

History of Long Lake 1900 to 1999

Part I

One does not have to be a lifelong resident of Long Lake to feel that he is a part of it. It belongs to whomever carries with them the knowledge of its past. There is much to be gained from learning how men and women in days-gone-by settled the lake properties. For those of you who have had the pleasure of living on one of the most beautiful lakes in Northern Minnesota's pine forest, we offer this history for you, your children and grandchildren.

Long Lake is located 4 miles east of the town of Park Rapids. The town came into existence in 1882. Hubbard County was formed one year later and is the Gateway to Itasca State Park with its 32,000 acres of forest and 157 lakes and source of the great Mississippi River.

Long Lake is 8 miles long, $\frac{3}{4}$ miles wide, 165 feet deep at the deepest area, fed by spring water, covering 1935 acres, with 20 miles of shoreline containing 535 homes, including 8 resorts and 1 campground.

Most abstracts of title of lake property date back to January 23, 1895, when the United States of America gave all the land in Hubbard County to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. The railroad company when bankrupt on September 22, 1899, and this land was turned over to Mr. Alfred L. Carey and Frank G. Bigelow as receivers of Northern Pacific Railroad Company. The judgments were for \$686,552 and \$1,144,948.

One of the first Warrant of Deeds as issued in December 1901 to J. A. Feldhous from Park Region Land Company.

From this point on, we ask that you check your abstract for past history and dates your area was developed and homes were built.

Part II

This piece of history came from Ira Benham, a local historian who passed away this winter. He made his home in Hubbard. He was raised on the Hubbard Prairie and farmed its rich land for many years. His farmland ran from Crystal Beach to Hubbard on the East side of Long Lake.

In the late 1800's Hubbard on the South end of Long Lake was a thriving town with excellent water power, a 60,000 bushel grain elevator, two general stores, two or more saloons, a good school, two doctors, a newspaper, a millinery shop, a hotel, a butcher shop, a bank, two lawyers, a veterinarian, and two churches.

In 1883 Joseph Delaney, a miller, moved to Hubbard Township and built a flour mill at the dam site. On the first day of its operation, the earthen dam gave out, and the mill above the water wheel fell over into the lake. The Mill was rebuilt the following year. A painting of the mill and elevator currently hang in the dining room of the Hilltop restaurant located in Hubbard at the south end of Long Lake.

The original name of the town was Brighton, but was changed to Hubbard to compete with Park Rapids to be named the county seat. In those early days there was a great deal of competition between the two communities for the honor and business opportunities associated with the county seat.

The railroad wanted to come through Hubbard, but a land owner in the town site would not cooperate with the railroad. A Park Rapids land owner, who realized the commercial value of the railroad, gave concessions, and succeeded in bringing the railroad, and after that, the village of Hubbard did not grow.

The Long Lake Area Association (1998)

For those residents of Long Lake who do not know why the Long Lake Area Association was founded, we offer this information.

In 1974 the Wyeth Estate was sold to developers from Minneapolis. They constructed roads through the property and planned to build 10 buildings with 30 condominium units in each building. Only the two adjoining property owners were notified of this expansive plan. Since the property was not zoned for this purpose the adjoining property owners became concerned and notified several other property owners on the lake. Through the efforts of Steve Budgett, Vern and Pat Hol, Bud and Donna Klemmond, Jim and Nancy Seifert and Bob and Joan Thornycraft, the word was spread. A meeting was held on Bob Thornycraft's front lawn. A large percentage of Long Lake home owners were in attendance at this meeting.

It was decided to form an association and fight the proposed development. A Board of Directors was elected, with Bob Thornycraft as President, Gunner Johnson as Secretary and Bud Klemmond as Treasurer. The board hired an attorney, attended many county meetings and the proposed change in the zoning was not approved. The overall result was we now have nine attractive lake homes in place of 300 condominiums. The first Long Lake Association annual meeting was held July 27, 1975.

Fishing was always one of the main topics at all board and association meetings. For many of the early years the association rented ponds in the area which were stocked in the spring with walleye fry and then moved to the lake in the Fall.

Since then the purpose of the association has become much less confrontational. The mission of the association is to improve the quality of life within our lake community, including the environment, through education and communication.

The association now has 200 active members and is represented by 17 residents on its Board of Directors.

Each year the association encourages new members to join.

