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WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1400
Koochiching County

SCENIC VIEWS AND SPORTSMEN LORE

"International Falls Possesses Fine Nine-Hole Golf Course"

The Falls Golf and Country club, with an ever-increasing membership, looks forward to one of the most active seasons in its history this year. With the support of an energetic group of women, plans for increasing the number and extent of its summer functions have been developing throughout the winter months.

Members are proud of their nine-hole course beautifully situated on the banks of the Rainy river three miles southwest of International Falls. The 120-acre tract of land has slowly developed, since 1927, into a course which well meets the requirements of all who wish to make use of its facilities.

All the conveniences of a metropolitan golf course are available and visitors are always welcome. Plans are being developed for increasing the size of the clubhouse so as to fulfill the club's growing demands. Each week during the golf season this clubhouse is the scene of more than one social gatherings for both men and women. The social round continues at the homes of members during winter months.

Additional equipment for keeping greens and fairways in condition was purchased this spring and officers expect to offer players the best maintained course in northern Minnesota during the coming months.

The International Falls club has a friendly agreement with the Rainy Lake Golf and Country club of Fort Frances whereby a card held by members of either club is honored on both courses. Teams representing the two border cities often compete in lively tournament play.

The golf season at the Country club opens in May and concludes with a tournament with the Rainy Lake Country club of Fort Frances for possession of the Backus International trophy. At the present time the cup is in the hands of the Fort Frances club.

To reach the links motorists drive a mile and a half west on state highway 11, then turn right at the Country club sign.

Officers of the Falls Golf and Country club are: Clarence Larson, president; T. G. Hallen, vice president, and Richard Liljeblad, secretary-treasurer.

The women's auxiliary officers are: Mrs. T. G. Hallen, president; Mrs. Frank A. Morris, vice president, and Mrs. Spencer Clapp, Ranier, secretary-treasurer.

KETTLE FALLS--PICTURESQUE PLACE ON BORDER CHAIN

One of the most beautiful spots to be found in the whole border region is Kettle Falls and the country immediately adjacent thereto.

These falls, for there are really two, the American and the Canadian, divided only by a rocky ledge, are situated at the foot of Namakan Lake, one of the border chain and the first one above Rainy Lake.

The scenery about the falls is bold and rugged, a true wilderness, the waters of the river and the lakes teeming with fish of many varieties and the forests, which cover the surrounding terrain, furnish a home for every kind of wild animal native to the north woods, including moose, deer, bear, wolf, coyote, on down to the lowly rabbit.

Back a short distance from the waters of Kettle River and well withing the sound of the falls, stands the Kettle Falls hotel, a substantial struc-

ture furnishing first class accommodations for the tourist or fisherman or for those who wish to enjoy in peace and quiet the beauties of this wonderful region.

This hotel, owned and operated by R. S. Williams, of Ranier, has long been a landmark in the territory at the upper end of the lake, and has extended its hospitality and cheer to thousands of loggers, cruisers and tourists.

The rooms are clean, cool and comfortable, the view unsurpassed and the cuisine all that could be desired. In fact the fish dinners served here are famous all over the country.

The hotel affords an ideal retreat for those seeking rest and quite or for hay fever sufferers, that malady being non-existent in the clear, healthful atmosphere which is a characteristic of the northern wilderness.

"Two Routes Possible"

To reach the hotel one must either travel 50 miles from Ranier, by boat, on Rainy Lake, or 35 miles, also by boat, from Gappa's Landing, on Lake Kabetogama. But either trip is well worth while and the visitor is repaid by the surrounding view no less than the rest and comfort he enjoys once he has reached the hotel, unique among northern wilderness resorts.

Whether you wish to stop a day, a week or a month, you will find no spot more restful, more healthful nor one where the fishing, hunting and canoeing is better or more fascinating.

SPORTSMAN OWNS RARE EXHIBIT OF GAME HEADS

A collection of mounted wild animals, of their heads and hides, of rare and curious birds, big fish, rare old weapons, together with hundreds of curios, forming a collection numbering more than 400 separate exhibits, valued at thousands of dollars and which is unique in the North if not in the whole country has been gathered together and placed on display by O. J. Masters, 434 Third Street, International Falls.

This collection of game animals, animal heads, bears, wolves, coyotes, foxes, mink, marten, muskrat, woodchuck, ducks of many varieties, partridge, pheasants, hawks, owls and others is made up of beasts and birds native to this north country and is said by those who have viewed it to be the most complete and interesting to be found anywhere.

Mr. Master's collection of old firearms, knives, and other weapons of offense and of the chase is something to be inspected with wonder no less than with pleasure.

At the front end of the big room, near the door, stands a moose which, in life, must have weighed more than 1,000 pounds. It arrests the eye as you enter and seems about to charge the intruder. In one of the display windows is a huge black bear, perpetually trying to climb a tree. In the other window ~~and~~ is a buck deer, apparently about to step through the window and out onto the sidewalk.

Along the walls, on both sides, are literally hundreds of mounted heads of moose, elk, caribou, deer and other of the larger native game animals. In between these heads have been mounted many of the smaller animals native to the district, and stretched along the walls are dozens of bear, wolf, fox, coyote, lynx, bobcat, badger and other hides.

Above the mounted heads are the various birds of the district, all artistically mounted in natural poses and apparently ready to take flight. And over all hovers a huge owl, prepared to pounce on anything that offers the chance of a meal.

ISLAND VIEW HOTEL CATERS TO BLACK BAY FISHERMEN

Completion of the new section of highway No. 11 to Black bay will bring into being a new and well-equipped lake resort on the site of an ancient hunting lodge 12 miles east of International Falls.

Robert Cole, owner of Island View, the old hotel which marks the eastern terminus of the new road, this spring announced plans for building a resort which will satisfy needs of tourists as well as local fishermen and picnickers.

With such an ideal location, Mr. Cole has expectations of making his new resort one of the most popular on Rainy lake. For natural beauty, Island View and the Black bay district are unexcelled. Within a radius of two miles are dozens of well-wooded islands in the vicinity of which wall-eyed and northern pike are most numerous. Black bay has long been known as the most desirable fishing region in the border chain of lakes.

The person interested in northern Minnesota can well afford to make Island View his headquarters. A half-mile from the hotel is the site of the now-extinct Rainy Lake City, a gold-mining town which flourished 30 years ago. Signs of the old buildings and stamp mill may still be seen. On Little American Island, one-quarter of a mile in another direction, may be seen the gold mine workings which were opened last fall.

Island View has an interesting historic background. It was built in 1908 by the late R. H. Bennett and has been a landmark ever since. Its only use in recent years has been by hunting parties who are attracted to the section during duck and deer seasons. Mr. Cole acquired possession of the property six years ago.

Present plans call for a complete remodeling of the old log structure. A dining room and kitchen facilities will be arranged so that the best of meals will be available at all hours.

"New Cabins Built"

Several cabins are to be built and a number of rooms in the main lodge will also be at the disposal of tourists.

Every requirement of the fishermen will be taken into consideration when Mr. Cole opens the resort May 13th. Guides who know the lake and its best fishing grounds will be available at reasonable costs, and a fleet of 20 new boats will be on hand. Outboard motors, bait and fishing tackle will also be in readiness.

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REMINISCENCES OF RAINY LAKE CITY

Community flourished for six year, then disappeared as Mines closed up

By John Berg
(Judge of Probate)

Gold was discovered in Minnesota as early as 1865, when Henry H. Eames, state geologist, reported that the metal had been discovered at Lake Vermillion, 150 miles north of Duluth.

The news spread like wildfire. A trail was cut through the woods to the scene of the "strike" and a townsite, the present site of the villate of Winton was platted and within a short time it had a population of 300, with saloons, stores, dance halls, and all the other things which go with frontier or gold rush towns.

The geologist reported that he had discovered a piece of quartz weighing three pounds which he had sent to the mint at Philadelphia and the report of the assayer showed that the quartz yielded at the rate of \$25.68 i in gold and \$4.42 in silver per ton.

The land where gold was discovered was on an island in Lake Vermillion known as Gold Island. In 1888 the writer visited this island with a number of pieces of machinery that had evidently been used in working the mine before more than 20 years before.

"Second Rush in 1893"

In the fall and winter of 1893 another report spread over the country that gold had been discovered on Rainy lake. This started a second stampede of prospectors, miners, promoters and storekeepers and a hectic hunt was instituted for the precious metal.

A town was platted on that point on the south shore of the lake where the waters of Black Bay join Rainy lake, more practically described as government lots of 4 and 5, section 34, township 71, range 22. This town was gi en the name of Rainy lake city and the incorporators were a company of business men from Duluth, headed by Daniel J. Cash, president, and S. W. Richardson, secretary. The engineer who platted the townsite was W. D. Patton.

To this boom town, during the winter and spring of 1894, from all point of the compass, rushed a crowd of all descriptions and from all walks of life and at one time the population was estimated at more than 500.

"Covered Wagons"

Withing a few weeks after the platting of the townsite it was covered with buildings of all sizes and shapes, log buildings, tents, tar-paper shacks, together with some covered wagons from the Dakotas. The business section of the village was composed of three general stores, a hardware store, a building mateial store, a butcher shop, printing office, bank, three hotels, a barber shop, two restannants, pstoffice, customs, office, and five saloons.

All the supplies essential to the operation of these enterprises had to come from the outside, with the exception of meats for the butcher shop, its owner the only independent business man in the town. His stock in trade consisted principally of moose, caribou and deer meat. A whole moose carcass could be bought for \$5.00; a caribou cost \$21.00, and a deer could be purchased for \$1.00.

Whitefish, pike and pickerel were sold at five cents per fish, while quail, partridge and ducks could be had for the taking and no game warde or other authority was ever heard of.

The stores of the village were operated by C. P. McClure, C. J. O'Donnell, John Berg (the writer of this article.-Ed.) John Lang, and W. E. Trumbull. The butcher shop was owned and operated by Charles Rasmussen. The restaurants were operated by C. P. McClure and John Peterson.

"Paper Still Exists"

The newspaper was owned and published by Fred J. Bowman and was known as the Rainy Lake Herald. The plant was later moved to International Falls and is now a part of the Fort Frances Times.

The Pioneer hotel was owned and operated by Peter T. Jearde, the Green Tree hotel by John B. Weimer and the Big American Hotel by Corey and Campbell. The barber shop was presided over by James Konkle. The postmaster was D. P. Redding and the customs officer was M. J. Moran.

The bank was owned and operated by one A. G. Butler of Duluth. The banking business flourished for some time but later on became slow and unprofitable and Butler undertook to stage a bank robbery and loot his own bank. In the early morning of a fine day Butler rushed from his bank shouting at the top of his voice: "Robbers! The bank has been robbed." In no time at all he had the whole community armed to the teeth and scouring the woods in all directions, looking for the supposed robbers, but no traces of the bandits were to be found. The weary members of the posse finally returned to town and the conclusion was arrived at that Mr. Butler had robbed his own bank. In the meantime and while the hunt for the robbers was in progress, Butler had hired a canoe and started for Kettle Falls with all the money he had in his possession. Pursuit was started and he was overtaken at Tower, in St. Louis county. From there he was returned to Rainy Lake City and compelled to make restitution to all the depositors and was then set at liberty and disappeared.

"Jail Built of Logs"

The village boasted a municipal building, the front end being used as a council hall and the back as a jail. This was built of heavy norway pine logs.

The village of Rainy Lake City was incorporated in 1894. The first village council was made up of W. E. Trumbull and the trustees were C. P. McClure, John Berg and Fred J. Bowman.

The first school was organized and held in a cottage built on the banks of Black Bay, and the first school teacher was George Greswold. Later on the school was taught by Miss Shaw and Blanche Jellison, who was the last teacher ever to conduct school in Rainy Lake City.

In common with every frontier town, especially in the mining and lumbering districts, Rainy Lake City had its characters. The writer remembers the names of Boston O'Brien, Curley Bedford, Fred Wallin, Patty the Bird, and James Turney.

"Was Expert Marksman"

Turney was a likeable chap except when under the influence of liquor. He was an expert with a .45 Colt revolver and the writer witnessed several exhibitions of his skill with the weapon. One instance in particular that comes to mind occurred one day when Patty the Bird had been in one of the saloons and secured a bottle of whiskey. He did not stop to drink the liquor in the saloon, but went out into the street and then proceeded to take a long strong pull at the flask. Turney, who had also taken a few drinks, espied Patty and immediately whisked out his .45 and shot the bottle out of Patty's hand, breaking it right at the neck. Of course the splinters of glass hit Patty in the face and he thought he had been killed.

He yelled and fell down on the sidewalk in a dead faint, but soon recovered.

On another occasion one John Franson had been down to the dock for a couple of pails of water. He came back from the lake with a pail in each hand. All at once something hit one of the pails at the handle, taking the fastening completely off, without injuring the pail. The pail dropped to the ground and Franson stood there looking at the pail; then looking up he saw the face of Jim Turney peering out from behind the trunk of a tree about 50 feet away. Another instance of Turney's skill with a six-gun occurred when he went into the butcher shop and asked the butcher for some sausage, a number of rings of which were suspended from the ceiling. The butcher did not get the sausages down quick enough to suit Turney, so he pulled his gun and shot the string from several pieces, tumbling them to the floor.

"Wanted His Change"

On another occasion Turney walked into the saloon and bought a drink after putting a \$5 bill on the bar. The bartender rang up the whole amount and then when Turney asked for his change he was told there wasn't any. That instant Jim pulled his gun, remarking: "If you have my five dollars in the register I am going to ring it up," and proceeded to shoot the keys off the register until his gun was empty. Needless to say, the bartender by that time was more than willing to give Mr. Turney his change.

One of the most notorious and probably the most dangerous characters in the history of Rainy Lake City was one Boston O'Brien. Pickings were pretty slim for a man of his profession during the early spring, so one day he attempted to replenish his pocketbook from one of the saloons. Stepping into the saloon conducted by Pat Corrigan, he told the man at the bar, who happened to be Corrigan himself, that he wanted some money. When informed that the saloon had no money for him, O'Brien reached into his pocket, apparently to draw a gun. Corrigan was too quick for him and Mr. O'Brien received a bullet in the face which plowed through his cheek, took out several teeth and then came out on the other side of his face. Everybody thought that O'Brien had been fatally wounded, that is, everybody except O'Brien. He was thrown into a sled and rushed across the lake to Fort Frances where a doctor attended him and in two or three weeks he was back in Rainy Lake City, as fit as ever. This was the only violence of a serious nature that the writer can recall during his residence in Rainy Lake City.

"Gold Bug Was Lost"

We had a number of other eccentrics, one in particular that I remembered being "Gold Bug Jimmie." He was a very peaceable and pleasant man and was always prospecting for gold. It was reported, in fact proven, that Jimmie could not walk 20 yards in the woods without getting lost. The consequence was that when he landed his canoe and his prospecting outfit on the bank of the lake he always took his hatchet and proceeded to blaze a trail so that he could find his way back to the canoe. He did not realize that he would not be able to see it coming out, so he invariably got lost and spent many nights in the woods with only his pack-sack and campfire for company. However, Jimmie managed to locate two or three good gold prospects and disposed of them for a considerable sum. About ten years later the writer met Jimmie in Minneapolis and at that time looked like a man of millions.

The cause of all this hustle, bustle and enterprise at Rainy Lake City, the only reason, in fact, for the existence of the village, was a small piece of land in Rainy Lake known as Little American Island, containing only about 2½ acres of ground. Here, in early 1893, gold was discovered by a man by the name of Davis. This island was afterward purchased by a company of Duluth business men headed by Hutch Beaver, and the company was organized as the Beaver Gold Mining and Milling Company.

"Contained Free Gold"

The gold-bearing vein on the island could be traced from the east side clear through to the west, and where the vein showed up it was about four feet wide and contained a goodly amount of free gold.

Mining operations were started in February, 1894, with Jeff Hildreth as mine superintendent. Operations were begun on the west side of the island where the vein was the most promising. A shaft was later sunk in the central part of the island to the depth of 200 feet. From this shaft a drift tunnel was driven east and west along the vein, the ore being taken out and transported on scows or barges across the lake to the stamp mill located one mile east on the townside of what was then Rainy Lake City.

The ore was found to be only partially free-milling, and the vein found to be what is known "pocketed," and that is, irregular in width. In some places the vein was 20 feet wide; at other places it was only a foot in width and in some places only six inches. As a general thing where the vein was wide the ore was lean. Where the vein was smaller the ore was richer.

"Used Amalgam Process"

The stamp mill was located on the south shore of the point which juts out into Rainy Lake and it was housed in a building about 50 x 40 feet and 30 or 40 feet high, with a roof sloping toward the west. The mill was what is known as a five-stamp mill, equipped with the machinery necessary for collecting the minerals and a concentrator for collecting the refractory ore. When the ore arrived at the mill from the mine it was put through a crusher and then went from there to the stamp mill where it was mixed with water and pounded to a fine sand and then forced through a screen onto a copper plate. This place was covered with quicksilver which collected all free minerals. The residue went onto a moving belt, known as the concentrator, where the balance of the minerals was collected and put in containers to be shipped a smelter. The minerals known as "amalgam" and made known as "amalgam" and was made up of gold, silver, copper and several other metals. This was afterward put into an iron pot, known as a "retort," where it was subjected to an extremely high temperature to separate the minerals one from another.

"100 miles From Railway"

It may be interesting to the reader to learn how we got along with our travel and transportation problems during the last part of the 19th and the first part of the 20th centuries.

The nearest railroad point to Rainy Lake City was Tower, 100 miles to the Southwest. The route between the two points was as follows:

Winter route--Across Vermillion Lake to Wake-In-Up Bay across a portage to Elbow river: down this river to Pelican Lake to what was known as the Kabetogama road; following that road across Black Duck Lake; Ash river to Randolph's stopping place on Blind Ash; across Black Bay to

Rainy Lake City, a distance of 100 miles. The following year this route was changed to one that went across Lake Vermillion to Vermillion dam, then across 27½ miles of portage to Crane lake; across Crane and Sand Point lakes, Johnson lake and Spring lake to Randolph's junction on Manakabay, then across Namakan bay and Moose river to Randolph's stopping place on Blind Ash, where it connected with the old route across Lake Kabetogoma.

The summer route was practically the same, the only variation being the use of a steamboat to Vermillion dam and a stage across the 27½ miles to Crane lake, then a steamer, the "Winnifred Hayes," through Crane, Sand Point and Namakan lake to Kettle Falls, where after a short portage, the traveler boarded the steamboat Walter S. Lloyd which brought him down Rainy Lake, through the Narrows to Rainy Lake, through to Rainy Lake City. The U. S. mails were carried on both of these routes, in the winter by teams and some times dog teams, and in the summer by the steamboats.

"Route via Kenora"

There was still another route in use by some travelers. This left Duluth and crossed Lake Superior to Port Arthur, thence on the Canadian Pacific railway to Rat Portage (now Kenora), and then across Rainy River to Fort Frances, where, after crossing on the ferry, passengers were transferred to the Walter S. Lloyd and taken to Rainy Lake City.

