



TEN MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

SUMMER 1988

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

THE ASSOCIATION'S annual meeting will be at the Community Building in Hackensack at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6. Doors will open at 7 o'clock for refreshments and visiting; the formal meeting begins at 7:30. In addition to the usual election of officers and directors and reports from board members and committee chairpersons, a panel of county and state specialists is being assembled to respond to your questions.

Possibilities include representa-

tives of the sheriff's office, the county assessor's office, the county commissioners, the Department of Natural Resources, the county zoning office, and perhaps others as well.

THERE WILL BE NO speeches, only responses to whatever you would like to know about the lake and its general health. So come prepared to ask questions that will elicit information that is useful and interesting, not just to you alone, but to the Association's membership as a whole.

ODDS N' ENDS FROM THE NOTEBOOK . . .

THE TEN MILE LAKE MONSTER MYTH is alive and well, folks. The latest "sighting" came this spring. Curt Madison, who has one of those new-fangled depth finders, spied what he described as a "monster" of enormous proportions about 70 feet down. It was, he says, in front of Pinewood, which is located at the southwest corner of Ten Mile. Can anyone top Curt's story?

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THE WALT KANES counted three sets of two loon chicks each on a tour of the lake in June. One set, now almost grown, is in Long Bay; the other two are on the main lake.

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MY WIFE AND I NETTED a 12-year-old walleye on June 26. How do we know it was 12 years old? Its right fin was clipped, an operation performed on all fingerlings released into the lake in the fall of '76. The walleye was 27 inches long and weighed a tad more than 6 pounds.

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UNDER MINNESOTA LAW virtually all wild flowers are protected and are not to be removed from their natural

habitat. Among the most sensitive is the lady slipper, the state flower. It may take the lady slipper up to 20 years to blossom. The moral? Look and appreciate, but don't touch.

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WATER CLARITY has been abnormally good this year. On June 27 the main lake Secchi disk reading was 22.5', while Long Bay's was 20', about two feet better in both instances than was the case a year ago. As you may know we are one of 305 lakes in Minnesota cooperating in the state's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program. Ten Mile ranked 20th in clarity in 1987, a slight drop from earlier comparisons. Those besting us are primarily in the state's northeast corner.

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TIRED OF BARN SWALLOWS nesting in your boat lift cover? Well, here is a tip on what worked for one resident: Hang a kerosene soaked rag or a couple of bags of mothballs under the canopy. Presto! Swallows fly in, take a whiff, and fly out.

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WATER IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS commodity. It's in the best interests of everyone to protect it from degradation of any kind. -- Jim Schwartz.

SPEED LIMIT QUESTIONNAIRE SPARKS LIVELY RESPONSE

THE POSTCARD RESPONSE to the questionnaire on whether a speed limit is needed on Ten Mile Lake has been excellent. At this writing (late June) more than 350 replies have been received and more are coming in each day. Members are to be commended for their interest in this issue and for their fine response.

Here are the results: Yes -- 252. No -- 99. There also were several qualified, or "maybe," answers.

THE PRIMARY considerations and concerns of the "yes" voters centered on these points:

1. Inclusion of a night speed limit (20 mph was mentioned most frequently).
2. Inclusion of a noise limit, particularly for jet skis and jet boats.
3. Safety of swimmers and sailors.
4. Boaters not being aware of their speed because most do not have a speedometer aboard.
5. Inclusion of a statement specifying distance from shore for boats moving at high speed.
6. Insufficient parental control of suspected offenders.
7. Skiers traveling too close to shore.

"NO" VOTERS had these comments:

1. Enforcement would be difficult if not impossible.
2. It is ridiculous to attempt control when we really have no problem.
3. Why should a handful of dangerous/reckless boaters penalize the entire Ten Mile population?
4. There are already too many regulations.
5. Excessive speeds are usually from visitors. Have the host or resort advise limits.

AFTER REVIEWING the responses and hearing a report on the lengthy and complex procedure involved in establishing a speed limit, the Board decided that, for the time being an educational campaign aimed at residents and visitors might be all that is needed.

