

FROM OUR FILES:

Conservation Building

In August 1938 it was announced that a conservation building was going to be built in Pine City as a WPA project.



Conservation Building

Pine Poker August 25, 1938

Start Work on Conservation Bldg.

Approximately 20 men from local relief rolls have been assigned to a new WPA project for construction of an office building for the State Game and Fish Department at Pine City. Approval for start of work was received from R. O. Jacobson, acting state WPA administrator, by A. T. Gilbertson, district director at Duluth. The WPA is providing approximately \$14,000 for the work and the Minnesota Department of Conservation, the sponsor, approximately \$6,000.

The building will be constructed of log and stone with a pine shake roof and will measure 43 x 68 feet. There will be a large meeting room, kitchen, bunk room, warden's office and the basement will offer storage facilities.

Pine Poker March 30, 1939

The Conservation building, which is under construction at the Fair Grounds will be finished by August 1st. When it is completed, it will be used for the Snake River Conservation or other Conservation club meetings, 4-H club meetings or any meetings of a public nature. John Salvator, district game warden, has been influential in making arrangements for the building.

The building will be a show-place on the highway when it is finished and landscaped. The lower half is made of sandstone

and the upper half of logs with a design similar to the buildings in the St. Croix area. The main room with a log finish is 52 ft by 36 ft, and 14 ft, high. It will have a balcony and a large stone fireplace built out of stone. Work on the fireplace will be started Monday. A number of counties throughout the state and commercial clubs in this vicinity are contributing stones for the fireplace. The stones are supposed to be polished and the name of the county or club engraved on it. Webster Hodge has given the Pine City Commercial Club a large piece of native copper to have engraved for the fireplace. Some of the stones can be seen on display in the Pine City Bakery window and in Bill Korb's store window.

The floor in the main hall will be of marble which was used in the old capitol. In the front there will be an office and a bunk room, there will be a small kitchen for serving coffee and lunches.

The Conservation building has been built with only a small cost to the state. The ground was given by the Pine County Fair Association, the logs by the Snake River Valley Conservation Club, the stone was donated and the only cost connected with it was for the hauling. WPA labor was secured to build it.

Eventually, there will be plans made to have an information booth during the tourist months. During fair week, conservation exhibits will be shown there.

CONSERVATION CLUB TO LEASE BUILDING, PLAN TOURIST BUREAU;

The Snake River Valley Conservation Club held a very important business session on Wednesday evening of last week at the Legion room in the Village Hall, when Commissioner Strunk and others from the department of conservation met with the club to discuss fully requirements governing the leasing of the Conservation building to the club.

In attendance at the meeting were Commissioner Strunk, head of the Conservation Department, Mandt Torrison, deputy attorney general, assigned to the conservation department, Lewis Merrill, director of the game and fish division and Harold W. Lathrop, director of State Parks. Mr. Strunk and Mr. Torrison had been at International Falls and Duluth the first of the week, on matters pertaining to conservation and stopped here on the way back for this meeting.

Mr. Torrison, who will draw up the necessary lease, explained to the group the things the state would require and stated that the club would have to submit in writing their program and further than that, lay out a three year program for the improvement of the grounds. The department realizes that all that should be done at the building cannot be done in one year without a large outlay of fund, and that it is understood that the work will be divided up, with the more necessary things planned for this year and the minor improvements to come later.

In the first place the tourist information bureau committee had a very favorable report to make, after a trip to Duluth the Friday prior to the meeting, when they met with representatives of the Duluth Chamber of Commerce tourist committee, the Arrowhead Association secretary and representatives of the

(Continued on last page)

(Continued From Page One)
St. Louis county clubs. On the day that Dr. Strunk was here, F. P. Gottry had a wire from Ray Hoefler of Ely, informing him that following the Friday meeting, he had contacted his club people in northern Minnesota and that they were prepared to furnish a girl for the bureau for the months of June, July and August. It was also learned that as soon as the two committees from the Arrowhead and Chamber of Commerce get together, something may be forthcoming on a second girl for the booth.

Mr. Strunk made a fine impression on the members present and they found that he is all business, knows his job and is very anxious to see this tourist angle stressed at this point, so that the building can be put to the use for which it was primarily intended.

Mr. Merrill spoke on the benefits that could be derived from the maintenance of such a tourist information spot and assured the club of all the assistance in his power.

