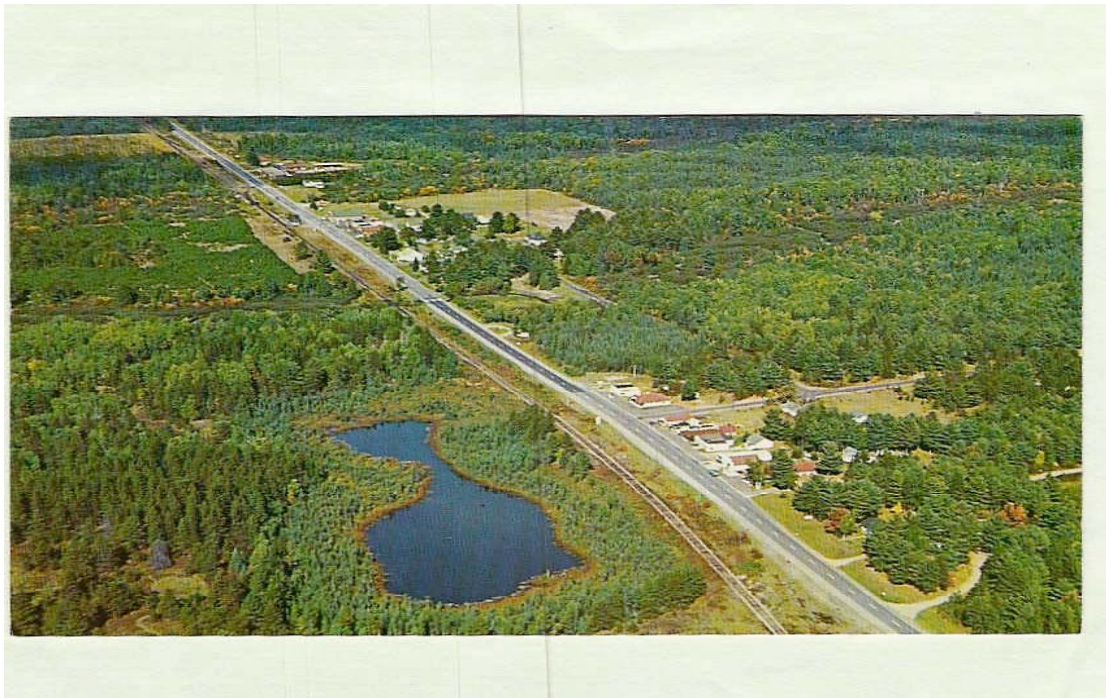
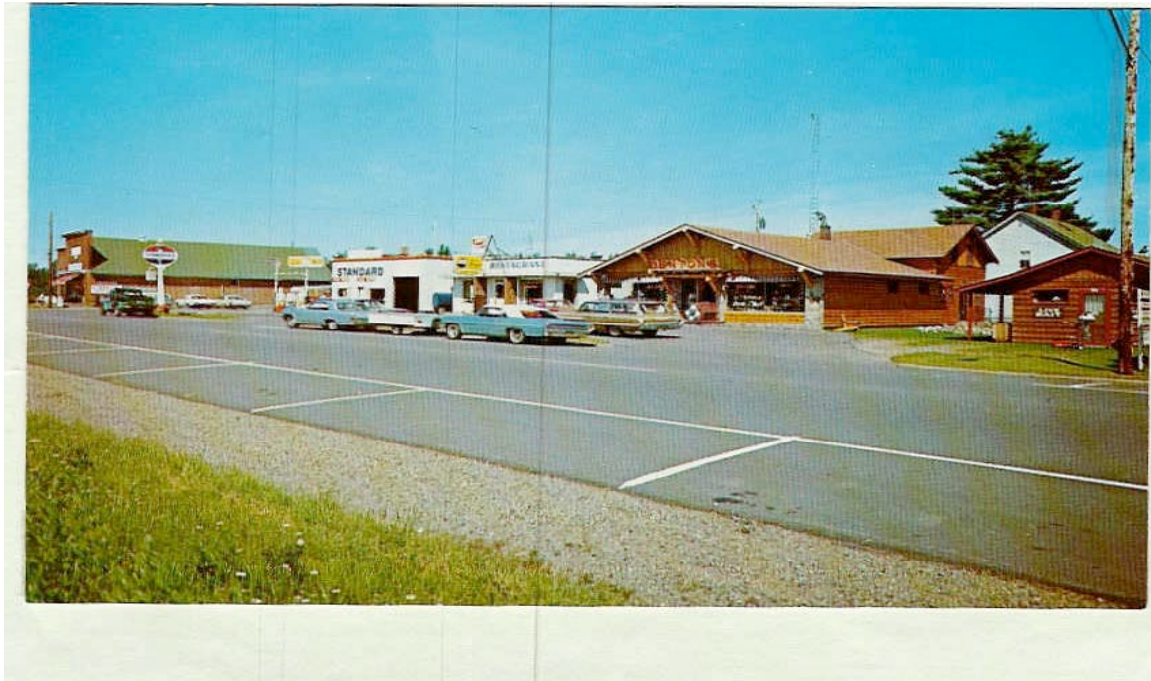


The little town has many charms
With which to gather fame
And make its people extra proud
To mention it by name.
And more than all its other tales
And qualities combined
Is that of being courteous
Considerate and kind.
Of being sympathetic in
A manner warm and true
Not only in its circle but
To every stranger too.
It smiles and says good-morning and
Good evening and good night
And in so many other ways
It strives to be polite.
It welcomes everybody with
Its friendly, open arms
And proves a little town can be
A place of many charms.

