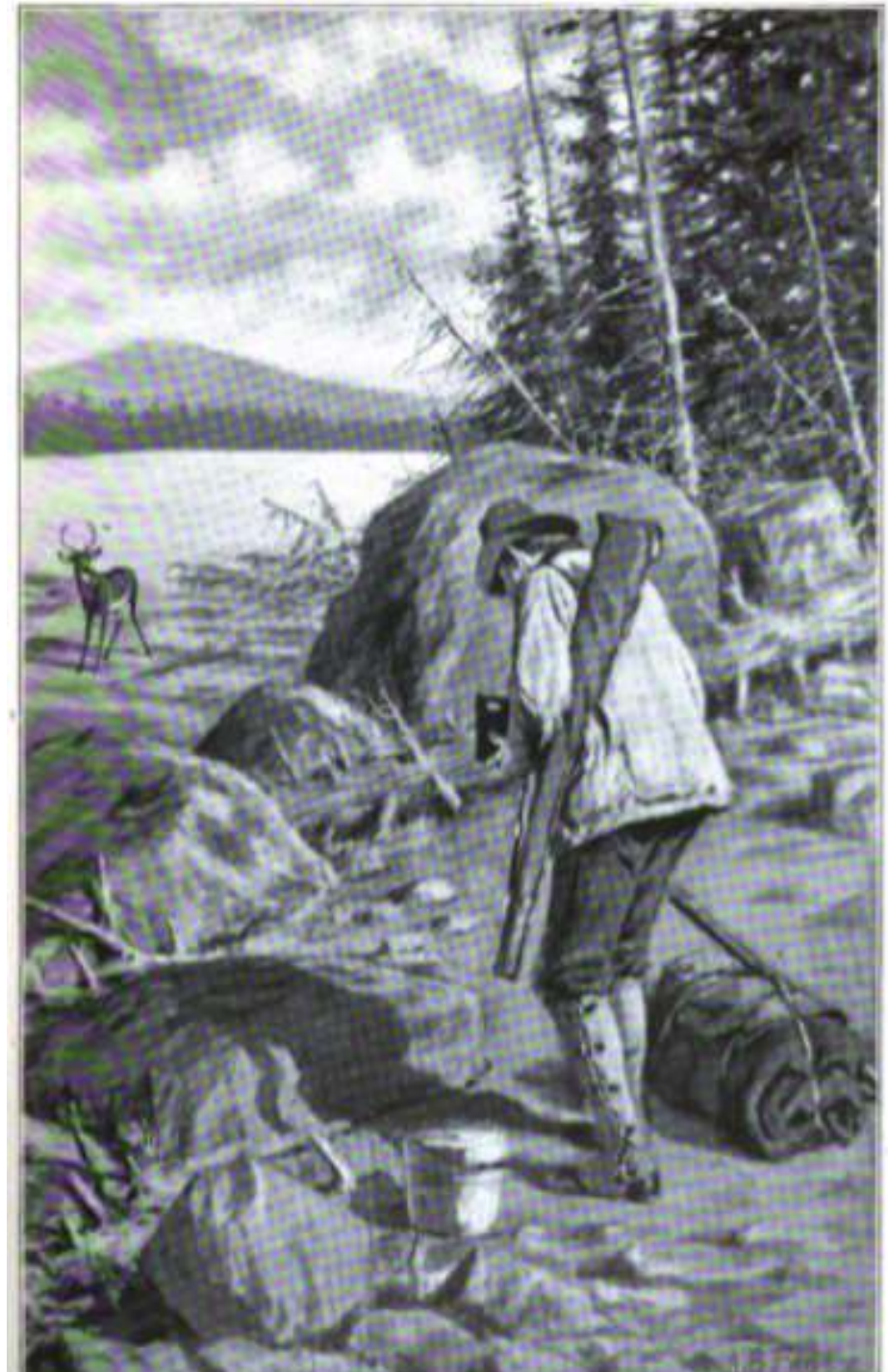
Wagons and stages were used to link railroads with the boat launches to deliver passengers and supplies to area resorts



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.

Outdoor enthusiasts from the cities sought wilderness adventure and used new railroad lines to access the Northwoods immediately. New outdoor publications soon followed documenting early sportsmen in the Northwoods.



Railroad stations of Manitowish, Stateline and Marenisco were used in the 1890's to access Big, Clear and Island Lakes



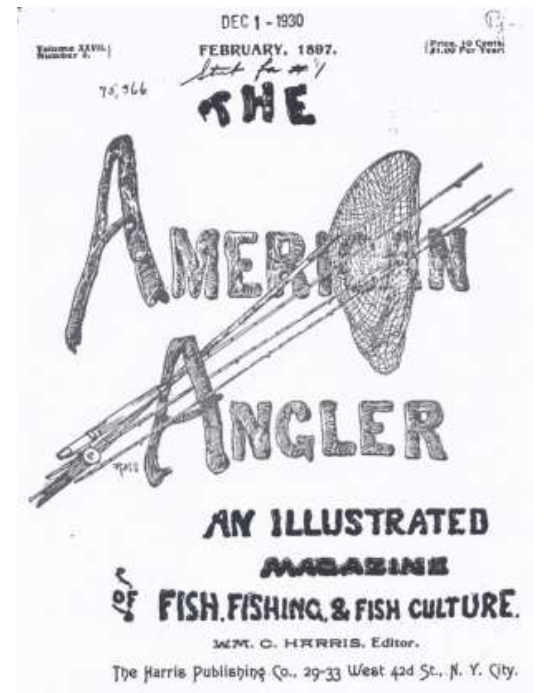
Birching in the Big Woods, 1890



In the heart of the Wild Woods, 1899

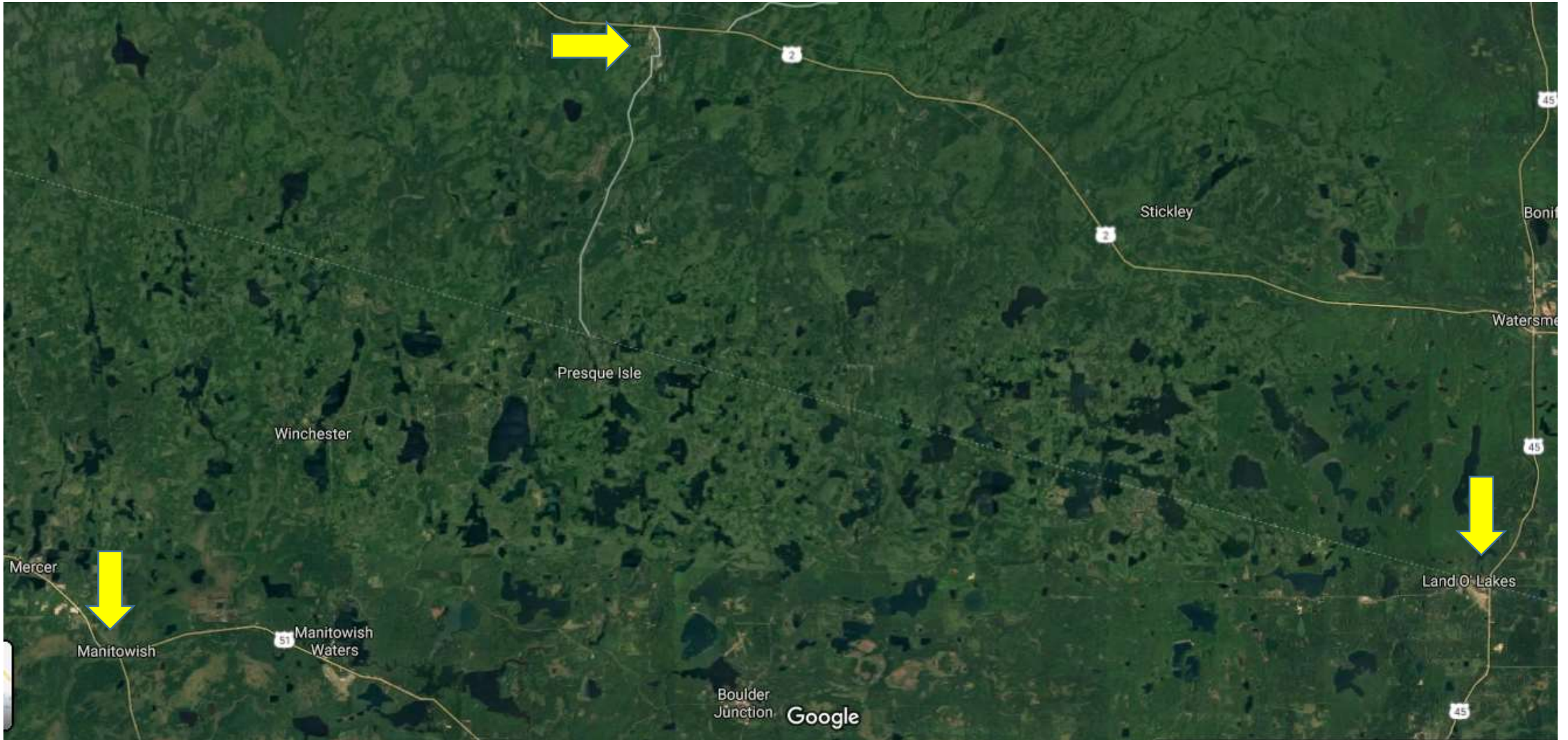


Four Weeks on Presque Isle Lakes, Wisconsin 1895



Presque Isle, Clear and Papoose Lakes, 1897

Early rail stops used by 1890's sportsmen accessing MW



Loveless Trip to Bear Lake via Big Lake c1895

i was guiding Mr Hughitte of the North western Railroad there was a nother guid by the Name of Ernest Frayback well wee talked the Party up to go to Little Bare lake for one Night now there was only to Men in the Party Dock Hammond of Chicago and Mr Hughitte of the Northwestern Railroad and wee 2 guides So frayback got them talked up to go to Little Bare lake and i Never been to this Before and Never went Since and i Dont think that frayBack had ever bin there as he got Lost and i folled him and was Lost with him well Ernest had a Birch Bark Canoe Some Smaller than mine as i had a Bark Canoe to my Canoe was 4 foot Beam well wee Started from Big lake and went up to Little Round lake to the inlet and went up the creek about a Mile and 1/2 and a trail Started out from here Rite in a Big Tamerack Swamp So wee Bulled our Canoes up out of the Creek here and Dock Hammond and Mr Hughitte took the trail

Forest and Stream Article 1895

From Pappoose Lake in a southeasterly direction lies Big Lake, a very irregular-shaped body of water, having lots of points setting out into it. It has very fine bass fishing in it. Rice Creek connects it with Little Crooked Lake. The creek must get its name from the amount of wild rice that grows there; it would be a great place for ducks, and in fact a great many come in there; but the Indians go in to get their supply of rice as soon as it is ripe enough, and they keep up such a racket that all ducks stay away until the Indians are through; then there is not much left for the fowl.

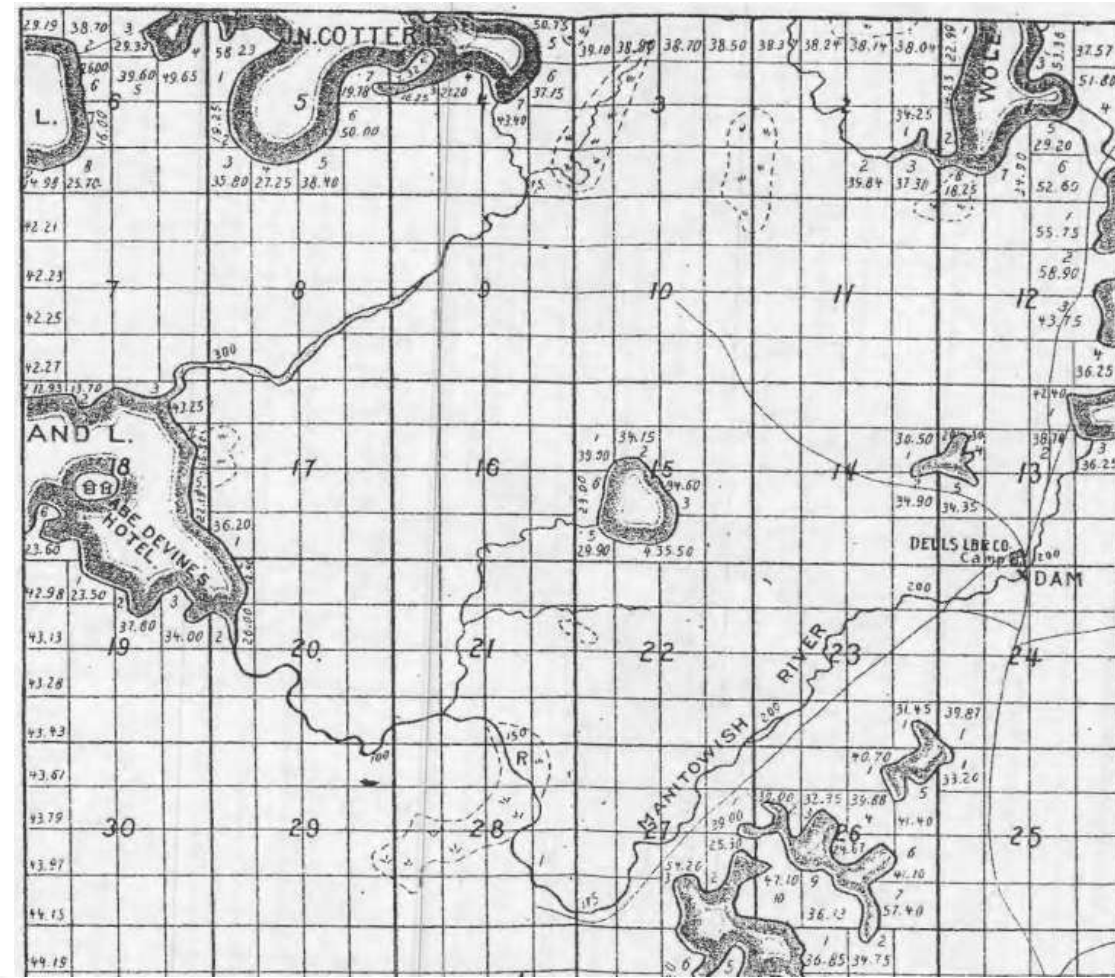
But the Indians do not stay in the lake in this

Forest and Stream Article 1899

We fish on the way, have tolerable luck, and after passing through Rest, Stone, Spider, Manitowish and Island lakes and about twenty miles of thoroughfares we are up against a high bluff, where Allen and I leave guides and boats, walk a trail about one-half mile in length, at the end of which Big Lake spreads itself before our delighted vision, unquestionably one of the most ideal camping locations in the entire State. In about half an hour the guides, having pushed through a narrow creek, appear with the boat, and we start across the lake to our camp.

--

Feats of strength by Pete Vance and Joe Lavigne as rowing guides 1899



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.

1890 Shields



Out of Big lake we ran Windfall creek, a crooked, rapid stream three miles long, badly obstructed by fallen timber, hidden rocks and shoals and overhanging brush. While polling along through one piece of it which looked clean, and which we thought was safe, we ran the birch high up on a sharp pointed rock that stood within three inches of the surface. A

hole was ripped in the boat's bottom large enough to permit a man's hand to pass through, and we had to work hard to reach shore, although it was only 40 feet away. The boat was half full of water when we landed, but fortunately our bedding and eatables were not seriously damaged. We hauled her up, built a fire, warmed the pitch pot, patched the rent with a piece of canvas, and were soon on our way again.

Clear Lake Mysteries



Dan Sr. (not pictured) and Kate Devine, first MW pioneers?



5-22 Devine Family - Clear Lake

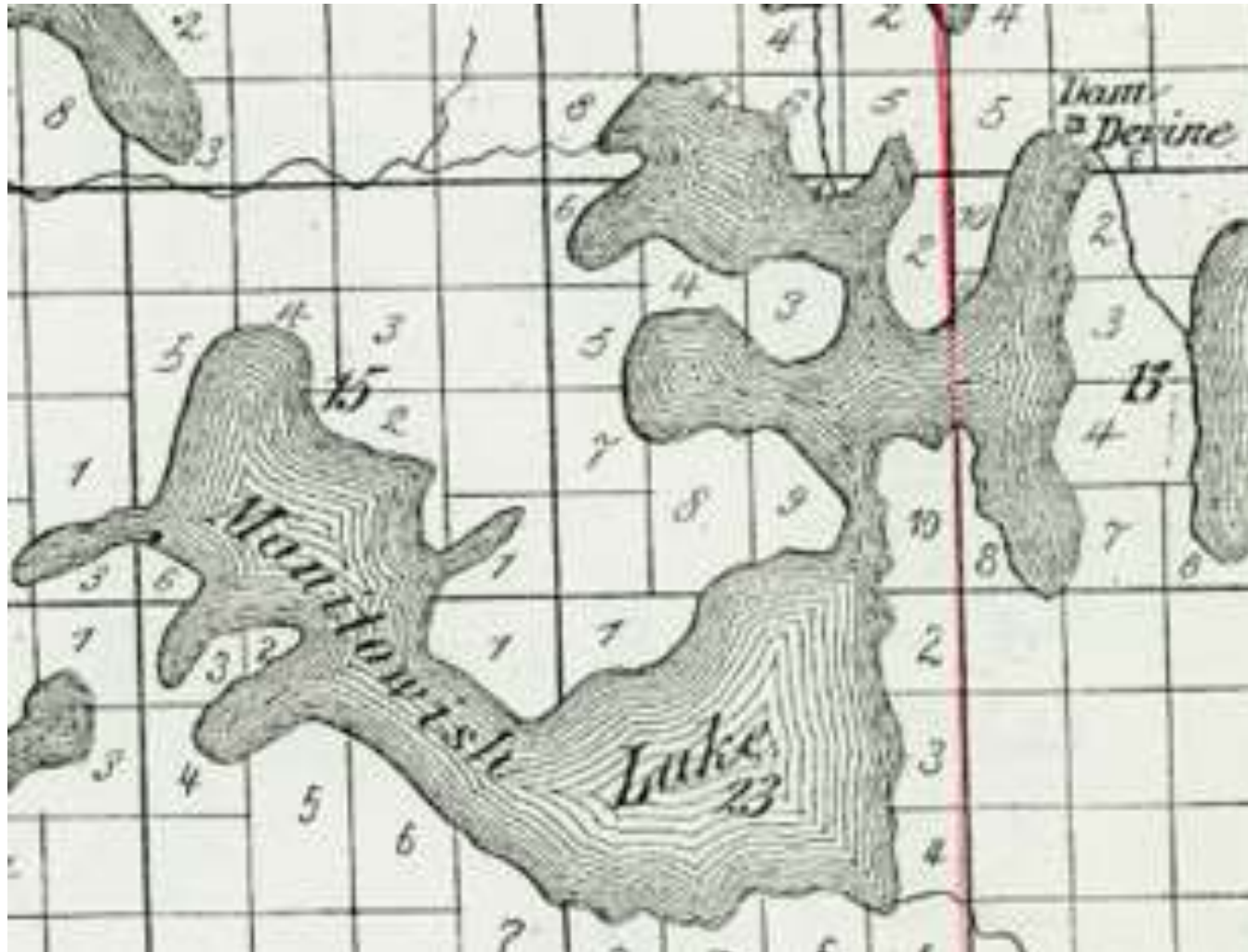
Non-Ojibwa trappers were only present after 1847 in
Lac Du Flambeau, many non native trappers also
acted as timber cruisers and guides



Mary Devine Haskins shared a great trapping story from her father's adventures

numerous, to snare one, one had to have a very strong trap. Mary tells of an incident when her father had baited a trap with maple sugar. In the morning on his visit to the several traps, he heard a horrible roar. Here was a baer on his back legs cursing and raving, vending all his fury on the trap in which he was caught. He was shot immediately and his skin was used as a fur robe. They still have the fur robe in their home.

Map of unknown date (c1876) of Spider Lake



1878 map shows possible evidence of Devine in MW during the 1870's. Why was Clear Lake named Lake Dole?



1899 visit to the Devine home on Clear Lake by hunters guided by Lavigne and Vance

thing more that morning. We followed the trail until we arrived at Clear Lake, worked the shore line thoroughly, and at noon we brought up at Pat Devine's shack. Pat is a pensioner of the Government and has lived on his Clear Lake clearing for twenty years, and he now has a deed from Uncle Sam for his 160-acre tract. There are only about five or six acres cleared, on which his squaw (Pat married an Indian of the Chippewa tribe) and children raise potatoes and vegetables, and Pat, in imitation of his brothers-in-law, furnishes fish or game—if he feels like it, but generally he does not feel like it. There is a family of four children; the eldest—a daughter—is handsome. She was educated at an Indian school, and I am informed has been fitted for a position of teacher, the duties of which she is to assume next week, at the Indian school on the reservation at Lac de Flambeau.

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...

Dan & Kate Devine arrived in Manitowish Waters about 1878

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, engenuity 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.