Among the suggestions were placing advisory signs at the public access

and at resorts, using the Newsletter as an educational vehicle, and enlisting the help of all residents in a sort of "neighborhood watch" program of monitoring and warning any apparent offenders. -- Stan Skaug.

FISH POPULATION CENSUS USES VARIETY OF METHODS

LOW FLYING AIRPLANES, a boater who checks individual catches, a lake-wide netting operation -- these are all a part of the 1988 fish census now under way on Ten Mile Lake.

The airplane is used to count the number of fishing boats on the lake, the boater visits with everyone he finds fishing to find out what and how many fish have been caught, and the netting operation is employed to arrive at an estimate of the numbers and varieties of fish in the lake.

Preliminary indications are that Ten Mile has a healthy supply of the most sought after fish, the walleye, as well as respectable populations of northern pike, largemouth black bass, whitefish and panfish.

FINAL TABULATIONS of the season-long study will not be completed until early next year. We'll publish the findings in the Newsletter when they're available.

According to reports, the fishing opener was quite successful for some but disappointing for others. Still fishing with leeches appeared to be the most productive technique, but a few had good luck with a slow troll using minnows or night crawlers.

Since then fishing appears to have settled into its familiar pattern -- not spectacular, but steady success for those willing to invest the time and effort that fishing Ten Mile requires. -- Jim Schwartz.

TWO DEPUTY ZONING OFFICERS SERVE TEN MILE LAKE RESIDENTS

IF YOU WANT TO BUILD, remodel, put on an addition or install a new septic system, first get in touch with your deputy zoning officer: John Fank, Hiram and Birch Lake Twps., 675-6683, or Ron Dvoracek, Shingobee and Turtle Lake Twps., 547-3132 or 547-1839.

TEN MILE LAKE -- THE THIRD MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE WORLD?

THE RUMOR SPREAD quickly that summer of 1935. Dick Garbisch met me one morning with "Hey, Pee Wee, have you heard that National Geographic called Ten Mile Lake the third most beautiful lake in the world? Right next to Lake Lucerne in Switzerland and Lake Louise in Banff!"

We didn't know anybody who could afford a copy of National Geographic in 1935; nor did we feel the need to verify such an obvious truth, perhaps even understated. Within a few days or weeks it was rare to find a Ten Mile Lake or Hackensack resident who had not heard and repeated, usually verbatim, the Rumor. And how many times was it repeated, wistfully, by chance encounters in the far-away places of World War II, Korea and Viet Nam? Now it has persisted in the growing population of Ten Mile Lake.

IN THE SUMMER of '86, Gomer Plantz visited Brandt's Island. His father was a fishing guide who worked out of Pinewood, Kenfield and the Island in the early '30s. Gomer repeated the Rumor intact during our remembrances of his trips to the Island as a boy.

A few weeks later, two sisters stopped at the Island to visit. They had gone to school (with Al Woock) in the one-room schoolhouse that still stands, remodeled, on the McGill property on the west shore of our lake. Their father had helped build Kenfield as well as other buildings nearby and they lived in a home on the Brown property near the Stromquists. The sisters repeated the Rumor without variation!

Then, as fall approached, Opal Roby interjected in one of our many reminiscences, "Well, you know, George, that appeared in the March, 1935, issue."

TOO MUCH! Three times in a month and all from old timers . . . plus a reliable clue to start with. My daughter, Rebecca Brandt, living in Washington, D.C., home of National Geographic, got me three copies of

an article from the March, 1935, issue entitled "Minnesota, Mother of Lakes and Rivers," written by Glanville Smith, a native Minnesotan. More research on the author would be welcome, for he knew Minnesota and Ten Mile Lake well.

THE ARTICLE is made up of 13 pages of text, a two-page map of Minnesota and the equivalent of 19 pages of pictures. One of those pictures is of a dock and fish catch on Ten Mile Lake. Photo credit is given to St. Paulite Kenneth M. Wright, who with his friend, Field Eldridge, built Kenfield in the 20s. Another short reference is made to Ten Mile Lake, among other Minnesota lakes, at the article's close.

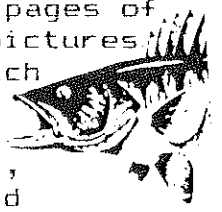
The author writes with knowledge of and affection for the many components of early Minnesota, and this issue is recommended reading on merit alone. But do not look here for confirmation or denial of the Rumor.