James J. Metcalfe's "Portraits"
Copyright 1948 - Sun & Times Company
Reprinted from Milwaukee Sentinel



ABOUT THIS BOOK

For many years, it has been my desire to preserve the history of the pioneering community of Conover in printed form. It has been my feeling that the courageous efforts of the first

settlers who worked so hard to clear land; establish farms and resorts; and raise respectable families, should not be forgotten. Thelma Van Wie along with Kathy Cestkowski, Joan Foote and the Conover School Children compiled a booklet in 1962 called "The Land of the Lakes." With permission, much of the information from that school project is included here. Thelma Van Wie has served her community in many ways, including teaching in the Conover School. Her contribution to making this book possible is greatly appreciated.

We further wish to acknowledge Edgar J. Jung of the Jung Shoe Manufacturing Company of Sheboygan, Wisconsin for the research in connection with the naming of Conover. Among people Mr. Jung interviewed, were Mr. Henry Willard, a grandson of Seth Conover. It has given me much happiness to collect information for this history. May you find pleasure in reminiscing about bygone days, and appreciating what has been contributed to the present.

George C. Dobbs.

Second Printing
July, 1991

Fourth Printing
Jan 1996

Third Printing
May, 1993

Fifth Printing
Apr 1999

Fourth Printing
Jan, 1996

Sixth Printing
Apr 2002

Eighth Printing
June 2007

HOW WAS CONOVER NAMED?

Names of town and cities, no matter their size, are always interesting and our community is no exception. The man for whom our town is named is Seth H. Conover who came from Plymouth, Wisconsin. A prominent cheese buyer, he has worked in his younger days as a cheese maker in his father's factory. Conover's hobbies were fishing and hunting and this led him to the Northwoods.



Hiram Conover



Seth H. Conover

Seth Conover became quite friendly with some of the officials of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and used to go into Northern Wisconsin on hunting and fishing trips with them. He made several of these trips with the railroad men in their own private railroad car. Supposedly he was familiar with the area and felt that the location of the present Conover was close as possible to Big Twin Lake where he particularly enjoyed fishing. Apparently he had the train stop there and the hunting and fishing part was quite successful.

After stopping at the same place for several years, the railroad men began referring to it as Conover's Place, hence Conover. After several of these trips and stopping in approximately the same location, they decided to build a station there and in time, it was formally designated as Conover on the railroad maps.

Seth Conover had two sons, Frank and John, and two daughters. Both sons were doctors and Frank practiced in Sheboygan County for some time while John went into the Army and died in 1966 in Colorado as a retired Army Colonel. An interesting sidelight on Dr. John Conover is that he and another medical student hiked from Plymouth to Conover one summer. This is quite a substantial hike and supposed they hiked most of the way along the railroad right-of-way.

Records from the Office of Register of Deeds show that 73 acres of land was deeded to Seth Conover on April 24, 1891. This was the region he had fished on Big Twin Lake and which later became known as Lakota Resort. He owned it for less than a year and it was then deeded to Harvey L. Goodall on October 8,



TOWN CREATED

The Town of Conover was set aside from the Town of Eagle River on January 3, 1907. It was described as all of the Sections from 1 to 30 inclusive in Township 41 North of Range 10 East and the South half of Township 42 North of Range 10 East. The first town meeting was held in the red brick school house near the brick yard. The first officers of the Town were Chairman, C. H. Blohm; Clerk C. H. Johnson; Treasurer Ed Goranson; and Assessor Louis Denton. The place wasn't much more than a flagging station where the train could be stopped. In 1914 more land was added to the Town of Conover, to the West, Township 41, Range 9 and Township 42, Range 9.

During the year of 1920, Twin Lake property was taken into the Town of Conover from Phelps. Mr. David Schlack operated a saloon in Conover in the early 1900's. However, in 1908 the Town was voted dry and Mr. Schlack moved to Eagle River where he operated a tavern and ice cream parlor. That structure today is "Soda Pops." One can remember the cozy booths that was the only seating and the canaries on top of a glassed-in box type booth that housed what would best be described as the workings of a player piano.



CONOVER BRICK YARD

About this time Mr. Niles Coleman came to the Conover area desiring to put in a brick yard. They could not secure land where Conover was then located, so purchased land North of this across the swamp, West of where the CNW station once stood in more recent years. This was the Eagle River Brick Company, with the office in Eagle River. Fred Flanders operated the yard from 1894 to 1900. Reports vary as to why the yard did not continue in business and some say there was confusion in management. Supposedly the clay found here was of the best quality. It was used in the building of Dobbs Store and also the first Conover Schoolhouse.

Across the way South from the store, was a small building and bar. The place was owned by Niles Coleman and run by the Henry Steinmetz family. Mr. Blohm, a well driller, built a farm across the swamp by what was recently known as the Alexander Farm. Through his efforts both in time and money, Conover became a township. After selling his farm, he rented a house from Niles Coleman and there he had the post office; this is the home currently of Matt Maki. Blohm was the acting postmaster at that time.