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

Seeing an opportunity to further his economic 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 scanty when one realizes how far he had to go to bring it to his post. Wausau and Fifiield 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 Deivine's first trading post about 1885



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, $1\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

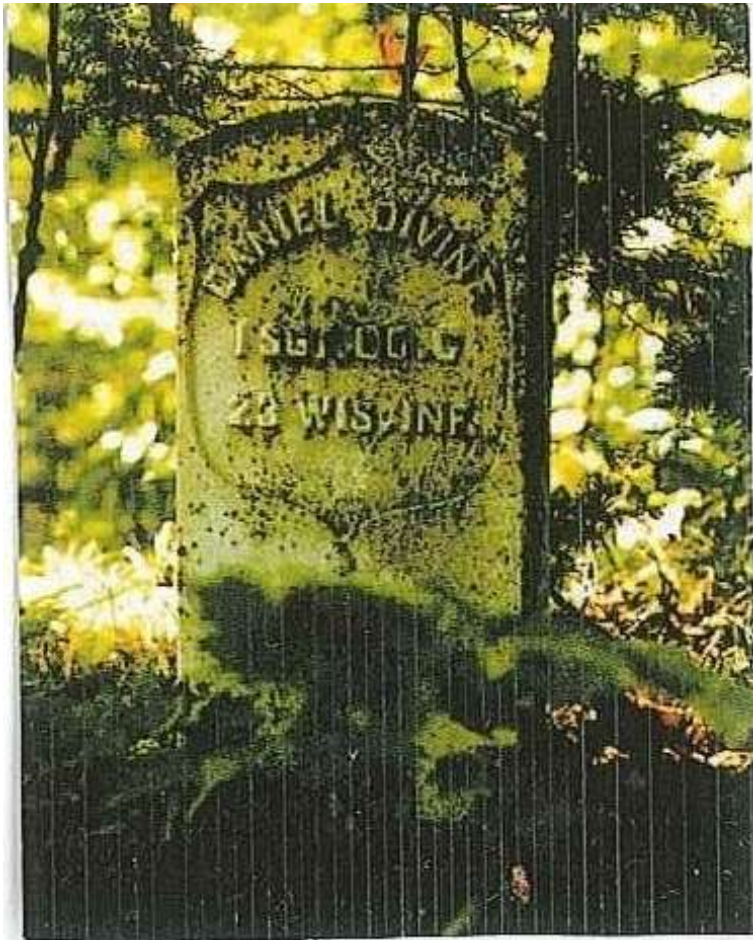
Devine cabin (left) on Clear Lake ultimately becomes the family homestead, currently Haskin's Road off of Hwy K



Devine's property was ravaged by fires (1910) and a tornado in 1926

many of the buildings which had been built on the property. Forest fires too had its share in the destruction. Mary tells how her mother would hurry the children down to the lake front when the smoke became too thick and the fire threatening, wrap them up in blankets soaked in the lake.

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



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

June 6, 1910

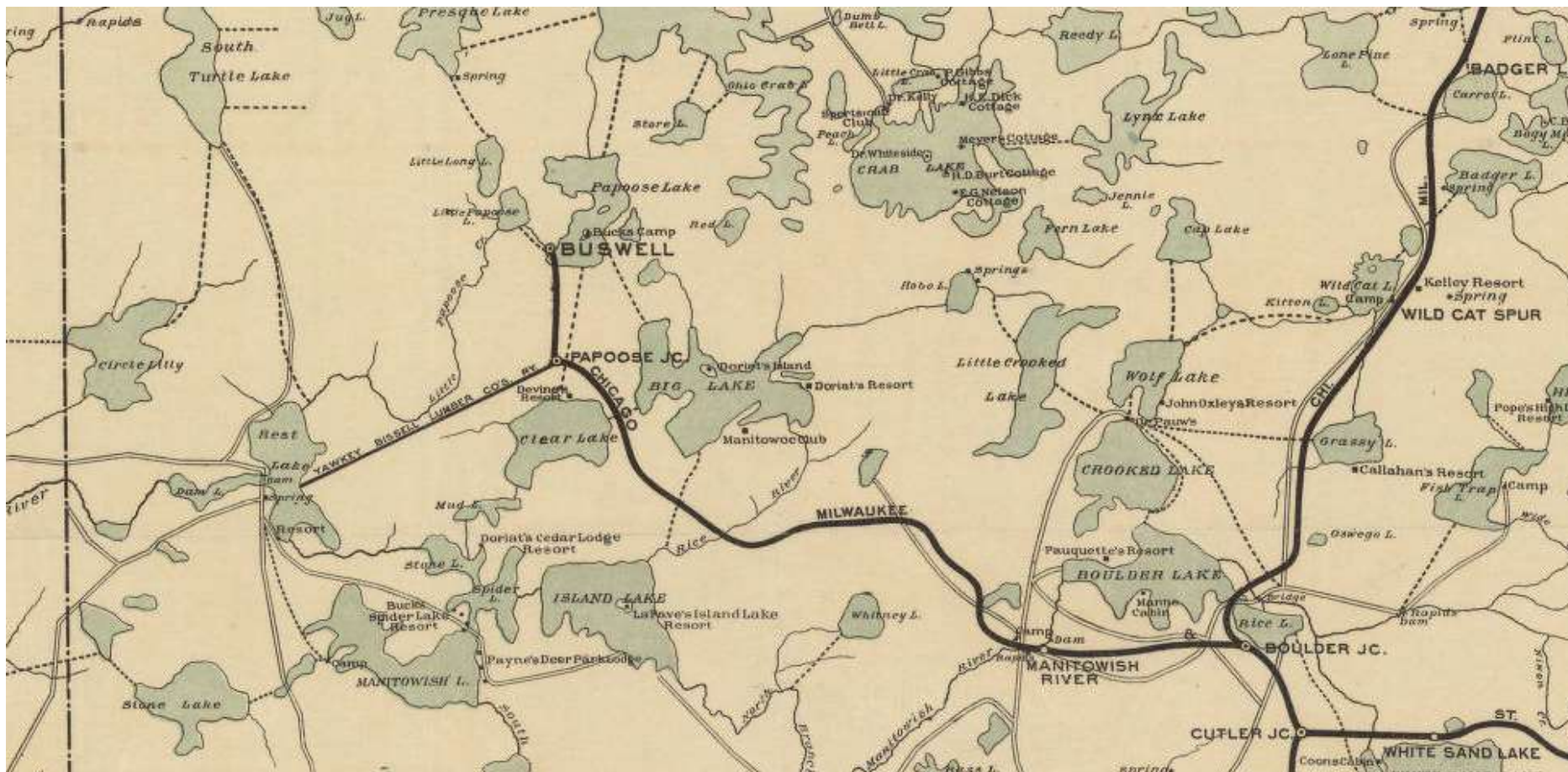
Star Lake--Buswell.

| | 401 | Mls. | Table 87 | 402 | |
|-------|-------|------|-------------------|-----|------|
| | AM | | | PM | |
| ----- | 11.30 | 0 | Lv. Star Lake | Ar | 2.55 |
| ----- | 11.40 | 2.6 | Ar. Bailard Lake | Lv | 2.40 |
| ----- | 11.53 | 6.1 | " White Sand Lake | " | 2.25 |
| ----- | 12.06 | 9.4 | " Cutler Jct. | " | 2.10 |
| ----- | 12.14 | 10.9 | " Boulder Jct. | " | 2.02 |
| ----- | 12.24 | 13.3 | " Oxley | " | 1.52 |
| ----- | 12.44 | 18.3 | " Rice Creek | " | 1.32 |
| ----- | 12.55 | 21.1 | " Papoose Jct. | " | 1.20 |
| ----- | 1.00 | 22.3 | Ar. Buswell | Lv† | 1.15 |
| | PM | | | PM | |

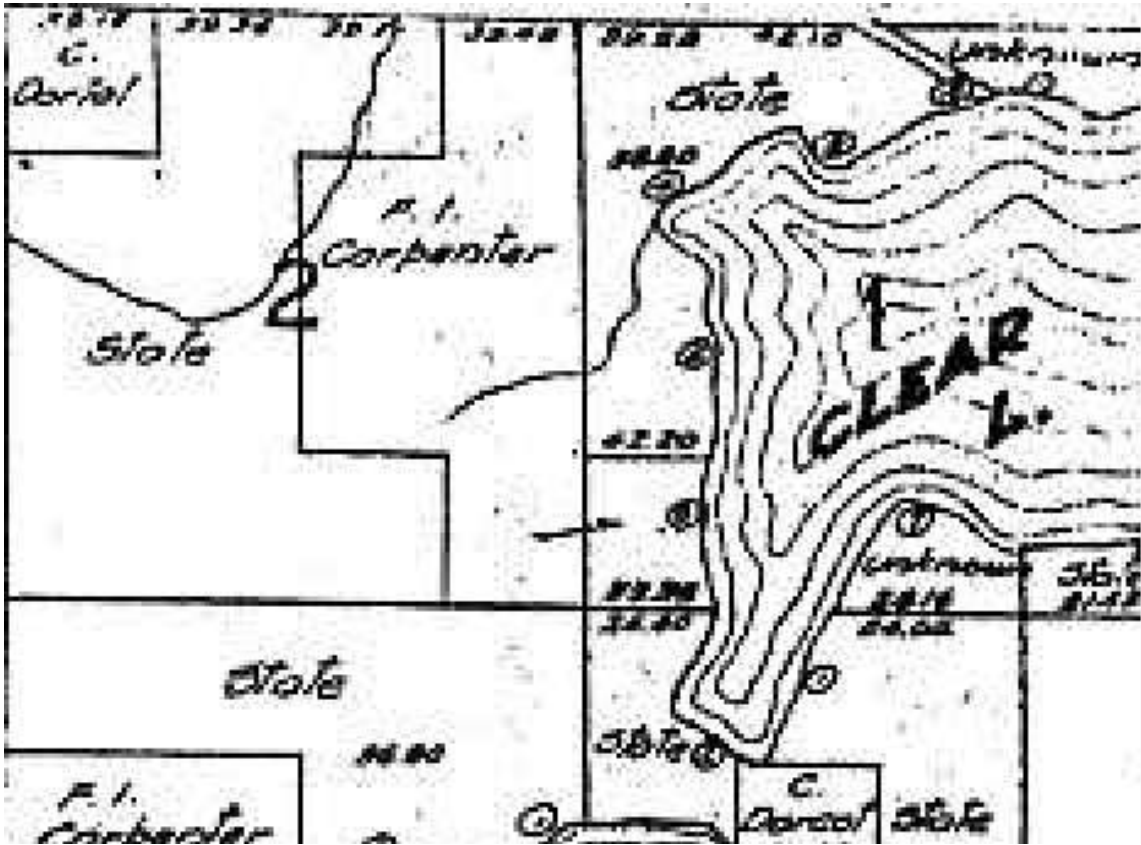
All branch line trains are mixed trains.
d Runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only. f Fridays only. k Satur-
days only. § Sundays only. † Daily except Saturdays.



1909 map illustrating Devine's resort



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

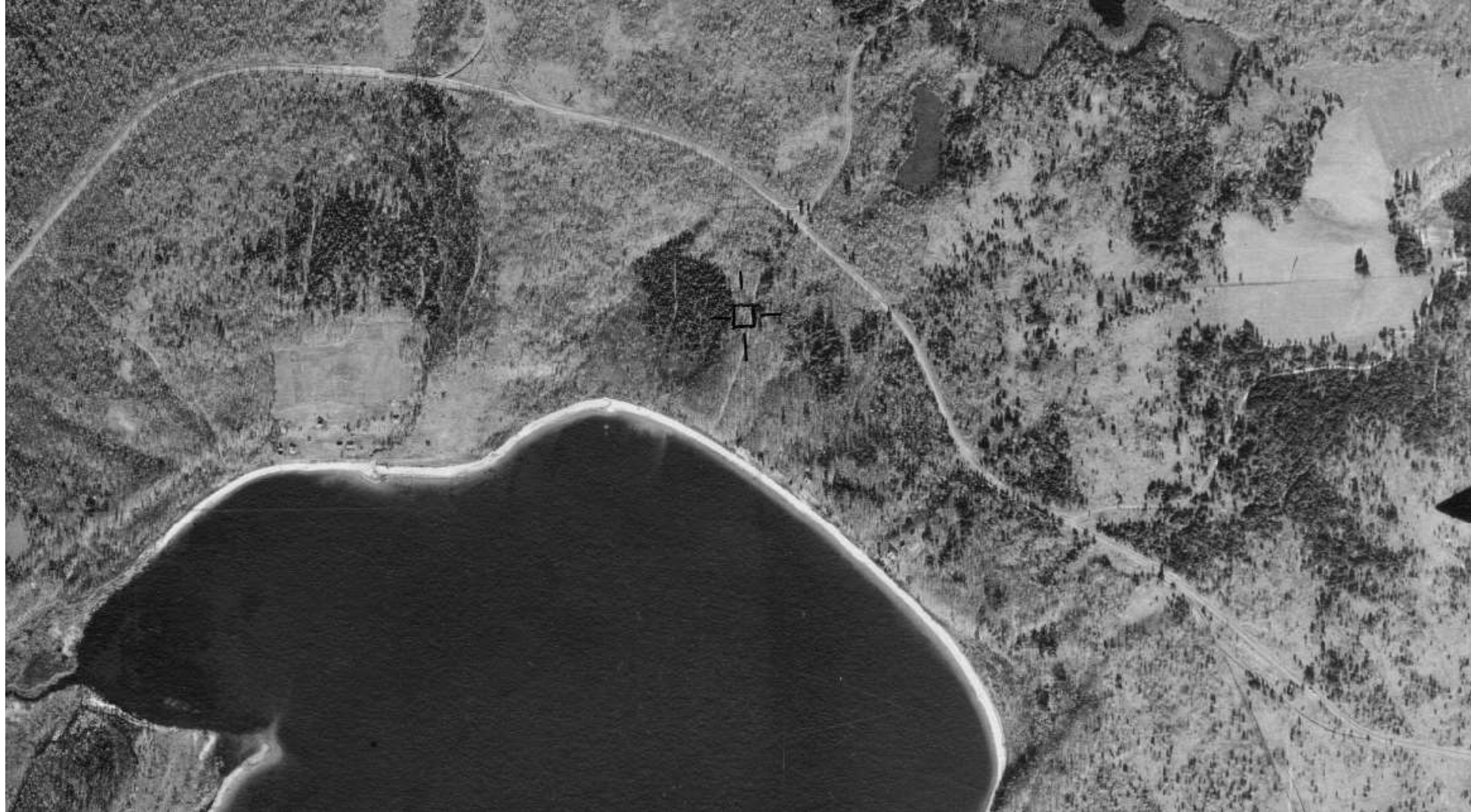


Resident's and visitors sometimes criticized the Devine's and their Ojibwa heritage. Their service as veterans would be remarkable in any era of U.S. History!

What was the service history of the Devine brothers?

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.

1937 Air photo of Devine's resort and Keith's Farm



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.



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 rang 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 ~~40s~~ 40's. 60's.

1918 Maps and Images from Outer's Magazine

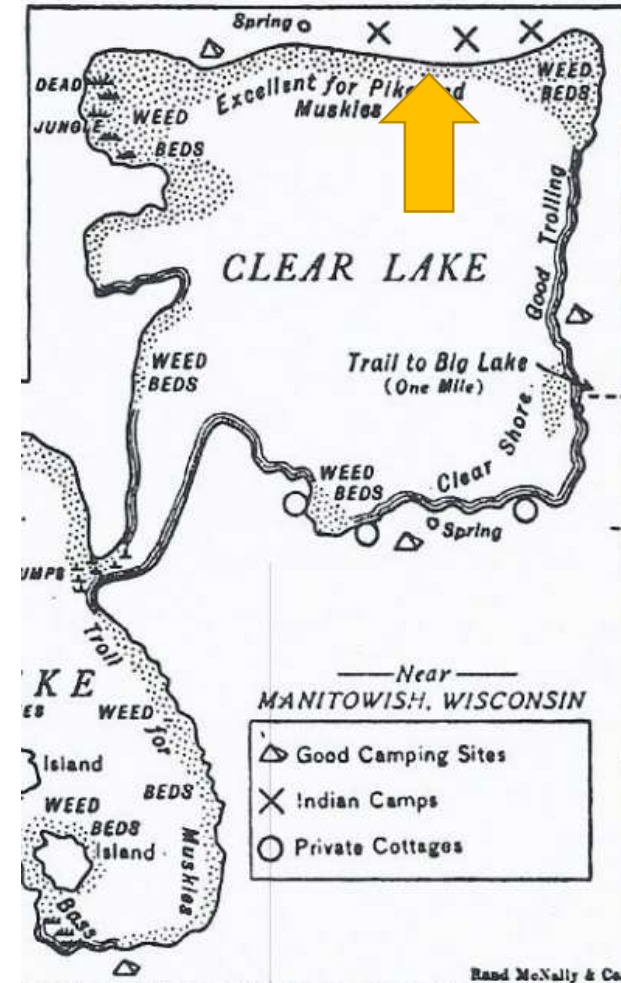


Pretty good for bass tackle with no gun or gaff

In 1918 the Devine's operated a resort and trading post each identified in Outer's Maps



Location of fishing grounds in Rest Lake

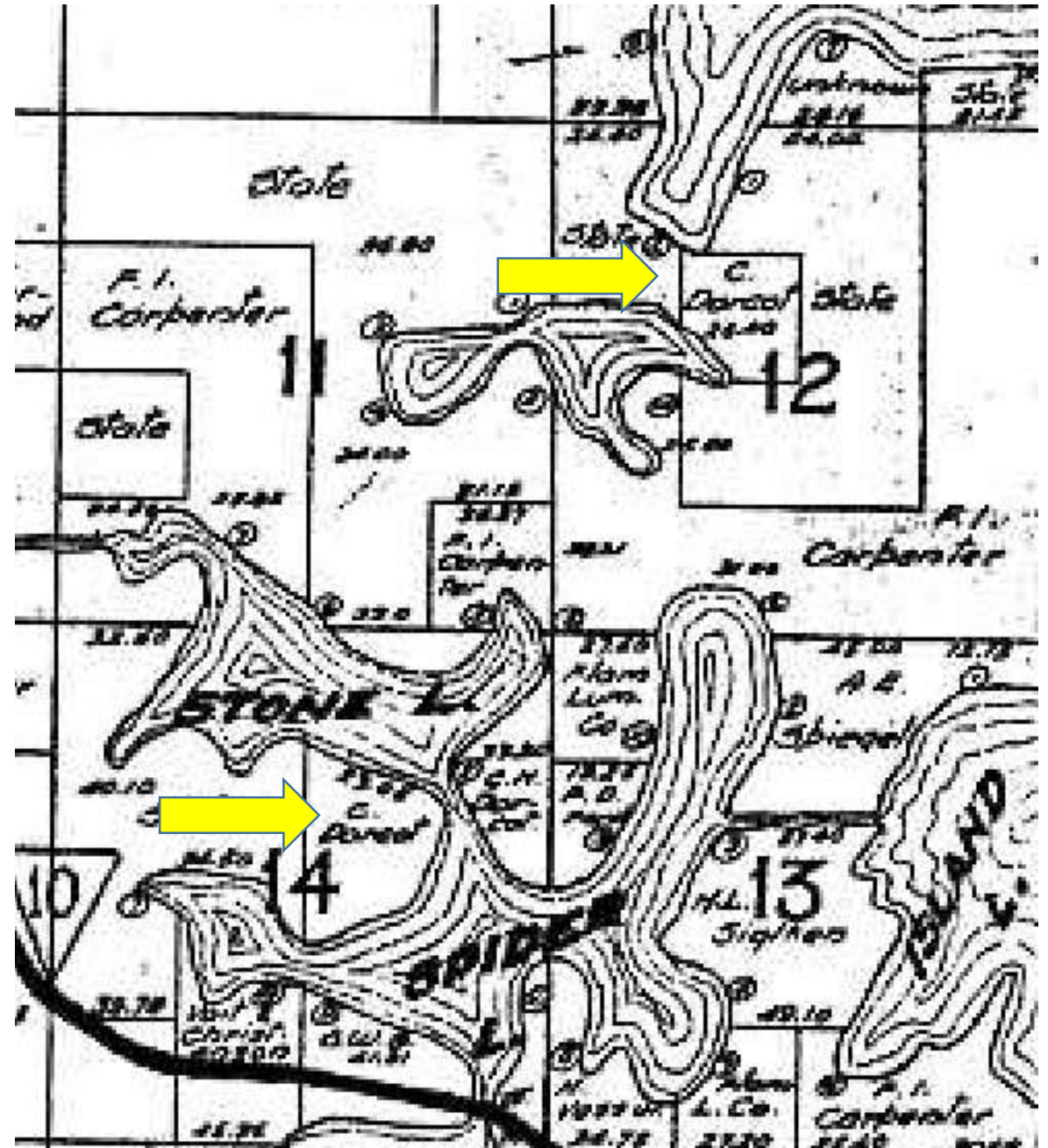


MW Mystery regarding the operation of the “Factor’s” Indian Camp on Rest Lake...the decline of the camp in 1918 may have been due to 6 of the Devine’s service in WWI

is one, McCabe Lake, not shown on the lake region maps, but about a quarter of a mile from the central west shore of Rest Lake, just west from the Indian Camp (where the Indian Trading & Outfitting Co. benevolently furnish the North Woods visitor with everything he wants, sometimes for less than it costs them),



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





Housekeeping Cottages fully equipped . . . modern

Screened porches . . . innerspring mattresses . . . bottled gas . . . oil heat
 . . . running water . . . good boats . . . sand beach . . . Mosquito control

.. for

A restful and invigorating vacation,
 come to

"QUO VADIS"

Nestled among the pines on the shores of beautiful Clear Lake . .
 headwaters of the famous Manitowish chain of fourteen lakes



.. for

Thrills . . . fish in the famous "Quo Vadis Bay," favorite fishing grounds of the chain,
 where muskies and walleyes abound.

Reasonable rates by the week,
 month or season.

June 18 - September 10

Special rates out of season.

OPEN
 MAY 15 to OCT 15

Cabins in the pines
 Clear Lake.



The log cabin with screen porch on south shore of Clear Lake, Manitowish Waters, Wis. Taken about 1956, note 1956 Oldsmobile car.

