Sources

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http://www.historymuseumeot.com/
East Otter Tail History Volume I 1977
East Otter Tail County History Volume II 1994
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Civil War Veterans

Civil War		Rank In	Rank Out					
Last	First			Age	mustered in	out	company	regiment
Berfield	Montgomery	Pvt	Cpl	34	15 Aug 1862	15 May 1865	Н	9th inf
Pierce	John				186	2Jun 1865		
Berry	Benjamin F	Pvt	Pvt		31 Aug 1862	10 Jun 1865	С	87th inf
Evans	John	Pvt		30	20 Aug 1864	15 Jun 1865	С	4th Inf
Riley	Oliver	Pvt			27 May 1863	18 Jul 1865	L	11 H. A
Jenne	Henry C	Pvt		22	24 Feb 1864	5 Jun 1866	Α	Hatches Bat
Jenne	Chillis W	Pvt	Cpl	23	18 Mar 1864	5 Jun 1866	Α	Hatches Bat
Dalton	William	Pvt	Pvt		26 Sep 1864	20 Jun 1865	1	67th inf
Aldrich	Josiah W	Pvt	Pvt		15 Aug 1862	28 Feb 1863	D	35th Inf
Loop	Leemon	Pvt			7 Aug 1862	22 Jun 1865	K	106th Inf
Kelley	John	Pvt			12 Jun 1861	12 Jun 1864	В	3rd inf
Kelley	John				21 Jan 1871	21 Jan 1876	D	19th Inf
Chaffee	Jacob W	Pvt			29 Apr 1861	17 Apr 1863	D	1st
Durman	Jefferson	Pvt	Pvt				F	8th Cavalry

Montogmery Berfield

Berfield was involved in the stagecoach business. In 1859 a stagecoach left the Carver House Hotel for Young America, Plato, and Glencoe every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, hauling passengers, goods, and mail.

Berfield also ran a stagecoach line between St. Paul, St. Anthony, Glencoe, and Hutchinson, Minnesota hauling goods and mail and up to five passengers. Stages were pulled with four horses with a horse-changing station located four miles south of Waconia.

Berfield enlisted in the Union Army in Company H of the 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He served in the quelling of the Sioux Uprising of 1862, and was probably present with his company as it guarded the scaffold in Mankato, Minnesota when 38 of the Dakota Indians were hanged for involvement in the Uprising.

Berfield 's Gaar-Scott threshing machine and a Buffalo Pitts separator became the first threshing rig in the Carver County area..

In 1878 he moved to Star Lake in Ottertail County, Minnesota and was one of the town's founders and its first treasurer, while running a saw mill there for many years. Montgomery Berfield died there on March 6, 1896 after a load of logs overturned on him.

Daughter Linda Hazzard left Minnesota in 1906 and founded a sanitorium of sorts called Wilderness Heights at Olalla in Washington State, where extreme fasting and daily enemas were utilized to purify the body of toxins and disease. Between 1908 and 1913 Dr. Hazzard was involved in some 15 patient deaths, purportedly from starvation and making her way into their estates by forging or forcing signatures on their wills and codicils, procuring patients' powers-of-attorney, pilfering their valuables, and removing gold from their teeth. Locals began tagging her Wilderness Heights sanitorium as Starvation Heights.

Dr. Linda Hazzard is the headline character in a nonfiction book titled Starvation Heights, written by Gregg Olsen. Dr. Hazzard was profiled through reenactments and interviews in the Investigation Discovery Network show, Deadly Women in its premier episode, entitled "Obsession" as well as being featured in other television documentaries

Early Settlers

Matthew Champlin and Flora Femling were married in 1883. Flora Femling's family moved from Wisconsin to Iowa, then to Minnesota by wagon train, probably about 1881 or 1882.

Flora, on her trip to Star Lake Township from Iowa, drove the cattle behind the covered wagon and told of walking much of the trip of over 350 miles, about a 35-day trip.

Henry Mader came to Star Lake Township in 1898, from Waterville, Le Sueur County. He bought his farm of 160 acres from Mary Carvey. It was mostly timber, so he would cut railroad ties in the winter and haul them to Perham, often walking beside the load to keep warm.

Mader and a neighbor, Adolph Stoering, built the schoolhouse in Dist. 244. It is still standing and was used as a schoolhouse until schools were consolidated. He served on the school board for several years.

The nearest town was Pelican Rapids, which was 12 miles away. The essential groceries could be obtained at a country store owned by Mons Jacobson, which was located in Section 4. In 1904 the Village of Dent was built and the Soo Line came through the area. Dent became the shopping center for people in our part of Star Lake.

The American Sunday School Union sent missionaries out here. The first one I can remember was Rev. C. M. Wilcox. We were always glad to see his team and wagon come. Meetings were held in the schoolhouses.

Henry and his friend and neighbor, George Sherwood, had a sawmill for some years, which they ran during the winter months. They, also, had a threshing machine for a few years. It was all stack threshing then. As children, we were always thrilled to see the old steam engine come puffing into the yard.