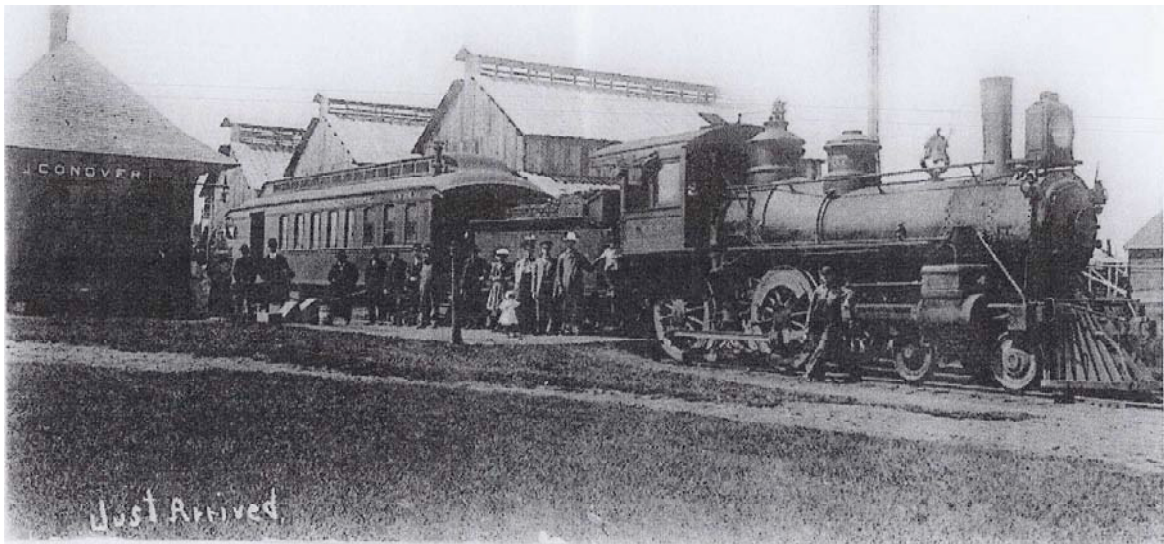
CONOVER SPUR LINE TO PHELPS

Guests to Adams Resort were transported by horses and buckboard. People came from the city and stayed for the season. It took two hours to make the trip from the resort to Conover, one way! Lakota or Adams Resort had a post office for quite a few years. Phelps was known as Hackley in those days. There was only an Indian Cemetery there; but the

prospect of the railroad caused the building of a store and boarding house in 1903. The only way to get to Hackley was by a large steamer boat which started from the landing at Big Twin Lake. Adams Resort boarded the cutters who were clearing land for building the railroad spur. The spur to Phelps or Hackley was completed in 1905.

YEAR 'ROUND TRAIN SERVICE

The train service was called Watersmeet-Monico Train, Southbound leaving Conover at 9 a.m., Northbound at 3:30 p.m. Similar to this engine, the Flambeau 400 run had a Class R1 ten-wheeler that was ideal for the medium speed multi-stop runs. The flag stop at Rummels, two miles North of Conover, was named after J. A. Rummels of



Manitowoc, an engineer and surveyor for the Northwestern Railroad. Two and a half miles down the Phelps spur was a flag stop called Parrish. The people from the Monheim District used this stop. Four miles south was a Scott Flag Stop used by the people in the Reed District. Engine No. 1385 survived the scrap yard and is at the North Freedom Railroad Museum. The engine is restored and in service at the museum. It also pulled the circus train to Milwaukee.

COMMUNITY MOURNED DEATH OF SHERIFF RADCLIFFE

In 1911, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 6th, Sheriff Radcliffe was shot at Conover by Tony Imperio, an Italian white slave who he had placed under arrest and was endeavoring to search for weapons. Mr. Radcliffe died 23 hours later. His deputy, John E. Hanson, was also wounded, but not seriously, while G. L. Carter, another deputy, narrowly escaped a bullet.

Sheriff Radcliffe had received a message from Sheriff Crowfoot of Rhinelander, requesting him to arrest Imperio and another man, Philip Roberts. These two had arrived in Eagle River accompanied by another man, and had secured another rig to take them to Conover. The intention of the men was to catch the train at Conover, get across the state line and escape. They were arrested while waiting for the train at Steinmetz. The men escaped and hid out around Conover. They came out several times and asked Ralph Reed's mother for food. Mrs. Reed never refused anyone food. A posse of men finally caught them near the Reed School on Saturday morning. They were jailed in Wausau.

FIRST SUMMER PEOPLE ARRIVE

Williams Adams homesteaded the island on Pioneer Lake when Teddy Roosevelt was president. Lumber was carried a mile to the lake; then via boat to the island. Fishing was good and you could always get a catch for a shore dinner. Von Hoffmans and the Jones family were the first summer people around Pioneer Lake. Their families are still coming to this area for summer vacations. Sabra Jones Kulle had aided the town in many projects. Julius Strelow delivered mail from Phelps around Twin Lake by boat. He also had the first threshing machine in Conover. He was attended by George Shelly with his ox team while threshing. A small man with a white beard in later years, he worked for Ernie Heth doing errands for the resort.

CONOVER TOOK ACTIVE IN VILAS COUNTY FAIR

Conover had a Grange which instigated the first local fair held at the Monheim School. The Grange helped many of the farmers in the improvement of their farms. In 1914, a potato growers association was formed; and in connection with this, experiments were made with commercial fertilizer furnished by the University. Many farmers improved their herds of cattle by getting pure bred bulls.

The Vilas County Agricultural Society was organized on March 16, 1916, of which Conover was a very active member. This organization voted to hold a one day fair September 7, 1916, on the city common to be called the Vilas County Fair. Hans Hanson worked hard for the success of each succeeding fair for many years. There were others from Conover who backed it to the hilt. C. H. Johnson, Ed Martinson, "Grandma" Dussault and Axel Lindberg were great exhibitors. In 1959, Mr. Lindberg received a purple ribbon and \$10.00 for attending and entering something every year since the fair began. Twice he was vice-president of the Fair Board.

BROOM PEDDLER

They tell of the old broom peddler who was blind but still seemed to see everything. Mr. Heider, a Syrian from Ironwood, went from door to door selling his wares and he seemed to have everything. The ladies enjoyed the sewing articles they could buy for just a few cents. Another salesman, Hoss Eggberts, sold Watkins Products, traveling with a horse and buggy. At Christmas programs in later years, he was a great Santa Claus.

HOBO CAMP

The hobo camp was along the railroad tracks of course, and was fixed for cooking in the real hobo style with old cans, black as tar. Boughs were piled to sleep on. After visiting homes for a handout, they went back to cook and share it. Sometimes the henhouse was broken into. One in a while, they would offer to do a small job for payment. Soap was never on their list. Gypsies paid an annual visit to the area. They had a magical way of engaging one person in conversation, while the others helped themselves to anything available. Children were always fearful.