The fact that the Rumor does not appear in this March, 1935, article

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you don't have access to files of the National Geographic magazine, and would like to read the March, 1935, article, two copies are available here. One is in the hands of our history committee chairperson, Willa Shonkwiler Martin, and the other is at the home of Mrs. Lois Sandell, TMLA secretary. Call to arrange an appointment.

does not deny that National Geographic may have proclaimed at another time or place that Ten Mile is the third most beautiful lake in the world. All we found out here is that it was not said in this article. So let the Rumor live . . . it can be wrong only a little bit one way or the other! -- George Brandt.

DID YOU KNOW that Ten Mile Lake was called Devil or Devil's Lake by earlier Indians? It acquired the present name because it was ten miles from the Agency Bay Indian Agency. There is an Eight Mile Lake, for the same reason. Three Minnesota lakes are called Ten Mile Lake. Wonder how many Bass Lakes? -- Ross Melgaard.



PROGRESS REPORT ON PROPOSED LONG BAY PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

AT THE SUGGESTION OF Dick Kimball, area water access specialist at DNR Headquarters, Bemidji, a work group was put together and met at Bromley's Ten Mile Inn on May 24, 1988. The group consisted of 11 Ten Mile Lake residents and 3 DNR representatives. Purpose of the meeting was to assist the DNR in disseminating its information and to listen to comments and concerns voiced by residents.



The presentation by DNR personnel included an explanation of the physical features of the proposed site, and the fact that the property:

- is undeveloped, open and there is a willing seller;
- is relatively flat with excellent elevation above the water;
- has adequate water depth;
- is adjacent to a major roadway, providing excellent site accessibility;
- is relatively isolated from concentrations of seasonal and permanent residences;
- is located on an area of the lake that is less susceptible to weather related problems;
- is located on an area of the lake that is separated from the present access.

ROUGH SKETCHES of the proposed access were displayed. Although they had not yet discussed the proposal with the Department of Transportation, the DNR representatives said they feel the distances are adequate from both directions to give ample vision to Highway 371 traffic approaching the access.

They also said they believed there would be relatively little misuse of the facility due to its proximity to a well traveled highway. They felt, too, that the access is needed for demands of 10, 15 or 20 years from now rather than current demands.

Several of the residents present expressed their concerns about the proposed location and questioned the accuracy of some of the DNR statements and predictions. Particularly, some residents felt that the objec-

tions raised in the September, 1987, petition were not adequately dealt with. Those objections were essentially:

-- The funneling of traffic to the lake through the entire length of Long Bay.

-- The negative effects on nesting loons and blue herons in the south end of the bay.

-- The increased danger to water skiers in the bay.

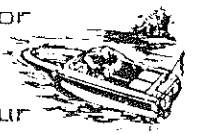
-- The traffic hazard the access would create on Highway 371.

-- Misuse of the access would occur and would be very difficult to control.

(The petition was spelled out in more detail in the Fall, 1987, Newsletter.)

LATEST INFORMATION is that the DNR has taken options on the purchase of the property in question. Before the final transaction takes place, however, there will be a Public Information meeting, probably sometime in early August. Notice of the meeting will appear in area newspapers and letters will go to persons in the immediate area of the access as well as to those who have written the DNR or are working with the group mentioned at the start of this article.

If you have an interest in this matter, please watch for notification of the Public Information meeting. Also, take the time to express your feelings by letter to: Dick Kimball, DNR Trails and Waterways, 2115 Birchmont Beach Rd., N.E., Bemidji, MN. 56601. -- Walt Kane.



AN EXCELLENT LARGE MAP of the lake suitable for framing (about 21"x28") is the U.S. Geological Survey map, available at Inward Bound in Walker for \$2.75. It shows water depths and elevations. Your house, unless recently built, is shown. The map misses a bit of the north shore, but the next one north, also available, picks that up and includes Portage Lake, Walker and some of Leech Lake. -- Ross Melgaard.

THE DRY WEATHER has put our culvert control project on hold until more normal conditions return.

