



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

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Kittson Co. Enterprise - June 23, 1937

Dam creates lake $3\frac{1}{2}$ mi. long - $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$
miles wide. depth 10 feet, & 28 ft in deepest part -
re: dam dedication -

Bronson lake cleaning - July 21 1937 -
next year, when
water up, will be 3 fine lakes behind the
dam, interconnected by river itself.

July 21, 1937. p. 3 -
Proceedings of County Board deciding to name
lake Lake Bronson -

Nov. 3, 1937.

Lake Bronson park improvement project.
Jan. 5, 1938.

Lake Bronson beautification project -

Bronson Budget June 17, 1937.

"Lake Bronson or Floyd B. Olson Lake -
at a later date."

June 24 1937

Dedication Account.

Lake 327 acres -

July 22, 1937 -

Decision of County Board - Lake Bronson

Jan. 27, 1938 -

Dams closed at Lake Bronson.

Feb. 3, 1938.

Improve. at Lake Bronson -

June 17, 1937 - Re: Notice of hearing on Lake Bronson
Case?

Hearing July 12, 1937 - at Hallock.

Bronson, Minn., Aug. 21, 1937

Mr. Herman C. Wenzel,
Commissioner of Conservation,
Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Wenzel:

May I call to your attention
the enclosed newspaper clippings covering the new
WPA dam and lake here at Bronson, Minn.

From this you will see how, for several months,
the new lake here has become known as "Lake Floyd Olson"
through the big dailies and other newspapers and magaz-
ines all of which should receive most serious consider-
ation when the official naming or re-naming of this
lake comes before the Geographic board of which you are
a member.

I understand that the similarity of names will be
avoided by the board and since there is a Lake Benton
in this state and which name is similar to the proposed
"Lake Bronson" for the new Kittson county lake, it is
hoped that the latter will be dismissed in favor of "Lake
Floyd Olson" as requested by 151 petitioners from all
parts of Kittson county as compared to about 20 who
desire the lake named "Lake Bronson". The smaller number
of petitioners all being residents of the village of
Bronson and immediate vicinity.

Will you kindly let me know whether the meeting
of the Geographic board will be open to the public at
the time the renaming of this lake comes before it?
If so I will consider it a favor if you will also let me
know on what date the board meets for the purpose stated.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Erickson

(Pres. Kittson County Conservation Club)

RECEIVED
Department of Conservation
Administration

1937
RECEIVED
Department of Conservation
Administration

AUG 21 1937

Answered

August 23rd, 1937.

Mr. Alfred Erickson, Pres.
Kittson County Conservation Club
Bronson, Minn.

Dear Mr. Erickson:-

I received your letter, together with newspaper clipping, indicating that it was always intended that the Bronson dam project, creating a lake in your territory, should be known as Lake Floyd B. Olson.

I will be very glad to submit this information to the State Geographic Board when it meets during this coming winter.

The reason the Board has not functioned heretofore is due to the fact that the legislature, which established this board, provided no funds with which to carry on the activities of the board. However, I am endeavoring to have this set-up organized by having a secretary from this department handle the clerical work and I believe I will be able to prevail upon the other members to serve this coming winter in order that we may consider the many petitions requesting the renaming of some of the thousands of lakes in this state.

You may rest assured we will give your suggestion every consideration.

Very truly yours,

Herman C. Wenzel
Commissioner of Conservation

HCW/R

MAR 4 1938

Bronson, Minn., March 2, 1938

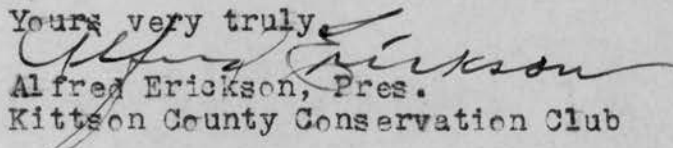
Mr. Herman C. Wenzel,
Commissioner of Conservation,
State Office Bldg.,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Wenzel:

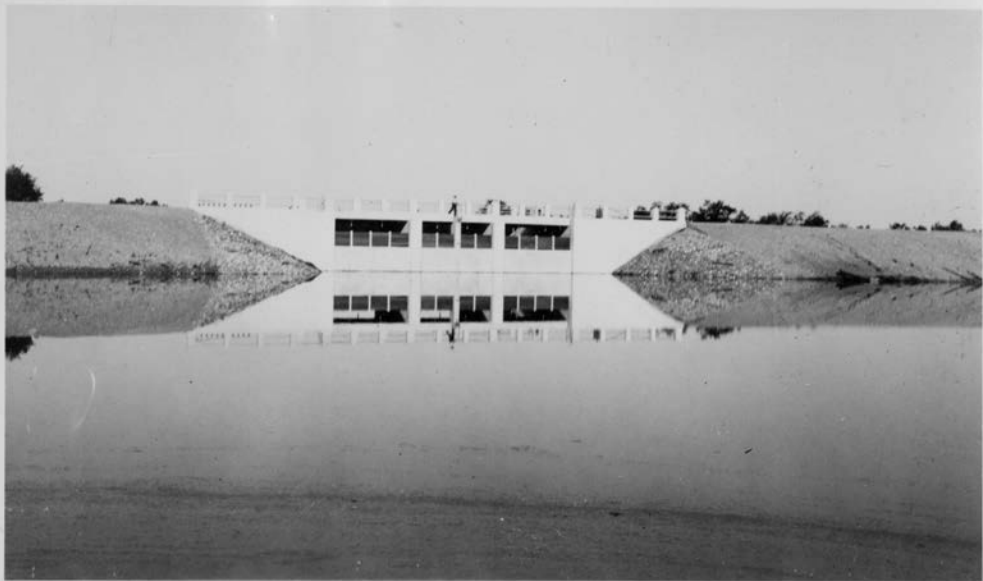
Kindly inform me of what action, if any, has been taken by the State Geographic Board in the matter of naming, or re-naming, of the new lake created near this place last summer by the construction of the large W.P.A. dam on the Two River. You will recall that we had some correspondence concerning that question last summer and I presume some action has been taken since then.

The project is very popular with the people of this section and promises to become an attraction of unusual appeal to thousands from near and far. The enclosed pictures shows the dam, and a portion of the lake and shoreline as it appears in winter.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Erickson, Pres.
Kittson County Conservation Club

NOTAM





TCB

March 4, 1938

Do you think it would be possible for the State Geographic Board to have copies of the correspondence between Commissioner Wenzel and Mr. Alfred Erickson, president of the Kittson County Conservation Club, regarding the naming of the lake formed by the construction of a WPA dam on the Two Rivers near Bronson? Mr. Erickson speaks of earlier correspondence "last summer" concerning this project, so I imagine there must be letters in the correspondence file of the commissioner of conservation.

AJL

March 7, 1938

Mr. Herman C. Wenzel, Chairman
State Geographic Board
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Wenzel:

In filing the letter which Alfred Erickson, of Bronson, president of the Kittson County Conservation Club, wrote to you on March 2, I notice that he refers to some correspondence with you last summer regarding the naming of the new lake created by the construction of a WPA dam on the Two Rivers. I wonder if it would not be advisable for the State Geographic Board to have in its files copies of these letters.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

RECEIVED

MAR 15 1938

HERMAN C. WENZEL
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION



ROOM 356
STATE OFFICE BLDG.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

March 14th, 1938

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Larson:-

Your letter of March 7th, received.

I am enclosing to you herewith the letter which was received from Mr. Alfred Erickson last August and also a copy of our reply.

I am taking this correspondence from our files and turning it over to you as per your request.

Very truly yours,

Sec'y. to
Commissioner of Conservation

HCW/R

MAR 18 1938

HERMAN C. WENZEL
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION



ROOM 356
STATE OFFICE BLDG.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

March 16th, 1938

Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Kittson County
Hallock, Minnesota

Dear Sir:-

I have received considerable correspondence from people in Hallock and Bronson, Minnesota, protesting against the proposal of the County Commissioners to name the lake, created by the construction of a dam on Two Rivers, a short distance from Bronson, Bronson Lake instead of Floyd B. Olson Lake.

