

# ◆ CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS ◆

Publication of the Cass County Historical Society

July 1, 2000

**SUNKEN LOGS**

**TOPOGRAPHY OF  
CASS COUNTY**

**PUBLICATIONS  
AVAILABLE AT  
CASS COUNTY  
MUSEUM**

**PAT OLIVER  
DONATES  
TYPEWRITER  
FROM REMER  
RECORD**

**CURRENT  
2000**

**MEMBERSHIP LIST**

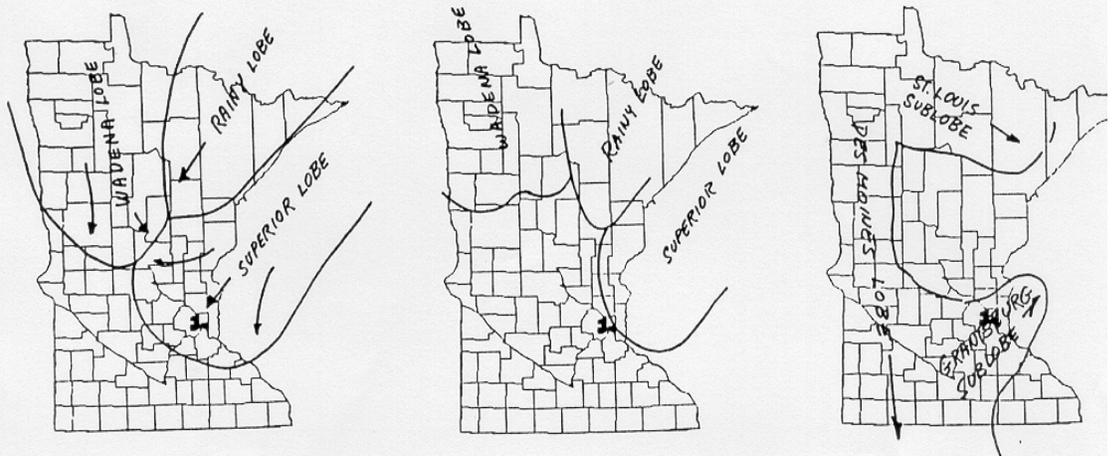
**Museum hours  
May 8 - Sept 15**

**10:00 - 5:00  
Monday - Saturday**

**Research Library  
Hours  
Monday through  
Saturday**

## *Topography of Cass County*

The current topography of Cass County is a product of glacial activity from about 40,000 years ago. Evidence theorizes that Minnesota's first glaciation occurred probably around 2.5 billion years ago. Our state has experienced nearly every type of climate. The Pleistocene period saw the Laurentide affect much of northeastern America, including Minnesota. The Holocene period saw many different climate changes in northern Minnesota. Our climate was considerably colder than our present weather. Tundra climate existed. When glaciers retreated about 10,000 years ago, spruce vegetation covered the northern part of the state for about 1000 years before being replaced by pines. Deciduous trees (elm, oak, basswood) gradually replaced the pines as the climate warmed. A dry period which began about 7,000 years ago, encouraged prairie vegetation to grow. This lasted for about 2,000 years until cooler, moister air replaced the warm conditions. Our present forest of pines, aspen, birch and alder has been here for at least 2,000 years. The last two ice sheets to cover the region were of the Wisconsin Age which was the last period of glaciation in Minnesota.



### *Stories & Updates*

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The Wisconsin period, approximately 75,000 years ago was composed of four major ice lobes, the Wadena Lobe, Rainy Lobe, Superior Lobe and the Des Moines Lobe. Types of materials deposited by these glaciers were dependent upon the kinds of bedrock over which they crossed. The first and main ice to enter Minnesota came from the Wadena Lobe, which carried material from the

*(Continued on page 4)*

***UPCOMING PROGRAMS***

Chippewa National Forest Naturalists will be presenting a series of programs this season.

