

Fish Stories from the Past

by Ann Vach

June 1906 - 90,000 trout fry were received in Pine City and were at once distributed in several popular streams. 30,000 to Beroun (?), 30,000 were placed in Rock Creek, remaining to Bear Creek.

1910 - Clam netting became an industry at Pokegama and Cross Lakes, until Government made a law forbidding clamming. Dr. Caryl Storr reported, "Best haul I ever seen was at Pokegama Lake."

May 1919 - Sixteen cans pike fry were taken to Norway Point, head of Cross Lake.

November 1919 - Eight cans of crappie fry from State Fish Hatchery deposited in Cross Lake. Ten cans of bass and 16 cans of pike deposited in Pokegama Lake; twelve cans trout spawn in Bear Creek

1921 - About 30,000 brook trout were deposited at Little Sand Creek.

1922 - Fish kill - Pokegama Lake.

1926 - Fish kill - Pokegama - sturgeon mostly.

1952 - Fish kill - Cross Lake - mostly sturgeon

1959 - Fish kill at Pokegama Lake. All kinds.

1960 - Bert Ellig, game warden, reports oxygen level dangerously low in Cross, Pokegama and Cedar Lakes.

1964 - Completion of Stabilization Dam.

1969 - Snake River crested 5 ft. and 2 inches over 933.3 ft. above sea level proved to be 1 ft. short of high water in 1965.

1971 - Pokegama Lake closed to fish houses, angling permitted. Snake River and Cross & Rush Lakes all open to both ice house fishing and angling.

1972 - Knife River Dam broke. After effect - odor and dead fish.

1975-80 - Deposit of walleye pike into Pokegama Lake.

1988 - October 7, DNR stocked Lake Pokegama with 906 muskie fingerlings to improve fishing in lake.