"Operated Two Years"

To get the Walter S. Lloyd to Rainy Lake it was first run from Duluth to Port Arthur. Then loaded on cars and taken to Rat Portage, where it was unloaded into Lake of the Woods, run across that lake and up the Rainy river to Fort Frances, and from there hauled, "by main strength and awkwardness" around the falls and into Rainy Lake.

The first steamboat captains to navigate Rainy Lake were Walter and George Lloyd and the first engineer was Thomas O'Connor, with Angus Glassford as shipwright. Joseph Lloyd, still a resident of International Falls, was later added to the crew as purser.

The principal industry at Rainy Lake City was, of course, mining. The Little American mine, located on an island one mile west of the town, and the Lyle mine, located on the north side of Dry Weed island, were operated quite extensively for two years. On the latter it was finally discovered that although the quartz vein was 40 feet wide it was devoid of mineral. The company that operated this mine spent a lot of money trying to make the mine pay but finally had to abandon it. The machinery and other equipment was finally moved across to the Little American, where it was used for more than a year under the management of O. A. Watzke. The Bushy Head mine, on Bushy Head island, was operated by a company known as the Bushy head Mining company. The principal owner was a former resident of Wisconsin and the mine was operated for more than two years. The superintendent of this mine was known locally as Bushy Head Johnson.

The Hold, Harbor and Homan mine, located about one and a quarter miles east of Rainy Lake City, was operated during the year 1894 and then abandoned.

"Freight Rates High"

The chief reason why those mines were abandoned was the tremendous expense incident to the transportation of machinery and material for the working of the mines. When it is considered that every pound of freight, material and machinery had to be brought from Twoer, a distance of 100 miles, and the nearest railway point, and that all the hauling had to be done by team and that the rate for such hauling was readily be seen that the expense was prohibitive.

David Slafer
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HISTORY OF KOOCHICHING COUNTY

At the same time the English were establishing permanent colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, the French were becoming familiar with the territory a thousand miles inland. In fact, these French were beginning to reap a profit from the fur trade whose very existence was unknown to the colonists.

Among the territories visited by the French was the Lake Superior region. Groseillier and Radisson are credited with being the first white men to enter and navigate the lake. They were followed by such famous explorers as Allouez, Daniel Gresolon, sieur du Luth, and others including Jacques de Noyon, a French-Canadian voyageur.

De Noyon reached Lake Superior in 1688, and under the guidance of a party of Assiniboine Indians, he set out in hopes of finding the "Sea of the West". After ascending the Kaministiquia River, he followed a series of portages and lakes until he came to Rainy Lake. Here, at the outlet of the lake, he spent the winter, continuing to Lake of the Woods the next spring. There is no doubt that he used the Rainy River, for his descriptions were very accurate. De Noyon, therefore, is given the honor of being the first white man ever to traverse the northern boundary of Minnesota.

In 1717 Lieut. Zacharie Robutel de La Noue followed in De Noyon's footsteps as far as Rainy Lake.¹

The Rainy Lake Country was also visited by Joseph la France, a French-Ojibway half-breed. An account of his journey appeared in London in 1744 in a book by Art Dobbs, entitled "An Account of the Countries Adjoining to Hudson's Bay". This relates his trip through Rainy Lake and the ten days he spent at Koochiching

1. Report of the International Boundary Commission, 1931, p.190.

Falls on the Rainy River near the outlet of the lake. Here he found that the Moose band of the Ojibway Indians, for the purpose of fishing, had two villages. One village was on the north side of the river, about where Fort Frances now stands, and the other was on the south side, approximately on the site of International Falls.²

The narrative gave Rainy Lake the name Lac de la Pluie, which in English means Lake of the Rain. The original Cree name for the lake was Ouchicicq. This word was later translated as Koochiching, and it in turn was chosen as the name of the county. Both Ouchicicq and Takamaniouen (name applied to the river) are ancient Indian names and have had varied spellings, but it may be true that one or both gave, in translation, the French and English names, which refer to the mists of the falls, resembling rain.

All of the explorers who visited northern Minnesota found Indians there. At some early date the Algonquin Indians, also known as the Ojibways or Chippewa, and their close relation, the Ottawas, began a westward trek. The Ottawas settled along the shores of Lake Michigan, but the Ojibways continued until they had penetrated as far west as the Red River Valley. They found the country west of Lake Superior already settled by the Sioux (Dakotas). After generations of continual warfare the Sioux were displaced.

The Chippewas did not settle in one large community, but in bands or family groups. These scattered throughout the forests, for they were primarily forest Indians. One of these bands, ancestors of the present Bois Fort Indians, headed north and settled in what was to become Koochiching County. They first settled around Lake Vermilion, but later moved to Nett Lake. Here, also, the Sioux were in possession of the land and eventually were dislodged. Traces of the Sioux occupancy are found in a few place names. Some rock pictures on an island in Nett Lake are believed to be of Sioux origin, but some authorities attribute them to the Chippewas. There is also a well authenticated record of

2. Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. XII, p. 281-282.

a battle between the two tribes at a point between Pelican and Vermilion Lakes. Bleached human bones and parts of weapons are often found there.

After expelling the Sioux, the Bois Fort Indians roamed over the entire area that is now Koochiching County, and the northern halves of St. Louis, Lake, and Cook Counties. They had a loose political affiliation with their kinsmen to the south, but in the main were independent. They were looked upon by the other tribes as poor and miserable. This estimation was largely exaggerated, for the country abounded with game and fish, and each year the moose and woodland caribou passed through on their annual migration to the prairies.

The tribe was early referred to as the "men of the thick woods". The present generations call themselves "Sugwaundugahwinnewug" or "men of the thick fir woods".³

It is uncertain whether Groseillier and Radisson ever reached Hudson's Bay from Lake Superior by way of Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake. Radisson's own journal is not clear on this point, and most historians consider this claim an exaggeration. However, the Minnesota Historical Society Collections make reference to a fort built by them at the outlet of Rainy Lake.⁴

The first fort and trading post on Rainy River of which there is definite proof, was erected by La Verendrye's party in 1732. In 1731 he had started a series of exploration trips, and when he reached Lake Superior he decide to follow the Pigeon River-Rainy Lake water route to the west. (This route had already become famous, and was mentioned as a major route in an official letter dated Quebec, Oct. 1722.) An advance party under his nephew, La Jemeraye, went on ahead to the west end of Rainy Lake. Here, on what is now called Pither's Point (2 miles east of Fort Frances), they built a trading post which was named "Fort St. Pierre" in honor of La Verendrye. The next year a few men

3. Duluth News Tribune, May 18, 1931.

4. Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. VIII, p. 351.

were left there and La Verendrye followed the Rainy River to Northwest Angle Inlet of Lake of the Woods, where another trading post was established. Both posts were maintained continuously from 1731 to 1749.⁵

Another famous person who used the Pigeon River-Rainy Lake Route was Alexander Henry, who visited that area in 1775. His "Travels and Adventures in Canada and the Indian Territories, Between the Years 1760 and 1776" was published in 1809. Referring to his trip, he relates:

"From Lake Naymayean (Namakan) ----- and its course about north by west, three and a half miles to the Lac de la Pluie (Rainy Lake) ----- the discharge of this lake is called Lac de la Pluie River (Rainy River), at whose entrance there is a rapid, below which is a fine bay where there had been an extensive picketed fort and building when possessed by the French, but the site of it is at present a beautiful meadow. Two miles onward is the present trading establishment, situated on a high bank on the north side of the river, in 48.37 N. Latitude".⁶

By 1800 the post at Rainy Lake had become one of the greatest in the northwest, and it had charge of an area in which the Northwest and X.Y. Companies struggled for supremacy. It also had jurisdiction over posts at Mille Lacs, Eagle, and Clay Lakes and at the Dalles of the Winnipeg, as well as those at Lake Vermilion and Lake of the Woods.

The post was of special importance because it was the terminal point for the famous Athabasca brigades, made up of the hardest voyageurs in the northwest, ~~ended their journeys~~, and the special brigades from Montreal.

The post (after being moved a number of times) was located on the north side of the Rainy River, high above the river where a series of falls and rapids formed the outlet to the lake. A portage running past the post led around the

5. Report of the International Boundary Commission, 1931, p. 191.

6. Ibid, p. 195.

falls and rapids. The post was certainly one of the oldest in the area, having been in continual operation since 1732. Between 1804 and 1805 it was a focal point in the rivalry between the two great fur companies. Peace was restored when a messenger reached the post on January 12, 1805, with the news that the two organizations had become one.

From the very outset the fort was a center of the canoe-making industry, for here the canoe-birch grew abundantly. The canoe makers were usually Indians, and as many as ninety canoes were made during one season.

There was always a cooper at the fort, whose duty was to make barrels in which to store the wild rice gathered in the swamps and lakes near the fort.

One of the major industries at the fort was fishing. Its importance was so great as to have been noted by many visitors to the fort.

It must be remembered that this trading post was located on the north side of the Rainy River. Not until after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War was there any distinction between what was English and what was American soil. On Nov. 5, 1782, the American and English commissioners agreed on a boundary line between the two countries, and as a result the post was definitely established as being on English ground, since the boundary, at that place, ran along the center of the river's channel.

From the very beginning there was a definite reason why the trading posts were established on the north rather than on the south side of the river. A review of the geological or survey maps of the region will show that the north side was most ideally suited for the site of a fort, particularly the area near the outlet of the lake. Here the south side was a vast swamp extending away from the river's edge, while the other shore was a bluff topped by a stretch of level land. Here it was that the posts were established, and later the city of Fort Frances, Ontario. The superiority of this site was early recognized, for there was a great deal of jealousy among the settlers of the south shore over the advantages had by the others.

While the English held the advantage of location, it is of historical interest to Koochiching County, that a large part of the post's business was carried on among the Indian tribes living along the Black, Little Fork, and Big Fork Rivers. The Big Fork was especially important, as it was for many years a major route from Rainy Lake to the posts on the headwaters of the Mississippi. They were the largest rivers emptying into the Rainy River, and extended far south into what became Koochiching and Itasca Counties.

The following excerpts from "The Diary of Hugh Faries"⁷ will bear out the importance of these rivers:

Thurs-day 4th. Richard & I set off in a small canoe to go to the River Noire (Black River). we went as far as the Big Forks, where we found Mailloux. we slept there. he had caught 3 Sturgeons to day.

Friday 5th. We went down early to the River Noire & saw the Premier and his band. ----- Mailloux caught 5 Sturgeons this morning.

Wednes-day 21st. In the evening arrived Richard with 27 plus, that he mustered up among 8 or 9 indians. About 9 oclock he set off again to go up the Big Forks, with 3 men &c.

Monday 26th. I sent La France with 2 others up the Big Forks.

Thursday 11th. About 12 oclock, I sent Richard & Young Umpher-ville, to the Big Forks to trade Sugar.

Friday 26th. In the afternoon arrived two women from the Big Forks, with 20 Skins in Beaver & 60 Bundles Wattap.

Thursday 9th. At 1 oclock in the morning I set off to see the indians at the Big Forks. we got there 5 oclock, & after searching in all the lodges, I found only one Beaver and a quantity of Wattap.

7. Five Fur Traders of the Northwest, Gates, pp. 189-241.

at 1 oclock, we embark'd on our way home, at the Little Forks, en passant we got 18 Sturgeons from the Sainers.

For a long time there had been a rivalry between the Northwest Company and the X.Y. Company for the fur trade in the region. In 1804 there was an X.Y. post near the falls and closer to the portage. Again the Diary casts some interesting sidelights on this rivalry.

Monday 24th.-----The Picotte & his wife, came to the fort, about 2 oclock. Mr McLellan arrived shortly after & kicked them both out of the Fort. (they had given all their oats (wild rice) to the X.Y.

Friday 2nd.-----About 12 oclock I sent Mr McCrae, with 3 men off to winter at the Dalles, along side of the X.Y.

Wednesday 14th.-----Richard with 2 men gone up the ^River Noire, where I suppose the X.Y. gone to.

Monday 19th.-----I was informed by Laverdure, that the X.Y. were preparing to go a derouine. Accordingly I got Goods &c. ready to follow them & kept three men all night about their fort watching them.

Tuesday 20th.-----A little after dark I sent a man across the river, & another to the point below the fort, to watch the X.Y.

Wednesday 5th. About 12 oclock, I sent La France with 2 others after the X.y. who set off last night.

Thursday 6th. In the evening arrived the 2 men that set off with La France. they overtook the Xy at the Big Forks.

Saturday 29th. About 12 oclock Cantarat came home & tells me that the XY are following Laverdure.

Sunday 5th. ----- a little after dark, I was surprised at the return of Maillaux with one of the Sainers, to inform me that Chenette

was arrived at the little Forks; & that the X.y. was coming behind, & might probably trade along the river. I embarked in a small Sautex canoe, with 2 men, & arrived at the Little Fork at 9 oclock. I sent Jourdain & Young Umpherville, to the Long Sault, to remain there till all the Lac des Bois people were past.

For a number of years after the two rival trading companies were united, the post carried on its regular duties. In 1821 the North West Company was united with the Hudson's Bay Company, and as a result the company's headquarters were transferred to York Fort on Hudson's Bay.⁸ At present (1937) the Hudson's Bay Company has a store at Fort Frances, which is the center for most of the fur trading activities for that section of Canada.

The date of the founding of the first fur post on the American side of the river (International Falls) is not known. One of William Warren's maps sets the date at 1823, but other evidence does not substantiate this. John Tanner was at the post in 1822 and does not refer to it as a new establishment. Major Stephan H. Long visited it in 1823, but did not indicate in any way that it was a new post. It is entirely possible that the post was erected sometimes after 1816 when the American Fur Company became the chief fur-trading organization around the Head of the Lakes. This company lasted only to 1834, when Astor withdrew his interests. Ramsey Crooks reorganized the company, but he too, was forced into bankruptcy. During these two decades the fur trade dwindled rapidly. The cause of this was the fact that for hundreds of years the Indians of northern Minnesota had been used to dealing with English traders, and when the Americans got control of the trade, rather than deal with them they would travel hundreds of miles to trade with a familiar concern.

When Crooks went bankrupt, the Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Company of St. Louis, Missouri, bought what business remained and under this concern the posts of northern Minnesota were abandoned.

As was true in other sections of the state, the lumberman followed the trapper. The oldest residents of the Big Fork area believe that the first logs cut in that

part of Itasca County which became Koochiching were cut along that river and floated north into Canada and from there shipped to England for use in the ship-yards. In 1910 a homesteader came across a skidding dray loaded with square-hewn timbers. The logs of both the dray and load were so old as to crumple when touched.⁹

The early logging companies in the area operated at the headwaters of the Mississippi River, but later moved to the Big Fork and its tributaries, and for a long time these rivers were the only means of transportation. In the late 1880's the Wright and Davis Lumber Company constructed a road from the Mississippi River to Hibbing, and later a branch was built from Hibbing to the Big Fork.

The major line of the earliest railroad in Koochiching county was made by the Backus lumber interests. After erecting their mills at International Falls, they built a railroad as far south as northern Itasca County. This road is still being used.

It is not surprising that at a very early date the logging companies eyed the present site of International Falls with interest. What intrigued them most was "Chaudiere Falls". It was recognized that if the waterfall was made use of, it would be the source of cheap power. (The falls are at the head of an 18,000 square mile watershed, of which at least one-fourth is water). To this potential water power International Falls owes its existence and present greatness.

One of the most important logging railroads in northern Minnesota was the Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad. It was owned and operated by the Itasca Lumber Company, and after thirty years of continuous service was discontinued.

For a long time most of Koochiching County remained as isolated as though it were near the North Pole. There were no roads, and the only way it could be reached was by a hundred or more miles of canoeing and portaging. Prior to the 1880's, the only white men to visit Rainy Lake other than explorers and

9. Grand Rapids Herald-Review Anniversary Supplement, September 19, 1934, p. 2.

traders, were a few trappers, and timber estimators. The handful of hardy farmers who remained in the area after the Fort William-Fort Garry (Winnipeg) route was abandoned because of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, seldom left their tiny farms to go to Rainy River. Lumbering, when it reached Rainy River, was for some time only a winter industry.

The most interesting incident in the history of Koochiching County was the Rainy Lake Gold Rush in 1894. Toward the last of July, 1893, George W. Davis camped on an island located about 12 miles east of Ranier. After discovering the gold quartz he remained on the island for about a month, then went to Fort Frances for supplies. He returned with a man named Quirk and a blacksmith. The first blast was fired on August 29. Later in the year he made a trip to Duluth, and here he told of his discovery. Immediately a concentrated rush started for the gold. The Bevier Mining and Milling Company was organized in January, 1894, to operate Davis' claim.

At this time there were no roads of any kind leading to Rainy Lake, but there were two main water routes to Rainy River. The winter route was most popular: across Lake Vermilion to Wake-Em-Up Bay; portage to Elbow River; down this river to Pelican Lake to what was known as the Kabetogama Road; follow that road across Black Duck Lake; Ash River to Randolph's stopping place on Blind Ash; across Lake Kabetogama near Neshota Point to Black Bay Portage, then across Black Bay to Rainy Lake City.¹⁰

The summer route was practically the same, the only variation being the use of a steamboat to Vermilion Dam and a stage across the $27\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Crane Lake; then a steamer, the "Winnifred Hayes," through Crane, Sand Point and Namakan Lake to Kettle Falls, where, after short portage, the traveler boarded the steamboat Walter S. Lloyd which brought him down Rainy Lake, through the narrows to Rainy Lake City.¹¹

10. The Daily Journal, International Falls, April 23, 1936, p. 17.

11. Ibid.

Some travelers used still a third route; the most comfortable of all.

This left Duluth and crossed Lake Superior to Port Arthur, thence on the Canadian Pacific Railway to Rat Portage (Kenora), and then across Lake of the Woods on the steamers Monarch or Shamrock and up Rainy River to Fort Frances, where, after crossing on the ferry, passengers were transferred to the Walter S. Lloyd and taken to Rainy Lake City.

In order to transport the heavy machinery and supplies for the mines, it was necessary to find a means by which they could be moved safely and rapidly. Finally a large load of heavy machinery reached Tower, and to move them the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Company constructed a road from Wiseman's Field in Tower to the narrows of Lake Vermilion. Another road, Portage Road, was cut from Vermilion Dam to Harding and Crane Lakes, a distance of 25 miles. In 1895 \$5,000 were spent to improve this road, and two years later an additional \$5,000.

Rainy Lake City was platted in 1894 by W.D. Patton for a Duluth company headed by Daniel J. Cash and S.W. Richardson. To this new city came people from all walks of life, interested only in finding gold. Actually the rush was not so great as one would be led to think, for at this same time the iron ore fields to the south were being developed and this divided the interest of the mining men. The city was organized the same year it was platted, and the first councilmen selected were W.M. Trumbull, C.P. McClure, John Berg (later Judge of Probate Court at International Falls), and Fred J. Bowman.

