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GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.  
BECKER COUNTY.  
By: L.S.Staples.

First Settlers.

FIRST INHABITANTS

The first occupant of the territory, of what is now Becker County, of which there is any definite knowledge, were the Indians known as the Otter Tail band of Pillagers. They ranged over a considerable extent of country, but their favorite resort was the Otter Tail River, and the country adjacent thereto. This range of country was an ideal home and a veritable paradise for the Indians. The time was when buffalo were numerous, and men were still living a few years ago who killed them in Becker County. Still later when the elk was very abundant, and not more than ninety years ago, elk meat was the principal source of food throughout northwestern Minnesota, and, later still, up to the present time, venison was to be had in considerable quantity. But what was of far more value to them than all these were the numerous lakes stocked with countless numbers of fish of the finest quality, and the abundant supplies of wild rice that could be obtained around the borders of these lakes. Game might sometimes become scarce, and once in a long while the wild rice might fail, but the supply of fish was inexhaustible and never failing.

Up to the time of the Sioux outbreak in 1862, and the expulsion soon afterward of the Sioux from Minnesota and the eastern Dakotas, the Chippewa in the vicinity of present Becker County were liable to frequent raids from these Indians, and bloody battles were fought in some of the adjoining counties. Many years ago the Sioux held possession of the Otter Tail River country for some time, and the numerous mounds along the river, and in other parts of the county, are said by the Chippewas to have been built by the Sioux. Some of these mounds are of considerable size, especially those near the outlet of Height of Land Lake, some of them being ten or twelve feet high with the base thirty or



forty feet in breadth. There are others quite prominent near Frazee, also three or four west of the bridge across the Otter Tail River on section twenty-three, in Erie township, some near Round Lake on the White Earth Reservation, some at Shell Lake, and two or three near Detroit Lake, on the little prairie a few rods west of where the Pelican River flows into the lake.

#### FIRST WHITE MEN

Undoubtedly the first white men to set foot on Becker County were the early French explorers. Du Luth penetrated the region of 1,000 lakes as early as the year of 1679. Father Hennepin and his party, no doubt, came very close to the county the next year of 1680, followed by Jacques de Noyon on the year of 1688. In 1732, de la Verendrye and his missionaries mapped this northwestern area and, without question, this latter group visited the primitive soil of Becker County. Alexander Mackenzie, prominent leader and organizer of the Northwest Fur Company's trading posts, led an expedition across the North American Continent during 1793 afterward wrote of the fine country occupying the space between the Red River of the North and Lake Superior. It will be remembered that Becker County is within that area.

Interesting is the information furnish by eminent scientists that the Goths and Norwegians were on the land of Becker County in the year of 1362. The finding of the Norse Anchor stones, found on the banks of Big Cormorant Lake which is fifteen miles west of Detroit Lakes, and the discovery of the Kensington Rune Stone with its runic inscriptions which was discovered eighty miles south of Detroit Lakes, seemed to have withstood years of rigid investigation and adequately prove, to the satisfaction of numerous scientist, that the ancient explorers were in Becker County almost six centuries ago. While these discoveries will be discussed under a separate heading, they were included in this phase of the story of Becker County as a matter of reference.

The first move toward settlement of Becker County was made by the Northwest Fur Company in 1802 when they sent William Morrison to the Red River country to establish fur trading posts. After having located a headquarters-post at Leech Lake, Morrison, on October 19, 1802, erected a branch post at White Earth and, within a short while, another post at Shell Lake. Of all the many posts located by Morrison, the White Earth settlement was one of the few survivals.

For years the "Old Trading Post," as it was familiarly known, continued to function at White Earth. By the year of 1825, a treaty between the Sioux and Chippewa Indians placed nearly all of Becker County in Chippewa territory. Five years after the Sioux outbreak in 1862, or the year of 1867, a treaty signed at Washington made it compulsory for all Indians residing along the Mississippi river to be removed to reservations. As an outcome of this treaty the Chippewas began their exodus from the land.

Previous to the signing of the treaty or during the fall of 1867 arrangements were made by which one million feet of pine logs were to be cut and placed along the east side of White Earth lake. Working diligently throughout the winter of 1867-68, by the arrival of spring, the logs were ready to be sawed into lumber for the use of the Indians upon their arrival at White Earth. But other provisions remained to be made before the reservation would be ready to receive the Indians.

Stationed at Crow Wing, to the east of Becker County, was Major J.B. Basset, the Crow Wing Indian Agent. About the latter part of April in 1868, Major Basset sent a small party of men to White Earth with instructions to proceed with farming operations. Contracting with Joseph Wakefield to break 240 acres of land for the Indians, a small group, under the leadership of Paul H. Beaulieu, left Crow Wing for White Earth. Arriving at White Earth around the 10th of May, 1868, the men proceeded to plow up the earth and make general preparations for the coming of the Chippewas.

According to Alvin Wilcox, historian of Becker County, the honor



of being the first pioneer settler"with white blood in his veins to settle permanently in Becker County" goes to Paul Beaulieu. Born at Mackinac in 1820 of French and Indian descent, Paul Beaulieu took an active part in the pioneer development of Minnesota. In all matters relating to the Chippewa Indians relating to their several treaties with the government his name stands out as an intelligent arbitrator. Possessing the attributes of a well-rounded education in the frontier, and, being a master of the English and French language as well as having the reputation of being the most fluent interpreter of the Ojibway dialect that the nation ever produced, he was well equipped to be of valuable help to both the government and the Indians in straightening out their difficulties. Beyond being a gifted linguist he was a born diplomat and a brilliant orator. Through his sincere interest in the problems of the Chippewas he was singularly instrumental in effecting the measure which secured the White Earth Reservation for the Chippewas. To him, too, goes the credit of turning the first furrow and planting the first crop in Becker County thus taking the first steps in establish a new civilization.

From the time of the signing of the treaty in Washington in 1867 a whole year passed before the Indians could be persuaded to leave their old home at Crow Wing and occupy their new home at White Earth. Being perhaps confused by the quick changes in their form of living and not being fully aware that the white man was making a mistake in transferring them from a primitive state to a civilized state with too much speed, they did not know which way to turn. Hole-in-the-Day, their militant chief, had been agitating them with speeches against the removal until another year. By the time the day arrived for trip he had become greatly disturbed and unruly. Knowing that final improvements had not been made at White Earth he demanded of his people that they should not start but to wait until the next spring as "he would not be ready until then; that he was going to

First Settlers.

Washington again to demand of the government that improvements be made at the new reservation before the removal, including a saw-mill, houses for the Indians, and a large house for himself."

While all of Hole-in-the-Day's demands were reasonable in the light of what transpired later, the government agent had received his orders and prevailed upon the majority of the Chippewas to go to White Earth. When T.A. Warren, who had been appointed to superintend the transfer, collected together the men, women and children (200 in all), he was ready to start the trip the morning of June 4, 1868. Placing his wife and child in a light buggy at the head of a long column of ox teams and wagons loaded with Indians and their possessions, he was about to give the order to proceed when Hole-in-the-Day became very angry, threatening to kill the first Indian that left with the train.

Among the chiefs of the Mississippi Chippewas who had decided to join the caravan was Nay-bon-ash-kung, a brave as well as a chief. Reaching for his gun he jumped down off of a wagon and bravely shouted to his tribesmen: "Now, follow me. Whoever will come in my way to stop me from going he will be killed on the spot!"

Nay-bon-ash-kung's brave gesture inspired others. Taking courage the tribesmen reached for their guns, placing them across their knees and ready for any trouble Hole-in-the Day desired to start. Fortunately, no blood was shed and the exodus from Crow Wing got under way, the ox train arriving at White Earth about noon on June 14, 1868, ten days having been consumed in making the journey.

Through the request of the majority of Chippewas at White Earth, Paul Beaulieu had been appointed by the government <sup>as</sup> their first farmer. Of all the men that had accompanied Beaulieu to the reservation the previous year, he was the only one that took up ~~in~~ permanent residence in Becker County.

Eighteen years previous to the settlement of White Earth by the Indians, Donald Mc Donald, a Canadian ~~man~~, established a trading post at Detroit



Lake, trading with the Indians through the winter of 1850-51 and returning to Otter Tail in the spring.

Beyond the legal boundaries of the White Earth Reservation-in-Becker-County the first white man to settle in the county was Patrick Quinlan, who settled on the southwest quarter of section 35 in Burlington township. Born in Canada of Irish descent, Quinlan came to the United States in 1868 and, in May of that year, settled near where Frazee now stands. Shortly after his coming he married a full-blooded Chippewa maiden.

Shortly after Quinlan settled near Frazee or during June of 1868, Henry Way, Almon W. Sherman and L.D. Sperry took up claims very close to Detroit at a place later known as Oak Lake. This spot was in Detroit township. Making some improvements they returned to Clitheral for their families. Almon Sherman removed to Oak Lake with his family that same fall and during the winter of 1868-69, the Shermans and the Quinlans were the only settlers to occupy the soil of Becker County outside of the people of the White Earth Reservation. In the spring of 1869 Henry Way and L.D. Sperry brought their families from Clitheral. Following close upon their trail three Norwegians, John F. Beaver, Chris Anderson and Fred Johnson, established claims in the western part of what is now Audubon township. In the same year another party, mostly close relatives of Way and Sherman came to Becker County and located on claims south of the three Norwegians. Consisting of Buckley B. Anderson, wife and seven children, Jackson Burdick, a son-in-law of B.B. Anderson, wife and three children and Harvey Jones, a single man.

During October of 1868 Dr. David Pyle, who had been appointed government physician at White Earth, located in the same vicinity of the Andersons' claims. He remained there most of the winter. Accompanying Dr. Pyle was M.L. Deveraux and David Beveridge. Shortly after their arrival Dr. Pyle and these two men erected a shingle mill, making basswood shingles during the winter of 1869-70, at a spot on what is now section 18 of Audu-

bon township.

While the Census of 1870 gives Becker County a population of 308, these figures are somewhat misleading. According to Alvin Wilcox, the county historian, there were only sixt white people in the county proper at that time. This would leave 238 for the reservation of which the Indians would represent the bulk of the population within the reservation's area.

During the summer of 1870 the probabiltiy that the Northern Pacific railroad would pass through Becker County attracted quite a number of settlers-----too many to mention at this point as they settled in various townships and their stories will be found in the township's story.

Summing up the early settlement of the county it is found that the first settlers came from various states in the Union including a few from Canada. Most of them were farmers who came from large farms of the east and were prepared to seek estates in the wilderness of Becker County. No real settlement took place in any extend until after the Northern Pacific railroad's coast line tracks were layed through the county. Thereafter towns sprung up and settlement began in earnest.

#### LAND OFFICE

Before settlement took place in Becker County the United States Land Office was located at Otter Tail lake in Otter Tail County to the south. Established there in 1839, it was moved to St. Cloud in 1861 at the beginning of the Sioux outbreak. By the year of 1872 a United States Land Office was established at Oak Lake in Detroit township.

## BECKER COUNTY.

1.

FOREWORD:

When the state of Minnesota first received its popular title---"The Land Of Ten Thousand Lakes," its citizens felt honored. It was a tribute richly deserved.

To the people of Becker county the distinction took on added significance. Here were lakes. Here were resorts. Here were facilities for the vacationer, advantages that had long made Becker county the favorite haunt of the visitor to Minnesota. Here was nature at its finest---a veritable sportsmen's paradise with all the natural setting to provide the variety essential to the out-of-doors enthusiast. Here truly was the ideal vacationland.

But this wasn't Becker county's only heritage! Once heavily-wooded countryside, the land was quickly cleared by early settlers and farming begun. And the same natural resources that gave the county an enviable reputation as a national playground also paid dividends to residents in an agricultural way. For here farming and dairying developed rapidly, so that in 1930 a crop valuation in excess of two million dollars was had.

So Becker county, situated in the center of Minnesota's famed 'Park Region' in the land of 10,000 lakes has another distinction in addition to being a playground---



it is a good place to live. <sup>in order</sup> And so that the boys and girls <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ live here may be better acquainted with their district and its history, the following story is told.

AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING:

Long, long ago, many millions of years, the way time is reckoned by learned geologists, the land that is now Becker county was a great barren waste-land, ice-covered. This period of time was called the 'glacial age.'

When the ice first came down from the north in the form of large glaciers, it swept everything before it. It did not run on a track; its tremendous force pushed it forward, as it happened, with the result that it caused formations in the earth as it went along. These have remained ever since. Huge boulders and massive rock formations were carried along and were deposited in the wake of the moving ice.

The passage of these glaciers over this district prepared the land formation admirably for the many lakes that now abound throughout the region. Natural recesses in the land were later filled with water, and then they became ponds, or lakes.

The ice movement also leveled off some of the land. Here, today, we find gently rolling prairie. In other places, passage of the ice left towering cliffs. These are in evidence in the northeastern part of the county where the formation is known as the 'Hauteurs'. This high spot in the topography is a water divide; here is the origin of the Mississippi and Red Rivers.



There is one peculiar fact about this water divide. The Mississippi River, a south-flowing stream, first flows in a northerly direction from its source before heading south. And the Red River of the North, a north-flowing stream, flows south from its source before finding its true direction.

#### EARLY LIFE IN THE REGION:

Nothing is known regarding the presence of life in this district during the 'glacial age'. According to our scientists, nothing in the way of concrete proof has been found to indicate that life existed in Minnesota.

But long before the coming of the white man <sup>who</sup> ~~to~~ claim this territory for his home, and hundreds of years before the Indians roamed the state, there was human life here. Not much is known about it, 'tis true, but it did exist.

The discovery came in 1931. A crew of men were excavating <sup>while</sup> ~~during their work of~~ building a highway (United States Highway No. 59) three miles northeast of the town of Pelican Rapids. As the steam shovel dipped into the earth to bring out its load of gravel the skeleton was seen; it was buried at a depth of twenty feet below the surface.

The remains were sent to the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis for examination. Here Dr. A. E. Jenks of the Department of Anthropology took charge, and in his findings he reported that the skeleton undoubtedly represented human life in the state from about twenty thousand years ago. He promptly labeled the mummy the "Minnesota Man."

He further reported that the remains <sup>were those of a</sup> ~~was not a~~ <sup>but of</sup> man ~~it was~~ a young girl <sup>old</sup> of approximately sixteen years. The front teeth were of the projecting type, and the nasal bones and cavity indicated she had a flat nose. Sediment deposited within the skull was of strata that unquestionably proved the relative age of her race, according to Dr. Jenks. Beside the remains when it was found was a small dagger evidently made from the antlers of some animal. The theory was advanced by Dr. Jenks that the girl had met death by drowning in a prehistoric lake that was located in this vicinity.

#### THE FIRST INDIANS:

When the first white settlers came to the upper Mississippi river, the region was occupied by the Dakota branch of the Sioux Indians. Their bitter enemies, the Ojibwa or Chippewa, secured fire-arms from the French and gradually pushed their way westward.

In a decisive battle at Mille Lacs about 1750, the Sioux were defeated and driven southward down the Mississippi and westward to the plains. The Chippewas then continued to range Becker county where they found good hunting and fishing and plenty of wild rice.

#### THE FIRST EXPLORERS:

The first explorers to come to Minnesota <sup>touch</sup> did not ~~include~~ the territory that is Becker county. If they did, they made no record of it.

Du Luth is credited as being the first white man to come to northern Minnesota. He (according to his version) penetrated to a region of one thousand lakes, a district just west of Mille Lacs, which he<sup>so</sup> named. This was in the summer of 1679.

Father Hennepin and his party came to Mille Lacs via an indirect route from the lower Mississippi, in 1680.

P.V.



Week ending April 7, 1938.

The next white man to come to the region was Henry de la Verendrye who came in 1732. He made maps of the district. After him came Alexander Mackenzie who explored the entire area between what is now the state of Iowa, and the Arctic Ocean; he was here in 1793.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Becker county occupies a unique position in geographical importance, as it is the fountain-head of important rivers in Minnesota. Here is where the Mississippi river has its beginning. Here too is the source of the Red River of the North.

A peculiar circumstance of the water formation in the source of these rivers is this: the Mississippi river, a south-flowing stream between Minnesota and the Gulf of Mexico flows north as it begins its journey in Becker county; while the Red River of the North, a north-flowing water-course, first flows in a southerly direction. Both rivers flow in an opposite direction as they begin wending their way from Lake Hernando de Soto in Itasca State Park.

There are other rivers in Becker county too. The Otter Tail, the Pelican, and the Buffalo rivers all do their part to provide sufficient drainage to various sections of the county.

The lakes of Becker county, numbering two hundred ninety six, form the outstanding physical characteristic. According to travelers who come here, they are as beautiful as any group of lakes anywhere in the world.



The largest lake in the county is Cormorant; this body of water extends over seven thousand acres. Height of Land lake is second in size covering nearly four thousand acres. Shell Lake is third, with three thousand, two hundred nineteen acres; Detroit Lake is fourth with three thousand, one hundred eighteen acres. Other principal lakes are Melissa, Strawberry, Toad, Floyd, White Earth, Wolf, and Oak Lake.

In addition to its beautiful lakes as an interest of the tourist, Becker county offers another inducement.....here is part of great Itasca State Park. While only a small part of the park extends into Becker county, it is popular as a gateway from the Detroit Lake district.

It is within the Park that the Mississippi and the Red River of the North has their beginnings. The land formation that gives these streams their start is known as the "Hauteurs"; it is a ridge of land semi-circular in outline which forms a rim around the head of Lake Hernando de Soto, and is about two hundred feet higher than the lake itself.

In the northeastern part of the county where Itasca State Park touches, is found the highest elevation in the district. The elevation of Lake Itasca is fourteen hundred fifty-seven feet; that of Lake Hernando de Soto is fifteen hundred fifty-eight feet; while the ridge around the lake that gives direction to the Mississippi and the Red River of the North is seventeen hundred fifty feet.

The general contour of Becker county is rolling terrain. The northwestern part of the county is fairly level. The soil is fertile sandy loam with a clayey sub-soil which is well adapted to raising of small grains, vegetables, hay, and fruits.

FLORA AND FAUNA:

The conditions prevalent in Becker county in the day when the Indians made it their home which permitted them to sustain life in a healthy manner still exists to a great extent. Some of those conditions were eliminated naturally with the development of the region by the early settlers.

Large herds of buffalo and elk roamed Becker county in the day of the Indian. The explorers that came into the district hunted these animals too; they used the meat for food, and took the furs to use in trade with the Indians. As the early settlers came into the region these animals were killed off and gradually they became extinct.

Other animals formerly found throughout the county in large numbers were bears, panthers, antelope, caribou, white-tail deer, lynx, wildcats, and timber-wolves. None of these animals are ever found here anymore with the exception of an occasional bear or timber-wolf.

Fur-bearing animals now found in the county include beaver, mink, muskrat, bear, fox, otter, martin, lynx, wolverine, raccoon, and the fisher.

Birds found in Becker county include the partridge, grouse, prairie chicken, hawk, swallow, vireo, warbler, wren, lark, whip-poor-will, woodpecker, robin, blackbird, crossbill, grosbeak, owl, bluebird, thrush, kingfisher, and sparrow. Wild water fowl include the gull, tern, pelican, sandpiper, plover, snipe, duck, and goose.