In the fall he would sack up a wagon load of wheat and take it to Phelps Mill, which was fourteen miles from our farm. He would get flour for the year and bran and middlings for livestock food.

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Early Settlers Cont.

Albert Obert came to Otter Tail, Dead Lake, County when he was 21 years old, in 1880. When he filed on a homestead, there were only narrow crooked trails chopped out through heavy timber, through the townships of Dead Lake, Star Lake, and Maine. The trails dodged swamps, small lakes, and high hills."

"At that early day they used the slow-moving ox teams and they built their homes of logs. The Northern Pacific Railroad was then still building west. A little cash from the sale of railroad ties paid for the bread and beans."

The post office in Star Lake was operated by Henry Jenne. They also had a small grocery store in the post office. Since the post office was 3 1/2 miles away, we had to walk 7 miles to get the mail before the stage driver was allowed to deliver it.

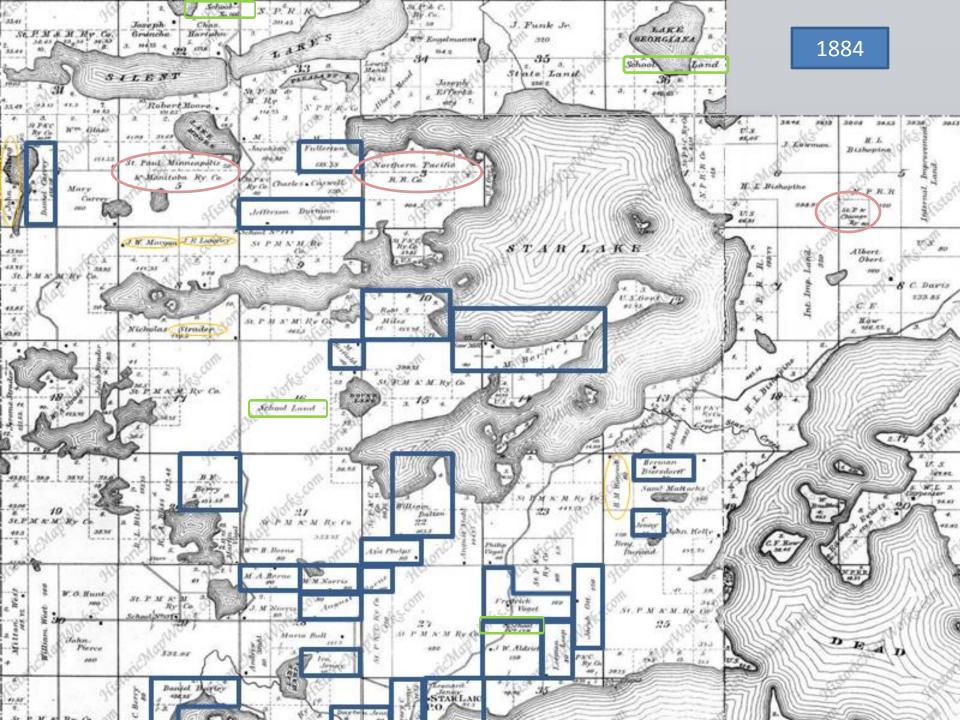
The Soo Line went through Dent about 1904 which made communicating easier. The telephone line came in about 1905 or 6. Then a creamery was built in Dent.

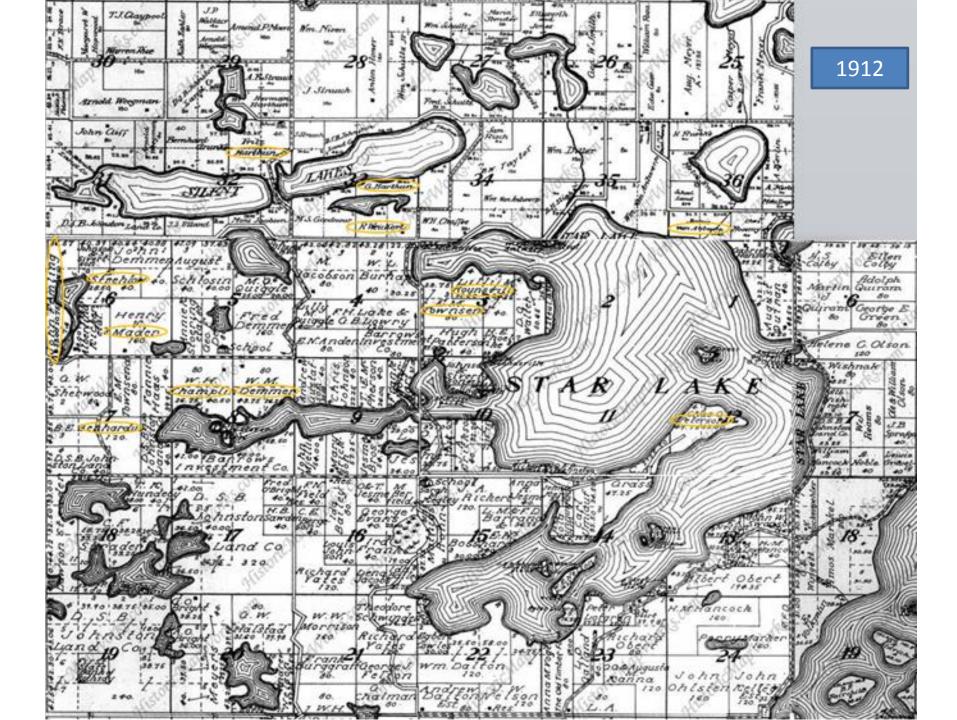
In 1898, William Hancock, his wife, Augusta, and their two children, Hilmer and Flossie, left Allamakee County, Iowa, for Otter Tall County. The family traveled by covered wagon, transporting such small household goods as could be stored in the wagon.

