

LAKE IDA

MEMORIES

Articles by:

Dean Jahnke

Tom Vickerman Sr.

Norman Wussow

Orval Gehrke

Raymond Anderson

Joan Voigt Shaeffer

James Mason

Mel Jasmer

Norman Brakken

Harry Bedman

IN MEMORIAM

Died - In the month of September 1864, at Union Farm, near Rolla, Phelps County, Mo. stricken down by the bullet of a Missouri bushwhacker, while with his rifle "Biting Betty" in hand he was bravely defending this house and family of the author of this book from pillage and assaults, brave and noble Uncle Andreas M. Darling, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.

In the year 1858, myself and wife emigrated from the city of Chicago, Ill., to Douglas County, Minn. and settled upon the lovely shores of Lake Ida. Douglas County is about one hundred and sixty miles north-west from St. Paul, and is reached by traveling up the valley of the Mississippi River to St. Cloud, the head of navigation, thence up the Sauk River Valley in an almost westerly direction to Lake Osakis, where the eastern boundary of the County begins. Alexandria, the County-seat and post office town of the county, is about twelve miles further on from Osakis Lake and Lake Ida is distant from Alexandria about six miles, still further on toward Breckenridge and Abercrombie, on the great Red River of the North.

At the time myself and wife moved into Douglas County, there was no beaten road over the prairie further than the little paper town of Kandotta, near Fairy Lake. One log cabin, and a very different one at that, had been erected upon this site, a liberty pole put up, a pole stable built and the "town" has an existence and a name. We purchased ox-teams in St. Cloud, loaded our household goods and provisions into the wagons and the journey was commenced. It was in May and there were no bridges across the streams. The Sauk River had to be crossed four times in the journey and as it was very high, we were obliged to unload each time and after ferrying our goods over in a small skiff, take the wagon to pieces and ferry it over in the same manner.

On our journey, at every cabin we stopped at, we heard of a Mr. Darling and his family with their teams and goods just ahead of us, bound for the same part of the State, and we hurried on expecting every night to overtake them, but the energy and experience of the hardy frontiersman widened the distance between us every day, and when we arrived in Alexandria we found he had been there some three or four days and had immediately proceeded to his "claim" upon Lake Darling, about one mile beyond the town in the direction of Lake Ida.

Notwithstanding the lateness of the season Mr. Darling broke up and fenced about twelve acres of land and raised a large crop of "sod corn", potatoes, buckwheat and rutabagas. He also built himself a good, warm house, and a stable for his stock, and in farm enterprise took and kept the lead in all that section.

Excerpt From

MANOMIN:

A RHYTHMICAL ROMANCE OF MINNESOTA

The Great Rebellion
and the
Minnesota Massacres

By

Myron Coloney

St. Louis

Published by the author

1866

Entered according to Act of Congress, In the year 1865
by Myron Coloney
In the clerk's office of the United States District Court,
For the Eastern District of Missouri

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This book was given to: Ann M. Mellon
from: John O. Mellon
St. Louis, Mo.

Rolla, and christened it "Union Farm". It was so near Rolla, which was strongly garrisoned, that I never entertained the slightest apprehension of trouble from bushwhackers, and with my wife and father-in-law and family did not hesitate to move upon the place once more.

I kept up a pretty regular correspondence with Mr. Darling, and believing him to be in a good deal of danger on his claim, a mile from the stockade, I advised him to come down to Missouri and take charge of my property as overseer. As there was a drouth prevailing in Minnesota at the time and his family felt lonesome and discouraged, he consented and selling out his teams, utensils, etc., came on.

I had leased the property to my father-in-law, Mr. Chauncey Tuttle, for a term of years, and he ratifying my arrangement with Mr. Darling, gave him full charge of the farm. All went along peacefully and well, until the month of September 1864. Myself and Mr. Tuttle had come up to St. Louis on business and while here received the following telegram which fell upon us like a flash of lightning:

To Myron Coloney:

We were bushwhacked last night
and Mr. Darling was killed.

Mrs. J.A. Coloney

Alas, it was true! The dear kind-hearted, brave old man was shot down while gallantly defending the entrance of my parlor. The murderers were "Dick Kitchen's" band of guerillas, to whom it is alleged the "Wright boys", lately shot by Col. Babcock's men, belonged. The immediate instigators of the murder were two sons of the former owner of the place, Tom and Bill Lennox. They have yet to answer to the law for this most foul and hellish deed.

The military authorities at Rolla sent over an escort and brought the body of the brave old man to town, and buried him with becoming obsequies in the military burying ground. His stricken widow and her children determined to return to the "claim" in Minnesota which they did, and are there at this present time.

It is for her benefit - to assist her in meeting the severe struggle of life, deprived as she is of the manly hand and strong arm on which she was wont to rely, to assist her in the proper education of her children, that this book has been printed. I do not know that it will ever return what it cost, but I trust it will and hope it will supply a fund for many years to come to fill the purse that the energy and industry of him who was so cruelly snatched away from her was wont to fill.

He was a most indefatigable hunter and trapper at the season of the year when such business could be made to pay, and with old "Biting Betty" could shoot a loon's eye out forty rods distant every fire. "Biting Betty" was made to order for him in Wisconsin; she carried a half ounce ball and weighed sixteen pounds, which every sportsman ought to know is an immense weight for a rifle.

Mr. Andreas M. Darling was born of poor parents on a rugged farm in the northern part of the State of New York, and his father, like himself, appears to have been a kind of a "rollingstone", always keeping ahead of "civilization". In an early day they moved to western New York, and thence to Ohio, and there young Andreas took the contract of cutting down the forest on the present site of Cleveland, Ohio. When settlers began to be too numerous, he moved into Michigan, where he married, thence into Wisconsin, and from there to Minnesota.

He was a large, well proportioned man, standing six feet four inches in his stockings, powerful, kind hearted and true. No man was readier at a "raising", "chopping", "logging" or "plowing", than he. He was invariably chosen as "boss" of the occasion, no matter what it might be. He was always on hand at the frequent "dances" with which the settlers for miles around, sought to make merry the long winters of that distant hyperborean region, and his "team" always contained the jolliest load of young folks in the settlement.

When the Sioux massacres commenced I was fortunately away from home. My wife had gone to Chicago to visit her parents, and I was traveling through Indiana purchasing sheep. My house and its contents were burned and several of the neighbors, living higher up the road, were killed.

The settlers about Alexandria organized themselves into a company and electing Mr. Darling captain, hastily left their homes for St. Cloud, one hundred miles below. The Indians followed and surrounded them nearly every night, but did not dare to attack, and finally the whole party reached St. Cloud in safety.

The crops had all been left standing in the fields, and the cattle, hogs and sheep were roaming at large. Assurance was given Mr. Darling by Governor Ramsey that a company of soldiers should be stationed permanently at Alexandria very soon, and therefore as soon as he could find safe quarters for his family, he with a neighbor of his, Mr. Barnes, went fearlessly back to their homes and commenced saving their crops, and as soon as the soldiers came up they moved their families back again.

I never returned, but moving to St. Louis, commenced trading through south-west Missouri and Arkansas, and finally in connection with another gentleman of St. Louis, purchased the Hamilton Lennox plantation of a thousand acres, near

BY: Tom VICKERMAN SR.

BRICK FACTORY: LAKE IDA

A brick factory existed in the 1800's on the east side of Lake Ida on the Gilbert Brakken property. Tom Vickerman, Sr. remembers seeing piles of old bricks left at the site of the factory while hauling water from the lake in the early 1920's. The site of the original factory is just north of the present Pilgrim Point Road and west toward the lakeshore. The Brakken silo still stands on the property.

FLOUR MILL: LAKE IDA

The original flour mill was located in a meadow just north of Lake Charlie (a short distance from the SE corner of Lake Ida) on property now owned by Dennis Rapp. A small stream was the source of power but, according to Reuben Vickerman (Tom, Sr.'s father) did not provide enough water to keep the mill going. A Mr. Alden dug a new channel for the stream and the mill was subsequently relocated to a site, now Burkey property, on the new creek bed. This creek now flows under a bridge on County Road 61 near the intersection with Sunset Strip. The mill was in operation during the late 1800's.

SANDY POINT: LAKE IDA

This point is now referred to as Pilgrim Point and is the site of a church summer camp. In the early 1900's, the Rand family of Minneapolis leased the land from Gilbert Brakken and built the main clubhouse which still stands. The lease ran out about 1920 and the property, 50 acres including the point, was purchased by Rufus Rand in the early 1920's for \$12,000. The Rand family named the property "The Wickiup" (a North American Indian word meaning lodge or hut). The family built several additional buildings and spent summers there with their daughters into the early 1950's. When the daughters grew up and left home and Mrs. Rand (a member of the Chase family of New York) came into a family inheritance and spent more time in New York, Mr. Rand decided to sell the property. He had it lotted out but sold the entire 50 acres to the United Church of Christ about 1960. It has functioned as a summer camp for the church since that time.

She now lives upon the shores of Lake Darling in Minnesota, while the remains of her noble husband lie away down here in the soul of Missouri. It is my earnest wish to disinter the body, provide it with a suitable coffin and send it up to her, but embarrassments which have come upon me from being obliged to give up the farm, and losses in business have put it entirely out of my power to do so, at present, and if therefore, after reading the story of the gallant, kindhearted, true old man, any one should feel disposed to enclose me a contribution for that purpose, however small, it will be duly acknowledged and appreciated.

"Biting Betty" was carried off by the party who committed the murder, as was every other thing of value in my house; but as the rifle was a very heavy one it is thought that it was left somewhere in the State, and if it can be recovered and sent to me, a large reward will be paid for it.

St. Louis, Missouri, October 1865

Myron Coloney

SOME OF LAKE IDA'S HISTORY

As Remembered by

Norman Wussow

July 1998

Lake Ida in Douglas County, Minnesota consists of approximately twenty-one miles of shore line. Along this shore line there have been many historic moments and memories to recall. Some of these were told to me by others - my Mother told us of Indians walking along the lake and of wolves howling in the night - and some were memories that I had an active roll in. The following words describe some of my memories of the events of Lake Ida and also include my thoughts on where Lake Ida is today,

My Great-Grandfather, John Wussow, purchased our farm in 1881 from the original homesteaders, Andrew, Ella and Anders Anderson. The Andersons lived in a dugout near the lake where Sam and Naomi Gargaro now have their house. Mr. Anderson eventually moved up the hill and later built a log house and barn where our present farm site now is. My Grandfathers, John and Franz then built more buildings including our brick house which was built in the early 1900's.

Many of the bricks used in building homes and other buildings in and around this area were fired and produced by The Lake Ida Brick Factory which we were told, was on the East side of Lake Ida. Other businesses which relied on the lake resource or were near the lake, include many farms with a variety of livestock including: horses, cows, pigs and poultry. Turkeys were also raised to be processed at the turkey plant in Garfield. Today there are only two farms left on the Lake and their livestock is mainly cattle.

There was also an Ice cutting business on Lake Ida run by Richard and Rheinhold Schulz. The Schulz brothers supplied block ice for the ice houses on many area homesteads. These ice houses were used for refrigeration throughout the whole year. Farmers and other customers hauled this block ice up from the lake during the winter using horse and sleigh. The Block ice was then packed in sawdust and served as an early refrigeration system. Another item of interest along this line is that there was a huge Ice House in Alexandria - it stood where WCCO television is today - many individuals and businesses in Alexandria used this ice house for their refrigeration.