Native fish found in the streams and lakes of the

county are the black bass, rock bass, wall-eyed pike, pickerel, sunfish, yellow perch, catfish, bull-head, tullibee, and sucker. Other fish are found here too; varieties that are not native, but that have been planted in the waters here. One of the most successful of these is the brook-trout.

From a district that was once heavily timbered, and that included a big variety of various tree families, the following survive: maple, linden, box-elder, ash, dogwood, elm, walnut, cherry, birch, alder, oak, willow, poplar, pine, cedar, balsam, spruce, hazelnut, and sumach.

Wild plants and flowers still grow in abundance throughout the county. They include red-top, blue grass, star grass, fern, thistle, nettle, moss, pasque flower, anemone, <sup>1</sup>bloodroot, buttercup, daisy, violet, mallow, red and white clover, wild rose, wild strawberry, gooseberry, currant, blackberry, blueberry, primrose, aster, goldenrod, honeysuckle, coneflower, prairie lily, and moccasin flower. Grapes (the northern fox), red and yellow <sup>1</sup>pums, various kinds of wild cherries, and cranberries, all grow throughout the region.

Special mention is deserved in the case of wild rice that grows profusely throughout the county. In the days of the Indian it constituted an important food for him; and the demand today, particularly in eastern markets, establishes the importance of this crop to Becker county.

Wild rice grows in water (usually swampy land) from two to ten feet in depth, taking root in the soft mud and in the straw of former growths. Indians gather the rice by brushing the cereal into the bottoms of canoes with long poles. It is then thrashed by a churning



motion, pounding hulls from the seeds which are placed upon canvas or in ground holes; these seeds appear like small oats. Finally the wild rice is prepared for eating as a vegetable or breakfast-food with the aid of a parching process. The flavor is like that of a delicious toast, reminiscent of the fresh, smoky fragrance that accompanies crisp bacon broiling over a wood camp-fire under Indian Summer skies.

INDIAN LIFE IN THE COUNTY:

As told earlier in the story, it was the Chippewa Indian that populated the lands of Becker county. Having fought his way westward from the Atlantic coast, the Chippewa was well satisfied with the prospects of life in Minnesota; Becker county pleased him especially due to nature's background with good hunting and fishing.

They were self-helpful. They were an industrious Indian nation. For food they used more than forty specimens of plants. They included: wild ginger was an appetitizer; leaves and berries of the bearberry were cooked with meat to season the broth; dried pumpkin flowers were used as flour to thicken gravy; dried corn-silk in the broth took the place of salt and seasoning. They boiled aster leaves and ate them with fish or meat like we eat spinach. Stalks of the woodvine were used like we eat corn on the cob, or sometimes they boiled them down to a syrup. For vegetables they used wild potatoes, celery, pumpkin, squash, flowers of milk-weed, bulbs on the roots of bulrushes, mosses from white pines, and dried berries.



People nowadays wonder at the 'medicine man' of Indian lore. He was real enough, and he did work wonders. There were good reasons for this usually; they early discovered that certain roots and plants contained juices and extracts of great medicinal value. They used them. <sup>Sick</sup> People grew well under their treatment.

Chief among these plants were the ginseng and the Seneca snakeroot. The first flowers to bloom on these plants in the spring were cured, pulverized, and then used in various concoctions. Other plants that were popular with the 'medicine men' were the juniper, hemlock, spruce, slippery elm, wintergreen, snowberry, catnip, <sup>and</sup> Balm of Gilead.

The Indian's main diet was meat; hunting the wild animals that roamed the countryside, and fish obtained from the many lakes of the county provided him with a substantial menu at all times.

They were adept at making their way where they willed whether they chose to go overland or by water. They were skilled at the trade of building canoes from the bark of birch trees; the same bark was used for other purposes like covering wigwams and certain clothing items.

In 1768 the life of the Chippewa was made miserable by attacks on their villages by another Indian nation, the Sioux. Battles raged over all parts of the northwest; casualties were heavy. At the town now known as Battle Lake, fifty miles south of Detroit Lakes, one of the hardest fought battles of the entire period took place; a small party of forty-five Chippewas attacked

a camp of four hundred Sioux whose large number was concealed by a grove on the shore of this lake. Although fighting a superior force and losing two-thirds of their warriors, the Chippewas succeeded in killing a far greater number of Sioux.

On August 19th, 1825, the United States Government established a dividing line in Minnesota for the respective countries of the warring tribes which placed Becker county and the northern half of the state in Chippewa hands.

## BECKER COUNTY

GEOGRAPHY NOTES.  
By: L.S.Staples.  
Slip #1.

Becker County is located in the northwestern part of the state in the heart of the famous "Park Region of Minnesota" and has a population of 22,503(1930 Census). It is bounded on the south by Otter Tail, on the east by Wadena and Hubbard, on the north by Norman, Mahnomen and Clearwater, and on the west by Clay. These counties, including Becker, are situated in that part of Minnesota which has gained national recognition for their scenic beauty.

The county of Becker was named in honor of George Loomis Becker, lawyer, who came to St.Paul on October 29,1849, and who was made a Brigadier General by General Henry Hastings Sibley.

Established by an act of the legislature in 1858 and organized in March 1871, its legal and governmental activities are resolved in the matters of the Seventh Judicial District of the state and the sixth division of the United States Courts. Its law-making <sup>*in the state government are elected from*</sup> ~~bodies are representatives of~~ the Sixty-third legislative district <sup>*United States*</sup> while its congressman is elected by the people of the Ninth Congressional District.

### DERIVATION OF NAMES

ATLANTA TOWNSHIP, settled in 1871, was organized January 25,1879, being then named Martin, perhaps from Martin Hanson, one of the first settlers. Two months afterward it was named Atlanta, "from the resemblance its undulating surface bears to the Atlantic Ocean." (Quotes Wilcox, Alvin, in his Pioneer History of Becker County)

AUDUBON TOWNSHIP was organized August 19,1871, but was named successiv-



ely Windom, Colfax, and Oak Lake, holding the last of these names from 1872 until 1881. The Northern Pacific railroad station and village to be established here, also the small lake adjoining the village site, had received the name Audubon in August, 1871, in honor of John James Audubon(b.1780,d.1851), the great American ornithologist, celebrated for his pictures of birds. This name was proposed by his niece, a member of a party of tourists who "camped where the Audubon depot now stands." In January 1881, the township name was changed to Audubon, and on February 23 of that year the village was incorporated.

BURLINGTON, organized August 26,1872, "was so named from the city of Burlington in the state of Vermont, by Mrs. E.L.Wright, a Vermonter, whose husband took a leading part in the organization of the township."

FRAZEE VILLAGE, on the Northern Pacific railroad in this township(Burlington), was platted in 1873, but was not incorporated until 1891. It was named in honor of Randolph L.Frazee, owner of its lumber mill. He was born at Hamden Junction, Ohio, July 3,1841; came to Minnesota in 1866, and to this place in 1872; removed later to Pelican Rapids; was a representative in legislature in 1875; died at Pelican Rapids June 4,1906.

CALLAWAY township, organized March 30,1906, is named for William R.Callaway of Minneapolis, general passenger agent of the Soo railroad, which had previously established a station and village of this name in section 32.

CARSONVILLE township, organized September 20,1881, was named by Alvin H.Wilcox, then county treasurer, in honor of George M.Carson, a prominent pioneer who in June, 1879, took a homestead in section 18,Osage(the eastern part of Carsonville till its separte organization in 1891).

CORMORANT township, organized February 26,1872, received this name from its Big Cormorant and Upper Cormorant lakes, which are translated from the Ojibway names. The species is the double-crested cormorant which formerly nested plentifully about these lakes.

CUBA, organized in the winter of 1871-72, was named for Cuba, Allegany county, New York, the native place of Charles W. Smith, who came as one of the first settlers of this township in 1871.

DETROIT township, settled in 1868 and organized July 29, 1871, derived its name from Detroit Lake, which, according to the history of Becker county, had been named by a French traveler here, who was a Catholic missionary. Having camped for the night on the north shore of the lake in full view of the long bar which stretches nearly across it and leaves a strait (detroit, in French) between its two parts, he thence applied this name to the lake. It appeared on our state maps in 1860. The Ojibway name of this lake refers also to its strait, being translated by Gilfillan as "the lake in which there is crossing on the sandy place." Detroit has been the county seat of Becker county from its organization in 1871; but during the first year some of the meetings of the county commissioners were held at or near Oak Lake, a few miles distant to the northwest. The first village election was held March 3, 1881, and the city charter was adopted February 23, 1903.

ERIE township, first settled in 1872-3 and organized August 18, 1878, was named for Erie county in New York by settlers who came from the city of Buffalo, which is in that county.

EVERGREEN, organized January 4, 1888, was named for its abundant evergreen trees, including the pines, spruce, balsam fir, and the red and white cedars. It is estimated that in 1880 this township has "about five million feet of standing white pine."

GRAND PARK township, organized July 31, 1892, was so named for its beautiful scenery of rolling and hilly woodland, interspersed with lakes and traversed by the head stream of the Red River.

GREEN VALLEY, organized May 3, 1886, receiving this name from the valley which



crosses the northeast part of the township.

HAMDEN township, organized September 19, 1871, was named for Hamden in one of the eastern states, this being a town or village name in Connecticut and New York.

HEIGHT OF LAND township, organized January 26, 1886, bears the name of the large lake crossed by its north boundary. The Red or Otter Tail River flows through this lake, from which a former canoe route led eastward to the Shell lake and river, tributary by the Crow Wing River to the Mississippi. Gilfillan translated the Ojibway name, "Ajawesitagunsagaiigun(correct), the lake where the portage is across a divide|seperating water which runs different ways, or Height of Land.Lake."

HOLMESVILLE township, which received its first settlers in 1871 and 1873, was organized March 19, 1889, as East Richwood; but this was soon changed to the present name, in honor of Elon G. Holmes. He was born in Madison county, N.Y., in 1841; served in the 26th New York regiment in the civil war; came to Minnesota in 1865; settled in Detroit in 1872, and was president of the First National Bank there; was a state senator, 1887-9.

LAKE EUNICE township, settled in 1870 and organized September 3, 1872, "was named by the United States surveyors in honor of Eunice Mc Clelland, who was the first white woman to settle near the lake. She was the wife of John Mc Clelland, first clerk of the township and first register of deeds."

LAKE PARK township, settled in 1870, was organized September 19, 1871, being then named Liberty, which was changed to the present name in 1876. Its many lakes were collectively named by the Ojibway as translated by Gilfillan, "the lakes where there are streams, groves, prairies, and a beautiful diversified park country." The name of LAKE VIEW, settled in 1870-71 and organized March 12, 1872, was suggested by Mrs Charles Sturtevant, "as there were so many lakes in the township and so many pretty views from them."

OSAGE, settled in 1879, was united in township government with Carsonville until



May 4, 1891, when it was seperately organized, deriving this name from Osage, the county seat of Mitchell county, Iowa. It is also a Geographic name in Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma; but originally it was adopted for the Osage tribe of Indians, "the most important southernSioun tribe of the western division."

RICEVILLE, organized in 1912, derived its name from the South branch of the Wild Rice River, which flows through the northwest part of this township.

RICHWOOD township, organized June 23, 1871, was named from Richwood in the Province of Ontario, Canada, the native town of W.W.Mc Leod, who settled in Richwood village in May, 1871, being one of the owners of a former saw mill there.

RUNNEBERG township, settled in 1882 and organized May 24, 1887, was named in honor of Johan Ludwig Runeberg, the great Swedish poet. He was born at Jakobstad, in Finland, Feb.5, 1804, and died at Borga, near Helsingfors, May 6, 1877.

SAVANNAH township, organized Oct.12, 1901, was named for its several tracts of grassy meadow land along stream courses, "made in anearly day by the backwater from the dams of the beavers."

SHELL LAKE township, first settled in 1881 and organized De.7, 1897, bears the name of its large lake, the source of the Shell River.

SILVER LEAF, settled in 1882-83, was organized M<sub>a</sub>rch 3, 188, receiving its name "from the silvery appearance of the leaves of the poplar, with which the township abounds."

SPRING CREEK township, organized in 1912, is named for its small creeks and many springs, headwaters of the South branch of the Wild Rice river.

SPRUCE GROVE township, settled in 1880, was organized January 19, 1889, " As the predominant timber in the town was evergreens, it was called Spruce Grove. This township was heavily timbered with pine(five million feet), spruce, balsam, oak, poplar, birch, elm, basswood, ironwood, and tamarack."

TOAD LAKE township, settled in 1887 and organized Jan.5,1892, received the name of Toad from its large lake, a translation from the Ojibway name Mukuki(or Omakaki) sagaiigun(correct). Thence also came the name of the outflowing Toad river, and this the prominent morainic drift hill in section 8, on the west side of ~~the~~ lake called "Toad Mountain," which commoands an extensive view of the surrounding county.

TWO INLETS, settled in 1881 and organized Sept.20,1898, was named from Two Inlets lake, in the east part of the township. It receives two inflwoing streams close together at its north end, the larger one being the Fish Hook river, which flows through this lake.

WALWORTH township, settled in 1879 and organized April 3,1883, was named by Albert E.Higbie, one of its first pioneers, for Walworth county, Wisconsin. He came from the adjoining Jefferson county in that state.

WHITE EARTH township, organized Mar.30,1906, was named for its village of White Earth, the location of the United States government agency of the White Earth Indian Reservation, which lies in three counties, Becker, Mahonomen, and Clearwater. The removal of the Ojibways to this reservation began in 1868, the first party coming to the site of the agency on June fourteenth(14), which is celebrated there each year as a great anniversary day. The Reservation and agency were named from White Earth lake, the most beautiful one of the many fine lakes in the Reservation,lying about five miles northeast of the agency. Its Ojibway name is given by Gilfillan as "Ga-wababigunikag sagaiigun(correct), the-place-of-white-clay-lake, so called from the white clay which crops out in places at the shore of the lake."

OGEMA (with accent on the initial o,g, as in get,and like ah) meaning in the Ojibway language a chief, is the railway village of this(WE) township.

WOLF LAKE township, first settled in 1888 by immigrants from Finland, was organized April 4,1896, receiving this name from its large lake, which was so named by the settlers on account of its form. Many wolves, bears, and deer were killed here during the first years of settlement.



LAKES & STREAMS

ELBOW LAKE. Translation from the Ojibway name, having reference to its bent form.

OTTER TAIL or RED RIVER. Otter Tail river was named from Otter Tail lake in Otter Tail county to the south.

PELICAN RIVER. Named from Pelican township and the village of Pelican Rapids. Translated from the Ojibway for Lake Ida.

LITTLE BIMIDJI LAKE. From the Ojibway, meaning a lake crossed by a stream.

MANY POINT LAKE. From the Ojibway, meaning many bays.

ROUND LAKE. Named by the Ojibways and translated refers to its shape.

EGG LAKE (upper and lower). Translated from the Ojibway tongue. Has reference to the many water-loving birds that nest there.

Other lakes whose Ojibway names are translated include-----

FISH HOOK, BIG RAT, BIG RUSH, ICE CRACKING, GREEN WATER, PINE POINT, BASSWOOD, JUGGLER, LAKE-OF-THE-VALLEY, STRAWBERRY, BIG and LITTLE SUGAR BUSH (Meaning maple sugar trees), TULABY (for the specie of fish, Tullibee), STRAIGHT LAKE.

BUFFALO RIVER. Named by the white settlers in view of buffalo wintering there in the early days.

BUFFALO LAKE. Translated from the Ojibway, meaning, "the lake where it keeps crumbling away from the gnawing of beavers. The tribe of Ojibway Indians apply the same name to the Buffalo river.

BOOT LAKE. Named for its shape.

MOON LAKE. Named for its shape.

MISSION LAKE. This lake adjoins, or did adjoin, the Catholic Mission and church in White Earth township.

Lakes named by early settlers on or near the immediate vicinity.

Atlanta township: BALKE & LAKE TILDE.

Audubon township: HOMSTAD, MC KINSTY, MARSHALL, REEP.



Burlington: CHILTON, PEARCE.

Callaway: ANDERSON, FAIRBANKS.

Detroit: FLOYD, LITTLE FLOYD.

Erie: HOWE.

Evergreen: COLLETT.

Holmesville: MOMB'S.

Lake Park: BOYER, LAKE LABELLE, STAKKE.

Lake View: LAKE ABBEY, CURTMAN, MONSON, REEVES, SAUER'S.

Richwood: CAMPBELL, HOUG, SAND.

Riceville: BISSON, TROTOCHAUD.

Spring Creek: LAKE CLARENCE.

White Earth: DU FORTE, MORRISON.

Several lakes in the southeast part of this county were named for the wives or daughters of pioneer settlers, as, Lakes Sallie and Melissa, through which the Pelican river flows below Detroit lake, Lake Eunice (giving the name to its township), Lake Maud and Lake Ida. Excepting Lake Eunice, before noticed as named for Mrs. John Mc Clelland, only one of them has been identified with its surname, this being for Melissa Swetland, one of three daughters in the family of a pioneer from Canada.

This county has other lakes bearing the following names which their origin and significance have not been ascertained: Burlington township: ACORN & EAGLE lakes.

Detroit township: BRANDY & ST. CLAIR. Callaway: ST. CLAIR (section #13-14). Lake

Eunice township: PEARL. Lake Park township: LAKE FORGET-ME-NOT. Silver Leaf

township: DEAD & HUNGRY lakes. Grand Park: CHIPPEWA. Holmesville: ROCK.

#### HILLS

In this large county, wholly overspread by the glacial and modified drift deposits, with no outcrop of the underlying rock formations, most of the surface is only moderately undulating or rolling and in certain belts knolly and hilly, while other tracts in the northwest and southeast parts of the county have gentle

and uniform slopes or are nearly level.

Two marginal moraine hills of exceptional height though rising only about 150 or 200 feet above the lowest depressions near them, are popularly named DETROIT MT., and TOAD MT., close west of Toad lake. The former was called by the Ojibways as noted by Gilfillan, **ASHIWABIWIN**, "looking out, from the Sioux having been always there on top of the mountain looking out for the Chippewas."

SMOKY HILL, in the north edge of section 15, Carsonville township, is a steep hill of gravel and sand, about 200 feet above the main level surrounding country. It would be called by glacial geologists a kame, having been amassed where a drift laden stream descended from the border of the melting and departing ice-sheet.

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HAMILTON'S AQUATIC FARMS

Supplement for Becker County

Arthur P. Foster  
Federal Writing Project

1936



Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

TOPIC: Hamilton's Aquatic Farms  
of Becker County

SUBMITTED BY: Arthur P. Foster

NO. OF WORDS: 450

George D. Hamilton, of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, had been an ardent worker in game and fish conservation for many years, voluntarily offering his time, as an editor of a local newspaper, and funds for intelligent establishment of sanctuaries and general educational efforts to further the propagation of all game and fish life. A representative of the Remington Arms factory, George Trent, suggested to Mr. Hamilton during 1919 that he increase these commendable achievements and at the same time originate a profitable, new type of business. In the year 1920, Hamilton's Aquatic Farms shipped their first order, wild rice, to the Iowa Department of Conservation at Des Moines. Today, under the direction of Hubbard A. Hamilton, son of George D. Hamilton (deceased), there is a national distribution of the Farms' aquatic plant products. Hamilton's establishment is the original, private aquatic farm in the United States. Other such ventures, less elaborate, have been founded recently in Wisconsin and in the New England states.