All of the timberland was cleared for fields. The timber was cut and burned, except for what was large enough for railroad ties and lumber which was hauled to the saw, mill where Pocahontas Beach now stands. This was also the site of a store and Post Office.

William Hancock was a carpenter and blacksmith. One of the first houses he built was the Jake Ott home. He also helped build the Albert Obert home, and more recently, the Herman Lewin farm home, now owned by Louis Stoll.

In about 1900 the first school was built on the north shore of Dead Lake on the site of a Sioux Indian burial ground where the Indian mounds stand to this day, unmolested by artifact hunters. Dead Lake was named after an Indian massacre on the lake. The dead were buried under mounds on the lake shore.





The Highway 41 Bridge

David Cunningham was a civil engineer. He drew up the blue print for the first Star Lake Bridge over the west arm. It was made of wood. Charlie Peterson, on the point, donated one week's work and lumber from an elm tree that grew near the entrance of his property. That elm produced a log that produced 800 board feet of lumber. Other neighbors donated help too. The bridge became noted for its good fishing, picnic area and visiting spot.

With the completion of the 'Star Lake Bridge' across the west arm of the lake, it seemed to draw the locality closer. It became the meeting place for many get-togethers, fishing, Picnics, fish fries, Sunday gatherings, holiday celebrations, family reunions, and many other occasions. For an objective, they organized the 'Lake Side Society' which seemed to draw them closer. They, at one time, started holding a Star Lake Fair each year, which was carried on for several years. They had exhibits, held races, contests, etc. to make it entertaining. Some of the get-togethers were held at the Star Lake Bridge and other get-togethers at Spruce Lodge.

In 1954 the County diverted the water of the west arm and put in a huge concrete culvert. The whole area changed. It isn't the fishing mecca it used to be, and there aren't any sweeping willow trees under which to relax. Resort owners complain the culvert inhibits the passage of the larger fishing crafts. Sometimes the old is better than the new.

Mr. John Frank was a spokesman for the tourist industry and after over thirty years of advocacy, succeeded in having the culvert at the mouth of the West arm of Star Lake replaced with a bridge in 1987, greatly improving the flow of boat traffic in and out of the West arm. Star Lake Township named the bridge the Frank Memorial Bridge in appreciation of Buck and Lucille's efforts.



A Fish Fry On The Bridge About 1914

A fish fry would usually be held when fishing season opened or whenever there was a celebration.

Names Of Some Of The People In The Picture

From left: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Swanson, sons Arvid, Vernon and Edwin, Jessie Strader, Rey Hancock, Ben Kegley, Charlie Peterson, Walter Chaffee, Evelyn Strader, Lettie Hancock, Jess Femling, Ernest and Hattie Strehlow, Myrt and Ida Strader, Harriet and Eugene Jesme, Jack Sherwood (holding fish), Georgia Sherwood, on far right and in front Florence Strehlow-Blake.



Peach's/Rocky's Resort

Peach's Resort was established in 1916 by Jess and Nellie Peach. It started as a bed and breakfast type business, with guests staying in their house. Their house is across the road from Peach's up on a big hill. They later built the present building of Peach's and some cabins.

"... a man came and asked if he could borrow our boat, and he came every weekend all summer. That was the very beginning of our resort business. First we took people into our house, and even put a tent in our cow pasture."

"We had a new barn and we put 5 fishermen in there and they called it the Haymow Hotel. We started building cottages in the pasture: a beautiful place with lots of trees. We had 7 nice cottages."

"Our son John, married Lorraine Koelln and had 3 children, Karen. Marlin and Judy. John started a trailer park on the lake, which eventually had 26 trailers. "

In 1944 Roscoe (Rocky) and Frances (Fritz) Smith took over Peach Resort. Rocky was Jess Peach's nephew. After a couple years the Smiths changed the name to Rocky's Peach Resort, and then to Rocky's Resort a couple years later. The Smiths did a lot of building and improving on the land and buildings, including building the house and a garage (now a Laundromat) east of Rocky's in 1946 or 1947 and adding the east addition on Rocky's in 1955. There were 11 cabins at this time, 3 on the lakeside and 8 across the road from the resort.

