

# Seeley Site's Settled

By JOHN A. FORSSEN

The matter of the site for the Seeley-Swan High School was finally settled Monday with selection of a wooded, 17.2 acre plot on Morelle Creek about half a mile south of the village of Seeley Lake.

Trustees of Missoula County High School voted unanimously to build the satellite high school there, ending a two-month controversy in which residents of the Seeley Lake area objected strenuously to the site originally picked by the trustees.

The site is owned by the Anaconda Co. Forest Products Division, and businessmen of the area will pay the company a token fee of \$100 an acre, turning the land over to the school board free.

Trustee Marshall Gray said the land is worth many times more than \$100 an acre, noting that

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## Seeley Site

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building sites in the same general area are on the market for \$3,000 a lot.

With the site apparently finally decided, trustees turned to the matter of getting the school built. It was authorized by taxpayers who voted on July 10 for a special mill levy to raise \$270,000.

S. R. Witwer and Stewart K. Price, architects, said they felt the preliminary plan made for the original site could be adapted for the new spot and that it might be possible to have plans out to contractors by the end of the year.

The architects and Principal W. W. Wetzel approved of the new site selected.

The trustees originally chose between putting the new school at the site of the present grade school or at a site about a mile from town, and chose the latter, receiving a gift deed to 15 acres.

Some Seeley Lake residents objected to the choice, with the result that the trustees were asked to look at three other sites. This they did last week before making their decision Monday.

They also voted to pay the donors of the previous site, Seeley Lake Pines Development Co., any costs incurred in making the gift.

Seeley Lake residents made it plain that the grade school is still their No. 1 choice, but Trustee Gray said a majority of the Seeley persons are satisfied with the site picked.

Gray pointed out that it is within easier walking distance for a number of children and also is within the district of a proposed water system.

As one preliminary step toward getting the building plans moving, the trustees voted to ask the county surveyor's office for a survey and topographic map of the new site.

In one other item of business, the trustees gave a formal send-off to Wetzel, who will leave Saturday for an educational conference at Chicago. He was one of 40 selected to attend from the United States and Canada.



# SEELEY



THE WOODED AREA at



Morning, October 20, 1963

# SEELEY LAKE LOOKS UP

By JOHN A. FORSSEN

Timber and tourists.

These are foundation stones of western Montana's economy and probably constitute its future, and the proof is to be seen in the Seeley Lake community.

The area is growing in numbers of permanent residents, with the grade school population booming and a new high school scheduled to be built next year.

Even more spectacular is the increase in numbers of Montanans and others discovering the lake and its lush surroundings as a vacation playground.

Such things as numbers of telephones and electrical services indicate the growth in the permanent population. Figures on the population vary, and it's a bit hard to measure because it's spread out over an area of several miles.

But there's no doubt that a substantial number of the bread-winners are employed in logging and sawmilling.

The increase in the recreational industry can be shown in some Forest Service figures. Fifteen years ago, the Forest Service counted 2,540 recreational visits to the area, nearly all at Seeley Lake Camp on the west shore.

In 1962, the last year for which figures have been compiled, the total was 15,160.

It's also interesting to note that in 1946 the visitors stayed an average of 1.4 days as compared to 2.75 in 1962.

Anybody who wants more emphatic proof of the increasing number of visitors need only go to the Seeley Lake Camp on a summer weekend—it'll be jammed far beyond its 250 capacity. The record was set on a holiday when 705 persons were counted in the camp.

The Forest Service is working as fast as funds permit to develop another major camp, this one on the east shore and known as Big Larch Camp. Late in the

summer it was about half finished, to accommodate some 250, and work is to be continued next spring and summer.

At best, Big Larch Camp will only catch up with the demand.

With better roads, visitors are coming to Seeley Lake from many parts of the state. In years gone by, Seeley was a place visited by a few Missoula residents. Now, as many come from Great Falls as Missoula and there are many visitors from Butte, Helena and points farther east.

Commercial facilities in the area also are being expanded, and the community of Seeley Lake is seeing several residential subdivisions being laid out. As a definite step toward urbanization, the post office was moved out of the general store and opened in a brand new building in August.

Also during the past summer, telephone service was extended to the west shore via Montana's first underwater cable. The cable stretches 1,275 feet across the lake and is capable of serving eight customers on each of its 25 lines. The first hookups were made Sept. 27.

