
TENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATION
LELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER

1986



EASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATION
CIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATIONTENMILELAKEASSOCIATION

Dear Ten Mile Lake Friends:

I have great news for you. The Internal Revenue Service has granted the Association tax exempt, tax deductible status as of Jan. 22, 1986. That's welcome news, indeed. What the ruling means is that your dues are fully tax deductible, as is any gift you may wish to make to the work of the Association. We are deeply indebted to Linda Schwartz, of the Fredrikson & Byron law firm in Minneapolis, for her counsel and professional services in developing and filing our application. Linda has vacationed at Ten Mile for many years and is as committed as we all are to the goals and purposes of the Association. She will be making a presentation at our annual meeting to explain the ramifications of our new status.

-0-

The folks who winter at Ten Mile are a hardy and neighborly crew, as my wife, Toni, and I found on a mid-February trip to the North Country. Not only did they see to it that we were comfortably housed and very well fed, but they also invited us to participate in what, for them, is a regular outdoor activity: cross country skiing. I accepted, and quickly found that what they made look so easy, isn't. The sport requires coordination, rhythm, balance, stamina, and determination, and a lot of the latter won't fully make up for a shortage of the others. Still, it was exhilarating fun, falls and all!

-0-

Old-timers tell us that Jake's Pond, one of our locations for rearing walleyes, wasn't always a pond. The story is that during the drought years of the 1930s the pond dried up and was seeded to alfalfa. But that was a long time ago. This winter, Jake's Pond and Hiram Lake, our other rearing pond, were covered by a fairly deep blanket of snow. We hope it was heavy enough to winter kill any carryover walleyes. If that happened, our chances for a successful fingerling season will have improved immensely.

-0-

A handsome booklet entitled Woodworking for Wildlife is available

from the Department of Natural Resources. The nicely illustrated publication provides complete and clear instructions on building nest boxes and platforms for a broad range of birds and small mammals. It contains a wealth of information on why building and maintaining these structures is important, what materials are best for the job, which birds are territorial and which are not, treating nest boxes for invading insects, entrance sizes and much more. Even if you are not a woodworker, the booklet is worth reading. You may obtain a copy by writing Carroll L. Henderson, DNR Nongame Wildlife Supervisor, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55146.

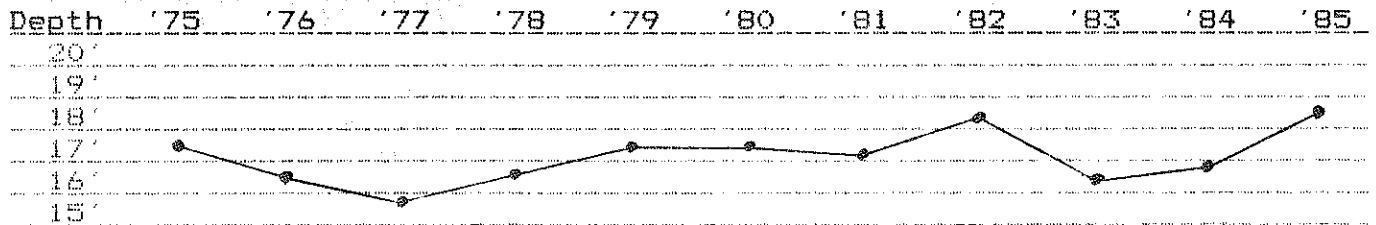
-0-

A splendid feature story in the March 3 edition of the Brainerd Daily Dispatch characterized Warren Goss as the "keeper of Ten Mile Lake." I think we all agree that's an apt description. The piece is far too long to reproduce here, but it and like information about the history of Ten Mile Lake and its residents, past and present, should be preserved for future generations. That's why I established a history committee. If you have articles, letters, diaries, photographs, taped interviews, or anything bearing on the Ten Mile story, mail or take your material to the chair of our history committee, Willa Shonkwiler Martin. If you know of old-timers who should be interviewed, let Willa know. As she put it at a recent Board meeting: "Have tape recorder, will travel."
 -- Jim Schwartz, President

-0-

AVERAGE SEASONAL SECCHI DISK READINGS -- A MEASURE OF WATER CLARITY

1975-1985



As you can see from the above graph, averaged clarity has varied only slightly over the last 11 years. From the low of 15.8' in 1977, the trend line has improved gradually to the point where our best average reading came last summer at 18.4'. A probable contributor to that favorable 1985 figure was heavier than normal rainfall. We'd like to believe, though, that efforts of dedicated residents to preserve Ten Mile Lake's water quality are helping as well. -- Jim Schwartz.