1961 may have been owned by Robert Jerome Carlson? Other Owners?

Stephen Kunz & Michael Scouton bought in approximately 1972.

September 8, 2007 - Rocky's Resort closing after 90 years in business





Jaegers's/Abraham's/Star Lake Resort

One of the first resort owners on Star Lake was Rudolph Jaeger of Cleveland, Minnesota. Dolph was a sports minded man. He liked to hunt and fish. On previous visits to the area, he enjoyed the beauty and availability of wild game and fish. He decided that this was a good place to raise his family. He bargained for 27 acres of lake shore land on the northeast end of Star Lake, in section 35.

In 1913 Mrs. Jaegar and their children: Mary, Dorothy, Berton, Peter, John, and William, arrived by passenger train. Mr. cared for his property of two horses, two cows, furniture, and canned supplies via the emigrant train and rode in the caboose of the same. The family moved into a log cabin on the shore of Star Lake, that is now part of the Charles Peach farm. That first winter Dolph and the older boys cut logs and hauled them to Frank Meyer's saw mill on Round Lake. This native lumber was used in building the new two story home that is still in use today (1975). The doors, windows, siding, flooring, and brick for the chimney were purchased from the lumberyard in Dent and cost \$265.

That first spring Dolph built three flat bottom boats and rented them out for \$.50 a day. Some of his first customers: Bill, Otto, and Ed Stoll of Dent. Others came from Moorhead, Minot, Wahpeton, North Dakota. Some came from Carrol and Ottumwa, Iowa. Young Bill Jaegar, then 12 years old, became a proficient guide. He also cleaned the fish and saw to it that they were iced properly.

In 1924 when Mr. Patrick offered to purchase the resort for a good price, Mr. Jaegar accepted.

Newspaper: Enterprise Bulletin Date: 5/27/1926

Mr. Arthur Abraham Has Taken Over the Resort West of Dent, Formerly Operated by R.B. Jaeger.

In about 1972 George and Phyllis Reimer bought the Resort and renamed it Star Lake Resort. After George's Death and 2000, Phyllis sold the property to the State to expand the public access.





















Spruce Lodge

The dwelling at Spruce is one of the older buildings, perhaps the oldest still standing and being used in Star Lake. It is believed to have been built in the 1880's, probably by Montgomery Berfield who operated a sawmill there at the time.

About 1900 Frank and Kate Meyer moved on the 187 acres in Section 25 in Dora Township, that had been purchased by Frank's father, John Meyer, who had bought a section of land from the state at 75ct an acre.

In 1910 Frank Meyer built a Pavilion on Round Lake. There were weekly dances held. On the Fourth of July a charge of one dollar entitled the male to afternoon and evening dancing and free beer. Women were admitted without charge.

By 1918, being rather venturesome, Mr. Meyer decided to try the resort business. He bought Spruce Lodge on Star Lake from Charlie Musser. Charlie had no cabins but accommodated the tourists in his large home and rented out boats. Frank built three cabins to rent and built more flat bottom boats. Since the resort business was seasonal, Frank decided to supplement his income by building a round pavilion and give dances. With the help of Fred and Oscar Peterson, two young neighbors, it was constructed. The bandstand was in the center, and benches encircled the outer edge. Gas lanterns served for lights. Here, during the summer, weekly dancing was held. The local Lake Side Society Club, organized by Jim Tully, held Community fairs and awarded prizes here. It was a mecca for family reunions and 4-H picnics. If the 'Fourth of July' fell on Saturday or Monday, a two-day celebration was held. It became a fun spot for the Community.

In January, 1933, Katherine passed away. Frank died in May, 1933 when it was owned by the Morchel Company. The resort was sold to Ben Bylund from Nashua in 1935.

Since then it has been owned and operated by Frank Steele, Frank's son-in-law Ralph Crews, Ernest Strehlow Jr., Mrs. Ernest Strehlow Sr, and Ruth Felton.



