

The History of Upper South Long Lake

By: Birney C. Wilkens

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UPPER SOUTH LONG LAKE

Birney C. Wilkins - 1984

The above lake referred to, is in Sec. 5.7-8-18 of Maple Grove Twsp. T.44N.R. 29W.

This area has been subjected to several periods of glacial movements, first from the north, which took place several hundred thousands of years ago. The last glacial movement was from the northeast to the southwest, this took place about 15,000 years ago.

Mille Lacs Lake was formed in the first period of glaciation, and was not changed by action of the later periods.

The last glacial movement is shown to have moved in a N.E. to S.W. direction, leaving many lakes, bodies of iron ore, and hills and valleys running in the above direction.

The action of the early glaciers, as is common in most cases, left a sandy or gravelly soil, around the lakes and some streams.

Soil borings, in areas around the Nokay Sippi basin, show the presence of pine, spruce and oak pollen, that has been carbon dated, showing that this pollen was produced from 10 to 20 thousands of years ago.

Some of our lakes were formed by buried-- mountains of ice, others were the result of melt water of the glaciers, settling on the lower lands.

The glaciated soil of this area was suitable for the growing of pine forest in the Upper South Long Lake basin, and hardwoods to the south of this area.

The original name of the Upper lake was Lake Willipi, and the lower lake was called Lake Wappaluchi.

The first loggers did most of their cutting along the lakes and streams, with only a short haul to water, which would carry the timber down stream to the mills. The Trygg maps of the original government survey, shows timber cuttings around Mission Lake, the Pine River in Irondale Twsp. and around Rabbit Lake, in the 1850's.

Most of the logging operations in the Upper Long Lake district were in the 1890's and early 1900's. The timber cut in the winter of 1893-94 was all left in the woods as most logging companies went bankrupt, and most of the men were never paid.

When we came here in 1918 these logs were all rotted down, but the knots were left just as they were, these were picked up for firewood.

The only timber cut was white and Norway (red) pine, in the first cuttings. Much timber was stolen from "railroad lands". This was land given to the railroad companies as grants for building railroads.

In later years jack pine and poplar were cut for logs and pulpwood.

Many of the old logging roads are mistaken for old trails established by early settlers.

The earliest people to inhabit this area were the Mound Building (Laurel Culture) Indians, who are generally thought of being farther to the north. The spearheads that we had found, at the north end of the lake, were made of stone, the spearhead was about 6 inches long and 4 inches wide, with a shank to lash to a staff. (Doug Birk).

This weapon was used before the bow and arrow. The above spear was supposed to be heavy enough to kill an animal, by being thrown by a person. This evidence of a culture would date back about 8,000 to 10,000 years. (Birk)

The next were the Mississippi Culture. Very little is known or written about these people. These people were followed by the Blackduck Indians. The Indians we know today, and in recent history are the Ojibway (commonly called Chippewa).

The Ojibway Indians left many Indian mounds (burial mounds) and embankments. Many of these are at the north end of Upper South Long Lake at or near the mouth of the Nokay Sippi River. Most of these are located on the E. ~ of Lot #2. Sec. 5 - T44R29 (Maple Grove Twsp). We have maps of these mounds, which were examined in 1900 and again in 1901 by Jacob Brower, for the U.S. government, and again by Doug Birk in 1979, for the Minnesota Historical Society.

Many Indian mounds are also in Sec. 18 at the south end of the lake. These were also examined by the two above-mentioned archaeologists. The maps and data are on file

The first roads in this area were built under a government contract in the early 1850's. These roads were constructed for military purposes. The ones of interest to the people around Upper South Long Lake will be described. The main purpose of these roads was to connect "Old Crow Wing" and points on Mille Lacs Lake. The first section was from "old Crow Wing" to the lower end of the South Long Lake, where it divided. One road (south fork) went straight east to the Vine land Indian Reservation. The other road turned northward along the west side of Lower and Upper South Long Lake. We have never found any evidence of this road, but we know it existed, because Rud Soderman's grandmother told about the Indians camping over night in their yard. They lived on the west side of Lower South Long Lake. Evidence of this road can be found across the north end of the Upper South Long Lake. Our house and barn was built where the road was. It continued eastward to cross the Nokay Sippi River at the same place as the present road does, then following the east bank of the river to a point about 40 rods south of the town line between Maple Grove and Nokay Lake. From that point it ran in a northeast direction, (the road can still be seen), then around the south side of Grave Lake, and on eastward to Nichols, on Mille Lacs Lake.