-0-

IT IS ILLEGAL to use more than one line while fishing, to operate a boat without personal flotation devices for each occupant, to water ski before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

SALVAGE CREWS REMOVE HISTORIC LINK

The first link for tourists who discovered Ten Mile Lake at the end of the last century is being removed by salvage crews. Rail service on the Burlington and Northern from Brainerd to Bemidji, through Hackensack and Walker, ended in July, 1985.

But it played its role in development of the lake, starting in 1896. It actually was the lumber industry that extended fingers of rail lines into the north. For a couple of years one line, Brainerd and Northern, terminated at the east side of Ten Mile. A town called Lothrop sprang up like aspen after a forest is clear cut, complete with post office, school, taverns and a hotel.

When a trestle was built across Shingobee Bay of Leech Lake, the B&N was extended 10 miles to Walker. Lothrop became a ghost town. Today it's hard to find even an old cabin footing there. One of the last to attend the Lothrop school, Albert Thomas, died last year at the age of 90. For half his life, he lived on a farm where the Boy River flows out of Ten Mile.

But the trains had done another job besides taking out lumber. They opened the tourist industry for our part of Minnesota. As soon as passenger service was offered from Brainerd, anglers came to the lakes. They needed transportation from the train stop -- and lodging. Resorts followed. Ten Mile's first is believed to have been on Angel Island, known as Brandt's Island since World War II when George Brandt bought it. Oldtimers say a steamboat took them the five miles from train stop to the island resort. A fireplace chimney survives on the island, a monument to one of Northern Minnesota's early fishing resorts.

Passenger service by rail was discontinued as Highway 371 provided more convenient transportation. First cabin development was on Ten Mile's east side, with vehicle access by a road from Hackensack to Walker. Vestiges of this road remain on the west side of Portage Lake.

Burlington and Northern was the last owner of the rail line. As in the beginning 90 years ago, its main freight was timber products, primarily logs to the paper and saw mills. One train a day went from Brainerd to Bemidji, then turned around and returned. The five-man crew stopped at Hackensack and ate at Jimmy's Restaurant. Most of the journey was at 15 miles an hour. This past winter, snowmobilers and skiers used the snow-packed roadbed. What's in store for it, once the rails and ties are gone, is unknown.

One man is trying to retain part of the trestle -- about 1300 feet long -- across Shingobee Bay. "I feel we need a breakwater to protect the marina and residences on the island," says Roger Marth, owner of the Dutchman restaurant on the island. He approached Cass County but the Commissioners voted against taking responsibility. Fishermen spoke in favor of keeping part of the trestle for its value in protecting fish habitat. In mid-April salvage crews were dismantling the 371 overpass on 371 at Shingobee Bay. The trestle was still intact, but its survival is uncertain. -- Bill Macklin.

DEATH TAKES SIX MORE OF OUR FRIENDS

Ten Mile lost six of its oldest and finest in recent months.

Harold Indall, 82, died Nov. 1 in Minneapolis. An article by Harold, whose hobbies included archeology and geology, appeared in the fall Newsletter. He told about the origins of Ten Mile, which came about with the melting of massive glacial ice blocks some 20,000 years ago. Harold was a teacher, school superintendent, and salesman for a book publishing concern. He had spent summers at his cabin for many years.

George Hoppe, 81, died Nov. 10 at the Park Rapids Hospital, almost with his boots on. He had worked the day before at the Community Cooperative store, Hackensack. He was stricken during the evening hours. George was a retired school superintendent and naval officer, including service in World War II. He helped build his cabin on the south shore and retired there to spend many active and happy years. The Hackensack community honored him at a testimonial party on his 80th birthday. He was given credit for moving the co-op from Walker to Hackensack and building it into a brisk business.