Rintelman's Map

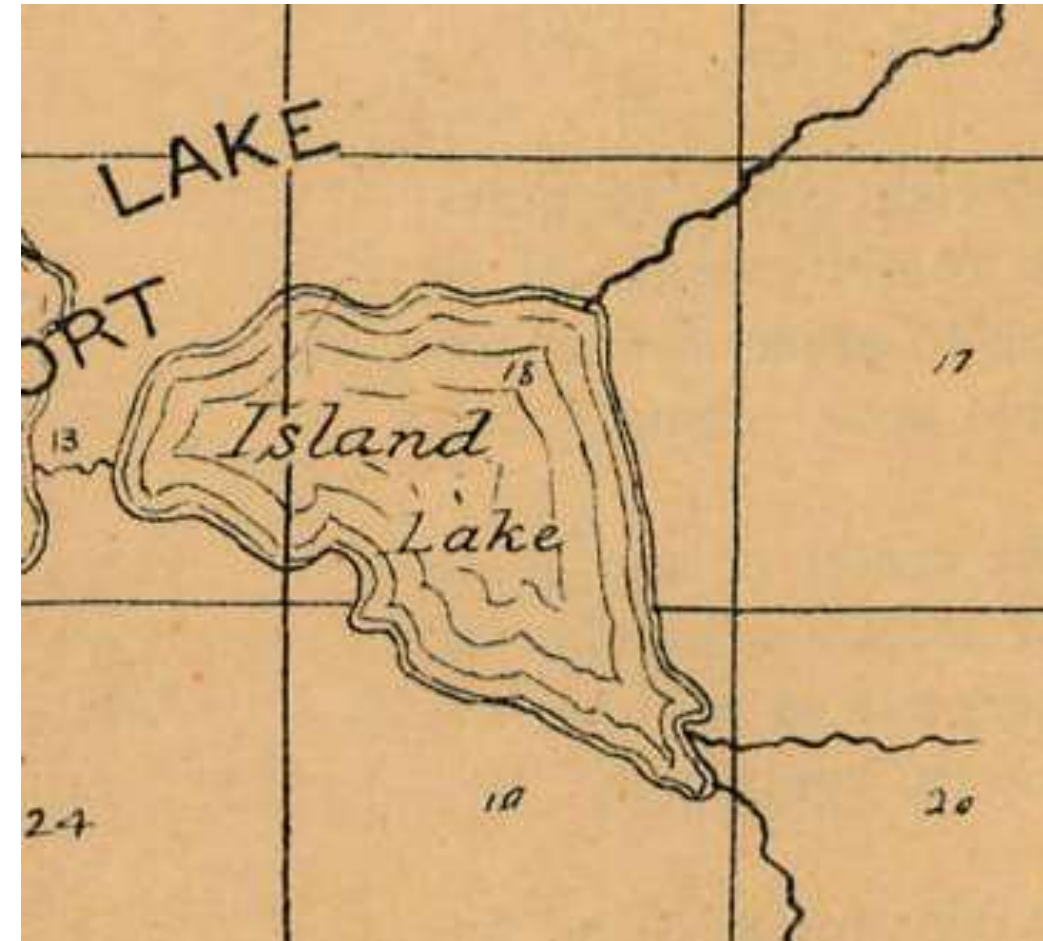


MWHS Lacking documentation?



5-18 Mrs. Mrs. S. Ogle - Clear Lake Grocery

Island Lake Mysteries



Island Lake channel after the cutover

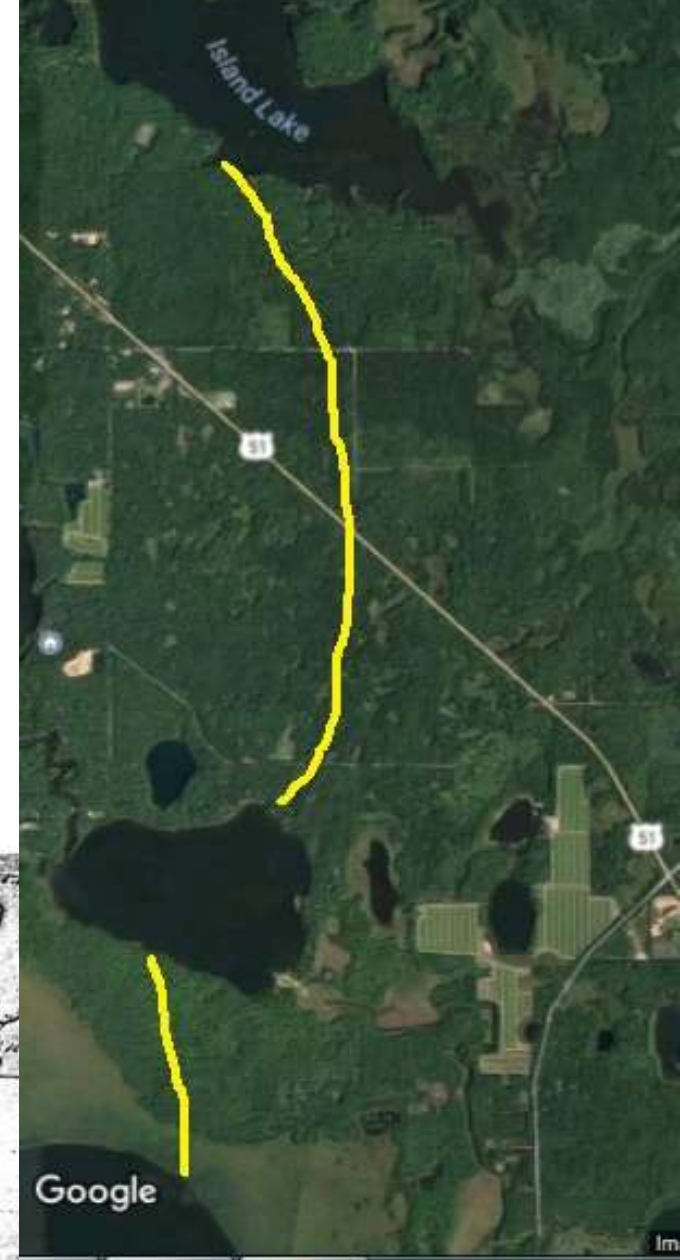
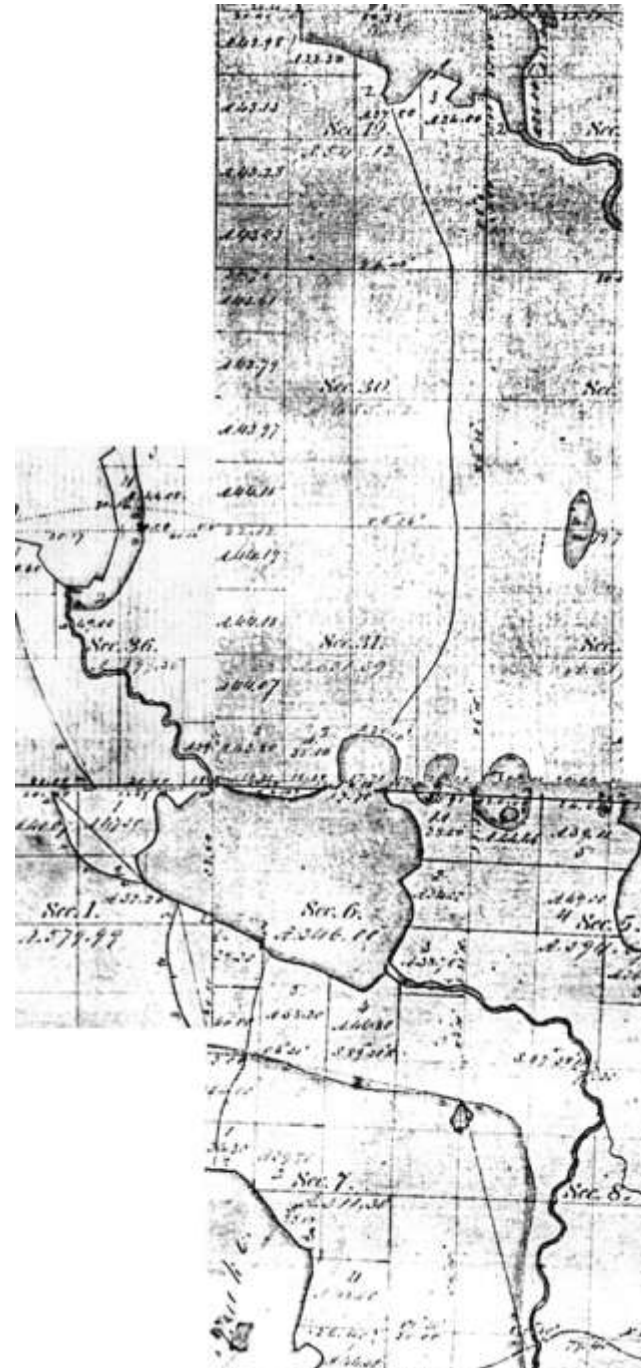


Early 20th Century image of the outlet of the Manitowish River on Island Lake

Lakeside view of
the trailhead on
Island Lake



1862 original
survey map of
Island, Wild Rice
and Ike Walton
Lakes and a
modern map
with American
Indian trails



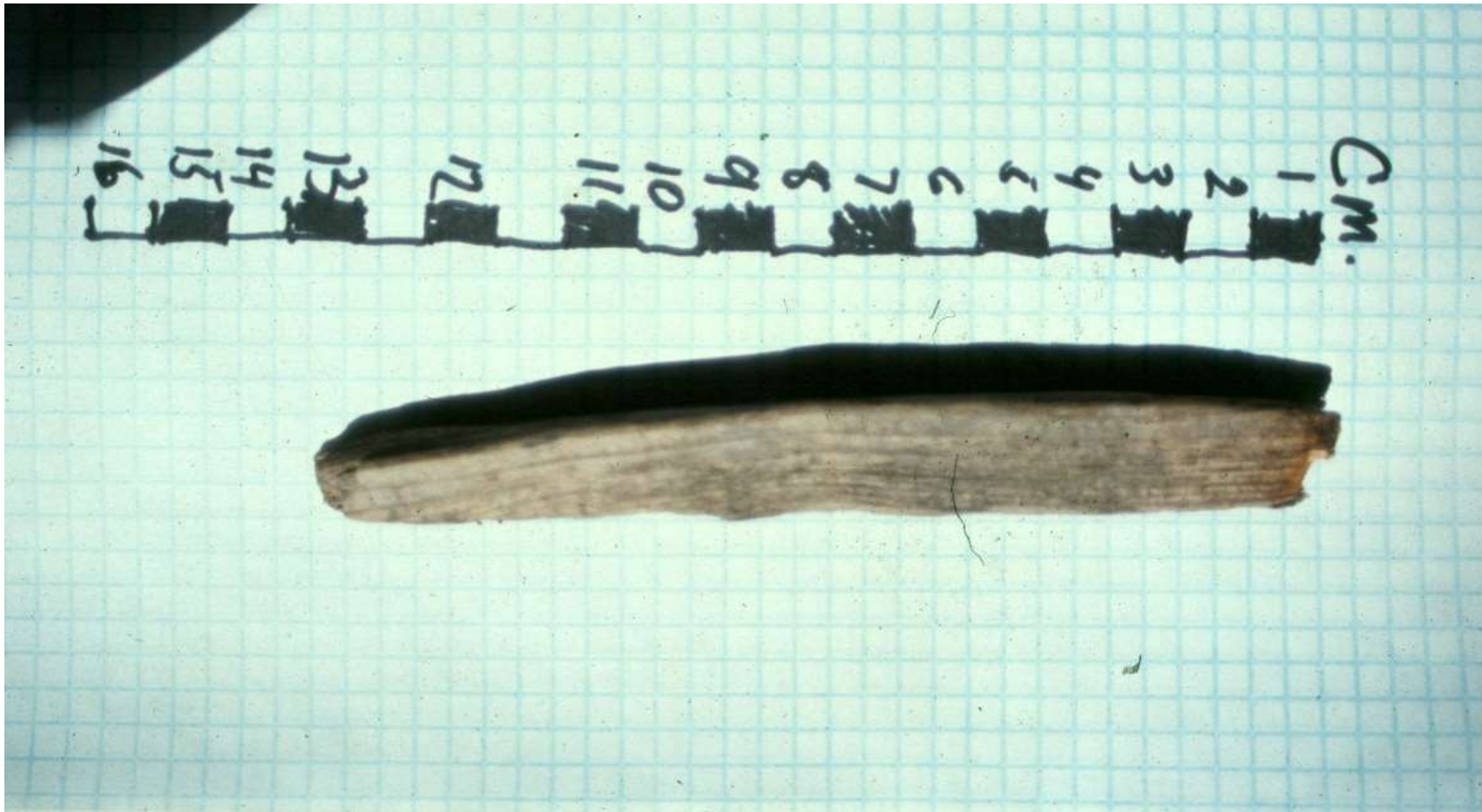
Sugarbush on Island Lake the termination of the trail?



Seth Eastman picture of Ojibwa sugar camp



Ojibwa Spile found in a tree stump



Ojibwa Spile from Island Lake

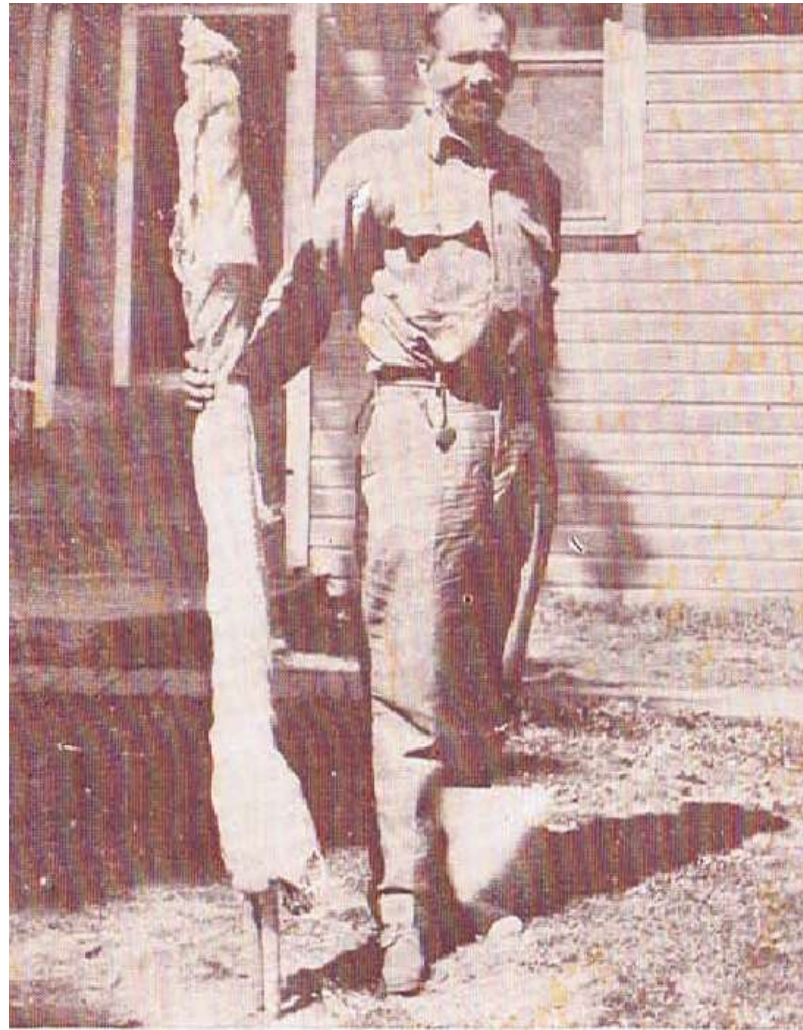


Massive maple from
Island Lake Sugarbush





Abe and Sarah LaFave start date for the resort/camp
1888? Full time resort 1895?



ABE LAFAVE, PROPRIETOR



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 them 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

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. 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.

Kleckner W W, Railroad and Express Agent.

Le Fave A, boat livery.

Manitowish House, H Fouks propr.

Murry House, Wm Johnston propr.

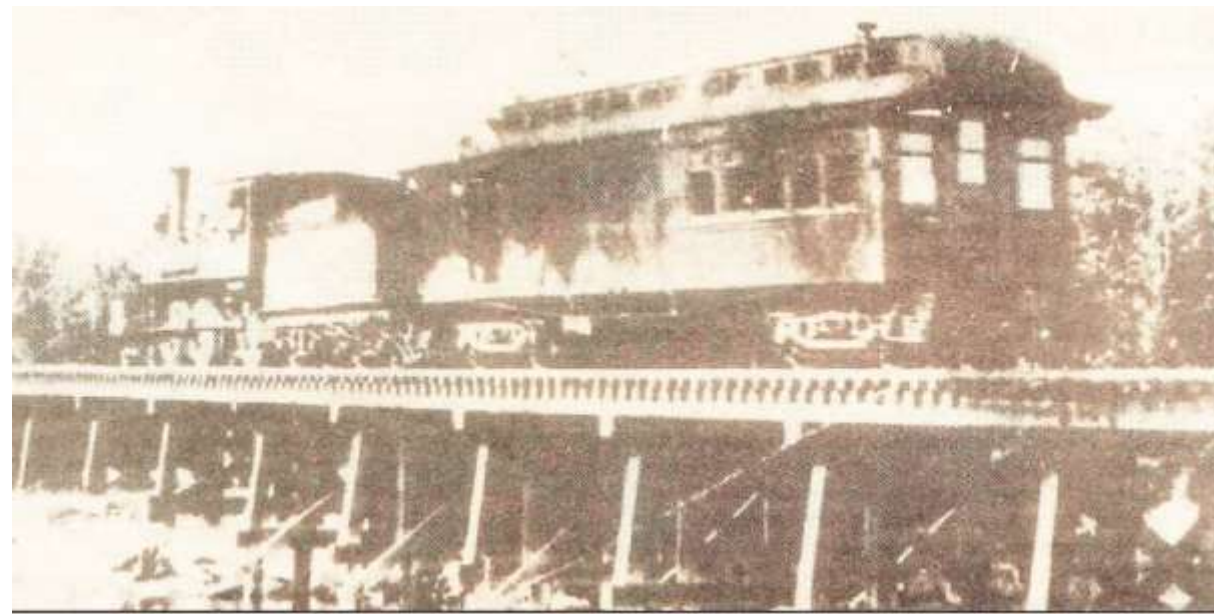
Riverside House, P Vance propr.

Staples E & H, lumber and shingle mill.

Vance P, propr Riverside House.

Vaughn E, boat livery.

Train engine and
passenger car
crossing Rice Creek,
and a hoist that
would be similar to
the logging hoist
used at Rice Creek.



Possible logging slide/landing used by LaFave's and logging companies



2 logging camps marked by high trees (yellow arrows)
Do not confuse with golf course and estate (red arrow)



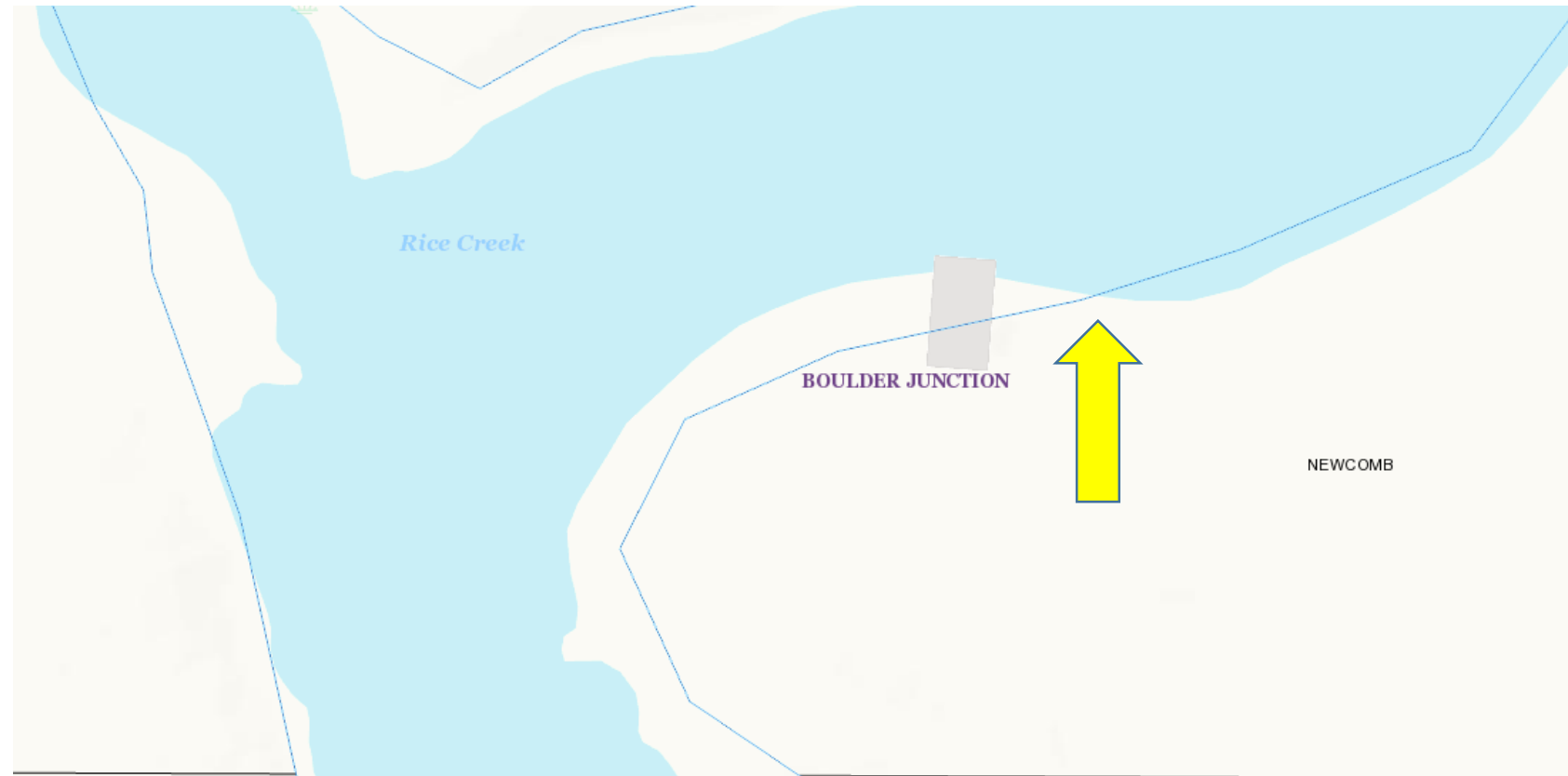
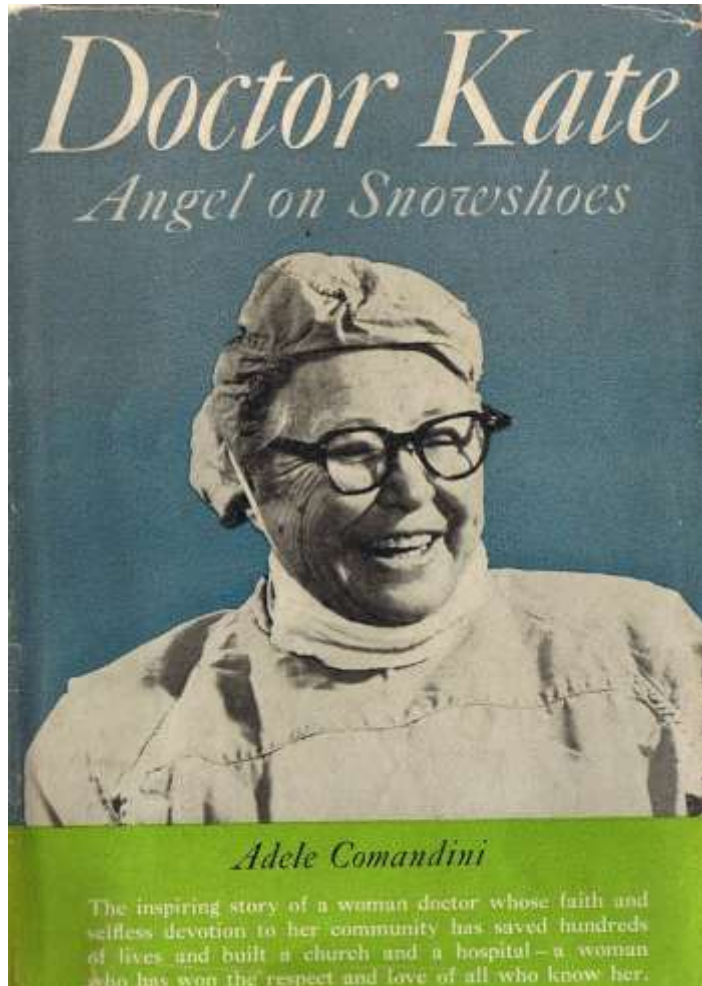
Example of Northwoods Logging Camp



Rice Creek Rail Stop on what will become the Dr. Kate Newcomb's property and Dr. Kate's Summer sanitarium



Dr. Kate and her husband moved to Rice Creek to help Mr. Newcomb recover from an industrial accident. Additionally, she ran a summer sanatorium to help others with medical challenges.