Lake Ida was also used as a roadway during the winter when the country roads, as they were, were made unpassable by weather and other factors. Logs, firewood, grain, potatoes and even manure(1)

HISTORY OF THE VICKERMAN FARM

NE quarter of Section 24, Ida Township, Douglas County
Minnesota

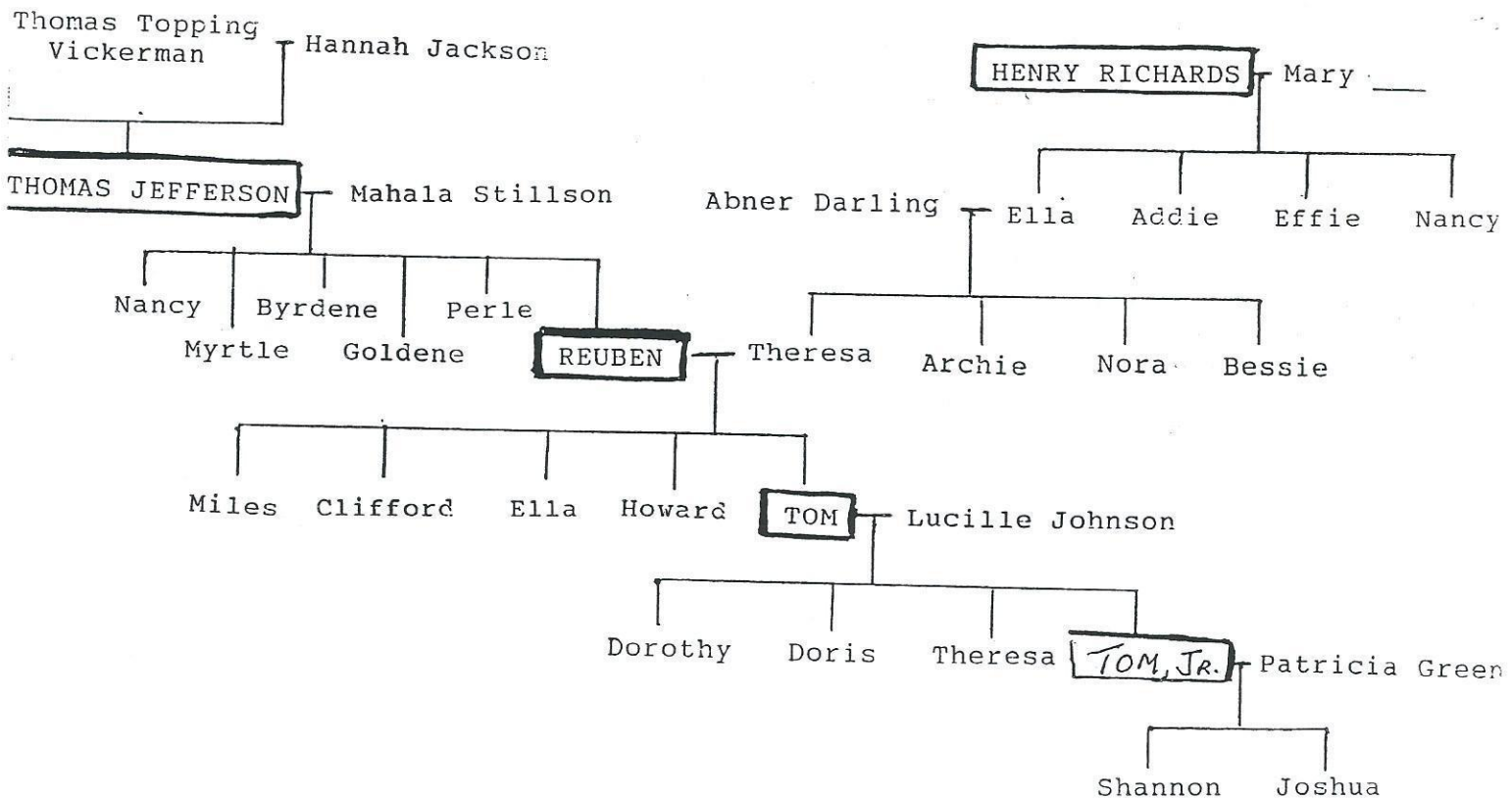
Henry Richards homesteaded the 160 acre farm in the early 1870's. In 1876 he was granted a deed to the land by the United States Government which was signed by President Ulysses S. Grant. The original deed is currently in the possession of Tom J. Vickerman, Jr.

In 1902, Henry Richards sold the farm to Thomas Jefferson Vickerman who sold it to his son, Reuben John Vickerman, in 1908.

Tom John Vickerman, son of Reuben Vickerman, bought the farm from his father in 1948 and farmed the land until 1977.

Tom J. Vickerman, Jr. purchased the farm from his father in March of 1977 and currently resides there with his wife, Patricia, and children, Shannon and Joshua.

Shannon and Joshua are the sixth generation of this family to live on the original farm homestead.



July 1998

the southern end of the lake, close to the outlet damn. The purpose of the meeting was to raise the level of both sides of Lake Ida. This would accommodate people living on the shallows of the south end, so they could have shorter docks and could float their big boats in. Hydraulogists from Fergus Falls were contacted (they had control of the damns) to raise the level of the lake over the objections of several residents including the owners of Big Horn Bay Resort. Evidently those who wanted to raise the level of the lake got their wish because the lake level rose to it's current high level of today and the damn has been fenced off.

In my opinion, the current high lake level has created havoc with the bass spawning beds in the shallows of Lake Ida. The massive DNR walleye stocking has probably spoiled the balance of many different kinds of fish in Lake Ida. (But who's going to argue with the popularity of the walleye?) On Little Ida the only true spawning bed was on the west end of the lake. The DNR gave developers permission to fill in this area with the intention that the fish could spawn on the Northwest corner of Little Ida. However the only time fish can enter this area to spawn is if we have high snow melt. Later on after the hatch, there isn't enough water shed for the hatchlings to get back into the lake, making this spawning bed virtually useless. The filled-in spawning bed on the west end consisting of bogs and grass to filter the water from the surrounding runoff, has now been lost.

There have been many other changes to and around the lake over the years. One of the changes I've seen with the current high lake level is that the high water mark covered the local softball field. The softball field used to lie where the current Little Ida Beach Road now cuts through. The pond north of the road used to be the local softball field.

Other changes that I have seen over the years are the use of little trolling motors which left a film of oil on the lake to the high-powered motors which must produce a tremendous amount of exhaust. The comraderie around the lake has changed too. Before neighbors were neighbors - helping each other out - today harassment, nitpiking and even the filing of lawsuits because someone building next door to you might spoil your view is the norm. Today people raise objections at planning commission and lake shore meetings to anyone who wants to build on or develop his or her lakeshore land.

Lake Ida is a public lake and theoretically it belongs to all U.S. citizens. Lake Ida IS important in itself but it is only a very small part of Douglas County which makes me think that the continued complaining by some to our county officials is unwarranted.

We are in an unique positon on Lake Ida to be in the division of two important water sheds in the state of Minnesota. The elevation of Garfield, MN is 17 feet higher than both Alexandria and Brandon (according to Rail Road records). This high ridge runs north-north east of Garfield onto a point several miles north of the Leaf Valley

were hauled to distant lands via the lake. When the traditional roadways were unpassable, Mail Carrier Weatherwax used to deliver the mail via the lake route with his horse and sleigh. He had a spare horse that he boarded at Ewald Wussow's farm, the first farm east of the church, Weatherwax would run his route and then change horses there, leaving one to rest and then taking the other for the return trip to Alexandria.

Living near the Lake offered many opportunities. My first contact with a Southern Gentelman Summer Resident when I was just a boy, was meeting Mr. Cook from St. Joseph Missouri. He always had a big car towing a boat with Captain's Chairs (that was something quite unusual in those days!) He always brought his Negro chauffeur along and they came to our shores to fish. We kids would race each other to open the gates for them as there was usually a Quarter in it for us! (That was big money for a kid in those days!) My Grandfather Franz Wussow rented out boats for the summer fishing season. Little Ida was often called Wussow Bay and many people came summer after summer to rent boats. I spent many spring evenings painting boats. (NOT a job I enjoyed!) and many summer evenings cleaning them. Grandpa had a theory to go along with his boat rentals: If you didn't catch any fish - you didn't have to pay the day's rent. Soon no one was catching fish on Wussow Bay and eventually we had to put a stop to Grandpa's policy.

Fourth of July was always a big event on Ida's shores! Many fish-frys, picnics and softball games were held along with the Independence Day Celebrations. Local pastors moved two buildings down to the Lake (Chuck Eidems lot today.) One of the buildings was used as a kitchen, the other for sleeping quarters. (The latrine was a hollow stump further up in the woods!) This spot along Lake Ida was used as a retreat and vacation spot for these pastors. Rev. Tessman, Pastor at St. James, South Effington, continued for many years after his retirement to come back to this spot to vacation and spend his summer. Reverend Tessman had two sons, Lewis and Paul, who used to swim from the sandbar back to the campgrounds - a distance of almost a mile. I was quite impressed as a kid that they could swim so far!

In my youth, when the lake was much lower, cars used to drive across the sandbar from Gerhke's farm to the LeRoy farm (where Betsy Ross Rösört is now located). A petition (somewhere in the late 1930's to early 1940's) was circulated around the lake asking for signatures to agree to dig a channel between Big Ida and Little Ida. The result of such channel was the lowering of Little Ida 15 inches and the raising of Big Ida 2 inches. The sand bar has been covered ever since.

In the 1970's, my wife Eilene and I saw an ad in the local paper inviting are lake shore owners to meet at a private house on

By: Orval Gehrke

In the thirties to thirty eight, Little Ida was divided from the big lake, by the sandbar. Orval and his Dad were able to walk across it without getting their feet wet. In thirty eight the Game and Fish Department dug a trench through, so the boats could get through and the bay dropped one foot. Torrential rains came in later thirties and early forties and the lake raised six feet.

W.P.A. worked two years to straighten out the creek between Ida and Miltona, and when they quit with two-thirds done, Orval, Loren Haas and Arnold Schulz and two men from Game and Fish Department finished it with wheel scrapers and horses. The creek was dry at that time. They were paid four dollars a day with the team of horses. The creek used to run in front of Big Horn Bay cottages up to the third cottage, where it went into the lake.

Store. The waters west of this line go through the Chippewa and the Pomme de Terre Rivers, then enter the Minnesota River at Appleton, MN and from there they travel on to the Mississippi River. East of this line with the high points being Lake Irene and Spring Lake, the water flows into Lake Miltona and then into Lake Ida, and a chain of Lakes ending up in Carlos, flowing out the north-east corner of Carlos and into the Long Prairie River where finally it drains into the Mississippi River at Little Falls. This draining of the lands through these water sheds has been going on for thousands of years. So we on Lake Ida have to realize that there are many other people with ties to the lake. We need to start looking at a much broader picture. If something gets into the lake here, it just may eventually end up in the Gulf of Mexico!

Submitted by:

Norman Wussow
3982 Co. Rd. 5 NW
Alexandria, MN 56308

By: Joan Voigt Shaeffer

In 1917, my grandfather, Louis Voigt, of Atchinson, Kansas, was staying at Bedman's Bed & Breakfast resort before going to Mayos in Rochester, Mn. At that time he purchased one acre of ground from the Paulson pasture that extended along the south side of Lake Ida from Bedman's to the Lake outlet to Lake Charley. In 1919 Louis Voigt contracted with Garfield Lumber Co., of Garfield, to build the present existing house and garage on his acre which was adjacent to Bedman's. He also had a barbed wire fence built around the property to prevent the Paulson cows from trespassing.