BLUEBERRIES AND BUTTER

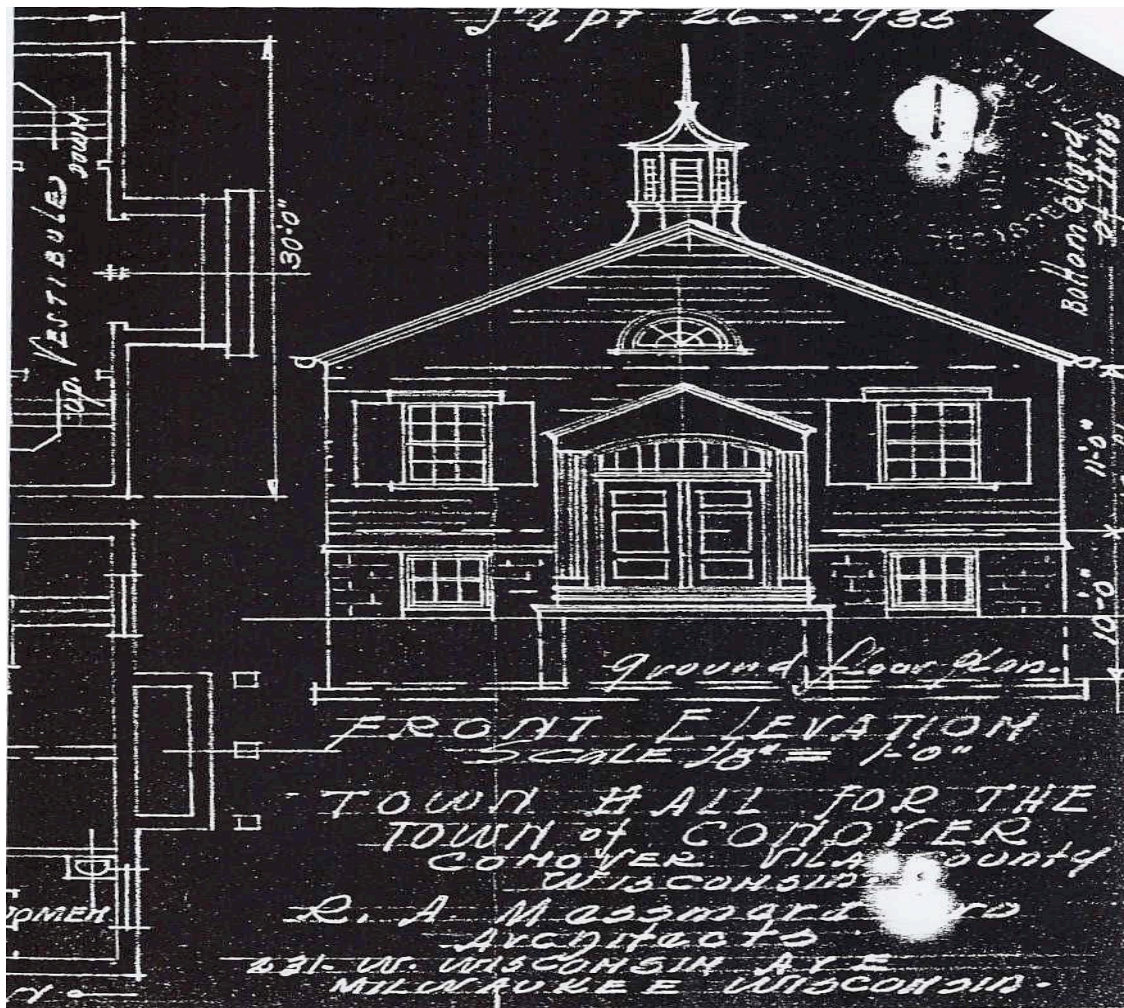
During the early 1900's, Indians and some whites picked blueberries. They averaged over 2,000 quarts daily. Blueberries were packed in baskets and white cheesecloth stitched over the top and off they went on the train. The Blueberry Train shipped many quarts to Milwaukee and Chicago. Indians came from all over the state and picked berries, camping along the Wisconsin River. They gathered cranberries and wild rice later in the season. Cream was brought in from the farm and shipped to Fairmont Creamery in Green Bay. Big crocks of butter were offered for sale in the store. Many fish were sent out each year also.

TELEPHONE SERVICE BEGINS

In 1922, the Eagle River State Line Telephone Company built a line from about 4 miles North of Eagle River to Charles Bent Camp and Black Oak. George Dobbs was president; J. F. Handlos, Director; and E. W. Ellis was Secretary/Treasurer. Ellis instigated this since he owned the sawmill in Eagle River and wanted to connect with the logging camps. The first telephone in Conover appeared in the home of Peter Hedeon in 1925.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAD GOOD TIMES

The young people had skating parties; church parties; basket socials; and dances in the various school houses. Any money earned was used to buy needed things for church and school. The music was often violin and organ played by Gustaf Hanson and his sister Lena. Sometimes Paul Kriesel played the squeeze box; other times, records were played on the phonograph. Sleigh loads of young people went to Eagle River to the nickel show. The old dirt roads were curved so much that at times, the moon would be in front and other times, it would be behind your back. The elections for the township were held in the Conover School. That was a great day for the children with no school. The teachers dreaded it because it meant cleaning up the next day as they were their own janitors.



TOWN HALL BUILT

In 1935-1936, the Conover Town Hall was built under W.P.A. finance. The Woman's Club and other organizations have aided in equipping it. The town kept a file of all chattel mortgages and all birth records. Then sometime in the 1940's, they were all filed in the

county courthouse. Individuals did their legal business and banking all in Eagle River, the county seat. The Town of Conover sold the building in 1997 and since that time, has had two owners. The current owner has renovated both the interior and exterior and plans to make it a wood-working shop and retail outlet are in the works. Update: 2006 - Now a licensed establishment serving beer and other fermented malt beverages and



called “Joe’s Pool Hall.”

LAST STEAM ENGINE LEAVES TOWN

The old depot was the only building in Conover proper which rested on the West side of Highway 45 from Rummels Road to County K. In 1960, the children from the Conover School left their classes on a fall day and witnessed the last steam engine pull out of Conover. The depot remained several years afterward before it was torn down. The original depot sign that said "Conover" is housed in the present pavilion in the Conover Town Park.