Details of the above roads are in our files.

The first road from Brainerd to Midland (Garrison) started on Central Ave. in Garrison, running east and west on what was then the main street, and then north to Borden Lake, around the north shore of the lake, then north ~ mile to the center of Sec. #3, then westward to the north end of Miller Lake and the post office of Neutral, then west on the present road to Co. Hwy, #8 in Maple Grove Twsp., then N.W. across the .N.W. ~ of Sec. 3 to a point about 40 rods south of the north town line as it would strike the west section line, then parallel to the town line.

Just before it hit the Nokay Sippi River, turning S.W. along the bank to the present bridge, then following the military road across Lot #2, Sec. 5, then westward a few rods north of the quarter line to Sec. 6, at which point it ran slightly S.E. back of the Vaale Cemetery close to the Nels Gjernes house, then by Edlund's house on by T O. Thompson's (Bud Sedlachek's).

The route of this road across Long Lake Twsp. is unknown, but we have been told that it came out at the "Creamery Corner" which is where the town line between Oak Lawn and Lond Lake Twsp. intersect with what is now St. Hwy #25.

Maple Grove Twsp. was surveyed by the government in Sept. 1856 and subdivided into sections in Oct. 1856. The township was not organized until 1892.

When the State of Minn. organized in 1858 a resolution was adopted declaring all plats of townsites null and void.

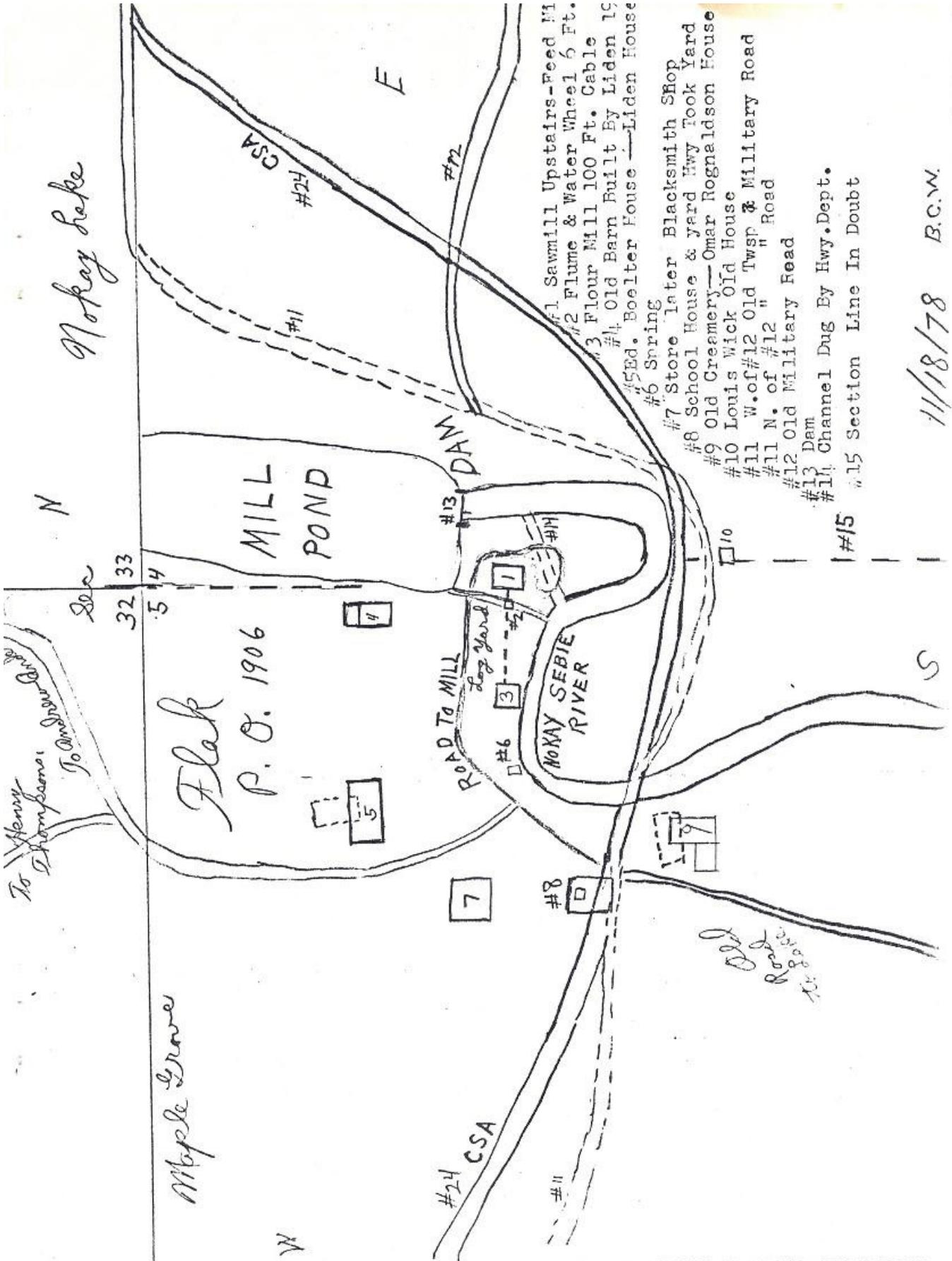
The South Long Lakes had two such plats, Lakeville, between the lakes and Calias at the south end of the Lower Lake. Both of these plats were laid out privately by the surveyors doing the government surveys. The plat of Calias was never filed, but we have the plat map of Lakeville, which was to be between the Upper and Lower Lake.