The gold mine was located on the Little American Island. The stamp mill was located on the south shore of the lake about a mile east of the city. The ore was transferred from the mine to the mill by scow. Near the mill a sawmill was erected by Kirkwood and Hubenack, and in its two years' existence cut most of the lumber used in building the city.

At the height of the boom the business units of the city consisted of three general stores, a hardware store, building materials store, butcher shop, print-

ing office, barber shop, three hotels, two restaurants, postoffice, customs office, and a bank.

An amusing incident is related about this bank. It was owned and operated by A.G. Butler of Duluth. At first affairs ran smoothly, but finally when the banking business became slow and unprofitable, he resolved to loot his own bank. Accordingly, one fine morning he opened the bank as usual. A short time later he ran out into the street yelling "Robbers"! Immediately the citizens armed themselves to the teeth and set off in pursuit of the scoundrels. Meanwhile Butler gathered together all the bank's available funds ^{and} set out in a hired canoe for Duluth. The weary and disappointed possemen soon returned, and they were told of the true state of affairs. Weary or not, they set off after the true culprit, catching him at Tower. After being made to give up the money he was set free.¹²

Rainy Lake City had a most active existence, but with a drop in the yield of gold, it soon died a natural life. Little remains of the city except its site. There is a slight possibility that it may once again become more than a "ghost town", for work has been started at the mine on Little American Island (1936).

The negotiations, treaties, and surveys which finally settled the boundary line between the United States and Canada extend over a period of more than 150 years. At the conclusion of the Revolutionary War the American and British commissioners agreed on a boundary that was rather indefinite. According to the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842, the future northern boundary was proclaimed in part to be: "thru-----Lake Namecan and through the several smaller lakes, straits or streams, connecting the lakes here mentioned, to that part in Lac la Pluie, or Rainy Lake, at the Chaudiere Falls-----along the line (in the center of the Rainy River channel) to the most northwestern part of the Lake of the Woods".¹³

12. International Falls Daily Journal, April 23, 1936.

13. International Boundary Commission, Washington, 1931.

As a result of this treaty both nations sent out survey parties to trace the boundary, and markers were set up.

The results of this survey were not so favorable as had been expected, and as a result a new treaty was signed on April 11, 1908, and another on February 24, 1925. Field operations were begun in 1908 and these were finished in 1926. The boundary line established by the field parties was adopted by both nations.

Meanwhile the Bois Fort Indians continued to roam all over the area. The Federal government had early recognized their ownership to a tract of land embracing 3,000 sections of land, but, as had happened elsewhere, the influx of the white settlers meant that the Indians were to be either driven out or restricted to a small area exclusively their own, upon which the homesteader could not encroach. In 1866 the government revoked their title to the 3,000 sections. The Indians surrendered all claim to the Vermilion Lake Reservation, but received a fairly large one around Nett Lake, and a smaller one at the mouth of Deer Creek, a tributary of the Big Fork River.

By 1905 the residents of the northern half of Itasca County felt that conditions had been advanced enough to entitle them to form a new county. Accordingly, on January 25, 1906, a petition was filed with the Secretary of State in St. Paul requesting the formation of a new county to be named Koochiching. The boundaries of the contemplated county were defined as follows:

"Beginning at the point where the line between ranges 29 and 30, west of the 5th principal meridian, intersects the boundary line between the United States and British possessions, said point being the Northwest corner of Itasca County, Minnesota; thence south on said range line to the line between townships 150 and 151; thence east on said township line to the southeast corner of township 151 north, range 25 west of the 5th principal meridian; thence north to the northwest corner of fractional township 62 north of range 27 west of the 4th principal meridian; thence east on the township line to the east line of said Itasca County, being the line between ranges 21 and 22 west of the 4th principal meridian; thence

north on the range line to its intersection with the boundary between the United States and the British possessions; thence westerly along said boundary line to the place of beginning, all of which said territory is within the present limits of the county of Itasca; ----- the name of said proposed new county shall be Koochiching County; ----- International Falls, within said territory¹⁴ hereinbefore described, be the county seat thereof".

A vote was taken in the area described on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1906, and on the favorable returns, on December 19 Governor Johnson signed the bill by which the county was definitely established. The first commissioners named by the governor were: Ronald S. McDonald, Nils L. Olson, Fred Smith, Charles M. Bowman and Hugh T. McIntosh.

Koochiching County today ranks as the third largest in the state. Seventy percent of its area of 1,971,243 acres is used for agriculture. It is considered one of the best clover seed regions of the United States. Its many small villages are typical farming communities.

International Falls, the county seat, largest community and only city in the county, derives its name from two sources: one the Koochiching Falls of Rainy River, and the other its position on the international boundary. Its main industry is the manufacture of all types of wood products. The huge mills of the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company are located on the river front so as to take advantage of the power derived from the falls. Not only do these mills make newspaper, but the finer grades of kraft, sulphite and groundwood paper, as well as heavy wrapping paper and paper boards such as are used in building construction and in the manufacture of boxes, containers and cartons. The first mill for the making of Insulite, and insulation material, was built here in 1916. Since then the mills have been greatly increased in size and capacity. A sawmill was constructed in 1910, and since that time has sawed as much as 75,000,000 feet of lumber in one year as well as employing 600 residents of the city.

The great supply of timber in Northern Minnesota insures an almost perpetual supply of timber and pulpwood for the mills at International Falls.

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WRITER'S PROJECT
NO. 1400
KOOCHICHING COUNTY

SOCIETIES

" A County Historical Society"

Sunday's gathering of hundreds of Old Settlers of Koochiching county for an annual get-to-gether to recall pioneer days in this community brings to mind that in a few years these hundreds of pioneer men and women will have dwindled to a mere score. When the secretary read the roll of the men and women who had passed away during the past few years, more than sixty names were called. It will not be many years before the men and women who pioneered in Koochiching county have all passed away. ~~Just~~ Reminiscences exchanged at the Old Settlers' picnic indicate that there is a wealth of important historical material concerning Koochiching county that should be recorded and preserved.

Koochiching county has no historical society. It is a comparatively young county, but its history and background are picturesque and of importance when related to that of the state in general. Practically every county in Minnesota has an historical society which serves to stimulate interest in the work done by early settlers in founding and developing communities. The societies meet to hear talks on early days in Minnesota and to hear papers on topics of historical interest that are then preserved in the society's archives. Many of the state historical societies maintain museums where relics of the early days in the community are preserved. Documents and papers are often discovered that are of great value to the state historical society.

While Koochiching county still has a goodly number of its actual settlers and pioneers who can personally describe the story of our county's founding and early development, citizens of the International Falls community should take active steps to preserve their stories, to make a collection of valuable old papers and to form a permanent county historical society.

"Koochiching County Historical Society Organized Wednesday"
Mrs. R. Doherty Heads Group Sponsored By Old Settlers

Organization of a Koochiching County Historical society was completed last night by a special committee headed by Mrs. Ruth Doherty, who was appointed to take charge of the project by the Old Settlers association at its annual meeting held July 15.

Members of the committee named by Mrs. Doherty are George Scarlett of Littlefork; H. J. Miner, International Falls; Roy Larson, county superintendent of schools; Judge John Berg, vice president of the Old Settlers association; Miss Agnes Holstad, editor of the International Falls Daily Journal; Miss Effie Norris, librarian; and Fred Smith of Laurel. This group met last night at the city library and formally organized the county historical group according to plans suggested by the Minnesota State Historical society.

Mrs. Doherty was elected president of the society, Judge Berg, vice-president; Miss Holstad, secretary; and H. J. Miner, treasurer. Miss Norris was elected librarian and will be in charge of files and papers to be preserved by the society.

To Meet Each Month

According to present plans the society will hold regular meetings the first Wednesday of each month. Membership is open to any person residing in Koochiching county who is interested in the work of such a group. A small fee of fifty cents per individual or family membership was decided upon.

Roy Larson, county superintendent of schools, was named to promote an historical project among the school children of the county in connection with National Educational Week early in November. He will be assisted by J. A. Sathrum superintendent of schools in International Falls. The project includes the gathering of historical exhibits from all parts of the county and the presentation of a program during the week, at which time a display of the exhibits will be made. Civic organizations will be invited to co-operate in this project.

A county-wide board was appointed to assist officers of the society with organization work. These persons will be asked to take charge of membership solicitation in their various communities and to cooperate in the work of collecting materials of historical interest.

Directors Appointed

Members appointed to the board of directors include: Mrs. Blanch Manning, Holler; Mrs. C. S. Wood, Ranier; Mrs. Paul, Nothome; Mrs. Harley Reinartz, Mizpah; Mrs. E. W. Gosline, Gemmell; Mrs. I. W. Hinkley, Loman; Mrs. E. J. Chilgren, Littlefork; Mrs. Fred Correll, Big Falls; Andrew Dale, Margie; J. R. Mack, Waukanha; Mrs. Albert Young, Laurel; Mrs. Eric Bergsman, Birchdale; Mrs. Earl Schmoots, Indus; Mrs. John Alich, Border; Mrs. Clara St. Lawrence, Ntt Lake; Mrs. Ingman Anshus, Silverdale; Frank Babish, Harrigan; P. A. Erickson, Ray; Mrs. Leo Foster, Cingmars; Mrs. Ode Darvel, Ericsburg; Mrs. John Bursack, Wildwood; Mrs. Richard Barstad, Lindford; Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Craigville; Mrs. Tom Cobey, Clementson; Mrs. Herb Montgomery, Wayland; Mrs. Hans Kjemperud, Indahl.

PRESERVING BORDER LEGEND

Organization last night of a Koochiching County Historical association is an important step forward in the development of this community. Koochiching county is one of the youngest counties of the state, having many of its first settlers still active, and organization of an historical association at this time is very fortunate, since there will be many sources of information at close hand.

Koochiching county is rich in romantic lore. Across the early stage of this community moved the Indian, the trapper, the logger and the boatman. Legends of the border country should be preserved.

Numerous landmarks and relics are extant and it will be the good fortune of Koochiching county to have an organization whose special interest it will be to collect and preserve the mementoes of the past for future generations. Efforts will be made to procure a room for storing and exhibiting relics of interest and historical significance.

Schools of Koochiching county will participate in a special historical project during National Education Week, during which the younger generation will be made community-history conscious. This program will have far-reaching effects in building up pride in community and a sense of civic responsibility.

Continued - Preserving Border Legend

In addition to collecting and preserving papers and documents of historical importance, the work of the Koochiching Historical society will preserve for coming generations intimate stories of the personalities of the men and women who founded and built this community.

In forming such a society for the preservation of local legend and history, Koochiching county joins a group of forty counties in the State of Minnesota which are actively concerned about community history. These groups cooperate with the Minnesota State Historical society and are rendering an invaluable service to the historians who will record the history of the North Star State.

The newly organized Koochiching County Historical society was sponsored by the Old Settlers association and to the men and women of that public-spirited group members of the Historical society will look for much help and inspiration and active assistance in effectively carrying out its purpose.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO MEET WEDNESDAY

The first regular meeting of the Koochiching County historical society will be held Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in the public library.

All persons in the community interested in the preservation of historical materials are invited to become members of this organization, which was sponsored by the Old Settlers association. Mrs. Ruth Doherty is president of the society.

Membership dues have been set at fifty cents per year per family.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS MEETING WED.

An interesting meeting of the recently organized Koochiching County Historical society was held Wednesday afternoon at the public library. Plans for the year's programs were discussed and a special committee are H. J. Miner, Mrs. Correll of Big Falls, Roy H. Larson and Judge John Berg.

Eleven new members were reported at the meeting Wednesday. Judge Berg, vice president of the society, presided in the absence of Mrs. R.H. Doherty, president.

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN HISTORICAL WORK OF SOCIETY

Schools throughout the country were quite successful in their historical programs presented during the past month, Roy H. Larson, superintendent of county schools, reported yesterday afternoon at the monthly meeting of the Koochiching County Historical society.

Schools at Northome, Mizpah, Nett Lake, Birchdale, Border, Loman, Craig, Big Falls, and International Falls participated in the historical project, Mr. Larson said, with many persons in the communities, besides the pupils showing a great deal of interest in the work presented.

A special committee on research and approval, consisting of C. B. Montgomery, Frank Land and Jim Drummond, was appointed by Mrs. R. H. Doherty, president of the organization, to check on the historical data which will be offered for publication.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS VERY INTERESTING MEETING;

INDIANS ADDRESS GROUP

On the invitation of Miss Clara St. Lawrence, principal of the combined Indian and county school at Nett Lake, the October meeting of the Koochiching County Historical society was held at the school last Sunday, October 6th. Following a short business meeting of the society, the following interesting program arranged by Miss St. Lawrence, with the assistance of the Indian residents of the Nett Lake community, was given:

Hymn--Sung in the Chippewa language by a mixed group of natives.

Address--"Political History of Nett Lake," Albert Brown.

Song--"Home on the Range," Mixed voices.

Address--"History of School Life at Nett Lake," Mrs. Alva Isham Brown.

Song--Indian Lullaby, group of Indian girls.

Address--"History of the Discovery of Nett Lake," Charles Day, interpreted by L. Connor.

Song--"Long, Long Ago," Mixed voices.

Address--"Nursing Care at Nett Lake," Miss A. C. Phillips, field nurse.

Song--"Grandfather's Clock," Mixed voices.

Address--"The Industries of Nett Lake Historically, beginning at the time when the Chippewa Indians lived on Fisher's Island as a protective measure against the warring Sioux," Lawrence Connor

Song--"Santa Lucia," Group of girls.

Address--"The Future of Nett Lake," J. G. Morrison, field aid, U. S. Indian service.

Hymn (in Chippewa), Chippewa choir.

The meeting then adjourned to the athletic field where the original game of La Crosse was played under the direction of Chas. Geshick. Types of dancing such as fast war dance, give-away dance and rabbit dance were then demonstrated in costume by Mrs. J. Peterson, Mrs. Chas. Strong, Mrs. Jourdain, Tony Sucker and Mrs. J. Wein. The men at the drums were Eddie Burnside, Walter Drift, Roy Boness and Bill Burnside.

In the evening a large pow-wow was held at the Indian Council hall and all participants were beautifully and artistically garbed in their fanciful costumes.

Much interesting and historical information was given by the Indians in their talks at the meeting which has been reduced to writing and will be filed among the records of the historical society.

John Roy, full-blood Chippewa, related the following legend regarding Spirit Island: "Spirit Island is a small island located about a quarter of a mile from the shore directly across from the W. Johnson

Continued - Historical Society holds Very interesting Meeting;

home on Nett Lake. This island is so called because there are on its rock surface many interesting shapes and pictures. They seem to be in a smoky film imbedded in the rock, mostly of a reddish brown hue in the gray rock. The legend as related is, that the first Indians coming through here, because the routes to the various hunting grounds led through the vicinity, had to be very cautious because the warring Sioux was ever on the lookout for the scalps of the Chippewas. It seems that the pictures of the various spirits were in the rock at the time these Indians first visited the island. At times it seemed to them that they could hear sounds as if children were playing on the island. Of course, no one heard the place at these times as they knew the island to be uninhabited and they felt it would be sacrilegious to enter. The belief is that the spirits who played on the islands placed the pictures there."

It was estimated that two hundred and fifty people attended the meeting including the 82 school children. Lunch was served at the school at noon. Quite a number were present at the meeting from International Falls, including all the officers of the Historical Society.

HISTORICAL PROGRAM AT BORDER ATTRACTS ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD

The program for the November P.T.A. meeting was of a historical nature and the Border people are to be congratulated on their efforts to make a very good program of reminiscence. Members of the 4-H club sang a welcome song to the pioneers and the program proper followed.

Mrs. John Fangren's paper was about the early school days. Mrs. George Vagts read a paper on the experiences of a pioneer school teacher. Mrs. Griff Searles gave an interesting story as she was a pupil of the first school. Mrs. John Alich read a letter from Mrs. Annie S. Williams our first county superintendent which was written to Mrs. Alich for this occasion. George Sheppard, an aged pioneer, gave a brief sketch of experiences of early homesteaders. Mr. Norland, also a pioneer, gave a short talk.

There followed a style parade of about twenty old costumes, some wedding gowns, one Swedish national costume, one trapper, and others. While Mrs. Andrew Grozin played old melodies on the piano the audience gazed interestedly at crinolines, bustles, leg-o-mutton sleeves, trains, flounces, fringes with many a sigh of admiration and many a smile.

The closing feature of the program was a group of old dances. Steve Malone proved his reputation as a step dancer with George Murray at the fiddle. Following this was a quadrille, very stately and intricate. The music was by George Murray and Mr. Gabrielson. The interesting figures were called by George Vagts. The dancers were Mrs. E. Paradis and R. L. Dufrene, Mrs. S. Malone and J. A. C. Lindsay, Mrs. Lindsay and Eugene Paradis, and Mrs. Steve Malone.

Before and after the program, great interest was shown in the display of old pictures and relics. There were old school pictures, wedding picture old friends gone but well remembered. The exhibits included: an old piece quilt, the tiny patches dyed in two shades with copperas, and old horse pistol and powder horn, Indian arrowheads and tomahawks, not forgetting a fine calumet, a silk opera hat from Germany, an ancient spinning wheel and one not so old, a family cradle, and beside it a clumsy corn crade, and old copper tea kettle and among many more old souvenirs was the organ proudly used in the first school by Miss Helen Munroe.

About 300 attended the meeting in the schoolhouse.

EARLY RESIDENTS OF RANIER RELATE HISTORY OF VILLAGE
AT HISTORICAL MEETING

"Community Club Entertains Historians-Ranier"

The regular monthly meeting of the Koochiching County Historical Society was conducted jointly with the Ranier Community club at ~~the~~ school house in Ranier on Wednesday evening and proved to be a very interesting event. About fifty from the two communities were in attendance and much early day history and interesting events were discussed. The joint meeting was presided over by Mrs. Spencer Clapp, president of the Ranier Community Club and Mrs. Ruth Doherty, president of the Historical Society.

Among the first settlers at Ranier, those who were there at the time, the Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific railway arrived in October, 1907, were Mrs. J. Fay Walton, John Erickson, Ed. Jameson, the Hilke family and Mrs. Walter Nelson. These people were all at the meeting and gave some very interesting history of the early days in that community.

Mrs. Nelson favored the gathering with some early day photos of scenes in and about Ranier and the first families, and Mrs. Hitchcock brought several issues of the Ranier Journal, a weekly newspaper, published in that village in 1908-9-10. One issue in particular, which was printed in red ink related how the editor of that sheet and the editor and publisher of one of the early day newspapers at International Falls engaged in a fisticuff over some slighting remarks made by one of them.

Mrs. J. Fay Walton, now of International Falls, whose father was one of the engineers during the construction of the canal and locks at Fort Frances in 1873, gave some very interesting incidents taken from his diary and records. Mrs. Walton was a little over three months of age when she was brought to Fort Frances by her parents.

Flash light pictures of the early settlers and the whole group in attendance at the meeting were taken during the evening.