The self-perpetuating aquatic plants are employed for many purposes, not only as food for ducks, muskrat farming provisions, food supply for fishes and valuable oxygenators of water, but as refuge, as well as food, for countless semi-microscopic organisms, which make for the survival of young fishes of all kinds. Shelter for hunters and animals is furnished by some of the plant stalks and leaves; decorative features for lakes, ponds and streams are obtained from others.

Before orders for the various seeds and plants are filled,

personal surveys of the waters are made where planting is contemplated. Sketches of distant lakes are carefully examined to determine the logical selection of seed and the best method and place for sowing it in the different sections of individual lakes. To insure the most successful growth natural conditions are closely imitated in the packing, shipping and planting of all aquatic specimens.

Wild rice is prominent among the species offered for sale, because it is important as a seed for duck feed crops and also has nation-wide human consumption. The complete assortment includes these additional plants: Sage pond plant tubers; wild celery tubers; wapoto duck potatoes; muskgrass and white and yellow lily roots. There are thirty-eight species of pondweeds, a few of which can be secured upon request. The grasses, flags and rushes available are: Widgeon grass; bushy pondweed; redhead grass; canegrass; cat tails; bulrushes; eel grass pondweed; burreed and sweet flag. All of the above-mentioned aquatic growths, sold by Hamilton's Aquatic Farms, are gathered by the Chippewa Indians, employment created, which further represents the philanthropic attitude of this organization.

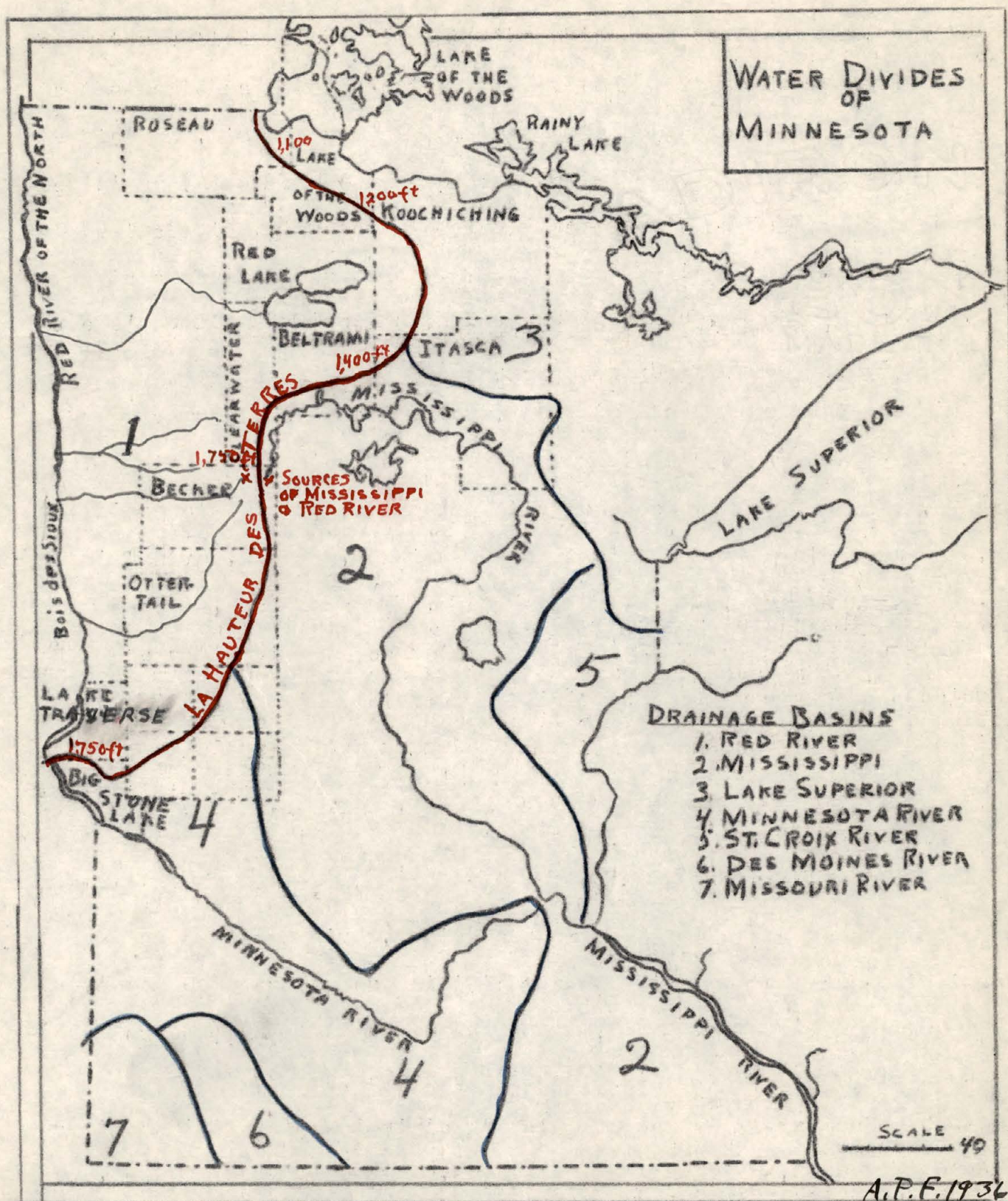
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LA HAUTEUR DES TERRES

Water Divides of Minnesota

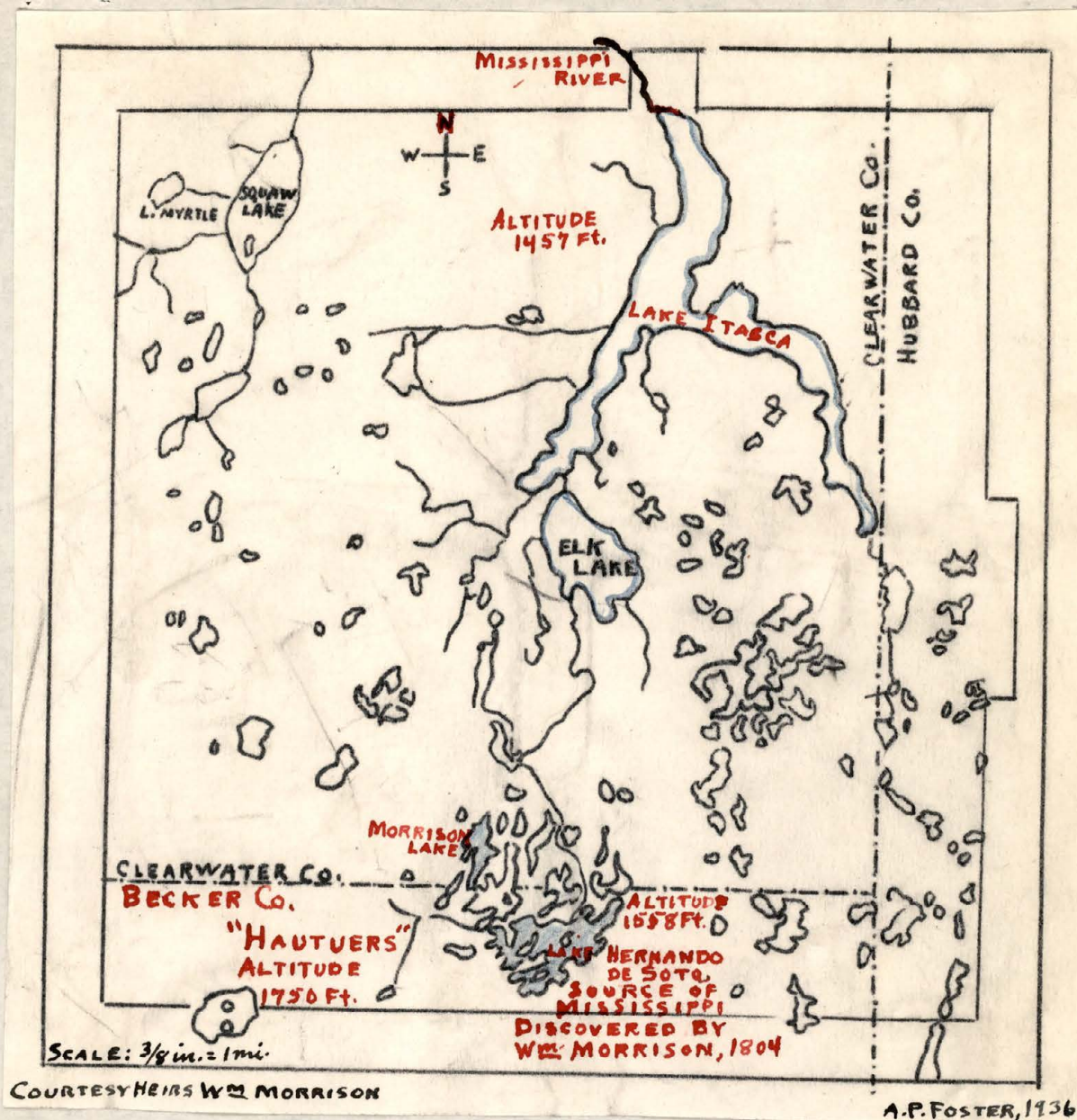
Arthur P. Foster  
Federal Writing Project  
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LA HAUTEUR DES TERRES AND OTHER WATER DIVIDES OF MINNESOTA





MAP SHOWING LAKE HERNANDO DE SOTO,  
SOURCE OF THE MISSISSIPPE, AND THE HAUTEURS IN BECKER CO.

Note: The Mississippi River eventually runs out of the north end of Lake Itasca, but the Hon. J. V. Brower, under whose direction the Itasca State Park was created, pronounced Lake Hernando de Soto "the greater ultimate reservoir bowl at the source of the Mississippi River".



TOPIC: La Hauteur des Terres,  
Water Divides of Minnesota  
SUBMITTED BY: Arthur P. Foster  
NO. OF WORDS: 580

The water divides of Minnesota's many lakes and rivers form seven drainage basins (note locations upon map). Of that number, the divide, which is semi-continental in nature and international in historical importance, is termed la Hauteur des Terres (the Height of Lands). It is the highest divide in the state; at one extremity, between Lake Traverse and Big Stone Lake, the height is 1,750 feet. Again la Hauteur reaches that altitude as it continues northwestward to Becker, Clearwater and Beltrami counties, decreasing finally to approximately 1,400 feet near the northern extremity in Itasca and Koochiching. This single divide is more outstanding because it serves as the fountain head for two mighty ~~Minnesota~~ waterways, the Red River of the North and the Mississippi, over which traveled the first French explorers in the early part of the 18th. century, followed later by the commerce of the pioneer fur trading companies of 150 years ago. The importance of the six remaining water sheds is that they feed the tributaries of the above two chief drainage systems.

The original cartographers and geologists of the northwest left interesting sketches, names and conclusions regarding drainage systems to be found on their maps of this region. Accuracy did not predominate, but a basis was originated for the later work of the Minnesota geographer of the year 1842, Joseph Nicolus Nicollet, and for the brilliant geologic summaries of Newton H. Winchell, <sup>recorded</sup> ~~made~~ during the period from



1872 to 1900. As long ago as 1615, Champlain changed the name of a body of water called Kitchi Gimmi by the Chippewas to Grand Lac, now known to the world as Lake Superior. Le Reverend Père Louis Hennepin dedicated to his king, in the year 1683, Une Carte de la Nouvelle France et de la Louisiane (A Map of New France and Louisiana). J. B. Franquelin provided a map including Minnesota for Louis Fourteenth during 1688; added geographic contributions came from de Beau Garinois in 1737. Then followed Buache's Carte Physique, a physiographic sketch, in the year 1754.

The southwestern terminal of la Hauteur des Terres is between Lake Traverse (Lac de la Hauteur) and Big Stone Lake (Lac des Tintons, from Tintonwan, a Sioux tribe, former residents of the upper waters of the Minnesota River); Brown's Valley connects these two lakes. The glacial river, Warren, drained huge glacial Lake Agassiz southward, cutting a gorge, now abandoned, between these lakes. The southern part of this excavation is now occupied by Big Stone Lake and a remnant of Warren River, or Minnesota River (Rivière des Mascoutens Nadouscioux, a tribe of Sioux) which <sup>flows</sup> ~~XXXX~~ to the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Mississippi River.

With the retreat of the ice sheet, Lake Agassiz found a lower outlet to the north. As a result Lake Traverse is drained northward by the Bois des Sioux River, which connects with the Red River of the North (Rivière Rouge ou Meskouessipi); The Red River enters Lake Winnipeg (Lac Bourbon) and then on to Hudson Bay.

La Hauteur des Terres continues northeastward from Big Stone County arriving at a significant point in northeastern Becker County. Here, only a few miles apart, on this dividing ridge, are the principal sources of the Red River of the North and the Mississippi (Missi Sepe, or Great River in Alogonquin, also named Rivière des Poulacs, an Ojibwa tribe, and Fleuve Messisipi). From this portion of the water shed the Red River finds a destination in the Arctic Ocean and the Great Mississippi rushes 2,555 miles to the Gulf of Mexico.

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

TOPIC: Becker County and  
Detroit Lakes Area  
SUBMITTED BY: Arthur P. Foster  
NO. OF WORDS: 13,750

*complete*

Becker County and its County seat, Detroit Lakes, form the lake center of the world and the geographical heart of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes and of the continent. Here rise the fountains from which the Father of Waters, the Mississippi, <sup>begins</sup> its 2,555 mile course to the Gulf of Mexico and from which the historic Red River of the North follows its pathway to the Arctic Sea.

The receding glaciers of thousands of years ago molded into the the topography of Becker County, a vivid heritage of 500 lakes, undulating moraines, now forested hills, terraced table-lands of underlying limestone and a pleasing variety of fertile prairies. The remnants of towering limestone cliffs in northeastern Becker County, known as the "Hauteurs", cause an unusual water divide. Here, only a few miles apart, on this final dividing ridge, are the water sheds for the Red River of the North and for the source of the Mississippi or Lake Hernando de Soto, named in honor of the first white man to see the "Great River" or Missi Sepe in the Algonquin tongue. In 1804 William Morrison discovered this lake and the "Hauteurs"; another lake northwest of Lake Hernando de Soto is called Morrison Lake ( see map of Lake Hernando de Soto in Becker County and in Itasca State Park). However interesting these sources are an additional peculiarity of these two rivers may be mentioned here: The Mississippi first starts a northern course in order to reach the Gulf of Mexico,



(continued from first page) and the Red River moves south-ward at this divide so as to find its destination in the Arctic Ocean.

The limestone escarpments, <sup>out</sup>reservoirs for artesian water, are especially distinct at the White Earth Indian Agency. By way of contrast, the beach of prehistoric Lake Agassiz can be seen twenty-eight miles west of Detroit Lakes, today an ocean of level prairie. Lake Agassiz was larger than any three of the present Great Lakes and extended fully 800 miles northward.

On the whole the productive soil of Becker County is of black loam with a clay subsoil. Also as part of the drift and till deposited here by the ice sheets are granite and limestone boulders, sands and gravels of decided commercial value. The presence of thousands of lake waters provide ample precipitation averaging 25.07 inches annually. All the surplus moisture is well drained from the rich earth by the Toad, Wild Rice, Buffalo, Otter Tail, Pelican rivers and their branches.

This region enjoys the advantage of an agreeable climate: The average maximum temperature is  $50.4^{\circ}$ ; the average minimum reads  $27.1^{\circ}$ . During thirty-five years of recording temperatures the highest was  $106^{\circ}$  and the lowest  $-53^{\circ}$ . For the same period, the last damaging frost in the spring occurs on the average about May 27th.; the first killing frost in the autumn, September 19th. The growing season totals 115 days, a sufficient lapse of time for the maturing of the sturdy agricultural plants of this state. Aviators, as well as others, may be interested in knowing that the prevailing winds are northwest by north for ten months, and southwest by south during June and September.

The fertility of the soil of this district is proved by the luxuriant assortment of 387 native plants and flowers



decorating the hills and prairies. This number is increased by a list of 73 different species of wild trees and the larger shrubs. Common varieties of native flowers found here are: The long-fruited anemone, buttercups, white and yellow daisies, cowslips or marsh marigolds, columbine, white and yellow pond lilies, bloodroot, poppies and clusters of larkspur.

Admidst the ferns and mosses are the blue, white and yellow violets. Twining honeysuckle, prairie roses, hedge roses, asters, bellflowers, morning glories and scarlet painted cups add their colors to the landscape.

Golden rod, the national flower, graces the brush and prairie stretches together with Jack-in-the-pulpit, prairie lilies, and lady's thumb. The rare wild orchids are represented by the Flower of the State, the rose-flowered moccasin and the yellow lady's slipper. Growing with the moccasins in tamarac swamps near Detroit Lakes is another unusual flower called the pitcher plant or sidesaddle flower. Its leaves have the shape of a pitcher and will hold agill of water.

Becker County's plants include many edible berries; among these are: The ground plum, raspberries, strawberries, prickly and smooth gooseberries, red and black currents, huckleberries, cranberries, ground cherries and the blueberries, harvested in large quantities. *aren't there the some?*

Wild shrubs or trees bearing palatable fruits to be obtained in this vicinity are: Northern fox grape, red or yellow plum, dwarf or sand-cherry, choke cherry, black and red cherries, June berry, high bush cranberry (from which is made an incomparable jelly), hazelnut and the sweet black haw.

Wild rice, or mah-no-men in the Chippewa language, deserves

special mention it has always been a food of extreme importance for the Indians, and now it is widely demanded by white people as a table delicacy; this market provides an ever-increasing means of income for the natives.

Wild rice grows in water from 2 to 10 feet in depth, taking root in the soft mud and in the straw of former growths. The Indians gather the rice by brushing the cereal into the bottoms of canoes with long poles. It is thrashed by a churning motion, pounding hulls from the seeds which are placed upon canvas or in ground holes; these seeds appear not unlike small oats. Finally the wild rice is prepared for later eating as a vegetable or breakfast food with the aid of a parching process. The flavor is of delicious toast, reminding the gourmet of the fresh, smoky fragrance that accompanies crisp bacon broiling over a wood camp fire under Indian Summer skies.