Provisions were made for a railroad to run down the main street, and a site was set aside for a sawmill along the river. Several surveys were later made by the railroads (G.N.) to connect Milaca and Crookston or Fosston in the Red River Valley.

For many years the post office of Flak was where the road crossed the Nokay Sippi River in Sec #5. This site consisted of the school for Dist. #23, a creamery, a blacksmith shop, a sawmill, lath mill, shingle mill, a feed mill, and a grist mill (corn meal and coarse flour). Maps of Flak are in our files.

The creamery ran from the early 1900's to about 1915. Ben Armstrong, who operated the Brainerd Creamery purchased the equipment. All the mills were water powered. A dam had been constructed by Pete Alberts in the late 1890's. In 1906 Andrew Liden purchased the property and built the barn in that year.

Louis Wicks, who settled here in 1873, was located across the road and downstream from Andrew Liden. All the neighbors were afraid of him, and he made them have fear of him. When he wanted any lumber, he would wait until Liden was not at home, or if at home, he would shoot a couple of bricks out of Liden's chimney, then would proceed to throw; Liden's lumber into the river. George, his son, would be downstream on their property to stop sometime and pick it up.



- #1 Sawmill Upstairs-Feed M1
- #2 Flume & Water Wheel 6 Ft.
- #3 Flour Mill 100 Ft. Cable
- #4 Old Barn Built By Liden 19
- #5 Ed. Boelter House - Liden House
- #6 Spring
- #7 Store later Blacksmith Shop
- #8 School House & yard Hwy Took Yard
- #9 Old Creamery - Omar Rognaldson House
- #10 Louis Wick Old House
- #11 W. of #12 Old Twsp & Military Road
- #11 N. of #12 " " Road
- #12 Old Military Fead
- #13 Dam
- #14 Channel Dug By Hwy. Dept.
- #15 Section Line In Doubt

11/18/78 B.C.W.