The ladies of the Ranier club served a very fine lunch at the close of the meeting.

The Historical society wish to announce that every family and individual in Koochiching county is eligible to join the organization. It makes no difference whether you have resided in the county for one year or fifty. The annual dues are only 50 cents per year and this fee covers the dues for the whole family. The Koochiching County Historical society is identified with the Minnesota State Historical society, and is interested in compiling and preserving the early day history of the county and surrounding territory. It is hoped that many residents of the county and this city will identify themselves with and become interested in the work of the Society.

Rec'd 6/25/37

Duluth, Minn.
June 24, 1937
Harry P. Spooner

Ads: 1650

KOOCHICHING COUNTYLocal History and Personages

INTERNATIONAL FALLS was visioned as an industrial and trade center at an early date. It is said, that the French voyageur Jacques de Noyon visited here, about the year 1688. La Verendrye, in 1732, established a trading post, named "Fort St. Pierre," on the Rainy River near what is now Fort Frances. In 1816 the American Fur Company erected a post at Koochiching Falls, near the present site of International Falls, and this operated until 1834.

The great forests of this section attracted lumbering interests, and sawmills were built near Koochiching Falls. The rivers flowing into Rainy River and Lake served as means for transporting the logs to the sawmills at International Falls.

In 1910 the Minnesota & Ontario Paper Co. built several lumber mills here, and constructed the Koochiching Dam, for developing water power to operate the mills. This company is one of the largest organizations of its kind in the world, and employs several thousand persons in its Paper, Insulite, and Saw Mills.

International Falls is the gateway to the Rainy Lake and Canadian outdoor recreation regions, and a good market for produce raised in the county agricultural centers.

J.J. Hadler, president of the International Falls Kiwanis Club, started practising law in 1915 at Big Falls, and came to International Falls in 1919. He has been president of the Commercial Club, Commander of the William Robideau American Legion Post No. 66, and president of the local Baseball association. In 1924 he was appointed city attorney and re-appointed for three successive terms.

John Berg has served as Probate Judge of Koochiching County, at International Falls, for about twenty years. He has been an active member of historical organizations and chairman of the Old Settlers Association.

Joseph Lloyd, a pioneer resident of International Falls, served as purser on the Walter S. Lloyd, the first steamboat to navigate on Rainy Lake, in 1894.

Frank Pelland, an old settler, came to this county in 1891, and settled on a farm near South International Falls, where he now lives.

A.H. Powers, part-owner of the Riverside Hotel, came to International Falls in 1916. From 1902 to 1923 he was well-known in the Border region, as a guide, and a buyer of furs.

Fred G. Nelson, owner of the Pioneer Jewelry Store, established his business here in 1904. He has served as councilman, member of school board and as first secretary of the Charter Commission in 1909.

Dr. B.F. Osburn, physician and surgeon, has been in charge of the Northern Minnesota Hospital since 1909.

Miss Ermina Pelland, proprietor of the Border Studio, which specializes in photographic views of the Rainy Lake region, established her business here in 1912.

H.E. La Prelle, secretary of the International Falls Commercial Club, has been a very active booster for the city.

BIG FALLS was one of the earliest logging centers of Northern Minnesota and lumbering continues to be its principal industry.

This town is gradually developing into a farming center for Big Fork River Valley.

The Twomey-Williams Co., owning large timber holdings and operating large mills here, has planned to build a dam and expand their lumber business.

Ross Slack, county commissioner, came to Big Falls as a homesteader in 1900. Later he was engaged in the logging and lumbering business for almost twenty years. He was elected county commissioner in 1919 and re-elected in 1923 and 1927.

Postmaster Arthur B. Paul, settled in Big Falls in 1901 and was appointed postmaster in 1908. He operates a drug store in the post office building.

H.C. Grove is editor and publisher of the Big Fork Compass, a local newspaper which he purchased in 1911. Mr. Grove settled in Grand Falls in 1900, and later sold his homestead to purchase the newspaper.

NORTHOME was an early lumbering center in the county. It was a typical lumbering town, and its business section consisted of dance halls, gambling parlors, and a general store.

As the timber was cleared, the farm value of the rich soil was recognized by many. Today the village is the center of a productive farming district.

The Koochiching County Fair is held annually at Northome.

Hon. Chris P. Ellingson is one of the most outstanding men in the town. He was born in Norway and came to Wisconsin in 1883. Later he established a lumbering firm in Hawkins, Wisconsin. In 1910 he was nominated and elected representative to represent Chippewa and Rusk counties, and served in the 1911 session with distinction. He settled in Northome in 1911, purchased 200 acres on the north shore of Island Lake, and built a sawmill of 40,000-feet capacity. This industry helped to advance the future prospects of Northome. Mr. Ellingson served eight years as mayor, and as a member of the Koochiching County Board during 1916 and 1917.

Postmaster C.W. Field has held his position for over 20 years. He settled here in 1904. Mr. Field is a partner in Field & Son Medical Emporium, and owns an 80-acre farm near the town.

William Darrin, owner of Darrin feed store and warehouse, came to Northome in October, 1900, and at Bartlet Lake established one of the district's first sawmills. It had a daily capacity of 20,000 feet. In 1913 he retired and started operating in the flour and feed business.

A.K. Aaberg, pioneer merchant, owns and operates the Aaberg general merchandise store, which he opened in 1902. He owns 800 acres of farm land. Mr. Aaberg was born in Norway and came to Buffalo County, Wisconsin, in 1893; later he moved to South Dakota and then to Northome. Mr. Aaberg has served as justice of peace; a member of the board of education for five years; three years as village president; president of the First National bank, which he helped to re-organize in 1926.

John J. Neary, a pioneer business man of Northome since 1897, still operates his general merchandise store. He owns a 280-acre farm near town. Mr. Neary has served as mayor, a member of the education board, and alderman.

Mr. R.H. Collar, owner of the Collar Hardware Co., established the business in 1922. He is the only surviving early promoter for the establishment of Koochiching County Fair at Northome. Mr. Collar settled here in 1902, homesteaded 160 acres and

later started a lumber business.

Northome's Consolidated School is one of the best in the county. This village has four churches: Methodist Episcopal, English Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Episcopal.

MIZPAH is a farming community which serves as a distribution center for farm produce of the district.

E.W. Francis, postmaster of Mizpah, homesteaded 160 acres here in 1900, and platted the townsite in 1902. Mr. Francis was appointed postmaster in 1905 and still served in this position.

E.J.W. Kohlhasse, mayor of Mizpah and president of the State Bank which he organized in 1913, is one of the town's outstanding citizens.

Theodore Siats has been station agent for the Minnesota and International Railway at Mizpah for 17 years. He has served as village treasurer, councilman, and member of the school board.

F.W. Foster owns and operates a general merchandise store, and a flour and feed mill. Mr. Foster settled here in 1907 on 160 acres along the Little Fork River.

Fred Siats, a Mizpah pioneer, operates his farm and town store. He homesteaded here in 1902, served as postmaster from 1910 to 1913, town clerk for 20 years, and village clerk for 18 years.

A Presbyterian and an English Lutheran are the only churches in Mizpah.

In 1914 the Mizpah Community Club was organized.

LIBRARIES

The public library system of Koochiching County is conducted on a plan similar to that of other Minnesota counties having small, scattered agricultural communities.

Rural districts are served by regional libraries through a network of branch, school, and traveling libraries, and package service.

For the unification of the county library service, the Contract Plan is used, with contracts made between the county commissioners and the 3 school districts, including unorganized territory.

The State Library Division supervises public libraries which have been developed through State-aid, and gives all libraries practical assistance in the solution of

administration and organization problems. Federal aid has also been given the libraries in recent years.

International Falls is the center of the county library system; the largest libraries and the distribution headquarters are located here.

The public library in International Falls has 24,272 volumes, 3,784 borrowers or 57% of the city's population, and a general circulation of 126,380 books annually.

In the entire county the libraries have 44,472 volumes for circulation. Most of the schools have libraries which are an important part of the system.

The Northome Community Club Library loans books from the county system for Northome and Littlefork.

In Aug. 1919 the Northome Public Library with 300 volumes was destroyed by fire. It was re-opened January, 1920.

Many Parent-Teacher Associations have co-operated with the libraries.

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The 4-H Clubs in Koochiching County are active organizations which add to the cultural and general character-building of farm boys and girls.

Many of the schools have music, art and crafts clubs. The International Falls High School Band plays on many special occasions.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1470-1
Koochiching County

RAINY LAKE IV

Rainy Lake, With Its 1600 Islands, Unsurpassed For Rugged Beauty

"Lac la Pluie," the Rainy Lake to today, has been known to the white man for more than 200 years, the famous French explorer, Rene Verendrye, having navigated its waters when he made his long overland trip to the Red River and Missouri River countries in 1731.

It has been called by many "the most beautiful lake in the world." Whether or not that appellation is true, certain it is that for sheer beauty of contour, surroundings, scenery and location it is unsurpassed in the new world.

In extreme length it is about 50 miles and the main lake is from three to 15 miles in width. Numerous long arms or bays extend out in several directions from the main lake, giving it a total area of about 325 square miles. It is the last and most westerly of the border chain of lakes, this chain extending eastward to within about 50 miles of the western shore of Lake Superior, and draining a watershed of almost 15,000 square miles. All the water from this vast area must pass through Rainy Lake on its way to Lake of the Woods, Lake Winnipeg and eventually, Hudson Bay and the open sea.

Between Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods these waters form the Rainy river, described by early explorers as the most majestic and at the same time most beautiful river in the whole north country. And those whose pleasure it has been to drive along the shores of this great stream, almost a quarter of a mile in width and flowing serenely between its bold, heavily wooded banks, will agree that it is both beautiful and majestic.

More Than 1600 Islands.

Rainy Lake is famous for its islands, more than 1600 in number and varying in size from one having an area of several square miles down to Gull Rock, a mere upthrust of stone, in the vast sweep of the waters of the upper lake.

Practically all of these islands are heavily wooded with trees native to this section, and all of them have beautiful rocky shorelines with occasional sand beaches interspersed.

Splendid building sites are to be found on all these islands and already many of them are occupied by pretentious summer homes and more are being built each season.

Most substantial of the homes so far erected on islands of the lake are "Red Crest," property of Bror G. Dahlberg, Chicago; "Home Island," owned by Dr. N. H. Scheldrup, Minneapolis, and the Roberts, French and Backus cottages, all within a comparatively few miles of International Falls and Fort Frances.

New Black Bay Road

On the south shore, east of Ranier for a number of miles,

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Rainy Lake

hundreds of comfortable summer homes have been built, principally by International Falls people, and in this area there are also a number of tourist resorts, including Brennan's Beach, Birch Point, Point o' Pines, Crystal Beach, Newport. At the extreme end of the Black Bay highway, or more properly, the eastern end of Highway No. 11, is Island View, directly opposite the entrance to Black Bay.

This extension of No. 11 serves all the cottages and resorts along the south shore of the lake, east for a distance of about 15 miles. This road also affords at different points, a wonderful view of the lake, and it traverses a section of the lake front which will all be built up within the next few years.

Rainy Lake, as would be expected, furnishes very fine fishing facilities. The lake is stocked, each season, with from five million to ten million young pike, whitefish, crappies, and other varieties; and experienced fishermen claim that the waters of Black Bay contain more fish, in proportion to area than any other body of water in the border region. True or not, it is certain that many fine catches are made there, every day of every season.

A Sight to Remember

Rainy Lake must be seen to be appreciated, and the only way to see it is by boat; follow its shore line, explore its bays and tributary streams and wind in and out among its maze of islands. Then and then only, will you get an idea of its magnitude and its almost unearthly beauty, and you will go home, wherever your home may be, and tell your friends: "At last I have seen a LAKE."

Map of Rainy Lake

A map of Rainy Lake, from International Falls to Dry Weed Island is now available, according to information contained in a letter received this week by O. J. Masters from B. D. Bell, U. S. Engineer who last season completed a survey of Rainy Lake. These maps or charts are being sold at cost, 40 cents and anyone wishing to secure one, should send a request to U. S. Lake Survey, Detroit, Mich., enclosing 40 cents to cover cost of map and mailing. There is no postage charge.

Mr. Bell, who also made the survey of Lake of the Woods, worked along the border for many years, and is a great friend of this region. Writing to Mr. Masters, Mr. Bell said: "Wish I could be back with you this year. There is no place like Rainy Lake. I feel that I did a dependable job on the lakes and also feel that the survey will advance the prosperity of your section--a part of the U. S. I learned to love, both the country and its people."

Rainy Rivers

Large Steamboats Made Regular Trips On This Waterway

From the west end of Rainy Lake to the south end of Lake of the Woods, a distance of perhaps 100 miles, lies the course of the Rainy river, declared by all who have seen it to be among the most mag-

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Rainy Lake

nificent streams in the world, famous even among the early voyageurs, explorers and trappers as far back as the time of Verendrye, that intrepid French explorer who floated down for the first time more than 200 years ago, in 1731 to be exact.

The hand of man has laid heavily on its beauty in places, notably at the Koochiching falls, where a big dam, generating 30,000 horsepower has been thrown across it, destroying in large measure the original beauty of the falls or rapids, which in the old days were known among the Indians and the early white men for their majesty no less than their threat to canoe navigation.

Below these falls and for the rest of its course the waters of this majestic stream flow peacefully between high banks sloping gradually to the water's edge and for the most part wooded.

Broken by Rapids

In only two places has nature put a bridle on the waters of the river. The first of these is at the Manitou rapids, a few miles west of Indus, where the water roars through a short rock gorge or chute, and again at the Long Sault, where for about two miles the water rolls and tumbles in a manner to make navigation difficult. From there on to its final destination in Lac du Bois, or Lake of the Woods, its course is uninterrupted and it has more the appearance of a narrow lake than of a mighty river.

Near Baudette, Minn., and Rainy River, Ontario, the stream is disfigured by long lines of piling, relics of the boom days of lumbering in that section. These piling serve no purpose now and should be pulled up.

Once Heavily Traveled

Numerous streams pay tribute to the Rainy in its course between Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods, the two most considerable being the Littlefork and the Big Fork rivers.

Rainy river was at one time used for navigation purposes, a fleet of large boats making regular trips between Kenora, Baudette and International Falls, for years furnishing the only means of communication between the different settlements along the northern border. The "bones" of the old Itasca, one of these early steamboats now lie on the south bank of the river on the Fred Smith farm near Laurel.

Memories Remain

With the coming of the railroad along the north bank and the man-made highways on both sides of the stream, river travel languished and finally died entirely, but some wild and glorious tales of

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Rainy Lake

"life on the river" are still told by men who lived through it all, who have prospered in the country drained by this famous river and who look back on those days as the best of their lives.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1400
KOOCHICHING COUNTY

SOCIETIES

"LITTLEFORK PIONEERS GIVE PAPERS ON EARLY DAYS
BEFORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY"

The November meeting of the Koochiching County Historical society, which was held at the American Legion club rooms in Littlefork Sunday, November 3, proved to be one of the most interesting meetings yet conducted by the society. While the attendance was not large those present were amply repaid.

After a short business meeting several very interesting papers were presented by a number of pioneers of the Littlefork community. Mrs. Bahr, an elderly lady of almost 75 years, who, with her husband, arrived on the first train to take up their residence in the Littlefork territory, gave an interesting account of the journey with her parents in the year 1873 from Thunder Bay, (Port Arthur, Ontario) by all water route, to Fort Frances and on to Winnipeg.

At the time of the journey, the Canadian government was endeavoring to bring settlers into Winnipeg and surrounding Manitoba territory. Mrs. Bahr was about 11 years of age at the time, but has a vivid memory of the exciting experiences on that journey down the Pigeon river and border lakes and streams eventually arriving at Kettle Falls and then boarding a large steamer for the trip down Rainy lake to Koochiching Falls and Fort Frances.

"Saw Many Indians"

She related how the construction of the canal around the Falls, so noticeable by travelers going over the bridge and now converted to use by the Ontario & Minnesota Power Co. was being carried on by the MacKenzie government. Fort Frances was a straggling settlement and a prominent Hudson Bay trading post. She retlates that there was a large settlement of both Chippewa and Cree Indians all along the route, especially at Kettle Falls and Fort Frances.

She remembered that the boat which carried the party down the Rainy river touched at the old Tom McKinstry place now known as the Watrous farm, at the mouth of the Littlefork river, and remembered the grove of oak trees and the surroundings when she visited the place 35 years later, after taking up her residence in the Littlefork territory.

"Narrative Filed"

Mrs. Bahr tells that upon arriving at Winnipeg in July 1873, the party found a small settlement of trappers, and adventurers and much excitement over the Reil rebellion which was then in progress. Her narrative was extremely interesting and her paper will be filed among the records of the society.

Mrs. J. G. Vanderwalk, who arrived with her young children to make here hoome in the Littlefork territory in 1902, several years in advance of the railroad, gave an interesting paper of the social activities throughout the territory at that early date. Dances and other social activities occupied the attention of the settlers during the long winter days and nights and she related how many of the early day settlers from Koochiching (International Falls), traveled there to take part in the festivities.

CONTINUED - "Littlefork Pioneers give Papers on Early Days"

Mrs. Abe Olson of Littlefork, presented a paper giving the experience of her husband, Abe Olson, who upon his arrival at Littlefork in the spring of 1902 endeavored to locate the cabin of his brother, Ole Olson, now postmaster at Littlefork, and his cousin, Tom Thompson. The paper was entitled "Lost in the Forest," a copy of which follows:

"Lost in the Forest"

Have you ever been lost? If ~~not~~ you can hardly appreciate the feeling of helplessness that comes over one upon finding himself in such a predicament in a strange wilderness on a rainy afternoon with neither compass nor sun to guide him.

It was in May, 1902, that Abe Olson, a young Norwegian still in his late twenties, came from Minneapolis in quest of a homestead. His brother, Ole, and cousin Tom Thompson, had preceded him here and they had just finished building a cabin on the claim Tom Thompson had filed upon. It was that cabin which Abe set out to find after Ross Noble and Bill Kiever had told him as nearly as they could how to find it.

Goodness knows the trip from Koochiching to the Littlefork townsite had been a trying one. Owing to difficulties in making train connections coming by way of Winnipeg, Canada, he had arrived on Koochiching too late on Saturday night to find out about the boat which made the trip to Littlefork townside once a week, and to his disappointment, the next morning when he finally acquired the information, the "Thistle" had already left, so he had to look around for other means of transportation. It was Sunday morning and being the best that he could do, to the amusement of the crowd of onlookers, he set out from the dock at Koochiching as a passenger in a birch-bark canoe loaded with scrap-iron.

The owner of the canoe was a Mr. Swanson and it might not been so bad if the canoe had not leaked and the owner had forgotten to take along three bottles of shiskey. As it was, the canoe had to be paddled to shore every few miles, unloaded, the water emptied out and then be reloaded, and of course, the owner must have a bracer at each stop until the pasenger decided to look after the bottles himself and told Mr. Swanson "No more whisky until we put up for the night." By the time they had traveled 17 miles in this fashion, Mrs. Swanson began to get anxious to land, and as night was coming on they decided to stop at Gust Johnson's cabin for the night and take up the trail in the morning.