The lake was very low in those days and an island extended two or three hundred yards out into the lake from the property now owned by Jack Settles. In the 1930's WPA built the dam on the outlet to Lake Charley to control the level of the lake, causing the island to disappear.

In 1947 along came REA to provide electric power which allowed for the elimination of all the outdoor sanitation facilities (outhouses) and also began the tremendous property development all around the lake.

As late as 1938, our cottge and garage were the only development between our place and the outlet to Charley.

My father, Walter Voigt took over this property in 1946 and I became the owner in 1967. Since 1970, my husband Robert, and I have driven from Southern California to spend 3 months each summer on this property, in the same buildings that were constructed in 1919.



Raymond & Bonnie Anderson
1934 Big Horn Bay Rd NW
Alexandria MN 56308-9795

LAKE IDA HISTORY

THIS MUCH WE KNOW:

In September 1875 Charles and Anna Engstrom settled on the land that is now known as Caroline Beach on Big Horn Bay Road Northwest. Anna married John Reed after the passing of Charles. John Reed drown in Lake Ida in the late 1800's. After Anna's passing her daughter Caroline was the beneficiary of her estate in the year 1905. Caroline was the wife of Gustaf A. Anderson. When Caroline passed away Gustaf sold the property to a son Carl "Ted" Anderson in 1927.

There was a two-tire track trail running parallel to the shoreline in the 1950's. This track was about 20 yards closer to the lake at that time from where the current Big Horn Bay Road is now located. The only home on this area of the lake was located on the northeast end of the lake. Carl "Ted" Anderson was a bachelor who resided there most of his adult life. (This is currently the Boehnes cottage)

In 1961 Ted Anderson passed away and all of the lake shore he owned was passed on to his heirs. Two nieces of Ted's made it possible for the rest of the heirs to purchase and develop a new shoreline named after their grandmother Caroline. It was at this time that the new property owners paid to have the road moved to its current location. In 1965 the heirs to Ted's estate donated to the township property for a public access on the north end of the lake. "Ted's Landing" has currently been undergoing improvements to enhance its use. An ice heave was removed in the spring of 1998 and the property was leveled out for 4-5 vehicles with trailers to land and park. Future enhancements are to include a cement ramp, rip-rapped shoreline, and a dock.

SOME OTHER TIDBITS:

The resort known as Big Horn Bay had not been in operation for a period of time in the early 1950's. It had been neglected and grown up in tall grass and weeds. In the late 1950's the resort was restored by new owners.

The shoreline has seen erosion over the past 20 years of approximately 3 feet.

The bridge that crosses "Milida" creek by Big Horn Bay was originally built in 1936 and was replaced in 1996.

The early 1930's the north shoreline of lake Ida known as "Caroline Beach" was made up of cattails about a half a block out from the current shoreline.

THIS MAY BE FOLKLORE:

It is said that past generations actually caught their limit of Walleye on Lake Ida. Believe it or not.

OLD ADS FROM BEDMAN'S BEACH

RATES

\$4.00 a day; \$22 to \$24 a week; special rates by the month; children under 8 years of age, half rate; boats, \$1.25 a day; \$4 a week.

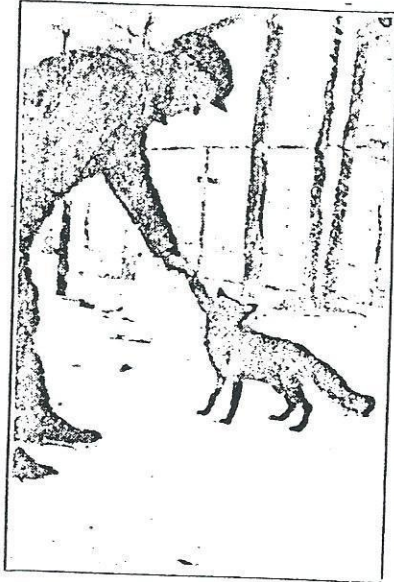
Our resort is open from June 1st to November 1st, with special reductions in rates prevailing in June, September and October. Guests will be met at the trains at Alexandria if notice is given.

Guests coming by automobile should follow Trunk Highway No. 3, 150 miles north of Minneapolis.

Surf-board riding is real sport. Lots of opportunity for it at Bedman's Beach.

An eighteen hole golf course, the privileges of which are extended to Bedman Beach guests, is within three miles of this resort.

Hunting in this vicinity is also good in season.



BLACK FOX RANCH

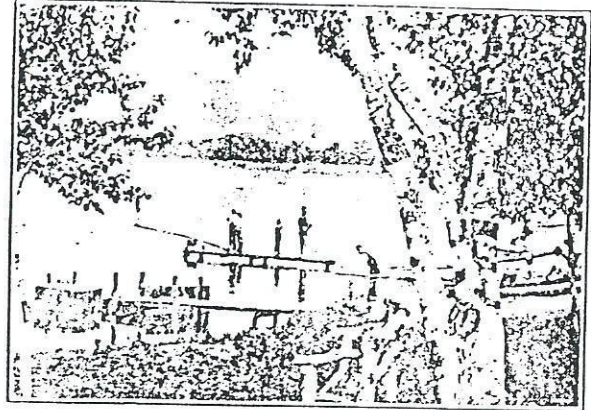
In connection with the resort we have a Silver Black Fox ranch. All our foxes are guaranteed to be 100% pure Silver Black. They are now for sale on easy terms.

We also have lake shore lots for sale.

Parties making reservation must pay for cottage from reservation date.

For further information, write

Mrs. C. J. C. Bedman, Proprietor
R. F. D. 3, Box 32, Alexandria, Minnesota



BEDMAN'S BEACH

On Lake Ida

5 MILES NORTHWEST OF
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA

In The Heart of The
10,000 Lakes

Is the Ideal Place to Spend
Your Summer Vacation

*Where Lake Cooled Breezes and Home
Comforts with No Care for the Morrow
Make Winter Come Too Soon.*

GOOD AUTO ROADS LEAD TO RESORT

A POPULAR SUMMER RESORT

In a county in the Heart of the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota, in which there are over 200 lakes, Lake Ida is the second in size and the superior of almost all the others in its natural beauty, fishing advantages, and purity of water.

On this lake is located one of the oldest and best known summer resorts of this section, Bedman's Beach, the only resort for the public on Lake Ida.

Bedman's Beach for many years has entertained sportsmen from all over the Middle West and South, who have in Lake Ida found all that could be desired with regard to gameness of fish, and their variety, and along with this first-class accommodations.

Lake Ida is unsurpassed in the county for its fishing, there being found in it in abundance large and small mouth bass, crappies, sunfish, pickerel, muscullonge, and cat fish.

The lake is about six miles long, and varies in width from one to three miles. The shore line almost all the way round is well timbered, and its trees of birch, elm, oak, maple and basswood, are truly inviting in the heat of mid-summer. No lake in this section of the state has a prettier shore line than Lake Ida. In some spots the shores are strewn with pebbles, and small sub-angular boulders.

FINE BATHING BEACH

A sandy bottom, and the pure and crystalline qualities of the water make bathing a pleasure beyond words to describe.

Bedman's Beach offers for the accommodation of its guests a central dining room, sleeping cottages with screened porches, all equipped with electric lights, and good home cooking. Our capacity is 30 guests.

We also have a number of cottages furnished for light housekeeping, including ice, one row boat and bedding, at the rate of \$20 to \$35 a week. Silver and linen are not furnished with the above, however.

The earliest recorded conveyance of property is dated June 20, 1901, between Andrew and Alta May Jacobson to J. Wallace Field, Elda J. Field, Judge Burnell and Mary Lemouraux Burnell of Jackson County, Missouri. The original purpose of the purchase was to establish some sort of religious retreat.

Judge and Mrs. Burnell somehow left the scene and the Fields sold off shares to the bachelors, Quigg's, Stafford's, Blood's and the Ford's at various times. The bachelors, Quigg's and Ford's came from Kansas City or St. Louis to escape the summer heat. (Eventually, the Blood's sold to the Jewell's who sold to the Walling's).

An association was formed on August 12, 1919, which adopted a constitution and by-laws as well as articles of agreement for the purpose of establishing the present Stony Point Association. There have been very few changes or amendments since.

Most of the early dwellings started out as tents on tent platforms. The Blood's cottage was the first building to be erected. (The other cottages were built one or two seasons after a members arrival).

The members took many of their meals together, either in Mrs. Fields "Dining Hall" (a screened-in back porch with a wood burning stove) or at a communal open fire on the common point.

Present owners are:

Dave and Mary Ann Mason

Michael and Anita Mason

James Mason

Sam and June Joy

James and Anita Conn

The above conversation took place in the late fifty's or early sixty's. Both my father, Anton Brakken, and Alvin Grulke have passed away, my father at age of 85 and Alvin was well into his ninety's. Alvin was ten or twelve years older than my father. Gilbert Brakken died in 1902 from Tuberculosis. Seven of his nine daughters and his first wife died from Tuberculosis during 1887-88. Jens Brakken and Ann were listed in the 1875 census as being 65-67 years old, and lived on the west side of Lake Ida. Jens died in 1909. Jens was Gilberts father.

The Brakken farm was homesteaded in 1878 and extended from the south public access north the included Cozy Nook. I believe it was 170 acres-plus in size. Pilgrims Point, formerly Wic Up club, was included.

Yes, Lake Ida provided many things to the people living on its shores. The south end of the old log cabin had hundreds of sharpened nails drove into the gable end about twelve feet above the ground. When I questioned my father as to why, he didn't know. His older brother looked at him and replied, "That is where Dad dried his lutefisk." Gilbert caught Northern and dried them on nails.

Alvin told of Gilbert pushing his big flat-bottom boat along the shore of the lake gathering limestone rocks. He had a pit that he lined with this rock, filled the pit with ironwood, and after it burned to coals cover the pit and if it didn't rain before the process completed, he had quick-lime for mortar and cement.

Dad told of tapping maple trees and making maple syrup. It was the proceeds from this that each year paid the first half of the taxes. Also, his step-father cooked skunks for skunk-oil that people rubbed on their chests for colds or for pains and aches. Dad didn't think much of it.

Frogs were a great commodity for the Brakken boys. They caught the frogs in a slough in the pasture just back from the lake. They sold them to tourists who would land their boats at what is now the public landing. Frogs were the favorite bait for Bass.

Lake Ida was widely known for its Bass and Bass was considered top sporting fish. Northerns were considered junk fish and the tourist would have the boat men (hired men who rowed the boats) bury them.

The last big family project was the cutting of maple trees for cord wood to be sold on the streets of Alexandria for fuel. On Dad's eighteenth birthday he and Archie started cutting on the north end of the farm where the bank is. They cut a hundred plus cords of wood before Archie was drafted for World War I. Dad hauled the wood to town and sold it.

By Norman Brakken

LAKE IDA HISTORY

Fishing was poor on a beautiful late September day, so my father, his step brother Alvin Grulke, and myself pulled up to the old boat landing of our old home place. The two started discussing a certain large willow tree that grew only a few rods from the shore line and of a spring that supposedly came out from under its trunk.

My father asked Alvin if he could remember Gilbert Brakken, my grandfather. Gilbert Brakken had died when my father was three years old.