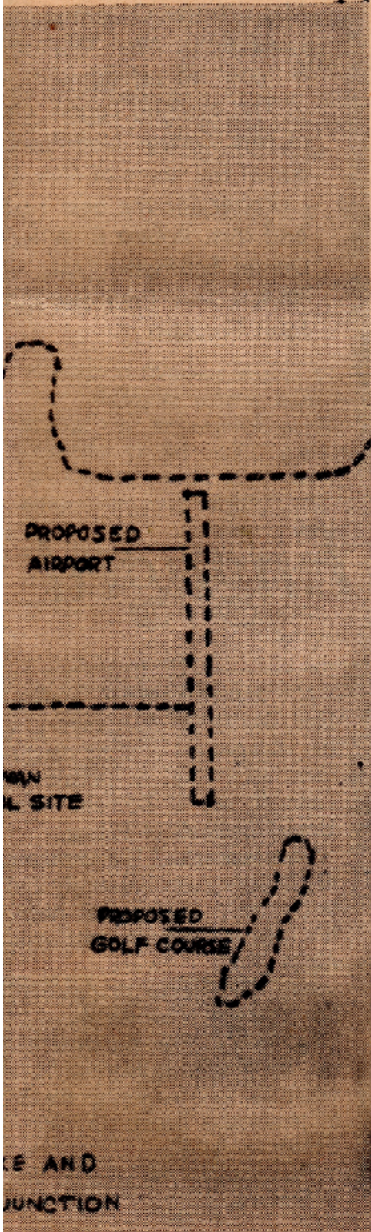
A water system for the town is being planned. Despite the presence of the lake, sufficient quantities of good well water lie deep under the ground.

Plans for a new airport are well along, and one of the subdivision promoters is planning a golf course.

There is talk of establishing some small industries because pleasant living is available for workers. The area is centrally located with respect to several large population centers.

Its recreational facilities also include convenient access to the Mission Mountains on the west and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area on the east. There are several dude ranches in the area.

"What more could you ask?" say the Seeley Lake boosters.



**PREPARED ESPECIALLY BY THE MISSOULIAN**, the map at left shows some of the points of interest around Seeley Lake, which is fast becoming one of the state's chief recreation areas. Not many years ago, Seeley Lake was an almost isolated body of water in a wooded valley,

right in the picture





is the scenic site of a new  
built to serve the Seeley  
road at left leads to one  
subdivisions being platte  
of the Seeley Lake comm  
tracts for the \$280,000  
awarded in December or

**A NEW POST**

gust to serve the  
community. Stores  
facilities in the  
meet the increas  
growing number  
area.





high school to be  
-Swan area. The  
of the several new  
as the population  
unity grows. Con-  
school are to be  
early January.

**OFFICE** went into use in Au-  
ne growing Seeley Lake Com-  
, restaurants and recreational  
area have been expanded to  
sing local population and the  
r of visitors to the scenic



**BEAUTY** aplenty is one of  
the resources of the Seeley  
Lake area, as witness the  
pictures at left and right.  
A view of the lake from a  
new Forest Service public  
camp is seen at left, guard-  
ed by a huge Ponderosa  
pine. The picture at right  
was made from a new resi-  
dential subdivision of land  
which is to be included in  
a new airport that is mov-  
ing rapidly through the  
planning stages.





# MCHS Trustees Say Seeley School Site Not to Change

By JOHN A. FORSSEN

Missoula County High School trustees rejected Tuesday night a plan to change the Seeley-Swan High School to cover a larger area by locating it at or near Clearwater Junction.

A dozen residents of Ovando asked the board to put a 30-day hold on planning for the new building but board members said it is too late.

The site of the school has been changed once to a spot slightly nearer the Seeley Lake community after residents protested a location about a mile from the village.

The Ovando residents said

that by moving it some 17 miles the school would be centrally located to serve not only Seeley Lake and the Swan Valley but also Ovando, in Powell County, and Lincoln, in Lewis and Clark County.

Principal spokesman for the group and a chief instigator of the proposal was Willard Carter, who at the end of the meeting was still hopeful that the board might still delay action.

In other action, the board received an offer from the Missoula Electric Cooperative to furnish all electricity for the Seeley-Swan school building, for 9 miles per kilowatt hour for

electric heat and other electricity. The trustees looked favorably on the offer and decided to refer to the architect, Witter & Price.

The cooperative urged "open minds" on the subject of heating the building electrically and pointed out that it has "many electrically heated homes on our 12 mill per kilowatt hour rate . . . which we are willing to guarantee for a long period of time, should be attractive."

The trustees also decided to contract with Robert R. Beach to supply bus service for students now being transported from the Seeley Lake area.