



Volume 97 November 2019
9030 Forestview Lane N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-494-5983 Open 2nd Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society

OFFICERS

President: Al Madsen

Vice President: Caroline Schaefer

Secretary: Joyce Deane

Treasurer: Patty Reuter

Newsletter Editor: Pat Ruffing

Web page designer: Steve Briggs
<http://www.maplegrovehistory.org>



REGULAR EVENTS

Open house: the Maple Grove History Museum hosts an open house on the second Sunday of every month from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monthly Meeting: The third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the History Museum. Anyone with an interest in history is welcome to join us!

Quarterly Newsletter: Feb. 2020 Prohibition stills and moonshine in Maple Grove 1920 to 1933. Please ask your neighbors and friends for stories they heard. Please send in article by Jan 15th.

Ox Cart site and territorial downtown Maple Grove
15310 Territorial Rd (0.7 mi. w.) of Fernbrook Lane N. Maple Grove, MN.

Pierre Bottineau House Elm Creek Park Reserve:
12400 James Deane Parkway, Maple Grove, MN.

4 history display cases at M.G. Government Center
12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy N. Maple Grove, MN.

January – Send your membership dues in!

October- election of officers at monthly meeting



**You're
Invited**

CHRISTMAS MEETING & PARTY

NOTE CHANGE: WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 18TH

AT 6:00 PM

BRING FAMILY, FRIENDS
& NEW MEMBERS!!!!!!

We will discuss the food at our Nov. meeting

THE LAKES OF MAPLE GROVE

From the article by Emily Koehler in a previous newsletter

John and Liza Jobes owned the property that included the west shore of Weaver Lake. Of course, their house and other farm buildings were up by the road, now 89th Avenue North, not on the lakeshore.

Neighbors would stop at the farm to pay \$1 to rent a rowboat.

The path lead through the farmyard between two fields, and when nearing the lake, there was a gate in the fence that surrounded the cow pasture.

Everyone honored the unwritten rule to remember to close the gate so the cows wouldn't wander into the field...

The best beach on Weaver Lake was on the Jobes' side of the lake... neighborhood kids... crawled through the barbed wire fence down near the overflow-on the southeast side of the lake...

The end of the year school picnic for the kids at Weaver Lake School was always held at Weaver Lake...

In the 1950's Walter Dodds made his lakeshore on Weaver Lake available to the public. He, too, rented out boats, provided picnic tables, and had a concession stand. This was on the southwest corner of the lake...

Willie and Emma Rambow had a picnic area on the north end of Fish Lake-where Applebee's parking lot is now located.... Picnic tables were available and rowboats were for rent. They even had bait for sale; minnows were kept in the stock tank in the farmyard... Here a road separated the picnic area from the lakeshore... the weedy, muddy lake bottom had no sandy beach with a gentle slope into the water...

The best beach on Fish Lake was on the east side of the Lake. Ben Lucht had a much larger operation than Rambows, attracting people from as far away as Minneapolis. There was a picnic area, boats for rent and a concession stand in a permanent building where pop, beer, cigarettes, ice cream and snacks were available.

On the west side of the lake Mr. Krebs also rented out boats, Because there was no swimming beach on the west side of the lake, he added a small golf course- not

18 holes or even an "executive" course, but what would more aptly be called "pasture pool". On the south end of Fish Lake the Citizens Club owned property that they rented out to various groups...



1920's swim fashion

Eagle Lake was the most developed of any of the lakes in Maple Grove... the best beach was on the eastern shore... the older kids preferred to dive off of a raft anchored off shore. There was a permanent pavilion where snacks were sold. Probably, because Eagle Lake was closest to Minneapolis, this was the lake chosen by many large companies to hold their employee picnics each summer. Rides were brought in and a carnival atmosphere made it enjoyable for, not just the employees, but for the neighborhood kids as well.

At the top of the hill there was Chubb's dance hall-unheated and without air-conditioning; but never the less popular in summer. When the Trashmen played there in the 60's, the overcrowded building rocked according to the police reports... (In winter) the hill from the quiet dance hall to the lake, became the best hill around for tobogganing.