Earl A. Anderson, 82, died Thanksgiving Day, 1985. He had just talked with his wife, Lorraine, and had gone downstairs to sit in his chair. He and his wife bought Illinois Resort on the south shore 40 years ago and had operated it ever since.

Burton H. Watkins, 59, Ames, Iowa, was killed Nov. 25 in the crash of a twin-engine plane he was piloting. Burton, a summer lake resident, was director of the Iowa State University Flight Service. Two coaches and four women affiliated with the school's cross country track team also were killed. They were returning from a meet in Wisconsin and had been diverted from the Ames airport to Des Moines due to weather conditions.

Donald Welch, 62, retired from 3-M at Hutchinson, MN, died April 2 in Arizona. Memorial services were held April 19 in Hutchinson. He and his wife, Mavis, lived on Cass County Highway 50, north shore, across the road from the lake.

Mrs. Gerrit (Jennie) Timmers, 61, died April 6 after reaching the Park Rapids Hospital by ambulance. She had been ill over the weekend and the Hackensack First Alert team was called to the Timmers cabin on the North Shore. She was a retired nurse. Her husband is retired from Honeywell, Minneapolis. Gerrit (known more familiarly to his friends as "George") grew up on a farm on the northeast side of Ten Mile. The Timmers acquired their lake property 10 years ago. -- Bill Macklin.

-0-

MAPLE SYRUP HARVEST DECLINES

One commercial maple syrup producer reported only 25 percent of normal harvest this spring due to warm weather from March 15 to April 15. That probably means prices of the popular pancake topper will be higher this summer.

-4-

MIDWINTER BOARD MEETING HELD IN FEBRUARY

Officers and Directors covered a broad range of topics at the Feb. 19 Board meeting at Patty Mitchell's home on Batcheller Beach. Following is a list of the meeting's main business items:

1. Membership as of that date totalled 569. The membership roster now has been completely computerized.
2. The Internal Revenue Service granted the Association tax exempt, tax deductible status effective January 22, 1986.
3. Schwartz and Macklin reported on their visit to the County Zoning office and the County Attorney's office on a number of zoning problems and zoning ordinance enforcement issues.
4. Memorial contributions for Dan Mullendore, Harold Indall, George Hoppe, and Burton Watkins total \$170. Gifts of \$415 also have been received by the Association since the start of the fiscal year.
5. Vice-President Robert Larson reported for the Committee on Gifts, Grants and Memorials. The Committee suggested possible future uses of such funds: (a) Establishing a Memorial Park on the lake, preferably with a sand beach, (b) funding scholarships in environmental studies, and (c) installing culvert control devices to stop or slow surges of swamp water into the lake.
6. Chairman George Schulte reported the Fisheries Committee had been looking for additional walleye rearing ponds and had located one or two possibilities, though further investigation is needed.
7. Willa Shonkwiler Martin of the History Committee reported she has started a Ten Mile Lake photograph book and invited contributions. She also wants any and all other historical miscellany.
8. A public informational meeting on the proposal for widening and relocating Highways 50 and 71 is scheduled Saturday, Aug. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Walker-Hackensack High School.
9. Additional lake water testing is proposed for a number of spots around Ten Mile this summer.

Thirteen persons braved falling snow to attend the midwinter meeting. If one is a bit superstitious, that number might be connected with what happened before and after the meeting: (a) President Jim Schwartz and his wife, Toni, were involved in an auto accident on their way to Ten Mile from Ames, and (b) Warren Goss and his passengers, Howard and Lois Sandell, got stuck in a snowbank on their way to the Sandells following the meeting. Neither incident, however, was disastrous. The Schwartz car was driveable and now has been repaired. The Goss vehicle spent almost two hours in the drift, but finally got traction and was safely driven to the Sandell home. Almost 5 inches of snow fell that evening.