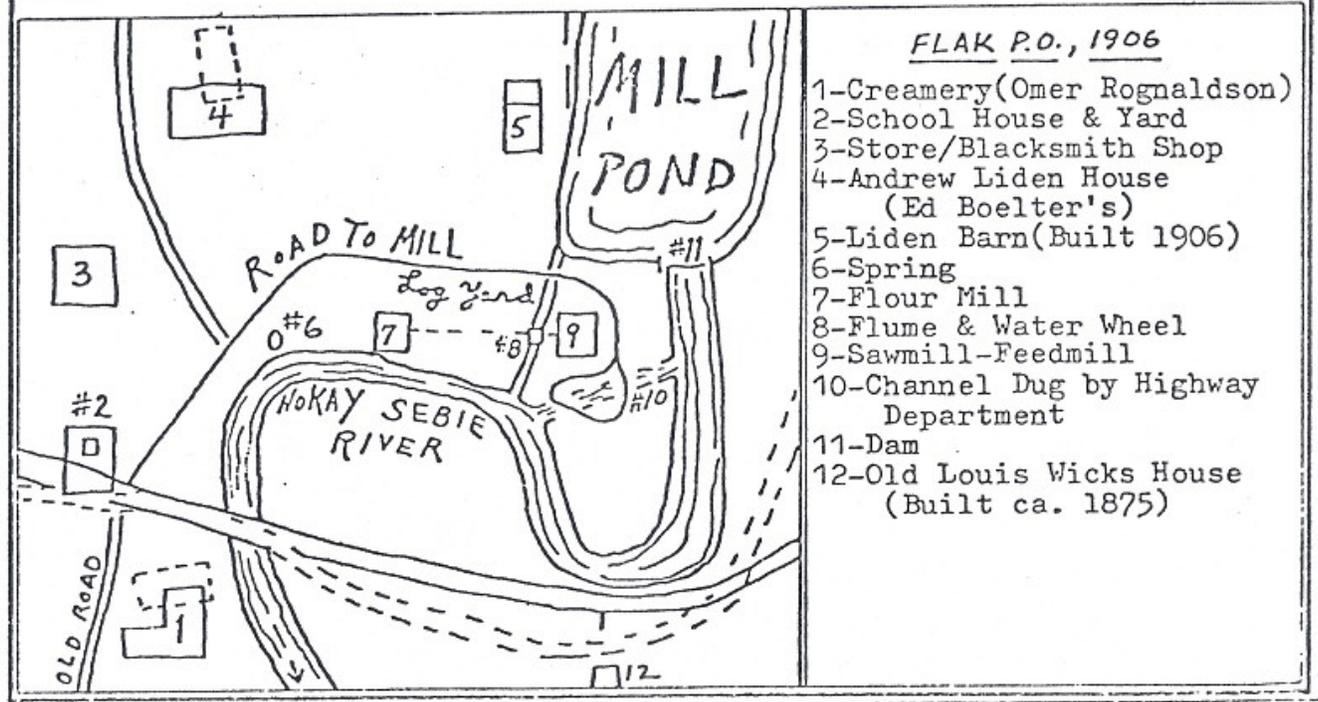
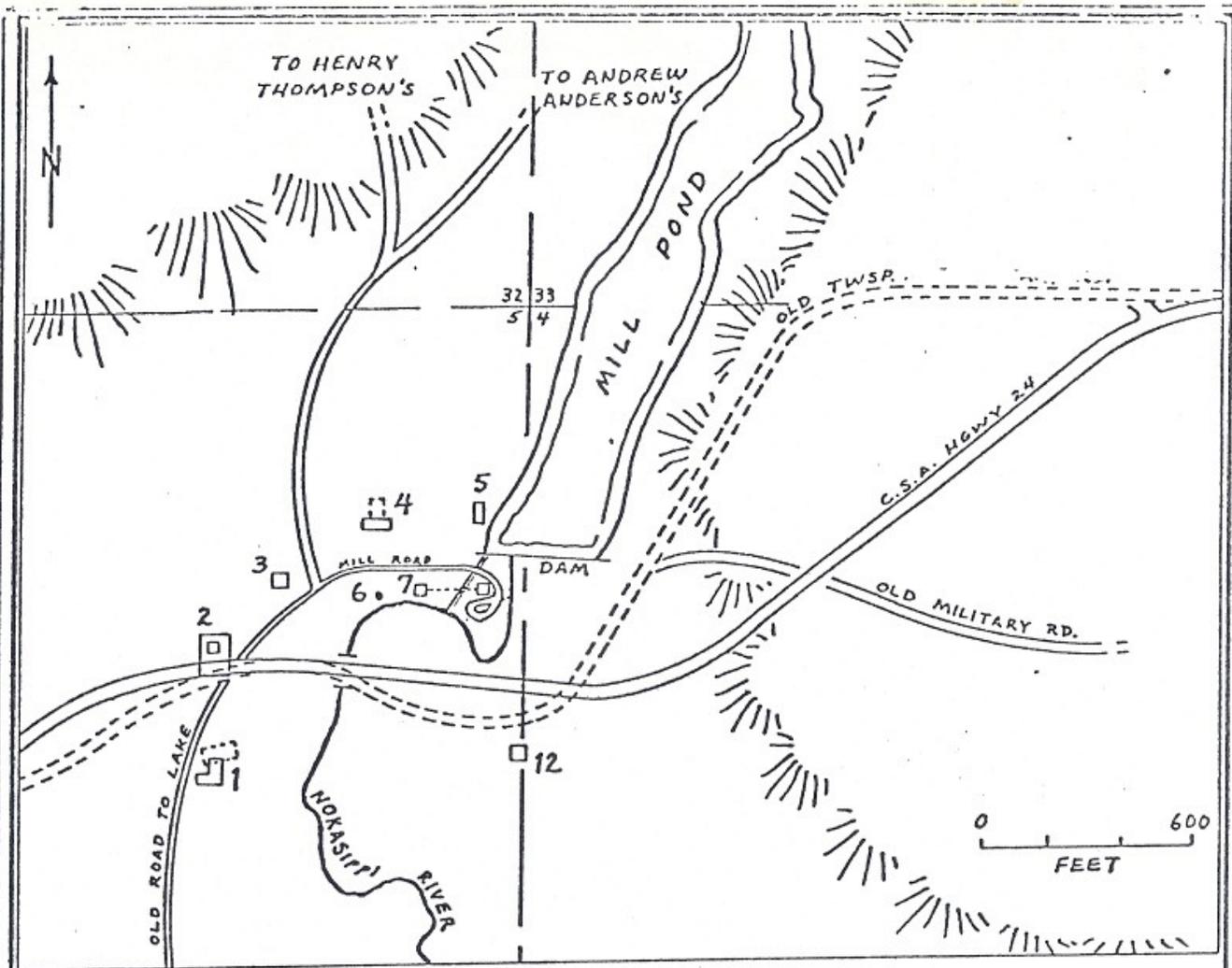