- Tuesday, July 13 - **BERRIES** —2:00 p.m. at the Cass County Museum.
- Tuesday, July 18 — **LOONS** — 2:00 p.m. at Cass County Museum.
- Tuesday, August 17 — **WILD RICE** — 2:00 p.m. at the Cass County Museum.

- ◆ Regular Business Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Cass County Museum. There will be a special presentation on
- ◆ Tuesday, June 13 — Wood Carvings by Mary Norton and Native American History by Sue Anderson.

- ◆ Thursday, June 29 — 1:00 - 4:00 at the Cass County Museum. Mississippi Headwaters Board will present a program on the history of the Mississippi River. Come and play the River Impact Game!

***Sunken Logs***

On Thursday, April 6, Governor Jesse Ventura signed a law allowing for the retrieval of sunken logs in waters 20 feet or deeper — old growth logs that have rested on the bottom of our lakes since the late 1800's. This bill, sponsored by Representative Larry Howes of Hackensack on behalf of Craig Waddell and Dan Winger of Remer, goes into effect on June 1.

Waddell and Winger believe about 10% of the old growth timber cut and gloated on the lakes was so dense that it sank. In deeper water, below the thermocline, where light and oxygen are scarce and temperatures are permanently in the 40 degree range, lie logs, undisturbed and as good today as when they were cut.

Because little light could penetrate the dense, old forest canopy to stimulate growth, trees grew very slowly. They grew very straight, slowly, and with very tight straight grains, something that can't be cultivated in today's fast growth forest. The old growth was used for furniture and musical instruments as well as for floors and trim. Musical instruments made with old growth maple and cherry produce a special sound that cannot be replicated today. There is also a demand for old growth timber for flooring and veneer and for restorations where matching old growth timber is needed and hasn't been available.

Waddell rented a torpedo-shaped side-scan sonar device to determine where these logs were and support his theory of sunken logs. He found more than logs: things like cars, snowmobiles, ice houses, steamers that once pulled logs across the ice, anchors, saws and animals? "There's 9000 years of history buried in our lakes that we don't know anything about," Waddell says.

The DNR's interest is water quality which can be compromised by things in the lakes that Mother Nature never intended, including cut logs which emit chemicals as they soak. The breakdown of the bark on trees is believed to cause the rust color associated with some smaller lakes.

The location of historical or archeologically significant finds will be marked by Global Positioning Satellite coordinates, photographed, sonar printed and information sent to the DNR and Minnesota Historical Society for a determination of retrieval.

Dan Winger has 25 years as a certified SCUBA diver and goes down to verify the sonar findings. He will be diving from a new boat from Forester Pontoon Company of Hill City, with a power plant from Land O'Lakes from Outing. Woodland Bank has helped with funding and they are looking for outside investors who may contact Brian at the bank.

Once logs have been retrieved, they will be sent to a sawmill and drying facility. Plans are to put a gift shop and retail outlet at this mill. Persons could purchase a log and have the ends where the logmarks are for a keepsake. The name of the cutter and a brief history of where the log was found and what sawmill it was being sent to when it sank would be provided.

## *ROYAL TYPEWRITER FINDS NEW HOME AT MUSEUM*

This Royal Typewriter has a history with the REMER RECORD HERALD which was started on July 4, 1911 by A. T. Mills in the building on Lot 10 of Block One in the village of Remer. Between 1911 and 1917, the newspaper was owned or operated by several people. Richard Wagner was running the Record in September of 1917 in the building on Lot 12 of Block One when A. B. "Ben" Oliver bought The REMER RECORD. The typewriter was probably part of the newspaper equipment in all of the sales of the RECORD during these years.



Oral history in the Oliver family tells of the typewriter being used by both Mr. and Mrs. Oliver in the print shop. Sometime between 1919 and 1921, the Oliver family moved out of the back of the print shop and bought a house on the street along the railroad tracks. In October of 1921, the Olivers sold the newspaper and the building to J. W. Hanrahan, a newspaper man from the Minneapolis area, and again the typewriter probably was on the inventory list. Then, in December of 1921, at the request of Mrs. Hanrahan, the Olivers repossessed the newspaper, the building and the typewriter.

