

# THE RUSTED ROWBOAT

A Weekly Campground Newsletter | Tidbits | News & Events

## This Weekend's Activities

No activities this weekend.

## Upcoming Activities

July 16: Wet n' Wild Day **Time Change to 2 p.m.**

July 30: Christmas in July

## Hawley's 150th Activities

\*Activities that have already taken place are not listed\*

Friday: 7 p.m. Variety Show at Hawley H.S.

Saturday: 8 - 10:30 a.m. breakfast at St. Andrews

10:30 a.m. History of Clay County & Hawley at Garrick Theater

12 p.m. Parade

1-9 p.m. Gathering at Rodeo Grounds, including car show, vendors, live entertainment, and kids' activities

Fireworks at dusk at Rodeo Grounds

## History of Lee Lake Campground

With Hawley's big anniversary happening in town, and continuing a bit with our theme from last week, we thought it would be fun to highlight our campground's surprisingly rich history.



The front part of the campground was homesteaded in the 1910s; as far as we know, it was always a small cattle farm. Many of the implements used throughout the years can still be seen on the campground today, if one knows where to look! There are also several spots in the woods where you will find the old fencing, rock piles (from the fields being plowed), and a lot of glass bottles, from before there was a sanitation service out here. A farmhouse was built in 1919, and it was in use as the campground's office until it was demolished in 2017 to make a space for the new lodge. At one point, drain tile was placed to empty the large pond that is currently behind the lodge (this flooded back in when the drain tile was broken about 10 years ago); it was used as additional farm land.

The campground's founder, Tom Erickson, inherited the front part of the campground from his dad, who was the sheriff in Hawley back in the 60's. After completing

## Campground Birthdays & Anniversaries

Deb Benson: July 7

Jerry Roiger: July 8

## Welcome!

We've had a few sales since June, so there are some new faces to greet.

- Site 32 is now occupied by Loree & Dale Butler of Fargo.
- Site 3 will now be enjoyed by Andrea Fox & Pat Hewitt of West Fargo.
- Site 54 is now the second home of Terry & Jill Ginder of Drayton, ND.

## This Weekend's Specials

Baked Good of the Week:  
Cranberry Orange Muffins

Pizza of the Week: Kansas City  
(BBQ Chicken)

## Mosquito Spraying

Several campers have gotten together to have their lots sprayed professionally. If you are interested, Safeyard will be doing this on July 14th. You can contact them via their website (<http://safeyard.net>), or call 701-630-1425.

veterinary college in Iowa, Tom had a vision to turn this land into a campground. After roughing it in the farmhouse for a year, and lots of hard work and help from friends and family, he developed the "hill" sites over the course of a couple years. The green space was a wet, swampy area, that required draining and extra dirt to be hauled in. Our neighbor, Vern Engen, built up the roads. The campground was officially licensed for business in 1981. The old daily sites were especially swampy, and required some extra draining and dirt later down the road, when it was time to add them in.

Meanwhile, the "woods" half of the campground was mainly state land until the later part of the 1980s (the "Point" was owned by the Hawley Rod & Gun Club). We've heard stories of wild parties that teens used to throw in the woods! Tom purchased the land in chunks as it became available, and thus the rest of the campground was established. Tom also had purchased two of the islands on the lake, one of which he had sheep grazing on at one point to control some of the brush. One island also used to have a cabin on it in the old days, when the lake was much shallower and there were roads going from the mainlands out to the islands. The reed beds still mark out where the roads used to be. A Hawley photographer from 100 years ago had many pictures of the lake, and locals with their catch; the Clay County Historical Society has these, and occasionally they are up for viewing at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead.

We first visited the campground in February 2017, and immediately fell in love with its charm. Due to county guidelines, we had to tear down the old lodge in order to build new; the old one came down in October 2017, with the new one open and ready for business in May 2019 (we operated out of the picnic shelter that first season, which was a little tough)! We officially took over on December 20, 2017, and have loved being able to raise our family in such a beautiful, peaceful place.