"Yes", Alvin said, "I can also remember your grandfather. He must have been close to a hundred years old when I watched him and your dad make bricks. Your dad had a big hollow basswood log standing on end. In this log he had inserted one end of a crotch of an ash tree. The branches of this end of the crotch was cut off with stubs so that this end of the crotch served like a dasher of an old ice-cream freezer. The other end of the crotch was cut off close to the ground. Your grandfather who was almost blind lead an old horse which was hitched to the crotch, and would walk around and around the log, turning the dasher."

"Near the bottom of the upright log was a large hole with a plug. Your dad stood up on a stand pouring water and clay onto the hollow log. The clay was taken from a select place in bank in the old hog pasture. When the clay and water was mixed to the right consistency he would pull the plug and fill the mud into little boxes the size of a brick. He had hundreds of these little boxes. When the mud "set up" he would remove them from the boxes and stack the bricks along the side of a trench that he had dug into the hillside."

"Gilbert had gathered ironwood poles and placed them in the middle of the trench. When he got the trench full he would start the wood on fire. When the poles were burned to coals he covered the trench with a large sheet metal and there the bricks would bake for a certain amount of time, I think about a week."

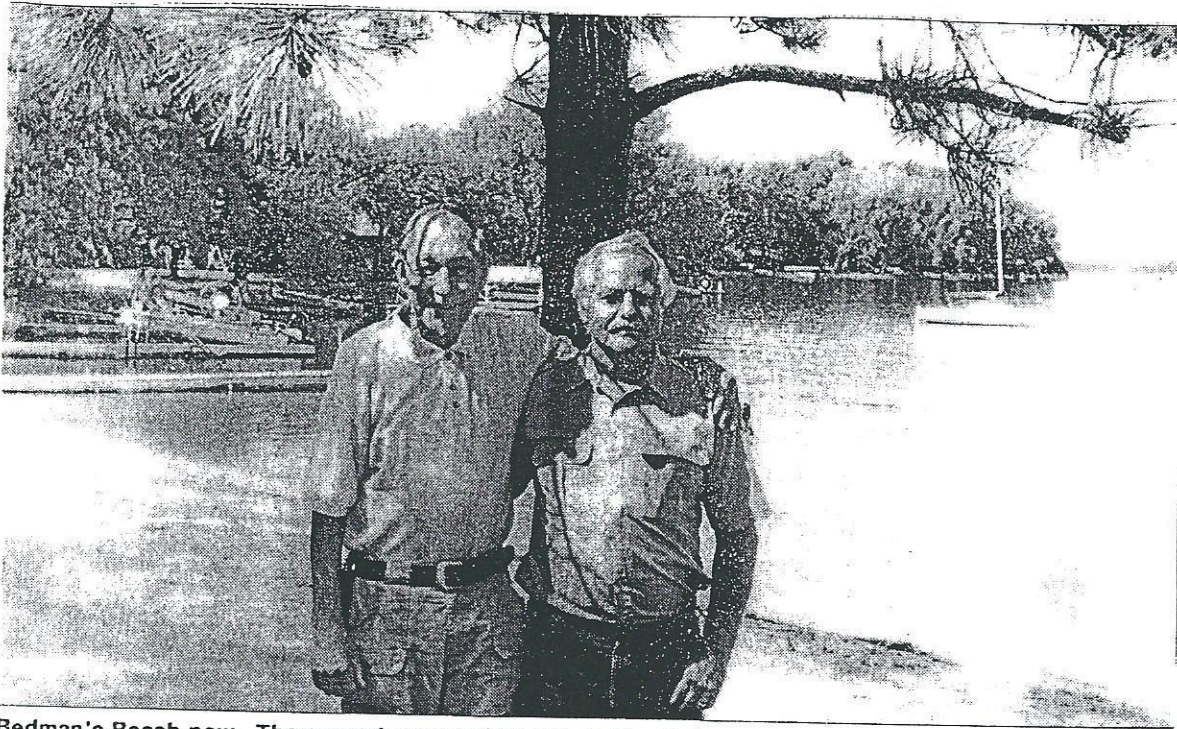
Alvin continued, "You could always tell the bricks the Brakkens made because there was sand in the clay and because the intense heat from the burning ironwood would melt the sand and give the bricks a greenish glassy look. Many of the houses built in Leaf Valley and the north end of the lake were made of bricks burnt right here."

It has been recorded that Gilbert had a contract for 5,000 bricks for the building of the Douglas County Court House.

Even today, ironwood trees grow along the shores of the lake. If let be, the trees would grow until the tree got a diameter up to ten inches and then the tree would die. In a couple of years the roots would rot and the tree fall. If the tree was gathered for fire wood it would burn with extreme heat. The wood is very hard to drive a nail into or to saw. In the days of sawing stove wood with saw rig you could hear for a mile away the saw ring as the poles were fed into the blade.

Resorter shares memories of summers

on Lake Ida



Bedman's Beach now...The current owner of Bedman's Beach Resort is Harry Bedman Jr., shown here (on right) here with long-time friend and guest at the resort, Walt Anderson of Bozeman, Montana. Staff photo by Karen Risch

by Karen Risch
Staff Writer

Many families have wonderful memories of summers in Minnesota, but few can claim to have visited the same resort every summer for more than 60 years.

Many resorts are family-owned and operated, but few can claim more than 100 years of continuous operation by members of the same family.

Bedman's Beach is probably one of the oldest family-run resorts in Minnesota, and Walt Anderson is probably one of the few vacationers who can claim to have visited the same resort every

summer since 1932.

For the past 63 years, Anderson has spent every summer at Bedman's Beach on Lake Ida. For the past 40 or so, he's stayed in Cabin Number One.

Over the years, Anderson has spent anywhere from two to four weeks each summer at the resort. In the beginning, he came with his parents and his younger sister and brother. In more recent years, he's brought his wife, his four children, their families, his uncles and aunts, and even his in-laws. He said that he fell in love with the lake, but he's also grown to love his "extended family" at the resort—the Bedman family

and their long-time guests.

Early years on Lake Ida

The Bedmans also have a long history on Lake Ida and in Douglas County. One of the current owners, Harry Bedman Jr., is the great grandson of James and Elizabeth Bedman, who homesteaded in Douglas County in 1867.

"They were some of the first settlers in this area," Bedman said. "They homesteaded here with people like the Kinkeads, the Cowdrys and the Darlings. They were among the first families to spend the winter here."

The Bedmans opened their

home to vacationing fishermen in 1880. Bedman said that those first resorters were all men, many of them single. Most came to the area on the train, and his grandfather, Charlie Bedman, would drive to town in a horse-drawn wagon to get them.

A newspaper article from the St. Paul Dispatch (year unknown) describes Charlie Bedman's wagon as "roomy," and the Bedman's resort as a "commodious home on the south shore of Lake Ida."

The writer also went into some detail describing Charlie Bedman himself stating that, "As a sportsman, he was a dead shot." And

when he rowed his guests in a boat on Lake Ida, they were sure to feel safe, "in tempest and in calm."

Guests at the resort, in those early days, stayed in one of four bedrooms in the second floor of the Bedman's family home. They'd eat all their meals in the family dining room. Harry's grandmother and great grandmother did all of the cooking.

"They cooked three meals a day on a wood stove in our kitchen," Bedman explained. "They kept doing that until even after my grandfather started to build the log cabins for the guests because

By: Mel and Ruby Jasmer – former owners of Camp Omaha

Camp Omaha was started by Vern Jones and wife, Kate, out of Omaha, Nebraska about 1935. That is where they got the name Omaha, and in those years they were called camps, so that is how it got called, Camp Omaha.

At that time the people came by train, so they were picked up and brought out to the camp to fish. They would even fix some of the meals for them.

Mel and Ruby Jasmer bought the resort in 1958 and sold it in 1997, so that was a span of 38 years. In 1958 you carried your water in, and the dirty water out. Most people came for week-ends and some just came up and fished for the day. Back then no one owned their own boat and most people rowed the boat. Today everyone has their own boat.

Ida was the lake to get the big northern pike. The good walleye fishing started in the 1950's, and it was always a good bass lake.

In the early years, the people would go out early in the morning and you probably wouldn't see them again until evening. There were very few kids at the resort. Then in the 1960's, the entire families started coming to the lake. The fishing camps then really changed to resorts. Kids became a big part of the resort life, with the start of water sports such as water skiing.

Also, the water in the lake changed with a lot more weed growth. There weren't many year around homes on the lake. Today one sees many year around homes and the summer cabins are disappearing gradually from the shoreline.

Even the bait has changed like using leeches and night crawlers. I guess I could go on and on, but that's about the big changes. I'm happy to see people around the lakes using them. The big thing is to keep them clean the best way we can. It seems the people in the year around homes just don't fish that much anymore.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

People with sand beaches fill them with rocks and those with rocks clean them for sand

People fish on the opposite side of the lake from their property

They travel many miles to be at a quiet lake and bring a box of fireworks with them

Trees are planted on bare lots and cut down on wooded lots

Air mattresses have replaced swimming

People sit in the smoke of a campfire to escape the smog of the city

People don't know what to do with junk they can't throw in the lake or across the road

Fewer sailboats because it takes talent to sail

Fewer rowboats because they are not like ones over at the health spa

If Lewis and Clark had jet skis, they would still be going in circles

The billionaires are buying out the millionaires on the lake

GONE FROM THE LAKE

Walking the shoreline

Wooden boats

Oars

Cane poles

Seining for minnows

Memories

there were too many to stay in the house."

By that time, the fishermen had started to bring their families along to vacation at resort. Bedman said the first women and children came in the early 1900s. Prices, at that time, were between \$1 and \$1.50 per day, and meals cost \$0.50. In June of 1905, the Bedman's guest register shows that Senator Knute Nelson stayed at their resort.

Vacations in the '30s

Electricity wasn't a part of life at the Bedman's resort until after World War II, but that didn't bother the Anderson family. Walt Anderson said that his parents liked to "rough it" a bit when they vacationed. They didn't even stay in the cabins on Lake Ida until the late 1930s. Before then, they would haul a tent in the back of their family car and set up camp when they got here.

Even getting to the resort, at that time, was a bit of an adventure, Anderson explained. The drive from their home in Elkhorn, Iowa took nearly 20 hours, with the family leaving at daybreak and not arriving at the resort until after midnight. What made it even more uncomfortable, though, were the miles and miles of gravel roads they had to travel to get here.

"The entire trip was on gravel, except a few short miles in town on Douglas Street, and that's all," he said.

The Andersons made that long trip, though, every summer, because Walt's father loved to fish and his children loved to swim. Anderson said that he remembers his challenging his younger brother and sister to see who could swim the farthest.

"When the folks first got here, all we could do was dog-paddle," Anderson said, "but after a while, we set up two stakes about a quarter mile from the shore. We'd walk out on the sandbar until we got to those stakes, and then we'd swim back and forth between them. We never got tired of that."

Harry Bedman was quite a bit younger than the Anderson kids.

He was two years old when they first started coming, but he, too, has memories of playing with them on the shore of Lake Ida.

"They used to build little boats for us from pieces of wood and rubber bands," Bedman said. "They would wind up the paddles with the rubber bands and let them go in the water. I was always amazed by those things."

Bedman also remembers showing up at the Anderson's cabin in the morning for breakfast. Mrs. Anderson would be frying crepes to serve with her homemade wild gooseberry jam. She'd always make extra for Harry Bedman.