Why hasn't Rice Lake been mentioned? Always a shallow lake, it was drained in 1913. It never became the profitable farmland the farmers anticipated... A dam on Elm Creek raised the water level in 1965...

In July 1906, the Osseo Press told of four Osseo men, E. Richey, Charles Opitz, Joe Weishaur and E.M Curtis who spent a two week vacation on the shores of Weaver Lake. It was an outing of fishing, camping and constructing a shack of screening to keep out the bugs and mosquitoes. They caught a variety of items including a snapping turtles, some fish and a bottle of Gluck's cough syrup with a date of 1902 (Dorothy Schoenmann)

There are thirteen named lakes in the city: Arbor Lake, Cedar Island Lake, Cook Lake, Eagle Lake, Edward Lake, Fish Lake, North Arbor Lake, Mud Lake, Pike Lake, Rice Lake including its Outlet and West Bay, Teal Lake, Weaver Lake, and West Arbor Lake. Wikipedia from MG Gov. source

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One of Maple Grove's outstanding features is her lakes. In 1860 names of the lakes were:

- Swan Lake is now Fish Lake
- Lake Ramsey is now Rice Lake
- Crow Lake becomes Island Lake and now Cedar Island Lake
- Chaney Lake is now Weaver Lake
- Round Lake is Pike Lake
- Eagle Lake is still Eagle Lake
- Brown Lake or Line Lake was drained into Shingle Creek during the 1930's to make way for County Rd 18. It was located just south of 77th Ave. N. on what is now Highway 169.
- Rice Lake was drained in about 1912 to create farmland. In the 1960's a dam was constructed and the land flooded again.
- Mud Lake is not even shown on the 1860 map.
- Elm Creek Park Lake, a man made one acre swimming lake was added in 1974.



THE BIG FISH

by Jim Weber from No 35 Newsletter May 2006

Dad and Fred came home from their morning of fishing. They had caught the biggest pickerel that I had ever seen. They showed him off and went in the house to have some lunch. The big fish was laying on the back step, just lying there and opening and closing his mouth. My curiosity drew me to investigate. The fish opening and closing his mouth had to be examined, I looked in.

There were teeth and some other gooshie stuff that fish have. I don't know why but I must have wanted to feed the poor fish, so I picked some dandelion blossoms and stuffed them in his mouth. I helped them on their way with a little stick, because I didn't want to put my finger in mouth that had that many teeth.

...While they were removing the innards they (my dad and brother) were amazed that the fish had dandelion blossoms inside his stomach... They were talking about how the next time they went fishing they were going to bait with dandelion and see if they can get another big one.



Line Lake bottom--Lake went dry during the 30's and Steve Wadsworth had it drained (tilled) into Shingle Creek. Island in the lake shows as the light area in left-center of photo. Farm in the background is that of J.E. Wadsworth.



Brown's or Line Lake was on the border or line between Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park (Steve Wadsworth Farm) ...77th and County Road 18. (now #169) Photo was taken in 1921 from the island of the lake.

MAPLE GROVE'S MANY LAKES ARE AN ATTRACTION by Karen Brajdich

Maple Grove's many lakes are an attraction and asset to the city. I am fortunate to live close to three of them.

My house is located on East Fish Lake Road, in the southeast corner of Maple Grove. And, the street name, "East Fish Lake Road," says it all. Fish Lake is west from my house. I am within walking or biking distance of three Maple Grove lakes: Fish Lake, Cedar Island Lake and Eagle Lake. Over the 30 odd years living in my house, I've taken advantage of my access to these bodies of water. I regularly bike to and around the east shores of Fish Lake or Cedar Island Lake, through a series of bike/walking trails. It is wonderful way to start my day. I might get lucky and spot a chipmunk, wood duck, white heron or turtle on my trek.

