

etc.

News Of Hardin County

Eldora Herald-Ledger

TUESDAY

Oct. 26, 1993

Vol. 128, No. 43

Open House At Hardin Conservation Hdqtrs.

An open house will be held on Sunday, October 31 at the new maintenance building at the Hardin County Conservation Headquarters Segment. Members of the public are encouraged to view the new building from 2-4 p.m.

Meeting On Chess League

Persons interested in forming an Eldora Chess League are asked to attend a meeting at The Rascals in Eldora Thursday, October 28 at 7 p.m. For additional information, ph. 858-3159.

Dual Program At Kiwanis

A double program was held at the Eldora Kiwanis Club Thursday evening. Rick Warren of Around the Corner Books and More store, talked about the new business and their move to Eldora earlier this year. Dawn Turner provided an update of services available through the Hardin County Department of Human Services. The meeting was held at Dorothy's Senior Center.

Library Halloween Party

The Eldora Public Library staff will be hosting a Halloween party for children pre-school through second grade. The party will be at the library on Saturday, October 30 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Costumes are optional. A variety of activities will be available.

Change Meeting Time For Eldora Boy Scouts

Due to the winter sports schedule, the Eldora Boy Scout troop will change their meeting night from Wednesday to Tuesday. This is effective from November through February. The Scouts will now meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Scout Center on the fairgrounds.

T.T.T. Bake Sale

The T.T.T. will be sponsoring a bake sale on Saturday, October 30 at the Hardin County Savings Bank in Eldora, beginning at 9 a.m. During this event, the Christmas tree will be given during a special drawing.

Dakota Sisters To Sing

The Dakota Sisters will be appearing at the Cottage Community Church on Sunday, October 31, for a program to begin at 7:30 p.m. The church is located nine miles south of Iowa Falls on Highway 65 and two and one-half miles west on D-41. This program is part of a series of musical evenings held throughout the year at the church.

Hallelujah Night

A "Hallelujah Night" will be held at the Abundant Life Chapel in Dows on Friday, October 29 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The evening will feature food, games, special music, prizes and a costume contest. Admission is free for the entire family, organizers report.

MICA Sponsors Program

Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. has announced the sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals are available at no separate charge in several child care centers, including the Iowa Falls Head Start and the Eldora Head Start programs. This is an equal opportunity program.

Autumn Wreath Making

An autumn wreath making session will be held at the New Providence Roundhouse on Wednesday, November 3 from 3:45 to 5 p.m. as part of the After School Arts Education Program for Kids. This is for students in third grade and older. Students will construct an autumn wreath using natural materials. Pre-register with Pat Gourley or Val Lamasters by October 27.

Fright Night(s)

The Greenbelt Area Jaycees will sponsor a Haunted Barn at the Hardin county fairgrounds on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 28-30 from 7 to 10 p.m. Officials say it is "not for the weak at heart".

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City Candidates

Desire To Serve Eldora Motivates Five In City Race

With five candidates on the Eldora city election ballot for three vacancies on the city council, it is interesting that a desire to serve the community is most often listed by those candidates as their reason for running.

The five candidates responded to a general questionnaire sent to them by the Eldora News-papers. While a series of issues were discussed, all indicated their motivation for seeking the office was inspired by an interest in getting involved.

Candidates include Jeanne Rieks, Dawn Turner, Brian Watkins, Rick Wood and Pat Woodman. Each is seeking to be elected to a seat on the Eldora City Council for one of the three four-year terms available this fall.

Five questions were listed on the questionnaire. The questions and the responses of the candidates are included. The candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Why are you a candidate for Eldora city council?

Rieks - "After living here for 15 years, I think it's time for me to get involved. I love a challenge and I think this will be just that. I would like to make our community a better place to live for everyone. I have no complaints about Eldora, but maybe I can help change things to help others stop complaining."