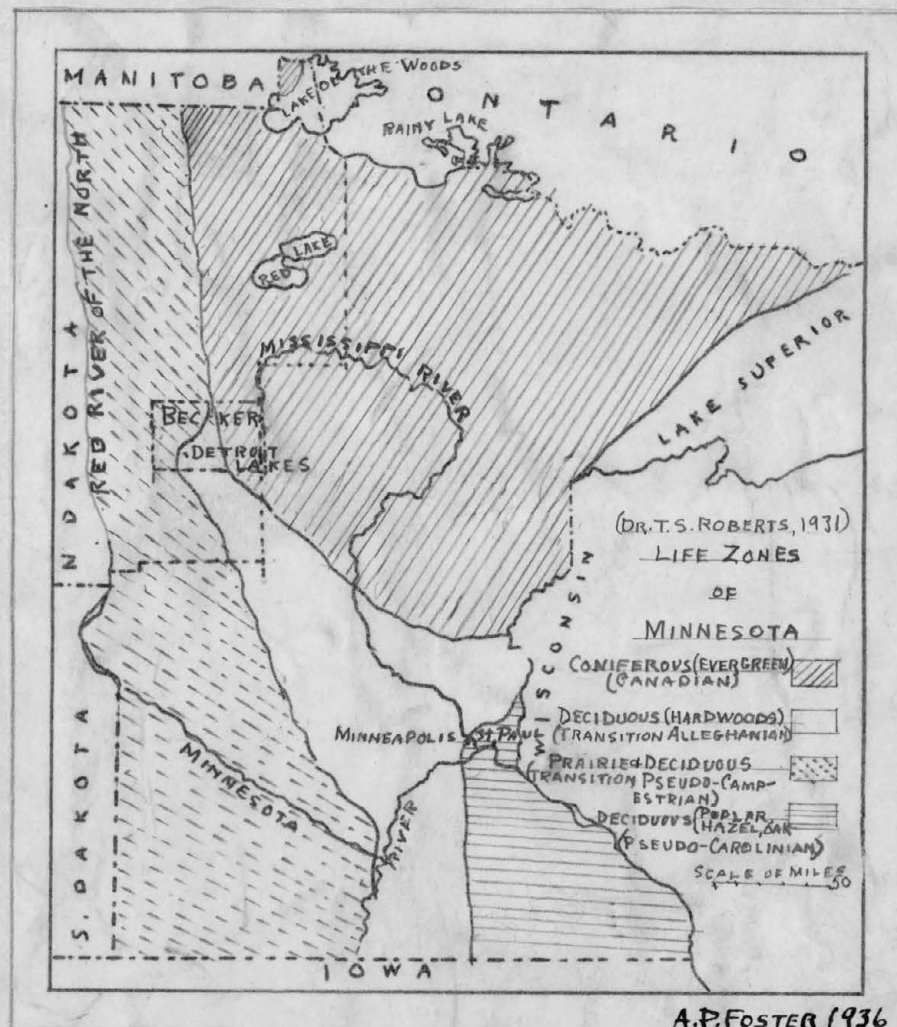
The Chippewas used over forty specimens of plants as food; Wild ginger was an appetizer; berries and leaves of the bearberry were cooked with meat to season the broth; dried pumpkin flowers served as flour to thicken gravy; dried corn silk in broth took the place of salt; aster leaves were boiled and eaten with fish as spinach; stalks of woodvine were used in the manner of corn on the cob and also boiled down to a syrup. Wild potatoes, celery, pumpkin, squash, flowers of milkweed, bulbs on the roots of bulrushes, the saps of basswood and aspen, mosses from white pines and dried berries provided additional sustenance for the Indians long before the white man saw America.

Medicinal plants collected by the Chippewas included the now rare ginseng and the Seneca snakeroot. The first flowers of spring, about twenty in number, were cured, pulverized and then



employed as an incense for the long winter hours. Balm of Gilead, juniper, hemlock, spruce, slippery elm, winter green, snowberry, and catnip, Labrador tea counteracted different ills including the discomforts of poison ivy. Before tobacco reached the western regions the Chippewas even made its substitute, <sup>KIN-NE-</sup>keepni-ká-nick, from the bark of the red willow.

The life zones of Becker County are unique in having three examples of tree and animal associations (note the map below): The evergreen in the eastern half, the transition hardwoods in the central portion and additional deciduous, or soft woods, with the prairie association in most of the western half of the county.



LIFE ZONES OF MINNESOTA



In this district of natural beauty there is a varied assortment of trees and the taller shrubs : The basswood, prickly ash, red and black ashes, bittersweet, moosewood, butternut, black walnut, dogwood, tag alder, ironwood, blue beech, white and red oaks, white and weeping willows, silky and gray willows, aspen, common poplar, black poplar and cottonwood.

The roving Indians used the bark of the canoe birch, even today among the older full bloods, for covering canoes, for wigwams, food containers and clothing and art work. Found near the birch are the white, black and red pines, red maple, black spruce, cedar and fir balsam and tamarac.

City lawns are frequently ornamented by transplanted wild trees of this area such as: Norway pine, prairie willows, birches, box elders and the mountain ash with its bunched white blossoms followed by rosettes of brilliant red berries, eagerly sought by Minnesota birds.

In the springtime the Chippewas pitch their camps in localities called the " Sugar Bush " on the shores of Big Sugar Bush Lake, Strawberry and other lakes. There the sap from the native sugar maples is gathered and boiled into pure maple sugar, or Ahenish-she-nah-bay zee-zee-bah-quod, Indian sugar. ~~This~~ The syrup is also made into hard candy shaped in birch-bark cones and cooked into a coarsely granulated sugar which is packed into mo-quacks, or birch-bark containers. Centuries old, wild rice and Indian maple sugar with cream have an excellence of food value and flavor that the modern radio announcer can not enhance.

Over one hundred and thirty years ago the forested hills surrounding the head waters of the Mississippi and the Red River were a paradise for wild animals. During that period trading posts

were established by the Northwest Fur Company and its competitors at White Earth, now in Becker County, and other <sup>points</sup> ~~points~~ in northwestern Minnesota. Furs were transported in birch-bark canoes down the Red River to Lake Winnipeg, up Winnipeg River to the Lake of the Woods, then by way of Rainy River, through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence to Montreal.

An official report of the Northwest Fur Company, dated 1798 indicates that it shipped the following skins to Montreal over the above-mentioned route: Beaver, 106,000; bear, 2,100; fox, 5,500; otter, 4,600; muskrat, 17,000; marten, 32,000; mink, 1,800; lynx, 6,000; buffalo robes, 500; elk, 700; deer, 750; dressed deer skins, 1,200, wolverine, 600; fisher, 1,650 and raccoon, 100. The rival companies must have obtained equal numbers of furs from Becker County and other posts.

At the present time few of the mammals on the above list remain in this territory. The first to be decimated by the white hunters and trappers was the buffalo. The last one killed in this county was located near White Earth in 1848. The elk has entirely disappeared in the wild state; the last elk was seen during 1917 in the Lake of the Woods County. The antelope and the grizzly bear have moved westward.

There are herds of native moose in Minnesota especially along the Canadian boundary line. Occasionally these animals stray south to Becker County and fortunately are protected by legislation. A band of caribou holds its own in the impassable bog north and east of Upper Red Lake (the greatest body of fresh water within the boundaries of any one territory).

The beaver is preserved by stringent laws and may be trapped only when its activities cause damaging floods over valuable



farm lands. There are about ten colonies of these fur bearers in this section distributed on or near the southwestern corner of Itasca State Park, Elbow, Bemidji, Many Point and Green Water lakes. On the west shore of Straight Lake, 30 miles northeast of Detroit Lakes, are two beaver dams that can be viewed easily from an automobile. These beaver are accustomed to the presence of resident children and the cubs have become their pets. To admire the ingenuity of this animal's logging operations and its construction of canals, houses and dams, the spectator should visit sites at early in the morning or an hour after sunset.

The common white-tailed deer is plentiful in this area. Hunting the white-tail is permitted during even-numbered years for a season of 10 days opening about the middle of November, the dates vary from year to year. Although 25,000 deer are legally killed each season in northern Minnesota, there is no apparent reduction of their natural increase. A deer census in the northern one-third of Minnesota, taken in 1930, gives a probable number of 100,000 white-tailed deer. The big game hunting season also includes the black bear, found more often in counties 100 to 150 miles north of Becker. The black bear is regarded as the clown of the forest and its cubs are frequently captured and kept in yard pens. While their habits are mischievous they can be extremely destructive.

A bounty is paid on the big timber wolf and the prairie wolf or coyote; this item totaled \$ 615 in Becker County in 1935 for bounties on 41 wolves. Other fur bearers caught here are: Mink, muskrat, red fox, weasel, northern plains skunk or civet cat, the badger and the raccoon. There are many fox and gray squirrels and woodchucks. The woodlands, brush and prairie regions are thickly inhabited with the Minnesota varying hare or snow-



shoe, the true rabbits or cotton tails and the great hare or Jack rabbit. Farther north are Canada lynx and Bay lynx or "Bobcat"; otter, marten, fisher and wolverine are taken, but their occurrences are rare.

The porcupine lives in the timber of Becker County, and, while sluggish in habits, its natural armor gives this mammal every protection. As to independence the porcupine fears neither man nor beast and is indifferent to the right of way of any creature that walks excepting the polecat.

Other animals in this district include: Moles, shrews, bats; the striped gopher, emblematic of the State; gray ground squirrel, flickertail, flying squirrel, pouched gopher, prairie jumping mouse, meadow mouse and the dainty little chipmunk.

In the early days the swan, pelican, whooping and sandhill cranes, blue heron, cormorant, curlew, woodduck, the most beautiful of all water fowl, ruffed grouse or partridge, pinnated and sharp-tailed grouse or prairie chicken and woodcock were more common to Becker County. For twenty-five years a pair of bald eagles had a huge nest on an island in Cotton Lake ten miles from Detroit Lakes. Cormorant and Pelican Lakes in this area were named for the nesting places of these two birds. The Minnesota Department of Conservation has aided the bringing back of the grouse and others. More closed seasons and the strict enforcement of game laws must be continued or the now common game birds will also be exterminated.

Of late years ring-necked pleasants have been introduced and have readily adapted themselves to the local environment. Hunters may shoot limited bags of three males during a season of nine days, October 19th. to the 27th. (variable). The same

open season is maintained for prairie chicken and white-breasted grouse, but with a daily bag limit of five birds. Fewer shooting privileges are permitted on ruffed grouse, mourning doves, upland plover and woodcock.

The small game hunting license costs a non-resident \$ 25 and allows the shooting of the above land fowl as well as certain migratory birds including about twenty species of ducks and geese. For the latter, the season extends over thirty days in October and November, but this period is variable. The taking of fox and gray squirrels from October 15th. to January 1st. is among the privileges of this license. Rabbits may be killed at any time excepting during the spring (by sportsmen's agreement) when they are bearing young.

The following birds found in Becker County may not be killed at any time: Canada spruce grouse, ring-necked pheasant hens, Hungarian or gray partridge, upland plover, woodcock, black-bellied and golden plovers, swans, woodduck, bitterns (includes shite-poke); little brown, sandhill and whooping cranes, grebes, gulls, terns, herons, jaegers, loons, all shore birds excepting Wilson's <sup>n</sup>sipe or Jack snipe and all non-game birds excepting those especially exempt from protection.

The species living in this district which are left entirely unprotected, or the outlawed birds, are: All types of hawks and owls, crow; the blackbirds such as the red-winged, yellow-headed, bronzed grackle, rusty, Brewer's and cowbird; English sparrow and starling.

Myriads of water fowl flock to the 500 lakes of this county; included in these are: American golden-eye duck, American merganser, red-breasted merganser, common loon, grebes, cormorant, Canada goose, mallard, red-legged black duck, gadwall,



baldpate, American pintail, green-winged and blue-winged teals, shoveler, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvas-back, lesser scaup duck, hooded-merganser, Florida gallinule; the American coot, which forms in huge rafts upon the rice lakes, is a fine eating bird; Franklin's gull, Forester's tern, herring gull and common tern.

Transient water fowl are numbered as: The white pelican, whistling swan, white-fronted and lesser snow geese, ring-billed gull, Bonaparte's gull and Caspian tern.

Winter birds that do not as a rule migrate are: Canada spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, greater prairie chicken, prairie sharp-tailed grouse, eastern bob-white, eastern screen owl, great horned owl, Minnesota barred owl, northern pileated and downy woodpeckers, northern blue jay, black-capped and Hudsonian chickadees, white-breasted nuthatch, eastern evening grosbeak, northern pine siskin, and red and white-winged crossbills.

A few winter vistants to this section are: The Arctic horned owl, snowy owl, great gray owl, Bohemian waxwing, northern shrike, Canadian pine grosbeak, common redpoll and eastern snow bunting.

In the State there are 268 regular species of birds ~~fr~~ and 22 subspecies from the miniature ruby-throated humming bird to the whistling swan weighing twenty pounds. Since Becker County has three types of floral areas within its boundaries and many hundreds of acres of water, living conditions are ideal to support the majority of the species seen in Minnesota. This county has four game preserves in order to protect the large varieties of songsters and game birds: One is located near the fish hatchery three miles south of Detroit Lakes; another, just east of Frazee; a third, surrounding Sandy Lake; and the fourth, the area adjacent



to the southern boundary of Itasca State Park.

The Indian, who has never been known to be guilty of wanton destruction, found Becker County endowed with a vast wealth of fishes that lives in its innumerable lakes and streams. The white men brought improved methods of capturing this source of food and practised no moderation in the employment of them. The civilized invaders went to the criminal extreme of netting fish in or out of spawning periods, using game fish, so slaughtered, to supply the market and even for the purpose of feeding pigs and fertilizing fields. Today, through the splendid efforts of the Izaak Walton League and the State Game and Fish Department, with its efficient wardens and fish hatcheries, our lakes are kept well stocked. Regulated seasons for catching fish assure the public the permanent enjoyment of that recreation.

The principal game fishes native to the Detroit Lakes region are listed as: The small and large mouth black bass, sand pike or sauger, wall-eyed pike, the attractively marked pickerel or great northern pike, muskellunge; several species of sunfish, some with brilliantly contrasting colors; yellow perch and the tullibee or inland whitefish.

As early as 1874 the United States Government placed salmon, probably landlocked or lake trout, in Detroit Lake, but these have been fished out. Brook trout have been planted in streams of this county, where they now thrive. Crappies, tasty pan fish, also were introduced into the Detroit Lakes' chain and are abundant.

The rough fishes in this locality are represented by the catfish and bullhead, some carp, sucker, red horse, sheepshead and eelpout. The primitive dogfish is the only non-edible species to be seen in these waters.

There is a plentiful supply of minnows many of which are commonly used as bait. The most numerous are: The horned dace or creek chub, the largest minnow found in Minnesota; the horny head or river chub reaching 10 inches in length; spot-tailed and silver fin shiners; common shiner or redbfin or silver side; the sticklebacks with their silk-like threaded nests built out of sticks; and the curious little stone rollers. The gaudy Iowa darter is as brightly tinted as a tropical bird. It is bright green, blotched with dark brown in which are mingled eleven reddish spots on the sides. The darter's belly is greenish yellow to almost white, overlaid with an orange band between the base of the anal and pectoral fins; there is an orange band before the eye and one below it, and the upper half of the dorsal spine is also a brilliant orange excepting for the very dark margin.

Occasionally a monster lake or rock sturgeon is trapped in the shallows of a Becker County lake. On May 13th., 1926, such a specimen ( see photograph on following page) was captured in White Earth Lake by an Indian, Frank le Quier, on the right in the picture, and his brother. This fish was 7 feet 3 inches in length, had a girth of 36 inches and weighed 176 pounds. ( Since sturgeon are more native to the Lake of the Woods and to the Red River of the North and since the tributaries of the latter have not reached White Earth Lake for over seventy-five years, then this fish must be at least that old.) The sturgeon is mounted and on exhibition in Detroit Lakes.

An annual license fee of \$ 3 is required for non-resident fishermen; for all under sixteen years of age no fishing license is needed provided that the minor is accompanied by an adult who possesses such a non-resident license. Angling for trout is



LAKE OR ROCK STURGEON CAUGHT IN WHITE EARTH LAKE

This sturgeon was trapped by Frank le Quier on May 13, 1926.  
Length, 7 feet 3 inches; girth, 36 inches; weight, 176 pounds.  
Estimated minimum age, seventy-five years. This specimen is  
mounted and on exhibition in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

(continued from page 14) permitted in Becker County from May 15th. to September 1st.; for wall-eyed pike, pickerel or great northern pike, from May 15th. to March 1st.; muskellunge, sand pike or sauger, from May 15th. to February 1st; bass, sunfish and all other varieties, from June 21st. to December 1st. (northern zone).

The State Fish Hatchery, located three and one-half miles south of Detroit Lakes, started operations in the spring of 1912. Fish cultural work has been very successful with the various species; eggs collected here have hatched a record high of 77% as compared with 48% for some field stations. The typical output of the Detroit Lakes Hatchery for a biennial period amounts to 59,709,289 fish distributed as follows:

Pike-perch-----	59,636,314
Bass-----	41,800
Crappies-----	24,875
Sunfish-----	3,300
Yellow perch-----	3,000

The original inhabitants of Becker County were a species of Homo Sapiens antedating the so-called recent aborigines by more than 20,000 years. The only concrete specimen of these tribes ever discovered in North America was found about twenty miles southwest of Detroit Lakes in 1934. A skeleton representing this primitive race, named the Minnesota Man, was uncovered while United States Highway No. 59 was being constructed at a point three miles northeast of the town of Pelican Rapids, opposite Prairie Lake, on the east side of this road. The authenticity of the remains was verified by Dr. A. E. Jenks of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Minnesota. The Minnesota Man was found twenty feet below the surface in what geologists term



an ancient lake bed, existing long before the last glacial period of at least 20,000 years ago.

The remains are actually those of a young girl who probably was about sixteen years of age. The front teeth were of the projecting type, and the nasal bones and cavity indicated that she had a flat nose. These physical characteristics do not belong to the American Indian. Sediment deposited within the sloping skull is of strata that unquestionably prove the relative age of her race. Beside her was a small dagger made from the antler of some animal. The girl was possibly drowned in this prehistoric lake.

The Sioux, Dakotas and allied recent aborigines occupied the territory including Becker County until about 1490. About that year the ~~Sioux~~ Objibways commenced their invasion of the headwaters of the Mississippi, the Red Lake River, the valley of the Red River of the North and the Lake of the Woods district. The name Objibway means "to roast until puckered up", reminiscent of the method of torturing prisoners of war by fire. Chippewas and Objibways are one and the same people; the word Chippewa originated in a corruption of pronunciation of the term Objibway by English speaking travelers.

*pts. ch* The Chippewas of Becker County, as part of the Algonquin Nation, (see map on page 18, Aboriginal America) emigrated from the Atlantic seacoast through the Great Lakes to Lake Superior. They collected at first in one grand central town on Island of la Pointe, near Ashland, Wisconsin. These Indians then branched out from the Nation and became known as Objibways, the connecting link between the tribes east of the Mississippi and those living across the "Great River" or Missi Sepe in the Algonquin language. They were discovered by French explorers in 1610. In

Map of Aboriginal America



(continued from page 17) 1665 Father Claude Allouez established a mission on Island of la Pointe.

Du Luth was credited with being the first white man on the soil of Minnesota. He penetrated to a region of 1,000 lakes, that maybe west of Mille Lacs, which he named. He reached a Sioux village there on July 2nd., 1679. Father Hennepin and his party took an indirect overland route to Mille Lacs during 1680 from the lower Mississippi. Lake of the Woods and northwestern Minnesota was visited by Jacques de Noyon in the year 1688, calling that large lake, Lac aux Isles. Later, in 1732, de la Verendrye and his missionaries more thoroughly mapped this northwestern area. Some French missionaries of these different <sup>e groups</sup> undoubtedly wandered to Detroit Lakes.

Alexander Mackenzie, who explored the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean and who led the first expedition across the North American Continent during 1793 while organizing the northwestern fur trade, afterward wrote of the fine country occupying the space between the Red River of the North and Lake Superior.