Located in the southeast corner and on the southern border of Maple Grove is Eagle Lake. Through a canal system, Eagle Lake is connected to Pike Lake, on the southern border of Maple Grove and northern border of Plymouth. Both lakes are part of the Eagle Lake Regional Park and are connected to each other, by a canal. The Park district then added a board walk and trail. The Eagle Lake/Pike Lake is another walking or biking opportunity for all to enjoy. I am sure there are members of our Society that can remember when Osseo celebrated their 72nd anniversary of the town's founding on the shores of Eagle Lake on July 15, 1947. I wonder where the celebration was held.

Last October, I went to Weaver Lake. It was a beautiful fall day. Orange and gold leaves were everywhere. As I walked-up the edge of the hill, all of Weaver Lake came into full view. What a beautiful body of water! The sun was shining and the blue sky reflected off the water and it time to go home. Back in the 90s, I recall seeing an aerial view of Maple Grove and noticing the perfectly round shape of Weaver Lake. I was left wondering: Was Weaver Lake created by a meteor?

Yes, I am proud of living in Maple Grove and I love our lakes. And here's why: I grew up in Coon Rapids. There are no lakes within the city limits of Coon Rapids. The only "body of water," within the city's borders, was a clay hole. The Clay Hole was a former mining site near the Mississippi River that supplied clay for a brick factory located on East River Road. During summer time, children and teenagers went to the Clay Hole to

swim and cool-off. BUT it was a clay hole with muddy water, the color of clay. Yes, Maple Grove, you are so fortunate to have your crystal clear lakes!

Dorothy Schoenmann wrote in Maple Grove Memories Maple Grove Newsletter in summer 1996 about Bye's on Fish Lake- Here is a bit of the story.

Pearl Bye was the daughter of Augusta Cook and Laurence Rohe. Augusta was born in MG in 1874. At one time her family farmed south of Cedar Island Lake where the Cedar Island School is now, and later on the east side of Rice Lake by Maple Knoll Cemetery.

Henry Bye was born in 1895 and grew up near Fosston, MN. He married Pearl Rohe in 1921.

In 1937, when Pearl's dad Laurence Rohe's health worsened, Henry started farming full time. The farm, was only 56 acres, and Fish Lake took up the rest of the 80 acres, so he bought 21 acres on the west side of Cedar Island Lake from the DeMars family.



Pictured here in the mid 1950s is Henry Bye.

WHO WAS WEAVER LAKE NAMED FOR?

According to information I could find: Relatives of Previla (Priscila) Weaver Blakeborough (Husband Joseph) say that the lake was named for her. Daniel was her brother. Precila Weaver Blakebrough, Sarah Jane Weaver Able, Nancy Elizabeth Weaver Jobes, three sisters, are buried in Weaver Lake Cemetery. Their cousins, Eliza Jane Weaver Wilkins Stickles, and James Edison Weaver also buried at Weaver Lake Cemetery.



Daniel Weaver and Mrs. Weaver

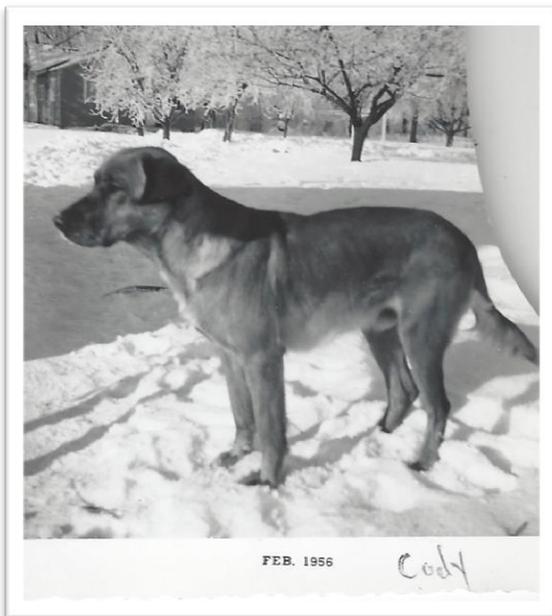
HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING ON EAGLE LAKE

by George "Bill" Bergquist

HUNTING

Two hundred and ninety plus acres of childhood delight. Growing up on Eagle Lake from the late 1940s to the mid-1960s was a wondrous experience. To double the pleasure, Eagle Lake was (and still is) connected by a channel to a smaller lake, Pike. Plus, it is the headwater of Shingle Creek which flows out of the lake and on to the Mississippi and hence to New Orleans.