Turner - "To encourage community growth and increased opportunities for all community members without compromising Eldora's integrity. I am committed to the enhancement of the quality of life for all of Eldora's citizens. If we are going to continue to recruit industry and small business, we need to be able to offer diverse opportunities."

Watkins - "I feel I can make a difference and offer a new viewpoint for Eldora. I also feel I am very qualified for the position."

Wood - "My family and I enjoy living in Eldora and I would like to do my part in making sure our city stays competitive with all local communities."

Woodman - "I was encouraged by several individuals in the community, who felt my experience could be helpful in guiding Eldora's future."

What do you consider the most urgent problems facing the city administration?

Rieks - "Defending themselves on the race track issue has to be a major problem. Keeping the hospital is also a big issue."

Turner - "Economic development, community health care opportunities and budgeting for major emergencies."

Watkins - "I think the problems with the city's infrastructure are the most pressing. Examples are the streets/sidewalks and water/sewer systems."

Wood - "To make sure all small businesses of the community prosper with the hard times we all are facing in small communities."

Woodman - "Maintenance and upgrading health care facility and staff; and working with budgetary restrictions."

Do you feel the city should begin long-range planning now for any projects? If so, which specific projects?

Rieks - "To get businesses in town and keep them here. There has to be a way to attract them to town."



Jeanne Rieks



Dawn Turner



Brian Watkins

Turner - "Washington Street sidewalk and street repairs in front of retail stores; development of retail incentives; completion of the library project; and programs for at-risk youth."

Watkins - "I think the city should continue working on a city beautification and urban renewal type program. I think there also are things that could be done regarding a youth center."

Wood - "The council will need to attack our street and sidewalk projects, so we can keep on track for our present and future Eldora residents."

Woodman - No response.

How can the city council - and mayor - best involve the individual citizen in city government?

Rieks - "I don't think you can really do it because most people would rather slack and complain than get involved. Having public hearings and asking for input from the community is the best anyone can do."

Turner - "By assuring there is a well-balanced representation of citizens on the various boards and committees."

Watkins - "The best way for citizens to become involved is to stay informed on city issues and to come to meetings. People can also volunteer their names to be appointed to certain committees and boards."

Wood - "If the council needs to send out fliers to the residents, that's what needs to be done. Anything to keep residents involved in our community, such as acquisition and answer fliers."

Woodman - "Continuing the citizen involvement in committees - recreation, budget, etc. It's important to keep the committees balanced as far as age and gender are concerned."



Rick Wood



Pat Woodman

Do you have some personal priorities for Eldora? If so, what are they?

Rieks - "I would really like to see something brought to town for 'entertainment' for the teens and will do my best to help it in any way I can."

Turner - "Increased retail development; social welfare concerns; full utilization of community resources, such as the auditorium, parks, volunteer and civic groups."

Watkins - "I am looking forward to seeing all of the city's sidewalks completed."

Wood - "To do everything myself and my family can do to better the community. I believe industry is a main backbone to small communities in their survival. I hope to promote industry and to help represent communities, keeping them strong in the community. To make sure all budget cuts are in the best interest to all Eldora residents and all grant money that is offered is utilized for the best interest of Eldora."

Woodman - Appearance of the community, especially abandoned buildings and lots; and continuing the partnership with the Eldora Area Chamber and Development Council (EADCDC) to promote economic development.

Each of the five candidates come to the November 2 election day with a variety of credentials.

Jeanne Rieks, a native of New Hampton and graduate of New Hampton Community High School, has resided in Eldora.

(Continued on page 3)

40 Persons Attend Open Forum

Eldora Candidates Face Constituents

Seven persons who are candidates on the Eldora city ballot on November 2 participated in an open forum Wednesday night at the elementary school multi-purpose room.

Sponsored by the Eldora Ambassadors and the Eldora Kiwanis, the forum included mayoral candidate Brad Armstrong; council candidate John Whalen, who is running for the unexpired two-year term; Jeanne Rieks, Dawn Turner, Brian Watkins, Rick Wood and Pat Woodman, all candidates for the three remaining council seats, which are four-year terms.