Mr. Lathrop of the State Parks division outlined roughly a plan for beautification of the grounds, that will work in nicely with the plans of the state highway department, who intend to level off the curve around the end of the fair grounds property and have a plan for landscaping the triangle between the highway and railroad track. Mr. Lathrop, early in the evening had conferred on the grounds north of the river with Mr. Rex Green of the highway Department engineering staff and they discussed their plans at that informal meeting. Mr. Green had to go on to Duluth that evening, and was unable to remain for the meeting. He did, however, inform members of the local committee of the plans his department had in mind.

President Hady appointed a committee at the close of the session to draft a three year program and take it to St. Paul Monday morning for a conference with Commissioner Strunk and Mr. Torrison and when all the various angles have been ironed out to the satisfaction of both parties, the lease will be drawn for acceptance or rejection.

It seems necessary to get the job out of the way as soon as possible, as there is not much time in which to complete plans for the tourist information bureau and it is likely that another trip may be required to close the negotiations with the Arrowhead people.

Note:— Conservation Club members having books on the motor are asked to complete the sales at once and have all stubs in before May 6th, as that is the deadline.

Pine Poker May 2, 1940

Plans were made for the local conservation club to lease the building for use as a tourist bureau.



COMPILED BY
Pine City Area History Association



FROM OUR FILES:



Conservation Building



By June of 1940 the building was ready to open. The tourist Bureau was a joint venture between the Pine City Club and St. Louis County. The goal was to increase tourism in Pine County and points north.

The chamber of commerce was trying to take advantage of the increasing automobile traffic.

Tourist Bureau to Open June 10th

The Fair board met with members of the Snake River Valley Conservation Club Monday night to discuss some matters in which they were jointly interested and later the club transacted some routine affairs.

A report on the tourist information bureau was given and it is learned that the girl to be sent here by the St. Louis Co. Club, will report for duty Monday, June 10th. It was also learned that an effort is being made to get two other people for use at the bureau, with the idea that the place will be kept open all day and until 10 o'clock in the evening.

The automatic pump has been installed and is being used daily to soak up the black dirt recently hauled in and spread and on Monday evening a quantity of grass seed was sown and raked in. Some new equipment for the washroom was installed Monday and will be ready for use as soon as some minor adjustments are made.

The mounted heads sent in by Denver Stevens have been hung and a quantity of mounted birds including owls, ducks, chinks and other specie have been tagged and placed about the building.

The president has called for some workers to show up Sunday morning and wind up the outside work and some of the interior decorating. A man from the state tourist bureau is expected early this week to place some of the things that bureau will have for the building, and more is expected from St. Louis county.

A few of the faithful have been working overtime on this preparatory work and need some help. If you are free Sunday morning, get over there with some old togs and do a little work.

Pine Poker Pioneer
June 6, 1940



The new Tourist Information booth in the conservation building is a very popular spot for tourists northbound on vacation trips and Miss Guertin and her assistants are having about all they can do to furnish the many callers with the information they desire, concerning resorts, places to fish and routes. Only two assistants have been made available for her thus far, but it is hoped that the NYA area supervisor will stretch a point and provide more help.

The collection of wild life subjects and trophies is being added to daily and is the source of much delight to the people who visit the bureau.

Since the opening of the tourist information bureau in the conservation building on the fair grounds, the question has been asked about our own facilities for the entertainment of tourists and fishermen and fisher ladies. Only one of our local

resort owners has furnished the lady in charge of the bureau with printed pamphlets about his cabins and the facilities available here for the visitor. Miss Guertin has been provided with a list of all places within this county, where boats and bait can be secured, or where cabins and tourist park facilities are available, and she will be more than glad to handle any printed matter you may have relative to your own individual resort.

The bureau is operated not for the Arrowhead exclusively, but for all of Minnesota and for Pine County as well and we have tried to include all of the resorts in the county, on all the lakes where fishing is done, so that no one will be slighted or overlooked.

A letter to the bureau will receive prompt and courteous attention. Let us know what you have and if we have not already listed your place, we will do so immediately.

Pine Poker Pioneer June 20, 1940

Conservation Club Meets Monday Eve

The regular monthly meeting of the Snake River Valley Conservation Club will be held at the conservation building on the fair grounds Monday evening, July 1st, at eight o'clock. There are some important matters to be discussed at this meeting, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

More trophies have been added to the growing display with which the interior of the building has been nicely decorated and these things certainly have made a hit with the many visitors at the information booth.

The success of the information and travel bureau which is carried on by Miss Guertin and her assistants, has more than exceeded the hopes and expectations of the club and its assisting sponsor the St. Louis County Club and each day finds the attendants directing more vacationists on their way into the Arrowhead country.

Remember the meeting Monday evening and be on hand and on time.