Before sharing the trials and tribulations of life on the lake, the record needs to be set straight about the name. The 5.1 miles of lakeshore does not in any way resemble an eagle and growing up on the lake never once was an eagle to be seen. But, of course, these were years in which eagles were near extinction due to the heavy farm use of DDT. In earlier years, with the abundance of food sources the lake offered, eagles with their imposing nests must have been prominent features around the lake.



While eagles were not to be seen, ducks and geese were abundant. Hunting before the school day started was a rite of passage. My baptism was quite literally that. I had acquired a homemade kayak made of a light wood frame and treated canvas with a large square cockpit. It offered a snug fit for my dog Cody, a stray I had acquired the previous fall, and myself.

One cool – oh who’s kidding – *cold* overcast fall morning I was negotiating the narrow channel

between Eagle and Pike lakes when I heard the distant honking of a large wedge of Canadian geese. Hastily stowing the paddle, I grabbed my shotgun. As I swung the gun up to take a shot, Cody decided to jump ship. Upside down I went. Face down in the water I had the presence of mind to hang on to the gun, extract myself and right the kayak. I cast a cold and vengeful eye for Cody but he had the good sense to stay hidden. Soaking wet I paddled across the lake for home. When I arrived there was Cody, still wet and looking bedraggled, his tail wagging as always. Happy to see me, with a better appreciation of why he had been abandoned the previous fall, I gave him a big wet hug and we both went in to dry off. He remained my Labrador, never to be a retriever, for the remainder of his life.

That little fiasco should have cured me of my hunting itch, but of course, it didn’t. A few days later I joined a friend from school who also lived on the lake and we headed for Pike Lake, this time in a more stable rowboat. When I say Pike Lake think of shallow open water dotted with islands of tall reeds, cattails and lily pads. It was again a cool morning with a light mist and low hanging fog – some would call it “duck weather”. Anyway, we negotiated the channel and swept out onto the lake. In front of us was an island of tall reeds and as we came around it through the fog we could just make out a number of ducks bobbing on the water. Dave turned to me and whispered, “I’ll shoot over ‘em to scare them up. So be ready.” Bang! Just like that. My gun was barely to my shoulder. Then all broke loose. No, not ducks taking flight but two guys in a blind stood up and started cursing and waving their guns at us. The decoys continued to bob gently on the water, although I swear, one looked like it was starting to sink. We made a strategic retreat and headed for home to hang up the guns.

FISHING

Leaving the hunting pastime behind, fishing on the lake was filled with success and joy. My Grand Dad and Dad were avid fishermen and I was an eager mate from my earliest days. We had a rowboat that we kept in a neatly carved pie-shaped indentation at the foot of a fifty foot (I kid you not) steep bank that makes up some of the east side of the lake. Each year I struggled to dig out steps to make the ascent easier. Each spring the snow melt removed the steps.

With or without the steps, carrying all the necessary gear up and down the hillside made fishing a labor of love. Because, if you didn’t love it you wouldn’t do it.

Fortunately, my Dad had his favorite fishing holes and it was a rare occasion we didn't catch our limit. Of course, all these fish added to the struggle ascending the hill, but somehow success made the burden lighter.

One rule of fishing with my Dad was no unnecessary noise. And, most noticeable to fishermen on the lake today, if peeled back in time to the late 1940s, would be the quiet. Eagle Lake had three boat rental "resorts" and they all rented boats without outboard motors. Indeed, it wouldn't be until the late '50s that trailering a boat and motor would begin to become common place. But even in the late '50s the popularity of owning your own boat, motor and trailer was nothing like it is today. Gradually the trend would lead to the demise of the boat rental businesses on the lake.

I should add highway noise to the list of monumental changes. Only the two lanes of Highway 18, now four lane Highway 169, were paved. The local roads on the lake were still gravel and there was no "improved" boat launch site on the lake. And, of course, Highways 694 and 494 were only a gleam in MNDOT's eye.