After a night spent resting on a hard floor, they set out against a strong current (the river was running full, being in the spring of the year) and travelled about 8 miles, arriving at Gust Berg's cabin about noon. A light mist had been falling all morning and Abe's wrist began to swell and be painful from the long, hard paddling, so he decided to abandon his drunken companion and travelled the last ten miles on foot.

When he reached Bill Slingerland's cabin, at that time the only one on the townsite, it was nearly six o'clock and he started out to find Tom Thompson's cabin, at the time, feeling sure that it would be a very simple matter, for didn't Ross Noble say, "It's only a couple of miles out there. Just go back on the trail you came until you get to the section corner and then turn east on the section line, and its only a short distance on the trail until you come to the new cabin."

Abe had never done any cruising, his work since he came from Norway about eight years ago had been mostly cooking in lumber camps. To be sure during the year of '97 he had tried his hand at running a small store in Minneapolis, but most of his time had been spent in camps.

Continued - "Littlefork Pioneers give Papers on Early Days"

Abe found the corner all right and started on the trail. Ah, he spied a cabin a few steps off the trail but upon reaching the door he found it padlocked. Back again on the trail a short distance further and there was another cabin. That must be it, but no, that too was padlocked. Darkness was coming quickly on account of the drizzling rain which had set in in earnest, but he was sure he would reach the cabin any moment now. A short way further and there must be a cabin back through the alder 'swale' he could just get a glimpse of it, but being positive that he was within reach of his object of search he paid no attention to where he left the trail, made a short-cut through the 'swale' and stepped lightly to the door, only to meet with another disappointment. This cabin, too, was padlocked. Darkness was closing in upon him so he stumbled along until he found that he thought was a trail but which turned out to be only a deer trail. Lost--yes, it began to dawn upon him. He had no idea in what direction the cabin lay--it was dark and rainy. What should he do? His first thought was to find a high spot on which to build a fire so he could warm himself.

He had eaten no food since he left Gust Berg's at noon and he knew he must spend the night in the woods and when morning would come he would try to find his way out somehow. He felt fortunate at having found a few matches in his pocket. They were left from the bunch he had used in melting pitch, trying to patch that miserable leaky canoe. He had no axe but with his wrist paining at every jolt, he broke some twigs, and with a few pieces of birchbark he soon had a cheerful little blaze started. With a little patience his fire grew and after that it wasn't so difficult to keep it burning, but the night was so long at the first sign of the break of another day he was off in search of the lowland where he could find the little streams and follow their course, for he reasoned that the streams must flow into Beaver Brook or Littlefork River and if he found either of those streams he could find his way back to Slingerland cabin.

Late in the afternoon, tired, wet and half famished, he arrived again on the townsite. The little streams had led him to Beaver Brook and he had followed the twists and curves in and out until he had reached its mouth and then wearily followed the Littlefork River's crooked trail until at last he was back to the starting point of the day before. At Slingerlands he was given a bite to eat and he went straight to bed and next morning paid Ross Noble a dollar to guide him to Tom Thompson's cabin. To his chagrin he found that he had been only a half mile from the destination he sought and if he had kept going on the trail instead of dodging through the alder 'swale', he'd have missed the experience of spending his first night in a new, wild country, "lost in the forest."

WRITER'S PROJECT
NO. 1400
KOOCHICHING COUNTY

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Extensive Plans Laid Out For Communities In County

The new recreational setup for Koochiching county differs somewhat from those of the past in that the majority of workers assigned to the project are classed as laborers or attendants, making the stressing of recreational facilities not only a necessary project but one which will result in the maximum amount of recreational opportunity to the people of the county, over a longer period of time.

So we are working on the theory that recreationally activities will be carried on indefinitely provided ample and adequate playgrounds and playrooms are available.

SEEK PLAYGROUNDS

With this in mind the county recreational department is taking the opportunity to shape new playgrounds and reshape those which are old and run down and which, because of this, have become inactive as play centers.

At International Falls the tennis courts are being put in shape with excellent playing condition; diamonds at the city's playgrounds will be leveled and improved with new base sacks, etc; volley ball standards will be installed and if any buildings are found available, badminton courts and ping pong tables will be installed therein.

The tennis courts at Ranier, which at present are in a badly neglected state and therefore unplayable, will be improved and brought up to a high playing standard, and an archery range will be laid out and targets installed.

GOLF FOR LITTLEFORK

In Northome and Big Falls, the tennis courts will be laid out and finished, kittenball diamonds will be leveled off and generally improved and volleyball courts will be established.

In Littlefork tennis and volleyball courts will be laid down at the Legion playground, the horseshoe courts will be reshaped and croquet and shuffleboard grounds will be laid out.

The fairgrounds will be made into a nine-hole golf course, which if not first class will be at least playable, and one of the fairbuildings will be utilized for ping pong and handicraft.

Other towns in the county will also be given recreational facilities commensurate with their importance and population and wherever possible the department will cooperate with local organizations in making the improvements.

NEED FULL COOPERATION

While the above improvements are mentioned merely as an example of the program of work laid out for the various communities, it is not to be construed that the program can be accomplished without the fine cooperation which has so far been accorded by the people of the communities.

The primary purpose of the recreational program is not to supplant activities to cooperate with local organizations and individuals with a view to betterment of existing recreational facilities, also to start

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES--Page 2

new ones wherever a need is shown for same.

For example the recreational department does not propose to install a music teacher, giving free lessons, in a town where a music teacher is already established.

TO ORGANIZE LEAGUES

This outline given above by no means covers all the activities in the proposed program for the county. There will be organized leagues and playground activities which were also conducted by previous directors, inter-city and county leagues in kittenball, baseball, tennis, and volleyball, cards, checkers and horeshoe pitching will be as formed as possible.

In towns where buildings and equipment are available and where there will be no conflict with individual activities, supervisors will conduct free classes in music and handicraft one day each week.

Court schedules and rules will be posted on all tennis courts where instruction is to be given, such schedules to be affirmed by the local sponsoring organization.

Authorities in towns where a building is available for sports or recreation are requested to notify the local recreation supervisor or to write direct to the county seat. Consult the local supervisor at any time on any proposed sport or activity. League schedules of the various sports will be published in the near future.

WRITER'S PROJECT
NO. 1400
KOOCHICHING COUNTY

"Invitation To Tourists"

Every visitor to the border region this season is invited to make use of the free tourist bureau which the Daily Journal will operate in its office adjacent to the Rex Hotel, Third street, International Falls, Minn. Accurate information on roads, camps, resorts and fishing conditions will be furnished without cost; and every effort will be made to assist tourists who seek a pleasant vacation in "The Playground of Two Nations." A courteous and well-informed attendant will be in charge from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. daily except Sundays.

"Names on the North Border"

The northern border of the Arrowhead is marked by a grand chain of lakes and rivers. There are many cascades and rapids with portages past them. On some thirty miles of the eastern end, the water flows easterly to Lake Superior. Except that thirty miles, the water goes westerly and at last by way of the Canadian lakes, finds its way to the Arctic ocean through Hudson's bay.

A long stretch of the western end of the north border of the Arrowhead is marked by Rainy river and Rainy lake.

East of Rainy lake one comes to Namekam lake, a Chippewa name meaning sturgeon, a big fish once abounding there. After Sand Point lake comes Vermilion river, a name traced back to Indian sources, and the Lac la Croix, a French name. Crooked lake is a translation of a name given by the voyageurs. Saganaga lake is "Lake of the Isles," and the name Gunflint lake is a translation of Lac de Fusils, French, perhaps from the Chippewa. Omitting several smaller lakes one comes to Pigeon river, the name a translation from the Chippewa; that tribe had it "Qmi-ni-zibi." Wild pigeons once were plenty there.

Thus history may be traced in the names along the border.

"Our Climate"

The border country of which International Falls is the capital and chief city, has received a great deal of advertising in the past few years, not all of it a favorable character, and some of which has not been justified by the facts. For instance:

We have been pointed out as a country with "nine months winter and three months late autumn." Our cold season is no longer than any other section located equally as far north.

When other parts of the state and the nation, during the past, winter, have been digging themselves out of snow drifts, trekking to the highlands to escape drowning in floods, or have been isolated by blockaded highways (equipment has been sent south to dig some of the counties out) this section has been blessed with bright, sunny days; outdoor workers have lost no time during the winter because of the cold, and our highways have been open and in good condition for travel every day during the winter season.

It is true that we have a lower average temperature than points farther south, which is probably a Godsend for those heat-tormented, hay fever-ridden residents of southern Minnesota, Iowa and points south.

It is true that we cannot raise such corn as those sections grow; but we can, and do, raise more bushels of small grains per acre, as well as finer potatoes and more bushels per acre.

And it is equally true that we have the finest summer climate, with the finest hunting, fishing and camping country in the U. S. A.

It is true that this section grows the finest alsike clover in the world; it is true that we of the north produce all of the iron, all of the lumber and practically all of the paper made in the state.

It is true that this is one of the best sheep-raising sections of the nation, as well as one of the best dairy countries.

And finally, those who have been pointing the finger of scorn and derision at us, because of low temperatures which did not exist and for blizzards which did not occur within two hundred miles of us, should come north next summer and get a few breaths of pure, fresh air. Government Engineer B. Duncan Bell in charge of the Rainy lake survey for the past four seasons, told The Dailu Journal that the survey has been completed and that his men are now engaged in getting the camp equipment and other impedimenta off the lake and in storage. Mr. Bell said that in Rainy lake the border country has the most beautiful and wonderful body of fresh water that he has ever seen. And while they are here they should inspect the evidences of our industry during the winter season. Forget this "polar region" fallacy and come up and visit one of the finest of the many fine localities which go to make up this nation.

The development of agriculture in Koochiching County has been increasing rapidly since its earliest settlement. In the beginning hewing out a farm from the forest primeval presented a Herculean task and an outlay for explosives and hand labor of easily \$100.00 per acre. As time went on and the forests were cleared away, the debris cleared up by fires and nature took its course in rotting the stumps, clearing became a much more simple problem. By this time it also became apparent that the rich clay loam soils of this county particularly near the streams including the Rainy River on the north, the Rat Root, Littlefork, and Big Fork extending southward across the county contained soil of unquestionable value for agricultural purposes. Crops produced rival those of the Red River Valley in quantity and excellence. In addition to the high ground clad originally with White Spruce, White Pine, Poplar, Balm of Gilead and Balsam thousands of acres of former peat bog occupied by Black Spruce and Tamarack have been burned over ridding the ground of its covering of roots and superfluous peat. This ground when disked or harrowed incorporating the ashes and unburned peat with the good soil underneath has been a basis for production of alsike seed which grows on this location to perfection. In recent years particularly after the very general fires in the fall of 1933 the acreage of peat bog land under cultivation in the county has been increased.

The principal cash crop in the county is alsike and alfalfa seed. These commodities represent a highly concentrated product not greatly affected by the high transportation costs. These crops are raised in such large quantities that it is a very paying crop on the majority of our farms. An even precipitation through the growing season together with a cool climate and a soil well suited to continued production seems the basis of the unusually high crops of seed produced in this section. Yields of eight to ten bushels of alsike or alfalfa seed per acre are by no means unusual. M. C. Longballa of Littlefork who makes a specialty of handling seeds has paid out considerable over one million dollars in the Littlefork section alone to seed growers in the last few years. The production of lambs and wool is also a leading live stock industry. This is engaged in more generally in farms in the Border section between Loman and Baudette. Dairy products especially in the vicinity of International Falls where fluid milk is needed is the second largest enterprise. There is much room for improvement in the quality of the stock and feeding operations. Potatoes and all garden crops grow to perfection and yield heavily. The same can be said of grain and hay crops on which almost unbelievably high yields are secured.

A very profitable side line for the farmers during the winter months is the cutting of Poplar, Balsam, and Spruce. Pulp and saw logs and Cedar posts and poles. A large amount of this material is contracted by the local mill directly from farmers. Many farmers still have considerable forest holdings and others buy acreages of state land and log it off in the winter.

An important side line especially in the more outlying sections is the trapping of fur bearing animals consisting chiefly of wolves, a few bear, mink, ermine, and muskrat chiefly.

The principal exports include alsike, alfalfa seed, lambs, and wool of importance in the order listed. Dairy products and beef and what little pork is produced in this county are consumed locally and there is a market for considerable more dairy products especially butter than could be produced. The principal imports are manufactured food stuffs and clothing. The leading market for agricultural products is located in the county seat at International Falls. This is not an organized market. That is, there is no farmers cooperative marketing association. Farmers merely bring in their potatoes, beef, or garden products and sell them to their customary group of customers.

The largest single buyer of these products is the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company, who operate large logging camps throughout the County. Oats and hay for horse feed, potatoes, and other garden vegetables and beef are purchased in very large quantities by this company which employ thousands of men for winter logging operations. A market for approximately \$50,000 worth of such material is established annually. Two cooperative creameries are located in the County, with one at Loman, and one at Northome, which take care of some 200,000 lbs. of butter fat annually. The farmers activities include in addition to the regular procedure of plowing, sowing, reaping, and mowing, special threshing and cleaning operations of the large acreages devoted to legume crops, which, in some instances, run well over one hundred acres. A special activity engaged in by not only farmers, but people coming in from far and near, is the picking of raspberries and particularly blueberries, which abound only in the open rocky islands and mainland to the east of International Falls, but also on large acreages of Black Spruce bog in all parts of the County. Last year, the season was very favorable and thousands of bushels of blueberries were harvested. Other wild fruit include low bush and high bush cranberries, pin cherries, choke cherries, and June berries, and also wild plums, to say nothing of the fine flavored wild strawberries, which are sought by children along the road-sides and in the clearings.

The county boasts two Agricultural fairs. One at Littlefork, in the north central part of the County, and the other, the original county fair of the County, located in the extreme southwestern part of the county at Northome. These are usually from three to four days duration. Both fairs are in good financial condition, and provide excellent educational and recreational attractions. An annual Flower Show is held at International Falls, and a branch of the State Horticultural Society is at present being organized. The larger towns of the county hold festivals ordinarily of a harvest nature in the fall. The customary 4th of July celebrations are also held.

The county and near-by territory are not without their mineral deposits. One of the early attractions to this vicinity was the discovery of gold at Rainy Lake City, some ten miles directly east of the cite of International Falls. At present, a locally owned company is opening up the old shaft sunk from an island under Rainy Lake. Here it is hoped gold in paying quantities will be mined. Traces of feldspar used in enameling have been found east and southeast of International Falls. A deposit of very pure marl is located two miles northwest of Northome on the J. J. Storzbach farm.

In visiting Koochiching County, tourists should not fail to visit the immense Paper Mill, one of the largest in the country, where guards daily escort visiting delegations to the principal points of interest. The Saw Mill, the largest remaining in this state, where millions of feet of choice White Pine are annually manufactured into rough lumber and later finished in the large Planing Mill adjoining is well worthy of a visit.

For those who enjoy the scenic beauties of nature the Rainy Lake, and adjacent country on both sides of the line has much to offer. Rainy Lake itself, correctly called La Reine du Lac, the Queen of Lakes, is a body of water fifty-five miles long and up to twenty-five miles in width studded with hundreds of islands varying in size from a mere jutting of rock cap with a few sentinel pines, to islands miles in extent covered with a heavy growth of trees and abounding in large and small game. The water is clear and very deep, and full of shoals. Excellent fishing particularly of Wall-eyed pike, pickerel, and in some of the more distant lakes, Lake trout, are a lure to the most ardent fishermen.

In the land of ten thousand Lakes, this Lake is different. One who has not canoed or motored among the rugged beauties of the border country has not

seen all that is worthwhile to see in Minnesota. A visit to this territory is not expensive. Roads for the most part are excellent and in keeping with other highways of the state and expenses for outfitting for even an extensive trip by motor boat or canoe are far from expensive. Here if one is so minded he can quickly get far away from the last vestige of civilization. A development of the tourist business is one of the most important side lines which this county has to offer.

Recd. 6/19/37

Duluth, Minnesota
Topic: Koochiching County
Agriculture
Submitted by: Harry P. Spooner
St ds: 704

KOOCHICHING COUNTY

AGRICULTURE

When the early settlers arrived in Koochiching County, the area was covered with a heavy growth of timber and swamp land.

Although most of the marketable timber has been cut, a considerable amount remains and will continue to furnish a substantial revenue to many farmers for some time. During 1929 forest products cut on farms were valued at \$366,085.

After the timber was cut, many settlers started farming.

Because most of the county's surface is level, there are large areas of swamp land. In some places the streams have furnished a natural drainage; while the farmers with effort and expense have drained and developed some of the swamp areas into productive farm land.

The soil varies from a black loam with clay subsoil to a sandy loam mixed with clay, and almost everywhere there is a thick topsoil of vegetable mould.

In the county there are 32,333 acres of crop land, of which 29,688 acres are harvested and 1,886 acres are idle or fallow land.

The land area of the county is 2,010,240 acres. Of this large area the proportion of the land occupied by farms is 167,813 acres or 8.3%, with a total of 1,438 farms having an average size of 123.4 acres.

Throughout the timber and brush lands of this region, the red top, clover, wildpea, blue-joint, and other succulent grasses and plants grow; making this area a good grazing place for live stock. Many acres of meadows and bottom

land yield excellent native hay.

The main crops raised have been vegetables, especially potatoes, and hay; and oats, wheat, and corn grow well. The Littlefork Valley is well adapted to the growing of clover and alfalfa seed.

Vegetable and farm garden crops raised have a total value of \$515,509; the hay and forage crops are valued at \$191,330, and cereals at \$91,263.

Koochiching County's future lies in the development of agriculture. Thousands of acres have been added to the cultivated area in the past few years, and the greatest progress has been made during the so-called depression years. The number of farms in the county has increased from 1,278, with an average size of 80 acres on Jan. 1, 1930, to 1,438, with an average size of 123.4 acres on Jan. 1, 1935.

Of the 1,438 farms, about 10% to 20% of them are self-sufficing.

DAIRYING

Koochiching County is becoming a leading live stock and dairying region, as 54,002 acres of fine pasture land allow spacious grazing grounds for the cattle.

There are, also, 1,988 acres of plowable pasture and 45,879 acres of woodland pasture.

Domestic animals, chickens and bees have a total value of \$507,200; and products raised, a total value of \$45,236.

Chickens on farms have a value of \$20,954, while \$55,260 worth of chicken eggs were produced, and of this total amount 28,004 worth were sold.

Dairy products sold, including butter, cream and whole milk, have a total value of \$226,362.

On April 1, 1930, 776 farms reported having a total of 6,862 head of cattle. These farms had a daily milk production of 5,691 gallons.

The 1929 annual milk production for the farms was 1,933,474 gallons, while 604 farms reported 97,232 pounds of butter churned.

During this period 769 farms reported a total of 3,358 cows milked.

