

## HISTORY OF PINE GROVE ADDITION TO BIG LAKE

by Edwin J. Jankowski

This paper relates to Pine Grove Addition to Big Lake. The area comprises 137.80 acres located in the southeast corner of the lake. A portion of the area, approximately 30 acres lying west of Cary Road and north of Maple Drive, has been platted as Pine Grove Addition to Big Lake.

This land was part of an area ceded to the Fond du Lac band of Ojibwe Native Americans by the U.S. Government. The Pine Grove Addition area was allotted to Chief Nahgahnub and his heirs. He, his wife and his sister, Sadie, were the only persons residing on the area. The Chief lived in a log house near Maple Drive. Sadie lived nearer the lake.

In the early 1920's, the Northern Lumber Company of Cloquet, under the direction of Sherman Coy, arranged to lease some property from Chief Nahgahnub and established a YMCA camp known as "Camp Coy". The camp was situated in a beautiful stand of old-growth white pine on the edge of the lake.

For a fee of about \$5.00, children could come to attend the camp for weekly sessions. Swimming was the principal program. Herb Drew served as camp director with Louise Swenson as girls' counselor. Selma Sullivan served as cook for several years.

Buildings included a bunkhouse to sleep several dozen children and a recreation hall which also served as a diner. Herb Drew's cabin and outhouses made up the rest of the camp buildings. The camp functioned for about 10 years until the demise of sawmilling in the Cloquet area.

Nothing remains of the camp at present except possibly some outlines of building foundations. However, the majestic stand of white pine still marks the spot and the sandy beach still beckons to swimmers.

The Nahgahnub property was offered for sale on Sept. 15, 1954. Several bids were made with the successful bidder being Joseph C. Long of Cloquet representing himself and four partners - Rudolph Kajander, William MacConnachie, Ervin Nelson and Edwin Jankowski. A Government "Patent" (first deed) was issued to Mr. Long on Feb. 11, 1955.

The plan for Pine Grove addition was drawn up and Ed Jankowski and Gerald Paloquin (Surveyor Reg. No. 3729) subdivided Govt. Lots 1 & 2, bisecting the lakeshore lots with an access road named Pine Grove Drive. There are 17 lakeshore lots and 15 offshore lots. Some 305 feet of prime shoreline (old Camp Coy) were set aside as "Community Beach" to be jointly owned by all lot owners. The Plat of Block 1, Pine Grove Addition, was approved by the Carlton County Board on July 11, 1955. At present (1998) there are 25 owners of property in the Pine Grove Addition.