TRAPPING

The excitement of accompanying a neighbor trapping had to be curtailed until the lake ice was thick enough to hold our weight. Even at that, in the murky areas of the lake around the reed and mud dens of the muskrats, the decaying weeds and activity of the muskrats and waterfowl meant always being prepared for thin or soft ice. A good wetting could bring about a quick end to the outing.

The north end of the lake had acres of cattails, reeds and water lilies, a lush wetland brimming with wildlife. Around the perimeter and along trails cut through the reeds were numerous muskrat dens. They were comprised mainly of reeds and mud (distinct from beaver lodges which are largely sticks with mud). Beavers occasionally made an appearance on the lake, but for the most part had been long since trapped out.

My task was to carry the traps. Nasty looking contraptions with jaws that opened when the handle was stepped on, allowing a trigger to be lodged in a cleft which kept the jaws open. The trap would be set off by depressing the trigger catching the muskrat's leg or foot. No bait was used; the trap was merely set in the passageway used by the muskrat to negotiate the wetland or, as was most often the case, the tunnel to their den. The very short chain attached to the trap was fastened to a metal stake driven through the links and into the ground. When trapped the short chain prevented the muskrat, an air breathing mammal, from surfacing.

To see Eagle Lake today, although much of the swampy marsh area remains, much more is gone. There were no houses on the west (lake side) of Magda Drive or the lake side of 173. All of this area was wetland (called then the lungs of the lake because of the nutrients retained by the wetland). Families of muskrats and muskrat houses dotted the entire area, and although no census was ever taken, they must have numbered in the dozens.

Our small harvest that year made little impact on their overall numbers. But it was such a sorry and sad business it was my last. Skinning a muskrat and stretching its small pelt is a nasty process and the price per pelt a pittance. The carcass was sold to a company that produced pet food, but that, too, was a meagre source of income. The ugly creatures (yes, they do look like overgrown rats) were left in peace, at least by me and my neighbor, to live out their lives as nature intended.

Did you know?

Postcards have been around for 150 years. In October 1869 the Austrian postal service implemented them because they were less expensive than letters.

Postmarked in 1909 in Osseo



In December of 1973, my father, Bob Kochenderfer, moved with his family from Plymouth Minnesota, to a new house on the shore of Fish Lake in Maple Grove. Back then the lake and its shores looked a lot different than they do today. First off, only the east side of the lake was developed in 1973. The west side of the lake was dairy farms. My father remembers walking through herd of escaped goats to get to the school bus stop. There were also tons of cows. These cows would graze along the shore of Fish Lake and wade in the shallows of the lake.

Secondly, there was a lot more traffic on the lake in the 1970's and 1980's. Back then there was no legal boat launch onto Fish Lake, since Fish Lake Regional Park wasn't built yet. There was an illegal boat launch on the north shore of Fish Lake by where Applebee's now is. This boat launch would accommodate dozens of boats on the busiest days of the summer. Today the boat launch at Fish Lake Regional Park has only approximately twelve spots for cars to park with their boat trailers. This large number of boats would lead to at least one boating accident death every year. One boat he remembers was a farmer's boat. It was a one-level paddle boat, large enough that a small dinner party could happen upon it

Thirdly the wildlife around the lake was very different. Most of the lakeshore was covered in cattails. The lake teemed with bullhead carp. He remembers that the carp would swim in a horizontal line near the surface of the water in large groups. These carp would stir up the bottom of the lake, causing a murky look in the water. The amount of carp got so bad that the government had to put up a trap at the north end of the lake. Also he remembers there were a multitude of beavers, beavers as big as black labs. In total the lake was a lot different than it was today. - Paul Kochenderfer

August 23, 2018 the Maple Grove Osseo Press printed an article about Maple Grove approves concept for 42 homes near Cook Lake. And where is Cook Lake one might ask?

The proposed development is located north of County 101, with Cook Lake to the north, and Lord of Life church to the east. Bass Lake Road is on the south and the City of Corcoran is directly to the west.

"Cook Lake is classified as a Natural Environmental Lake, which has the highest level of environmental protection in the shoreline ordinance." Four and a half acres would not be touched at all."