Remer, in the winters of 1921, '22 and '23, was plagued with fires and rumors of arson. Quoting from page 104 of the REMER, MINNESOTA book by Cecelia McKeig, "On March 30, 1923, the REMER RECORD office, the post office and the Star Garage all burned. The fire started in the printing office but had gained such headway before it was discovered that it was impossible to save anything or to stop the flames until they had completely destroyed all three places of business. The fire hit the Olivers of the REMER RECORD very hard."

Prior to the fire, Hazel and the younger children (Raymond, Evelyn and Rollen) were quarantined for scarlet fever at their residence and Ben and his oldest son, Malcolm were staying at the Letourneaus. Ben brought the typewriter to their house on the railroad street so Hazel could type out the printing bills. Otherwise, this typewriter would have been destroyed in the fire.

Ben and Hazel did not rebuild and moved back to Walker in June of 1923 and bringing the typewriter with them. They bought a farm on the "old 19" road west of Walker and raised cows and horses and a large garden while Ben helped with the CASS COUNTY PIONEER.

### *Treasures*

In December of 1931, Ben was appointed Judge of Probate when Judge Whitney accepted an appointment in St. Paul, Minnesota. The typewriter went to the Cass County courthouse Probate Office where Mrs. Oliver used it in his office until he retired in 1963. His daughter, Patricia, has kept this treasure and has donated it to the Cass County Museum.

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limestone region of Manitoba and retreated to the area around Walker about 14,000 years ago. The Rainy Lobe carried materials from the highlands along the Rainy River to the south and east of Leech Lake from the granitic area of western Ontario, the Superior Lobe entered the state through the Lake Superior basin, carried materials from the gabbro and basalt area of eastern Ontario and deposited materials near Pine River, and the Des Moines Lobe, which retreated about 10,000 years ago, traveled from the northwest down the Red River Valley and carried material from the dolomitic limestone and cretaceous shale areas of Manitoba to the northern and western parts of the Leech Lake Basin.

The most impressive natural features of Cass County are its large lakes, glacial in origin. Cass County is the sixth largest county in Minnesota. It has a total land area of about 1/5 million acres, of which 258,217 acres are occupied by our 517 lakes. Lake Winnibigoshish, only partly in our county, has an area of 77 square miles. Leech Lake is the largest lake with an area of 173 square miles. The highest point of elevation is 1,610 feet at Spider Lake Lookout Tower in the south central part of the county.

Information taken from "Glaciers and Glacial Geology of the Leech Lake Watershed" by authors Robert C. Melchior and John O. Annexstad. Published in 1966 to create to the flavour of Walker's Centennial Celebration and is an introduction to Road Logs, a device used by geologists to describe the geology of an area. The Geological Professional Societies have published road logs for all sorts of places ranging from volcanoes to erosion zones near Cape Hatteras.

Happy 4th of July!

***Publications  
Available at  
Cass County  
Museum***

*Walker, The First Hundred Years (Centennial Book, 1896-1996)*  
*Cass County Heritage Book (Centennial Book, 1897-1997)*  
*History of Boy River, Boy River Township and the Island 1889-1998*  
*Battle of Sugar Point, October 5, 1898*  
*Federal Dam, The Settlement of Gould Township and Village of Federal Dam*  
*Remer, Minnesota, Incorporated 1910 (Centennial Project, 1897-1997)*

#### **Donations**

**In 1974 Dr. Otto F. Ringle purchased the dental practices of Dr. Sullivan of Backus and Drs. Wayne and Mushkatin of Walker. Much of this equipment, Dr. Wayne's was out-dated and was donated to the Cass County Museum by Dr. Ringle. These items are in a dental office exhibit here at the museum. Dr. Ringle has graciously offered to contribute \$100 each year to the maintenance and interpretation of this display.**