Fig 29 . Flak, P.O. Businesses and Local Road Network. Redrawn
From a Sketch Map by Bernie C. Wilkins(18 November 1978),

Most timber in the early days was stolen from "railroad land" or other places. Wick's and N.J. Mjones were stealing timber in Sec. 32 Nokay Lake Twsp. In dividing it each would take a load, at the end there was one load left. Nothing was said, but each figured they would get back first and get the load. Mjones was successful and got the load and had pulled out, but he forgot his heavy jacket. Wicks returned later and found the load gone, but found the jacket, which he chopped up into little bits.

In the early 1900's the road was between Wick's house and the River. We have been told that many times that Wicks, with a gun or a piece of cordwood would stop neighbors from using the road, forcing them to turn around and go home.

The early settlers cut logs, hauled them onto the lake and sold them to different buyers who were also operating in the area, who would put his stamp on the end of the log. During the night these people would cut 2 inches off of the end of the logs where the stamp was, and the next day they would sell them to someone else.

When we came here in 1918, there were many of the two inch ends of logs with the buyer's mark on them, along the shore of the lake.

Another incident, that would show how the "good old days" were as follows. Frank Huntley cut the Louis Wick's meadow on shares. When Frank went to haul his share off, he and Wicks got in a dispute over dividing the hay.

At that time we were building our first house on the lake. Huntley, when hauling the hay, stopped and asked us to watch and see that he came back by a certain time, as Wicks had threatened to shoot him if he tried to remove the hay.