MAPLE GROVE'S OLDEST TREES WATCH OVER GENERATIONS

Part of an article BY Riley W. Smith From the [September 2015 Maple Grove Magazine issue](#) "When Maple Grove was first settled in the 1850s, it was part of the Big Woods: centuries-old maple, oak, elm and basswood that covered tens of thousands of acres of Minnesota. As this seemingly endless lumber was cleared for farmland, some trees were spared and others were planted as homesteads were established. They stood by as Maple Grove grew into a thriving farm community and then into the vibrant suburban community it is today.

Some of the earliest white settlers in Maple Grove were Peter Devery and his family. The land they settled along the south shore of Fish Lake holds a maple tree that predates the city itself. Though very much showing its age with its health in decline, it still stands in Fish Lake Regional Park. The surveyors who originally plotted Minnesota used "bearing trees" to mark corners of their plots and as landmarks. One of the bearing trees used by surveyors was about 50 feet away from the Fish Lake sugar maple, which likely was standing as the surveyor passed by in the 1850s. The tree also witnessed generations of farming of the nearby land until the area was turned into Fish Lake Regional Park, as it is today."

REMEMBER TO VOTE!!!!



Louise Hanf's grandparents registering to vote in 1952 at ages 83-71. They had been ill at the previous U.S. election for President 4 years earlier.

“MEASURE THEIR FEET: THE STORY OF SCHULER SHOES”

“Improving lives - one person, one pair, one neighborhood at a time”.

John Schuler CEO, of Schuler Shoes on Main St. Maple Grove, comes with an interesting family history. After 130 years in business a book about Schuler Shoes history called a “Measure Their Feet: The Story of Schuler Shoes” was compiled and edited by Matt Larkin and Ann Larkin Hansen.

To have extra money in his high school years, John worked part time at the Schuler Shoes, his dad’s business. By age 20, he the youngest of six siblings, took over Schuler Shoes from his dad Emmet.

According to the Schuler Shoes website, Vincent Schuler, John’s great-uncle came to America in 1889 from Austria. He purchased a shoe store at Broadway and Washington in Minneapolis and named it V. Schuler Boots and Shoes.

In the early 1920’s he sold the store to nephew Otto and niece Maria. Their brother Emmet bought in to the store. Eventually, in 1950’s, Emmet owned all six Schuler Shoe Stores. According to Twin Cities Business Newsletter of October 30 2019, John bought Schuler Shoes from his dad in 1973 for \$250,000 and absorbed all of the debt. “He gave him \$30,000 down, and I had to sign notes with the bank for all the rest.

In 1977, John had been in business for four years and was basically bankrupt. He contacted his 77-year-old father, who was spending the winter in Florida. His dad got on an airplane, with his briefcase stuffed with financial statements.

John sat down with him and I said, ‘I’m broke. I can’t get money.’”

Emmet became a 50-percent stockholder in the enterprise, which relieved debt for John and allowed him to find access to credit.

The bank also required more sacrifices. He had to sell his house and put all the money he raised into the business.

Currently Schuler Shoes has nine locations and a warehouse. In 2000 - Schuler Shoes headquarters moved from Robbinsdale to Maple Grove.

A Fourth generation of Schulers started in 2006 in the business: Scott, Jennifer, Michael and Maria All four children work at Schuler Shoes.

According to Twin Cities Business October 30 2019 “The small company that he bought from his father in the early 1970s is now a big player that produced \$43 million in revenue for the 2016 fiscal year.”

In Memory of

Ervin J. Amann

Ervin J. Amann, age 86 of Maple Grove. Passed away Oct. 22, 2019. Husband of Emily Koehler.

MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

City of Maple Grove Government Center
12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove MN 55369-7064

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(renewable each January)

Annual Membership (tax deductible)

- \$15 Individual/Senior
- \$30 Family
- \$100 Supporting Member

I am interested in helping with

- Writing article
- Historic site maintenance
- Displays
- Educational Programs
- Publicity
- Cataloging artifacts
- Calling

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