Hospital board candidates Jim Brown and Cornelia Throssel, who are seeking the two vacancies on that board, were not present for the question and answer session. They are unopposed on this fall's ballot.

Each candidate had time to offer an opening statement, after which the evening was opened to questions, which were submitted in writing.

Questions submitted pertained to the issues of plans for the public library; tennis courts; support for the EADCDC (Eldora Area Chamber and Development Council) and the IGRRT (Iowa River Greenbelt Resource Trust); the future of the hospital; the economy; police department; as well as questions concerning specific qualifications of each candidate.

When asked about individual goals for the community, Rieks said she felt concerns for the retail community should be a high priority; Turner said she felt maintaining and enhancing the quality of life is vital; Watkins said he was concerned about improvements to the streets and sidewalks; Woodman said she felt the general community image and appearance needed to be improved; and Wood indicated that improvements to the streets and sidewalks is also important to him, as well as the idea of getting more people involved in the activities in the community.

Over 40 persons attended the open forum which was moderated by Virginia Stiles. Serving as timekeeper was Mary Ellen Doughty. Others assisting were Pat Whitmer, Dale Floyd, Valerie Burnham and Connie Knope.



\$3,333 Matching Gift For United Way

The 1994 Eldora United Way campaign received a generous kickoff last week with a matching \$3,333.50 check from Dodger Administrative Division, Dodger Operations Division and Whink Products Co. The local industries' gift matched donations pledged by employees and withheld from their checks during the past year. United Way representative Al Schafer, right, receives the check from Paul Wamsley, President of Dodger Operations, Lois Mairs, Administrative Assistant at Dodger Administrative Division, and Alex Cloutier, Vice President of Operations at Whink Products. Twenty-five agencies will benefit from the local United Way effort. Goal is \$25,052.

Pine Lake

J.S. Newcomer Played Major Role In Development Of Pine Creek Project

(Editor's Note: Following is the second in a series of stories recounting the planning and development of Iowa's first artificial lake - Lower Pine Lake.)

By Carroll Hobson
Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner

This is a story that begins with one man and his brilliant idea. Jay Stoddard Newcomer's splendid idea to build Iowa's first artificial lake in the Pine Creek bottoms has to be considered from several perspectives if we are to have a reasonable understanding of the job he undertook.

Nobody seems to know how long Mr. Newcomer had entertained the idea of a lake at Eldora. We know he was 40 years old in 1919 when he was doing preliminary work on the practicality of Lower Pine Lake. We know Jay Newcomer loved canoeing, all kinds of hunting and appreciated wild life both plant and animal. Newcomer had to know the Pine Creek cow pasture and the Pine Creek area intimately in order to envision the lake, trails, parks, roads, dam and possible country club.

Jay S. Newcomer was born in 1879 into a well to do family that dealt with real estate, ag land, and various other residential and business properties. Jay's father was the builder and owner of the white office building now occupied by

Harry Haywood III.

The family built and occupied a magnificent home and carriage house complete with yards, tennis courts, horses, carriages and gardens. This home was torn down after World War II and several homes occupy that area now. Jay Newcomer's mother was an influential and musically talented woman who helped in any way she could. In short, Jay Newcomer was raised to love and enjoy all the things the Pine Creek area offered in the way of outdoor beauty.

Kenny Cakerice tells me that as a boy he rode a pony over the Pine Creek bottoms to round up cows for his father Harry Cakerice who rented that pasture to graze cattle he bought and sold. Kenny remembers it looking exactly like the picture we used in our first story.

Newcomer collected money, enlisted local support and sought allies to bring his ideas to fruition. In an October, 1921 letter, the head of the Iowa Plant and Pathology Section wrote Mr. Newcomer,

(Continued on page 3)



1924 view looking northeast across Lower Pine Lake.

Candidates

(Continued from page 1)

dora for 15 years. She currently is a secretary at Midwest Liquid Systems, Inc., where she has been employed four months.