Abe LaFave and his famous Island Lake resort



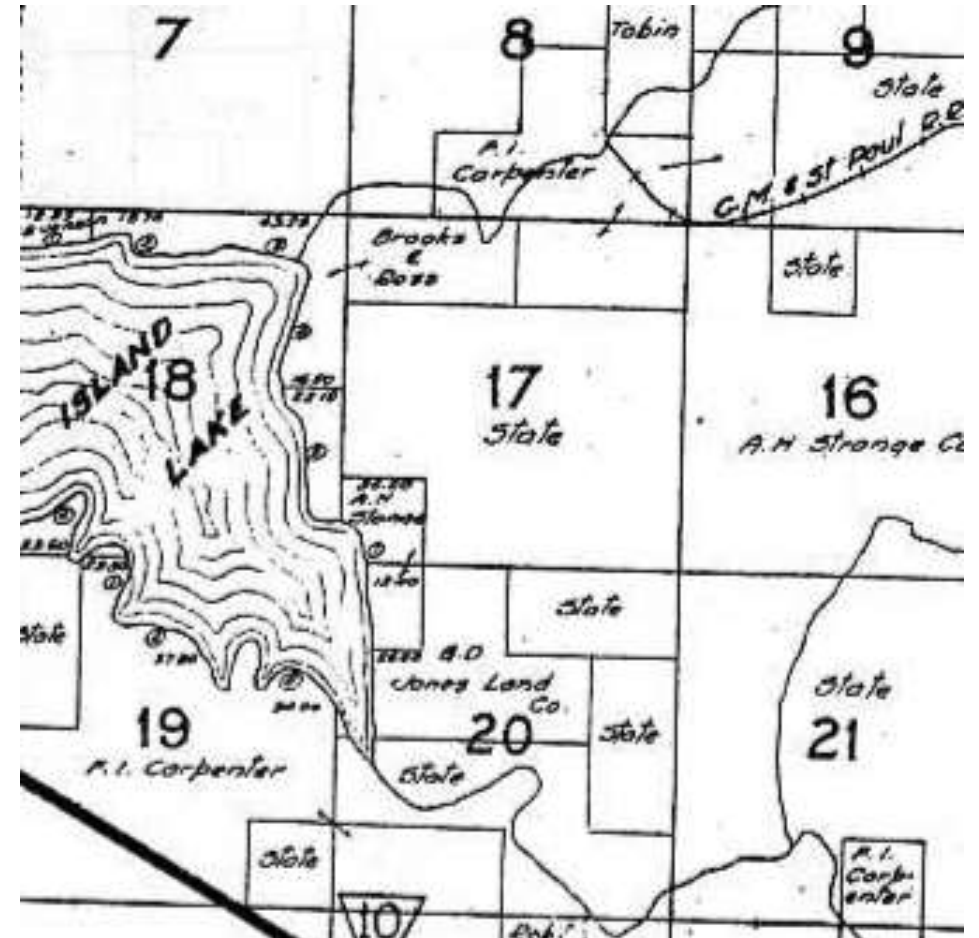
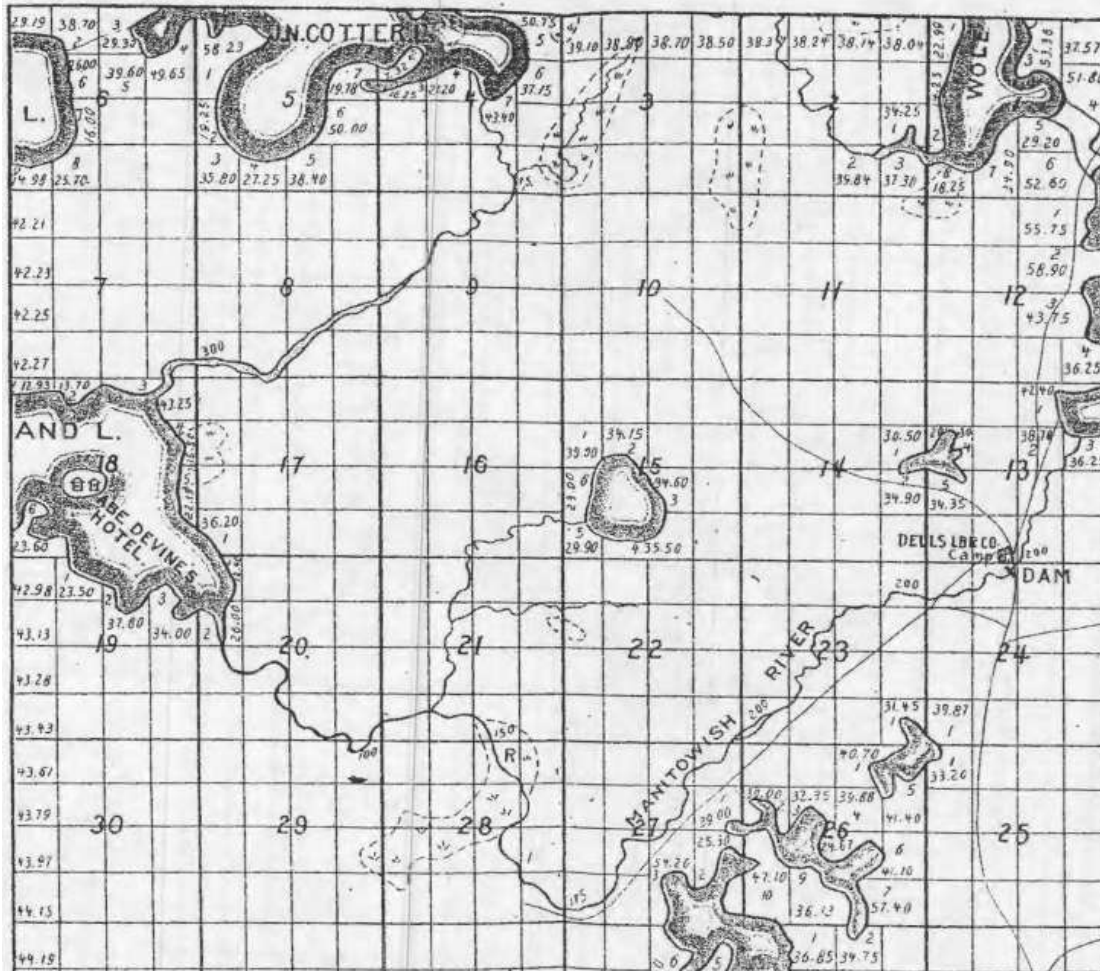
The interior of LaFave's resort



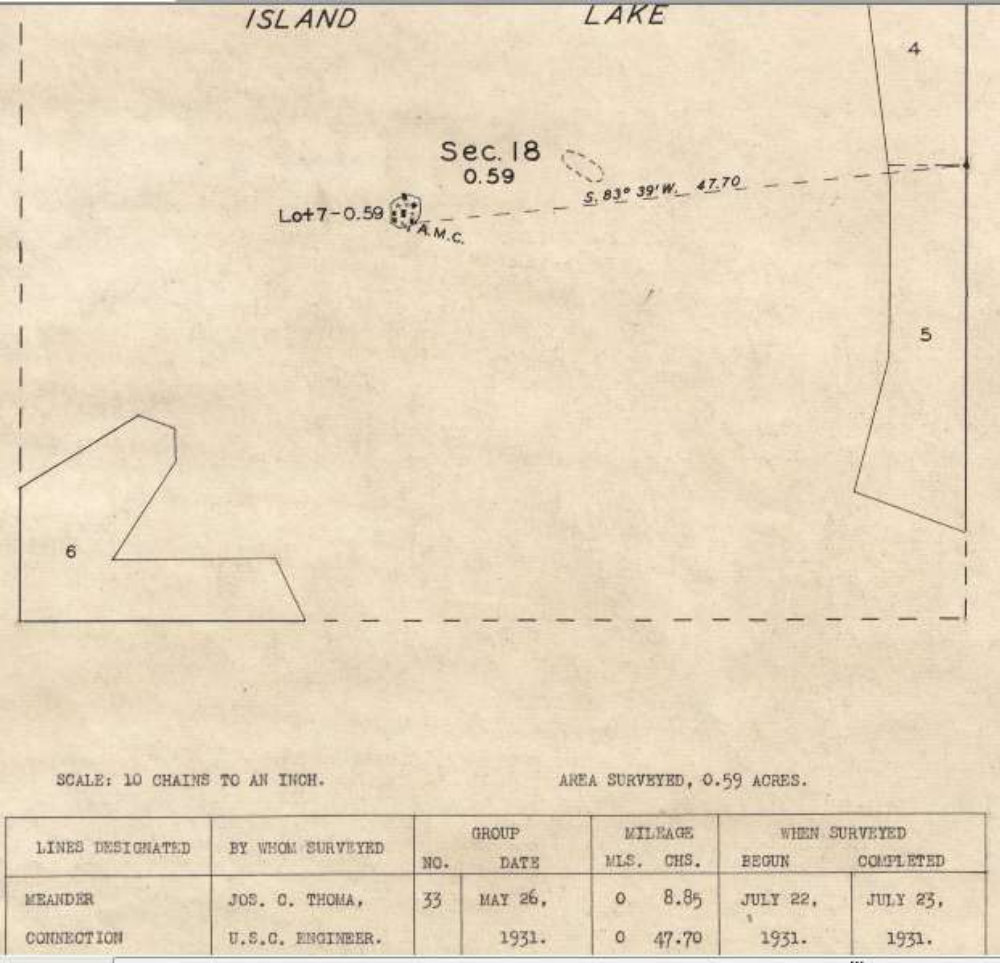
1918 LaFave
rates, bathing,
early motor
rentals and
reference to
an unknown
location for
Spider Lake
Docks

The east and north shores are fine for bathing; they are shallow and the sand is fine and smooth. The Island Lake Resort charges for this year are quoted at \$3 per day, \$18 per week; boats 50c per day, \$3 per week. They have detachable motors for rowboats which you can rent with boat for about \$2.50 per day; guide charges average about \$3 per day. If going to this resort it is best to advise them what morning you will reach Manitowish, so they can be over at the Spider Lake dock when the livery gets you there.

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



Why did many of the earliest MW pioneers have land disputes with county and federal government.



The United States of America.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, 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 Act of Congress of April 24, 1820, entitled "An 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 north of Range six east of the Fourth 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 KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, 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 assigns of the said claimant forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made

Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the NINTH

(8824) day of JULY in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and EIGHTEEN, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and SIXTYEEST.

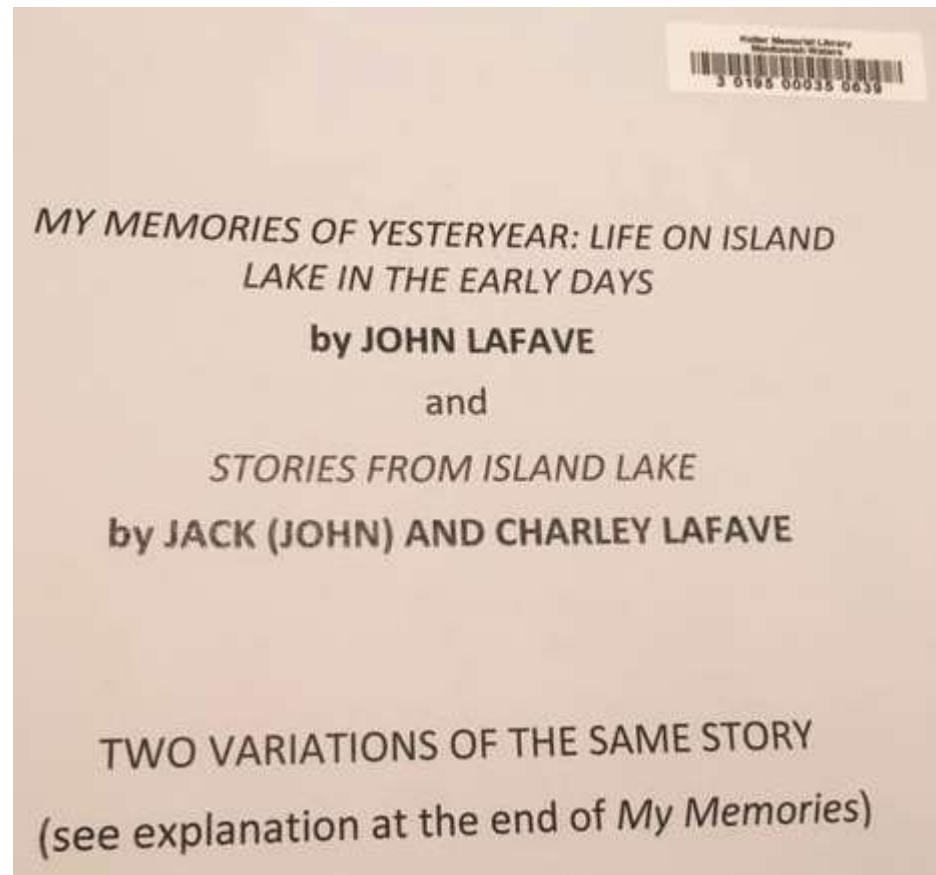
By the President: Franklin D. Roosevelt
By: George Park Wilson, Secretary,
Bertha S. Adams

LaFave's moved their resort to the southwestern shore
of Island Lake



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!



Peter and Sarah Vance supported early sportsmen with
their camp and guiding



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. 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.

Kleckner 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.

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.

Joe Lavigne as the premier camp cook



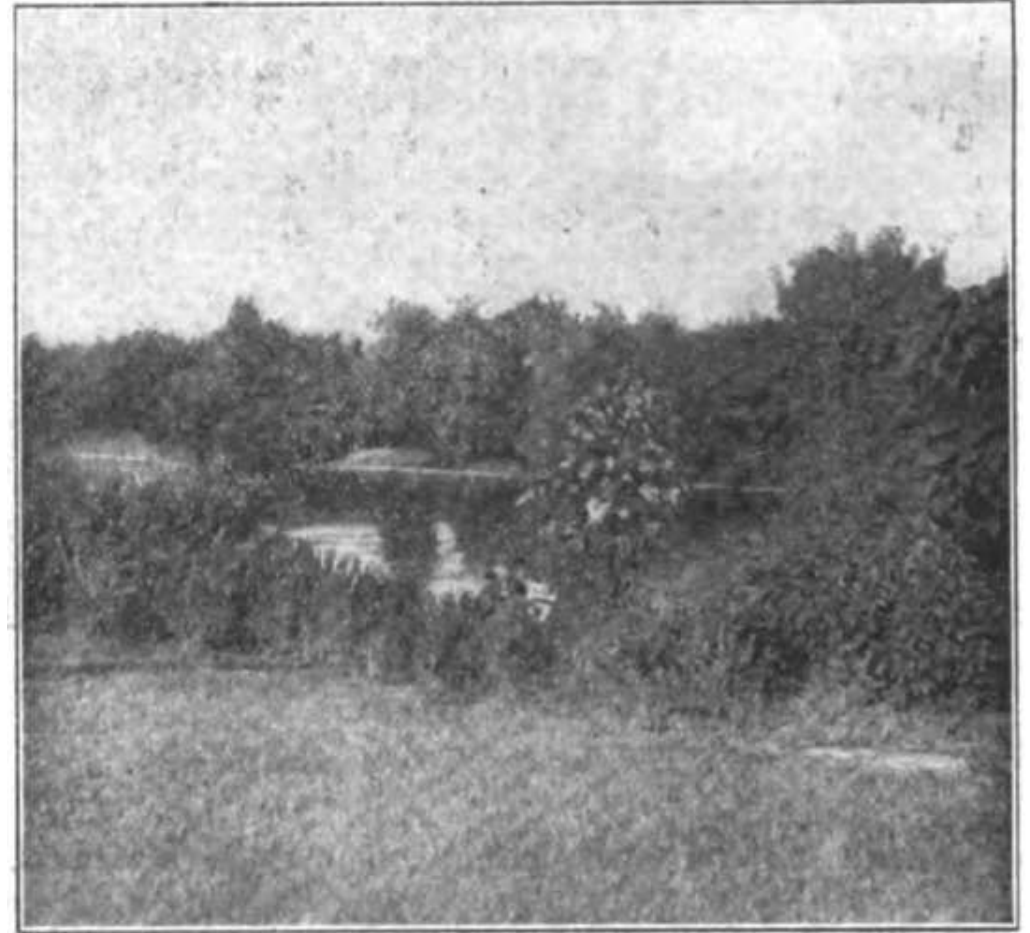
At 3 o'clock next morning we were not only up, but eating a breakfast consisting of fried pike, potatoes, eggs, bacon and coffee. Lunch for four was put in the basket. Fishing tackle, guns (both rifle and shot), ammunition, gum coats, were put into our boats, and by 3:30 we were speeding for Clear Lake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

Oh! Oh! Oh! There is Mr. Bear, a big black one, and he does not see, hear or wind us; we get to within 50 yards of him and stop. No, I am not frightened, but if there is such a thing, I have the bear fever.

Bruin is busy with the flesh pots; now Pete tells me to get my rifle to my shoulder, and when the bear turns to plug him through the foreshoulder or about 3 inches back through the heart. I am ready, then Pete gives a growl like an angry dog. For a lumbering brute, Mr. Bruin whirls around mighty lively, and seeing us, stops with his head toward us, his side advantageously exposed. I aim quickly and fire. The bear growls, raises himself on his hind feet and slashing the air with his forepaws comes toward us.

He stops short when he has gone about 20 feet, drops on all fours and has half a dozen trees between us before I am ready to shoot again. Pete says he is seriously hurt, and that it is our bear. So we follow the bloody trail and occasionally see his lordship not more than 60 or 70 yards ahead. Now he darts into a thick underbrush. We follow close, but it is very hard work to go through such thick brush, and we emerge, only to find we have lost the trail. No more blood nor tracks, so we go on, hoping to again find the lost thread.

Vance guides the author to a trophy black bear



A BIT OF RIVER SCENERY NEAR WHERE THE BEAR FELL.