Pine Poker Pioneer
June 27, 1940



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Pine City Area History Association



FROM OUR FILES:



Conservation Building

The inside of the building was decorated with mounts of local wildlife. Local rocks and minerals were incorporated into the display. It resembled a museum and became a popular stop.



SNAKE RIVER CONSERVATION BLDG. AND TOURIST BUREAU
PINE CITY, MINN.

Dr. Strunk Visits Tourist Bureau

Dr. Wm. L. Strunk, Commissioner of Conservation for the state of Minnesota, accompanied by Ray Nolan of the state department visited the new Tourist Bureau in the conservation building at the fair grounds on Thursday of last week and after his visit, informed the writer that he was very much pleased with the way things were shaping up there and expressed the conviction that the bureau had unlimited possibilities. When he saw the register and realized the number of out-of-state visitors who have called there for information about our vacationland, he was more than gratified. Since his visit the interior decorations have been revamped to some extent, and cedars have replaced the norway pines that were first used in filling up the corners behind the mounted game trophies. These cedars will last much longer than the norways and are much better for decorations.

Many out of state visitors ask what the charge is for viewing the exhibit and before signs were placed at the entrance the ladies in charge had to inform them there was no charge of any kind.

People with resort facilities in this section are beginning to realize that the bureau is giving them a real service and that many visitors, if only the overnight class, are stopping at Pine City and adjacent lake cabin spots. Every out-of-state dollar left here is going to help the town and community and the more people who stop here the better off we are going to be.

Pine Poker Pioneer
July 4, 1940

A Day at the Tourist Bureau

What we see and hear during a day at the Tourist Bureau.

A synopsis of an ordinary day at the information bureau conducted by the Conservation Club and the St. Louis County Club.

Snapping pictures around the building seems to be a hobby with the tourists. The most popular mount snapped is the boxing squirrel.

Our latest donation is a rare collection of rocks, ore and quartz from all parts of the county. The collection is owned by Peter Holm and was loaned to the bureau.

Ed L. Shave of the Minneapolis Star-Journal Tourist department called on us last week. He was very pleasantly surprised at our set-up and in his column on Sunday, gave us a nice little write-up. Thank you, Mr. Shave, and call again.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgston of the conservation Department at Moline, Ill., found much of interest here. Mr. Burgston took several pictures of our surroundings.

Mrs. Howard Young of Lititz, Pa., says the largest animal trap manufacturing plant in the country is in her home town. We are sure that the traps we have on exhibit weren't made there.

We enjoyed a visit from Emory Blanchard of Chicago, Ill., the other day. He has charge of the Austin West Side Travel Bureau. One of their most popular tours includes Northern Minnesota.

Do you know what a Cooper's Adz is? Come in and see one.

Mr. and Mrs. K. A. Baldwin and little daughter, who come from 275 miles north of Regina, Sask., represented that province here, at the booth one day last week. They found much of interest here, although they come from a country where wild life runs rampant.

Mary Thomas of Kamei, Japan, and Rev. and Mrs. L. D. Godbey of Gresham, Nebraska, spent a very enjoyable half hour with us on Monday of this week. Miss Thomas is in the states on a visit.

Our most interesting visitor the past week was John Marquand of Santa Barbara, Calif., well known author and African big game hunter, who complimented us very highly on our set-up and the excellent display of wild life and curios.

In the neighborhood of 550 persons have registered at the building, and that number does not count the hundreds from our own community who have called and who did not sign the register because they live here. Registrations have come from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, So. Dakota, N. Dakota, California, Ohio, Kansas, Indiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Province of Saskatchewan, Oregon, Arkansas, Michigan, Alabama, Wyoming and the island of Ja-

Pine Poker Pioneer
July 11, 1940



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Pine City Area History Association



FROM OUR FILES:



Conservation Building

TOURIST INFORMATION BUREAU HAD VERY SUCCESSFUL SEASON

The Tourist Bureau had a very successful 1st season.

The Pine City Tourist Bureau operated through the summer under the joint sponsorship of the St. Louis County Club and the Snake River Conservation Club, has, we believe, been an outstanding success. The steadily increasing number of visitors who, each week, visited the bureau for vacationland information, fishing and camping locations, and for general information regarding wonderful Minnesota, is an indication of the popularity of the bureau and the niche it filled in the tourist picture of Minnesota.

The bureau was visited by some 8000 people during the summer months, and that figure will be far surpassed next season, now that the place is established and has thousands of 1940 visitors telling their friends of the many things to be seen here. People from almost every state in the union, from Norway, Japan and Switzerland and from several provinces in Canada, visited the bureau during the past summer and many hundreds of these visitors took time to compliment the attendants on the fine service rendered and on the interesting display of wild life and curios.