American Hunting Club

ROY PARKER FAMILY

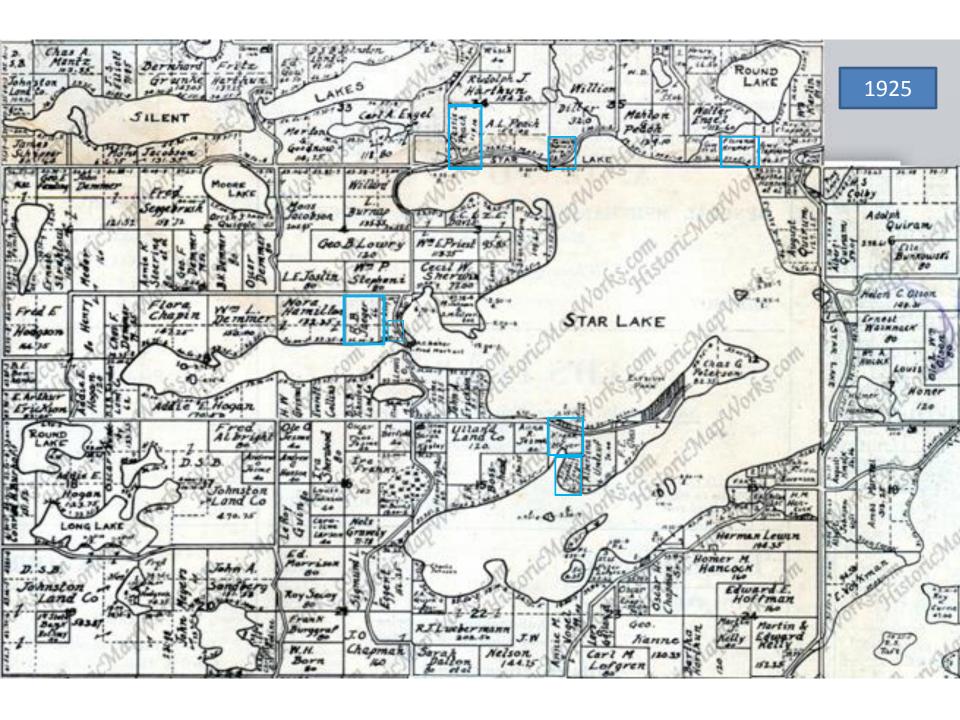
Roy was quite a cook, so when he was approached by the American Hunting Club to cook at their hunting lodge at Kitchen Oden in northern Minnesota, he signed up. He cooked for the fellows during the fall hunting season and went back to Minneapolis in the off season. One of the men who belonged to the Club influenced Roy to become caretaker of another lodge the company had at Star Lake. Here Roy would have year round work. Farming would supplement the income of boarding the fall hunters. The lodge was on the south arm of Star Lake. in section 14, and contained 47 acres, of which less than 20 acres was tillable.

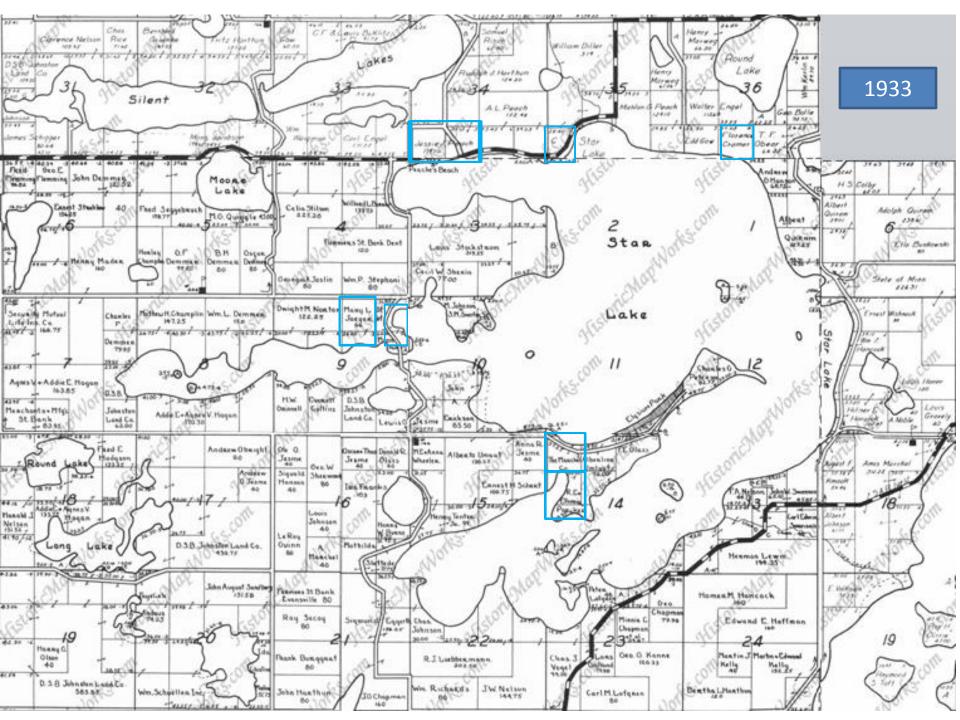
Roy, Elvera and their three-month old son, Rollie, moved to Star Lake in the fall of 1915. The family readily fitted into the neighborhood. Since house parties and dancing were the chief means of entertainment. Roy became a square dance caller. He called for dances at Spruce Lodge, The Boat House, and White Eagle Lodge.

In 1916 a bunkhouse with an open fireplace was constructed for the men who came up to hunt ducks, geese and other game. Elvera served the men delectable home-cooked food. A prune pudding and Welsh Rabbit were often requested by the men.

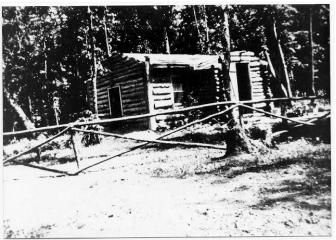
Mrs. Parker passed away December 31, 1937. Roy continued to operate the Lodge until 1947. Some of the neighborhood women who helped during the hunting season were Mrs. Hattie Strehlow, Edna Lofgren and Bertha Gravley.