100 Years of Growth in Property Values on Long Lake

Long Lake, Hubbard County Tax Assessment Record for 1998

Records of Hubbard County advise us of the following:

491 tax units not including agricultural land

145 units classified as 201-221-232 types (includes Homestead)

346 units classified as 151 (Seasonal)

Total value of above 491 units \$48,573,216 in 1998

Type 201-221-232 value \$17,946,435 in 1999

Type 151 (Seasonal) value \$30,626,781 in 1998

7 Resorts plus Campground valued at \$3,835,870

8 largest homes on lake values at \$3,888,749

Our estimate is that property values on Long Lake produce approximately 1 million dollars in tax revenues each year.

Using official figures, the Tax Foundation, a nonprofit research and educational organization, finds that Americans paid 35.2% of their total 1997 income in taxes. The percentage in 1913 was 8.2%. In 1997 the Federal government accounts for most of the tax bite 23.4%, state and local taxes were 11.8%.

Development & Economic Growth

The growth and development of Long Lake in past years is tied directly to the economy and transportation and of special events.

Population of Minnesota in	1850	was	6,077
	1900		1,751,940
	1950		2,982,483
	1993		4,517,416

- 1832 Henry Schoolcraft discovered the source of the Mississippi River.
- 1847 City of Minneapolis founded.
- 1849 Minnesota Territory created by President Zachary Taylor for 5000 white settlers. The Government sold Indian Land for \$1.25 an acre. By 1857, 50,000 settlers purchased 1 million acres.
- 1858 On May 11th, Minnesota became the 32nd State.
- 1862 Homestead Act gave 160 acres free to anyone who would develop the land over a 5-year period. From 1870 to 1890, the population grew from 430,000 to 1.2 million. In three years, one million acres were given away.
- 1872 More than 2,000 miles of railroad track crisscrossed Minnesota and in 1878, James J. Hill gained control of the bankrupt St. Paul Pacific Railroad Company and out of that, built the Great Northern Railway which opened trade between Minnesota and Oregon and Washington. Thus the lumber industry mowed down the forest and employed 40,000 men in the process of almost complete destruction of the once magnificent forests. In the 1870's, more than 500 flour mills were operating and river generated power making Minnesota the nation's leading flour producer. The logging industry used the railroads to get the timber from the forest to the mills.
- 1877 Bell Telephone Company was started with 778 telephones in operation.
- 1879 Thomas Edison invented the light bulb that burned for 13 hours before being shut off.
- 1881 Edison Electric Lighting Systems went into operation to supply power for 84 paying customers who have 400 lamps.
- 1887 Cassius Merritt fell flat on his face in the woods while inspecting trees for the family lumber business and he had stumbled on a tremendous chunk of iron ore on the forest bed. The Mesabi area had previously been investigated by prospectors because the range

lies amid so many iron deposits and mines. Although iron had never been found in the range, William Bart discovered some in the vicinity accidentally while on a government survey in 1844 when his compass deviated.

- 1889 Mayo Clinic founded.
- 1893 The Great Northern Railroad opens the Northern Transcontinental route being built by James J. Hill without government assistance.
- 1894 Great Hinckley forest fire burned 400 sq. miles of forest and killed 418 people.
- 1895 Three hundred motor cars have been built and sold in the United States. Models were King, Duryea, Studebaker, Ford (1899), Pierce, Olds. Gas models account for 20% of the market, the balance being steam and electric.
- 1900 Population of the United States was 76 million. The U.S. had 8000 cars and trucks, 18 million horses and mules were in use, they had 10 miles of concrete roads, 50% of all the forest had been cut and there were 1.8 million telephones in the country. No income taxes were collected.
- 1903 Henry Ford sells the first Model A, 2 cylinder, 8 hp-30 mph for \$850. He has 10 workers in his plant.
Wright Brothers flew their first airplane for 12 seconds and went 120 feet.
- 1908 American farm life was thriving. The average farm value was \$6444 and average income was \$540 per year.
General Motors was formed by William Durant, who owned Buick Motor Car Company, who produced 8,487 cars.
Henry Ford builds the first Model T, 20 hp, cruise at 35 mph, and plans to build 5000.
- 1909 Ford builds 17,700 Model T's, selling for \$850 each.
- 1911 William C. Durant joins forces with Louis Chevrolet and starts a new auto company after a banking syndicate takes over General Motors.
On November 5, 1911, the first cross country flight of the Wright Brothers biplane by Calbraith Rodgers, 3220 miles, New York to Pasadena, California in 82 hours and 4 minutes.
- 1913 Ford produces 182,809 Model T's priced at \$440 each. The following year, Ford doubled minimum wage of workers to \$5.00 a day and added 3 shifts. In 3 years he produced 534,000 Model T's, 1/3 of the market of 1,617,000 cars and Ford reduced the price to \$360 each. At this time the total number of cars in the USA was 3.5 million.