"In those days, we'd quite frequently make our own jam on vacation," Anderson explained. "We kids would pick chokecherries and gooseberries and bring them back to mother. Then she'd get out the sugar and the water and mix it all up with a wooden spoon in her big, aluminum kettle."

Anderson even remembers how his mother had to hurry a bit in making her jam so that the aluminum wouldn't give it an off-taste. That was in the days before stainless steel, he explained.

Fishing on Lake Ida

Anderson also has many memories of fishing in those "good old days." Anderson was such a talented sportsman, Bedman said, that the resort hired him as a guide for a few summers in the 1940s.

"I remember taking three teenage girls fishing on Ida one time," Anderson said. "Their folks wanted them to get some fish, and we came back with 83

bluegills. That was fun, but I've often thought since then about how glad I was that I didn't have to clean them."

One time, Anderson was asked to help a vacationing minister catch some fish. What he did to help the man wasn't exactly legal, he admits, but it worked.

"He was vacationing here from Iowa, and I taught him how to cast, but he was one of those kinds who couldn't catch anything unless you hooked it on the line for him," Anderson said. "So I did something I've never done before and will never do again. I set up five lines for him

with five frogs on the ends. We left it overnight, and when we returned the next morning, there was a nice big black bass on the end. I felt kind of guilty about it, but oh, was he happy."

While Anderson was fishing, Harry Bedman remembers hauling kerosene and ice. Until the late 1940s, he said, each of the cabins had to have a fresh supply of kerosene for the lamps and ice for the icebox. Cooking and heating were done, he added, in a potbellied stove.

Carrying on the tradition

These days, Walt Anderson is

still fishing his favorite spot on Lake Ida. Harry Bedman and his family still run the resort. The cabins have changed a lot, they said, but the people haven't. Most of the guests at the resort have come for at least 25 summers now, and many are children and

grandchildren who have carried on the tradition.

"I guess we've all fallen in love with this place," Anderson explained. "It's a great fishing spot, and there's so many memories here. I plan to keep coming for as long as I'm able."



LOOKING EAST FROM BEDMAN'S BEACH



LOOKING NORTH IN FRONT OF VICKERMAN'S - CHRISTINE
BEDMAN WITH GUN IN HAND

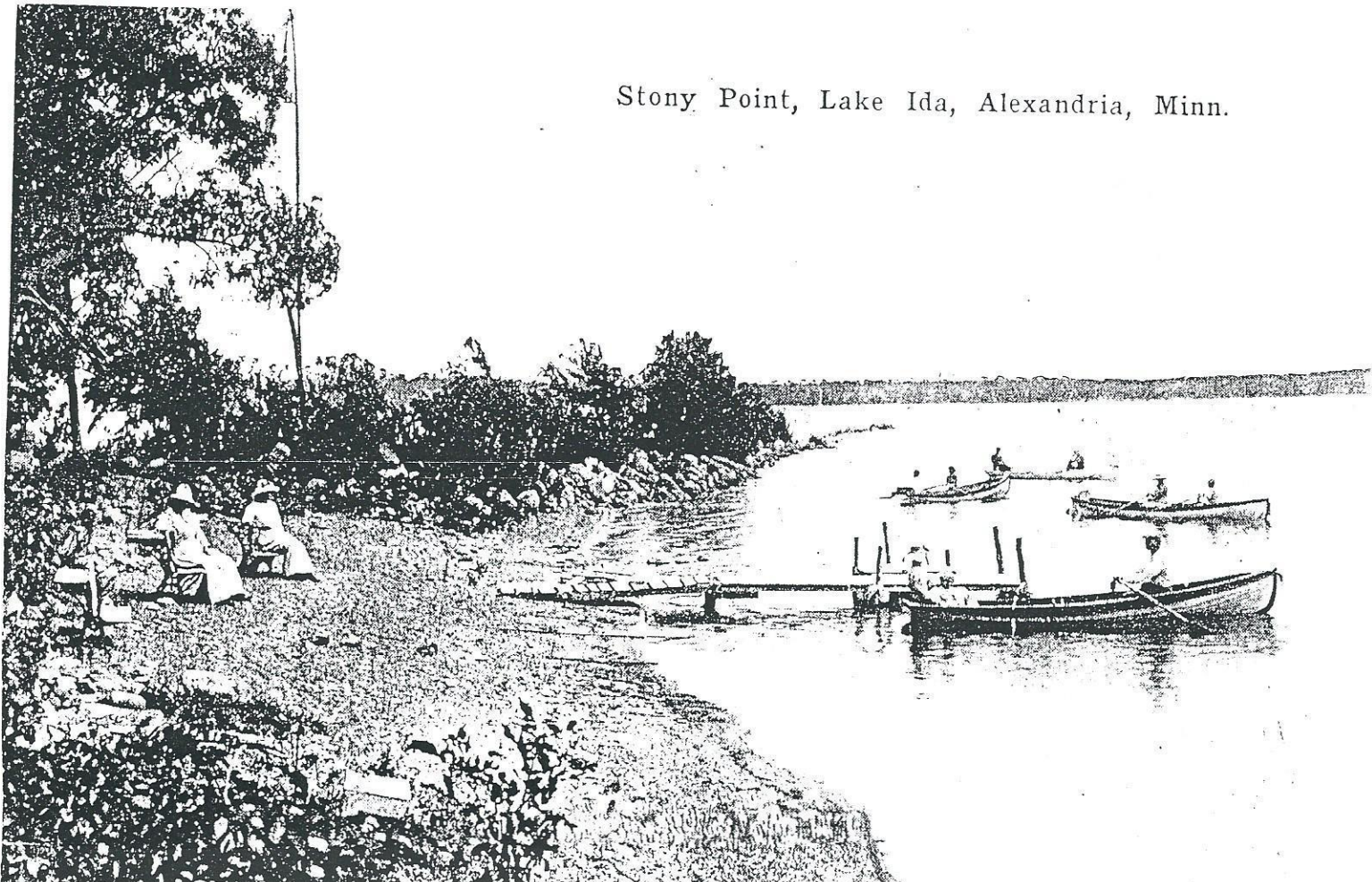


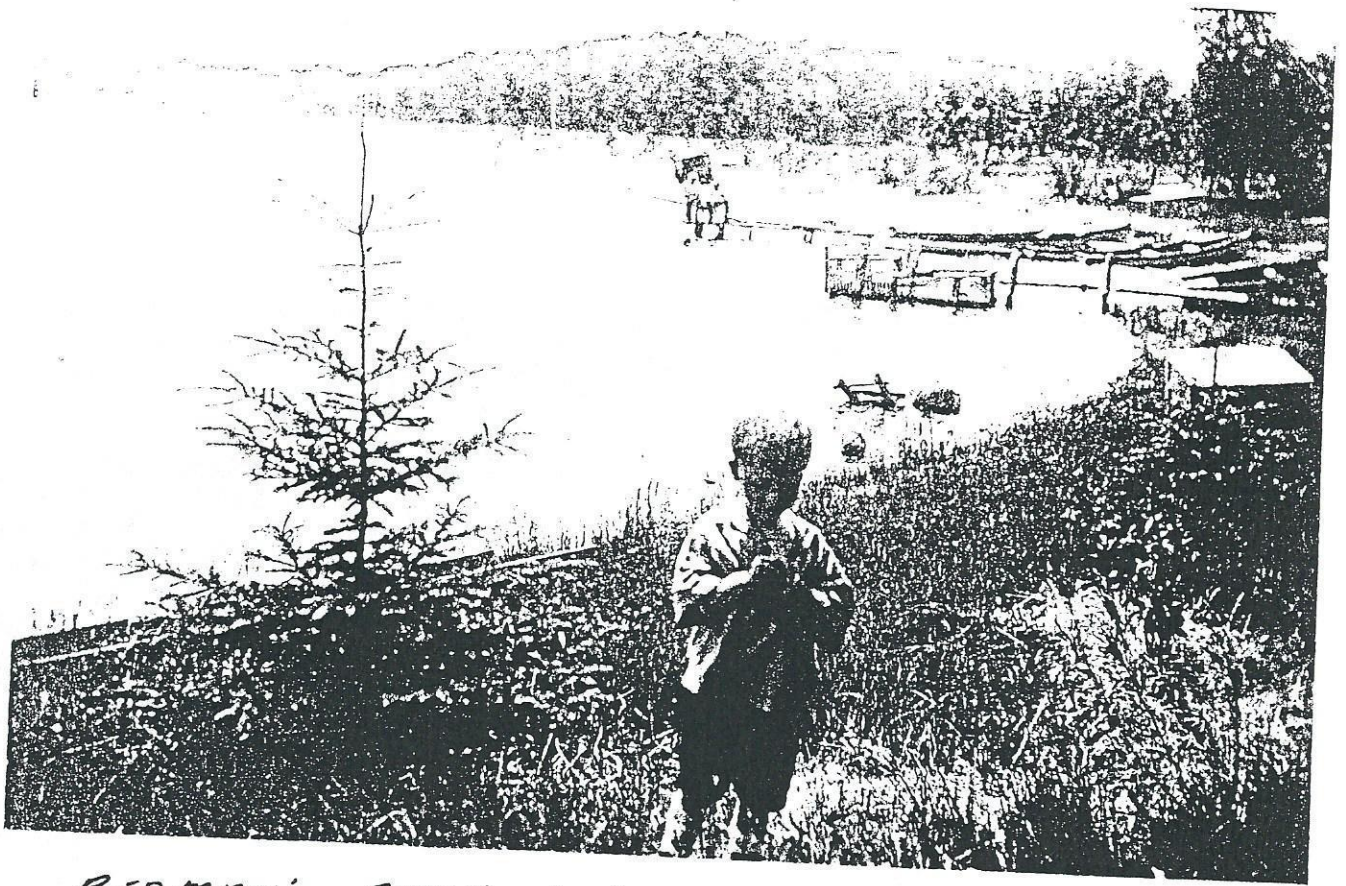
Sandy Point at Wic-I-Up Club, Lake Ida, Alexandria, Minn.