The maintenance of the bureau through September was at the request and with the financial assistance of the State Tourist Bureau and the September venture was more of an experiment than anything else. It was the desire of the State Bureau that some check be taken on September tourist business, as all tourist organizations in the state are anxious that our visitors stay through September, which is always a wonderful month in Minnesota. The record (Continued on page 2)

Pine Poker Pioneer
October 10 1940

8,000 people
visited during
the summer
season. Visitors
came from
many different
states &
countries.

THURSDAY, OCT. 10, 1940

Successful Season At Tourist Bureau

(Continued from Page One)
ords kept for September showed that some 800 people visited the bureau and if the weather holds good thru the first half of this month, there will be many more here for outings.

Every tourist that can be stopped here means money spent in our community. Pine City is about half way to the head of the lakes, people driving are becoming restless, and when they have a chance to stop for relaxation and to look at an interesting exhibit, they are very apt to stop for gas, to eat, perhaps to fish or to stay over night at one of our lake resorts. This past summer, the bureau was responsible for many people staying over here at our own lakes and river for fishing, and directed many visitors to our cafes and hotels for accommodations.

The matter of a suitable folder for Pine City and vicinity should be considered by the people who have tourist accommodations. Many visitors asked for a Pine City folder and had to be told that we had none of our own city. They thought it was strange that we were passing up a chance for some good advertising, and that's something to be worked out before the 1941 season opens. The local club has been assured of the wholehearted support of the St. Louis County Club for next year, and an effort is now being made to interest the Arrowhead Association in providing a second full time attendant for next season. The secretary of the local club has already taken this matter up with the Arrowhead people and found them in a receptive mood. Then, too, the NYA supervisor at Cambridge has assured your club officers, that barring some unforeseen thing, more NYA help will be available next year.

Working with such ardent conservationists and vacationland enthusiasts as M. B. Elson, secretary of the St. Louis Co. Club and Ray Hoefler of Ely, a former Pine City boy, and now chairman of the Tourist and Publicity Committee of the St. Louis County Club, has been a real pleasure, and these two men are so sold on the Pine City Bureau that it's future success is a matter of course. They know that we have something here.

Several of the club members spent Sunday packing up the exhibit and storing it away for the winter, cleaning up the building and getting things in ship shape. Next year will see an even finer exhibit, as the club has the promise of more trophies for the display and the interior will all be changed to conform to a new set-up.

The club wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the people of Pine City for their interest and cooperation in making the bureau the success it was and they can assure you that next year will be even more successful.

(This report on activities respectfully submitted by the club secretary.)

Cons. Club Held Meeting Monday

The regular monthly meeting of the Snake River Conservation Club was held at the conservation building Monday evening of this week with attendance cut down no doubt, by the duck hunting season and the fact that too many of the boys were tired out from a fruitless search for ducks with which to appease the inner man.

A report on the activities for the month included a summary of tourist bureau matters, and the attendance of the secretary at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Arrowhead Association at Duluth on Sept. 20th, when steps were taken to provide an extra full time attendant at the tourist bureau for next year. At that time, the secretary met with members of the Arrowhead committee and urged that they include in the 1941 budget, sufficient funds to pay the salary of this full time attendant. At the Duluth meeting, the secretary was informed by members of the St. Louis County Club in attendance that the County Club was highly pleased with the results obtained and had that week voted to send Miss Guertin back to the bureau next year. A resolution was passed by the club Monday evening, to be sent to the St. Louis County Club, commending Miss Guertin on the excellent job she did here, starting from scratch, as she did, insofar as the local information bureau was concerned, and urging the St. Louis County Club to return her next year; also one to the Arrowhead Association asking that they provide a full time girl and recommending Eva Jane Schulz, who worked with Miss Guertin last season, as the full time employee. Miss Schulz handled the work of the bureau during the month of September and did a very fine job.

The next meeting will be held at the legion room in the village hall on Monday, Nov. 4th, as the conservation building will be closed for the winter months.

Pine Poker Pioneer
October 10 1940

Plans were made to operate the Tourist Bureau again in 1941.

Conservation Club Met Monday Night

The Snake River Valley Conservation Club held its December meeting Monday evening at the city hall and transacted the usual grist of business.

Communications were read from the St. Louis County Club and the office of the state tourist director at St. Paul. The secretary also reported on the receipt of folders and prices from a firm specializing in colored vacationland folders and a committee of two was appointed to meet with the Commercial Club at an early meeting to try and work out some sort of deal for advertising this section of the state at the Tourist Bureau here next summer and by means of these advertising folders sent out-of-state tourist bureaus.