MARKETING

For years the lack of good roads in the county retarded the marketing of agricultural products and the development of farming. In recent years the roads have been greatly improved, particularly for the transportation of farm products by trucks to nearby or distant markets.

In 1930, 673 farmers reported ownership of 716 passenger automobiles, 157 reported 163 motor trucks and 140 reported 130 tractors.

The main highways in the county are: US #53, US #71, State #6, #65, and #11.

Of the 1,278 farms, 493 are situated on improved dirt roads, 376 on gravel roads, 287 on unimproved dirt roads, 42 on macadam roads, 26 on sand-clay roads and 54 on all other types of roads.

All roads are well-maintained in summer, and in winter the well-traveled highways are maintained and open for traffic.

Many successful cooperative marketing organizations are now serving the farmers of the county. Cooperatives are making remarkable progress, considering the scattered agricultural sections in the county.

The cooperative organizations in the county include; 13 telephone lines, Littlefork Potato Wholesale Ass'n., Border Co-op Ass'n. at International Falls, Farmer Co-op Creamery Ass'n. at Northome, Loman Co-op Creamery Ass'n. at Loman, 1 oil station and 1 insurance firm.

Cooperative marketing in Koochiching County reports for 1929 are favorable.

The value of all farm products on farms reporting co-operative sales is \$266,495. Two hundred farms report \$69,130 as the value of farms supplies sold, and 68 farms report purchasing farm supplies valued at \$8,688.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1400
Koochiching County

BLACK BAY HIGHWAY OPENS NEW SUMMER RESORT REGION
IN STATE

The southern shore of beautiful Rainy Lake was opened to tourist traffic when the Black Bay road, or more properly, the eastern extension of state highway No. 11, was completed last fall and opened to traffic.

This highway, extending from International Falls, to Black Bay, a huge arm of Rainy Lake, is about 13 miles in length and traverses some of the most beautiful shore line of the most beautiful lake in North America.

Leaving International Falls one first reaches Ranier, a village situated at the foot of the lake and the point from which Rainy River debouches to begin its long journey to Hudson's Bay. The road then proceeds in a generally easterly direction past Brennan's Beach, where the city maintains a free public bathing beach with life-guard service, through beautiful Point o' Pines, around Crystal Bay, across Jackfish Bay, across Tilson creek and then up into the bold, high country to Island View, a summer resort which has long been one of the landmarks of that part of Rainy Lake. Here, on the one hand is Rainy Lake with hundreds of beautiful islands spread out in a magnificent panorama. On the other is Black Bay, probably the best fishing ground in the northwest.

"Cut Through Wilderness"

And all along the road and between International Falls and Island View are hundreds of beautiful little spots which tempt the tourist to loiter and to investigate.

The Black Bay road, as the road will probably always be known, will do much not only for the people who own land along its route, but also for the tourist who desires to see Rainy Lake without the effort required for a boat trip.

The road traverses, for the greater part of the distance, a territory through which it was always impossible to make one's way, even on foot. It will be but a few years, not when the road is now open and in use, until all the land will be cut up into building lots and sold to people who will erect summer homes thereon. Then it will become one of the finest summer colonies in the country, with civilization on one hand and the wilderness and the finest of fishing and canoeing on the other. When you come to the border, do not miss a trip over the Black Bay road.

Recd.
5/7/36

HIGHWAYS

"All-Weather Roads Lead To International Falls"
Mid-Western Motorists Can Travel
Safely to Vacation Spots

Right, Koochiching County.
Northern Minnesota and particularly Koochiching County has enjoyed good, all-weather highways for only a comparatively few years. As late as 1926, only ten years ago, about the only way one could get into International Falls, other than by train was to fly in.

Then No. 11, now No. 53, was completed from Virginia (where it connected with the paved road to Duluth) to International Falls. At first it was not so good and was apt to go to pieces during the prolonged wet spells, and in the spring certain spots were afflicted with "frost boils" which made the highway more or less dangerous and also impeded traffic.

But the highway department kept at the work and for the past two or three years there has been what might be called the first "all weather" road to the northern border.

During this period highway work was kept up on No. 4, now No. 71 and at the present time this road, except for one short stretch, is all standard grade and can be traveled with comfort and safety every day in the year.

The result of the construction work on these two roads has been to increase greatly the motor traffic both into and out of International Falls and in 1935, during the tourist season the traffic on No. 53 reached an all-time high with 2,000 or more cars during many 24-hour periods.

"Roads to Vacation Center"

These two highways have very definitely put International Falls and the border country generally on the traffic map of the nation and have afforded opportunity to thousands of motorists to come north and view the wonders and enjoy the hunting, fishing, canoeing and camping of this greatest of summer playgrounds.

Highway No. 11 running from International Falls to the western boundary of the state at Robbin, has also had its share of attention from the highway department and at the present time is all standard grade, graveled or oil surfaced for its entire length except for a short distance in this county, which will be graded during the present year.

Travelers from all parts of the United States can now drive to International Falls in comfort and safety over roads that permit a good rate of speed, and passing through numerous cities and villages where good hotel accommodations are assured.

"Many Excellent Routes"

For tourists coming to the border via the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, there is a choice of several routes, and they are listed here: No. 61, St. Paul to Duluth; then to International Falls via No. 53. This route affords paving from the Twin Cities to Virginia and then a good graveled or oiled road to International Falls. This highway passed through the famous Iron Range country and at Hibbing may be seen the greatest open-pit iron mine in the world. It also leads directly to famous Lake Kabetogama with its unsurpassed fishing and camping facilities.

The second route leaves the Twin Cities on No. 65, passing through Cambridge, Mora, McGrath, Swan River, Nashwauk and Togo; thence east on No. 1 to its intersection with No. 53 near Cook and thence north on No. 53.

The third route leaves the Twin Cities over No. 56, passing through Anoka, around the east side of beautiful Mille Lacs lake, then No. 169 to Aitkin, Grand Rapids and Deer River, thence north on No. 6 to Big Falls and into International Falls on No. 71.

The fourth route out of the Twin Cities is on No. 10 to Anoka, No. 169 through Princeton, Milaca, Onamia, around the west side of Mille Lac lake to Aitkin, Grand Rapids and Deer River and then north on No. 6 to Big Falls and to the border on No. 71.

The fifth route out of the Twin Cities is via No. 10 to Little Falls, thence north on No. 371 to Brainerd, Pequot, Pine River, Hackensack, Walker and Bemidji. Thence to the border on No. 71.

"Through Scenic Region"

All these routes are over good roads and lead through some of the most beautiful country in Minnesota and pass through a region where a good many of Minnesota's ten thousand lakes can be found.

Highway Distances To Canadian Border

Albert Lea, Minnesota.	465	St. Cloud, Minn.	265
Alexandria, Minnesota.	250	S. Paul, Minnesota	302
Baudette, Minnesota.	72	Virginia, Minnesota.	101
Bemidji, Minnesota	111	Aberdeen, S. Dak.	470
Brainerd, Minnesota.	201	Bismarck, N. Dak.	467
Crookston, Minnesota	198	Chicago, Illinois	683
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota	213	Des Moines, Iowa.	581
Duluth, Minnesota.	163	Madison, Wisconsin.	535
Ely, Minnesota	135	Milwaukee, Wisconsin.	577
Faribault, Minnesota.	355	Minot, N. Dak.	469
Mankato, Minnesota	347	Omaha, Nebraska.	655
Minneapolis, Minnesota	295	Port Arthur, Ontario	369
Red Wing, Minnesota.	351	Winnipeg, Manitoba	299
Rochester, Minnesota	386		

For those who enter Minnesota along the southern border there are a number of available routes to International Falls, and they will be listed briefly.

From Fairmont: No. 15 to St. Cloud; No. 10 to Little Falls; No. 371 to Bemidji; No. 71 to International Falls.

From Jackson: No. 71 through Willmar, Bemidji and on to the border.

From Worthington: No. 73 to Montevideo; No. 29 to Morris, Alexandria, and Wadena; No. 71 to International Falls.

From Luverne: No. 75 to Madison; No. 40 to Junction with No. 29; No. 29 to Wadena; No. 71 to the border.

From Ortonville: No. 75 to Wheaton; No. 27 to Alexandria; No. 29 to Wadena; No. 71 to International Falls.

From Breckenridge: No. 3 to Fergus Falls and Wadena; No. 71 to International Falls.

From Moorhead: No. 10 to Detroit Lakes; No. 34 to Park Rapids; No. 71 to International Falls.

From Oslo: No. 1 to Warren, Thief River Falls and Northome; No. 71 to International Falls.

From Robbin: No. 11 through Donaldson, Greenbush, Roseau, Warroad, Baudette to International Falls.

From Little Marais (on Lake Superior): No. 1 to Ely, Tower and Cook; No. 53 to International Falls.

Thus the tourist is assured a wide choice in the matter of highways coming north. All of them are good and each afford numerous points of interest enroute.

"New Areas Opened"

Two other highways of interest to the summer visitor, have been completed out of International Falls during the past year. The first of these is the extension of No. 11 east from International Falls to Black Bay, on Rainy lake. This extension, about 15 miles in length, affords not only a wonderful view of the south shore of Rainy lake, but it leads to what experienced fishermen declare to be the best pike fishing ground in North America.

The second road, while not in the United States, nevertheless leads directly from the streets of International Falls into the great Canadian wilderness country lying east of Lake of the Woods. This new road is destined to become famous as one of the finest scenic highways of North America. Built at tremendous cost by the Ontario provincial government, this road connects the two cities of Fort Frances and Kenora, traversing the wilderness region for about 145 miles, and furnishing a direct route to all the famous hunting and fishing resorts on Lake of the Woods and other adjacent bodies of water. A short distance southeast of Kenora it connects with the famous Trans-Canada highway, a highway that will eventually permit of motor travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, through Canada.

"Trips to be Remembered"

Thousands will make the trip from International Falls and Fort Frances during this and succeeding years, and everyone who makes the journey is due to get a thrill and to acquire memories that will ~~be~~ long linger in the mind.

In closing it may be said that all the routes listed here are all-weather highways, comfortable and safe for fast travel and traversing a territory where there is something of interest to be seen, every mile of the way.

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WRITER'S PROJECT

No. 24701

ROWBOAT USED AS FIRST FERRY ON RAINY RIVER TO UNITE BORDER CITIES

KOOCHICHING COUNTY

In the year 1904 there were two ferries in operation, one known as the American and the other as the International. The two lines were finally merged in 1906 and the ferry house moved from the First street dock to the town dock on Second street. This line continued to operate until about 1920, when one of the operators, John Gagne, Fort Frances, sold out to the E. W. Backus interests. The present international bridge, built in 1913, furnished stiff competition for the boats, but they continued to operate until the deal above described was consummated.

"At first the ferry was operated entirely by rowboats, manned by four men, two working days and the other two at night, for it was a 24 hour service. About 1906 the first gasoline engines were installed. But these were used only in the summer time; when winter came back we went to the old man-power method.

Used Rowboats First

"In the early days of the business, and for a number of years, when the river froze over on extremely cold days or nights, the ferryman was forced to break a little path or runway, five or six feet in width, through the ice and then pull the boat along by the use of pike pole, hooking the same into the ice and hitching the boat along, crab-fashion.

"At other times, when it was not sufficiently cold to freeze the river, dense fogs would rise from the surface of the water, making it almost impossible to find one's way across, and when these fogs arose at night the plight of the ferryman was sad indeed and often he would get turned around and head back toward the shore he had just left. This usually provoked an outburst of profanity, from the operator as well as from the passengers.

Was Exciting Life

"There were only about one-fifth as many people in International Falls and Fort Frances as there are today, but they were a lively bunch and the ferryman's life was never dull.

"It was a life of hard work, but filled with plenty of excitement and action. But then we were all rough, tough and rugged in those early days and we enjoyed every minute of the day and night."

RED MAN'S HAVEN
Historical prelude by Clara St. Lawrence

Where the she-de, great white pelican,
Hd his home, there lived some red men
Nish-e-na-Bis and their families,
Near where Orr lies by the lake shore.
Years ago they lived and flourished
At Pelican Point, the home of she-de
Pelican Lake they called the water,
Rich it was in fish for eating;
So, many Nish-e-na-Bis lived there.

Years went by--one day some hunters
Found a little creek meandering,
Followed it and to their wonder
Saw afield laid out before them.
"'Tis ma-no-min," said they, "wild rice;
We shall have much food for winter.
As they neared it, saw their error,
'Twas a lake shaped like a horseshoe.

Long it was and very narrow,
Near its marge was heavy canebrake;
But its waters filled with wild rice,
Heads all nodding in the sunlight.
A small isl and blocked their vision;
Here they landed, curious, watching.
All at once a great shout roused them,
"Come and see," said he who shouted--

One of the party, being fleeter,
Had gone farther than the others;
Found red pictures in the gray stone,
Shapes fantastic, filled with meaning.
"'Tis the playground of the Spirits,"
Said they all in tones of horror,
"Let us be gone ere they harm us."

But a hunter old, sagacious
Shook his head and said, "My brothers,
"Gitchee Manito, the mighty,
Sent us here to find this riches,
Find the deer, the wa-wa-sh-ke-shi,
Find ma-no-min, that our children
And their children shall have food
In great abundance.

"Be not frightened by these paintings,
They are but ~~the~~ markings playful
Of the Spirits as they play here--
Hark, you now can hear them laughing.
Come, we'll not disturb them farther."
So they hastened to their paddles.
To ah-bwi and birch bark chemaun,
Back to shore they went in great haste,
Chose a place to build their lodges,
Build wigwams for their families.

RED MAN'S HAVEN-Cont.
Historical prelude by Clara St. Lawrence

Back to Pelican they hastened,
Told the story of the pictures,
Told of rice, ma-no-min, plenty,
Told of canebrake, like a great net,
Covering lake marge with its rustling
Leaves that almost stopped their paddles.

"Much she-shib," they said, "the wild duck,
Nests here in the Summer sunshine,
Comes from northward in the Autumn,
Comes to eat the rich ma-no-min.
Let us move our falling lodges
To the land of plenty we've found.

So it is you've read how many
Moved to grounds more rich for hunting,
Came to make their homes at Nett Lake,
Home of she-shib and the kego,
Home of duck and fish for eating.
Many deer abound in forests,
Forests of maple, i-ni-na-tig,
Sugar maple, where each Springtime
Sinsi-ba-quod, sugar, make they.

Many moons have passed behind us
Since these people made their homes here;
Years went by and each one working
For himself and one another,
Saw they must have help, have backing.
So they sent to the Great Father,
Said, "You must give us a leader."
So he sent them Thomas Jackson,
For their agent, for their guidance.

Now the white men and the red men
Work together with more pleasure.
Homes of boards and logs soon housed them,
A post office was erected;
Tom Fisher was the mail man.
Motor boats he used in Summer,
Ponies small he used or snowshoes
When the white snow fell the thickest.

Eleven years he hastened
Back and forth to bring his people
Messages and take them from them.
Now a greater town had flourished
Where the hunter had first visited,
Where they found the rice and maple,
Home of deer, the wa-wa-sh-ke-shi.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1400 Page VII
Nett Lake--Colorful Settlement of Chippewas
Koochiching County

RED MAN'S HAVEN-Cont.
Historical prelude by Clara St. Lawrence

Many agents had been transferred,
Here and there where best they fitted.
Mr. Isham and his family
Had arrived to live among us.
Mrs. Isham was the teacher,
Held the school with care together.
Later Mr. Winters, also,
Misses Peggarr, Kaneen, Coby
And many others came to help us--
Here to give us education
That the children and their children
Be not stinted in their learning,
Have a chance to know of other
Lands and people, books and buildings.

WRITERS PROJECT No. 1400

"FORESTRY"

KOOCHICHING COUNTY

District No. 15 of the state forestry service extends over 1,555,200 acres of land, and has headquarters at Littlefork. The Littlefork station serves as headquarters for five sub-districts, all of which are manned during the summer months. During the period of great fire hazard these sub-districts employ one forest patrolman, one towerman and at several times several smoke chasers.

The sub-districts are located at Big Falls, Rock Cut, Loman, Galvin and Rainy Lake. Of the five sub-district ranger stations, two, the Rock Cut and Big Falls stations, are within the boundaries of the 556, 160 acre Pine Island state forest.

For your information I will tell the extent of recent fires within the state forest and those outside its limits. In the season of 1934 we had a fire in the Pine Island forest which burned over 495 acres, and did a damage to salable timber of \$415.20. Damage to young timber was \$128.65 and loss incurred through damage to buildings, fences, and game was \$566.46.

"EXTENT OF DAMAGE"

Outside the state forest an area of 2,010 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres was burned over. Damage to salable timber was \$14,755.46 in this classification. Loss in young timber was \$47.64 and other damage amounted to \$695.61.

During the season of 1934 we were very fortunate in having about 400 men from the transient relief administration, commonly known as TRA men, at the disposal of the forestry service. With the aid of these men our fire fighting cost was kept at the low figure of \$3,121.88. A factor in the low cost was the fact that the TRA men must work a six hour day before they are able to earn the 15 cents per hour which the state allows after they have worked out their allotted periods.

Besides having charge of fire fighting in his territory, the district ranger is responsible for work projects of the TRA and ECW camps, better known as CCC camps. In this district at the present there are 600 men whose work projects are under supervision of the district ranger.

"EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS"

During the short time the ECW camp No. 83-S was at Big Falls we were fortunate in having the district office built at Littlefork, the Littlefork tourist park was improved and 35 miles of telephone lines built. Sixty miles of roadside was cleaned up by cutting all snags and dead material for a distance of 200 feet on each side of all state and county highways. All brush and dead wood was burned. The completion of this work will lessen fire hazards in the district about 50 per cent.

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Roadside cleaning and other necessary rough work is almost completed. Our work plans for the next two years call mostly for improvement work and tree planting.

We are also fortunate in having the promise of another ECW camp in the Loman vicinity. A two-year work plan for this new camp has already been submitted. We are living in hopes of being able to keep this camp for at least five years, as we have much forest improvement work to do in that area.

"MUCH TIMBER SALVAGED"

During the winter months we sold in this district \$8,399.22 worth of dead and fallen timber, purely salvage, off 259 forty-acre lots. This timber was all sold under provisions of Section 10, Chapter 276, laws of 1935.

We also have direct supervision over 164 forties, the timber off which was sold by the state at public auction. This supervision consists of keeping check on piece-makers while cutting and preventing them from cutting young and thrifty timber. We believe in cutting only timber which has reached its maturity. This sort of work keeps the forestry service personnel busy during the winter months. In the winter the district force consists of the district ranger, one patrolman-at-large, and two patrolmen.

"BENEFIT TO FARMERS"

Our aim is to have forests in this part of the country so that farmers might have year around employment. It is estimated that as much as \$20,000,000 in freight alone has been paid by the people of Minnesota for lumber shipped in from western forests--and yet it was said 40 years ago that Minnesot's timber supply was unlimited.