MAIL ROUTE STARTED IN 1920

The first rural route carrier was Charles Dobbs, traveling with a team of horses and sleigh in the winter. He continued until 1929 when Robert Anderson had this job for two years. Leonard Johnson had this job from 1931 until 1966 when he retired after 35 years. Elmer Hegemann filled in on the route until 1968 when Robert Mitchell became the regular carrier

and served until his retirement in May 1984. After his retirement, his sub-carrier, John Burczyk became Conover's main carrier and is currently doing so.

Post Offices and Postmasters were:

Blohm's Home1904 - 1906 C. Blohm Postmaster

Coleman's Store...1906 - 1912 C. H. Johnson Postmaster

Dobb's Store.....1912 - 1932 George C. Dobbs Postmaster

Present building was built by George C. Dobbs in 1932



Post Office.....1932 - 1966 Arthur Nortwen Postmaster

Post Office.....1966 - 1992 Lorrayne J. Maki, Postmaster

Post Office.....1993 - Now Jeff Lewison, Postmaster

Retired Postmaster Lorrayne Maki served in the Conover Post Office from June of 1960 (32 years). A retirement party honoring her was held on November 7, 1992 at the Stateline

Catering Banquet Hall in Land o'Lakes with numerous speakers on the program. Eugene Olson was master of ceremonies. An award was presented to Maki by State Representative James Holperin.

On November 4, 1999 after more than two years in the red-tape process of dealing with Postal Officials to lease a remodeled portion of the present Conover Center on County Highway K East, the Conover Post Office moved into new facilities of over 1500 square feet that is totally accessible by those with special needs.

GENERAL STORE

Much of the life of a small town centers around the general store. Certainly it is the place to buy supplies, but it is also the place to learn "the news" - where the fish are biting, what properties have been sold and to who, births, deaths, happy and sad occasions, etc. The store building was owned by Niles Coleman, owner of the brick yard, operated by G. L. Carter from 1903 to 1906. From then until the fall of 1912, C. H. Johnson rented the store.



Dobbs Brothers - Fred and George, operated the store next, purchasing the business in 1918. The same year, they built a new store, the structure being constructed from the brick from Conover's own brick yard. In 1921, George purchased his brother's interest as Fred moved to Three Lakes to begin his own store there.

The post office was a part of the store for many years. George was appointed postmaster fourth class in 1921 and was reappointed in 1922 when the status of the office was raised to third class. He continued as postmaster until 1932. In this year, he had the post office building erected and Arthur Nortwen was the first postmaster in the new facility.

Men who have worked for Dobbs for quite a few years at a time are: Oscar Goranson, Ted Eklund, Harry Seifert and Ray Johnson. Ray Johnson and his wife Margaret operated and owned the store for many years before selling to another Johnson. It was sold one more time

before it closed after a complete auction in 1990.

In 1952 when the new Highway 45 bought up 200 feet of right-of-way, Mr. Dobbs moved the building back from the highway and also enlarged the building. The old hotel building south of the store was also moved to its present location across from the Dobb's home (now owned by Thelma Larsen). Mr. Albert Peterson did the moving of these buildings. Moving a brick building created quite a bit of excitement, especially in a small town and the workmen had an audience much of the time. George Dobbs was born in Deerbrook, Langlade County in 1892 of German parentage. Along with six brothers and a sister, he helped plant potatoes, feed animals, and perform the many duties connected with a successful farm. He and his brother Fred looked forward to going into business. Fred was a CNW agent in Pelican and bid on the Conover Station. He received the appointment and this brought Fred and George to this area. George married Anna Sanbeck at Conover in 1920. They have two daughters: Mildred Gau of Milwaukee and Virginia Dralle of Montvale, New Jersey.

Interested in the future of his town, Dobbs was chairman of the Town Board for several years and also on the county board. He also served on the Conover School Board from 1924 until 1939; and the Eagle River High School Board from 1938 to 1944. With his retirement in 1965, Dobbs sold the business to his long-time employee, Ray and Margaret Johnson who operated it successfully as a Red Owl Store until its sale in December 1986.

The structure today, although remodeled, looks much as it has over many decades. Today, the building is owned by the Town of Conover and is leased to Conover Child Care Center, Inc. The child care center under the direction of Beverly Ahlborn opened its doors in June of 1992 and has been providing quality child care to Conover and neighboring communities ever since.

Other grocery stores have operated at various times in the Town. Mr. and Mrs. John Dussault operated one near their home and Alfred Adams had the store which was later sold to Al Eberly. This same location later became a marine repair shop and grocery, an automotive products company operated by the late John Price, was divided in rental living quarters and a woodcraft shop specializing in clocks. A few years back, a portion of the structure is operated as a garage for auto mechanical repairs and service under the business name "The Oil Pit."

LAKOTA RESORT

This resort was started by Seth Conover, for whom the town is named. He sold to Harvey Goodall and the place was changed from Twin Lakes Hunting Club to Lakota Resort. Soon it became one of the most popular resorts in the Northwoods. The lodge made of logs, as were the cabins, measured 40 x 80 feet. Finished in August 1893, the lodge was wiped out by fire in September 1893. Mr. Goodall was disillusioned by the fire and sold out in 1895 to Dan Sargeant, who rebuilt and had a prosperous business. Tourists were met at the flag station in Conover by a team and wagon for transport. The farmers found a good market here for their dairy products. Mr.

Sargeant had donkeys to pack grub and tackle for fishing trips to Long, Sand and Pioneer Lakes. William Adams bought the resort in 1903. At that time, the only other people living around Big Twin Lake were Axel Oberg, John Woolworth and Andrew Hansen. At one time, Maude Adams and Otis Skinner were guests at Lakota.