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 Times
reported:

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

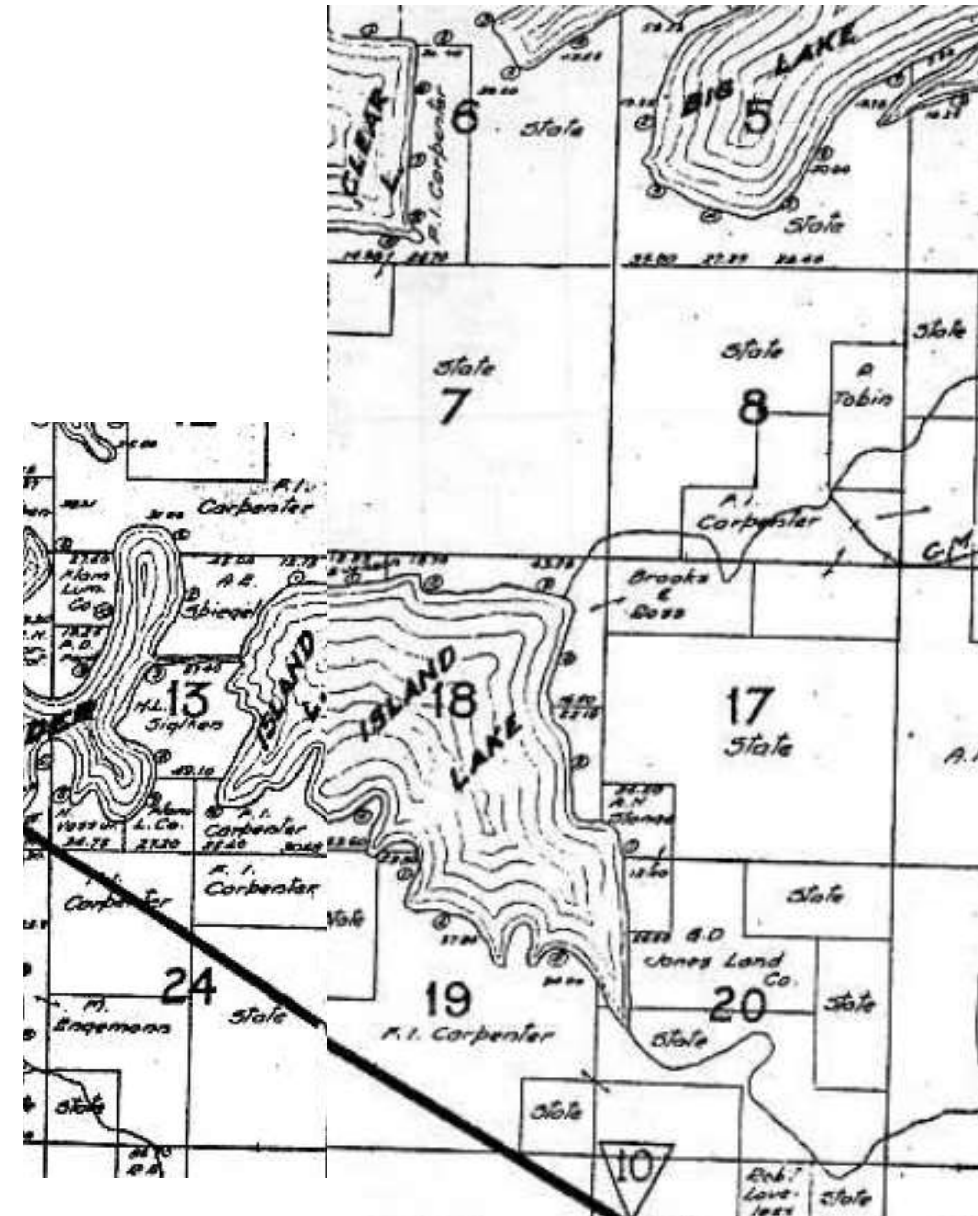


Sleights build and managing on Island Lake

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 Blatchford's. There weren't many roads and guests arrived by train at the depot in Manitowish.



1913 Plat map showing numerous ownership disputes? Why....



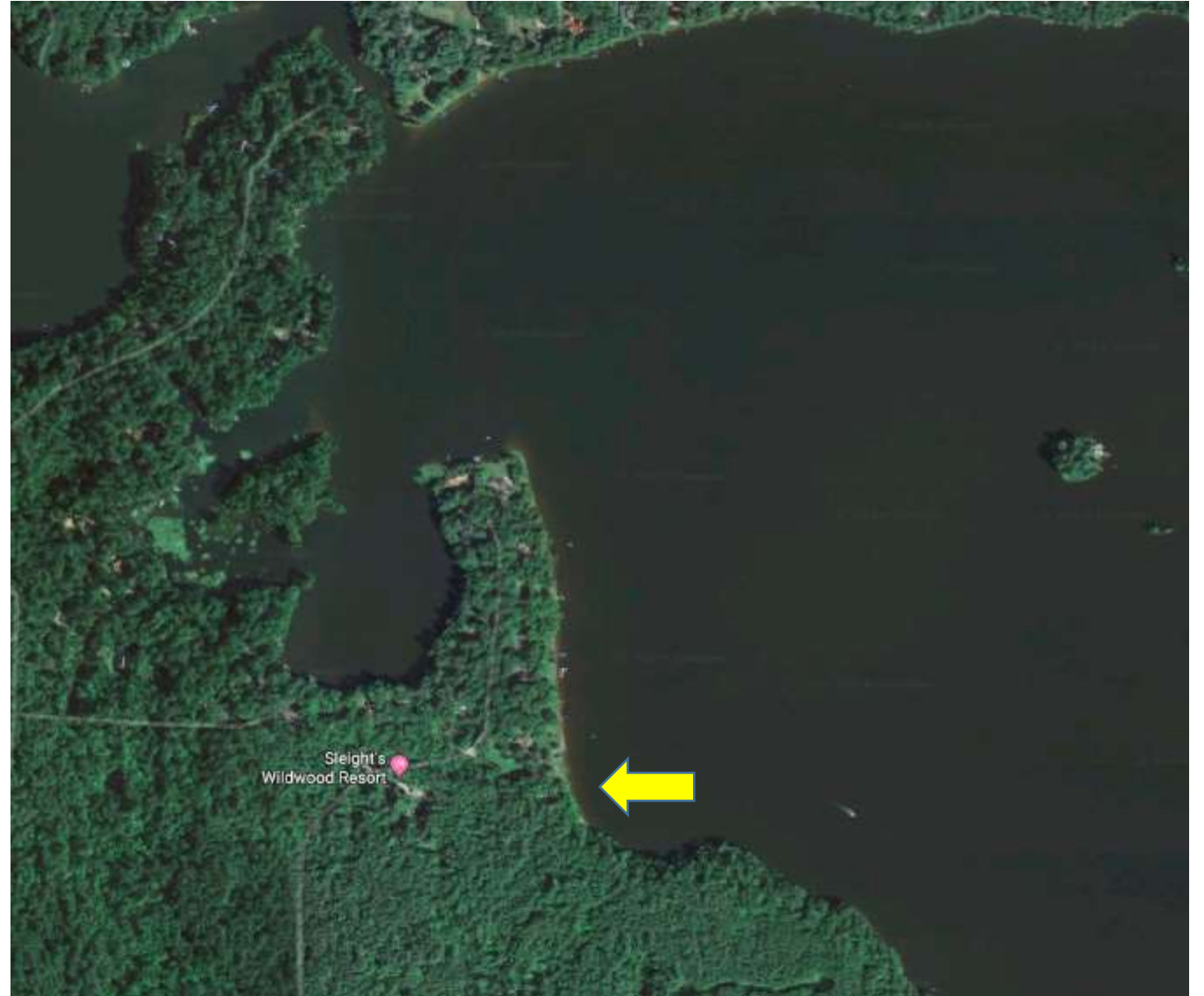
Claims of a fur trade post and gun barrels from blunderbusts and rifles being used as “rebar” for concrete foundations remain unproven.



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 its 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.



Location of Sleights Spider Lake Cabins?

Sleight's...

SPIDER LAKE CABINS

MODERN TWO AND THREE BEDROOM
COMPLETELY FURNISHED LOG CABINS
WITH FIREPLACES AND
SCREENED PORCHES



"All the Comforts of Home"



Good Safe Beach :: Best Round-bottom Boats
Cleanliness :: Comfort :: Courtesy



The Ideal Place for Enjoyment and Relaxation



MRS. RICHARD SLEIGHT

Manitowish, Wisconsin

PHONE MANITOWISH WATERS 757



ISLAND LAKE LOG CABINS

ON ISLAND LAKE OF THE
MANITOWISH CHAIN



110 A C current for appliances

Island Lake Log Cabins

are equipped with gas stoves, hot and cold running water, modern bathrooms, showers, comfortable beds, natural rock fireplaces, electric refrigerators and telephone.

Spacious screened porches . . . Outside charcoal broilers . . . Every cabin is furnished with all facilities for modern housekeeping.

All china, glassware, utensils and furnishings are of excellent quality and new. Linens furnished if desired.

ISLAND LAKE LOG CABINS ARE DESIGNED FOR LIVING THE MODERN WAY AND INSURE A PERFECT VACATION. NOWHERE IN THE GREAT NORTHWOODS VACATION AREA ARE RUSTIC SIMPLICITY AND WOODLAND BEAUTY SO FLAWLESSLY COMBINED WITH THE COMFORTS OF HOME.

Your inspection is invited.



For further information, rates, etc., write:

Island Lake Log Cabins

Richard Sleight, Manager

P. O. MANITOWISH, WISCONSIN

Phone Manitowish Waters 757

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.



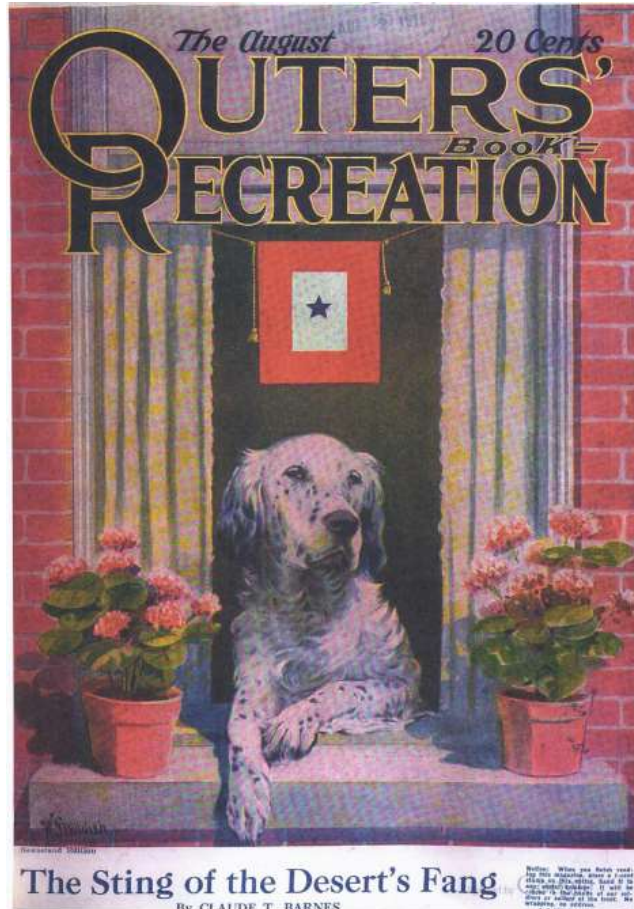
Richard Sleight Jr. and his family continued the “Guide Culture” into the 21st century



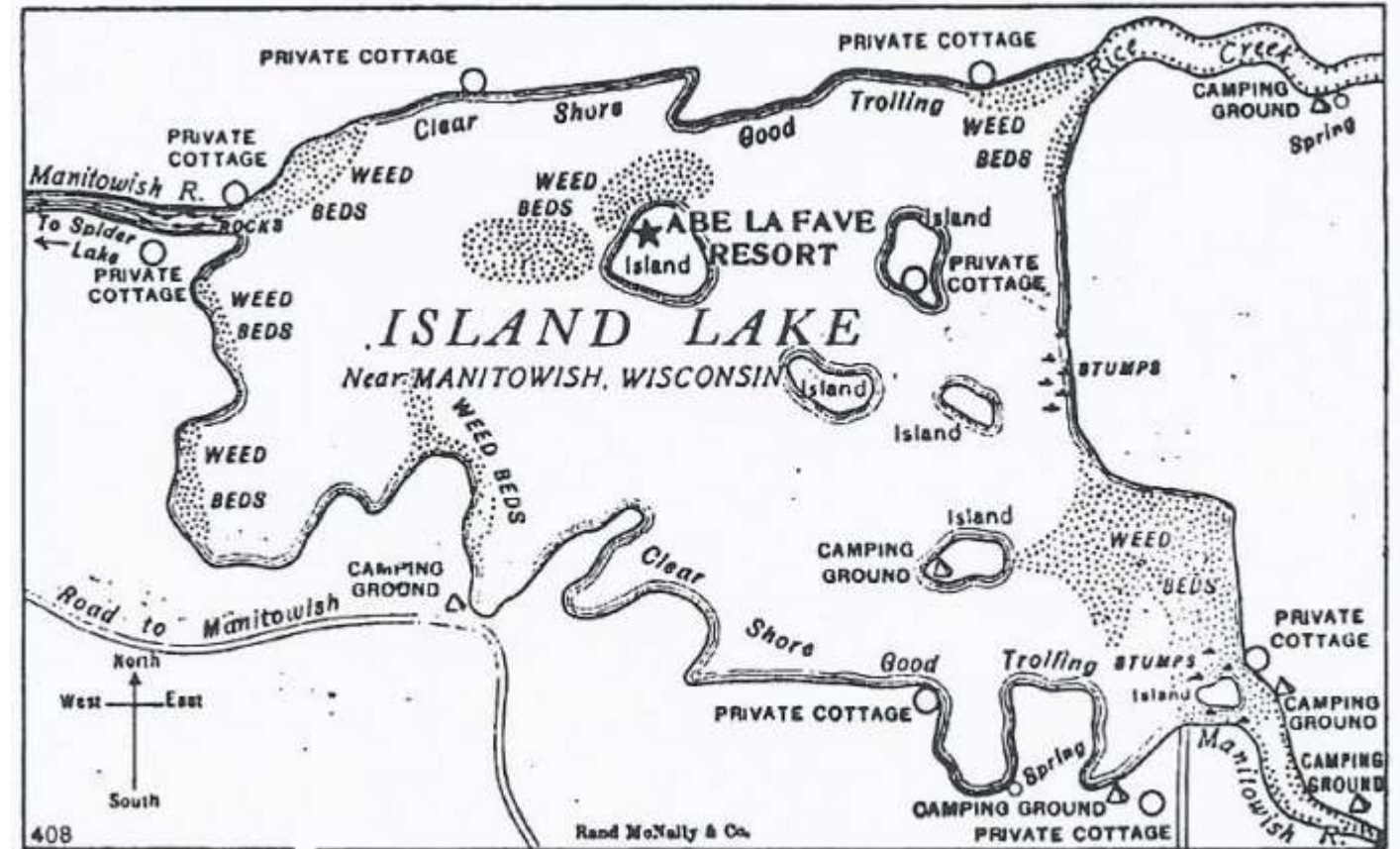
Richard Sleight Jr dressed in 19th century trapper's garb for guests at his resort



1918 map and article regarding Island Lake



The Queen of the
Manitowish 1918



1918 outers

tom. Rice Creek is navigable for about two miles for a power boat—about a mile beyond the big bridge—and here you will find a spring and a good camping location. To get a boat on from here you will have to wade and pull it as the water is too shallow and swift to get through any other way. There is a good trail through from here to Big Lake. Now

Outers images of camping and canoeing Big Lake

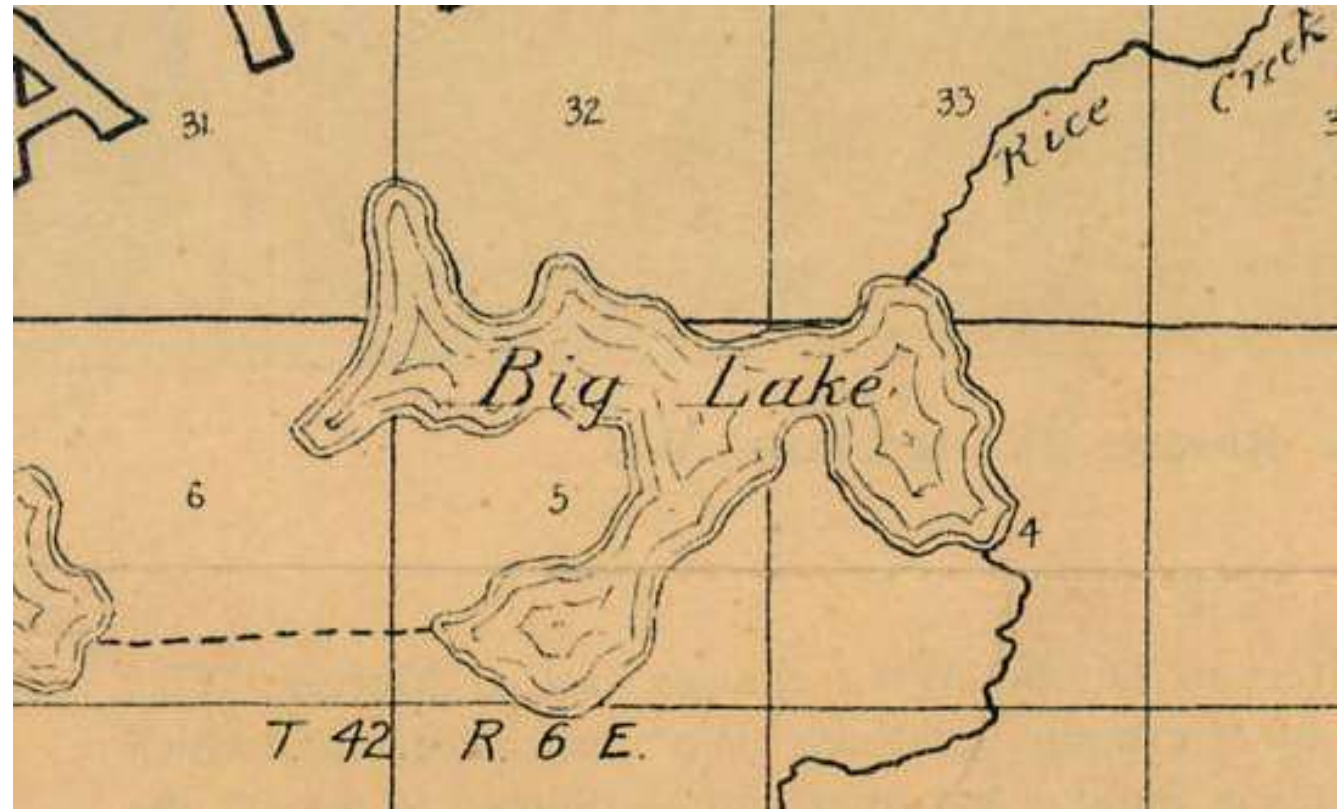


The penalty of being able to cook—you cook while the others fish

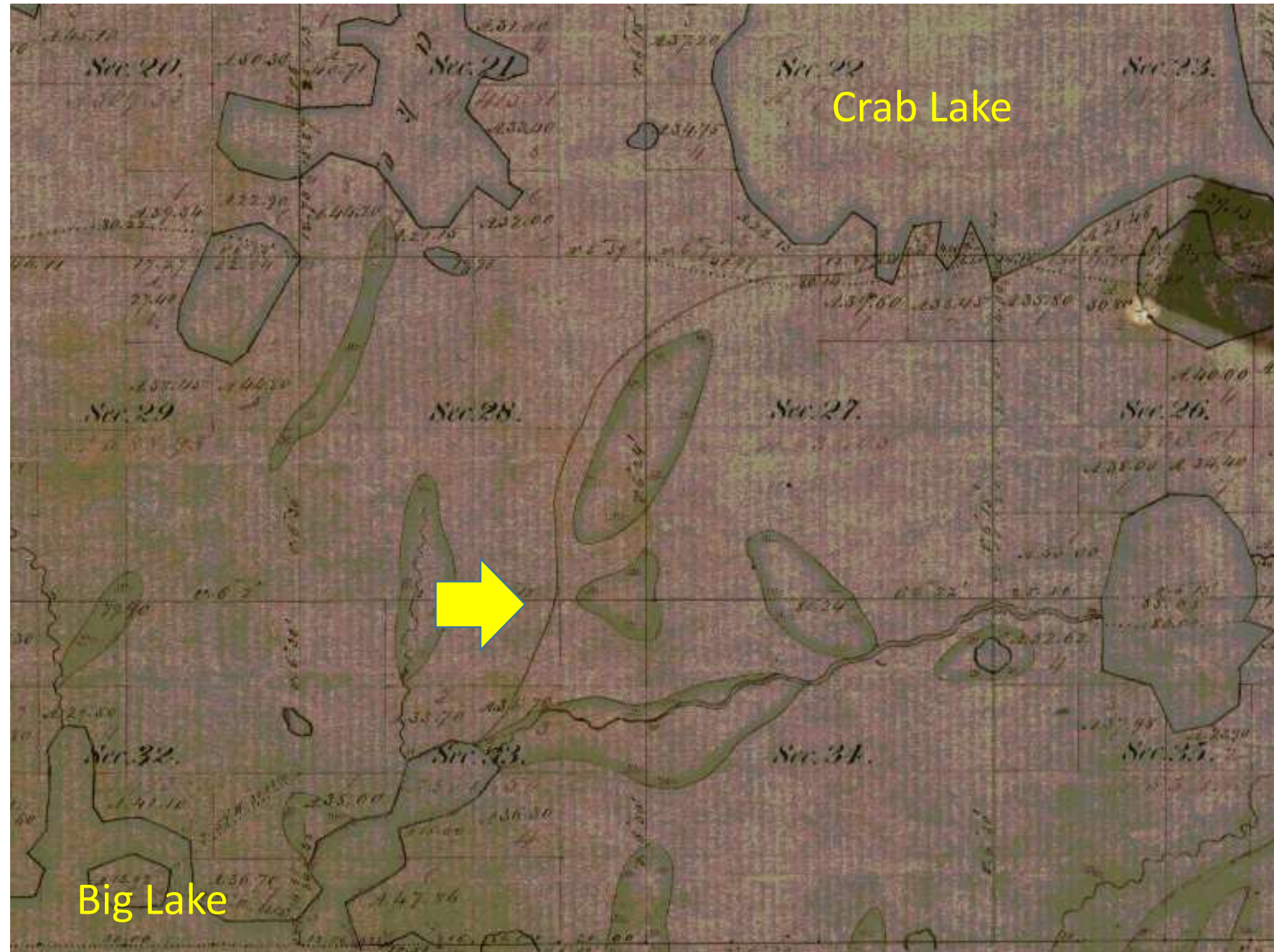


Commencing the day's lap of a northern Wisconsin canoe trip

Big Lake sportsman's paradise and northern portal of the MW chain



1862 trail from
Big to Crab Lake
and other trails
network MW
chain to Lake
Superior Water
Shed



Historic Indian trail markers are part of a fascinating debate among historians and archaeologists



Historic Wisconsin marker trees?



"Old Indian Trail Marker"
Top of Blue Mounds, Wis.