From East Otter Tail County History Volume I 1977

















Louis Stockstrom

Like retail merchants today, in the Late 20's and early 30's the merchants of the town of Dent faced the competition for the consumer's dollars. I suppose they formed a businessman's club with the purpose of getting the public to patronize their businesses. They chose to have free shows, buy some groceries, trade in some eggs and visit with some other folks who lived within ten miles or so from town. As I recall movies were silent and mostly about cowboys and Indians.

Every merchant had his or her place open for business. The blacksmith wasn't working on Saturday night but he was open to accept plowshares for sharpening and other repair work, which he'd work on come Monday. The butter maker couldn't shut down the boiler 'till after 10 p.m. He had to churn the cream, which he'd taken in Saturday morning. If he didn't work a 17-hour day on Saturday he couldn't have Sunday for worship.

There were no beer joints. Bootleggers probably took advantage of the free show crowd because they had to do their business in the dark. I don't think that they wanted to openly publicize their profession.

Cafes were open to serve ice cream cones and sandwiches.

The streets of Dent were lined with Model T Fords, Chevies, Whippets, and few Stars, a Durant or two and maybe a Dort. Those who could afford a new car may have shown up with a Model A Ford or a new 6-cylinder Chevie. But one of the most sensational automobiles to show up on the streets of Dent was a beautiful Rolls Royce touring car. It was owned by the Louis Stockstrorn family of St. Louis, Missouri, It had two windshields. There were two chauffeurs who wore caps with shiny bills. Stockstroms rode in the back seat.

No, the Stockstroms didn't travel from St. Louis just to see the free show. They had a summer camp on Star Lake where they employed servants who came with them from St. Louis.

The plat of Star Lake Township in 1925 lists nearly 150-acres which at that time was known as Stockstrom's Point. More recently that area became known as Camp Aquila.

Quick Meal Stove Company

In 1881, George Kahle persuaded his brothers-in-law, Charles and Louis Stockstrom to set up a shop to make stoves. These four principals then organized two corporations, the Ringen Stove Company and the Quick Meal Stove Company. Quick Meal manufactured the stoves with Ringen Stove handling the entire output of Quick Meal's production.

The phenomenal growth of these two companies during the 1880s and 1890s led to the merger of eight other stove companies in St. Louis, Chicago and Cleveland in 1901 to form the American Stove Company. American Stove introduced the first oven temperature control device in 1914, and in 1929 brought out the first brand name Magic Chef. The Magic Chef name became so popular in the minds of cooks worldwide that American Stove Company changed its name to Magic Chef, Inc.

By 1986, the company had become the 249th largest industrial company in the nation and it was sold to the Maytag Corporation. Magic Chef also made home furnaces and that operation was sold to Lennox International. Whirlpool Corporation acquired Maytag Corporation in 2006.

Jaeger's/King Ann Resort

Rudolph "Dolph" Jaeger sold his resort on North Star in 1924 to Mr. Patrick when he offered to purchase the resort for a good price, Mr. Jaegar had his eye on the west arm of Star Lake. No resort had developed there. He bought 66 acres in Star Lake Township, which included some desirable lake shore. A small log house was built the first winter, and a 12 x 30 foot building was moved from the first resort that winter. It was loaded on sled bunks and pulled by four horses over the ice, to its present location. It became the guests' dining room. Other living quarters were added, and by the second summer, the Jaegar's were in business again. Since Mrs. Jaegar was an excellent cook, it was decided to operate the new resort on the American plan. Breakfast was served from 7:00 to 9:00 A.M., dinner at 12:00, and the evening meal at 6:00. In the ensuing years, former patrons would greet Mrs. Jaegar, saying, "We came up for some more of your good pancakes."

King and Ann Chandler purchased the resort in about 1960. They renamed it the King Ann Resort sometime before 1963 and operated the resort at least through 1968. Millicent Chartrau purchased the resort sometime before 1973 and renamed it the Kingswood Resort. Since then the property has been owned by Dan and Jan Gumphrey, Robert Frank, and Pierre and Mary duCharme.





Frank's Lodge

In 1931 the Frank's operated Jaeger's Resort; and the following year, pioneered the development of their property.

The first structures built were log cabins built by Fred Peterson and Mr. Frank. A rather unusual feature of this pioneer resort was that, from the start, it had electricity provided by a Delco gasoline engine before the days of R.E.A., and running water pumped from the lake.

Housekeeping cabins in the thirties and early forties featured kerosene stoves, ice boxes, wood burning stoves, and directional signs to other facilities.

In those days, many guests ate their meals at the main Lodge. Providing three meals a day to appease the hearty appetites of fishermen was no small task. Mrs. Frank and her daughters, Pauline and Frances, took care of this part of the operation. Mr. Frank did the guiding,

gardening, and other chores, and the teen-aged sons carried wood and water, sold bait, and exchanged banter with the fishermen.