Spanish explorers did not reach this section, but the territory was originally claimed for the crown of Spain when Hernando de Soto in the years from 1539 to 1541 discovered the lower Mississippi and took possession of its entire basin and all its tributaries and lands in the name of his ruler. Thus the ownership of Becker County, controlled by the existence of the Father of Waters arising within its boundaries, has been under the kings of three different foreign countries. This condition does not include the very first occupation of this county by white people when the authentic record left by the Goths and Norwegians in the year 1362 is considered. The Norse Anchor Stones found on the banks of Big Cormorant Lake, 15 miles from



Detroit Lakes, and the Kensington Rune Stone with its runic inscriptions, discovered 80 miles south of here, have withstood rigid investigation and adequately prove that the Goths were in Becker County almost six centuries ago. The settlement of these Norsemen does not exist today. It was not until 1802 that the whiteman permanently established himself near Detroit Lakes when the Northwestern Fur Company built the "Old Trading Post" on October 19th. of that year at White Earth, a settlement which stills survives.



BECKER COUNTY AS A BRITISH POSSESSION, 1763

Note: From 1541, when Hernando de Soto discovered the Mississippi, until 1673 Becker County was claimed by the Spaniards. After the explorations of Fathers Marquette, Joliet and Hennepin, de la Salle, de Noyon and la Verendrye, from 1673 to 1732, this territory was under French rule. Following the French-Indian wars, in the year 1763, <sup>ENGLAND</sup> was declared the possessor. United States made the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and a survey of the international boundary brought all of Minnesota under the American flag.



While the Chippewas continued to invade the upper Mississippi regions the Sioux made their last general attack against them starting in 1768. Part of this warfare is described by William W. Warren, the Chippewa historian, written during 1851. A terrible conflict was waged at the now-named Battle Lake, 50 miles south of Detroit Lakes. A small party of 45 Chippewas attacked a camp of 400 Sioux whose large number was concealed by a grove on the shore of this lake. Although fighting a superior force and losing two-thirds of their warriors, the Chippewas succeeded in killing a far greater number of Sioux.

On August 19th., 1825, the United States Government established a dividing line in Minnesota for the respective countries of the warring tribes which placed Becker County and the northern half of the state in Chippewas hands. The Sioux, never satisfied with this treaty, made frequent raids into the counties along this boundary line. Twenty-five miles from Detroit Lakes is the Lake of the Dead or Dead Lake, which, in 1843, witnessed a massacre of Chippewa old men, women and children, about forty in all, by the marauding Sioux, who surprised this village while the able-bodied men were upon a hunting excursion.

The finding of burial mounds ( recorded on map, page 22 ) with war clubs, arrow points and heads near the banks of the various ~~streams~~ streams and lakes of this county indicates the scenes of other clashes between these two Indian nations. This is especially true near localities like Height of Land Lake with its valuable wild rice beds where large <sup>camp</sup> villages were temporarily pitched during the harvest seasons, and upon Detroit Lake, a strategic point of defense or attack.

However, the more subtle and experienced white man was

(continued from page 21) to end forever, by means of every unscrupulous subterfuge, these natural wars of conquest between the original inhabitants of Becker County; he employed the simple expedient of taking away every possession from the unsuspecting Indians. By successive treaties the Mississippi Band of Chippewas ceded 2,000,000 acres in exchange for a pittance of 36 townships of land and moneies held in trust for the Band upon which further depredations were committed. This latter treaty established the White Earth Reservation.

According to the terms of the White Earth treaty, the first group of 150 Indians ~~was~~ was moved from Crow Wing to the Reservation on June 14th., 1868, accompanied by Major J. B. Basset. This event is pitifully commemorated each year by the deluded Chippewas and Sioux, but the white man by additional exploitation has robbed the Indian ceremonies of most of their native characteristics by introducing modern carnival attractions every June 14th. In the year 1906 the adult mixed-bloods of White Earth Reservation were permitted to sell their allotments of land to white people, who completed the defrauding of the Chippewas, even the full bloods, by purchasing each allotment of 80 acres for a few dollars added to whiskey and a cheap pair of ponies with gaudy harness.

Prior to the Reservation settlement at White Earth, Donald McDonald, in 1854, built the first home in Detroit Lakes on the northeast shore of Detroit Lake upon a site then known as Detroit Woods. McDonald was a sturdy little Scot who was born in 1790 and who died in White Earth during 1890. He married a French-Chippewa woman; many of his descendants live in Detroit Lakes. This pioneer fur-trader combined the aristocracy of the Highland clan with the picturesqueness of an Indian chief, both in wardrobe and



in character. He dressed usually in a high furchat, military coat, leggings and moccasins. His saber, buckled on at night, was his only weapon as he swung it fearlessly in the dark, investigating suspicious sounds around his log trading post, sounds which might mean an attempted theft of the pots of gold stored within. The old Pembina Trail, opened in 1825, ran by this Hudson Bay Post, three weeks journey from St. Paul, wending its way to Fort Gary or Winnipeg. Over this thorough-fare was brought, in sections on ox carts, the first steamboat for the traffic upon the Red River. The many travelers included whites of doubtful integrity accompanying the honest traders. McDonald, who did not fear thievery from the Chippewas, would place no trust in strangers of white blood. He is reported to have advised a white man, whom he met on an isolated portage in the woods, and who had asked him where to stow some heavy valuables until a return trip was to be made: "Put all the things in a tree where you can see them. Only Indians pass by here, so you will find your belongings hanging there when you come back".

Southeast of McDonald's home was the first township surveyed in Becker County during the year 1857. This area was named Burlington and includes the present village of Frazee. A few white families drifted in one by one, taking up claims. In 1870 about sixty whites were counted in Detroit Township, three-fourths of whom were French, Scotch, English and Irish; the balance was made up of Germans and Norwegians.

During the summer of 1870, after the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad was <sup>it was certain that</sup> certain of passing through the county, many more settlers arrived. Slowly, extending over thirteen months, the grading for the Northern Pacific through Becker County was completed, a total distance of twenty-five miles. The inaugural train was run in December 1871. Only two trains made the distance to Moorhead as

heavy snows blocked the road until April of the following year.

The influx of homesteaders continued , stimulated not only by the coming of the railroad, but also by an act of Congress. This law, effected at the close of the Civil War, gave every former soldier and sailor a grant of 160 acres. Lectures given in Boston and stories filling that city's newspapers with vivid descriptions of the natural beauty and agricultural and lumbering advantages of Becker County formed the publicity originating in 1870 from Charles C. Coffin, an eminent war correspondent and reporter for the Boston Journal. During 1869 he had gone with engineers over the proposed route of the Northern Pacific. As a result of his propaganda an association was organized called the New England Military and Naval Bureau of Migration. This organization influenced residents of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Rhode Island to settle in or near Detroit Lakes and in sufficient numbers to form the New England Colony.

By this date, 1872, the Indians followed their pursuits of life peacefully. An occasional renegade Chippewa committed a murder, but the ever-increasing number of white men excelled that record, adding to their murders a worse outrage:

Fifty years ago, on the night of June 23rd., 1886, Detroit Lakes was the scene of terror and confusion. A feud between two "racketeers," in the modern vernacular, but described in the quaint terms of the Detroit Record of that day, "gamblers and fancy men for houses of ill-fame", culminated in murder and additional violence which acquired for this community the dubious fame of witnessing the third lynching in the young State of Minnesota, Minneapolis and Perham claiming the other tragedies.

These two unsavory characters, "big, burly ruffians", John W. Kelliher, alias Big Red or Reddy, and Frank Bennett, alias



Burns or McCormick, met on Washington Avenue about 1:30 A.M. After renewing profane insults over a gambling quarrel, Big Red whipped out his bulldog self-cocker and fired at Bennett. Simulating that he had been hit, Bennett dropped to the street. John Convay, the popular village marshal, seeing Bennett go down, rushed at Kelliher, who fired a second shot at the youthful officer and then disappeared. Dr. John B. Carman was called, only to find that Convay had been shot directly in the heart and had died as he was falling.

On foot and by teams a force of fifty men, armed with all sorts of weapons, immediately scoured the woods surrounding the village. Among them were two young men, John Boutell and George A. Foster, the latter can recount today his experience as a member of the searching party, who went to the bagnio occupied by Big Red's mistress. Judging rightly that the villain would try to see this woman, they found him cowering in the brush near by. Foster and Boutell disarmed him. Red asked ~~if~~ if he could see his woman. She was giving Red some belated advice when the sheriff ~~entered~~, John H. Phinney, entered.

Whirling toward Phinney she denounced him, saying, "If you had come yesterday when I called you, this would not have happened. You're afraid of Red; you're a coward." Phinney did not reply, but turned and left the house, alone. Foster and Boutell started with Kelliher for the jail. "How bad is Convay?" Red asked. "Pretty bad", was Foster's response. "How bad?" "He's dead". "God, I never meant to do that; I must have been awfully drunk". Twice, en route to the court house, Boutell and Foster prevented infuriated citizens from taking Big Red's life with axes and shotguns.

As daylight appeared, the mutterings for revenge increased. Farmers had been driving into town all day, and men arriving by trains from the east and west. The streets were thronged with

righteous people growling fierce imprecations. The excitement grew, as a procession, led by the Lakeside Band with muffled drum and sad dirge, carried the remains of John Conway to the railroad station for shipment to his relatives in Rochester, Minnesota.

Suddenly, at 10: P.M., the fire bell of the engine house was heard to sound several taps in quick succession, followed by piercing yells, the signal for an execution by Judge Lynch. An organized mass of humanity surged toward the jail, deliberately, then with maddening haste. Only three men of the mob made efforts to conceal their identities by tying handkerchiefs over their faces. Sledge hammers battered down the doors. The sheriff and his deputy were thrown violently to the floor when the cell keys were taken from them. Amid wild howls and cries for the rope, rough hands clutched Big Red, frightened beyond resistance. "Let me talk", he begged. "You didn't let Conway talk", was the answer to his plea. Resigned, he stood rigid, arms by his sides, as the noose was knotted around his neck. A hundred men grabbed the rope, and trailed by a thousand more, dragged him along the street.

Partially strangling its victim and pulling him so rapidly that part of his clothing was torn off, the lawless horde made its way toward the brothel where he had lived. With shouts from hundreds of revengeful throats the cord was thrown over the limb of a large oak tree. His feet left the ground. A dozen bullets ~~skipped~~ screamed into his unconscious body. Big Red was swinging. The double tragedy was completed.

The uncontrolled mob spirit carried on. The furniture in Kelliher's and Bennett's houses was stacked in the streets; one building was fired and the former residents escorted from town. The jackals collected photographs of the murderer, pieces of hemp and bits of oak bark from the tainted tree.



Now the shameful cravings of the crowd were satisfied. Men were sick at heart. Saloons were closed; no one felt disposed to carouse. No attempts had been made to fix the responsibility for the lynching, because public sentiment held that the murderer had met his just reward. However, still another sentiment remained expressing nakedly the perpetual stigma: "The ulcer has been removed, but the scar is yet fresh and bleeding."

Never-the-less, Becker County continued to grow and prosper. The village of Frazee was founded, and with its sawmills, became a center for the lumbering industry of this area. Audubon and Lake Park were two new communities to spring up in the western half of the county upon the edge of the rich prairie land. After several years of controversy Detroit Lakes was voted the official county seat during 1877, erecting its first court house in 1885.

Many individuals contributed their cultural, industrial and and political accomplishments to further the general development of Becker County and Detroit Lakes. A few of these men includes:

Paul Hudon de Beaulieu and Bazil Hudon de Beaulieu, brothers and chevaliers of France, who entered this territory about the year 1804 as fur-traders. They were pioneer voyageurs, who became diplomats and builders of commonwealths, who enriched Becker County with descendants of equal caliber, who <sup>were</sup> later acquitted themselves as editors, judges and statesmen.

William Morrison, born in Montreal during 1785, was one of the county's earliest settlers. He married a Pillager Chippewa woman. While known as a fur-trader, establishing a post on the northwestern shore of Shell Lake in 1802, and known also as a Government representative quelling Indian rebellions, Morrison is primarily renowned as the first white man to discover the headwaters of the Mississippi in the year 1804 at Lake Hernando de Soto; Morrison Lake is beside <sup>this</sup> lake.

Melvin M. Tyler built the first hotel in Detroit Lakes during the year 1870. This site would stand today on what is now the east boundary of the city. A small community center clung to this location and was called Tyler Town. Many stories are told of the activities of the guests in that hotel, but the sins<sup>of</sup> repentant men should die with them.

E. G. Holmes opened the first store in Tyler Town, later moved to Detroit Lakes, in the month of August, 1871. In 1891 Holmes was elected as the first State senator from this district, following a typical frontier campaign with its usual element of violence both upon the parts of the candidates and of the voters. He added greatly to the development of Detroit Lakes and amassed considerable wealth.

L. S. Cravath was the first member of the State legislature from Becker County, being chosen in 1872.

R. L. Frazee, born in Ohio in 1841, was a pioneer statesman and miller, for whom the village of Frazee was named.

William F. Ball, who came from Pennsylvania, was the first editor of the Detroit Record, publishing its initial edition on May 18th., 1872. He later moved to Fargo, North Dakota, and was selected as the original mayor of that city.

The name of John K. West is closely associated with the Pelican Valley Navigation Company. This company, the only one of its kind in northwestern Minnesota excepting for the steamboats operated on the Red River, ran boats for passenger and freight service through a chain of lakes starting at Detroit Lake. This organization was founded in 1876, but more extensively developed in 1888 by West. With the coming of the automobile, boat traffic became obsolete and regretfully the old S.S. Mayflower was removed from the lakes forever.



Alvin H. Wilcox, the first county surveyor, gained fame as the author of A Pioneer History of Becker County, published in 1907. The writer finds that this authorship of 700 pages of authentic history, so painstakingly compiled for these early years, is distinctly unusual for a relatively small community. His collaborator, Mrs. Jessie C. West, worked also for many years assembling historical material.

Dr. L. C. Weeks, a cultured gentleman and a physician, who was president of the State Medical Association, ably assisted Mr. Wilcox.

Dr. John B. Carman, another pioneer physician, has left a memory of countless kind deeds and sacrifices which helped not only his patients, but civic welfare as a whole.

Reverend Aloysius Hermanutz, an eminent Catholic missionary, arrived in White Earth during 1878. The half century of Father Aloysius' activities are described in a historical sketch of St. Benedict's Mission to be found in these contents.

Charles P. Wilcox, a brother of Alvin H. Wilcox, founded, in the year 1881, the Wilcox Lumber Company. This corporation is now extended into 29 different towns located in 8 northern Minnesota counties.

Judge Robert C. Bell, formerly State senator from Detroit Lakes, is Judge of the Federal District Court in Duluth.

A. O. Sletvold is the most recent State senator from this city.

Among its other assets, Becker County includes the southern portion of Itasca State Park, which extends into the northeastern sections of this county, 45 miles from Detroit Lakes. This area encloses most of Lake Hernando de Soto. Itasca State Park, the largest recreational park in the state, comprises about 34,000 acres of rough topography formed by high glacial moraines. Within its boundaries stand 125,000,000 feet of untamed white and Norway pine surrounding approximately 130 lakes. This virgin forest is a sanctuary in the preservation of wild life, where, untouched by man, are seen almost every species

of plants and animals to be found in the primitive, northern part of the continent. The native animals have been increased by the stocking of certain lakes with beaver until nearly a thousand of these rapidly disappearing fur bearers are in the Park. Strict protection is given to the deer, bears, wild cats, otter, muskrats, mink, porcupines, eagles loons and all wild life within this game preserve. While the other animals are free to roam the confines of this region, a herd of magnificent elk are held in captivity.

Historical pageants have become a part of Itasca State Park since 1932. More than 100 Chippewas and 50 Forest Service and Park employees formed the cast for the opening pageant. Seven productions are generally staged during the summer season about July 13th., 16th. and 31st., August 14th. and 24th. and September 4th. Upwards of 48,000 spectators were entertained that year. Eleven cities, Bagley, Bemidji, Brainerd, Cass Lake, Clearbrook, Detroit Lakes, Park Rapids, Red Lake Falls, Thief River Falls, Wadena and Walker, organized the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Association with the object of producing and financing these pageants. Sales of the Schoolcraft Centennial booklet added further contributions.

The 1933 production was named the Minnesota Diamond Jubilee Pageant, that year being the 75th., anniversary of the State's admittance to the Union. The cast for this pageant was greatly increased, Civilian Conservation Corps boys contributing their time. The production was offered six times on the above approximate dates. Of the 50,000 people who enjoyed this spectacle, 50% had seen the 1932 pageant, and 10% had seen the pageant more than twice in 1933. Additional pageants (which will be well advertised) depicting other historical events will be given from year to year.

Within and around Itasca State Park are 20 miles of improved roads and 42 miles of trails and bridle paths. Trunk highways,



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telephone and mail facilities are easily accessible. Modern resort accommodations are available at Douglas Lodge, which includes a log lodge and cottages for 175 guests. The rates, American, are \$ 4.50 to \$ 5 per day with garage. Children under eight years are charged \$ 2.50 per day; there are reductions for weekly stays. The ordinary recreations provided are: Fishing, horse back riding, motorboating, dancing, golf and tennis.

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Becker County has a large part of the White Earth Indian Reservation within its borders, including the United States Government Agency buildings and the village of White Earth. The Reservation was opened by the arrival of Major J. D. Basset, the first Indian Agent, on June 14th., 1868, when he brought the original band of Reservation Indians to White Earth from Crow Wing (see page 23). Years later, in a letter dated August 10th., 1906, he wrote the following comment: "My experience with the Indian Department shows to my mind the most incomprehensible absurdity that a civilized people ever attempted to impose upon an uncivilized race. To attempt to civilize a people and at the same time prevent them from adapting any of the arts or advantages of civilization, is to my mind, absolutely absurd and ridiculous. Give the benefit of law and the work is done at once. Abrogate law amongst the white people and we would soon relapse into barbarism."

Few cultures, customs and industries of the Chippewas have survived the persistent plundering of the white man, in spite of the high average level of intelligence of these despoiled people. Using tribal funds, expensive schools, agricultural and other projects have been commenced and have been ingloriously discontinued by white supervisors. A worth-while hospital, by some miracle, escaped the pillaging and still exists.

The present economic status of the White Earth Indians is

low to the extreme of destitution. The Chippewa Indian Co-operative Association, recently organized by mixed-bloods, is endeavoring to revive some native industries and arts ~~manufacture~~ for the purpose of marketing co-operatively the resulting products. The latter may include: Wild rice, fish, Indian sugar, beaded work, baskets, leather goods, canoes and song records. The Chippewas may gain some modest revenue from this experiment, which would be an improvement over their present starvation existence derived from agriculturally sedentary pursuits.

St. Benedict's Mission on the White Earth Reservation had its foundations in the fall of 1868. The record of this Indian mission is laudable not only for representing initial religious and educational efforts in Becker County, but for serving the spiritual and school needs of the Chippewas consistently since that date.

The Reverend John Ireland, later Arch-bishop of St. Paul, a young priest Chaplain during the Civil War, arrived at White Earth with United States officers, who were members of the first pay party to deliver to the Chippewas the annual treaty payments. Father Ireland's sermons, with the aid of interpreters, and administrations of the Sacraments made that autumn were the first exercises of any Catholic missionary performed upon the Reservation. From 1869 to 1872 Father Pierz, Father Buh and Father Genin continued Reverend Ireland's duties.