LONG-TIME LAKE RESIDENT REFLECTS ON EARLY YEARS

"MY FOLKS BOUGHT PROPERTY up here in 1912 when I was 3 years old," recalled Mary Norton in an interview with Ross Melgaard, president of the Ten Mile Lake Association.

"When they came up here, they had to cut their way into the place -- no highway to Walker almost 14 miles north. The road went through the little town of Cyphers.

"In the wintertime we could drive across Leech Lake on the ice. That was much shorter. There used to be some big livery stables where the horses were left. A big occasion was to go to church in Walker. We did once a month . . . to the Catholic church. I remember going to church in the old school-house where the postoffice now stands in Walker. I went in there very cold and the priest took me on his knees to warm my feet. I was scared of him because of his black suit."

MARY, 79, LIVES TODAY off Highway 371 a half mile north of the rest stop and picnic area maintained by the Chippewa National Forest. She taught school for several years.

"I started out what was the Jasmer school over near the Boy River with seven kids in five grades. The customary thing for boarding teachers was to look around the community and find who was the poorest family -- they needed the income. You didn't smoke; you didn't drink.

"IN THAT PARTICULAR PLACE you did not go to dances, and you were surely going to hell if you were a Catholic. We started classes at 9 in the morning and let out at 4 in the afternoon, with an hour for lunch and two 15-minute recess periods.

"On Saturday, I washed clothes, made out lesson plans. If I got really bored, I would try out a new recipe."

MARY BEGAN SCHOOL at Cyphers, a store, a postoffice and a log collecting site on the railroad 2 1/2 miles north of the present Highway 50/371 intersection.

"We all walked to school, she

said. "We had double desks and I sat on a desk that was much too big for me with a fat boy, so I sat sideways with my feet under him.

"In the days that I taught you did not teach more than two years in the same school. When I taught at Onigum I had the lower grades, 47 kids. I did my own janitor work, and cooked for the kids."

MARY'S BROTHER, 23, drowned in Portage Lake after walking a school teacher home. "He was skating across Portage Lake," she recalled. "He put on his skates to get across the lake fast -- to get some rest before he went to work on the railroad mail car. He fell through an open spot and drowned. His cap was found on the ice."

Mary arrived in this area after a frontier town, Lothrop, had been abandoned as a station on the railroad. It was located on the east side of Ten Mile near Highways 371 and 50.

"IT WAS AROUND this little Lake Erin. I remember as a child picking blueberries around the foundation of the abandoned houses.

"The man who built Cyphers was named Pete Albert. His original home was built before 1900 on Portage Lake. Later he moved his sawmill to the Shingobee River at the site of the present bridge carrying 50 over the stream."

DRIVING TO WALKER was a moving experience. "The road crossed Shingobee River," she remembered, "and it was sort of floating, a corduroy 'bridge,' made of logs tied together and covered with earth. You could feel it move when you crossed. A lot of people wanted 371 built there, but earth-moving equipment of that time wasn't as good. They thought it was easier to fill Leech Lake. The present road by the Dutchman's was all fill. One day they thought they had the road filled but it started to sink in the night and had to be redone.

"ONE OF THE CHARACTERS in my youth was an Indian named John Smith. He sat in front of what is now Reed's tackle shop in Walker with a blanket around his shoulders, and he wore a black hat. If a little kid came by,

he would shake his head. His nose wobbled from being broken so often. He loved to see the kids' reaction.

"When tourists wanted to take his picture, he covered his face until they gave him a quarter."

(Mary Norton lives a busy life and is a member of the Artists Club that meets weekly at the Dutchman.)