This dam was constructed as a WPA project with a State Executive Council sponsor's contribution.

I am further advised that the majority of the people of the community are in favor of naming this lake in honor of our late Governor, Floyd B. Olson, but that the Board of County Commissioners have arbitrarily passed a resolution to name the lake Bronson Lake in spite of public sentiment and that plates have already been ordered bearing the name of Bronson Lake.

I believe this matter should be held in abeyance until such time as we can get the true sentiment of the people of the community and would appreciate very much if you would advise me the status of this matter before your Board.

I am,

Appreciating your cooperation in this matter,

Very truly yours,

Herman C. Wenzel
Commissioner of Conservation

HCW/R

TCB

October 19, 1938

Last spring Commissioner Wenzel had some correspondence with various persons in Kittson County regarding the action of the board of county commissioners in naming an artificial lake at Bronson "Lake Bronson." After the hearing a storm of opposition in different parts of the county was roused and counter petitions requesting that the lake be renamed "Lake Floyd B. Olson" were presented, if not to the board of county commissioners, at least to the chairman of the State Geographic Board. I do not believe that the county board ever notified the State Geographic Board of its action in this case, and the last that I heard of it Mr. Wenzel had written a letter to the chairman of the board requesting him to refrain from taking any further action until the evidence in this case had been reviewed by the State Geographic Board. So far as I know no evidence was ever requested from the county board, nor was any submitted by the board to the state. It seems to me that the State Geographic Board should proceed with this investigation and arrive at some decision as to which should be the correct name for this artificial lake.

Perhaps a preliminary meeting should be held to determine what steps should be taken in this case, and what procedure should be followed in conducting hearings. What do you think?

AJL

Kittson County

TCB

October 19, 1938

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AJL

Bronson Budget, November 3, 1938

**SPECIAL ELECTION
DECIDES CHANGE
TO LAKE BRONSON**

Considerable interest was shown in the special election held here last Thursday at which time the voters decided to change the name of this village from Bronson to Lake Bronson. The vote was 97 in favor of and 20 against. The new name goes into effect immediately upon passage of an ordinance by the Council which will take place Thursday evening. The new name will do away with considerable confusion in mail which in the past has been missent to towns of similar name such as Benson, Brimson, Brownton, Brandon, etc., etc.

*File
Geog. Board*

November 7, 1938

Mr. Ray R. Swanson, Editor
Bronson Budget
Bronson, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Swanson:

I wonder if you would send us a copy of the issue of the Bronson Budget for November 3, 1938. The copy which we have received is intended for permanent filing purposes and we should like to have a copy from which we might clip the item regarding the change of the name of Bronson to Lake Bronson. I should like to call this action to the attention of the State Geographic Board of Minnesota.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Head of Newspaper Department

[The Bronson Budget, November 10, 1938.]

Lake Bronson Ordinance Passed By Village Council

In accordance with the wishes of the citizens of this village as indicated by a 97 to 20 vote at the special election held here last week, the Village Council in session Thursday evening passed an ordinance changing the name to Lake Bronson. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes the ordinance has been filed with the Secretary of State, State Auditor and County Auditor. The new name becomes effective immediately and instructions will soon be forthcoming from the Post Office Department in Washington officially changing the name of this village to Lake Bronson. The ordinance appears elsewhere in this issue.

VILLAGE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Bronson held the 3rd day of November, 1938. Meeting called to order by President of the Council Ray R. Swanson. All members present.

Moved and seconded to adopt an ordinance changing the name of the Village of Bronson to that of the Village of Lake Bronson. On being put to a vote all members voted yes, so the ordinance was adopted.

Moved, seconded and carried to have N. E. Johnson do repair work in hall.

Moved, seconded and carried to repair chimney in Hayden dwelling.

Moved, seconded and carried to appoint N. E. Johnson, Herbert Olson and Paul Swanson Judges of Election.