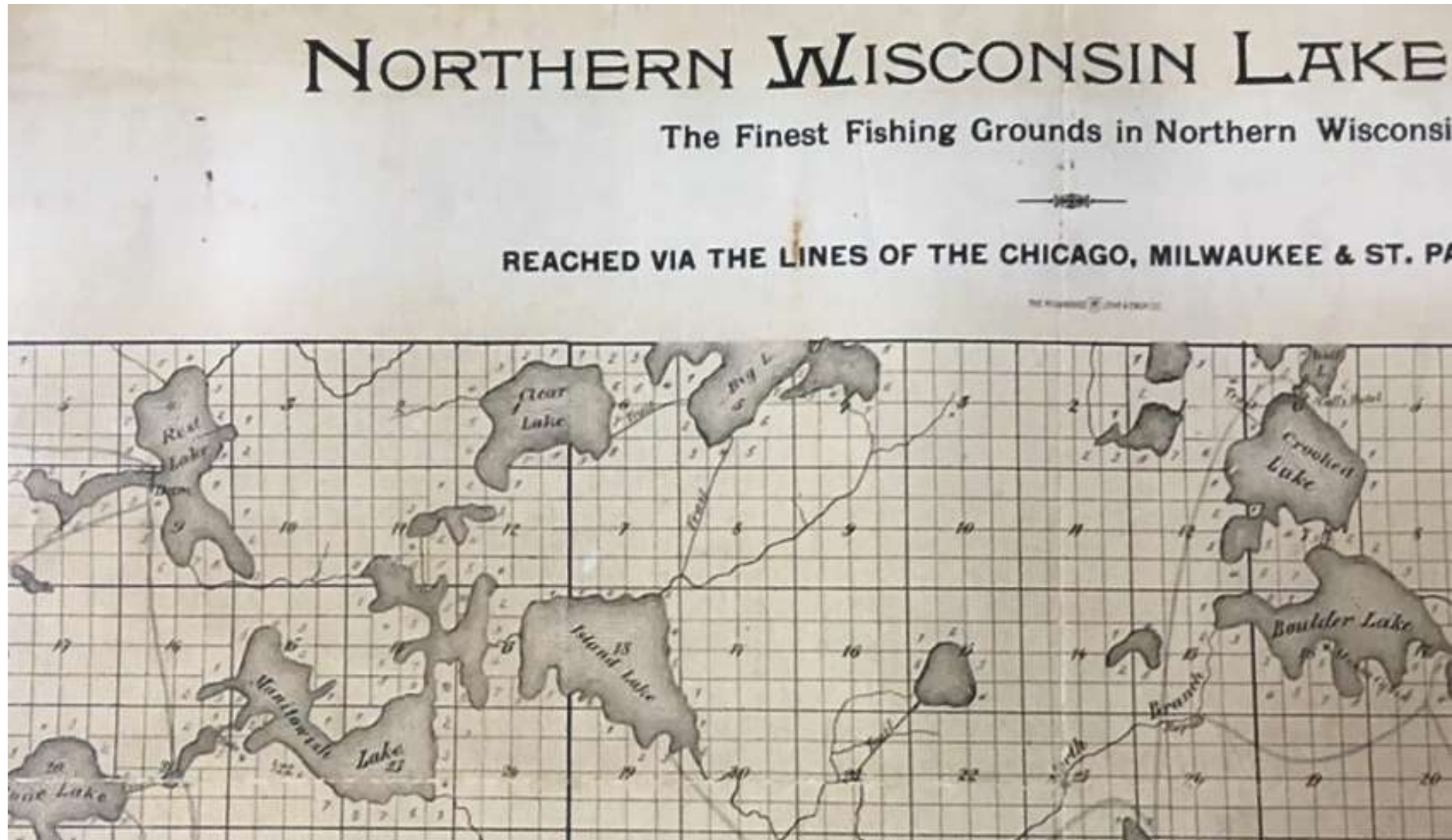


Round Lake bent tree and possible trail marker

Location of Round Lake bent tree supported by
1905 Fay Buck Map...trail marker?



1895 Map of trails from Island and Clear to Big Lake



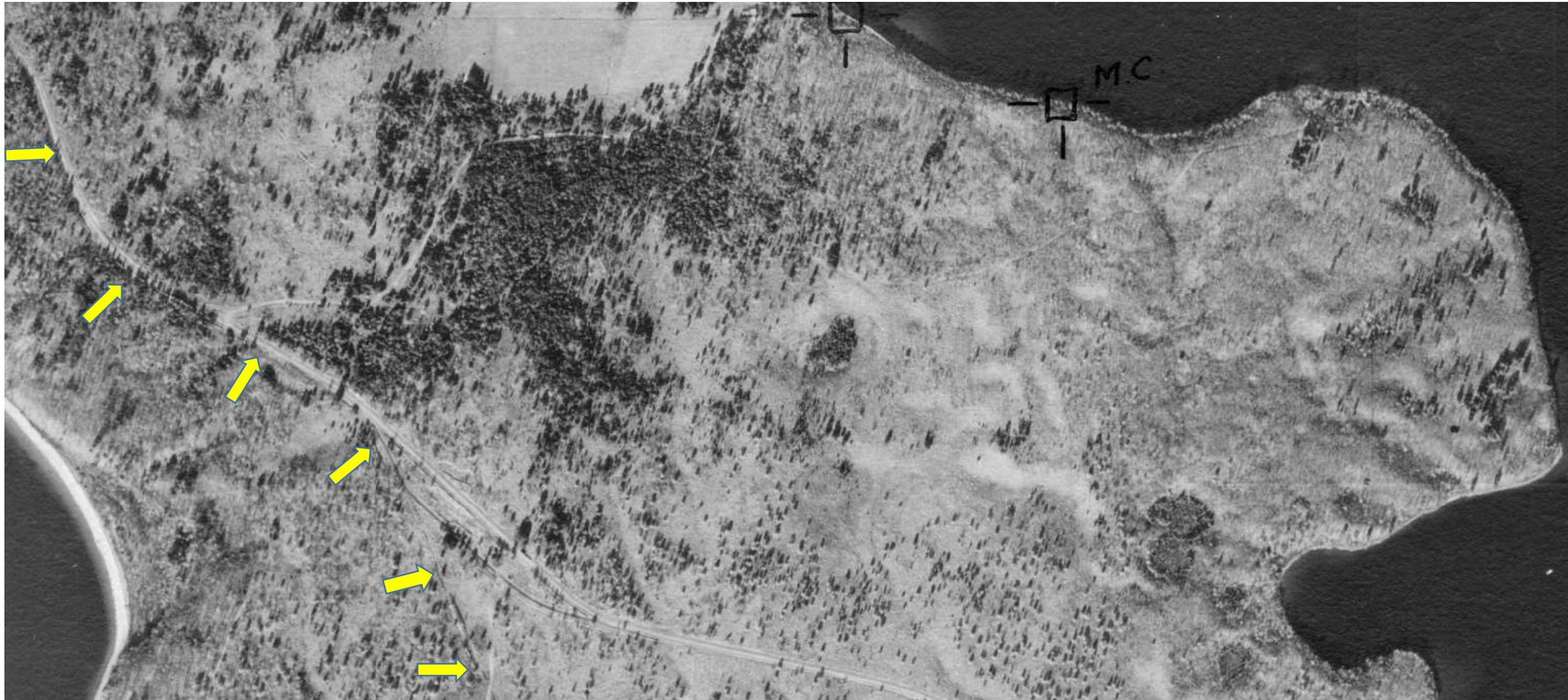
In 1898 (7 years before the Milwaukee road RR) Big Lake was called J.N. Cotter Lake adds to the mysteries of Big Lake.



Railroad tracks between Rice Creek and Big Lake 1905

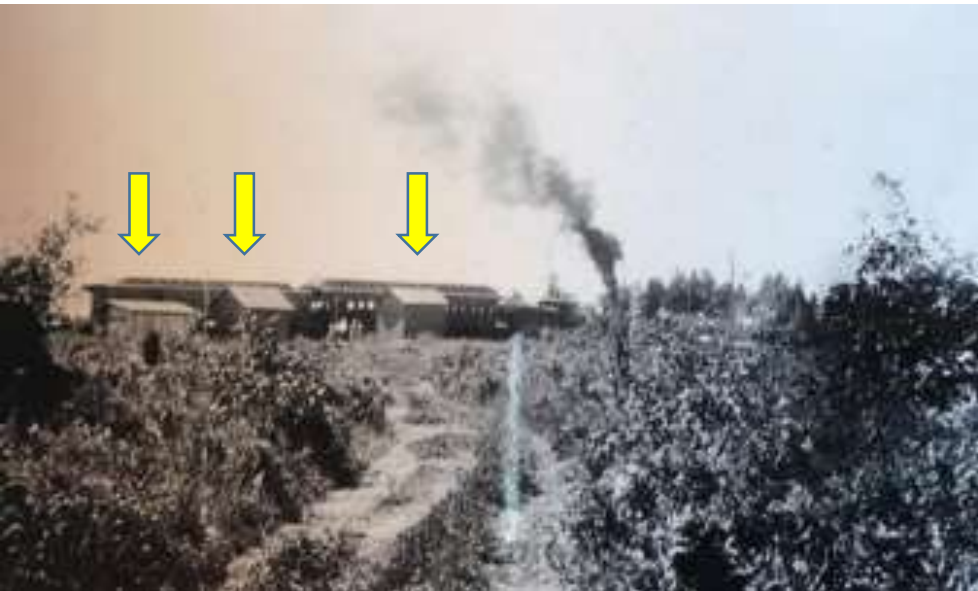


Ariel photo of Big lake railroad station area
yellow arrows mark the route of the Milwaukee Road RR

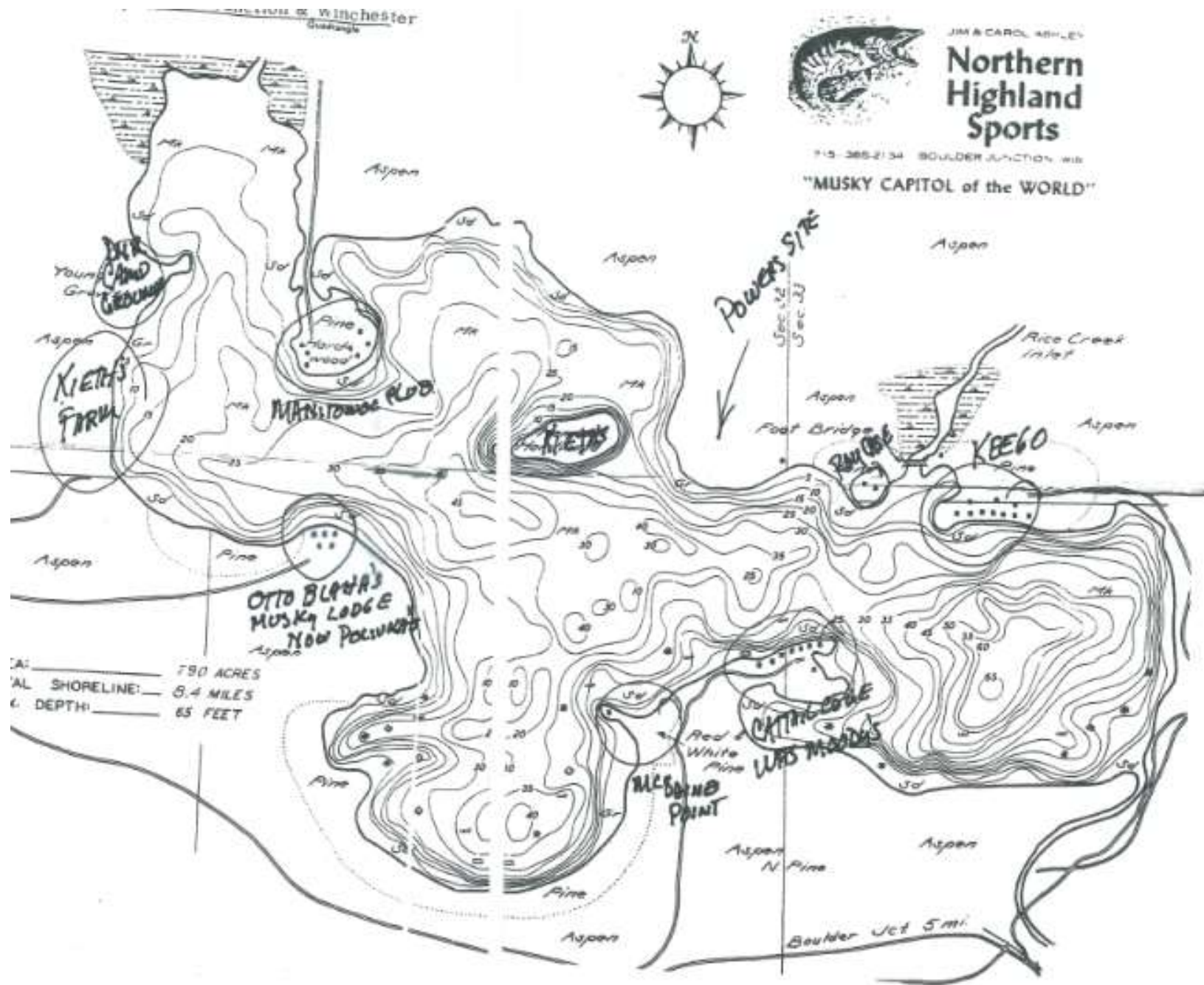


Specific location of
the Big Lake RR station
is unclear?

Note 3 buildings in
front of the train



Case family map of Big Lake



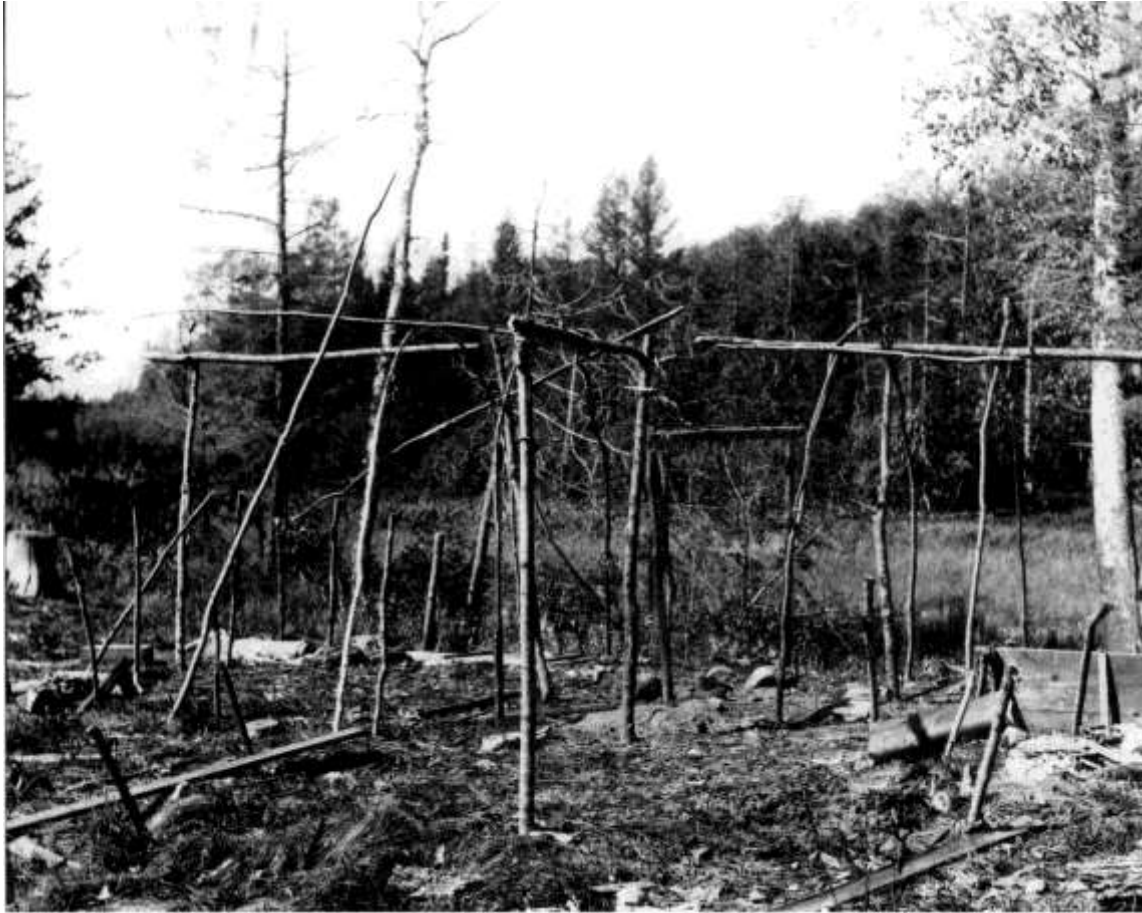
Shield's 1890
account of the Big
Lake and Rice
Creek Ojibwa
camps

We camped on the site of an old Indian village. The Lac de Flambeau Indians come up here in August in large numbers to harvest the wild rice and carry away boat loads of it. They have some novel devices for gathering, hulling and taking care of the grain, such as earthen mortars or tubs, flails, pestles and birch bark buckets. At the close of the harvest they have a rice dance and a great feast, when they dine on rice, fish, ducks and such other delicacies as their larder or the surrounding country affords.

c1900 Big Lake wild rice camps



Wild rice camps on Rice Creek



Case family at wild rice camps with Devine's in c1904



c1900 Big Lake wild rice bundled for protection



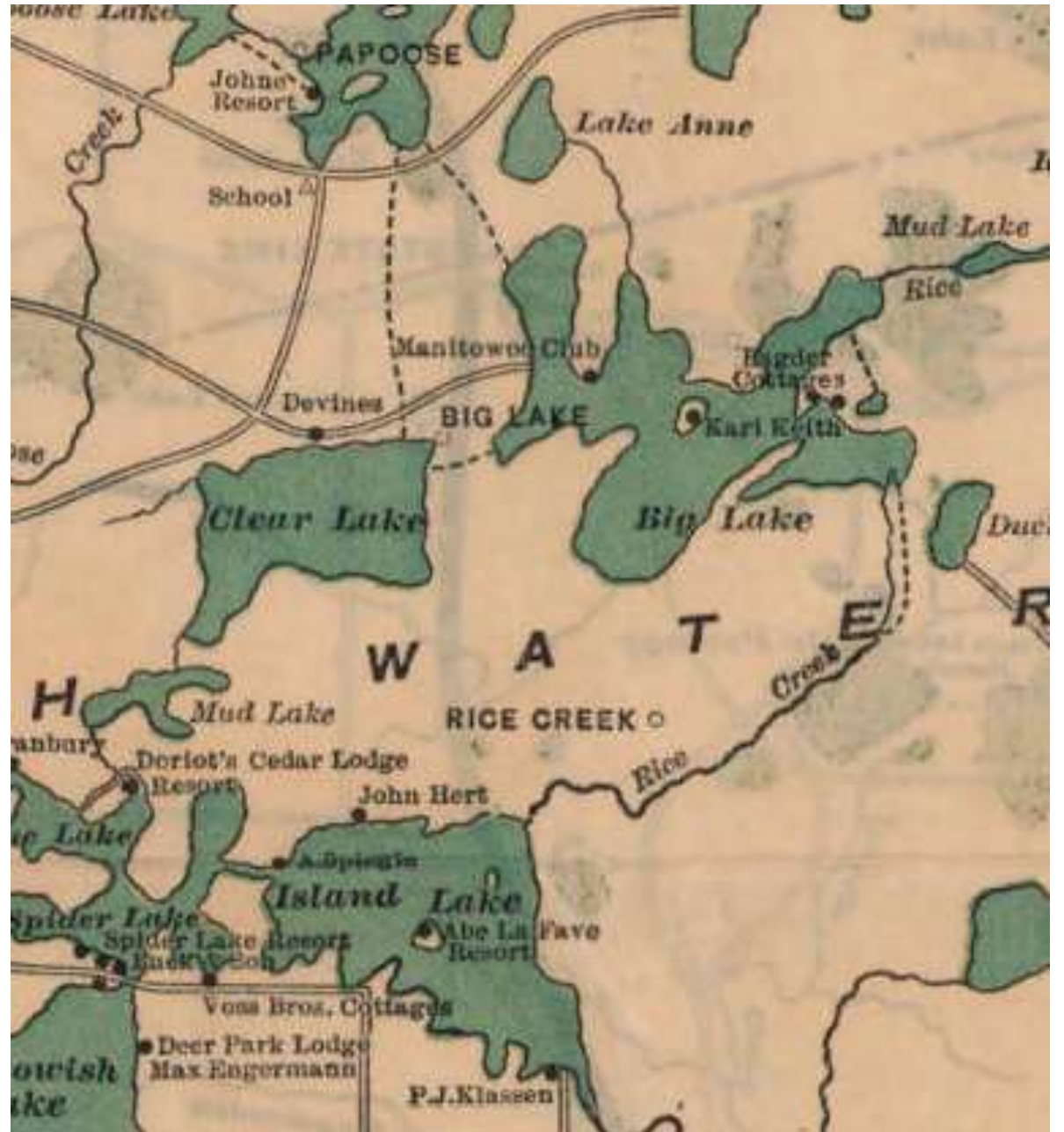
Devines and Haskins continued Ojibwa traditions into the 1940's

For many years, the Indians have labored gathering rice, selling some and retaining some for their own use. Mary and Tommie (as his friends call him) have learned enough from their parents to follow the old methods of gathering and curing. In the late summer, they tie bunches together with a rope made from dried and cured bass wood strips. In tying


It

might be interesting to note that scouts from a Hollywood Studio appreciated rice gathering and curing so much that a few yaers ago they shot films of Mary and Tom while in the process of gathering it in Big Lake.

1916 Poole RR map
illustrating
development on
Clear, Island and Big
Lakes



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.