After the death of John A. Frank in 1940, the resort operation was continued by the oldest son, John S. "Buck" Frank and his wife, Lucille. Buck, with the assistance of his daughters, Stephanie Jane and Mary duCharme, actively managed the resort and campground to through 2004.



Ernie's/Galaxy Resort

It's the simple beauty of Star Lake's North Arm that romanced Ernie and Luella Pederson back in 1945.

In 1946 Ted Hahn dug the basement out with a horse and a scoop for what would become a discrete beer pub. He used earth from the steep incline to fill the swampy bog below and built "Grandpa Pete's House". In 1947 a carload of lumber was ordered and shipped from Omaha, Nebraska. With hard work and craftsmanship, one-by-one buildings emerged — a garage, a storage shed, a dock house, a bunkhouse, 11 "modern" cabins and the all-important fish-cleaning house where Pederson offspring filleted fish for guests. And so Ernie's Resort on Star Lake was soon in operation for business.

Eventually, it came time for the Pedersons to add onto the Pub — a long wing that would become the Ernie's Resort lakeside restaurant.

Come 1966 upon the passing of both Luella and Ernie, the Pederson family surrendered their beloved resort to what would become a respectable lineage of Ernie's-turned-Galaxy Resort owners.

Following the Wicklands, Bornemeiers, Swanns and Gumphreys, the Bina family from Chicago took over operations in 1980. Save for the destruction of cabin 10 near the lake, the resort had remained mostly the same from Ernie and Luella's original vision.

Ernie's eldest son Bruce Pederson grew integral to Galaxy operations for more than two decades, fulfilling the duties of boats inspector, dock serviceman and head grounds keeper.





Camp Joy/Camp Aquila

From 1948 to 1976 the property was operated as a well known private camp, called "Camp Aquila For Boys" located on the Star Lake peninsula in Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

Sponsored by the American Sunday School Union Camp Joy was first held on the shores of Lake Lida in 1939, the Rev and Mrs P. C. Sorensen of the American Union Sunday School missionaries were determined to establish a Bible camp for boys and girls. At the very outset of this venture the Blom's were there assisting in every way they could. Then in 1941 on Star Lake shores a plot of ground was purchased and a real camp was formed, at that time 40 were enrolled.

In 1961 Rev Sorenson is still director of Camp Joy but the camp has grown to an average season's enrollment of 500 The site has 20 buildings chapel mess hall dormitories canteen infirmary to mention a few Camp Joy is one of eight camps in Minnesota under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union. Mrs Enoch Lindblom of Moorhead has been cooking for the hungry campers for 20 of the camp's 21 years of existence.

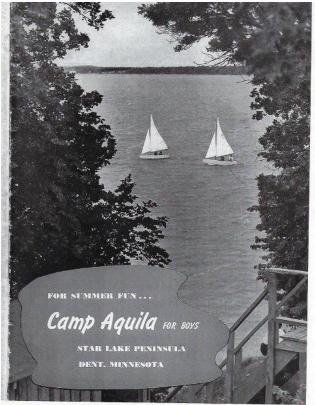
1966 - Camp director Rev. G. J. (Uncle Gus) Hansen

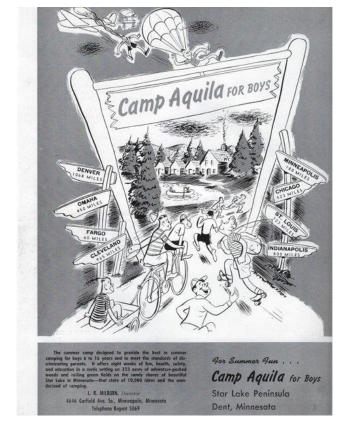
A full week's activities are planned in advance for the campers. From "Rise and Shine" at 7 a.m. to "Lights Out" at 10 p.m., the children put In a full day of healthy fun, literally sprinkled with church services and bible study.