The following bills were allowed and ordered paid:

N. E. Johnson, labor	\$1 70
A. H. Carlson, police	1 50
Einar Olson, hauling	1 50
Farmers Tele. Co., service	5 25
Danielson Garage, supplies	23 60
Lyman Brink, legal work	3 00
Robertson Lmbr. Co., material ..	3 96
Vik Bros., supplies	9 88
Interstate Power Co., service ..	38 29
Fred Anderson, labor	2 40
Jonas Pearson, salary	15 00
Thorvald Sele, salary	10 00
Selmer Locken, salary	5 00

Moved and seconded to adjourn.

EARL S. OLSON, Clerk.

File
Geog. Board

November 15, 1938

Mr. Ray R. Swanson, Editor
Bronson Budget
Bronson, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Swanson:

This is to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the issue of the Bronson Budget for November 3 which contained the item regarding the change of the name of your community to Lake Bronson. However, I notice that the current issue of the Bronson Budget contains a printed copy of the proceedings of the village council relating to the change. Would you kindly send me a copy of this issue to be used by the State Geographic Board? If other items of a similar nature are published in your paper, we shall appreciate it if you will send extra copies of them to this society so that we may turn them over to the State Geographic Board of Minnesota.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Head of Newspaper Department

[Bronson Budget, December 8, 1938]

LAKE BRONSON NAME BECOMES OFFICIAL JAN. 1st.

At a special election held on October 27, citizens of this village, by a vote of 97 to 20, decided to change the name from Bronson to Lake Bronson. The Council at their November session passed an ordinance as provided by Minnesota statute, which was properly recorded with the County Auditor, State Auditor and Secretary of State. The Post Office Department was then notified of the change and word now comes from that Department making the adoption of the new name official on January 1, 1939.

The letter follows:

December 1, 1938

Mayor Ray R. Swanson,
Bronson, Minn.,

The Postmaster General has asked me to reply to your letter of November 15, with enclosure, regarding the change in name of the post office at Bronson to Lake Bronson.

I am pleased to advise you that the Postmaster General signed an order on November 19 changing the name of the post office to Lake Bronson, effective January 1, 1939.

At the proper time, the necessary cancelling stamps will be furnished the postmaster.

Sincerely yours,

W W Howes

First Assistant Postmaster General

Geog. Board

December 14, 1938

Mr. Ray R. Swanson, Editor and Publisher
Bronson Budget
Bronson, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Swanson:

I wonder if you will send me a copy of
the Bronson Budget for December 8 containing a
notice that the change in name of Bronson will
become official on January 1.

Your kindness will be very much appre-
ciated.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Head of Newspaper Department

Bronson P. O. Gets New Name

**"Believe it or Not" A Town Changed
Name In This County Because
They Couldn't Name A
Lake**

The U. S. Postal Department have supplied the Bronson Postoffice with its new cancellation stamp, as well as a supply of new money orders and other equipment required, following the change in the town's name. Citizens of Bronson petitioned to rename the town because they claimed there were several other places by the name of "Bronson" in the country. They voted to rename their town "Lake Bronson" after the Lake which is now called Lake Floyd Olson. A majority of the town's citizens voted to change the name, the postal department acknowledging the change.

For some time there has been considerable controversy among Bronson's citizens concerning the naming of the Lake. Those who aligned themselves with the late Gov. Floyd Olson's policies wanted it named for him, because he was instrumental in securing the funds with which the dam was built which in turn created the lake. Those opposed to Olson and some who for other reasons thought it would be better to name it for Bronson's first family, or the Bronson family. The controversy has gone on for considerable time, one faction succeeding in having the State Department of Conservation name the lake "Lake Floyd Olson" while the other group pulled the election stunt and named the town Lake Bronson. Who won—look out it's a mighty close one to decide. There's one thing certain about it, both names respect mighty fine personalities. Gov. Olson deserves the name, without question and on the other hand the Bronson family are mighty fine people, respected and also deserving. We have an idea it will be hard to retain that Lake Floyd Olson name. Well that will be easy, just tell the summer vacationists that Lake Bronson is over there and that Lake Floyd Olson is an ancient prehistoric lake which geologists say was buried under the Stassen Landslide. Now Alfred don't get sore at us, you know darn well we haven't a chance with that gang of G. O. P'ers down there in St. Paul. Let's take our licking and congratulate the winners—the Bronson's are mighty fine people anyway.