COPYRIGHT 1907 BY W. C. CLISCH

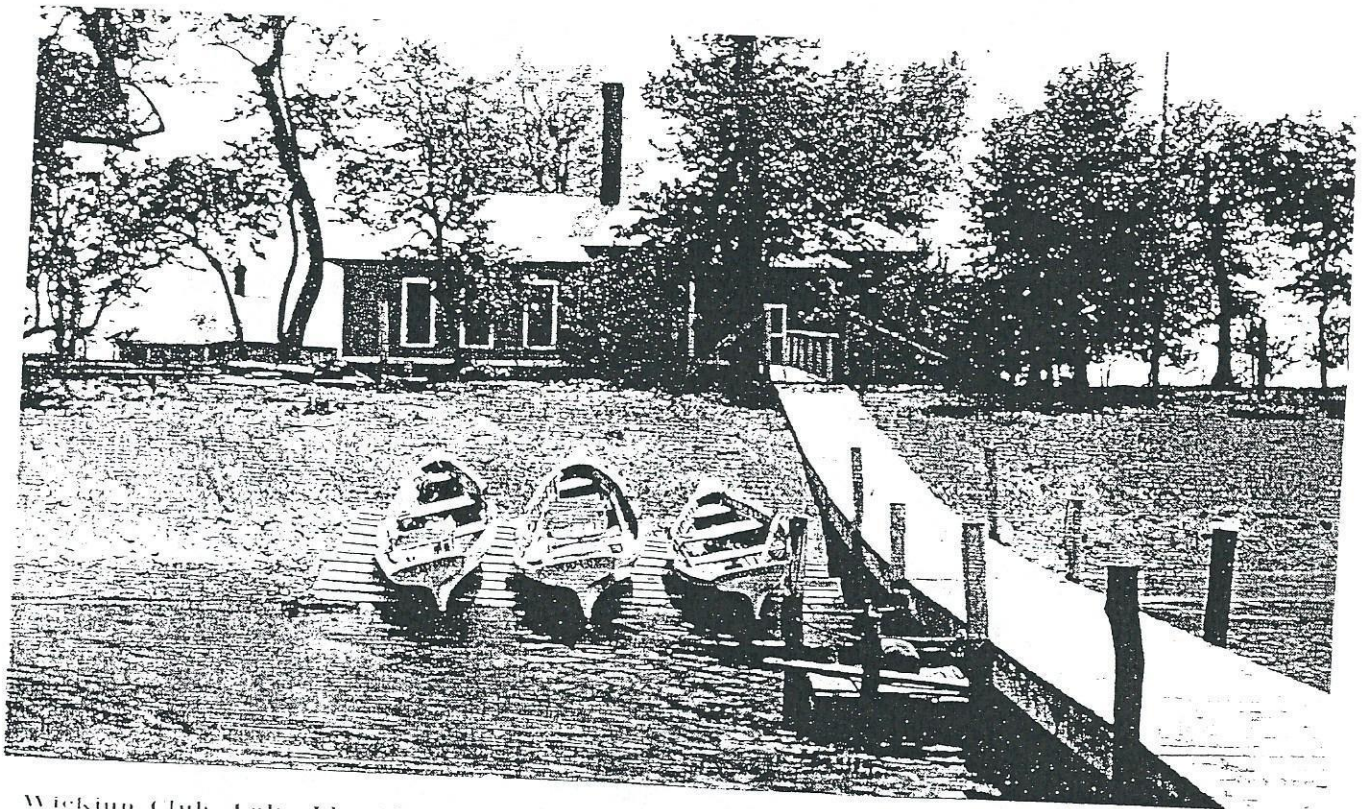
LOOKING SOUTH EAST FROM STONEY POINT TOWARD SANDY POINT
WHICH IS NOW CALLED PILGRIM POINT

Stony Point, Lake Ida, Alexandria, Minn.





BEDMAN'S BEACH Looking EAST - 1920's

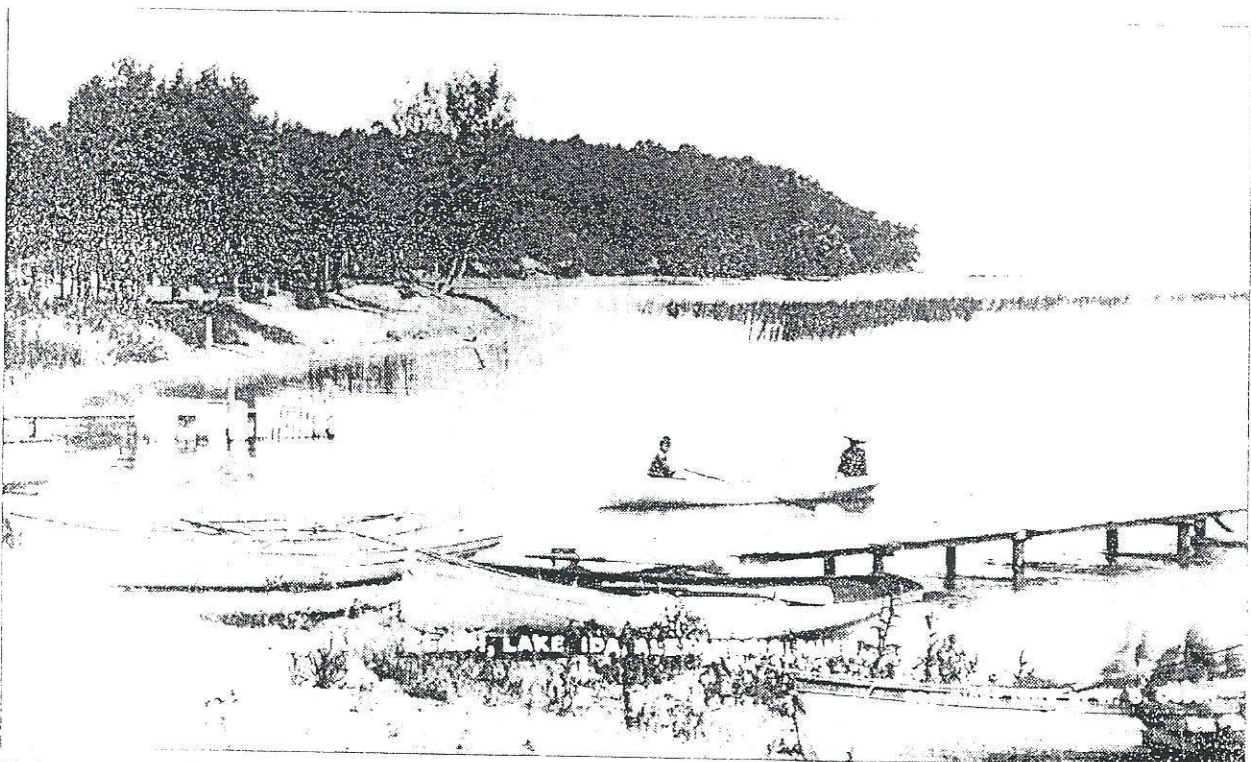


Wickiup Club, Lake Ida, Alexandria, Minn.

WICKIUP CLUB WAS WHAT IS PILGRIM POINT IS TODAY



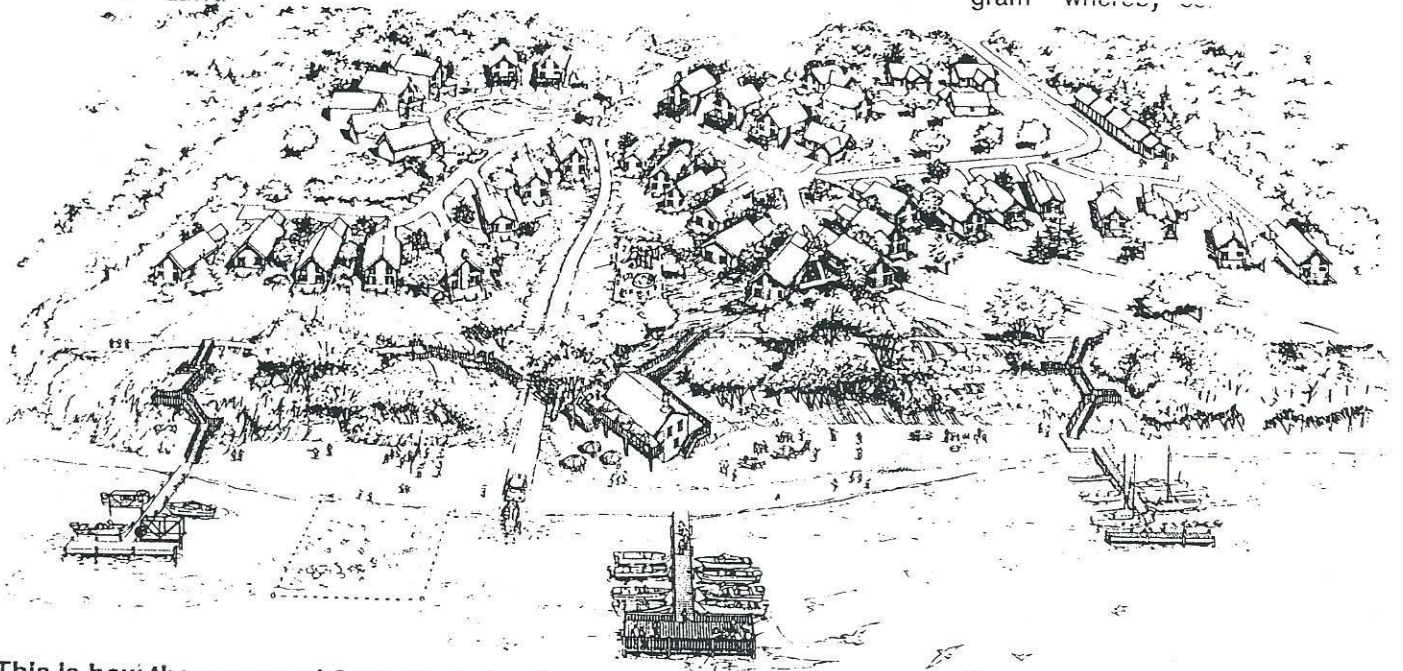
HILBERT JOHNSON FARM Looking EAST TOWARD WHERE BETSEY
ROSS RESORT IS TODAY - APPROX. 1900



Bedman's Beach then...Charles Bedman and his son, Harry Bedman Sr. enjoyed fishing together on Lake Ida in the early 1900s. This photograph was taken by O.W. Olson in 1908. Contributed photo

JULY 1-1988 16A1

gram where, etc.



This is how the proposed Cozy Nook development on East Lake Ida will look when completed, according to the developers.

New development underway on Lake Ida

A new waterfront community is now under construction on East Lake Ida near Alexandria. The wooded site fronting on 900 feet of shoreline will accommodate 40 new detached

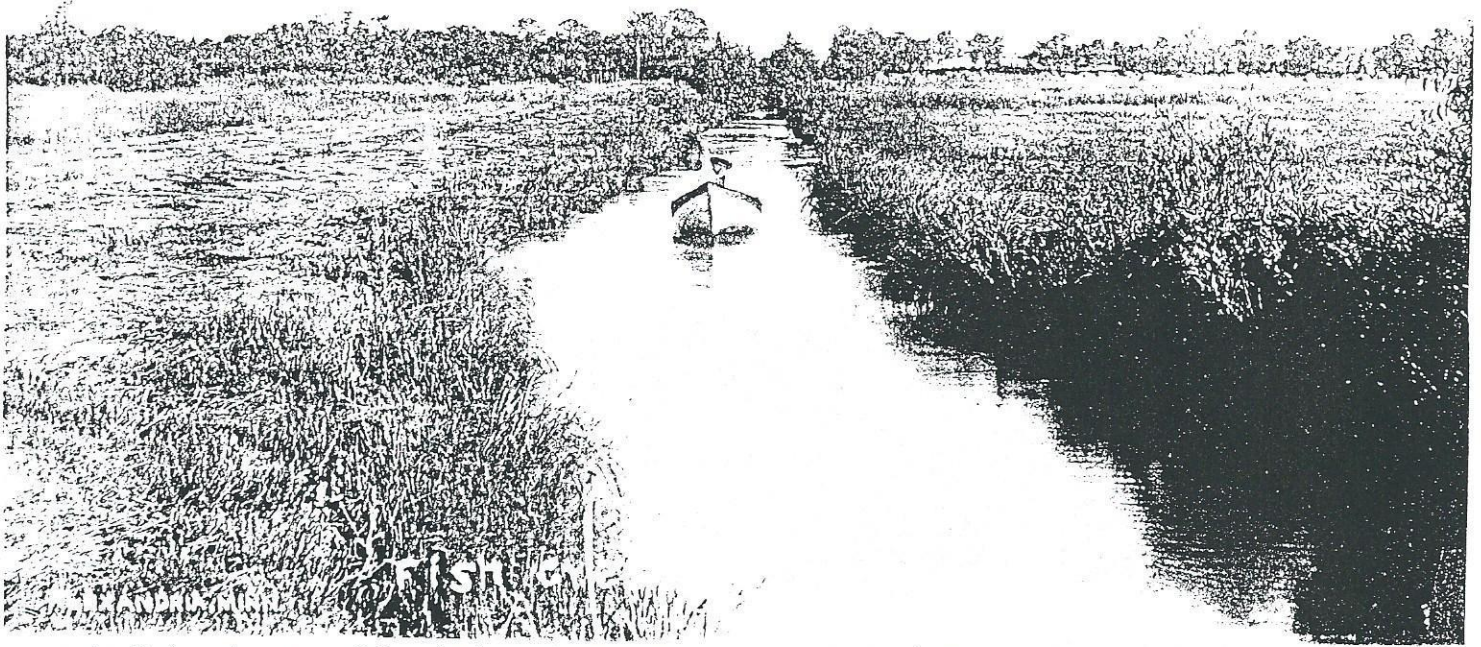
single family townhomes designed for year round or seasonal use.