The largest musky ever landed with Al Adams as a guide was a fifty pounder. Dr. Rohr of Milwaukee, was the guest and the bait was a leaf of red cabbage on a spoon hook. The first party Al ever guided was Dennis Carroll of Chicago, who later built a home on Lac Viewx Desert. One dollar and twenty-five cents was the guiding fee then; and six muskies were caught in a day as there were no bag limit. Mr. Adam's resort on Big Twin covered 248 acres and a half mile of lake privileges. They kept cows, ran their dairy and had store articles for the tourists.

The following are copied from an advertisement booklet from the famed "Lakota, Sanborn & Adams Resorts" on North Twin Lake:

For you consideration in deciding upon a place to spend your summer outing, we offer this descriptive booklet of the Lakota, Sanborn and Adams Resorts, located five miles from Conover, in the heart of the famous lake region of Northern Wisconsin, a night's ride from Chicago.

We spare no effort to make you comfortable. Our accommodations are of the best.

Every year we add to the little details that mean so much to one seeking an ideal vacation place. Our beds, our cottages, our table, our magnificent forest reserve, our boats, our special trips to the nearby fishing grounds and our desire at all times to see you well please, mean as much to use as to you, because we realize that a vacation, to be properly enjoyed, must have this careful attention from the management.



Resort buildings comprise a two and one half story main building and fifteen cottages and we are always building more. The hotel has single and double bedrooms, and we have cottages with three, five and six rooms. The grounds include a mile of continuous lake frontage, all timbered with hardwood, balsam and pine, with high banks and an excellent bathing beach, affording the finest bathing facilities. Our forest reserve is one of Nature's beauty spots with numerous trails leading through its quiet solitude. We make our own maple syrup, raise our own vegetables and from our herd of twelve to twenty head of cattle, supply our own dairy products as well as some of our fresh meats. We have an abundance of blueberries, blackberries and raspberries on our own premises. We have a club house with a real home-like atmosphere. A large fireplace adds to the cheerfulness of the equipment, making it a comfortable place for the women folks to gather and spend many enjoyable hours. It makes an ideal place for dancing parties and other special activities of our guests.



North and South Twin Lakes hold the record for average large size musky fishing. Catches from these waters have take first prize for the last three years. September and October are the best months. These lake also contain good pike, small and large mouth bass. Pioneer Lake, three miles from Lakota has bass and pike and we keep two boats there on our own camping grounds.

Rates: Per day, \$4.00; per week, \$25.00, according to rooms and cottages. Garage rent, 50 cents a day. Guides per day is \$4.00. They are all licensed and can cook a good meal on any trip. Boats for detachable motors at \$1.00 per day. Launch for hire; also automobile for special trips to nearby lakes and special points of interest. All trips charged by mileage. This section has excellent roads under stand and county supervision.

Auto and truck fees, \$1.00 per person. Trunks and heavy baggage from station extra. We meet guests at Conover, on the Ashland division of the Chicago and North Western Railway. Mail received daily.

LARSON'S RESORT

Larson's Resort was started by Andrew Leard and was a rough, old-fashioned lumber camp. Robert Thurston purchased this property in 1902. He was born in the province of Ontario, Canada in 1861. At 16 years of age, he came to the U.S., working in the woods near

Big Rapids, Michigan. In 1891, he went to Rhinelander where he had a log contract with Brown and Robbin Company. Married to Margaret Colling from Wausau, the Thurstons had an adopted girl, Dorothy. Hadley B. Larson and Seward Grinde bought this resort in 1913. Mr. Larson came from Chicago, attended school in Iowa, followed the printer's trade, and later selling printing machinery and supplies. He was married in 1898 to Marie Fleisner. The good country food

at the resort became well known.

Seward Grinde, DDS, was born in DeForest, Wisconsin and graduated from dental college of Northwestern University in 1904. He practiced in Chicago until 1913 and in the winter months at DeForest until 1916. There were twelve cottages and accommodations for sixty people. Guests lived in cabins but dined in the log dining room in a casual atmosphere. Publicity during that time read as follows:

"Fishing in the lakes and hunting in the adjoining woods rarely fails to fill your creels and game bags. There are Muskellunge, small mouth bass, walleyed pike and pickerel in the lakes, and deer and game birds in the forests. A circuit of nine large lakes are within easy reach of the resort, and experienced guides who know 'where the big ones live' are waiting for you and are trustworthy and good companions ... "

One character who was found at the resort for many years was Daddy Ellz. Mr. E. Ellz had troubles galore in his younger days and found much comfort in this part of the country. He made lifelong friends of the Larsons and Dr. Grinde. He became caretaker for the resort, and lived by himself from fall to spring. The Van Wies, Freeman and Thelma, ran the Wyandotte Farm at Conover. This resort was a steady customer of Wyandotte and the prices may interest you.... Fryers were sold at 8 cents per pound, eggs were 18 cents a dozen, cream at 20 cents a quart, milk was 8 cents a quart and butter was just 20 cents a pound.

- Larson's Resort was a member of the Big Woods Resort Association and also Wisconsin Motor Association. They sold to Camp Ramah, a camp for Jewish girls and boys. Camp Ramah is one of the largest Hebrew Camps in the United States. The grounds and buildings since, have been enlarged and expanded. In 1962, Thelma Van Wie wrote this: "Mr. Van Wie and I have the pleasure of calling square dances there every summer. We enjoy many of the Hebrew dances, which they are always very pleased to show us. They sing and chant for their dances. Last year their total population for the camp was over 2,000 including the help. The gates are guarded going into the camp."