Prior to that time, she was employed by the US Post Office for six months; at Casey's for over one year and at Dunlap Industries for 12 years. She and her husband, Joe, manage the Eldora Car Wash. They have two children, David, 8, and Katy, 5.

She is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, is a member of St. Elizabeth's circle and is a pre-school Sunday school teacher.

Brian Turner, who has resided in Eldora for 10 years, is a native of Storm Lake, attending Indiana High School and Simpson College in Indianola. She is a social worker with the Hardin County Department of Social Services, where she has been employed for five years.

Prior to working with DHS, she worked with Boys Hope in St. Louis, Missouri, the State Training School in Eldora and the Mitchellville Training School.

She is a member of the Citizens Concerned for Families, Community Assistance Organization (formerly the BPW), Central Iowa Blues Society and the United Methodist Church.

She and her husband, Van, have three children - Stephanie, 8; Christine, 5; and Jeff, 3.

Brian Watkins, is a native of Charles City, graduating from high school there and then attending Wartburg College in Waverly. He currently is employed at United Suppliers and has lived in Eldora for one year.

An accountant, he is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants and the Iowa Society of CPAs. He worked for a CPA firm for three years, auditing governmental entities - cities, counties and schools - and also ag related businesses.

He and his wife, Kimberly, have one son, Zachary, 2.

Rick Wood is an administrator with MSP Resources, Inc. in Marshalltown, and has resided in Eldora for the past three years.

Prior to this work in Marshalltown, he was personnel manager with Monfort in Des Moines. He is a native of Turo, graduating from Interstate 35 High School.

He and his wife, Angene, have six children: Amy, 18, Mya, 15, Heather, 14, Lea, 12, Aaron, 11 and Nicholas, 7. -Pai Woodman has lived in Eldora for 23 years and is currently a vocational instructor at the State Training School in Eldora.

She is a native of the Marshalltown area, graduating from Marshalltown High School. She has been at STS for 12 years - three of those years as supervisor of the word processing center and nine years as computer literacy instructor. Prior to her experience at STS, she was a legal secretary, child support recovery officer and homemaker.

Woodman is a past president of the Eldora Chamber of Commerce. She served two years as a member of the EACDC board; 10 years as a Girl Scout leader; Pioneer Search for Solutions participant; and past youth group leader at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

She is single, with two children, Angie, 22, and Bret, 18.

Eldora area residents will vote for these and other candidates at the Hardin County Courthouse, from 12 noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2. Information about securing an absentee ballot is available from the county auditor's office in Eldora.

ISU's 'Road' Scholars To Visit Eldora

Iowa State University President Martin Jischke will lead a dozen new ISU faculty on a two-day Road Scholars tour of north central Iowa October 28-29, including a stop in Eldora.

At the same time, ISU Provost John Kozak will lead a group of new faculty on a tour of southeast Iowa.

Jischke and Kozak have lead several Road Scholar tours since they were begun a year ago. Purpose of the tours is to introduce new faculty to the state of Iowa.

The tour groups travel the state by bus, visiting schools, businesses, factories and farms.

The north central Iowa tour will include stops in Boone, Gowrie, Fort Dodge, Clarion, Forest City, Clear Lake, Mason City, Hampton, Iowa Falls and Eldora.

ISU extension staff members are helping to coordinate the tour, which includes a visit to the new Eldora-New Providence high school.

Obituaries

Agnes Daleske, 93

Agnes A. Daleske, 93, of Eldora died Saturday, October 23, 1993 at Valley View Nursing Center in Eldora of natural causes. Funeral arrangements are pending at Creps-Abels Funeral Home in Eldora.

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Tuesday, October 26, 1993

Kids' Care Now Open At ERM

Kids' Care - a special program for children who are mildly ill - is now available at the Eldora Regional Medical Center, according to Renee Vassey, RN, Director of Nursing.

This is a new service offered by ERM which is a supplement to regular day care programs.