Shortly after Huntley started loading the hay, we heard a couple of shots, we went down on the lakeshore, where we could see Huntley loading hay. Every little while we would hear a couple of shots, but Huntley kept on loading his hay. Wicks only intended to intimidate him. Huntley got all his hay, after being shot at each time he would go after a load of hay.

The first settlements in the County were in Garrison Twsp. near Mille Lacs Lake. These people worked at logging and commercial fishing, the other settlement was in Ft. Ripley Twsp.

S. R. Olstead had 300 acres of farm land in that neighborhood in 1866.

The first known settlers around Upper South Long Lake were Louis Wicks who came here in 1873. He settled in Sec. 4 near where the road crosses the river. He

told of shooting as many as twenty deer in one day at a point just above the dam on the river. He sold the hind quarters to customers in Brainerd.

The second settler was probably Fred Templehoff, who located in Sec. 18 on the river between the two lakes, just east of the present #23 highway. Templehoff raised fruit and berries of all kinds, also a few peacocks.

When we came here in 1918 there were two cabins on the lake, M. Butula in Sec. 5 and Dr. Condit on the west side of the lake.

There were two farms, Ole Graffs in Sec. 8 on the east side of the lake, and Joseph Schwartz on the west side in Sec. 5. Schwartz had a steamboat on the lake, probably the only one to ever navigate on this lake.

In tracing the records to find the names of early lakeshore and nearby residents, and the date that they built or moved into the area, is as follows. This data is the best that I could secure. There is a possibility that corrections can be made.

Starting in Sec. 5, we (Wilkins) came here in 1918 and built on the W. 80 rods of Lot #2-Sec. 5 (1984 William Brown). The E. 80 of Lot #2"was subdivided and Fred Larson started what was to become the Nokay Sippi Resort in the late 1930's. This was the first resort on the lake. The first resort buildings were built of second hand lumber and windows of streetcars from Minneapolis. The property was later sold to Otto and Herb Huber, who remodeled and improved the cabins, putting in plumbing and electricity. In later years this was operated by Mrs. Herzog, who sold out in 1983.

Going to Lot 1, Sec. 5 the first settler was Mathew Butula, who came there in 1907. In 1921 Carl Anderson bought the property, and sold to Lester Bentley in 1926. Wallace McCulloch purchased the south part of Lot #1 in 1946. Don Green acquired all or a part of the McCulloch property in 1976.

Going to Lot #2, Sec. 8 - this parcel was acquired by Ole Graff in 1901, this couple lived there for many years. They had two sons living in Brainerd. Erick was on the police force and Ole, I believe, worked at the tie plant.

Edward McCulloch (Bud) bought the Lot #2, except for several lots at the south end along the lake.

The above referred to lots were purchased in the late 1930's, by Robert Falconer, a rural mail carrier. Walter Maxe, a city mail carrier, Art Fricker, Russell Cass, post office clerks and Ann Nelson, a teacher, later a registered nurse.

Going to Lot #4, Sec. 8, Louis Wick secured this tract in 1900, it was sold to Edward and Mary Crust in 1912. Mr. Crust later had several hundred acres of land adjoining Lot #2.

All lands around the upper lake in Sec. 18 was at one time owned by Fred Templehoff, who came here in 1873. This land was later acquired by J. H. Strickler, a foreman in the N.P. shops in Brainerd.

Paradise Shore, in the north part of Sec. 18, on the east side of the lake was developed in the 1940's or 50's.

Lot #2 and 3, Sec. 7 was bought in 1909 by Frank Hagenbart who never resided on it, but sold to Don L. Raymond in 1917. Later a cabin was built on the property. Dr. Condit bought the land in 1920. Leonard and Omar Rognaldson later secured the tract and subdivided it in 1946.

Joseph Schwartz, a druggist of Brainerd, bought all of the SW ~ of Sec. 5 which included Lots #3 and 4, on the lake and lot #1 in Sec. 8, in 1904. As stated before, he had the only steamboat ever on this lake.

The farm house was on Lot 1, a cabin was later constructed on the lake on this parcel. Edward R. Syverson, a real estate operator from Ironton, used the cabin in the summer for most of the 1920's. The Schwartz property was one of the two farms on the lake in the early days, the other being the Ole Graff farm, who had a few cows.