The developer's (Ida, Inc.) plans call for a waterfront clubhouse, boat-slips, beach area, and a 'Grand Tot-Lot'. The on-site model is expected to be completed by mid-July.

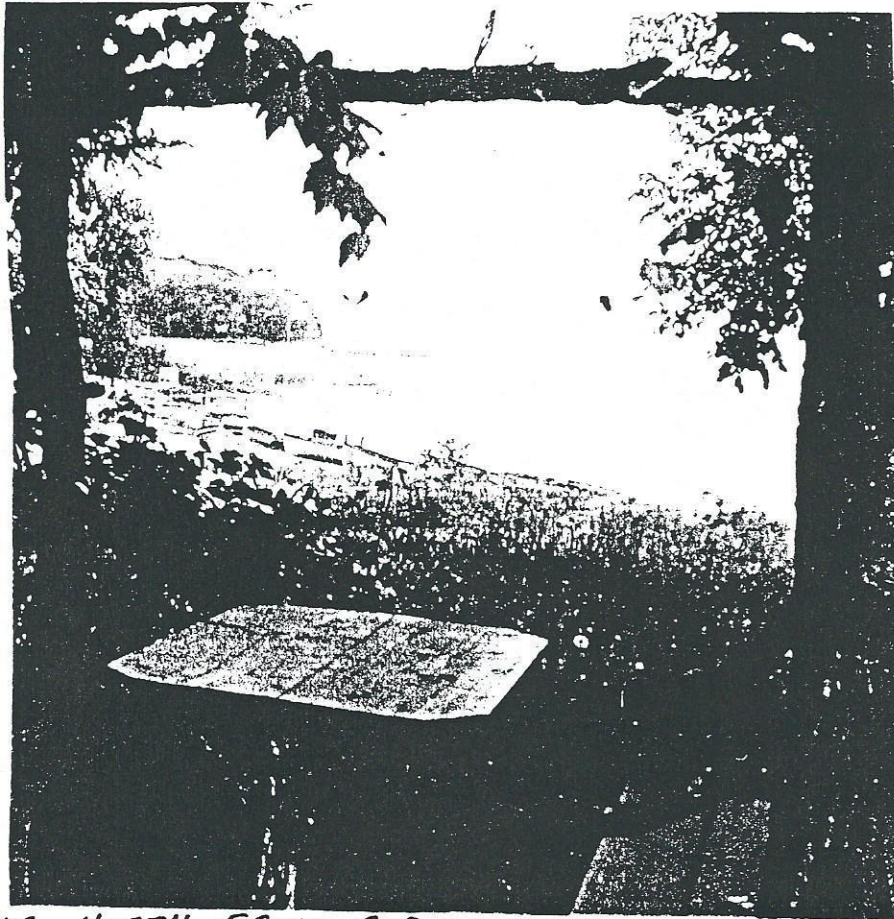
This professionally planned community offers three model designs

with prices ranging from the mid \$50s to the mid \$80s.

Ida, Inc. is headed by Leland Lynch of the Carmichael-Lynch Advertising Agency in Minneapolis. Vacation Properties Network has been named the exclusive marketing agents for the development and sales will begin on-site July 2nd.



CREEK LEAVING LAKE IDA TO LAKE CHARLIE



LOOKING NORTH FROM BEDMAN'S BEACH - DRY LAND
YEARS AGO

NATIVE AMERICAN

BURIAL SITES

Around

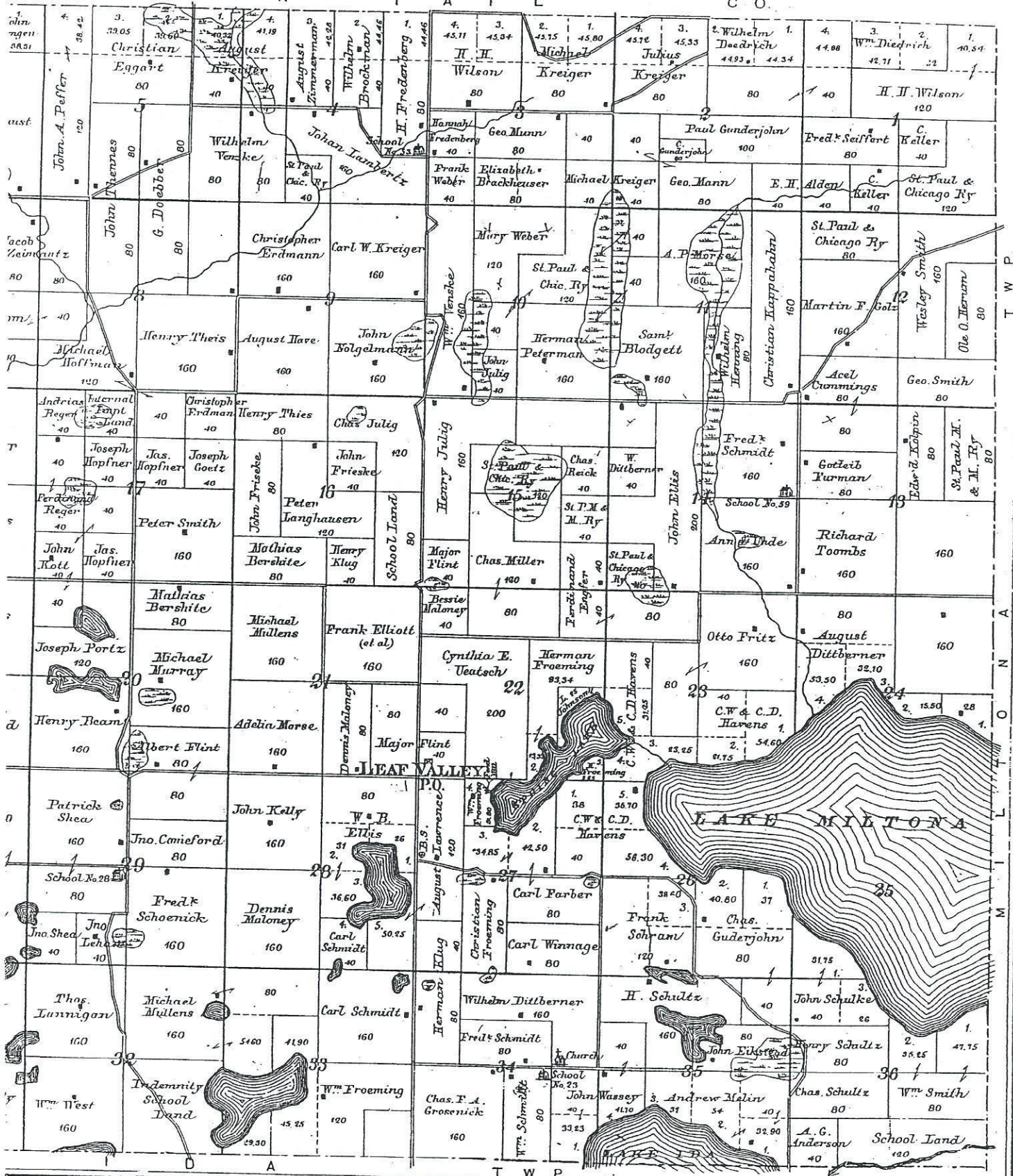
LAKE IDA

LEAF VALLEY

to the Mile.

Township 130 North. Range 38 West.

of the Fifth Principal Meridian.



EARLY LAND OWNERS - TAKEN FROM 1886 PLAT BOOK

Dakota. Conflict in 1862 resulted in the abandonment of the area by both Euro-Americans and Indians until following the Civil War. Railroads were constructed in Douglas County during the 1870s and 1880s, resulting in an increased rate of settlement and townsite establishment. While the economy of late nineteenth-century Douglas County was based primarily on agriculture, the resort industry began to develop as early as the 1880s. Bedman's Beach Resort, near the project area on the southwest shore of Lake Ida, was established between 1885 and 1900 and is still in operation today. The county continues to rely greatly on agriculture, however, the advent of automobile travel and interstate highway construction have greatly increased the profitability of the tourism industry.

Previous Investigations and Known Cultural Resources

Archaeological investigations have been conducted within Douglas County for over 100 years. During the closing decades of the nineteenth century, Theodore H. Lewis and Alfred Hill conducted an exhaustive inventory of American Indian earthworks in Minnesota and other states of the upper Midwest. Jacob Brower made a similar inventory for the Mississippi headwaters region. The work of these three men, together with additional original research, was published by Newton Winchell in 1911.

During the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, Alfred Jenks and Lloyd Wilford of the University of Minnesota visited and excavated numerous Pre-contact American Indian sites throughout the state of Minnesota. Wilford recovered cultural materials from a number of sites in the project vicinity, and described three sites (DLd, 21DL62, 21DL60) near the project area. More recently, as federal and state legislation has mandated cultural resource studies, the number of archaeological studies conducted within Douglas County has increased. To date, Douglas County contains 113 officially recorded archaeological sites, in addition to a total of 51 locations where cultural materials have reportedly been recovered or observed. Many of the currently recorded sites were identified during the Minnesota Statewide Archaeological Survey (MnSAS), a state legislature-sponsored study conducted by the Minnesota Historical Society. The vast majority of studies that have been conducted thus far in the area have been limited to the initial reconnaissance level (Phase I). Thus, despite the identification of over 100 archaeological sites within the county, the prehistory of the region is not well known.

Known archaeological sites in the Lake Ida project area

There are a total of fourteen known archaeological sites within a half mile of the project area. Most of these sites were investigated by the Minnesota Statewide Archaeological Survey in 1981. Many of the sites were found through informant interviews, with local collectors as informants. Wilford described four of the sites: 21DLd, 21DL62, 21DL60, and 21DLk in his 1944 notes.

Wilford in 1944, and by MnSAS researchers in 1981. MnSAS researchers recovered a small triangular chert projectile point, two quartz flakes, and one chert flake. J.W. Oothoudt interviewed the landowner in 1975, because cabin renters had reported finding artifacts. The landowner said that, in addition to the artifacts in the area of the cabins, the island northeast of Christopherson Bay contained artifacts.

21 DL 71

The George Christopherson II Site, 21DL71 (NE1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4 of Sec.2, T.129N, R.38W) is an artifact scatter. The site is approximately 1/4 mile west of the shore on an upland that would have been an island in the past. Harlan Johnson assembled a collection from this site and sold it to Ben Grosz. MnSAS researchers found an artifact scatter, including a broken triangular chert point, a chert flake and an un-utilized chert cutting or scraping tool.