It is designed for the mildly ill child. Well children are not eligible for the program. "We are not licensing the program or defining the program as day care," says Vassey.

The hospital, by definition takes care of sick children. This service is similar to the observation patient. The service is defined as outpatient care, not requiring an in-patient admission.

The program is designed for parents who work whose child is ill and cannot remain in the regular day care atmosphere. Sometimes it is not possible for the parent to take time from work to care for the child at home. Thus, Kids' Care was devised, with a special area set aside at the local hospital for caring for these children.

The child will be looked after by a trained staff person under supervision from the professional nursing staff.

Vassey said that, if a parent is interested in participating, the child - through 12 years of age - should be pre-registered at Kids' Care. Then, when the child suffers temporary illness or minor injury and the parent cannot stay at home, just call at least one hour ahead, bring the child in, and ERM will provide the care.

Kids' Care is available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additional information about Kids' Care is available by calling Vassey at ERM, 858-5416.

ELDORA

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Pine Lake

(Continued from page 1)

"The feasibility of the plan is highly recommended. I wish you all the success in the world for this enterprise. This time of year with all the scarlet and yellows of the hickory, oak and maples and the green of the pines makes a beautiful picture I could never forget."

On October 26, 1921, a letter simply addressed to the Pine Lake Project, % J. S. Newcomer from the Executive Council and the State Board of Conservation noted the quality of the borings and gave their approval to building a dam and creating a lake. Jay Newcomer and his supporters must have been rejoiced, because the letter assured state help, both technical and financial.

Newcomer had by this time enlisted the help of the community club and several farmers and businessmen, among them the Pisen-Soper law firm who undertook all the legal representation needed. Names most often mentioned in the early correspondence were S. D. Moser, Dean Pisen, Bill Soper, Thomas Larson and Newcomer himself.

In Mr. Pisen's statement to the State Executive Council he pledged Eldora citizens to raise \$16,000 plus the land to grant right of way to and from the area. \$16,000.00 doesn't seem like very much money today - it's not uncommon for

more than a million dollars to be appropriated to create an artificial lake.

But, those were the days of cheap labor and materials and money had not yet been inflated. The Hardin County Supervisors agreed to install the bridge and build needed roads and local citizens and farmers would remove all the timber and brush from the lake site which was no small task.

Newcomer had convinced the Community Club and his supporters that this naturally beautiful area held fine opportunity to bring hunters, campers, vacationers, boaters and people enthused about fishing to our town. The local businessmen had no difficulty seeing the business potential of hundreds of visitors. Newcomer even planned to subdivide for residential purposes in the future.

Three men were seriously injured during the dam construction because a trestle broke while dirt was being transported near the dam. These men did recover from several broken bones and one suffered a fractured skull. Land was donated by J. A. Weisner, Clyde Hough, Gilman Wisner, H. F. Ziesman, Caroline Newcomer, Jay Newcomer and John Reed. Local abstrac-

tors donated their services and time to the project.

There were several well known family names among the cash contributors: R. Blackmun, Thos. Megan, J. H. Kramer, E. H. Lundy, H. H. Turner, H. H. Nazett, V. T. Brown, L. J. Rice, George Meader, Charlie Stauffer, Van Avery, John Nissen, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Koenigman, Dr. Herald, C. C. Gethman, Ed Burling, B. H. Isack, Fred Edgar, Howard Follett, Dr. Van Tiger and Dr. Schlamp, as well as dozens more I do not recognize.

It seems clear now some 70 years later that this good work was done at a most difficult time under tough circumstances. Horses, mules and steampower are quite a contrast to our modern construction methods. Moreover, this was all done by a community that had just finished supporting a strong war effort and money was scarce.

It also gives us a clear view of the value of the final prize. The lower lake was only the beginning, the trails, park, picnic areas, the lodge, the upper lake were all to come later and finally give us the legacy we enjoy today.



1924 view looking northwest from the present Lower Pine Lake spillway.