Ole Sunde purchased 2~ acres in 1919 in the SW corner of Lot #2 Sec. 5, after several sales, this became the Silver Bay Resort.

Other data and facts relating to Upper South Long Lake are as follows: In studying the record I found that Louis Wicks was the largest land owner around the lake in the early 1900's.

Leonard and Omar Rognaldson were the ones subdividing the most property around the lake.

The Swartz property is the source of several stories. One of the parties using the summer cabin, had been having an affair, and decided to dump the woman. So she and her son drove down early one morning to the "Red Gate" which was the entrance to the Schwartz property. (This gate was directly north of Pat Brown's house on what is now Co. Hwy, #24.) The woman drove her car into an old road straight south of the gate, the regular road came from the east and turned into the gate. When the party drove up to the gate, he got out to open it, and she started

shooting, but she was a poor shot and he got away. He drove to the A.M. Peterson (Earl Eller's) farm on the old six mile road (#23) and dashed upstairs, telling them to lock the doors and call the sheriff. She followed him and tried to break in, but gave up before the sheriff arrived.

The other near tragedy happened on the same property. Mathew Butula from across the lake was staying with Wm. Richards who farmed the Schwartz property. One day a man wandered in, nobody could understand him, he seemed to be mentally unbalanced. They thought he might be Finnish so Richards hooked up a team and sled and was going to take him to a Finnish family on Grave Lake. Wm. Richards and Butula were sitting in the seat on the sled, and the stranger standing behind them. Without warning the stranger pulled out a razor and slashed Butula's neck. They subdued the stranger, tying his hands and feet, and drove to the nearest telephone, which was at Ole Sunde's about 3/4 mile away. They called the sheriff and a doctor and gave Butula first aid. The sheriff took the stranger and the doctor took care of Butula. Sunde wanted to know who was going to pay for the phone call and cleaning up the blood that Butula had lost.

Wednesday, May 1st, 1901.

Left Aitkin, Minn, at Midnight on N. P. R. R. Retired at Brainerd, late, and arose early.

Drove by team to Sec. 5, T. 44, R. 29, at the N. E. limit of Long Lake.

Explored and examined the groups of mounds, embankments and artificial earthworks at the fraction N. E. 1/4 of said Sec. 5.

These earthworks are limited in number but compact, well built and constitute quite a distinct, small enclosure.

The burial mounds are intermixed with the embankments.

I examined the position of 2 or 3 distinct earthworks of various sizes and when all details of the archeology of this region shall have been determined, this survey and chart of this small group will be interesting.

The position of this enclosure is immediately west of the inlet to the upper body of Long Lake, near the shore of the T. 44, R. 29.

village site was on both sides of Norway River. (Auoka Kibi?).

Thence I drove to the Thompsons and about running piece of river which connects the upper and lower bodies of Long Lake.

This place, also, was occupied on both sides of the stream and mounds were built south of the river on Sec. 18, T. 44, R. 29. They have been badly plowed down. There are no doubt other mounds near by.

Drove on south side of Lower Long Lake and crossed the outlet to north side.

There is an ancient enclosure on Sec. 27, T. 44, R. 30.

One of the embankments is 275 feet long. The mound groups and ancient village site is near by and the occupancy extended to the distinct point of land on the east side of Sec. 27. Thence drove to Brainerd.

Bills paid today:

Hotel account at Aitkin... \$2.50

" " " Brainerd... 1.00

Team to Long Lake... 3.00

Sunday, June 3rd.

Packed up all material, sold the boat, and prepared to retire from the field, on account of continued illness.

Struck camp at midday and drove by team to Borden Lake. This lake is named on some of the maps "Pike Lake," and an article has at some time last month been published in the Minneapolis Tribune. I have been told, showing that it was named after Zebulum M. Pike, the upper Mississippi plot of 1804, 5 & 6.

Borden is only a local name after an old settler, too deaf to talk with, and said to have long been known by the Ojibway Indians as WE Cha wa sha - (Beaver Head).