STORY OF DENTON GENERATIONS

Albert A. Denton was born near Grand Rapids, Michigan June 18, 1847. He received his education in the Michigan Public Schools, married in 1879, and homesteaded in Houghton

were he engaged in lumbering. His father built the first logging railroad in Michigan. In 1880, Albert sold his Houghton property and moved to Saginaw. After a trip through Central America looking for valuable timber, he came to Eagle River. Having traveled through much of the



State of Wisconsin on a cruising trip before, he decided to settle here. He built the Denton house which he conducted for several years. Later, Denton spent three years as a Cruiser in Minnesota locating government land. He returned to Eagle River where he became a land broker and timber estimator. He worked with such concerns as Sanborn and Company, Menasha Woodenware Company and various pulp mills; going to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and parts of Canada. A lifelong Democrat, Denton held many public offices. He owned a 360 acre farm in Conover which his only son Louis farmed. The history of this family goes back to Revolutionary days. The great-grandfather of Louis was a British soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War against the colonists. Upon the surrender of Cornwallis to Washington, he made this country his home. In 1902, he married Sarah Morgan from Eagle River. They had four children: Gertrude, Albert, Milo and Glendale.



For over twenty-six years, Denton operated the farm and also during these years, he devoted much time to timber cruising for large lumber interests. He was known as a hunting and fishing guide. For fifteen years, he served as town clerk. Head of the election Board for many years, this was a day he thoroughly enjoyed.

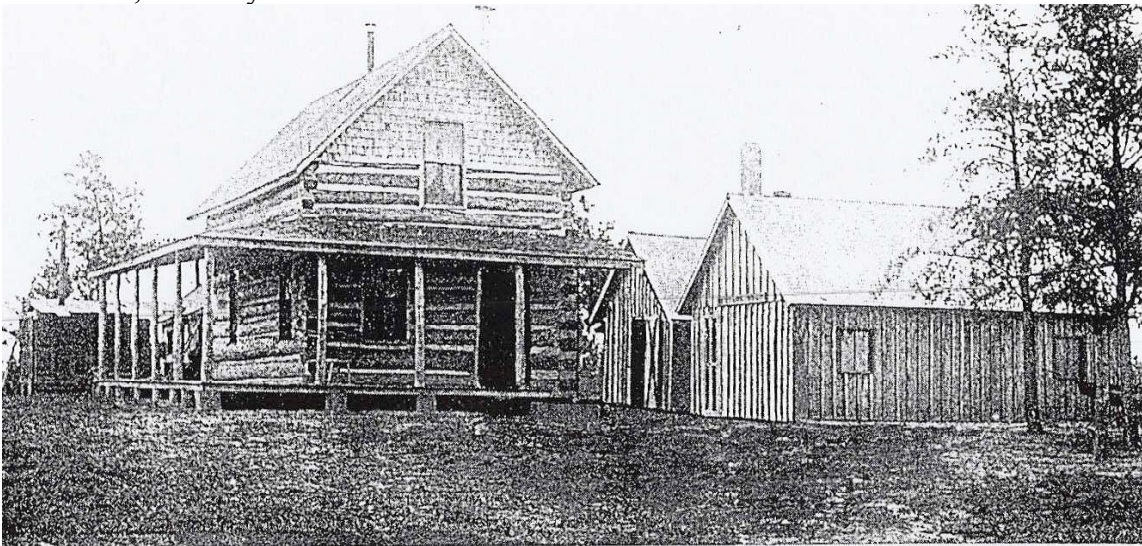
Louis Denton's sons continued in the wood working business. They built a shop at

Stormy Lake and made souvenirs of native wood, mostly birch. They too, traveled throughout the same areas as did their father, but not as cruisers -- but selling their products to gift and novelty shops. Business grew, and Glenn, with his wife Edith, decided to establish a gift shop in the village of Conover. Constructed of log siding, treated to keep its natural wood color, the shop is well known throughout the area. Milo and Isla Denton have a woodworking shop on Highway 45 in town where they make many of the wooden gift and souvenirs. Albert Denton also was a caretaker for many people around the Stormy Lake Area. The love, recognition and feel of good wood in their wood handicraft, has been handed down thru the generations of the Denton Family.

POET OF THE PINES

Enos F. Hayward, Conover's Poet, was born in Iowa in 1866. At the age of 19, he started traveling, selling garment-cutting machines and teaching garment-cutting. He followed this line for twenty-seven years, with a territory extending from the Ohio River to the Pacific Coast. During his travels, Hayward made a collection of Indian relics, specimens of mineral ore and other curiosities, which finally amounted to 37,500 pieces. This collection can be seen now in the lobby of the State Bank at Fayette, Iowa.

In 1901, Mr. Hayward became interested in the wilds of Northern



Wisconsin. He homesteaded 80 acres on State Highway 32 (later to be known as US Highway 45). His nearest neighbor was 22 miles away in Michigan. In this quiet atmosphere, he received inspiration for his writings. Included in his work, a novel in 1904 "Two Bits"; 1914 "Philosophy of Rhymes"; and 1922, "Poems in the Northwoods."

The farm at Conover was named Haymeadow, since that creek runs through his property. He had a log cabin chinked with white plaster. An open porch surrounded one side and end. A well built stalwart man, proud of the wave in his hair, with a whole mouth of gold teeth, he made many friends. He was very definite in his views and enjoyed conversation. His last home was on Stormy Lake, where he was a good friend of the Louis Denton Family.



Enos F. Hayward
Poet of the Pines – Haymeadow Farm

DAVID MENELEE, PUBLISHER OF VILAS COUNTY NEWS

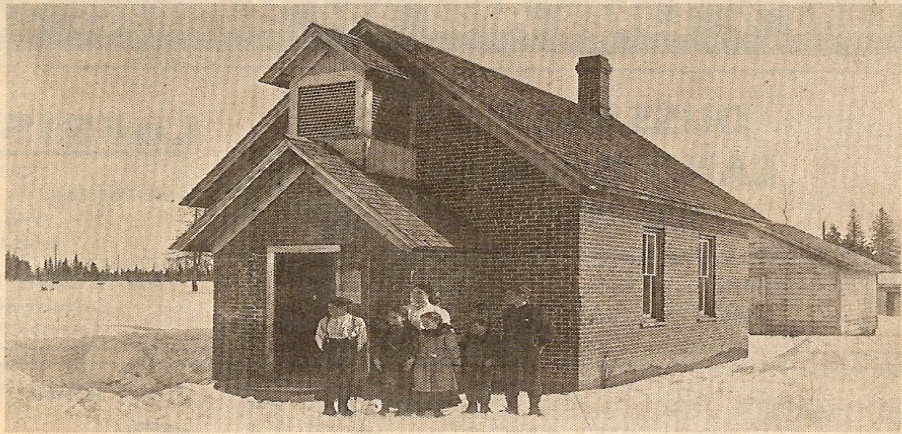
David Menefee was born in Decatur, Indiana in 1872. He was interested in reading about