- 1916 William E. Boeing, a Seattle lumber magnate began his own aircraft company (Boeing Airplane Company) with 21 employees, mostly carpenters and seamstresses. They will build 50 airplanes for the Navy.
- 1917 World War I Allies mobilized 42 million men of which 5 million were killed, 21 million wounded, including 53,513 Americans killed, and other non-battle deaths and wounded were 267,197. The saddest story of all was the obliteration of a whole generation of young men on the Western front. America's cost involvement was \$32.7 billion. The number of American's in the service was 4,743,626.
- 1918 Air mail service started in a JN6H Jenny aircraft by following the railroad tracks.
- 1920 City people out numbered farm folks. The USA population was 105,710,620 with less than ½ on farms. The farm population has fallen to less than 30%. Life expectancy was 54 years old. The USA produces 2/3 of the world's oil to run 15 million autos. The 19th amendment was ratified so American women can vote.
- 1925 Forty percent of the American workers earned more than \$2,000 per year.
- 1927 Minnesotan Charles Lindberg from Little Falls flew the Atlantic Ocean solo. He flew 3600 miles in 33 ½ hours.
Ford produced 15 million Model T's and now changed to a new Model A.
- 1929 Stock Market Crash – Banks close and Great Depression begins. Thirteen hundred banks closed, 25% of the work force was without jobs.
Detroit builds 5.3 million cars and Henry Ford hits the millionth Model A.
There are now 695,000 miles of paved highways in the USA.
- 1930 Tourist industry was born as the state set up first official Tourist Bureau to promote northern lake area.
- 1933 Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President, 1 in 4 workers were unemployed, the steel industry operated at 12% of capacity. The national incomes dropped 50% since 1930. The Civilian Conservation Corps was founded and employed 500,000 people. The Social Security Act was signed into law.
- 1935 American Airlines unveiled its new passenger plane, Douglas DC3 21 passenger that flies 160 mph.
Work Projects Administration (WPA) funded by \$1.5 billion to provide jobs for 8 million people out of work.
State of Minnesota established Division of State Parks.

- 1938 Minimum wage was set at \$.25 per hour and eventually raised to \$.40 an hour, 40 hour week applied to companies engaged in interstate commerce.
- 1940 FDR was the first man in history to be elected President to a third term. Voters approved of his monumental programs to pull the country out of the Great Depression. Fifty four percent of the homes in America had complete plumbing, running water, private baths and flush toilets. Twenty five percent had no electric power and most homes had 1000 sq. ft. of floor space.
- 1941 World War II. There were 16,353,659 men and women in the service. Killed in action were 292,131 and other deaths and wounded totaled 786,031. The cost was \$360 billion.
- 1950 Minnesota economy changed. Manufacturing now made more money than farming. June 25 to July 27, 1953, was the Korean War. The number of men and women in the service was 5,764,143. The number killed in action was 33,651 with other deaths and wounded listed at 103,284. The cost was \$50 billion.
- 1951 June 14 Univac's John Eckert and John Mauchly build the first world's commercial computer to handle both numbers and alphabetical characters.
- 1959 American Airline's opens the jet age with the first scheduled transcontinental flight of Boeing 707.
- 1964 United States enters the Viet Nam War. Men and women in uniform were 8,744,000. Battle deaths were 47,369 and other deaths were 10,799 and 153,303 wounded. The cost was \$140.6 billion.
- 1969 United States makes first man Apollo moon landing on July 21. Six hundred million people watched on TV.
- 1970 First microprocessor was developed on a single chip.
- 1977 Apple Computer Company launched the first mass market computer.
- 1981 IBM launches its first personal computer.
- 1991 Persian Gulf War. There were 466,539 men and women serving in the military. Battle deaths of 148 and 145 other deaths and 467 were wounded.