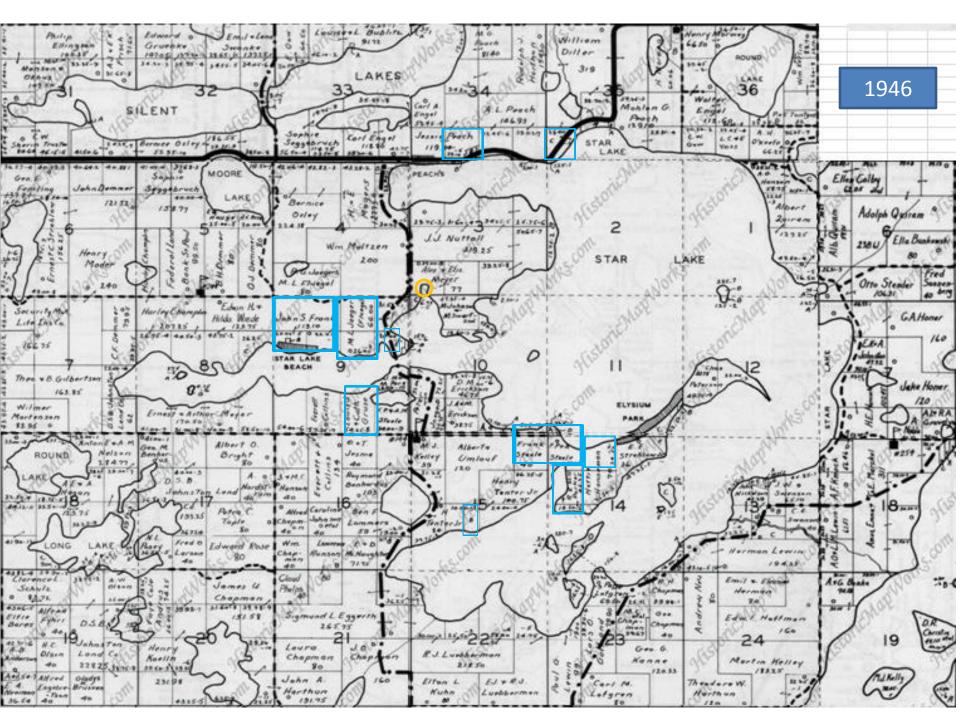
Rev. Hansen said that 93 percent of the camp equipment had been donated. This year a calf was given to the camp, butchered and ready. Milk and eggs were donated as well as were 72 boxes of cake mix. "And," he added, "the farm ladies are always having cookies for us."



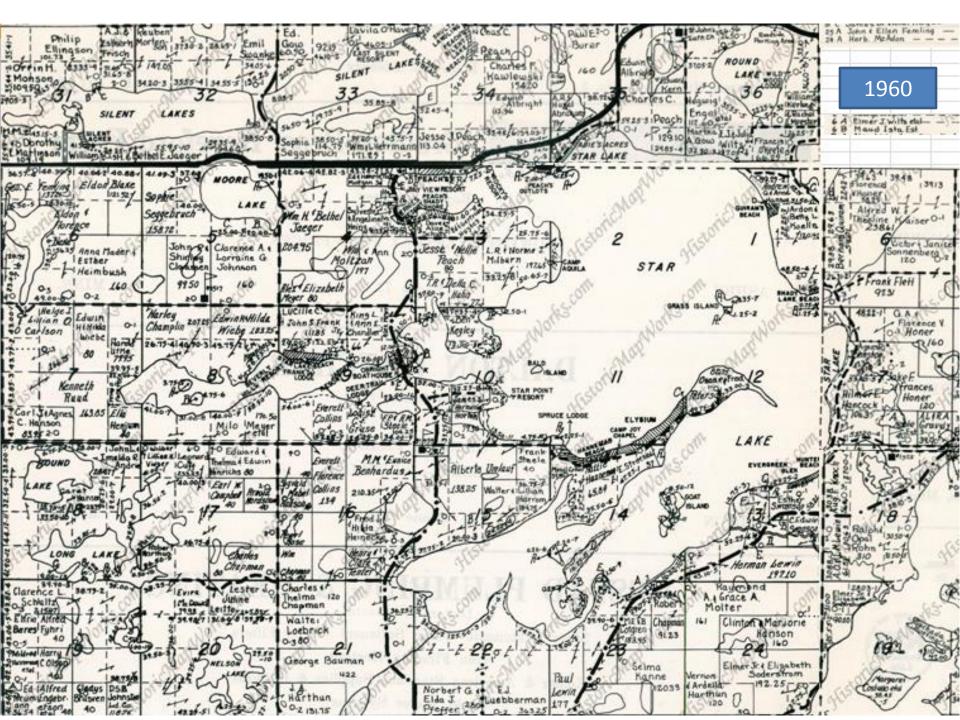








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Interesting Facts

- 1. Baker Cottage A summer home for Rochester doctors to come for hunting. Harley Champlin was hired as their hunting guide. Later owners Fluegel, J. Sheldon, present owner.
- 2. Boathouse Boats, store, and recreation center. Operators have been Jim Tully, Jaegers, Church, Tenter, Obright. Burned to the ground on three different occasions and not rebuilt.
- 11. Meyer's Cabbage Patch. The dry years of the middle 30's had put lowland at a premium. In 1938 Alex plowed up about 1 1/4 acres of lake bottom on his farm and planted it to cabbage He raised his own plants (Danish Bald Head). He harvested 60 tons or better from his small acreage. Some of the heads weighed 24 lbs. He sold about half the crop to Mert's Produce of Fergus Falls. The State Hospital also bought 10 tons. The rest he had to sell by peddling it throughout the country. He loaded about 3 tons of cabbage on his 1937 truck and started out early in the morning. The best territory was around Barnsville, Rothsay, and Campbell. There were some encounters with the law. There were towns that demanded a license before sales would be permitted. The neighbors marveled, what a cabbage patch on a lake bottom! The rain and snow in succeeding years caused the water level of the lake to rise, and the field reverted to its original habitat for plants and animals.