The matter of additional advertising signs for placing on highways in the southern part of the state was also discussed and these will be prepared before spring.

Some of the members had some tall deer hunting stories to relate and before the meeting closed a heated discussion arose on the duck law. Proponents and opponents of the law argued long and ably on the various phases of the measure and from the buck-law the discussion moved on to the velocity and carrying power of certain types of deer rifles.

Winter fishing of various types came in for some attention during the course of the meeting and varied angles of the subject were thoroughly gone over.

All in all it was a very interesting session. The night was very disagreeable, with the thermometer headed toward the cellar, and the attendance was not what it should have been.

Pine Poker Pioneer
December 5, 1940



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Pine City Area History Association



FROM OUR FILES:



Conservation Building

Cons. Club Held Annual Meeting

The March meeting of the conservation club, postponed from Monday evening, March 3, because of the storm, was held on Monday evening of this week at the village hall with a goodly number in attendance in spite of the second storm of the week.

The meeting was called to order by President Hady and after the reading of the previous meeting minutes the order of business was taken up.

Several communications from various members of the Conservation department were read and discussed by the membership. These communications dealt with the department bill authorizing the sale of the conservation building on the fair grounds. This bill, sponsored by the department and scheduled for introduction at the legislature by Rep. C. G. Mann, was apparently killed before it got far when letters from the local club reminded the sponsors and the representative that under the terms of the deed transferring the land on which the building stands from the Fair Association to the state, it was specifically stated that the property so deeded was to be used by the grantee for the purposes of the conservation of natural resources. A later letter from Mr. Mann informed the secretary that the sale clause had been stricken from the bill.

There was some heated discussion over the proposed legislation which would provide for a five-day deer hunting season every year and the club went on record as favoring the retention of the present law, which called for a season on alternate years. The matter of the stopping of sale of big game licenses on the evening before the season opens was also discussed and the majority felt that the same procedure should be followed as in former years, that of selling licenses at any time during the season. It was felt that many hunters who might be able to go late in the season and who would not know for sure about that possibility early enough to

get their licenses before the season opened might be deprived of the privilege of hunting. Others who rather favored the proposed early closing bill could see that the measure might result in the saving of some deer as it would curtail the activities of violators who might have a deer hung up in the woods waiting for a sale.

The bass or crappie pond down the river east of town, was discussed and activities planned for the coming year, with the decision reached that parent crappies be secured from some of the northern Pine county lakes, where they are of large size and where they might be secured earlier in the season. The secretary was instructed to contact Sheridan Greig and see if he could help them secure parent fish from some of the lakes in his territory for use in the pond. It was also decided to do something about fencing the confines of the pond proper to keep cattle from stirring up the water when it was full of young fish.

Bernie Hady was re-elected president for the coming year in a close vote over George Dorr, E. W. Huber was named vice president, F. P. Gottry, secretary and K. W. Campbell, treasurer.

Members of the board of directors are Clarence Johnson (the only new member); Hubert Hinze, George Dorr, Gust Grandt and Walter Glasow.

Membership cards for 1941 will be ready for the April meeting which will be held on Monday evening, the 7th.

Preparations to run the Tourist Bureau in 1941 were made.

Presumably the second season went well but the only mention of the Conservation Club in the 1941 papers was to remind members of the monthly meetings

Conservation Club To Meet Monday

The Conservation Club members are asked to meet at the building on Monday evening of next week, May 19th, for another work session. There are some things to be done before the tourist bureau can be opened. Please remember the day and hour, Monday at 7 p.m.

F. P. Gottry, Secy.

May 15, 1941

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1941

Conservation Club Meets Monday Eve

The July meeting of the Snake River Conservation Club will be held Monday evening, July 7th at the Conservation Building. All members are urged to be present.

July 3, 1941

Our files are empty after 1941 on this topic.

Conservation Club Meets Monday

There will be a regular meeting of the Snake River Conservation Club at the conservation building, north of the river, Monday evening, June 2nd. All members please plan to attend.

May 29, 1941

CONSERVATION CLUB TO MEET MONDAY

The August meeting of the Snake River Conservation Club will be held at the conservation building, Monday evening, Aug. 4th, at 8 o'clock. All members are urged to attend.

July 31, 1941

CONSERVATION CLUB WILL MEET FRIDAY

The September meeting of the Snake River Conservation Club will be held at the Conservation building north of the river, Friday evening, Sept. 5th at eight o'clock.

September 4, 1941



Pine Poker Pioneer
October 10 1940



COMPILED 10/10/2017 By:
Pine City Area History Association

The Conservation Building
in about 1990.