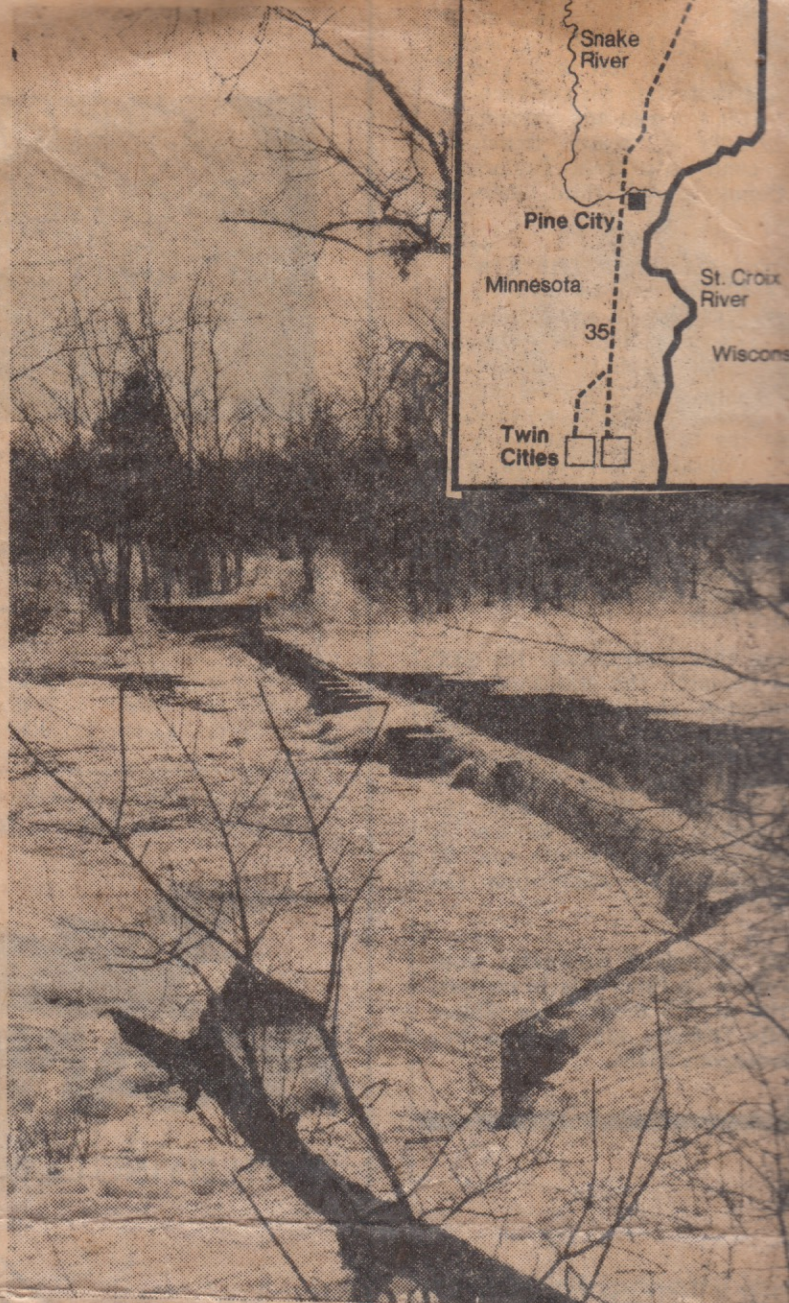




Staff Photos by Ben Kern

Lahodney's Ladies Wear and Millinery, built in the late 19th century, stands vacant, its future uncertain.



The Snake River runs over the dam at the eastern end of Cross Lake at Pine City.



Visitor finds Pine City locale fascinating

Pine City, Minn.

"We've been here 21 years, and we've enjoyed it," Arlene Carl said.

She was standing behind a counter in the Carls' Riverside Sport Shop, where water runs in the minnow tanks and, just outside, the Snake River runs eastward under Hwy. 61 and the railroad bridge into Pine City's Cross Lake.

Pine City's interlocked locale is fascinating—lake, river, railroad, highway, all visible from the Sport Shop with its motel out behind and its boat livery in summer.

"Once the site of an Indian village," says local history.

A few miles west on a winding ridge, fur-trading voyageurs built an outpost in 1804 (the State Historical Society has restored it).

After the voyageurs came the log-



Ben Kern

your weekend

The 100-mile Snake River drains 1,020 square miles, starting northwest of Pine City in Solana State Forest, running south through Mora, then curving east through Pine City and Cross Lake to its St. Croix mouth—total drop, 500 feet.

Whitewater canoeists use its upper and lower rapids above Mora and below Cross Lake during high water. There are placid middle stretches between Mora and Pine City for lollygaggers. Years ago we rented an outboard at Carls' and plied around Pine City's Cross Lake and three miles upriver to Lake Pokegama, through which Pokegama Creek enters the Snake.

kegama creeks and Bergman, Chesley, Cowan and Snowshoe brooks.

We drove around to the east side of Cross Lake where the Snake runs over a dam and proceeds eastward.

The view was admirable. Despite our record subfreezing spell, bare water rushed glistening over the low, wide dam. Downstream, snaking through the white, gleamed black open patches. Then the river went into hiding among trees and bushes.

Driving back, we admired hand-

We found a place with a redolent interior on the the northwest corner of 3rd Av. and Hwy. 61 just beyond the Pine County Courthouse. Good chicken dumpling soup.

Next to this restaurant we looked at the Lahodney Millinery Shop front windows divided into rectangular panes, square front constructed with the attention to detail of a bygone era (circa 1880). It stood empty, the inside dismantled.

We were told that Miss Lahodney had retired—that the building now belongs to an absentee owner, its future in doubt.

Back at the Riverside Sport Shop owner Harold Carl, Arlene's husband, still was out driving a school bus. "He drives three times a day," Mrs. Carl said. "He doesn't have time to ice fish anymore."

She said that they were doing the