Zielske Hospitalized

Boulah Zielske of Eldora is hospitalized at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines, a patient in the coronary intensive care unit. She was taken to Des Moines on Friday and will probably remain through this week.

Hospital Notes

Eldora - Aleatha Reel, Berniece McKenzie.

Unnamed patient - 1.



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Heart of Iowa Telephone Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of these organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is David L. Schmidt - General Manager of Heart of Iowa Telephone Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

College Education Savings Program

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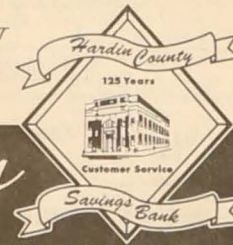
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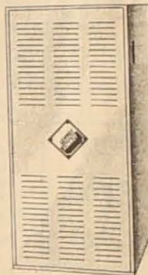


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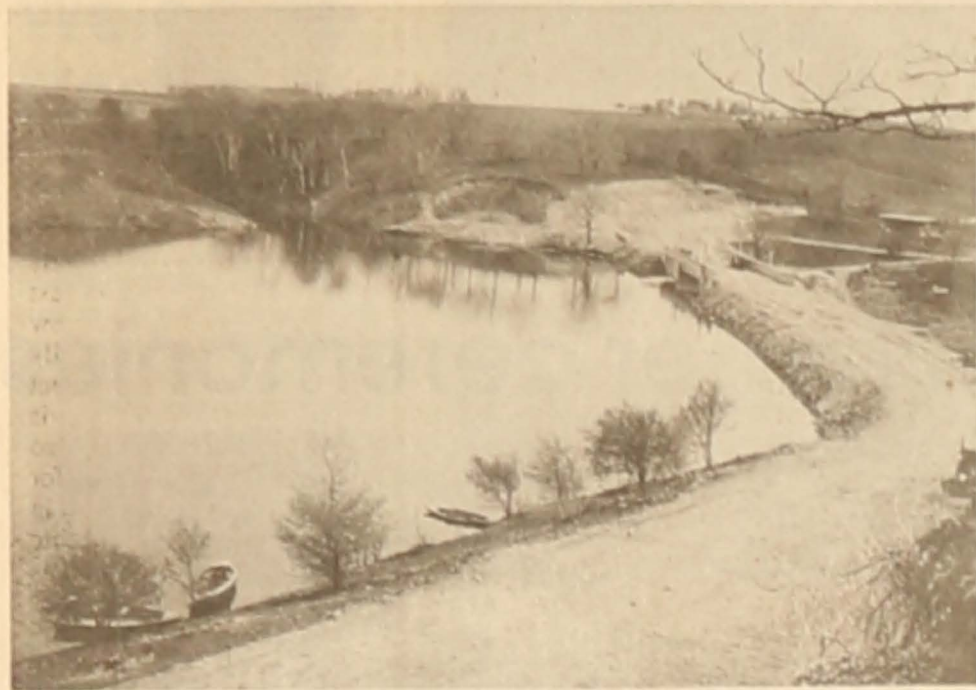
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Lower Pine Lake, looking southeast across the bridge, In October, 1924.

Pine Lake

(Continued from page 1)

help of a suitcase full of old documents) to relive some of the struggle to get local and political support and to raise enough money to make a lake. Expert engineering help had to be obtained and borings made to see if the ground would support a dam and the needed roads. The opinion of biologists had to be gathered.

We have a number of very old photos that will help us to show as we go. We are still looking for local interest and support. We will always need the help of the thousands who cherish and appreciate the lovely lakes, the surrounding parks and recreation areas. Among those priceless adjacent assets are the Pine Lake Country Club and the peripheral biological wonderland with hundreds of tree and plant varieties. Stay tuned we have much to do and say.