There is an ancient tillage site at the mouth of a small creek on Borden's farm, west from the inlet and on the north side of the lake, where a considerable quantity of pot shards & beads and I have several specimens of stone and copper implements from the site.

The lake has several islands, and is surrounded by timber, partially cut off.

We drove on through a hilly region indicating glacial action. Stony ridges and hills were quite numerous.

At a point 12 miles west from our camp at Nichols' mouth, the tent was pitched at the northeastern extremity of a narrow island.

body of water connected by the Nokasippi so-called. Probably the stream is named after Anoka, an old Indian who lived there and whose remains are buried above where we are now camped, at or near a place called Pointon Lake, which should properly be called Anoka Lake, after the old Indian.

Lewis Wickes, Frank P.O. Minn, and J Pointon, Braintree, Minn, are the residents of this Long Lake region to communicate with.

Near the north east corner of Sec. 5, T. 44, R. 29, on the north-westerly side of the river and very near to the upper extremity of the upper Long Lake there is a beautiful group of ancient earth works which assume nearly or

quite, the form of an embel-
sure or fort, along the lines of which are also a number of mounds. This splendid artificial series of earthworks was only casually observed. The ancient village site is on both sides of the river at and near the mounds, extending across the section, line eastward and probably northward.

Mounds have also been observed at or near Section 18, in said township, and also at or near Section 22, T. 45, R. 29, at the lakes in that region. There was no opportunity now, to observe these two reported groups, situated along the waters of the Nokasippi (Anoka River?), a stream which flows into the Mississippi river opposite the location of Fort Ripley, where I was stationed in 1861.

Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association

(Published in the BRAINERD Daily Dispatch Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 1963, 21.)

Certificate of Business Name
State of Minnesota, County of Crow Wing--ss.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the person who conduct and transact a commercial business in the County of Crow Wing, State of Minnesota, under the name and style of Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association, that the full and true individual names of each and every person who is in anyway interested in said business under said name, together with the post office address of each of them is as follows, to-wit:

Ted Quaker, President, Star Route Brainerd, Minn.
Rudie Wenell, Vice Pres., Route 4, Brainerd, Minn.
Robert Andersch, Trans., Star Route, Brainerd, Minn.
Ray Lyle, Sec'y, Star Route, Brainerd, Minn.

Directors:

Norbert Bisanz, Star Route, Brainerd, Minn.
Dr. C. R. Cooper, 100 Elmridge Road, Waterloo, Ia.

Rud Helley, Star Route, Brainerd, Minn.
Other Members:

C. H. Krueger, 4804 37 Ave. So. Mpls., Minn.
R. Hagen, 3107 East M'aha Parkway, Mpls., Minn.

W. B. Pharis, Route 4, Brainerd, Minn.
C. E. Lundeen, 2904 Alabama Ave. St. Louis Park.

Walter Bloom, 3900 Nokomis Ave. Mpls., Minn.
Adolph Ahlgren, 5340 36 Ave. So. Mpls., Minn.

L. H. Crawford, 6544 Newton Ave. So. Mpls., Minn.
Henry Gunellus, Route 4, Brainerd, Minn.

Steve O'Connell, Route 4, Brainerd, Minn.
Edward W. Larsen, 5515 32 Ave So. Mpls., Minn.

Milbert Wees, Route 4, Brainerd, Minn.
Floyd W. Barnum, Route 4, Brainerd, Minn.

Raymond E. Wegener, 3100 Thuber Rd. Mpls., Minn.
John R. Rolfs, 1647 Stanbridge St. Paul, Minn.

Wm. D. Kosilla, 5341 Abbott Ave. So. Mpls., Minn.
Walter F. Berglund, 5152 Morgan Ave. No. Mpls., Minn.

Curis H. Miller, Route 4, Brainerd, Minn.
Rudie S. Wenell

State of Minnesota, County of Crow Wing--ss.

On this 29th day of September, 1963, before me personally appeared Rudie S. Wenell to me known to be the person who made and signed the foregoing certificate, and acknowledged that he executed the same as his own free act and deed.

Alice Hellen
Notary Public, Crow Wing Co., Minn.
My commission expires Oct. 1, 1964