* * * * *

* Loons, buglers of the north, returned to Minnesota in April to *
 * their usual enthusiastic welcome. This is the 25th year that the *
 * loon has been the state bird. Last year, Minnesotans contributed *
 * \$643,000 in the non-game wildlife checkoff, the fund used to help *
 * care for loons, eagles, bluebirds and many other wild creatures. *
 * * * * *

NEW MEMBERS OF THE TEN MILE LAKE FAMILY

We welcome these new members who joined the Ten Mile Lake Association since publication of the Fall Newsletter. There are some lapsed memberships which have gone past our deadline date of February 1, but they may be reinstated on payment of dues. New members are:

Brosius, Andy & Deb (Godbersen)
Route 2, Box 1314
Front Royal, VA 22630
Lake: HCR 2, Box 488 (547-1262)

Rumpel, Claire & John Tomlinson
799 South Winthrop
St. Paul, MN 55119 (738-0549)

Harriman, Ken & Linda (Godbersen)
Lake La June Estates
Ida Grove, IA 51445
Lake: HCR 2, Box 488 (547-1262)

Running, Kerry G. & Judy
301 N. Hill
Marshall, MN 56258 (532-5429)
Lake: HCR 2, Box 100 (675-6348)
Ch: Tate, Tanner, Rex

Hemmersbaugh, Bill & Verna
991 Werner Way
Columbus, OH 43085 (846-9940)
Lake: HCR 2, Box 636 (675-6359)

Smith, Ron and Nancy
Route One
Roca, NE 68430 (792-2876)
Lake: HCR 2, Box 430 (675-6421)
Ch: Seth, Jessica

Pierson, Douglas C. & Nancy Lee
Rural Route 1, Box 41
Avoca, MN 56114 (335-7893)
Lake: HCR 2, Box 430 (675-6421)
Ch: Travis, Tania

Mail dues or address changes to
Lois Sandell, Secretary, HCR 2,
Box 424, Hackensack, MN 56452

-0-

ALL TEN MILE PROPERTIES TO BE REASSESSED THIS YEAR

The County Assessor's office reports that all Ten Mile Lake property will be visited this summer so assessors may inspect lake shore and reassess it on what is described as a "quantity-quality" basis.

Quantity adjustments will be made on the size of the lots and quality adjustments will be broken into five different classes, depending on the type of shore line, type of tree cover and lot depth. This could have an impact on taxes to be paid in 1988.

"We have a problem on assessing around Ten Mile," explained Barbara Iverson, chief deputy assessor. "You people tend to pass your cabins down to children, and thus we don't have a lot of sales figures available. But we do have some."

Lake shore values range from \$1 to \$250 per front foot, depending upon whether it is swamp, at the one extreme, or sand beach, on the other. Prices currently being paid for property will, of course, influence value. A sand beach lot on Batcheller Bay sold this winter for \$435 a front foot. Another factor may be a new formula calling for reductions in the value of old buildings. That formula is being used in Shingobee Township for the first time and could be applied in other townships in future years. More facts in the next Newsletter. -- Bill Macklin.

-6-

TEN MILE LAKE TREASURER'S REPORT -- 8-1-85 TO 4-1-86

Beginning Balance			\$2771.05
Receipts:			
Dues & donations	\$2716.50		
Memorials	130.00		
Miscellaneous:			
Water testing	\$231.00		
Culvert assessment	214.19		
Sign sales (annual meeting).....	54.50	499.69	3346.19
			<hr/>
			\$6117.24
Expenses:			
Annual meeting expense	71.89		
Computer, copying, printing	626.26		
Culvert supplies	193.48		
Deep Portage Foundation Gift	500.00		
Honorarium, Lois Sandell	300.00		
Instrumental Research, Inc. (lake sampling)	790.41		
Legal work, tax exempt status	600.00		
Memorial flowers, Dan Mullendore.....	16.60		
Miscellaneous supplies	97.86		
Postage	349.76		
Telephone	57.57		3603.83
			<hr/>
Balance in checking account, 4-1-86			\$2513.41