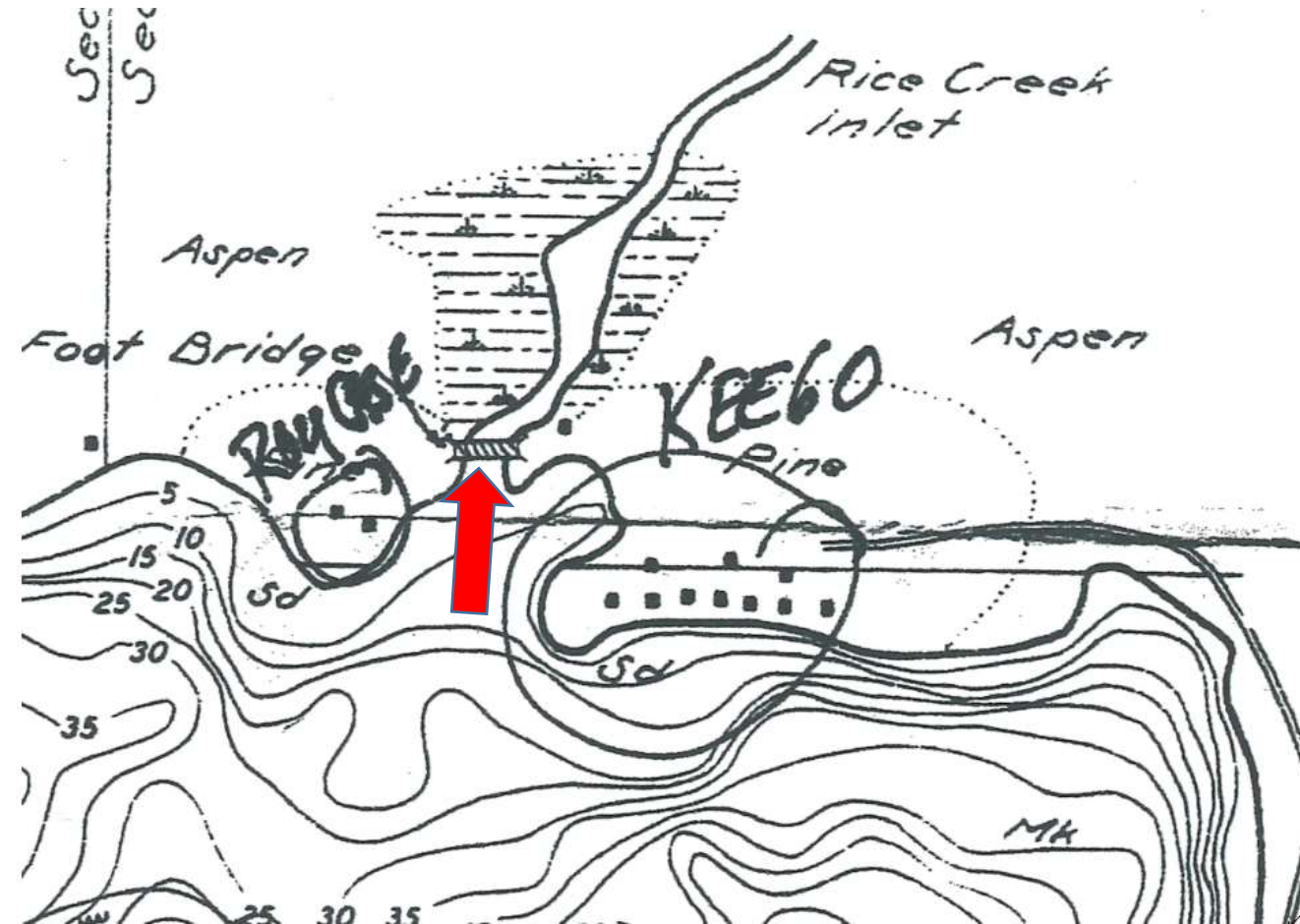
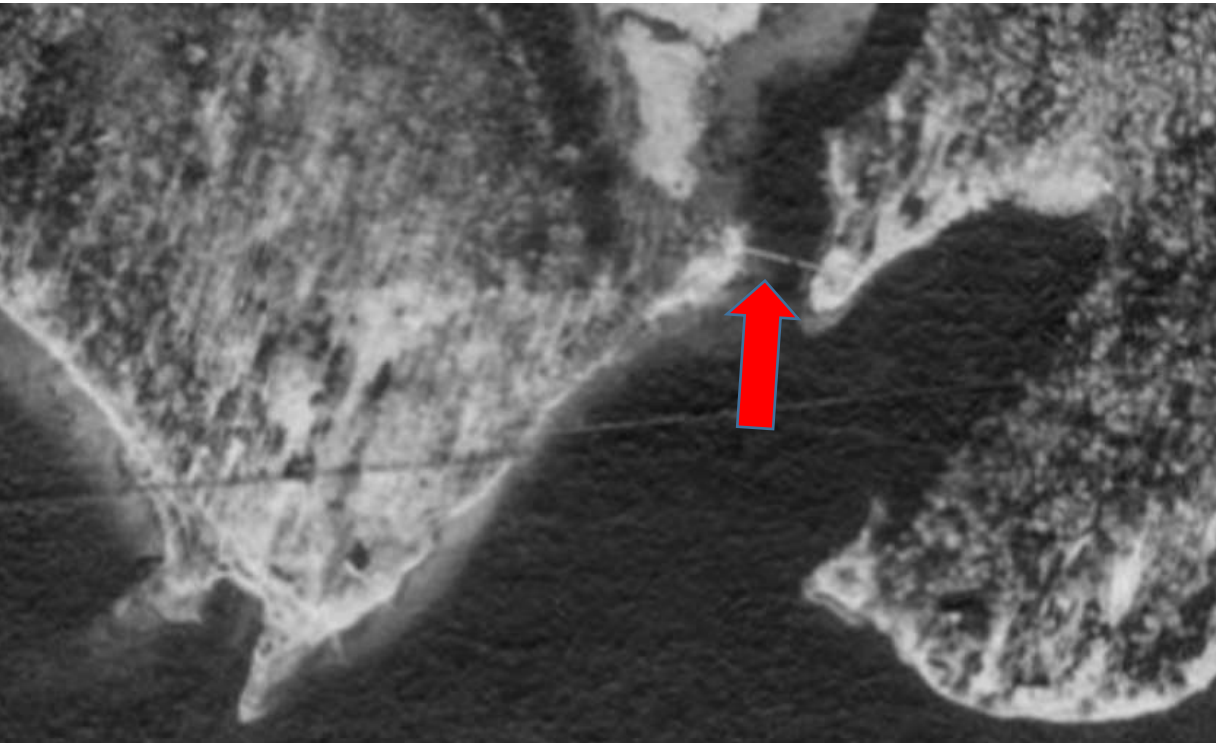


Ballot for Assessors
Neal La Porte 32 Votes
Ballot for Constable
John Devine 24 Votes
Ballot for Chairman of Census Committee
Alvin Hoerner 25 votes
Don Devine 12 " Member of Census Com
" " " " "

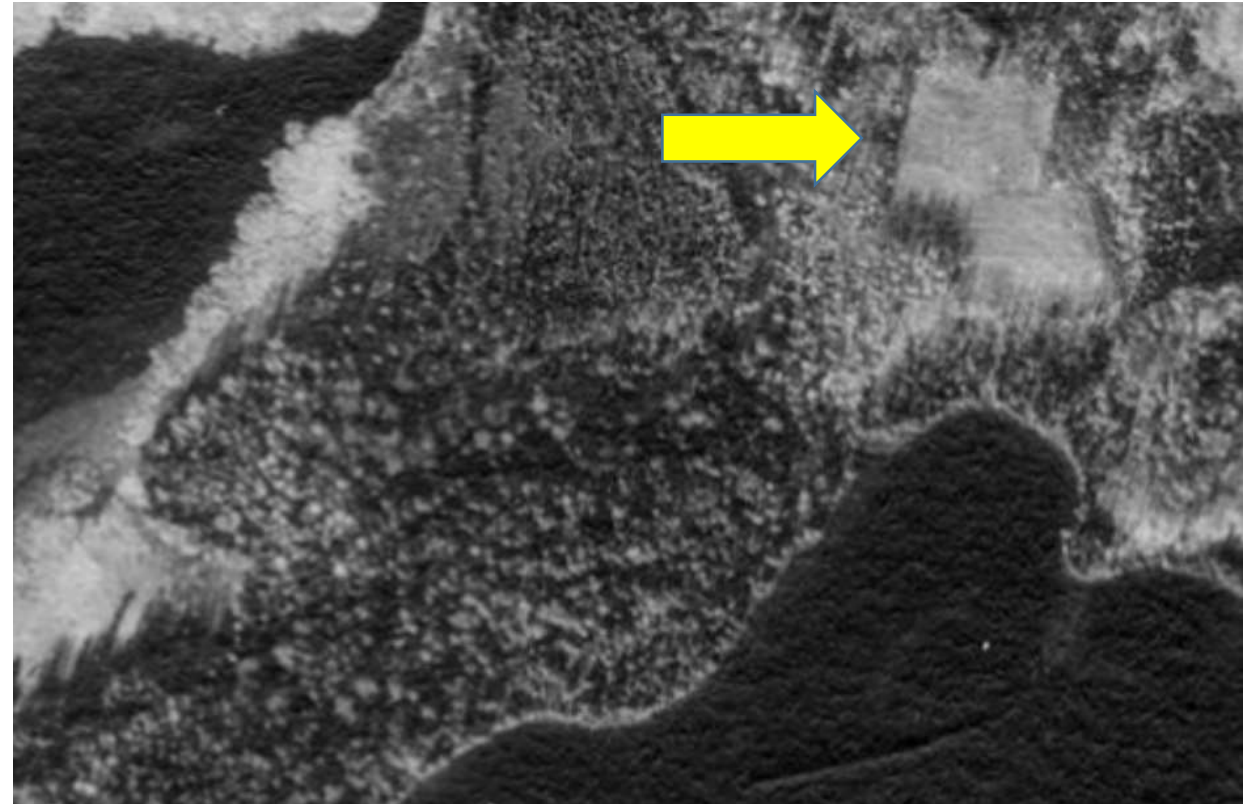
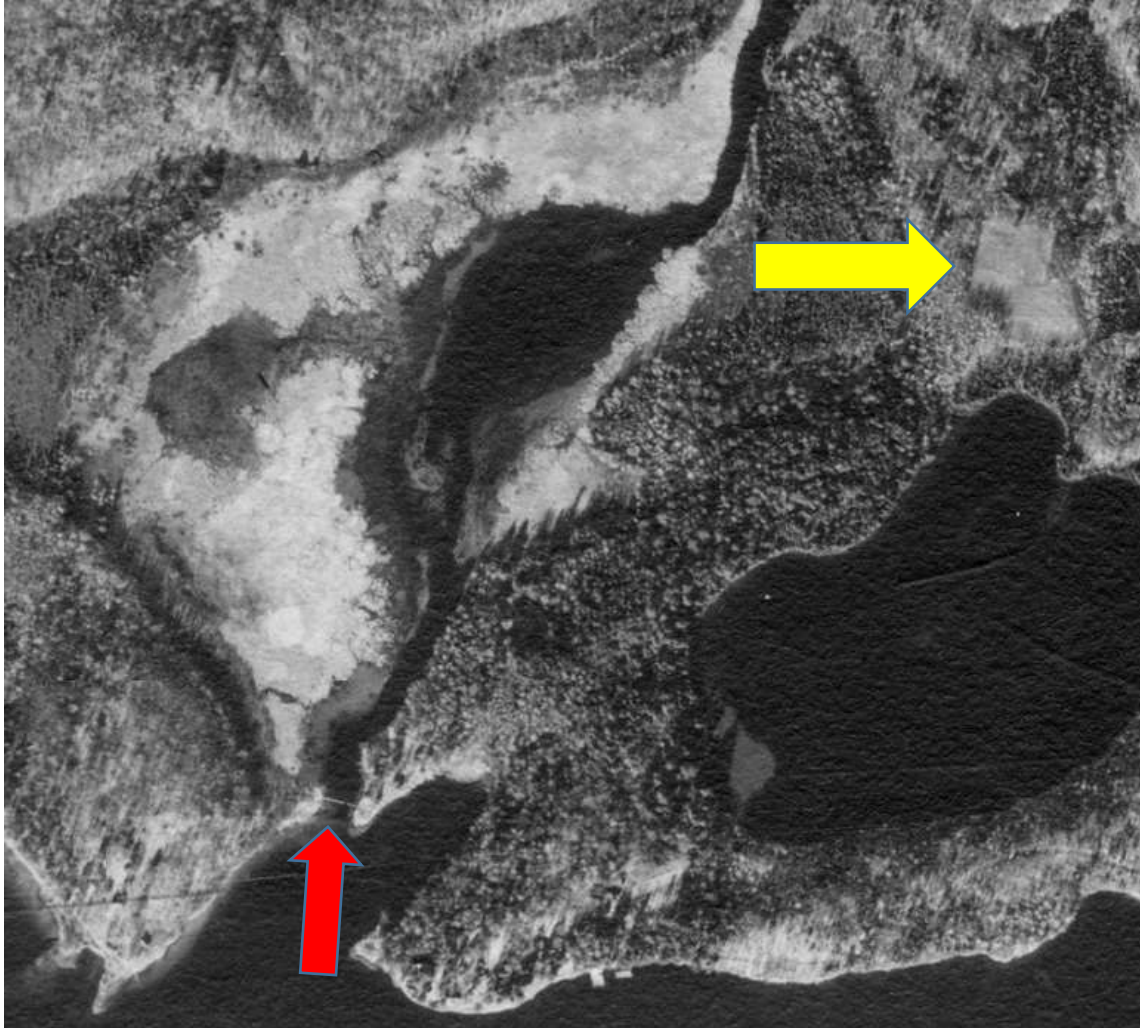
Evidence of a moonshiner shootout and the consequence of murder on Big Lake. Kay Krans is researching many new details regarding Big Lake and will present her findings this year on a August canoe tour and next summer in a presentation.



Bridge over Rice Creek connecting the Case Property to Keego Lake



Case property bridge (red arrow) and unknown cultivated field and building site (yellow arrows)



Modern map of the “homestead”

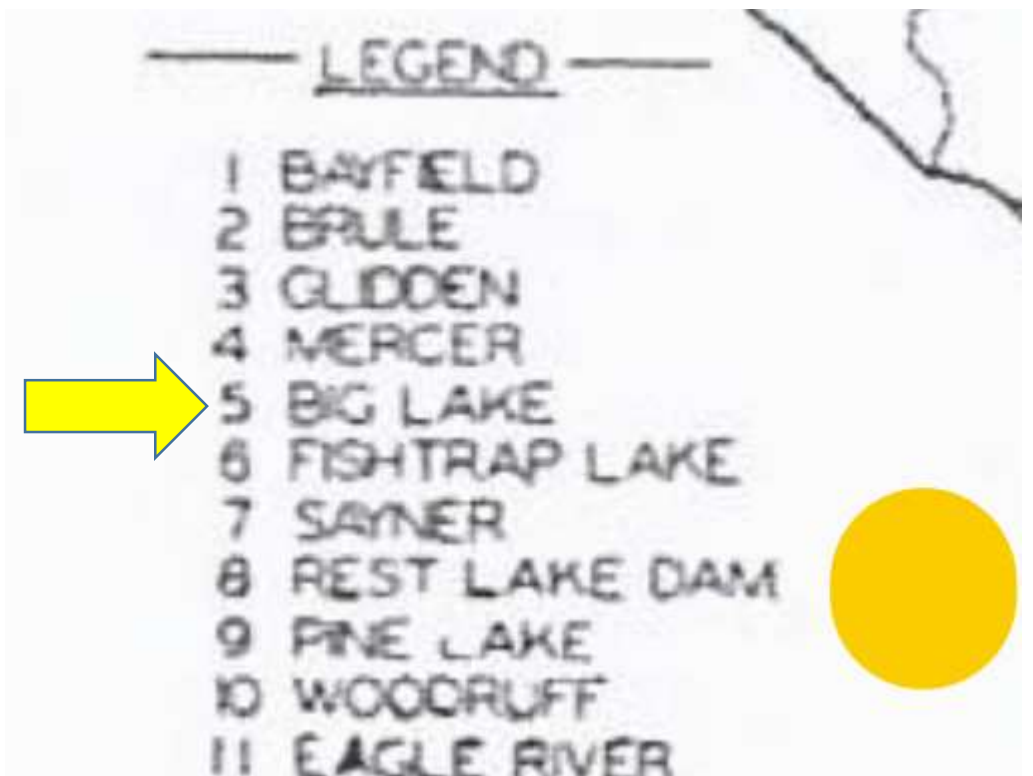
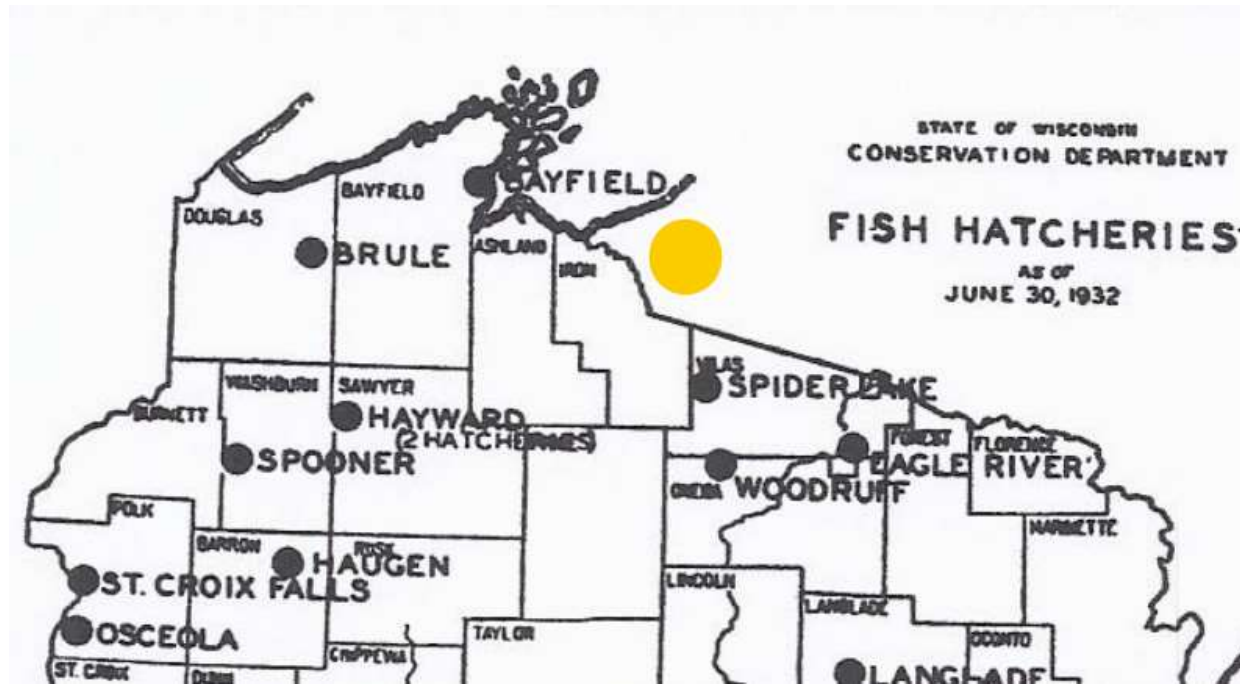


The Depression caused the state to shift fish hatchery operations

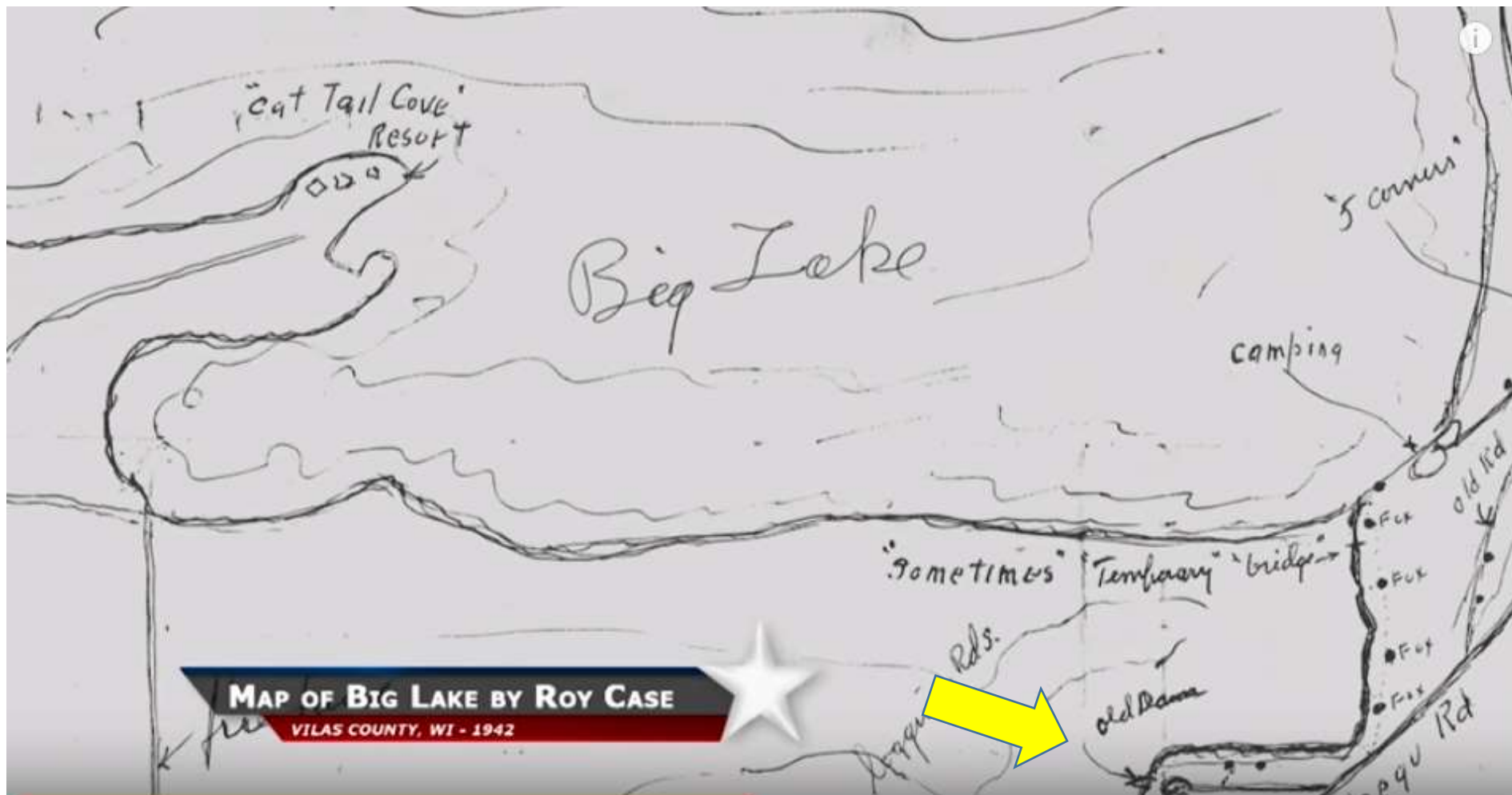
Note 1929 Fish Hatcheries in Northern Wisconsin