Eight Cases

Pine Lake

Critics Cannot Dispel 1924 Vision Of Public Park

by Carroll J. Hobson
Soil and Water Conservation
District Commissioner

(Third in a Series)

The day Pine Creek and the area springs produced enough water to cover the pasture bottoms and run over the new dam, Iowa's first artificial lake was born. That day came early in the spring of 1924.

The spring of 1924 also pointed out all the needs and problems a new lake could have. All the experts agreed - the trees, shrubs, wild flowers and scenery surrounding the new lake were spectacular. The lake suddenly needed a park with hiking trails, boat ramps, docks, toilets, picnic areas with tables, fireplaces, firewood, more roads and access, parking areas and - most importantly - rules that would keep the public from destroying the pristine beauty of the lake and its surrounding park. A committee was appointed to solve as many of these problems as was practicable.

The committee decided that all organi-

zations and publicly owned concessions should be built outside the park. The public would, however, have full access to use the park. Guard rails and fences were needed in places. The committee arranged to have labor from the Iowa State Training School help build a bath house. They also recommended that a caretaker be appointed with pay starting March 1, 1925. Paul T. Davison, father of the men now operating Davison Brothers Building Supply, was the first park custodian. He and his family hauled sand with a surplus army truck to create a beach. They quarried sandstone to build toilets and a bath house.

The committee recommended that the boat concession be given to one man and that he be allowed to build a boat house and rent to the public. The public could bring private boats to the lake all subject to the board's regulations and rules.

By this time a great many cabins were being built where lots had been sold on the south and west side. Fred Leonard

says his abstract records show one area with lots near the park described as "Summer Colonies." The committee asked for permission from the highway commission to light the new bridge. They felt a lighted entrance to the area was of importance. Permission was granted.

One of the earliest camping facilities was started in 1924. Frank L. Meeker gave a land parcel large enough for an encampment to the Marshalltown YMCA and YMCA. Meeker was a Marshalltown attorney who greatly appreciated the new lake and who was an avid outdoorsman. He was a very generous friend of young people. Campers at Meeker's "Y" Camp in 1925 slept in tents and were advised to bring three warm blankets, sheets, a pillow, dinnerware, a swim suit, hiking clothes and rain gear. Cost of board and room was \$5 per week. Lois Rogers and June Butler, both Marshalltown girls at the time, attended Meeker Camp and report happy vacations at the lake side. The

camp was served by a Model T Ford to run errands and haul mail and supplies. Campers from Meeker's "Y" Camp crossed the lake each day to the north shore, to the swimming beach by means of a big old flat boat called the "hodge". The barge was powered by 10 youthful rowers. We are indebted to Dorothy Apper of Marshalltown who writes about many Marshalltown people who liberally contributed money to build buildings, drill a well and install a water system.

Roosevelt Lodge, which was constructed in 1926-27, was a large multipurpose building. An administration building and a kitchen dining room were added in 1936. In February, 1944, the entire camp with facilities for 60 campers was leased to the Church of the Brethren. The camp was later sold to the Church of the Brethren who own it to this day.

Pine Lake now has three church camps adjoining it. Quaker Heights on the northwest, Pine Lake Christian Center and Church of the Brethren on the south. The Christian Center has a fine swimming pool so it is no longer necessary to row to the north shore to swim and dive. Frank Meeker's generous gift had given hundreds of young people a fine vacation, it also acquainted hundreds of parents with a new lake and park.

Every lake needs a golf course to accentuate its beauty. Pine Lake was no exception. According to Leo Wolcott's (father of Harrison) report in the Eldora Herald Ledger's Centennial Edition, Jim Hall (a former Eldora car dealer) was the person who suggested that the location of the present Country Club would be an ideal spot for a golf course. The suggestion was made during a casual hike through the surrounding lake area. On March 15, 1923 the first meeting of the subscribers to the Pine Lake Golf Club was held at the First National Bank building. Steve Moser acted as chairman with Eastman Nickols as secretary. May 3, 1923 the articles of incorporation and the by laws were drawn by Edward Lundy, senior member of the present Lundy Law Firm. Stock worth \$10,000

was authorized and a board of directors elected - S. D. Moser, Tom Larson, E. H. Lundy, Jim Hall, Jay Newcomer, S. W. Bowman and Gilman Wisner. A square cornered road was procured from the Hardin County Supervisors, which is much the same today except for the rounding of the corners.