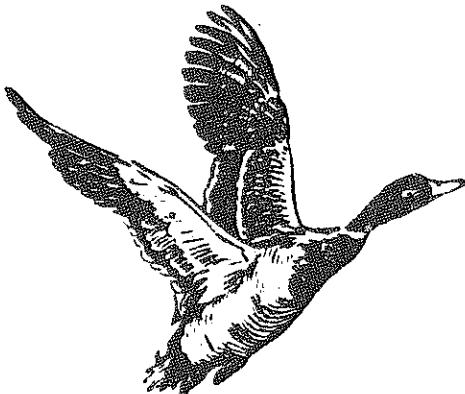
SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance, 8-1-85	\$3397.75
Interest income	142.24
	<hr/>
Balance, 4-1-86	\$3539.99

-0-

SPECIAL HIGHWAY MEETING IN AUGUST

A special public informational meeting has been scheduled for Ten Mile residents who have expressed an interest in the proposed resurfacing and relocation project for Highways 50 and 71. The meeting will be on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Walker-Hackensack school building.



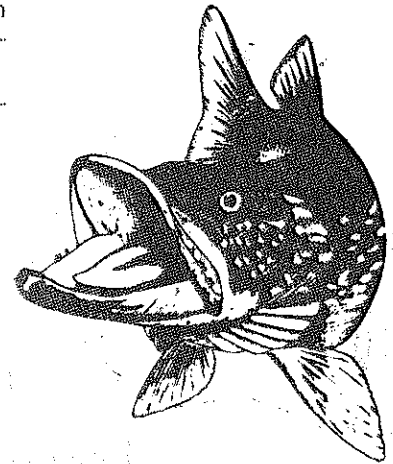
County Engineer Jim Worcester and his staff will discuss the proposed new routing, along with possible alternatives for problem areas. The tentative routing will reflect the findings of an aerial survey and will be subject to some adjustment if a later ground survey makes that advisable.

Comment and suggestions on the proposed plan will be invited from those in attendance.

CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?

Last year on the morning of March 3rd, Ten Milers awoke to find the barren landscape draped in white with the snow still coming down quite thickly. By sundown it was falling ever thicker, and it was apparent that a transportation problem was growing by leaps and bounds. Indeed, those on the west shore of Ten Mile were snowed in for approximately 56 hours, the longest cut-off from civilization in several years. Shortly thereafter, however, the final melt began, and we were collecting sap from the maples. There is no doubt that March came in like a lion in 1985.

Mid-March to mid-November sometimes seems to pass in the merest twinkling of an eye, particularly in retrospect. November of '85 saw the whitefish netting season cut to a week by ice floes. The day after the nets had been removed on the 22nd, a temperature of -14 was recorded. However, the week of netting in Batcheller's Bay produced a modestly successful catch. On the 23rd or 24th of November, the Bay filled with ice blown in from the east side, and within four or five days the lake was entirely frozen. The freeze-up was some ten days to two weeks earlier than normal. Unfortunately the ice was rough everywhere on the lake which reduced the pleasures of skating to a minimum.



As we moved into December, thermometers dipped into the -20s virtually every night. None could recall a winter that became so cold so early. Whenever Ten Milers gathered, one could hear such exclamations as: "Gad zooks and double zounds, we are going to have a record-breaking winter on our hands! We might even see -50!" This dire prediction failed to materialize, for which everyone was thoroughly thankful. In fact, the coolest minimums were -24 to -28, with the one exception of -34 on January 8. The January thaw was particularly pronounced. On the 19th, for example, we fired up the charcoal grill and cooked hamburgers on the deck. We were not quite hardy enough to eat on the deck, but we considered it quite a triumph to have cooked out in the middle of winter.

Throughout the winter we have had frequent snowfalls of one to three inches. There also have been two or three snows of five or six inches so that accumulation was considerable. One notices the massive amount of snow most of all along the edges of the township and county roads where the plows have piled it high. Four or five feet of piled up snow is common, and there are places where it must be six to seven feet deep. A fast melt could mean dangerous flooding, so we are hoping for gradual warming in the days and weeks ahead. The fluffiness of the snow has provided absolutely marvelous cross country skiing conditions.

Now it is the 3rd of March once again. It would appear that 1986 is a year of the lamb, but we should perhaps wait a few more days before making any definite declarations. -- "Deacon" Larson.