During the month of January, 1873, Reverend Ignatius Tomazin came from Crow Wing Indian Agency to take charge of the Catholic Indians. He erected a wooden cross on the present Calvary Cemetery (where Chief White Cloud rests) to mark a permanent mission site. Father Tomazin held services in a nearby house until later in that year, when, with the aid of his Indians, he built a small log church beside the burial grounds. This church was dedicated June 30th., 1874,



by Reverend J. B. Genin under the title of "Church of the Most Holy Redeemer". Here the sacrament of Confirmation was administered for the first time by the Right Reverend Rupert Seidenbusch, O.S.B., Vicar Apostolic of St. Cloud, on August 22nd., 1875, to seventy-nine Chippewas.

A log school house was constructed near the church in 1876 and placed under the care of some Franciscan brothers. The Indians toiled with the Brothers during the same year in laying the foundations for a much larger church, but, <sup>the</sup> which through lack of funds and trouble with Government officials was never completed. However, these efforts commanded sufficient attention to assure the future of St. Benedict's Mission.

In the year 1878, Father Tomazin, then the only Indian missionary west of the Mississippi, requested help from Bishop Seidenbusch for his many missions. This appeal led to the coming of Reverend Aloysius Hermanutz, O.S.B., assistant at the Pro-Cathedral in St. Cloud. Father Tomazin betook himself off to Red Lake to found another mission and the Brothers returned to their Home.

Father Aloysius, who was to remain at St. Benedict's for over half a century, arrived on November 5th., 1878, accompanied by the Right Reverend Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, O.S.B., Father Buh and two Benedictine Sisters, Sister Lioba and Sister Philomene, the latter to take charge of the school. Three days later classes for forty pupils were opened in a small log shanty, which was the beginning of the St. Benedict's boarding school. The following year, 1879, a day school for sixty Indian children was started near Buffalo River, eight miles south of the Mission. The teacher, Sister Philomene, rode there daily on horseback.

The little log church and school, situated on the present cemetery grounds, soon became too small. Father Aloysius, looking for a more suitable location for a better and larger building, selected the present wooded site on the shores of an attractive lake. In April 1881, Father Gregory Steil, O.S.B., architect, and four lay brothers of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, made the long journey to White Earth to begin work on the new buildings. The excavating and hauling of material was done gratuitously by the Indians, even the chiefs doing their share of the labor, a great concession to their traditional dignity. The two brick-veneered structures erected that year are the present church and rectory. An orphanage for thirty children was opened in the new residence in connection with the day school.

Beginning <sup>just</sup> services were held on Christmas, 1881. On June 10th. of the next year, Bishop Seidenbusch, accompanied by Abbot Edelbreck, came from St. Cloud to dedicate the church and to confirm the Indians. One mile south of the Mission one hundred Chippewas, dressed in full tribal costumes and riding on horses, met the bishop and abbot to honor them with a colorful and royal welcome. The Right Reverend Bishop administered the holy Sacrament of Confirmation to two hundred and fifty full blood Indians.

The late Archbishop John Ireland greatly recommended the splendid trials of the personnel in this far off Indian mission, buried in the northern wilderness. He eventually interested Mother Katherine Drexel, daughter of a wealthy family in Philadelphia. She <sup>unfused</sup> agreed to the Archbishop's request and contributed \$ 27,000 for the construction of the brick boarding school which remains today. This building was finished during January 1892. On June 11th. of that year, Bishop McGolrich of Duluth blessed the school, dedicated the



chapel and gave the Sacrament of Confirmation to one Hundred and twenty Chippewas. To this structure, housing one hundred and twenty pupils, modern improvements have been added, financed from the savings of the Mission, <sup>They</sup> including: A power house, laundry and several out buildings.

Through the influence of the Catholic Indian Bureau the school received a contract from the United States Government, in 1892, for the expenses of one hundred Indian children. The Government pays out of the Indian Tribal Educational fund \$ 100 per year for the education and maintenance of each child. In the selection of these pupils, preference is given to children who are orphans or from broken homes and to those who have not the convenience of a day school. Since 1892, an average of one hundred and thirty Chippewa girls, taught by twelve Sisters, have attended the Mission, receiving instructions, not only in the regular eight grades, but also in cooking, baking, sewing, needlework and general housekeeping. In connection with St. Benedict's is a farm of 150 acres, a garden and an orchard that produce most of the required food.

From the records submitted by Reverend Justin Luetmer, O.S.B., the present missionary with residence, there is a congregation of one hundred and seventy-five Indian and fifteen white families; baptism has been administered to 4,788 people; 787 couples received the Sacrament of Matrimony and 1,631 former parishioners were laid to their resting places on Calvary Cemetery.

Father Aloysius' fifty-one years of sacrifices and accomplishments have been so inspirational that his memory forms a wholesome tradition among the oldest and youngest Indians. As a young man he came to bury himself literally, but gladly, while devoting his productive years to the interests of a savage race. He learned the

primitive Chippewa tongue and the habits of these people of nature. Down through the many years he strove to bless his children with a knowledge of Jesus Christ. The achievements of Father Aloysius and his successors have gone unsung, but their labors are great in the eyes of Him, who should be an inspiration to all of us.

Although Father Aloysius spoke the Chippewa language and learned much about Indian folklore and legends, his days were too filled with the cares of his duties to permit the transcription of subjects other than those pertaining to religion. He did, however, translate hymn books and catechisms into Chippewa.

Reverend Felix Nelles, O.S.B., who worked in various missions of northern Minnesota from 1898 to 1930 (now at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota), and who lived with the Indians in their isolated homes, tells many stories in the several hundred pages of the history of his experiences, now in process of publication.

Reverend Benno Watrin, O.S.B., is the historian of the Pine Point Indian Mission and the town of Ponsford in this county. He has published an interesting description of that region entitled the "Ponsfordian".

The historian of the Chippewa Nation is commonly accepted as being William Whipple Warren, who was one-quarter Chippewa. He formerly lived in White Earth.

As previously mentioned, Alvin H. Wilcox is another historian who compiled, in collaboration with Mrs. Jessie P. West and others, an extensive volume called "A Pioneer History of Becker County".

Additional literary efforts on the part of Becker County residents are represented by short stories of local events as well as fictional material written by Ben Peoples, a former Minneapolis newspaper reporter, and <sup>now</sup> again living in Detroit Lakes.



C. Wesley Meyer, associate editor of the Detroit Lakes Tribune, has displayed considerable ability as a columnist. Next to poetry, the sustained effort of writing a periodic column on a wide variety of subjects of public interest is perhaps the most difficult of all literary creation.

Music, as well as literature, has <sup>been of much interest to</sup> had the life time interests, in its development, of several residents of Detroit Lakes: For fifty-five years, Elmer J. Bestick has played with the municipal band. This organization gives free, weekly concerts on an outdoor music shell during the summer months, in addition to special <sup>performances</sup> appearances in the winter.

For the past ten years there has been exceptional progress effected by Chester Kaldahl in the expansion of school music. In that period a total of 735 local pupils have played under his directorship. At present a Senior High School orchestra is composed of 50 members; the Junior High band has 80 pieces and the Senior group, 70. These two bands <sup>often</sup> are combined; <sup>in an orchestra 3 to</sup> thus, 150 pupils render, at the same time, their interpretations of the better class of music.

The Senior band has gained an enviable reputation, <sup>and has</sup> having won district contests with such monotonous regularity that these <sup>have been</sup> were discontinued; their fame is <sup>not only</sup> statewide ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>and</sup> international. Twice these musicians have made trips to Winnipeg to broadcast over station CKY; also they have gone to Fargo, North Dakota, to play for WDAY, to the Twin Cities and to nearby communities.

In the month of February the Junior and Senior bands offer an annual concert in the High School Auditorium before 1,000 listeners. Their selections are also given in the amphitheater of the Fair Grounds. Mr. Kaldahl has founded a yearly ~~invitational~~ event called the Lake Region Band Festival. As many as 16 high school

numbering upwards of 550 musicians have played together in this outdoor location. *Admittance is by invitation.*

Through the activities of George W. Peoples, Jr., and Mr. Bestick internationally renowned musical organizations have been brought to Detroit Lakes for summer entertainments. Probably the most popular of these is the Princess Pat Band, which drew an audience exceeding 5,000 to the Fair Grounds.

This community of music lovers has contributed many players and singers to famous orchestras and musical productions. Everything to perpetuate this movement is carried on even to the development of talent by means of amateur vaudeville contests staged in the State and Lake theaters, patterned after the programs of Major Edward Bowes. Oscar Morken manages this philanthropic endeavor; he has furthered its possibilities by establishing a booking bureau that places the performers in a circuit within the neighboring counties.

Dramatic and musical pageants for the benefit of churches are produced frequently in which the members of all congregations unselfishly donate their time for the aid of a certain denomination that maybe sponsoring the production. Old time music and square dances are likewise community affairs and are not unusual occurrences.

All mental stimulation is not limited to the musical as is thoroughly illustrated by the fine educational facilities of this area. The census of the county schools since March 12th., 1872, has increased from 20 white pupils to 3,629, and from one teacher in one school district to 154 teachers located in 135 districts. The three grade schools of Detroit Lakes list 512 children and 18 teachers; the Junior-Senior High, 803 pupils and a faculty of 29. The parochial school of the Holy Rosary Church has an attendance of 125 children instructed by 8 Sisters. A small elementary school is maintained by the Seventh Day Adventists. In addition there are the Detroit Lakes



Commercial College and private classes which offer tutoring in speech and allied subjects.

A Detroit Lakes high school annual, "Footprints", published in 1893, discloses some striking missionary ~~phrases~~<sup>facts</sup> statements to encourage more educational advances: At that time, over forty years ago, 97½% of the children never reached high school, or only one boy and four girls of every 200 pupils got beyond grammar school. The annual remarked: "He, who seeks education for the wealth or the notoriety it will bring him, will never be truly educated. Our colleges do not work to turn manhood into money, but money into manhood." Homely maxims of 1893, but familiar truths even today: What a person gains from an education to service himself and humanity can not be destroyed.

Further Detroit Lakes enterprises are centered in a representative number of national and local fraternal <sup>improved in Detroit</sup> societies which are: The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Eastern Star, Catholic Order of Foresters, Holy Name Society, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Royal Neighbors, Degree of Honor, Civic & Commerce Association, Junior Chamber of Commerce, G. A. R., Sons of Veterans, Women's Relief Corps, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Rotary, Kiwanis, Boys Scouts of America and the Library Club.

The Detroit Lakes Library Club was organized in 1907 with sixteen charter members. The original officers were: President, Mrs. Mayme Bolander; vice president, Mrs. Harriet Weeks; secretary, Mrs. Phoebe Phillips; and treasurer, Mrs. Mabel Anundson. After bravely struggling for six years in make-shift quarters, above a grocery store, in a church basement and in a rear room of a business block, the city provided the Club with a site for a permanent building and pledged \$ 1,000 annually for maintenance expenses. As a

result the Carnegie Foundation donated \$ 10,000 for the present structure, which was opened on November 14th., 1913. Miss. Eva Furber was appointed the first librarian. Upon her death, Mrs. Wm. McCart succeeded Miss. Furber and continues in that position today.

The Carnegie Public Library contains 9,400 volumes. Its contents include additional items in Stephen Collin Foster's Songs and Compositions and the International Mind Alcove, a Carnegie endowment for the promotion of international peace and good will. Reading hours are from 2 to 5 and from 7 to 9 P.M. The Library Club rooms are in the lower part of the building.

Under the direction of the local library, and sponsored at present by the city of Detroit Lakes, is a rural distribution of books which will eventually be termed the County Library System. Up-to-date 650 volumes are circulated in 36 districts of Becker County, plus 100 books given by the State Department of Education.

Besides the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer of St. Benedict's Mission, commonly ~~xxxxxx~~ regarded as one of the best in the entire Indian Service, Detroit Lakes of this county, has a number of fine edifices of varied denominations and architectural examples: Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, First Luthern, Zion Luthern, Swedish Luthern, Augustana Synod, Evangelical Free, Free Mission, Pentecostal Tabernacle, Seventh Day Adventist and Christian Science Society.

The townships of Becker County, among which are scattered 500 lakes, have so many lakeside park<sup>s</sup> for use as public swimming beaches and camping sites, that to mention them individually would consume too much space.

Detroit Lakes has a city park (in addition to the tourist park) on the edge of Detroit Lake. This municipal park covers 25 wooded acres



valued at \$ 16,000. A large pavilion, worth \$ 6,000, for dancing and other amusements is located here. Orchestras of radio fame generally furnish the music for the summer dancing. Other equipment in the park includes: Tables, benches and playground apparatus.

7  
and  
Regulation-sized base ball ~~and~~ soft ball diamonds and tennis courts adjoin the City Park. A half mile distant, on this lake shore, is the Fair Grounds. There is to be seen the amphitheater for outdoor concerts and other entertainments and also the foot ball field, lighted for night games.

7  
Countless facilities for hunting and fishing are available throughout Becker County, including guides, boats and bait. The secretary of the Civic and Commerce Association will answer all the details for this form of recreation; the full-time office is in Detroit Lakes.

7  
An 18 hole golf course, now being remodeled, is 4 miles from Detroit Lakes on a paved lakeshore boulevard. Besides other tournaments of inter-state competition, there is the annual Pine to Palm Tourament, Winnipeg to New Orleans, listing over 200 entrants, which is international in its attraction.

Col  
winter  
The Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Detroit Lakes Ski Club stage a yearly Winter Carnival and ski meet during the latter part of February. The program includes an ice pageant, parade, ball, skating races, figuring skating, hockey games, tobogganning on Water Tank Hill, dog derby and wood chopping and sawing contests. The ski meet is held on a slide built near Lake Melissa, 5 miles out of the city. As many as ten ski clubssending 70 riders, including national champions, compete here, coming from the Twin Cities, Duluth, Coleraine and other cities in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota. (See illustrations on pages 42<sup>1/2</sup> and 43).

Winter Carnival x Photographs by Mpls Journal & D. L. Johnson



Winter Carnivore P. Lots

Winter Carnival Photo



11  
The Summer Carnival, also under the direction of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, will occur, for 1936, on July 17th., 18th. and 19th. This entertainment includes a parade of decorated floats, a bathing beauty contest, swimming and diving competition, water ball games, speed boat races of international scope, canoe ~~and~~ tilting and races, surf board riding, log rolling and fly casting.

7  
Rifle clubs, bowling and soft ball leagues are added pleasures found in Detroit Lakes. Hiking to Detroit Mountain, a distance of 3 miles, is worth the exertion in order to obtain <sup>from</sup> the top of a fire control lookout tower, a glimpse of the waters and forests of the county; a horseback ride is an enjoyable method of reaching that point and others. Go north, east, south or west in Becker County and you can find or choose your recreational passtime.

5 C  
Although these outdoor activities are very conducive to good mental and physical development, Detroit Lakes maintains permanent institutions for disease-control and prevention. The Becker County Infirmary is an asylum for old people. There ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> a modern private hospital and the Community Hospital. Sand Beach Sanatorium, 14 miles from Detroit Lakes, is a home for tubercular patients and has a statewide reputation for the successful relief of its cases. The Red Cross is very active in caring for daily and emergency problems. The clinics of the school program for the prevention and control of diseases are exceptionally thorough in promoting hygiene education and in checking the physical deficiencies of every individual pupil.

1  
Becker County was officially established in 1858 by an act of legislature furthered by General George L. Becker. He was one of the Members of Congress elect, from Minnesota, awaiting the admission of the state to the Union.

Detroit Lakes, the county seat, derived its name from a remark made by a French Catholic priest over 200 years ago. This missionary,

standing on the shore of Detroit Lake with his French companions and Chippewa guides commented on the distinct "détroit" (a strait or narrows). Henceforth, the Indians and white fur-traders employed that name for the immediate vicinity; the word "Lakes" was added in 1927 as being symbolical of the 500 lakes surrounding the city.

Becker County has a population of about 24,000. The population of Detroit Lakes is composed of 4,000 year-around residents, plus 4,000 summer people, who own cottages distributed about the adjacent lake area of the city. During the season of 1935 an additional 17,866 visitors were registered; undoubtedly this number could be augmented by hundreds of unregistered tourists.

Detroit Lakes is situated 200 miles northwest of Minneapolis and St. Paul; 200 miles west of Duluth, 268 miles south of Winnipeg and 45 miles southeast of Itasca State Park. Minnesota Trunk Highways Nos. 34, 87 and 108 converge here with US 10 and US 59. US No. 10 is paved most of the distance from the Twin Cities to Detroit Lakes and Fargo, North Dakota.

The main line of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Winnipeg Branch of the Soo Line give the city ample railroad facilities. The Leidabach and the Northland Greyhound bus lines operate day and night service from Minneapolis and St. Paul to Detroit Lakes and through here to Winnipeg and Fargo. Motor freight is carried by the Elsholtz Transportation Company and several other truck lines. The Northwest Airlines, flying the trans-continental route to Seattle, stop daily at Fargo, 50 miles west of Detroit Lakes. The local airport of 210 acres is unlighted, but it is suitable at present for emergency landings. The field is beside the paved US No. 10, 1½ miles west of the city. Runways and other improvements are under construction on the airport; At present, the purchase and work on the field totals an investment of \$ 40,000 approximately.



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E

To house its many guests, Detroit Lakes has a wide variety of city and resort hotels and lake cabins. The principal hotels in the city are: The Graystone, E. (AAA), \$ 1.50 up, 125 rooms, parking space for cars; McCarthy's, E., \$ 1 up, 28 rooms; Colonial, E., \$ 1, 32 rooms; on Detroit Lake: The Edgewater Beach, A. & E. (AAA), A. \$4 to \$5, E. \$ 2, accommodates 75 guests, parking space, extra for garage; New Park Hotel, A., \$ 2.50 to \$ 3.50, 30 rooms; Lakeside Lodge, E., \$ 1, 25 rooms.

There are several resort hotels within a radius of 3 to 15 miles of Detroit Lakes, with charges of from \$ 3 to \$ 5 American: Dunton Lock Resort, Fairhaven, Pettibone Lodge (at Shoreham), Fair Hills and Pelican Inn.

9  
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B

Detroit Lakes is known as the capital of the "Park Region" not only for its 500 lakes, but for the innumerable housing facilities composed of lake-cabin groups for the thousands of visitors seeking an enjoyable, yet economical, summer vacations. Cherry's Tourist Cabins furnish an example for the many other collections of small cottages offering similar accommodations. Cherry's Cabins are on Detroit Lake, 1 mile from a railroad station, 20 cabins for housekeeping, E., \$ 1.75 to \$ 3, also weekly rates, 2 to 4 guests, includes ice, linen, dishes, bedding, gas, electricity; there are grocery stores and garages in connection, dancing one block, golf course 3 miles, season from May 1st. to October 1st.

A partial list of a large assortment of the other grouped cabins includes: Park Hotel cottages, Lakeside Lodge cabins, Birchwood, Shady Nook Tourist Camp, Einingers' Cabins and Campsite, Tom Thumb Court, Nason Bay Resort, Dunton Lock Cottages, Dacotah Beach, Richmond Resort, Shoreham Inn and Pettibone Cottages.

For the modest outlay of \$0.50 per day, with special rates for longer stays, the automobile tourist can take advantage of the

Municipal Tourist Camp. This site comprises 30 acres, valued at \$ 5,000, located one mile from the city proper and adjoining the Fair Grounds; 3,561 visitors registered there during 1935. There are showers, gas and a recreation hall. Food supplies may be purchased at lakeside grocery stores. City employes have charge of the Camp. Near the Municipal Tourist Camp and in or near all of the above-mentioned hotels, cabins and camps, all forms of indoor and outdoor recreations are available such as: dancing, musical and motion picture entertainments, hunting, fishing, golf, tennis, boating, bathing, and tobogganning.