Eldora had a love affair with golfing very early on. The first course was laid out in a cow pasture that is now Pierce Place. Tin tomato cans were sunk in the ground and used for holes. The first hole started about where Jack Butler's home is now located, continued along and across the railroad tracks, to the north, toward the area now occupied by the Greenhouse and thence back to Pierce Place with the final hole just north of the point of beginning.

The second golf course was designed on property southwest of Eldora on land now owned by the Marske family. The course was placed in a cow pasture and was a nine hole course. Both courses were said to be unofficial. It's easy to understand why they were unofficial in as much as they depended on natural rainfall for watering and chicken manure for the fertilization of greens. These primitive courses were played by some of Eldora's most prominent citizens; such was their devotion to the game of golf.

In August 1924, The Eldora Golf Club which had promoted the course south of Eldora, joined the new Pine Lake Country Club and the course south of Eldora was abandoned. In 1925 greens

were built with many hours of volunteer labor and a little money. A small club house was authorized in 1929, the cost not to exceed \$2500. Many improvements have been added over the years as well as many donations of money and volunteer labor. Today offers a comfortable club house in an extraordinary setting, a great compliment to any community and a fine adjunct to the lake itself.

By early 1926 the lake and its surrounding park area had progressed to the point that the people in charge felt like dedication was in order. Most of the skeptics had quit complaining, cabins were springing up here and there and support was coming from people who had only lately discovered the park's biological diversity. Before the dedication, a fervent biologist described Pine Creek State Park thusly, "this park will perhaps be, first of all a nature park and only secondarily an amusement park. It will be a recreation spot for multitudes during the summer but best of all it belongs to the State of Iowa."

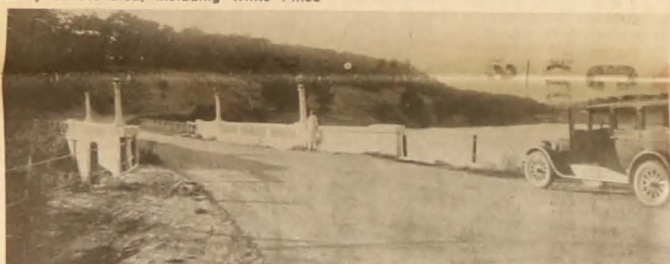
The dedication program for Monday, September 6, 1926, described Pine Creek State Park as a spot of rare beauty and of great scientific value easily accessible over good roads from any part of the state. Music was provided by the Eldora American Legion Band. Invocation by Reverend A. R. Rice, local Congregational Church minister, with community signing lead by Tolbert McRae, Iowa State College. A history of the acquisition of various park areas was given by S. D. Moser, Dr. L. H. Pammel, chairman of the State Board of Conservation made the presentation. The Honorable Luther V. Carter of Lavin Hill, accepted the dedication for the Governor of Iowa.

The Eldora businessmen who had started with very little money but a lot of faith in an idea had come a long way indeed.



This photo, taken in the mid-1920s, shows Pine Lake (or Lower Pine Lake as we now know it) from the east side. It shows the diversity of the area, including White Pines

and the White Birch trees. The Pine Lake area is believed to be the furthest point south for such species.



The bridge over the dam at Lower Pine Lake, as it appears in 1927, shows special lighting along the structure, and the cable

guard rails along the left-hand side. In the distance, one can also view the bath house along the northern shore of Pine Lake.



Clubhouse at the Pine Lake Country Club, located in the midst of Pine Lake State Park, as it appeared in its earlier years. Golf has always been a popular sport among Eldora residents.

What Eldora business will be 10 years old in February? Watch for special offerings. Plan now to join in their celebration!

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