* NECROLOGY *

* * *

* PHYLLIS E. BOCK, 68, who with *
* her husband operated Bock's Blue *
* Haven Resort on the North Shore *
* of Ten Mile until 1980, died on *
* May 28 after suffering a heart *
* attack in her home on the lake. *

* Memorial services were held *
* May 31 in Sacred Heart Catholic *
* Church, Hackensack. *

* She was born Oct. 27, 1919, in *
* St. Paul and married Joseph Bock *
* in 1941. *

* FRANCIS G. MINOR, 65, of Mon- *
* mouth, Ill., who spent summers *
* in his cabin on the south shore *
* of Ten Mile, died in March while *
* in Pensacola, Fl. He is survived *
* by his wife, Marcella. They pur- *
* chased their cottage when the *
* Woocks closed out their resort. *
* Mr. Minor was a distributor for *
* the Shell Oil Company. *

DESPITE DRY WEATHER
LAKE LEVEL HOLDS UP

WHAT IS MOST SURPRISING about the long dry spell is that the level of Ten Mile Lake is holding up remarkably well. Unlike hundreds of other lakes in the state, where water levels have gone down drastically, Ten Mile is in relatively good shape.

When the DNR made its annual beginning-of-the-season reading April 27, the lake level stood at 1379.26 feet above sea level. That's about normal.

On June 30, the reading, which is done every other day or so by the Martin Runyans on Long Bay, was 1378.95 feet, or 3.72 inches less than it was on April 27. In the

eight days prior to June 30 the water level dropped 1.2 inches, a rate of decline that will continue until regular rains return. -- Jim Schwartz.

NEW SHORELAND MANAGEMENT
REGULATIONS NEAR ADOPTION

THE PROPOSED SHORELAND management revisions now in the final stages of the process leading to adoption will have a direct effect on every owner of lake property.

One important example is the regulation of waste treatment systems or, more commonly, the "septic tank." The new rules will require every county to initiate a program that will bring every waste treatment system up to code requirements. There will be other regulations as well affecting setbacks, erosion control, shoreline preservation, tree and ground cover, and so on. But the most immediate and potentially the most costly will be the upgrading of individual sewage treatment systems.

HOW CAN YOU TELL whether your septic system is obsolete? The best way is to have it inspected by a state certified installer, who is qualified make such judgments. Lacking that, you can make a pretty good guess on your own. If your system is more than 20 years old, if there is no watertight septic tank, if there is no drain field, if your system consists of what is known as a cesspool or dry hole, if you never had it pumped or cleaned, if you find it needs pumping several times a season, you can rest assured yours is an obsolete system.

The names of state certified installers are on file at the county zoning office. They may be obtained by calling 547-3300 and asking for the zoning office. Be sure you ask for the names of state certified installers. -- Jim Schwartz.

OUR HONOR ROLL recognizes the following persons for installing new waste treatment systems: Joe Blaskovich, Cliff and Wes Gunnare, Patrick Carey, Jr., Jerry Kloss, Eunice Madison and Dave Anderson.

A golden eye duckling brood hatched successfully in Long Bay this spring.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- JUNE, 1988

Checking Account

Beginning Balance, 2/27/88		\$	507.04
Receipts:			
Dues & contributions	\$	120.00	
Transfer from regular savings		500.00	720.00

			\$ 1,127.04
Expenses:			
Printing	\$	146.28	
Copying		44.49	
Postage		262.00	
Taxes, Roby property		274.00	726.77

Balance, 6/1/88		\$	400.27

Regular Savings

Beginning balance, 2/27/88	\$	9,422.20
Interest income		128.51

		9,550.51
Transfer to checking		500.00

Balance, 6/1/88	\$	9,050.71

Endowments, Gifts and Memorials Account

Beginning balance, 2/27/88	\$	3,265.55
Dividends		1,600.62
Memorials		55.00
Interest		49.47

Balance, 6/1/88	\$	4,970.64

-- Molly Brandt Bliska, Treasurer

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
CONTINUES ABOVE 600 MARK

SECRETARY LOIS SANDELL reports our membership reached 612 by the end of June, a gain of 7 over what it was at the end of January. Here are two more entries for you to add to your current directory:

JENSEN, Roger and Margaret
HC 75, Box 781
Hackensack, MN 56452 547-1387
Retired S 5118

ROTHER, Mark and Susan
13980 Norwood Lane
Dayton, MN 55327 612-427-8737
Mark, plumber; Susan, pricing coordi-
nator for paper distributor
Ch: Jeremy

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE, resident or visitor, who isn't a member but log-ically could or ought to be, send the name and address to Lois Sandell at the address on page 2 of this News-letter. Or, if you can, call her at 675-6628.