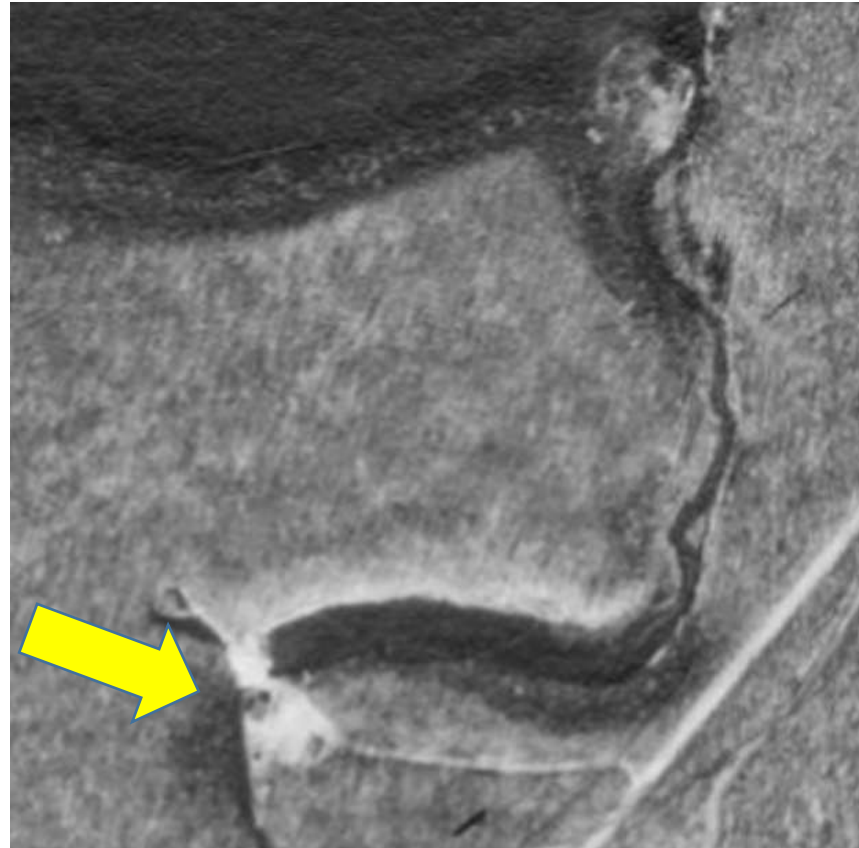
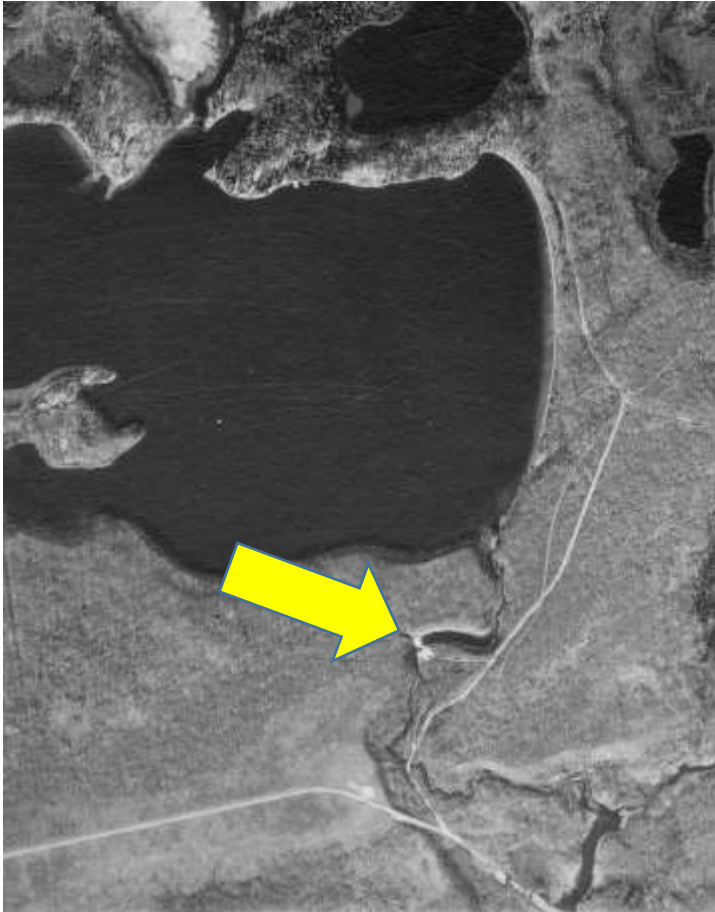
In 1932 Spider or Rest Lake Fish Hatchery led the way for municipal hatcheries. By 1936, over a half dozen new hatcheries followed the MW model.



Big Lake "Dam" and possible fish hatchery location



The Big lake “Dam” had no impact on lake levels, it merely created a small pond with current similar to the Rest Lake and Mercer hatcheries



Rest lake and Mercer municipal fish hatcheries...Big Lake Images and data?



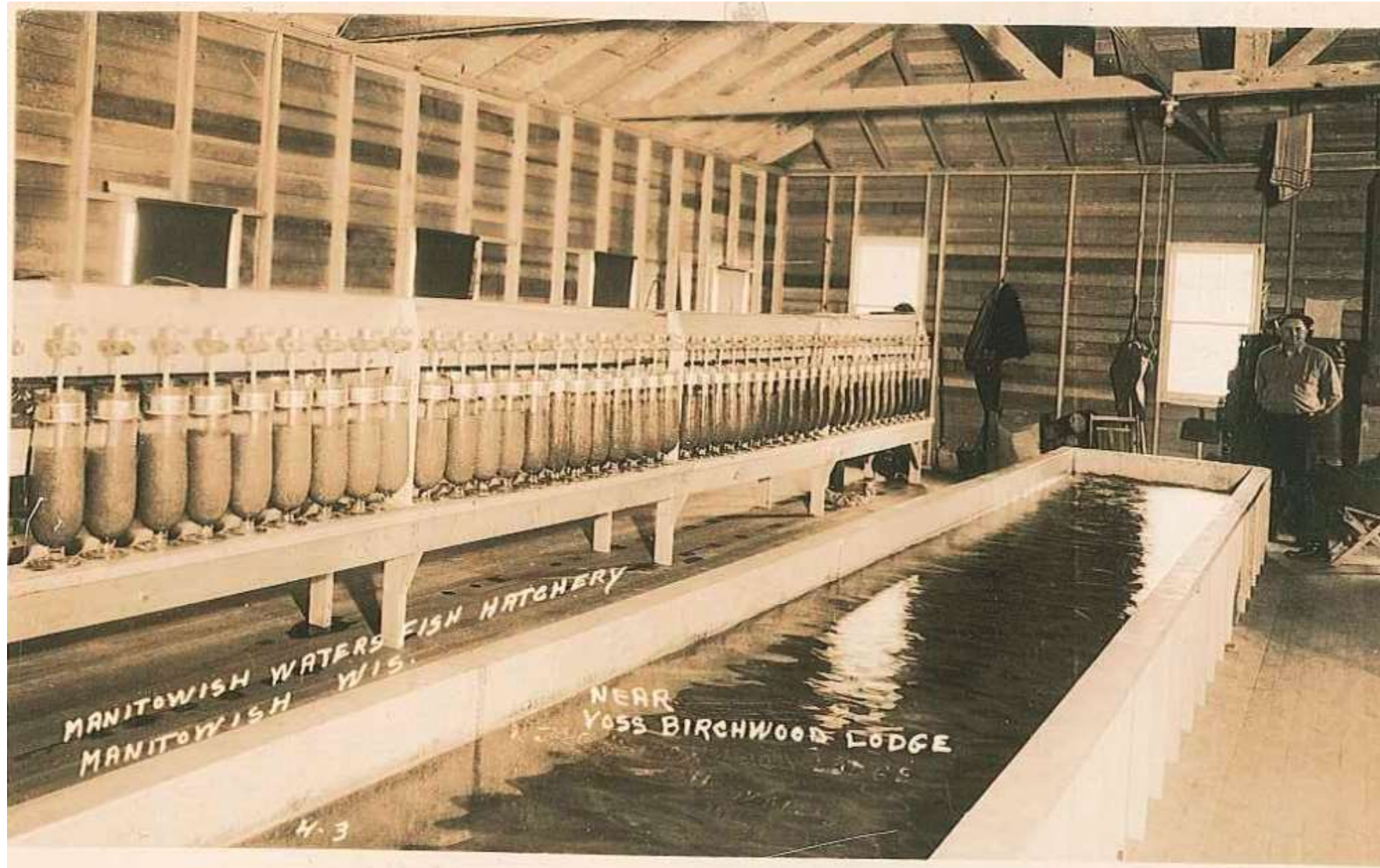
Rice Creek Dam
site and
possible
hatchery site



Community members used fyke nets to safely capture fish to harvest the fish eggs and milt to hatch fry



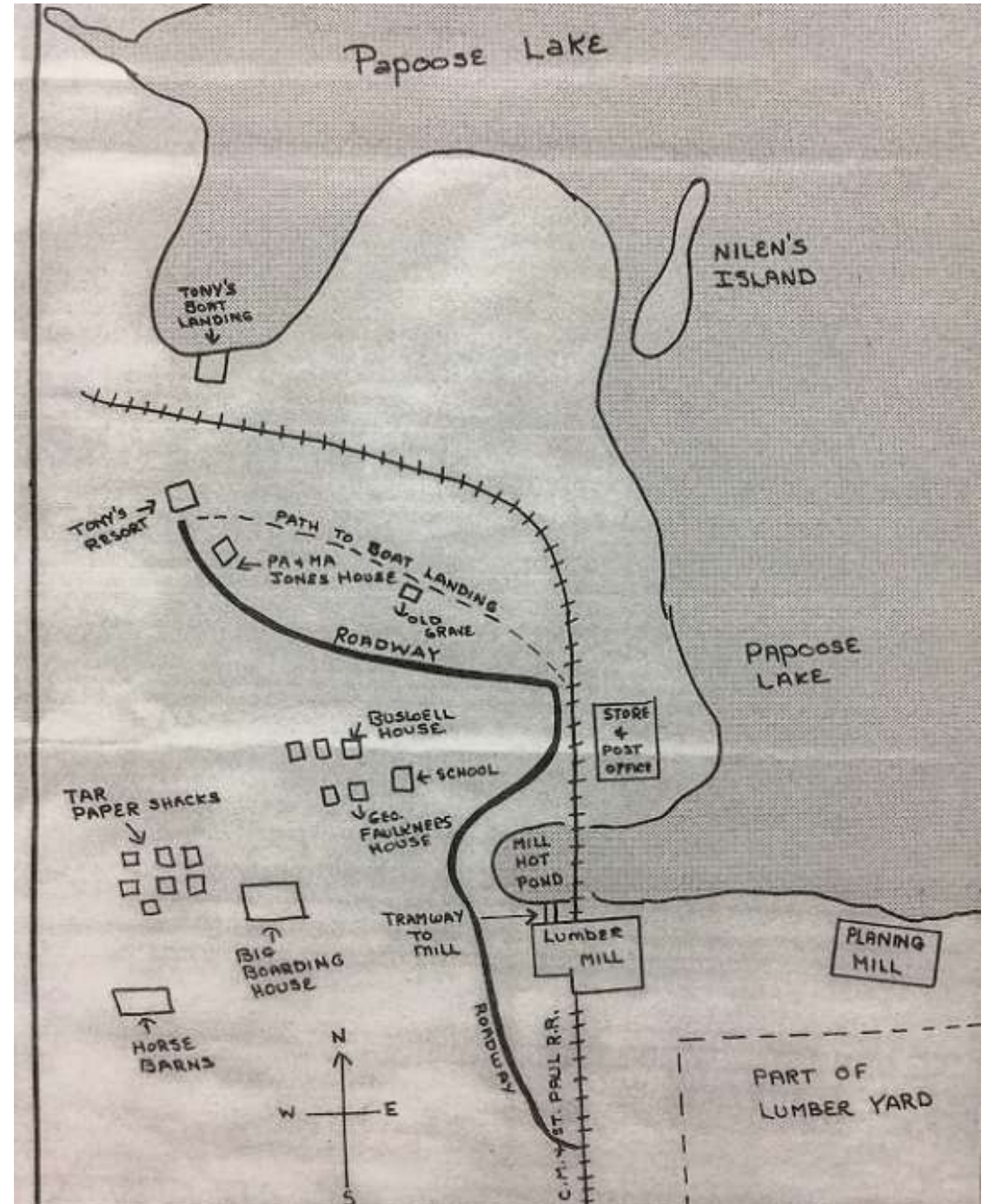
Operating below the Rest Lake Dam the MW fish hatchery interior...Big Lake images?



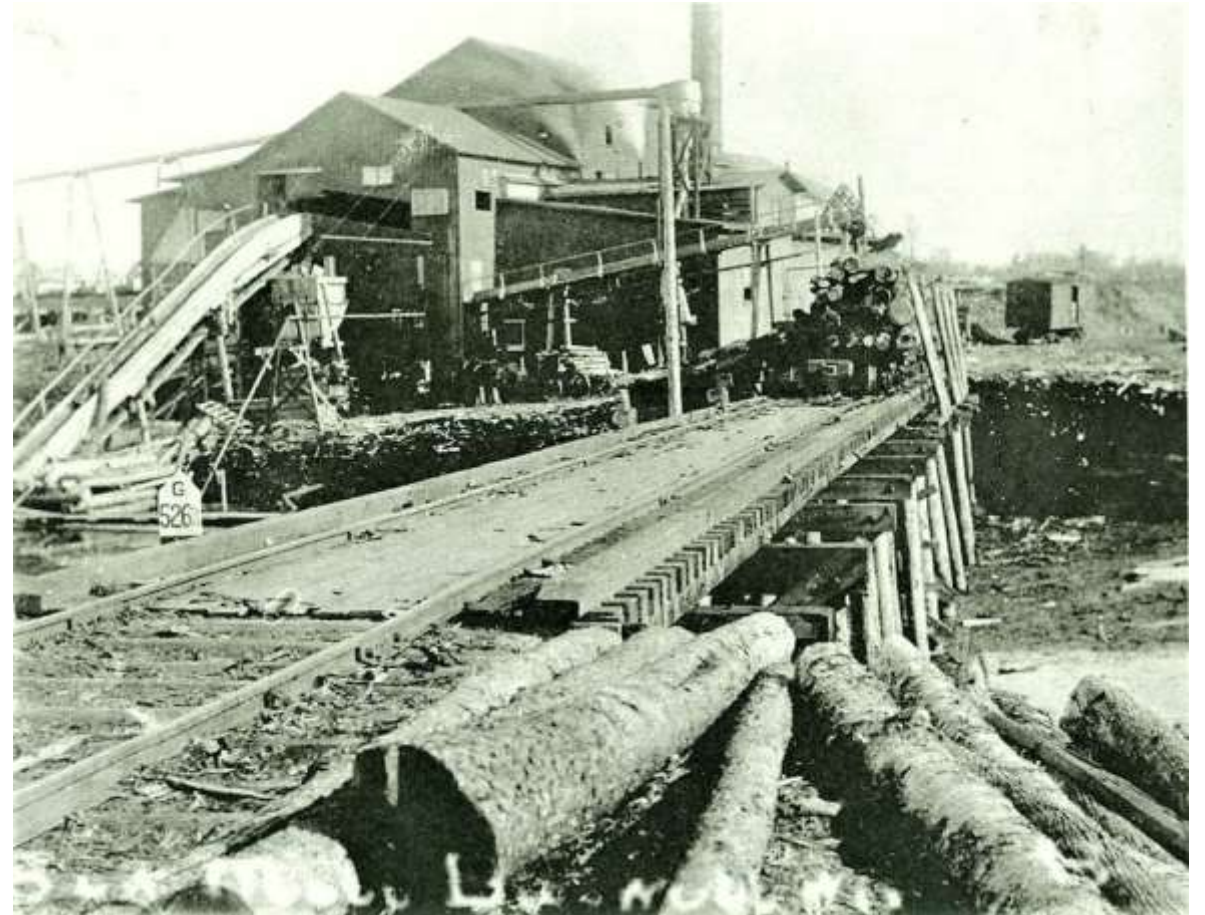
Big Lake flats
1935 planting.
Men look too
old to be CCC
workers.
Context and
location of
this event is
unknown.



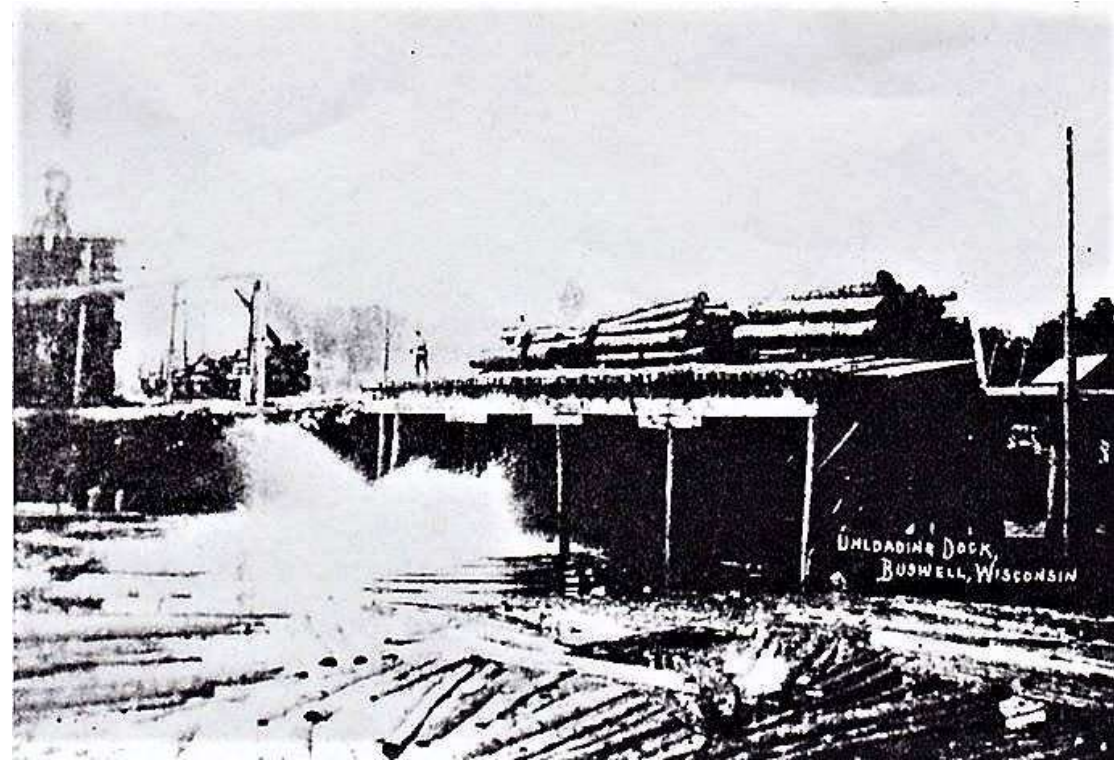
Starting in 1905, the growing logging community of Buswell showed great promise, until 1910 when fire ravaged the entire area. Why was Buswell abandoned?



Buswell's mill supported a growing community for families.



Buswell Lumber Co off loaded lumber to the lake for storage and processing. The community grew quickly with families and a schoolhouse.



To what extent did the Buswell fire change fire suppression efforts in the Northwoods?

All the residents of the village, between 200 and 300, escaped unharmed. Women and children were sent to safety in boats to an island in Papoose lake, upon the bank of which the village was built. There they spent the night, many in fear of suffocation if not death by fire. The men remained behind to fight the fire and look after what remained. A relief train sent by the Milwaukee road arrived at the fire-swept village at 9 o'clock at night, but could be of little aid. The train could not get into the village on account of a burned bridge. None of the fire-

FOREST FIRES DO DAMAGE

Little Town of Buswell Entirely Wiped Out.—Loss from Forest Fires in State Is Over \$3,000,000.

Buswell, a saw mill town in Vilas county, was practically wiped off the map last week by forest fires. The saw mill, planing mill, boarding house, store, blacksmith shop, barn, ice house, boat houses and 1,100,000 feet of hardwood, pine and hemlock lumber piled in the yard were totally destroyed. Thirty dwelling houses, the doctor's office and a school house were all that escaped the ravages of the flames. The loss to the Buswell Lumber & Manufacturing company, which owned the village, will be between \$200,000 and \$300,000. It is understood the company carried ample insurance. It is not likely the plant will be rebuilt, as the company has remaining only a cut of two or three years for the mill. The burned mill was a single band saw plant and had a capacity of 60,000 feet a day of two shifts. It had been run night and day until recently.

All the residents of the village, between 200 and 300, escaped unharmed. Women and children were sent to safety in boats to an island in Papoose lake, upon the bank of which the village was built. There they spent the night, many in fear of suffocation if not death by fire. The men remained behind to fight the fire and look after what remained. A relief train sent by the Milwaukee road arrived at the fire-swept village at 9 o'clock at night, but could be of little aid. The train could not get into the village on account of a burned bridge. None of the fire-stricken villagers cared to try to reach the train through the burning forest, so all remained behind.

Montreal River Miner July 15, 1910