

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

As of this past Monday morning I had Ashley from Hayward Power Sports inform me that all the lakes in our immediate area have been staked for snowmobiling except LCO. Round Lake was just staked this past week. There seems to be several inches of ice on most of our area lakes. Some lakes even have as much as 8-10 inches. The only problem that we have now, is the need for more snow and a little colder weather. We could use at least a foot of snow to really make for good riding. The trails have been used a lot in the past two weeks. There is a lot of bare spots that are showing especially of the corners and the open areas that are exposed to the sun. Hopefully, we may see some snow moving into our area within the next week.

PINE POINT / POINT GROVE RESORT AND MOOSE LAKE CLUB, AND ISLANDS (Pine Grove)

In the late 1800's, Ole and Rob Robertson, (father and son) worked for a logging company that had erected the original buildings/lodges on Moose Lake. The main camp for the Logging Company was located at what many of us call Pine Point. This location is where the food was prepared for the men and then boated up the lake and then up the Big Moose river to the other lumbering camps. These smaller camps had no cooking facilities, so all the food had to be prepared at the main lodge. In 1908 after the trees were cut the Lumbering Company moved on. The main lodge was turned into a fishing resort business using those abandoned buildings for his new venture originally named Pine Grove Resort.

In 1905, H.O. (Horace Kouka) Meyers and Richard Sanders made the first trip from Chicago to what eventually became the Moose Lake Club property. By rail, gasoline was sent ahead to Spooner. They then spent about 4 days on trails and wagon roads using an early model car to make the trip. Provisions for the summer and numerous spare tires were carried. Breakdowns were common, but Richard, being a mechanic kept the sojourn intact. On the fifth day, H.O. and Richard traveled by rail to Hayward and then on to Moose Lake by horse and wagon. In 1911, the first year a building (bunkhouse) being the first residence on the lake was erected on what is now the island that has the diving board that most of us have seen.

Rob Robertson, Meyers, and Sanders soon made an agreement that if the 2 Chicagoans would somehow get a car to the lake, Rob would improve the bridge over the West Fork of the Chippewa River to allow motor vehicles to drive directly to Pine Grove Resort. In 1912, 3 more members joined the club, Dr. C.S, Meyers, Charley Stoffer, and Don Englehart. From the beginning, club members were purchasing 40 acres parcels for as little as \$9.00/parcel. Most of the acreage consisted of the water between the 7 islands. Eventually 9 cabins were constructed, and the club has grown to 65 members, made up mostly of descendants of the original 5 guys.

During the Great Depression, several of the members became teachers in Chicago. There is a story that some of the original furniture in the cabins had/have the words "Property of the Chicago School District" stamped on them. There is also a story that Dr. C.S. Meyers, being from Chicago and quite possibly an acquaintance of the Capone gang, would disappear in the Hayward area in the summer for a few days at a time, only to return with many cases of whiskey. Alphonse and his group did have a "hide away" compound in the Grindstone Lake area.

Barb and I had a guest stay with us at Mystic Moose 9 years ago that came up here for one reason. He wanted to see the lodge and cabins that his great uncle stayed in several different times. His great uncle to my surprise was Alphonse Capone or as we know him as Al Capone. Our guest who I forget his name at this time had a lot of history about his great uncle. He told me that when his great uncle came to Hayward he mostly stayed in what we know as the Hideout. He told me that his great Uncle had people follow him up here at times from Chicago. Therefore, he needed a second place to go in the Hayward area. The Pine Grove resort was that second place. What I do know is that this man and his wife, had way too much information to be making this story up. I feel he was a very creditable source of information & I do believe everything he told me. I was amazed.

During the 1930's, the teachers were paid in "script" instead of dollars as money was scarce. The lumber yard in Hayward accepted this in lieu of cash to help build many of the buildings on the Moose Lake Club islands. During the Great Depression, many members of the club would rent out their homes during the summer to Chicago White Sox baseball team, while the club folks would spend their vacations on the lake. The Moose Lake Club story has been featured on the Twin Cities TV program titled Minnesota Bound hosted by Ron Schara. **End of Part 5**

Next week we will cover Louie's Landing and the first bait shop on Moose Lake owned by the Hogan's

I think we could have perhaps played pool all night if we kept going. Six of us battled through 3 rounds of pool ending up in a tie at the end of each round. At 10:00 PM we finally said we had enough and called it. Brad Daywitt pared up with Roger Winters while Tom Koehler and Jack Brown made up team # 2. I had Dean Broberg as my partner. It was fun but we had no winners and no losers.

Happy Birthday this week to Eli Richter on January 15th. There are no anniversaries this week.

Mild temperatures for this week so I hope you enjoy the outdoors. Please get signed up for your vaccination for COVID if it is offered to you. I have had both of my shots and have not had any problems. Stay Safe! We will have more next week.