Becker County is primarily an agricultural district, but has many divergent industries. Cereal crops raised in this region are: Wheat, oats, corn, barley, buckwheat and flax. Hay crops are listed as: Timothy, clover, alfalfa and other cultivated and wild grasses. Vegetable truck farms are well represented here.

Producers' co-operative organizations are very active in this county and base their marketing chiefly upon the raw materials of agriculture. These co-operative associations include: 6 creameries, 6 livestock shipping combines, 3 elevators and 9 co-operative potatoe and other produce shipping organizations.

Consumers' co-operatives of Becker County have the following variety: 2 oil companies, 4 stores (groceries, etc.), 2 trucking associations, 2 credit organizations and 1 insurance company. The Becker County Co-operative Council governs the above activities. The list also reveals a total of 22 co-operative telephone companies with such descriptive names as: Old Trading Post, Dead Lake, Silverleaf, Clover Leaf, Evergreen & Toad Lake, Pine Valley and Richwood.

Detroit Lakes has two creameries which manufacture large quantities of butter and ice cream. Other industries of the city based upon agricultural products include: The Swift's district plant



which handles thousands of dollars worth of poultry, eggs, butter and meat; a wholesale seed company, grain elevators, a pickle factory, flour and feed mills, wholesale and retail potato warehouses, bakeries and extensive chicken and turkey hatcheries.

Miscellaneous industries operating here are: Potato farm implement manufacturers, a wood working factory, general building contractors, boat builders, automobile and truck body makers, ~~auto~~ wrecking companies, a gas company, a tannery, a rubber mat factory, fox and fur farms, wholesale oil and brewery products distributors, mineral ~~hm~~ water bottling and ice in season, as many as 40 car loads per day.

Lumbering was one of the principal activities of Becker County and today is represented by saw mills manufacturing smaller quantities of boards, railroad ties, pulp wood and other products. The large Wilcox Lumber Company, previously<sup>u</sup> mentioned, which has branches in eight northern counties, sells many of these local mill products.

Glacial moraine deposits have provided granite field stones that make exceptionally attractive building material and monument stones; the latter are carved in Detroit Lakes. Of even greater importance commercially are the sand and gravel pits found throughout this area and which have made possible the existence of factories that produce cement blocks for silos, buildings, paving and other uses. Many tons of the graded sand and gravel are shipped out of this city for highway, railroad and other constructions. One such company ships annually : 470 cars, 26,000 tons, of washed, crushed gravel; 150 cars, 8,000 tons, of pea gravel; and 380 cars, 21,000 tons, of washed green sand. Since the first Becker County Fair of 1872, now held in Detroit Lakes during the latter part of August, an annual display, for three days, is made of the hundreds of agricultural,

manufactured and other retail products implied in the industries described above.; George W. Peoples, Jr., is the local Fair manager.

City industrial statistics include the Detroit Lakes Municipal Light Plant , a model of its kind for northwestern Minnesota. This plant furnishes light, power and heat to the city and rural districts. Its total value, including the steam heating system, is \$ 288,045: it nets anyearlly profit of \$ 34,647.19. Municipal operations extend to a water works, which is worth \$ 93,000, and to a new sewage treating plant composed of an Imhoff tank, Trickling filter and final settling tank; this system with the dump grounds, tools and accessories represents an investment of about \$ 70,000. General property protection is assured by a fire department having a \$ 25,000 building, including motor equipment.

Publishing companies of Detroit Lakes are limited to the newspaper shops. There are two weekly papers, the Detroit Lakes Tribune and the Detroit Record, with a cmbined circulation of 4,500.

Banks and retail establishments have been well developed by Detroit Lakes' wholesale and retail trading area radius of 50 miles. There are two banks with total deposits of about \$ 3,000,000. Among the retail businesses are: Hardware stores, 2 modern department stores, a national 5 & 10 cent organizations, 2 chain groceries, other local groceries, interstate auto and hardware supply establishments, lumber yards, greenhouses, pharmacies, millinery, clothing and dry goods stores; shoe, jewelry and furniture shops; photographers, restaurants, laundries and beauty ~~parlors~~ parlors with or without barber shops; farm implements, garages and other retail agencies. According to Rober tRipley, DetroitLakes' area has more oil filling stations than any other city of its size in the United States; this business was created by the enormous trade of summer automobile tourists.



Additional monetary statistics show that the assessed valuation of platted and unplatted land in Becker County is \$6,003,603; of personal property, \$586,836, and of money and credits \$631,536. The receipts of Detroit Lakes' new post office during 1935 totaled \$36,485.72.

Partly due to the large summer tourist business the principal imports of Detroit Lakes are: Oil, automobiles and garage supplies, creamery and packing necessities and many general forms of finished products. Exports include the local butter and turkey shipments, which command extra prices in eastern markets. Eggs, poultry, potatoes, beef cattle, sheep and wool are other staple exports. Spring water is supplied to the entire Northern Pacific Railroad system and to other buyers. Hundreds of car loads of ice are sent annually to western points and thousands of tons of sand and gravel are transported to both eastern and western markets.

Frazee, Lake Park, Audubon, Ogema, Callaway and Westbury are prosperous little towns within a short radius of Detroit Lakes, which add to the welfare of Becker County. The picturesque inland villages of White Earth, near St. Benedict's Mission, and Ponsford, beside the Pine Point Indian Mission, are both founded upon Chippewa centers of population. Old full bloods still congregate there, living as their ancestors did, and practising beliefs of the Grand Medicine Lodge, beliefs older than the memory of their oldest forefathers.

Summer resorts with metropolitan atmosphere and accommodations are centered upon convenient lakes of this "Park Region". But with 500 bodies of water mingling with the ageless glacial <sup>an</sup>terrene, the pioneering visitor can find the isolated nooks, seemingly as remote from civilization as when the prehistoric tribes roamed this area. there are still the happy hunting grounds and the leaping fish; the lazy drone of the wood creatures, singing from fragrant balsams above

the lapping of waves on restful beaches. The laughing loon will call to you over moon-lighted bays, welcoming you to a cheerful forgetfulness, to a healthy, happy peace.

FINIS



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Organizations

- Civic and Commerce Association, Dan Nelson, secretary, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.
- Junior Chamber of Commerce, C. Wesley Meyer, president, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Individuals

- Reverend Justin Luetmer, O.S.B., Missionary with Residence, St. Benedict's Mission, White Earth, Minnesota.



Individuals (continued)

- George A. Foster, a resident of Detroit Lakes for 52 years, historical information.
- Dr. A. E. Jenks, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, notes secured from his lecture on the "Minnesota Man".
- Emil H. Frank, game warden, information on fauna and flora.
- Ben Peoples, United States Weather Bureau observer.
- Clarence E. McCarthy, postmaster and local representative of the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Association; statistics on post office receipts and Itasca State Park pageants.
- Principal George Simson and Superintendent Axvall, information on city schools.
- Clarissa Bergquist, Superintendent of Becker County schools.
- Chester Kaldahl, band director for city schools.
- Elmer J. Bestick, member of the Municipal Band and city clerk, history of the city musical group and statistics on the city of Detroit Lakes.
- George W. Peoples, Jr., manager of the Becker County Fair.
- H. C. Colmer, leader in activities of Becker County Historical Society.
- O. F. Zeck, archeology of Becker County, principally upon the anthropology of the Minnesota Indians.

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Laurence M. Larson, "The Kensington Rune Stone," in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, 4: 382-387, June, 1921. This article is followed by replies by H. R. Holand and R. B. Anderson (pp. 387-391).

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## BECKER COUNTY

Becker County offers many advantages to those who appreciate the value and importance of diversified farming. Situated on the edge of the Red River Valley, and in a region famous for many lakes, its surface is adaptable to a variety of usages not commonly afforded by a single county.

Becker may well be called the "Fountainhead County of the North American Continent", for within its boundaries rise the great Mississippi (in Lake Her<sup>N</sup>ando De Soto) and the Red River of the North (here the Otter Tail River). There are 281 meandered lakes which vary in size from forty to several thousand acres, their aggregate area approximately 80,000 acres. About 60 percent of the land is in farms.

### OPPORTUNITIES

This county has become widely known as a resort region, and the perennial influx of vacationers is of great importance to the farmer who augments his income by the sale of additional poultry, eggs, stove wood, and ice, and by the rent of cabins and boats.

The numerous lakes and streams, providing plenty of water, and the abundance of grass have had a great influence on the character of agriculture. Livestock products bring Becker County farmers 40.5 percent of the total income, while another 20.7 percent is derived from the sale of livestock. Livestock sales exceed crop income by \$100,000 annually. Small grains and potatoes thrive where suitable soil prevails and account for about 18 percent of the farm income.

### PHYSICAL SETTING

Becker County is approximately 150 miles from Duluth, and about the same distance from Minneapolis and St. Paul. Moorhead is 50 miles to the west. The physical setting is advantageous, for the county lies within freight zone #2 from both Duluth and the Twin Cities and rates are the same to both markets. Small

grains go to either market. If the wheat is of high milling quality, or the domestic crop is short, it is usually sent to the Twin Cities, and if destined for export is sent to Duluth.

Topography Becker County is undulating in the eastern section, but becomes prairieland in the western part. Extremes of elevation of the undulating area range from 1,600 to 1,650 feet in the northern part and about 1,150 feet where the south branch of the Wild Rice River crosses the county's west line. The average elevation for the county is 1,140 feet.

Drainage About three-fourths of Becker County lies within the basin of the Red River, while the remaining area is drained by the Mississippi. The principal streams of the Red River basin are the Buffalo and Wild Rice Rivers, while in the eastern portion of the county rise the Fish Hook, Straight, Blueberry, Shell, Toad, and Red Eye Rivers, which eventually find their way to the Mississippi.

Considerable farm land in the county has been made more valuable through artificial drainage. In 1930, according to the U. S. census, there were 18,901 acres of land covered by drainage enterprises. Of this amount, 6,997 acres in 231 farms were benefited by ditches. On the other hand, 1,965 acres are still unfit for agricultural purposes. All of the area affected was drained by open ditches at a cost of \$11.09 per acre.

Soil The soil of Becker County was deposited during the glacial period and is what geologists call a drift formation, mixture of sand, gravel, boulders, and clay. Clay and boulders occur in the eastern and central portion of the county, while loamy soil with a small amount of sand, gravel, and boulders is characteristic of the western part. Tracts of land not suited to farming are the bluffs along the streams. Frequent marshes or sloughs yield valuable crops of hay while the hilly sections are adaptable as pastureland. In the western and especially the northwestern part of the county, boulders are infrequent. Peat deposits are found in almost every township, varying in thickness from several inches to more than 8 feet.

Climate and Rainfall Summers are warm and short in Becker County while winters



are long with much snow. During midsummer months the temperature averages 90° F. throughout the day, and at night usually drops 10 to 20 degrees. Winters are characterized by cold clear days with spells of subzero weather. The length of the growing season varies from 110 days in the northeast section to 120 days for the balance of the county. Prevailing winds are northwesterly and are of low medium velocity.

The mean annual temperature is 37.3 degrees F., the spring mean ~~is~~<sup>s</sup> 38.4 degrees F, the summer 65.1 degrees, the fall 38.2 degrees, and the winter mean, 7.6 degrees. These figures are compiled from 41 years of records. The average last killing frost in spring occurs May 25th, the average first killing frost in fall on September 20th. On peat bogs, frost is likely to occur any month during the growing season.

Until the recent drought, the 23-year average rainfall was 24.78 inches, about the normal average for the State. During the last dry years it was 14.3 inches, and the wettest (1906), 39.0 inches.

## CLIMATIC RECORD (41 years)

MONTHS:	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Station Detroit Lakes (alt.1,364) Precip- itation in inch- es.	.57	.71	.83	1.75	3.31	4.12	3.69	3.65	2.68	1.85	.89	.65
Tempera- ture (Fahren- heit)	4.0°	7.5°	23.1°	41.0°	53.4°	63.0°	68.3°	65.7°	56.9°	44.2°	27.2°	11.0°

Annual Precipitation      24.70 inches  
Annual Temperature      38.8 degrees

## SETTLEMENT AND RACIAL ORIGINS

In October 1802, a small trading post was established at White Earth by a man in the employ of the Northwest Fur Company. This was the first occupation by a white man of the soil which is now Becker County. In 1854 one Donald McDonald

built a log house on the northeast shore of Detroit Lake, and thus became the first actual settler. Shortly afterward the White Earth Indian Reservation was created, and by 1868 the resettlement of the Indians was completed, at which time a party of soldiers from the Crow Wing Agency were sent to break 240 acres of reservation land for the Chippewa there. Patrick Quinlan followed McDonald as the second settler when he preempted land in Burlington Township, in 1868. However, it was not until 1870 that settlement really began.

In that year it became known that the Northern Pacific Railroad would extend its tracks through the territory, a prospect which increased the desirability of the land and stimulated immigration. Families from the New England States made up the bulk of this migration.

The Northern Pacific tracks were laid through the county in 1871. Two years later the first grain warehouse in this latitude west of Duluth was built at Detroit Lakes. Transportation facilities established, the settlement of Becker County began in earnest.

Most of the early foreign settlers were natives of Norway, Sweden, and Germany. Today the foreign-born population is predominately Norwegian and Swedish, with Germans and Finns following in order. American-born people of Norwegian and Swedish descent make up more than half of the present county population.

#### COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND SUBDIVISIONS

Becker County was organized by an act of the legislature approved March 18, 1858, and Detroit Lakes then known as Detroit was designated as the county seat. The county operates under a commission form of government with corporate powers. There are 36 townships, as follows: Atlanta, Audubon, Burlington, Callaway, Carsonville, Cormorant, Cuba, Detroit, Erie, Evergreen, Grand Park, Green Valley, Hamden, Height-of-land, Holmesville, Lake Eunice, Lake Park, Lake View, Maple Grove, Osage, Pine Point, Riceville, Richwood, Round Lake, Runeberg, Savannah, Shell Lake, Silver Leaf, Spring Creek, Spruce Grove, Sugar Bush, Toad Lake, Two Inlets, Walworth, White Earth, Wolf Lake.

Detroit Lakes (population 1930, 3,675), Frazee (1,041), Lake Park (624),



Audubon (278), Ogema (253), and Callaway (230), are the largest communities.

#### TAXES

While the average tax rate was raised from 60.59 mills in 1931 to 69.82 in 1935, the drop in total taxable valuation during the same period effected a 20 percent decrease in the total levy. Property in 1931 was valued for tax purposes at \$9,669,256, as compared to \$6,700,120, the valuation in 1935; decrease \$2,969,136. Thus despite the increased mill rate, the revenue fell from \$589,450 in 1931 to \$471,455 in 1935, a reduction of \$117,995.

Indebtedness In December 1935 the county showed a total indebtedness of \$625,668.42. Of this total, \$131,668.34 represented the county portion, \$32,508.13 the townships, \$195,812.40 the cities and villages, and \$265,679.44 the school districts. As the total valuations amounted to \$6,700,120, the percent of debt to taxable values was 9.34. The per capita debt in 1935 was \$27.80, compared to a State average of \$82.86.

Delinquency The 1934 tax levy, including special assessments, amounted to \$463,913. Of this amount, \$151,592, or 32.68 percent of the 1934 levy, remained uncollected, leaving the accumulated delinquency to date at \$732,159, or 157 percent of a year's total tax.

#### MARKETS AND TRADE CENTERS

The city of Detroit Lakes is the principal wholesale market as well as the leading trade center. It has two creameries, two commercial chicken hatcheries, and factories for the manufacture of cement silos, row boats, potato machinery, ice cream, and woodenware. Other plants include a shim mill, a sash and door factory, a bottling plant, a flour mill, a monument works, a gravel-shipping plant, and a pickle factory. Several fur-farming industries near the city buy horse flesh, livestock flesh not fit for human consumption, and rabbits. A centrally located commission house operates as a distributor for farm products. These plants contribute to the county's wealth by an annual payroll of over \$100,000, and in money paid for taxes.

Farm operators in Becker County have many excellent local markets for their products. Besides Detroit Lakes, the towns of Audubon, Ogema, Lake Park, Callaway,

Cormorant, Local, Westbury, Ponsford, Osage, and Frazee offer an outlet for all types of farm produce.

As Becker County is in the very center of the "Park Region of the North" considerable direct sales of poultry, poultry products, butter, milk, cream, vegetables, ice, and wood are made to tourists and summer residents at lakes and resorts. These sales are important to the farmers for as many as five hundred tourist cars a day pass through the cities of Frazee, Detroit Lakes, Audubon, Lake Park, Callaway, and Ogema during the summer vacation period.

#### COOPERATIVES (and canneries)

In addition to the independent markets located in Becker County, there are several cooperative organizations offering a market for almost every salable farm product. Besides five cooperative creameries, there are four cooperative elevators, one cooperative insurance company, six livestock-shipping cooperatives, two oil cooperatives, and nine potato and produce cooperatives.

Potato and produce cooperatives are located at Audubon, Detroit Lakes, Frazee, Lake Park, Ogema, and Westbury. Audubon, Callaway, Detroit Lakes, Frazee, Lake Park, and Westbury have livestock-shipping cooperatives. Cooperatively operated farmers' elevators are at Audubon, Callaway, Frazee, and Lake Park. Cormorant and Lake Park have cooperatively operated retail stores.

More than 2,000,000 pounds of cream are purchased in 1 year at the creameries located at Frazee, Detroit Lakes, Ogema, Callaway, Audubon, Lake Park, and Ponsford.

Volume of purchases and sales made by both the independent and cooperative creameries in Becker County during the year 1935 is shown by the following statistics:

Local butter sales -----	\$330,005.00
Patrons' butter sales -----	193,834.00
Total pounds of butter manufactured -----	3,099,581.00
Value of butter manufactured -----	855,204.16
Average price received per pound -----	.27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pounds of butterfat purchased -----	2,565,496.00
Value of butterfat -----	775,002.62
Average price paid for butterfat -----	30.20
Value of butterfat sold in milk and cream -----	29,707.17



There are no cheese factories in the county. The nearest pasteurization plant is at Moorhead.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Becker County is connected with Minneapolis, St. Paul, Crookston, and Moorhead by the main lines of two railroads. The Northern Pacific from Duluth serves Frazee, Detroit Lakes, Audubon, Lake Park, and continues to Moorhead. The Soo Line running in a north-south direction passes through Detroit Lakes, Westbury, Callaway, and Ogema.

Two paved highways, US 10 and US 59, converge at Detroit Lakes. US 10 continues on to Audubon, Lake Park, and Moorhead; US 59 to Callaway, Ogema, and Thief River Falls in Pennington County. Graveled State highways 87 and 34 provide the county with two other excellent traffic arteries.

The Northland-Greyhound Bus Lines serve the principal towns with a passenger service and, in special instances, render a package delivery service for the rate of one adult fare to destination.

#### SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

Social service is provided by both the county and State. The Becker County Child Welfare Board works in the interest of needy children, and relief is administered by local authorities. The county board of health supervises prevention of epidemics, and the control of communicable diseases. Detroit Lakes has a well-equipped hospital. The State livestock sanitary board, cooperating with the bureau of animal industry, tests all dairy herds to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. Herds are also examined through the agglutination blood test for Bang's disease.

Extensive WPA and CCC water conservation projects are being carried on. WPA labor has built and is building numerous dams throughout the county to retain normal levels in smaller lakes and streams. Other drainage control projects are sponsored by the State and county under the supervision of the Minnesota State Conservation Commission, and all of these agencies cooperate in the work of retarding soil erosion.

#### Churches

Becker County is well-provided with churches of the following denomi-

nations: Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist, Congregational, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and Free Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, and Latter Day Saints. The Lutheran faith has probably the greatest following.

Schools There are 131 school districts in Becker County. Of these, 126 are ungraded elementary, and 3 are consolidated. Frazee has a graded elementary and 4-year high school, which offers a special course in commercial subjects. Detroit Lakes has a consolidated graded elementary and combined junior-senior high school, which gives a special industrial course. Audubon has a consolidated ungraded elementary and secondary school and also a 4-year high school. Lake Park has a consolidated secondary and 4-year high school. No colleges are located within the county, but a State Teachers' College and Concordia College are nearby at Moorhead. One Catholic parochial school is maintained at Detroit Lakes.

Detroit Lakes has a public library which conducts an extension service.

Clubs and Organizations Besides numerous private clubs, Becker County has many organizations devoted to agriculture. Prominent among this latter type are the county's 4-H clubs, and the Becker County Agricultural Society, both directly affiliated with the department of agriculture, and both helping to improve farming and farm life.

#### FAIR

Each year the Becker County Fair is held at Detroit Lakes in August under the sponsorship of the agricultural society. Premiums are awarded for the best grades of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, articles of home manufacture, dairy and household products, needlework, and painting, vegetables, fruits, and grain seeds. 4-H Club entries compete for prizes, and county winners generally enter the State Fair competitions held in the Twin Cities in September.

#### FARM INCOME

Livestock and livestock products constitute the chief source of farm income in Becker County.

In 1929 the value of all products sold, traded, and used by farm operators' families totaled \$3,737,429. Of this sum, livestock products led at \$1,512,139 or 40.5 percent of the total value of all products sold. Sales of butter, cream, and



whole milk represented \$1,231,311. Livestock sales amounted to \$774,499 or 20.7 percent of the total. Farm products used by the operators' families came to \$722,316, which was 19.3 percent of the total. Moneys received for crops amounted to 17.4 percent or \$648,980. Forest products represented the smallest item of sales at \$79,495 or 2.1 percent.

Dividing the 1929 farm income by the number of farm operators in that year, a statistically average income of \$1,365.51, is obtained.

#### CENSUS REPORTS

The total population of Becker County is <sup>N</sup> 1930 / was 22,503. Of this total, 18,828 were classified as rural, 13,632 being rural farm population, the remaining 5,196 being rural non-farm. The native white population was 16,722, and there were 2,899 foreign-born whites.

There were 3,227 farms in Becker County. Of these, 3,202 were operated by whites and 25 by Indians. Full owners operated 1,626 farms; tenants 1,013; part owners, 581; and managers, 7.

Tenant farming showed considerable increase from 1930 to 1935. In 1930 there were 692 farms operated by tenants, while in 1935 there were 1,013, an increase of 321, or 46.3 percent in 5 years.

Of the county's land area, 59.9 percent was in farms in 1935, the average farm consisting of 160.1 acres. The total acreage in farms was 516,765.

Total value of all farmlands and buildings in the county in 1935 was \$11,673,699, or an average value per farm of \$3,618 and an average value per acre (land & buildings) of \$22.59.

On the basis of the census figures of 1934, the statistically average farm in Becker County would contain 160.1 acres. Of this acreage, approximately 80 acres would be used for crops, 70 acres for pasture land and wood lots, and the balance for garden, orchard, and space reserved for farm buildings.

The county's average farmer would own 4 horses, 12 head of cattle, and <sup>N</sup> claves of all ages, 8 of which would be milk cows. He would own 6 sheep, 2 hogs, and keep approximately 78 chickens for egg production.

This average farmer would put up approximately  $18\frac{1}{2}$  tons of all types of hay, including alfalfa, timothy, clover, and small grains cut for feed.

As all of the cows in the county produced 9,525,255 gallons of milk in 1934, and there were 2,950 farmers reporting 24,761 cows milked during all or part of the year, the average production of milk per cow was 384 gallons. Sales of butterfat totaled 2,565,496 pounds, or 103.6 pounds per cow.



## AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Population, 1930 (county) -----22,503  
 Land area, exclusive of water -----863,360 acres

County Seat - Detroit Lakes

FARM DEVELOPMENT

Number of farms, 1935 ----- 3,227  
 Land in farms, 59.9 percent of total land area or -----516,765 acres.  
 Average size of farms ----- 160.1 acres.

FARM VALUES

Average value per acre, 1935 ----- \$22.59  
 " " " " , 1930 ----- \$35.99  
 " " " farm, 1935 ----- \$3,618.00  
 " " " " , 1930 ----- \$6,252.00

THE TAX PICTURE

Total taxable values (1935) ----- \$6,700,120  
 Total general tax levy (1935) ----- \$471,455  
 The average tax rate in 1935 was ----- 60.59 mills  
  
 Total debt of county & subdivisions ----- \$625,668.42  
 Per capita debt ----- \$27.80  
 County bonds ----- \$32,508.13  
 The total debt was 9.34 percent of the tax value.

TENANCY AND MORTGAGE DEBT

Farm mortgage debt, 1930 (farms operated by owners) ----- \$2,112,618.00  
 Of farms operated by owners, 56.4 percent were mortgaged in 1930.  
 Tenants occupied 31.3 percent of the farms in 1935.

FARM INCOME (1930) CENSUS

Average Farm Income -----\$1,365.51

## Sources of income:

Dairying and other livestock products -----40.5 percent  
 Livestock sold -----20.7  
 Farm products used by operator's family -----19.3  
 Crops -----17.4  
 Forest products ----- 2.1

LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS - 1935

Cattle and calves of all ages - 2,976 farms reported 40,831 animals, an increase of 30.5 percent over 1930.

Swine - 1,756 farms reported 5,908 animals, a decrease of 36 percent from 1930.

Sheep - 861 farms reported 20,779 animals, an increase of 17.2 percent over 1930.

1934 CROP

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Wheat	1,276	219,131	18,156	
Oats	1,965	1,064,078	48,782	
Barley	1,322	405,895	21,245	
Rye	431	68,379	6,900	
All sorghums and hay cut for forage			97,332	61,177
Sweet grain and sorghums cut for silage, hay and fodder	18		180	123
Alfalfa	1,377		13,822	8,696
Mixed grain	283	98,455	4,825	
Flaxseed	544	46,063	8,411	
Corn harvested for grain	67	6,085	503	
Potatoes	2,662	455,710	11,030	



(from tour 17)

BECKER COUNTY MATERIAL

At OGEMA . . . . is the junction with a gravel road. Left on this road to WHITE EARTH, 6.1 m., the agency for the WHITE EARTH INDIAN RESERVATION. According to the terms of the White Earth Treaty, the first group of 150 Indians was moved from Crow Wing to the reservation on June 14, 1868, accompanied by Maj. J.B. Bassett. The present population of the reservation is about 8,000 and its area 1,200 square miles.

At one time this land provided millions of feet of pine, and today the cut-over district furnishes large quantities of cordwood for building purposes, fuel, pulpwood, and railroad ties. The Indians make sugar from the numerous maple trees and collect the wildrice that thrives in the swamps. Fishing, hunting, and trapping are common on the reservation.

Although commonly called a reservation, the Indian holdings in the region have been tremendously reduced since many individuals have sold their allotments. Indian affairs authorities, aware of the poverty following loss of land, have long sought to repurchase farms, but their first opportunity came when the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's Land Program---which later was made a part of the Farm Security Administration---purchased 27,000 acres of submarginal land in Mahnomen County in 1934. Indian officials requested the area for Indian families and, by additional purchased from their own funds of a more fertile region to the North, acquired practically all of Little Elbow and T<sup>W</sup>in Lakes Townships. The lands are not transferrable as were the old reservation farms, and their occupants are chosen by tribal council. Well-trained Indians are responsible for entire farms; less experienced men are able to work in forests or to labor on large farms. An all-Indian -CCCC force works in cooperation with the Forest Service. In the meantime roads and schools are being built in areas where farms, although productive, were submarginal because of their isolation.

White owners in the resettlement area were transferred to other farming areas, usually the Thief River Falls region ~~(somewhere)~~. Owners of the more productive lands sold their farms readily, most of them acquiring land in less isolated areas .

Rehabilitation of the Indians who will make use of this area has already begun on a 640-acre tract at the reservation headquarters. Three hundred and thirty acres have been divided into 6-acre plots, upon which one- or two-story shingle or clapboard houses have been built. Of the 216 persons engaged in the construction of these homes and their surrounding farm buildings, all but 10 were Indians.

All of the reservation Indians came originally from various parts of northern Minnesota and from three principal tribes; the Mississippi Band, from Crow Wing and Gull Lake; the Pembina Band, from the upper Red River Valley; and the Otter Tail Pillagers, from Otter Tail Lake. All three groups are of the Algonquian stock. The number of full-blooded Indians has decreased alarmingly, and intermarriage threatens to obliterate the distinctive language, culture, and interesting traditions of the Chippewa civilization.

A well-equipped Hospital, operated at the White Earth Agency with Chippewa funds, serves the Indians as efficiently as their distrust of the white man's medicine will permit. Many of the older generation still refuse to reveal intimate problems to strangers.

The native Chippewa shelter is a birchbark wigwam, constructed on a framework of poles to form a dome-shaped top. The tepee, or pointed-top construction, used by other tribes, is rarely seen here. These birchbark wigwams, however, are used only in summer during the wildrice harvesting. When the weather turns cold, most of the Indians move to small log cabins or tarpapered board shacks.

The Chippewa handiwork is of excellent quality. Their products of tanned buckskin are soft and pliable with a chamois-like texture and a rich, dark brown color that is obtained by a smoking process. The odor of Chippewa leather products, pungent but agreeable, is a distinctive feature of the beaded moccasins, the much-sought buckskin jackets, and other garments. Probably the finest examples of Chippewa workmanship are their birchbark canoes, now, however, rarely made. They are remarkably seaworthy and their lightness is an important feature on long-portage journeys.

ST. BENEDICT'S MISSION, adjacent to the village of White Earth, one of the



finest schools in the Indian Service, was established in 1868 by Archbishop John Ireland, at that time a young Army chaplain. The mission was first composed of log buildings, constructed by the Indians to serve as schools and churches. At the same time the site of the present Calvary Cemetery, where Chief White Cloud is buried, was marked. In 1881 two brick-veneered structures, that now serve as the church and rectory, were erected on the wooded shore of Mission Lake. Supplementing the day school, an orphanage for 30 children was opened in connection with the mission. In 1892 the school was further enlarged by means of a grant from the U.S. Government. This provided for 100 more children, allotting \$100 a year from the Indian Tribal Education Fund for each child. Preference is given to orphans, children from broken homes, or who are not conveniently near a day school. St. Benedict's farm of 150 acres, with a garden and an orchard, produces most of the required food. This mission represents the first religious and educational effort for the Indians in the surrounding region.

The Chippewa hold an annual festival in White Earth Village in commemoration of the arrival of their first band of 150 at the reservation in 1868. The program is of unusual interest to visitors, for it includes public councils, or pow-wows, in formal tribal costumes, with speeches, songs, several types of native dances, a sham battle between the Chippewa and Sioux, canoe, foot, and pony races that display the Indians remarkable athletic ability, and many games, including lacrosse.

Southeast of Detroit Lakes US 59 runs through an area of many lakes.

A group of 28 Indian Mounds, 14.4 miles from Detroit Lakes is between PELICAN LAKE (R) and LIZZIE LAKE (L); the largest of these is 68 feet long and 9 feet wide.

At about 21.4 miles on US 59, while the highway was being constructed in 1932, was found a prehistoric skeleton that is estimated by some anthropologists to be at least 20,000 years old. It was found 20 feet below the surface in an ancient lake bed that probably existed before the last glacial period. These remains, now called the "Minnesota Man," are actually those of a young girl of about 16. A small dagger, fashioned from the antler of some animal, lay beside her. It is believed that the girl met death by drowning (see First Americans; Archeology).

TOUR 16 material on Becker County

In this region in the late 1880's the Rocky Mountain locust destroyed acres of wheat. The plague did much to diversify agriculture in Otter Tail and surrounding counties.

Frazee (1,410 alt., 1,041 pop.) in the heart of the "Park Region," has many summer resorts centered about convenient lakes. The pioneering visitor can find isolated nooks, seemingly as remote from civilization as when the prehistoric tribes roamed this area. Here are hunting grounds and fish-filled streams. In the tamarack swamps near Detroit Lakes grows the pitcher-plant or side-saddle flower who leaves hold a gill of water; here also blooms the rare pink ladyslipper and the more common yellow variety.

Hamilton's Aquatic Farm (L) was established in 1920 and today supplies a Nationwide demand for aquatic seed and nursery stock. Before orders are filled, a personal survey is made of the waters where planting is contemplated, and the natural condition of the water is determined, so that suitable plants may be selected. Among the species most commonly sold are wildrice, wildcelery, duck potatoes, muskgrass, lilies, flags, and rushes.

DETROIT LAKES, 230.9m (1,386 alt., 3,675 pop.), is the seat of Becker county; the town derived its name from a remark made by a French priest over 200 years ago. This missionary, standing on the shore of Detroit Lake with his French companions and Chippewa guides, commented on the distinct "detroit" (a strait or narrows). Henceforth, the Indians and white fur traders employed that name for the immediate vicinity; "Lakes" was added in 1927 as being characteristic of the district.

Detroit Lakes is known as the capital of the "Park Region" not only for its 500 adjacent lakes, but for the numerous city and resort hotels and lake cabin groups which cater to thousands of summer visitors.

The MUNICIPAL TOURIST CAMP (50 ¢ a day with special rates for longer stays; showers, gas, recreation hall) comprises 30 acres on the north shore of Detroit Lake to the R. of US 59 and about a quarter of a mile from the point where it turns to circle the lake.



A CITY PARK (in addition to the tourist park) is also on the north shore of Detroit Lake, where US 59 turns R. This park covers 25 wooded acres and has a large pavilion for dancing and other amusements. Orchestras, usually of radio fame, furnish music for summer dancing. Other equipment in the park includes tables, benches, and playground apparatus. Baseball and softball diamonds and tennis courts are available. At the fair grounds, on the lake just before the tourist park, is an amphitheater for outdoor concerts and other entertainments; there is also a football field lighted for night games.

THE CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY (open daily 2-5 pm, 7-9 pm), at the junction of US 10 and Washington ave S., contains 9,400 volumes and houses the International Mind Alcove, a Carnegie endowment for the promotion of international peace and good will. The library clubrooms are in the lower part of the building. The rural distribution of books is under the direction of the local library.

Besides the CHURCH OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER of St. Benedict's Mission on Washington Ave., commonly regarded as one of the best in the entire Indian service, Detroit Lakes has a number of fine church edifices of varied denominations and architectural styles.

The BECKER COUNTY INFIRMARY, adjoining the Fairgrounds, is an asylum for old people. Local facilities include a MODERN PRIVATE HOSPITAL, 115 E. Frazee St., and the COMMUNITY HOSPITAL on Lincoln Ave.

The Summer Carnival (July) is under the direction of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. This entertainment includes a parade of decorated floats, a bathing beauty contest, swimming and diving competition, waterball games, speedboat racing, canoe tilting and racing, surfboard riding, logrolling and fly casting.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Detroit Lakes Ski Club also stage a yearly winter carnival and ski meet in February. The program includes an ice pageant, parade, ball, skating races, figure skating, hockey games, tobogganing on Water Tank Hill, a dog derby, and wood-chopping and sawing contests.

The large summer tourist business helps to determine the principal imports, which include oil, automobiles, garage supplies, creamery and packing necessities,

and many other finished products. Exports include butter and turkey shipments, which command special prices in eastern markets, eggs, poultry, potatoes, beef cattle, sheep, and wool. Spring water is supplied to the entire Northern Pacific Ry. system and to other buyers. Hundreds of carloads of ice are sent annually to western points and thousands of tons of sand and gravel are transported to points east and west.

From Detroit Lakes the route traverses a rolling morainic region that becomes more tillable as it progresses westward.

AUDUBON (1,332 alt., 278 pop.) was named for the great ornithologist, J.J. Audobon (1780-1851), at the suggestion of his niece who, with a party of tourists, once camped in the vicinity.

LAKE PARK (1,174 alt., 624 pop.) was settled in 1870.

Left from Lake Park on a county road to BIG CORMORANT LAKE, 10.6 m. It is on the northwestern shore of Big Cormorant Lake that the so-called ANCHOR STONES were discovered and have since led to the belief that the oldest settlement in North America was near Detroit Lakes. These stones, three large granite boulders each with a drilled hole 9 inches deep and 1 inch wide, are about 300 feet from the present lake on the line of what is conceded to be the earlier shoreline. It is ~~it~~ claimed that they were used about 1362 A.D. by Goth and Norwegian explorers. In corroboration of this claim, it is pointed out that today, as for centuries past, Norwegian boatmen tie up their ~~skiffs~~ skiffs with a rope run through a hole drilled in a rock on the shore.

Skeptics have propounded a variety of theories to explain the drilling of these stones. Some debaters hold that pioneer loggers made them to anchor booms. But no logging was ever carried on here. Others insist that some farmer drilled the rocks preparatory to clearing the land by dynamiting; but it seems improbable that a farmer would have dynamite in this backwoods 75 years ago. Whatever their origin, the anchor stones and the Kensington Rune Stone (see tour 9), which many attribute to the same early Norwegian exploring party, continue to be a source of discussion.



K E N S I N G T O N   R U N E   S T O N E  
(from Tour 9)

At the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 608 Broadway, the much-discussed KENSINGTON RUNE STONE is on exhibit. The stone was found in 1898 near Kensington, SW. of Alexandria, by Olof Ohman, a Swedish farmer, who dug it out from under the roots of a poplar tree on his farm. The discovery of the stone aroused some local excitement at the time, but as no one could read the inscription Ohman used it as a doorstep (doorstep) for one of his sheds -- fortunately placing the incised side down. When interest in the stone was revived by Hjalmar R. Holand, the inscription was translated:

"Eight Goths (Swedes) and 22 Norwegians upon a journey of discovery from Vinland westward. We had a camp by two skerries (islands) one day's journey north of this stone. We were out fishing one day. When we returned home we found ten men red with blood and dead. A V M (Ave) Virgo Maria, save us from evil."

On the edge of the stone was this inscription:  
"(We) have ten men by the sea to look after our vessel fourteen days' journey from this island. Year 1362."

The authenticity of this runic writing is still a subject for controversy and, if not yet established, is far from disproved. Sent abroad, the stone has been pored over by many of Europe's leading archeologists, some of whom have been convinced, while others have regarded it with puzzled uncertainty. If, as many believe, the inscription was faked, the jokester had an almost incredible knowledge of runic writing. That it is of no recent date is testified by the age of the tree whose roots surrounded it when found.