21 DL 65

The Selma Westin Site, 21DL65 (NW1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4 Sec. 23, T.129N, R.38W) is on an upland that was a prehistoric island on the west shore of Lake Ida. Fred Ahrens and Harlan Johnson informed MnSAS of the site. MnSAS researchers recovered 13 fragments of grit-tempered pottery, a broken chert biface, 6 flakes and 40 bone fragments, including two that were burnt. Mr. Ahrens also showed the MnSAS researchers a collection of artifacts from his garden (about 200 ft SE of Lakeview Point) that included a broken biface, grit tempered pottery and bone.

21 DL 69

The Orville Ville Site, 21DL69 (S1/2 NW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4 and N1/2, SW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Sec.35, T.130N, R.38W) is on the north shore of Lake Ida. The owner reported to MnSAS that the site has been heavily collected from his grandfather's time to the present. MnSAS observed a lot of fire cracked rock and recovered a utilized chert flake, three chert flakes, one quartzite flake and a bison tooth.

21 DL 60

The Willie Rapp Site, 21DL60 (NW1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4 and SE1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4 of Sec.25, T.129N, R.44W) is located on the southeast shore of Lake Ida. The site was investigated by Wilford in 1944. Harlan Johnson sold his collection from this site to Ben Grosz. Another informant, Robert Hultman of Alexandria, described this site to Oothoudt in 1975. Vernon and Stuart Dobberpuhl have a collection of mauls, axes, Late Woodland points and pottery (including a large, probably Kathio rim sherd) from the site. MnSAS recovered grit-tempered pottery, a triangular projectile point, three scrapers, a utilized flake, bone, fire cracked rock and flakes of chert, quartz, and Knife River Chert.

J.W. Oothoudt of the Minnesota Historical Society conducted several informant interviews in the Lake Ida area. His primary informants were Harlan Johnson of Garfield, MN and Ben Grosz of Alexandria, MN. He also interviewed many of the landowners and people who lived near the sites identified by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Grosz. In 1975 he interviewed Harlan Johnson who described fifteen sites in Douglas County, including three in the Lake Ida Area: 21DL60, 21DL61, and 21DLv. In 1966 he interviewed Ben Grosz, who operated a rock shop and small artifact shop in the area. Mr. Grosz identified 27 sites, in Douglas County and the same three Lake Ida area sites described by Mr. Johnson. Interestingly, there are two entries in Section 14 T.129N, R.128W in Mr. Oothoudt's notes from his interview with Mr. Grosz, suggesting that there may be two different site areas there. Both entries describe possible habitation sites. One is listed as being in the NE1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4, with a note reading "Dld". Wilford described this site in 1944. This is probably the groundstone ax site. The other entry is described as being in the N half of the SE 1/4 section, with a note reading "DLaf?" From the location description, the site he describes must be on the Stony Point Peninsula. On a separate sheet of Oothoudt's notes on his interview(s) with Mr. Johnson he describes archaeological materials as having been collected on Stony and Lake View points.

21 DL 59

Site 21DL59 (Harlan Johnson Site) is located on the southwest shore of Lake Ida, in the SE1/4, SE1/4, NW1/4, and NE1/4, NE1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 26, T129, R38. MnSAS described the site as three burial mounds and an adjacent habitation site. Two of the mounds were destroyed. Mr. Johnson reported finding projectile points and ground stone tools at the site. MnSAS recovered burnt bone, chert and quartz flakes and a scraper.

21 DL Lv

Harlan Johnson recovered two groundstone axes at site 21DLv (SW 1/4 of Sec. 11 T.129N, R.38W) on the Lee property on the west shore of Waterlily Bay.

21 DL 61

The Wallace Peterson Site, 21DL61 (NW1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4 and NE1/4, NW1/4, SE 1/4 of Sec. 15, T.129N, R.38N) is located along the northwest shore of the west side of Lake Ida. Harlan Johnson collected material from the site and later sold the collection to Ben Grosz. MnSAS researchers recovered two fragments of grit tempered pottery, a broken triangular point tip, a bison tooth, three fragments of bone (two burnt), 1 worked flake, nine other flakes, and fire cracked rock.

21 DL 62

The George Christopherson I Site, 21DL62 (NW1/4, NE 1/4, NW1/4 of Sec 11, T.129 N, R.38W) is on a lake-shore access road, on the west shore of Lake Ida, 800 feet northeast of the Christopherson home on Christopherson Bay. Harlan Johnson collected material from this site and later sold the collection to Ben Grosz. The site was investigated by

Lake Ida Area Sites that are Minnesota Historic Properties

Three properties within or near the project area are on file at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as Minnesota Historic properties. Bedman's Beach Resort is within the project vicinity, Valley School #23 and the historic John Wusson Farm are very near or in the project area.

DL-IDA-5

Bedman's Beach Resort (NE1/4, SW1/4 Sec 26, T. 129N, R.38W) is 3/4 mile off County Road 61, on the southwest shore of Lake Ida. The oldest building on the property dates from 1898, the oldest cabin from 1910. Due to alterations, the present appearance of the buildings is ca. 1920. Bedman's was the first resort established on Lake Ida and is reported to be the oldest resort operating in its original buildings in the Alexandra area (S. Granger, 1983 Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form).

DL-LEA-6

Valley School #23 (SE1/4 Section 34 T.130N, R.38W) is located on the south side of County Road 5, 3/4 mile east of County Road 6. The building dates to 1919 and was converted to a house in 1980.

DL-LEA-7

The John Wusson Farm, currently the Norman Wusson Farm, (NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 Section 35 T.130N, R.38W) is located on the south side of County Road 5, a mile east of County Road 6. The building is a red brick farmhouse, one of a group in Leaf Valley, Ida Township and Garfield which require more evaluation of their significance (S. Granger 1983 Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form). The house was built in 1907. Mrs. Norman Wilson reported to Granger that the land was homesteaded by the Anderson family and sold to John Wusson in 1881 when he immigrated from Germany. The property also contains a deteriorated log home and log barn with metal siding.

Historic and Thematic Context Frameworks

Frameworks for the study of cultural resources are provided by historic and thematic contexts developed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of each of the fifty states, as mandated by federal legislation. These frameworks, organized into three tiers according to the geographical and thematic scope of the context, establish connections between patterns of state history and identified resources. Historic contexts are generally defined through temporal and geographic boundaries. Thematic contexts refer to general property/site types. Such contexts are intended to incorporate new data resulting from ongoing cultural resource investigations, making them essentially works in progress.

21 DL 64

The Orville Gehrke Site, 21DL64 (SE1/4, NE1/4 SE1/4, NE1/4 of Sec. 2, T.129N, R.38W) is located on a north/south peninsula extending from the north shore of Lake Ida. MnSAS researchers recovered a utilized chert flake, three chert flakes, a quartz flake, and a piece of charcoal. The landowner showed the MnSAS researchers a 3/4 grooved Archaic ax recovered at the base of the peninsula (SE1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4 of Sec.2, T.129N, R.38W).

21 DL 63

The Rollie Olson Mount Site 21DL63 (SE1/4, SE1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4 of Sec.2, T.129N, R.38W) is located 1500 feet south of Betsy Ross Point on the northwest shore of Lake Ida. It is reported to be an undisturbed mound covered with trees (at least 70 years of age). A neighbor informed MnSAS that the first cottages were built on the site 21 years ago; the area had been pasture prior to that time.

21 DL 9

The John J. Ekdahl Site 21DL9 (SE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 35 and the hill slope to the west in Section 35, T.129N, R.38W) is located on the north shore of Lake Louise, just west of the river. The site was collected by Harlan Johnson, who later sold his collection to Ben Grosz. Another collector named Danielson may have a collection from the site. The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) also conducted a surface collection of the site when it was recorded in 1975. The MHS archaeologists found a scatter of cultural materials as well as human skull fragments in a large plowed field near the inlet. The site was described as a habitation and burial mound site. The 1975 MHS notes warn of an encroaching housing development, this may refer to the houses in the area on Sunset Strip Road and Louise Drive.

21 DL Ap

This site has a vague description, presumably from an informant interview, locating it in Section 2, T. 128N, R.38W, between Lakes Darling and Union. As depicted on the USGS quad map in the site report, it fills all of Section 2 south of the southern tip of Lake Louise. It is described as a habitation site.

21 DL k

This site is described in Wilford's 1944 notes as being located between Lake Darling and North Union Lake. In a later Douglas County site list, the location is given as the East half of Section 2, T. 128 N., R.38W. The site descriptions appear to have come from informant interviews with collectors. As the site is drawn on the USGS quad map in the site report, it appears to overlap with site 21DLAp in the southeast corner of Section 2. From the written descriptions it seems possible that they are, in fact, describing the same area in Section 2 between Lake Darling and North Union Lake.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During May 1998, Loucks and Associates, Inc. completed a Phase I archaeological investigation of a proposed sanitary sewer collection system around Lake Ida, located in Ida and Leaf Valley Townships, Douglas County, Minnesota. Approximately 17 miles of the 20 mile project follow established roads. The remaining three miles of project area was subjected to surface reconnaissance and shovel testing. A total of four fragments of lithic debitage were found in the project areas subjected to testing. None of these artifacts are diagnostic of a particular prehistoric period. The flakes appear to be isolated finds, however, site forms for the two areas were submitted to the Office of the State Archaeologist.

A preliminary document check of the project area identified fourteen known archaeological sites around Lake Ida and Lake Louise. None of these sites appear to be affected by the project as currently planned. However, any change in the project route, especially any further diversion from the road could impact one or more of these sites. Private connections from individual residences to the sanitary sewer may affect some of the known or possible unknown archaeological sites in the Lake Ida area. Of particular concern is any further disturbance of the Native American burial mound at Site 21DL59 (the Harlan Johnson site).

There are three sites in the project area that are listed on the Minnesota Register of Historic Places. None of these structures will be affected by the construction of the sanitary sewer and it is unlikely that connections from these buildings to the sewer will have any serious effect on their historic character.

As the project is currently designed, it does not impact any of these sites but any alteration in the route could impact one or more of them. Archaeological reconnaissance survey of the current project route, not following existing roads, identified no sites within the currently proposed area of potential effect and indicates that there is little potential for the presence of intact archaeological sites. Loucks and Associates, Inc. recommends that the sanitary sewer system be allowed to proceed as designed.

The Minnesota SHPO Pre-contact statewide historic contexts (Dobbs 1989; State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] 1993) considered most relevant to the project area are: Paleoindian (ca. 9500-6000 B.C.), including the Fluted (ca. 9500-8000 B.C.) and Plano-Lanceolate (ca. 8500-6000 B.C.) Traditions; both the Lake-Forest Archaic (ca. 6500-0 B.C.) and Prairie Archaic (6500-0 B.C.); the Woodland Tradition (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 900/1650), including the later prehistoric Blackduck (A.D. 800-1400), Kathio (A.D. 900-1300), and Sandy Lake (A.D. 1000-1750) foci; and Mississippian (A.D. 900-1650) including Oneota (A.D. 1000-1650). Contact period (A.D. 1650-1837) contexts include the Eastern Dakota and the French, British and Initial United States Presence. Post-Contact period (A.D. 1837-present) historic contexts include Early Agriculture and River Settlement (1840-1870), Railroads and Agricultural Development (1870-1940), and Tourism and Recreation (1870-. Property types include American Indian lithic scatters and earthworks, and Euro-American farmsteads.