The forest service believes that the timber resources of Koochiching county are now as low as they will ever be recorded. We believe a new day is coming in the growing and utilization of forest products and that we may look forward to increasing, rather than decreasing, timber resources.

Of course the magnificent pine which once glorified the north will never return. That would take too much time for an impatient people. Valuable timber, however, can be grown in a generation; and that timber will make useful things, employ people, and will contribute to a really diversified prosperity.

Some Non-Farming Lands

We must realize the importance of agriculture in northeastern Minnesota; but we must also recognize the fact, distasteful as it may be to the agricultural enthusiast, that much of Northern Minnesota should be devoted to timber, that much of this section is not suited to the most profitable agriculture. In recognizing this fact, we must not minimize the wonderful farming possibilities of our rich lands; but we must see that in an age of agricultural over-production that lands not best suited for

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farms should be utilized for timber.

I have no holdings in this county and I doubt if I will ever be a farmer, but I do know that outside the state forest in Koochiching County lie some of the best agricultural lands in the state of Minnesota.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1490-1
Koochiching County

INDUSTRIES

"The Lumberjack, Romantic Figure Behind Papermaking"

Curiosity about the things which concern his own life is a natural characteristic of man. He is driven to wonder about the material things around which his existence revolves - his daily bread, his clothing, his luxuries, the tools and necessities of his craft or profession.

A trip through the mills to see the processes by which newsprint is produced from the raw material is most interesting and instructive. Learning something about the manufacture of newsprint from a raw product, wood, is not sufficient. There is much more to know about this interesting industry. Each day trainloads of green spruce and poplar pulpwood arrive in the yards; one sees the mountain of wood grow along the river bank, in the mill yard and in the storage lots on the edge of town.

Lumberjacks in the days gone by came and went, quarreled and made peace. Some of them even marred the Paul Bunyan tradition by becoming sick and dying. The obituaries were published on newsprint.

These events were surface indications of what was going on somewhere else; somewhere behind the scenes.

An opportunity to visit the lumber and pulpwood camps, which are the places where products of the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company really originates, proves most interesting.

One starts out on a morning in late winter for the interior of Koochiching County - an area which remains mostly wild and unspoiled. The scene we are about to study in logging is that boundless region of forests which is tapped only by the Calvin line, a logging railroad.

We make the trip in a neat little railcar owned by the International Lumber Company. This conveyance is a cross between a regular train, and an automobile, and a school bus. It travels on railway tracks but is propelled by a gasoline motor. Both inwardly and outwardly it resembles a blunt-nosed motor coach.

Shortly before 11 A. M. we pull away from the yards and speed down the Minnesota & International tracks toward Clvin Junction, a point five miles from International Falls where the logging road proper begins. The chief engineer, who is conductor, brakeman and everything else, said the car is capable of a speed of 60 miles per hour, but we break no records because it is snowing and visibility is poor. When we reach the Junction, the engineer calls the dispatcher and receives instructions to wait for a wood train which is approaching on the logging road. Finally the train chugs out of the forest, which is quite dense at this particular point. When the way is clear, we switch off the main tracks and roar down the Calvin line.

If it is one's first experience on a logging railroad, you are surprised that the tracks resemble a roller-coaster trestle more than they do the kind of railway to which one is accustomed. The line follows the contour of the earth's surface, just as a highway does. Logging roads are built with an eye to economy and all unnecessary cuts and fills are avoided. The grades are just steep enough to give one a good thrill.

We motor along in the "speeder" for nearly ten miles before we see any indications of civilization or actual timber operations. We cross only two roads in this distance and see only one farm house. It is a real revelation that any part of Minnesota can be so wild and unpopulated.

Along the way we see much of the coniferous forests for which Minnesota is famous. Occasionally we pass stands of virgin Norway and white pine which towers, maybe a hundred feet, toward the sky. Spruce and poplar are the most numerous trees. In so-called "Cut-over" sections one notes a second growth of pine, spruce, balsam and poplar. These are forest crops which will be permitted to grow until they are ready to be harvested with profit, years hence. Under the old and unscrupulous order of things the trees just mentioned would be mowed down for immediate consumption, but the people of Minnesota have adopted a wise policy of forest management.

A considerable part of the wood cut in this region is taken from state-owned lands on which timber rights have been purchased. Cutting of wood in such state forest areas is under the careful surveillance of state rangers, and the loggers, make very careful effort to comply with rules of the conservation department.

A five-foot layer of snow gives a touch of purity to the entire landscape. While residents of other sections of the United States ruin their summers by worrying over the approach of winter, satisfied people of northern Minnesota enjoy their marvelous summers with never a thought that the cold will be anything but severe. All along the northern boundary are people who know that winter, when it strikes, will bring discomfort, but they don't worry about it. With cold and snow come work in the woods and most likely an opportunity for a summer's job in the mills. Snow may be six feet deep on the level, as it was in 1934, and the temperature may slide down to 55 below; but these are only conditions for which people are prepared.

After a half-hour's ride we clatter up to Landing No. 184. A mountainous pile of logs and pulpwood and a few frame buildings along the right-of-way were only signs of civilization.

When we come to a stop at No. 184 landing, a few men come out of a building to talk to the engineer. It seems they are workers from an inland camp four miles away who have snow-shoed down to the railroad to get the mail pouch and to help load some provision which are to be taken to camp farther down the line.

The inland camp has about completed its season's cutting and the quarters of beef, pails of herring and drums of coffee were left-overs which would replenish the commissaries of other company camps.

With a loaded trailer we start out again. Our next stop is Camp No. 183 which also is about ready to close up after a busy season. To reach this camp we switch off the mainline and travel over a spur which wound treacherously through the trees, over hill and dale, for several miles. The snow is drifting badly and several times the packed snow blocked our progress.

No. 138 had been occupied by more than 200 men during the winter, but now only a skeleton crew remain. Fortunately, the cook is still on the job and we sit down to a substantial meal of pork and potatoes, pie, cake and cookies.

The long roofing-covered buildings which had been used as bunkhouses during the winter are empty now, and workmen are removing windows and casing. When a camp is abandoned all the buildings are sold, but ownership of glass and sash is retained by the company.

In the vacant bunkhouses I see indications of how typical lumberjacks live and dispose of their spare hours. Reading material, stacks of it, was strewn over the floor, reminiscent of attempts to while away long winter evenings. Old newspapers are plentiful, but ragged magazines filled with detective stories and tales of a confession nature were also there. Old shoes, torn pieces of winter clothing, discarded pipes and worn packsacks, all tell stories of that most romantic and least understood character, the lumberjack.

Paul Bunyan tales depicting the lumberjack as a profane, powerful, super-man, do a great injustice to a class of men whose energy is the basis of prosperity in the timber belt. The average 'jack is thoroughly human and I believe he rightfully resents being pictured as anything else.

There is still some question as to whether a lumberjack's heart is bigger than his appetite. Both are immense. Every one of them with whom we talk would unhesitatingly tear the shirt off his own back for a friend. Generosity is so imbedded in his lonely soul that it almost constitutes a religion. This is speaking of the majority. Of course there are a few surly, case-hardened individuals whose good features are not so near the surface. I have good cause for defining the present-day 'jack as a kind, honest though rough workman who has nothing of which to be ashamed.

Stories concerning reputed slovenliness and undesirable habits among woodsmen, like the news of Mark Twain's death, have been greatly exaggerated. Many of them come from so-called "good families" and have an in-born finish which even the rough nature of their occupation can not erase.

Most of them, too, are eager learners and make good use of knowledge acquired through reading. In the camps, I am told, there is no disappointment so keen as that which comes with failure of the Mail--with its newspapers and magazines--to arrive on time.

Old-time Minnesota loggers have noted a distinct change in the nationality of the lumberjacks. From 1875 to the turn of the century, natives of Sweden outnumbered all other immigrants in the big timber operations which began just above the Twin Cities and gradually moved north as the timber line receded. Today the Finlander is most numerous among foreign-born 'jacks.

Native born Americans and Canadians today outnumber the lumberjacks born abroad. A considerable part of these Americans have rather obscure backgrounds, backgrounds which death does not even bring to light. I have spoken to those who would rather not mention their early years, and in their very untalkativeness have seen traces of unhappy homes, domestic trouble, and the tragedies of youth.

About a year ago a young man who had come to the border to work as cookee in a camp passed away. Among his effects were found clues which revealed a glamorous career. He was a graduate of a southern university, was once a friend of notable men and had achieved great wealth in a real estate boom. With the crash his half-million dollar fortune was wiped out. He became discouraged and foot-loose. After wandering around the globe he landed in the north woods--there to attempt another fresh start. But Death blocked the way.

This man, investigations showed, was a scholar and writer of great ability. In his trunk were short story manuscripts which in a better day would perhaps have brought him fame.

This alone is an example, but there must be many others equally as remarkable.

In late afternoon of the day we visited the logging operations. We reached Camp No. 188, a "model" set-up which is worthy of some description.

My earlier impression of a lumber camp was that it was merely a place where workmen eat and sleep during the logging season. One finds this to be all wrong. A big camp, such as 188, is a complete industrial unit equipped to handle every detail of the local operations. Instead of finding the camp composed of two or three buildings, we find there are nearer twenty. In addition to the bunkhouses, mess hall and kitchen, there is an office, a wanagan, special quarters of "white collar" employees, warehouses, blacksmith shop, meat storage house, pump house and barns for more than 50 horses.

This little "village" has a population of more than 200 and it's location is in the heart of a wilderness more than 30 miles from the city from which the supplies come. You cannot get in or out except by the company's railroad.

Earlier in this story reference was made to the lumberjack's big appetite. Here was a good chance to learn more about this subject.

We find George Bortz, the cook, bustling around six assistants (cookees) in an immense kitchen. One table top was entirely covered with piles of cookies. There must have been 75 dozen.

George gets his crew out at 4:30 each morning to bake. Ordinarily the men consume 48 loaves of bread and 40 pies per day. This in addition to countless rolls, doughnuts and other forms of pastry.

It was Four o'clock and preparations for the evening meal were begun. "It's hamburger tonight," said George as we stopped to watch a cookee mix 75 pounds of ground meat in a pan almost as large as a wash tub.

Lumberjacks demand good food in large quantities and George sees that they get it. Some of the men who work at a distance from the camp do not come in for the noon-day meal but eat on location. A horse-drawn "jumper" carries a hot meal to them wherever they are. George said there are always four kinds of meat for the men who "eat out".

On Sundays and special occasions the always-good menu includes turkey or chicken.

A number of my friends have spent winters checking and clerking in the lumber camps and many are the interesting tales they tell about their experiences. Camp work is best suited to men who love nature and the outdoors and who can bear to be away from the city and "civilization" for from one to five months. For a conscientious man a winter in the woods works miracles. The food he gets is in many cases superior to his home diet, he has plenty of opportunity to sleep and develop physically, and if he is thrifty he will finish the season with from \$300 to \$700 in cash.

"White collar" workers are usually paid each month, but the woodsmen often is content to let his "stake" pile up until the end of the season, when he goes to town and disposes of his earnings in sundry manners.

Lumber camp employees have a remarkable opportunity to observe the wild life of the forest. Each camp has its following of semi-tame deer and bears which slip up occasionally to augment their natural cuisine. Kitchen workers are the best friends of the black bear who raids the garbage barrels, while "barn bosses" have been known to forget a little hay outside the stable for deer and moose whose feeding ground are covered with many feet of snow. Some excellent snapshots have been taken by camp men who are wise enough to make friends with these denizens of the forest.

A person could write endlessly on the subject of logging. It is a subject with so many ramifications that it is difficult to tell just where to begin. Viewed from any angle the business is fascinating because of the way in which it links nature with lowly man. Books have been written which covered the logging industry in itself, while other volumes have been devoted exclusively to the woodsman's colorful existence. Really the two should be combined. The industry would be helpless were it not for its force of experienced woodsmen; while, on the other hand, no dyed-in-the-wool lumberjack is happy except when he is in or near the woods.

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No. 1400
Koochiching County

IMMIGRATION

Border Patrolmen Lead Active Life, Seeking Out Aliens

Men Here Inspect 120-Mile Frontier

Visitors to the northern Minnesota boundary are certain at some time or another to catch sight of immigration border patrolmen, those men in forest-green uniforms whose duty it is to prevent illegal entry on the United States-Canadian frontier. These officers of the United States, every visitor will find, are efficient and courteous servants of the people.

At International Falls are the headquarters for the border patrol which guards the entire international line from Grand Marais on Lake Superior to Roseau, 115 miles to the west. Three different branches of service are stationed in International Falls.

The corps of 20 officers is headed by Earl F. Law, chief patrol inspector. His chief assistant is Senior Patrol Inspector Harry H. Breza.

Because of the nature of the duties they are expected to perform, border patrolmen need the assistance of every man, woman and child in their district. In getting information about aliens, inspectors are often called upon to play the part of secret service operatives. It is essential to their success that they have a wide acquaintance. Almost anyone in a border community may be a potential source of information.

A district director begins the following account of the work of a patrol inspector:

Variety of Duties

The assignment of a patrol inspector are many and varied. One shift may find him watching the international boundary. Another will send him through the country away from the boundary line, checking roads and trails for contraband aliens who have evaded the watch on the border. Another will put him in the railroad yards searching freight trains. Another will keep him on the move between railroad and bus stations examining arriving and departing passengers. His assignment may then shift to checking highways for suspected cars; or watching a landing field for a suspicious airplane; or perhaps he will be found with ragged clothes, hobnobbing with the habitues of a hobo camp or hangouts of the underworld.

Beware of Hikers

Those unfamiliar with problems of the border are warned to exercise great care in picking up hitch-hikers. During the spring and summer months aliens whose presence in the United States might be undesirable are apt to be crossing the international line. These aliens fall into two classifications. One group consists of those who come here on business, pleasure, for touring or to establish legal residence. They cross the border with requirements for legal entry.

The other class consists of those who enter the country without complying with requirements or reporting to officers. Their presence there is illegal. This class comes across the line to replace our labor and may be undesirable in many ways. An alien of this stamp is liable to prosecution and is subject to deportation. His entrance is usually by walking across the border by night, soliciting rides from unsuspecting motorists to some point where he feels safe in boarding a train or bus. Such a person may walk a considerable distance south of the border before attempting to catch a ride.

An Ounce of Prevention

Aside from the public service rendered in reporting strangers soliciting rides, the motorist protects himself from possible robbery, damage and liability suits by refusing to pick up so-called hitch-hikers.

It has been said that the border patrol is the ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of cure. Aliens, like any other group of human beings, are made up of good and bad. The exclusion of criminal aliens is an essential part of an effort to control crime and vice in the United States. The exclusion of aliens of good character who do not have the legal right to enter may avert such heartaches and hardships as the alien himself would avoid did he know they lay ahead of him.

Consider the case of the honest industrious alien whose only offense has been his illegal entry into the United States. In the natural course of events, he marries an American citizen, establishes a home, becomes the father of American-born children. Then comes his arrest on deportation charges. Deportation will probably mean the separation of his family--that his home will be broken up forever. Under the existing law, deportation is mandatory if the charge of illegal entry is sustained.

HONOR COMES FIRST

In holding fast the line, the immigration border patrol performs not only a vital national but a humanitarian service.

"Honor first" is the watchword of the border patrol. It is a slogan which has been given specific meaning and importance by hundreds of examples of moral as well as physical courage. A stranger need never hesitate to call on a border patrolman for help or information. He is a public servant and he likes his job.

For the benefit of strangers to a border community who might be confused by sight of government officials in variously-colored uniforms, the following explanation is given:

IMMIGRATION BORDER PATROL

Responsibility for enforcing immigration laws along the international boundary rests with the border patrol, previously mentioned. Officers of this unit wear the forest-green uniform.

CUSTOMS BORDER PATROL

Officers of the customs border patrol serve a capacity similar to that of the immigration patrol except that their duties are confined to enforcement of laws concerned with collection of custom fees and duties required by passage of goods across the border. These are the men who watch for, and usually catch, smugglers. The officers may be recognized by the dark grey, almost black, uniforms they wear.

CUSTOMS INSPECTORS

Customs inspectors are the gentlemen who meet you at a port of entry and check your possessions as you enter the United States. If they deem it advisable, they have authority to search your car and personal baggage for goods which are dutiable. Customs inspectors wear dark blue uniforms.

WRITER'S PROJECT

No. 1400

Koochiching County

ASK INSTALLATION OF LAKE MARKERS

"Three Organizations Petition"

At the last meeting of the city council, held Monday evening, a resolution was introduced and adopted calling on the United States Coast and Geodetic survey to buoy and otherwise mark the channels, reefs, rocks and other danger spots in Rainy lake in accordance with the survey of the lake completed last fall by Engineer Duncan B. Bell after three seasons of work.

Tuesday an identical resolution was adopted by the board of county commissioners and Tuesday evening the recently reorganized Business Men's Association also adopted the resolution. Copies of the resolutions adopted were forwarded to the Coast and Geodetic Survey at Washington.

At the same time all of Minnesota's congressmen and senators at Washington were addressed, calling their attention to the resolutions adopted and urging them to help in getting the lake properly buoyed and marked.

A great many vessels, large and small, ply the lake, and the survey made by Mr. Bell, admitted to be a very thorough one, will not be of very much use to the average lake navigator unless the channels and the danger points are plainly marked. It is urged that now is a particularly good time to plant the buoys and markers as the water is at a very low stage.

LARGE, NEW CROSSING SIGNS PLACED IN THE CITY

New crossing signs of the reflector type have been installed by the M. D. & W. railway at the Second and Fourth street and Second avenue crossings and also at the crossing at the pulpwood tracks near the second bridge in International Falls. The signs are fine ones, large and showy. Motorists will not be tempted to cross here in the usual "U" turn, unless they are willing to run the risk of crashing into the side of a railroad car, or a smash-up in front of a locomotive.

1,438 FARMS IN COUNTY, NEW CENSUS DISCLOSES

Koochiching county, with 1,438 farms, has attracted 869 non-farmers to its farm lands within the last five years, according to the U. S. department of commerce survey recently published.

On January 1, 1935, there were 5,736 residents living on farms, contrasted with 4,741 on April 1, 1930. During this same period, the number of persons living on farms in Minnesota increased 3.7 per cent, with 5.4 per cent of the farmers occupying non-farm residences before this period.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1440-1
KOOCHICHING COUNTY

RUINS OF FIRST BUILDING IN STATE

~~LOCATED ON BORDER~~

Laurel, Minnesota, a tiny village on Rainy River 16 miles west of International Falls claims the distinction of being the site of the first building erected in the entire state-the historic Fort St. Charles, erected in 1730 through the effort of the daring French adventurer, La Verendyre, to serve as a trading post for the Hudson's Bay Company. This fort, as well as forts erected on Lake Winnipeg, Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods, also served as semi-military bases for explorations made by La Verendyre and his company of fifty adventurers.

In 1820 when American trading posts were established, all traces of the original forts had been lost. However, through the efforts of the St. Boniface Historical Society the ruins of the original Fort St. Charles were discovered in 1908.

Other finds established beyond a question of a doubt that the site of the first settlement of the white man in northern Minnesota had been located, buried beneath Indian mounds. Some of these find indicate that an Indian race had established itself in these parts centuries before Columbus crossed the blue. Some historians venture the opinion that primitive man hunted in Minnesota more than 20,000 years ago.

*A part of
Koochiching copy*

WRITER'S PROJECT
NO. 1400
KOOCHICHING COUNTY

FRENCH VOYAGEUR WAS FIRST MAN TO
VISIT FALLS AREA

Editor's Note: Following is the reprint of a historical sketch of Koochiching County written about 1920.

This county, established December 19, 1906 bears the Cree name applied by the Ojibways to Rainy lake, and also to the Rainy river and to its great falls and rapids at International Falls. It is translated by Reverend J. A. Gilfillan as Neighbor lake and river, or, under another interpretation, a lake and river somewhere. He remarked that this word is of difficult and uncertain meaning, and that, although in common Ojibway use, it does not strictly belong to that language.

Jacques de Noyon, a French Canadian voyageur, who was probably the first white man to traverse any part of the northern boundary of Minnesota, about the year 1688, found this name used in the Cree language for the Rainy river. As narrated by an official report of the Intendant Begon, written at Quebec, November 12, 1716, published in the Margry Papers (Vol. VI, pages 495-8), DeNoyon, about 28 years previous to that date, had set out from Lake Superior by the canoe route of the Kaministiquia river, under the guidance of a party of Assiniboine Indians, in the hope of coming to the Sea of the West. He passed through Rainy lake, called the Lake of the Crees, and wintered on its outflowing river, the Takamaniouen, "otherwise called Ouchichiq by the Crees," evidently the Koochiching or Rainy river and falls, from which this county is named.

Another early narrative of travel, 1740-42, by a French and Ojibway half-breed named Joseph la France, containing a description of the Rainy lake and river, is given in a book published by Arthur Dobbs in London in 1744, entitled "An Account of the Countries adjoining to Hudson's Bay." La France passed through Rainy lake in the later part of April and early May, 1740, and stayed ten days at the Koochiching falls on the Rainy river near the outlet of this lake. For the purpose of fishing, the Moose band of Ojibways had "two great villages, one on the north side, and the other on the south side of the Fall," being respectively on or near the sites of Fort Frances and International Falls. The narrative tells the origin of the French name, Lac de la Pluie (Lake of the Rain), which in English is Rainy lake, that it is so called from a perpendicular waterfall, by which the water falls into a river southwest of it, which raises a mistlike rain." This refers to the outflowing Rainy river, in its formerly mist-covered falls, since 1908 dammed and supplying water-power in the city of International Falls for the largest paper-making mills in the world.

The original meanings of Ouchichiq (for Koochiching), the Cree name for Rainy river two hundred years ago, and Takamaniouen, variously spelled, an equally ancient Indian name of the Rainy river and lake, are uncertain; but it may be true that one or both gave in translation the French and English names which refer to the mists of the falls, resembling rain.

Takamaniouen, as written by Begon in 1716, placed in another spelling on the map drawn by Ochagach for Verendrye in 1728, was received from the Assiniboines. It is thought by Horace V. Winchell and U. S. Grant (Geology of Minnesota, Vol. IV, page 192), that this name was translated to Lac de la Pluie.

Information for this county was gathered from Louis A. Ogaard, county surveyor, during a visit at International Falls, county seat, in Sept., 1909;

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Koochiching County

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and from L. H. Slocum, county auditor, during a second visit here in August, 1916.

Baldus is a recently organized township, probably named for a pioneer settler.

Bannock township received this Gaelic name from Scotland by vote of its bachelor settlers, for their bannock bread, "in shape flat and round."

The Minnesota Historical society suggested to Governor John A. Johnson that one of the counties into which Itasca will be divided be called Verendrye, in honor of the earliest white explorer there.

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No. 1400-1
Koochiching County

INDUSTRIES

"Big Industries Center Around Koochiching Dam"

A Fur Post in 1816

In 1816 the American Fur company established a trading post on the Minnesota side on the present site of International Falls.

In 1824 the United States government expedition of "Long and Keating" visits trading post at the falls.

In 1842 Webster-Ashburton international boundary treaty names "Chaudiere Falls," (Koochiching Falls) as one of the landmarks separating Canada from the United States.

In 1857 Canadian government expedition of "Hinds and Sawson" selects falls for site of government lock and dam.

In 1871 General Wolseley's army of 1,049 British regulars comes up boundary canoe route past the falls to put down the Red River rebellion.

In 1881 Alexander Baker, Hudson Bay company factor, files on claim as the pioneer homesteader on the Present site of International Falls.

In 1902 Canadian Northern railway completed via the falls across an arm of Rainy Lake.

In 1904 company perfects joint control of Canadian and American riparian rights and contracts for the development of the water power and the establishment of various manufacturing industries.

In 1905 work commenced on construction of the dam and platting of townsite.

In 1906 period of construction of power houses, dam.

In 1892 the present company, through its predecessors, obtains complete acquisition of the Baker claim, negotiations for which were begun by the former in 1885.

Immense Watershed

Koochiching Falls produced by the contracted flow of the Rainy Lake watershed, has its eastern head in North Lake, 150 miles to the eastward and within 50 miles of Lake Superior.

The width of the watershed averages 120 miles, including both sides of the boundary, making a total of nearly 18,000 square miles of which almost 25 per cent is water area. There are something like 1,000 lakes, large and small in the watershed, of which forty or more are ten miles and upwards in length, the whole closely chained together by a network of short streams and rapids. Rainy Lake which acts both as a reservoir of the watershed and as the great mill pond for Koochiching falls, is a noble rockbound expanse which stretches east and west along the boundary a distance of forty-five miles, with a northwesterly projection of an additional forty miles into Ontario, and a total water area of over 330 square miles or equal to 211,000 acres.

Koochiching falls proper, known to the French voyagers of the 18th century as the "Chaudiere" or caldron, before development had a net natural fall of 24 feet; after the dam was completed the fall was increased to 30 feet during high water, average head of 27 feet. Developing 25,000 horse power

Mills Opened in 1910

A four-machine mill was completed in 1910 and put into operation in June of that year, also a sulphite mill and groundwood mill. These plants had at that time an output of 175 tons of groundwood pulp, 100 tons of sulphite and 200 tons of newsprint paper. At the present time this mill has been enlarged and the tonnage increased. In 1917 a kraft mill was built with a tonnage of 90 tons per day. The paper machines are making kraft paper, book, and various grades of newsprint that were not thought of when the mill was started in 1910.

In the summer of 1913 the company started to build a machine to manufacture an insulating board from the waste material from the groundwood and sulphite mills, and after a lot of experimenting, a machine was built which could produce about 2,180 square feet in 24 hours. In 1915 this business had outgrown the experimental stage and a new mill was built and a machine installed which produced 60,000 square feet of board every 24 hours. In 1925, this building was found too small for the business and a new mill built, installing one machine with a footage of 200,000 square feet per day, in 1928 another machine was installed and put into operation with a footage of 250,000 square feet per day. In 1931 No. 3 machine was installed, bringing production up to 720,000 square feet per day of Insulite, "the board of 1,000 uses," and giving employment to 325 men.

Saw Mill

Built in the spring and summer of 1911, hot pond was installed during the summer of 1912 making it possible to operate this mill the year around. Capacity, 300,000 feet in a ten-hour day. Equipment--three band saws, one gang and one resaw. Employs 500 men. Planing mill capacity 400,000 feet in ten-hour day.

M. D. & W. Ry.

A logging road was started in 1910.1911 having at start one locomotive and 30 flat cars, also 30 miles of track and employed 30 men. A round house was built in the fall of 1911. At present this road has 11 locomotives, 400 cars and 155 miles of track and employs 120 men.

Fort Frances Pulp & Paper Co.

In 1914 the Fort Frances mill was completed and put into operation. This mill was equipped with two large paper machines with a production of 150 tons in 24 hours. In 1927 another machine was installed, bringing the production up to 275 tons of newsprint in 24 hours. In 1926 work was started on the LaSeine river Power and in 1928 this work was completed, giving to Fort Frances mill approximately 40,000 electrical H.P. This has made it possible to use electric broilers in this mill in place of coal burning equipment. Employs 158 men.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 2440-1
Koochiching County

nett Lake,

"TWENTY MILES NORTHWEST OF ORR"

"The Trading Post"

The aroma of roasted rice! The beat of the medicine drum! The murmur of the dusky maidens as they speak softly to their escorts walking by the lake. The dip of paddles, the honk honk of the duck and the swish of wings on the water as the northern flight comes in. It all gets in your blood as you sit in front of one of the cabins on the shores of Nett Lake, 20 miles northwest of Orr, Minn.

Yes, you have entered the wilderness but you can still bask in the cozy cabins without giving up some luxuries even though you meant to rough it. Electric lights are provided, good beds in clean cabins and choice home-cooked meals for all who desire them are part of the establishment. Guides are required for duck hunting here. Guides are provided who KNOW the lake, and no hunters return without the limit. If you wish to go swimming a good beach is within a block of the lodge. If you like to be with a group, there are accommodations for as high as 40 or more at one time.

Spirit island, just a quarter or a mile out in the lake, still bears the pictures left in the rocks by the spirits who dwelled in the region years ago! There they lie imbedded in the rock for all who may wish to see, proving the lore of the red man whose ancestors lived in this region. Do you like to hear Indian legends? Then bring your party here. Sit and visit with the inheritant chief of the Chippewa people who live here. Buy souvenirs actually made by Indian men and women from native materials. Eat wild rice where it is gathered. Watch the ricers at work. See the men play their famous moccasin game. Then go back and rest happily and comfortably at one of the cabins.

WRITER'S PROJECT
No. 1400
NETT LAKE---COLORFUL SETTLEMENT OF CHIPPEWAS
Koochiching County

Nett Lake lies contentedly in its radiant group of maples, birch and oak. When autumn comes a riot of color more beautiful than any artist can imitate greets the eye of the wondering guest. The green roofed, white cottages glisten in the sun as their walls echo the glad laughter of the playing children. Many of the original log cabins still stand and the occasional bark wigwam nearby adds to the historic picturesque atmosphere. Every cabin has its stand for the traditional canoe. Few are birch, however, for the white men have shown that a canoe can be made more easily with wood and canvas. Fred Geshick, expert canoe maker, sells his canoes in all parts of the country.

TWO CHURCHES CONSTRUCTED

The little white church on the left as one enters the village is the home of the methodist episcopal congregation gathered together many years ago and held by the untiring efforts of Rev. Pequette, Indian minister who has retired. Just before reaching the lake one comes to the little Catholic chapel started years ago. At present it is visited once a month by Rev. Father L. Gauthier of International Falls.

Beyond the chapel is the trading post and hunting lodge described elsewhere in this issue. Here may be purchased beautiful articles of native make, rich with the craft and skill of Chippewa tribesmen---- baskets of bark or ash, small g-gee-bix of rabbits foot and beads, powder boxes of porcupine quills, purses, card cases and hand-bags of velvety buckskin, canes of diamond willow, rag rugs, bird houses of birch bark, moccasins and packets beaded in rich native designs.

Beyond the store, nestled in the hillside beside their beloved lake, many Indian families dwell.

SCHOOL SURPRISES VISITORS

To the left as one passes the mission are several cottages. The first is the community club house. The second is used as a teacherage and the third is being used by the field clerk as his office.

Beyond the field clerk's office is the government garage and the school--a surprise for the visitors. It is indeed a beautiful modern establishment. Three spacious classrooms are provided and the building has its own electric light plant. Two library rooms furnish modern texts and reference material, with books from the county library available for adults.

On the same floor as the classroom is the medical department, consisting of an examining room and office. Each Tuesday a doctor is in attendance with a field nurse and together they hold clinic. This medical aid costs the patient nothing for the cost is borne by the tribe. The basement is the interesting part of the building.

CHILDREN FED DAILY

Aside from the usual boiler room and coal bin there is a large room which houses the two motors which generate the electricity. In the rest of the basement are the dining room, kitchen, pantry, laundry and tank room. The dining room is provided with tables and benches for the 80 or more pupils who dine there daily. Water for the school is procured from a flowing well northwest of the school and pumped into the large pressure tank.

At the end of the road is the beautiful agency home, a cottage occupied by the field clerk and his wife. It is wired from the school plant.

500 INHABITANTS

Strolling on, departing from the highway, one comes to a lovely little park. It is near the lake shore on a high hill near "Big Point", the historical spot where one of the first settlements was made. Here are maple trees bearing scars of many yearly visitations for tapping.

In all the village contains perhaps 500 inhabitants. A majority of these are "on the roll" which means that they share in the annuity or per capita payments.

How does so large a body of people gain a livelihood in these remote surroundings? First, nature has endowed them with an ability to wrench from the forests and lakes game and fish which form a large part of their diet. Again many of them procure work from private concerns and lumber companies. In season many trap fur-bearing animals and trade pelts for necessities.

Many people erroneously believe that each month all Indians receive an allowance from moneys inherited from parents who sold land or timber, said funds being held in trust. People who are on the roll receive per capita payments as our congress sees fit to allow. During the past fiscal year the payments were \$2.40. Years ago the payments were as high as \$100 per capita.

MAPLE TREES TAPPED

Each year as soon as the sap begins to flow many families move to a scene where maple trees grow. With them go their toboggans laden with birch bark rolls, food and utensils. Upon reaching the site selected the wigwam is pitched, covered with bark, and work begins. Trees are tapped daily and nocturnal visits are made, the sap carried to the central camp. The sap is boiled and made into sugar which is cooled in birch bark baskets or cup cake tins.

After the sugar season, gardens are planted by the more ambitious. These are often left to their own resources, however, for soon comes the berry season and big and small hie themselves to the berry fields at Kinmount and other points north.

Scarcely are the berries gone before the ricing begins. At this time relations and friends invade the village so that every available house is full and many wigwams are pitched. Definite regulations are put forth by the Indian council designating what days the canoes

may go out and just what sections of the lake are to be harvested.

On days ricing is permitted the canoes go out, each with two workers. One paddles while the other wields two sticks to thresh the rice heads into the canoe.

When the canoe is so full that it sinks almost to the watering line, the harvesters come in. Those on the shore roast or parch the grains in large kettles over open fires to loosen the hulls and change the flavor. The rice is continuously stirred. It is removed from the fire and poured into wide bark baskets which are shaken laboriously to fan out hulls, stalks, or foreign substances. The rice is poured into a cement receptacle in the ground or a wooden vat and a man or boy with moccasins or rubbers on his feet prepares to "jig" it. A peculiar tramping step is used to loosen all shells from grain. Again the rice is fanned and then it is bagged, weighed and marketed. Buyers come in from many points and much competition ensues.

During the ricing season many of the ceremonial dances occur. Let us imagine ourselves in the village on the night of an Indian dance. Early in the evening one hears the roll of the tom tom and natives carrying packs and bundles are seen wending their way to the coliseum. A jingle of bells is heard occasionally and by following the crowd one sees before the building a fire over which serious faced men are drying and stretching skillfully the drum. Soon they enter the dimly lighted octagon dance hall. It has a raised platform in the center, for the drummers who begin immediately a measured beat and voices swell with words which one does not understand but inflections, and cadences tell of the wars, victories, love and hate of which they sing.

MUSIC FASCINATING

No other music enters the heart and fascinates the listener as does the song of the red men. Soon out of the darkness come many girls each dressed in a beautiful dress, trimmed with shining tin or glass ornaments. Black, dark green, or red colors predominate. Each is a plain two-piece gown elaborately trimmed with several rows of tin fringe on the skirt, sleeves and collar. These fringes are made by shaping a triangular piece of tin into a slender funnel shape. Above the fringe usually is a row of squares of tin carefully spaced. These are found to the square originally placed on the cover of a snuff box. Literally pounds of snuff must be purchased to procure enough squares for one dress.

YOUTHS JOIN GIRLS

The girls dance into a circle, rising and falling with the rhythm of the tom tom. A halt step is used bending the right knee at each inflected beat and shuffling to the left so as to continue the circling swaying motion. Suddenly youths dressed in brilliant suits trimmed with beads, feathers, and fur rush into the room and hop to the rhythmic sounds. Each youth wears a head-dress which partially covers his face so he is barely recognizable. He steps lightly on his toes, twice thumping the floor with his heels on each beat of the music. His body twists and turns snakily, sometimes almost touching the floor. Very skillful, indeed, are these graceful dancers.

✓ VISITORS WELCOMED

As the evening wears on, the singers tire and are replaced. Dancers stop to rest and speeches of welcome to guests are made responded to by many emphatic "Hows". Occasionally a feast of parched wild rice with butter and sugar is served each person.

Perhaps this is the occasion of a "give and take" dance. Then after the circle has broken and dancers are seated, the drums begin again. A costumed figure glides across the hall and hands a gift to his chosen friend. Together they go through the graceful, fascinating cavortings of the native dance. Couple after couple join the dancers, not youth and maid but two girls, two women or two men. At the close of this dance the couples again exchange gifts and resume their dancing.

Nett Lake was complimented for its booth, which won first prize at the recent Cass Lake Fair, in a letter addressed to J. G. Morrison, field agent, from J. W. Kaufman, agricultural extension agent for the Consolidated Chippewa agency. Mr. Kaufmann made the following statement: "We appreciate the exhibit which you had and we feel that it was one of the highlights of the fair."

A complete list of prizes won by Nett Lake exhibitors follows:

A complete list:

Grand champion booth display--\$10.
Potatoes--Frank Day (third prize.)
Bead work and buckskin combination--Mrs. Otter, 25¢ (third).
Paddles--John Roy, 75¢ (first)
Rabbit skin robe--Fred Geshick, 25¢ (third).
Buckskin gloves--Mrs. Clara Soreyes, \$1.00 (first and third).
Old Indian curios--Frank Day, \$1.00 (first).
Black inlaid pipe--Tom Fisher, 25¢ (first).
Wild rice--Charlotte Wein. 50¢ (first).
Best tanned hide--Mrs. William King, 50¢ (first).
Ceremonial garments--Tom Drift 75¢ (first); Mrs. Tom Fisher, 50¢ (second); Nancy Woodenfrog, 25¢ (third).
Cedar mat--Mrs. J. Woodenfrog, \$1.00 (first).
Quilt--Sagand-a-ga-wi-gwe club--first prize.

Much credit is due Mr. Morrison who collected these articles and arranged them in the booth. The articles were made under the direction of the Women's club of Nett Lake and the Men's Handicraft club. Donations for prizes were made by the Indian welfare committee of the Minnesota Federation of Women's club and the women's clubs at Crookston and Long. Prairie.

Boothby *ast*

On American Island are gold workings opened in 1935. Gold was discovered on this island in 1893-94 and was intensively mined for some time, but the amount obtained did not justify the expense and labor. Recent prospectors with modern equipment and advanced knowledge of mining hope to extract gold in commercial quantities.