the printer's trade at an early age. After high school, he became apprenticed to a printer. In 1894, he purchased half interest in the Journal at Black River Falls. He was there for six years and then acted as superintendent in print shops in such places as Oshkosh, Marshfield and Wausau. In 1907, he came to Eagle River as partner with George Rogers and began publishing the Vilas County News. After two years, Mr. Menefee bought out Mr. Roger's interests. Mr. Menefee was publisher in Eagle River for many years and was known for his impartial dealings with the public. A public spirited citizen, he was ready to lend a helping hand to movement calculated to benefit the general community. The Menefees had two children; Earl and Winnie. After his retirement, Mr. Menefee lived in a cabin West of Conover on Joyce Lake.

CONOVER SCHOOLS

One of the first schools, according to Charley Osterberg, was on the Adams Resort. This old school has been remodeled into a cabin. Alfred and Wally Adams; Charley, Esther and Gunnar Osterberg; and Gunnar Staffen were some of the pupils of that school. John Carlson brought the pupils there during the winter in a bobsleigh filled with hay, heated bricks and all kinds of warm blankets.

Turn Back the Clock
[To the year 1906]



Students attending the Conover School in 1906 pose outside with their teacher on a day that looks warm and sunny in spite of the snow on the ground. The children are, left to right, Fred Sailer, Prudence Bates, Margaret Sailer, Francis Sailer and Al Sailer. The teacher is Katie Bolte. Only Francis Sailer is still living, out of the group. The school building was constructed by Conover Brick with brick from their yard.

--Photo courtesy Francis Sailer

Additional old-time photos are requested. Please send to Turn Back the Clock, News-Review, with date and details of the picture scene. Pictures will be returned.

The School Report of 1907 lists school enrollment as 41. There were 29 boys and 12 girls. There were three schools and the school terms were 140 days. Average salary was \$45 per month for men and \$40 per month for women. The school board that year was Ed Lamon, President; Theodore Christenson, Vice-President; and C. H. Johnson, Secretary. Schools were built in each locality - one room - and were named for the area or the people they served. They were named and built in the order as follows: Conover, Monheim, Reed, Pioneer and Tamarack. The schools and their teachers played a big part in the life of the community. Many of the young women taught right out of high school with a few days of Summer Institute. Some went to South Dakota and taught a few years, returning later as qualified teachers. Following is a list of teachers at the various schools:

- 1911-12 Kate Hamacher, Myrtle Kuehne, Signe Hoy,
Laurence Kuehn and Jeanette Johnson
- 1913 Doris Emmons, Hilda Olson, Edna Hanson
- 1914 Edna Hanson, Alma Hedberg, Gertrude Stein,
Burt Balke
- 1915 Burt Balke, Edna Hermanson, Alma Hedberg,
Marion Ball
- 1917 Alice Gleason, Pauline Evertson, Edris
Donnelly and A. Anderson
- 1918 Pauline Evertson, Jennie Johnson, Jennie
Anderson and Delia Sybers
- 1919 Ruth Bennett, Bessie Augustyn, Jennie Anderson
and Jennie Johnson
- 1920 Helen Hayner, Ruth Bennett, Florence Nortwen
Jennie Anderson and Jennie Ericson
- 1921 Evelyn Gary, J. L. Davis, Florence Nortwen and
Jennie Ericson
- 1922 R. Bennett, F. Nortwen, J. L. Davis & J.
Ericson



Other teachers listed but without year were Mr. Raymond, Morton Cook, Ely Ebby, Miss Coleman, Clara Ewald, Ellen Anderson, Esther Herman, Marie Brenner, Bill Strong, Ellen Pearson Reed, Esther Kronquist, Ida Johnson, Jennie Martinson, Lucy Kukanich, Exzeld Robida, Anna Gudegast, May Kaiser, Helen Larson, Beda Bergman, Donna Wilcox, Miss Lakenzie and Laura Oberholtzer. County Superintendents were Alex Higgins from 1892-1902, Ella O'Leary from 1903-1904, Grant Cook 1904-1915, A. J. Austin 1915-1939, Opal Wiegand 1939-1944 and John Matson from 1944 to sometime after the mid 1950's.

The Red Brick School of Conover burned and in 1922, a new school was constructed. Teachers in order were: Mabel Turiff (Mabel Osterberg), Esther Johnson, Elsie Wiegand (Elsie Nortwen), Edna Laumer, Rose Nichols, Donna Wilcox, and Ingrid Ericson. Salary was \$40 per month with \$5 for janitor work. Term was 8 months. The year 1935 was a great year for the educational system of Conover. Efforts of the School Board and towns people were at long last realized with the consolidation of all one-room schools into two rooms. The day of the one-room school was past. It must be mentioned that the Christmas Programs presented in these schools were something to behold. Everyone from the pre-schooler through eighth grade had a "part." Curtains of sheets and stage furniture borrowed from homes, made these performances something to remember.

Alfred Johnson served the schools as main bus driver. A dinner in his honor in 1960 was a great surprise to him. Teachers in the new two-room school are presented as follows: Ingrid Ericson, Robert Gaffney, Ruth Johnson, Ole Rismon, Miss St. Louis, Jean Kroon, Blanche Hanson, Joe Albrecht, Florence Hedberg, Mr. Schoe, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Schabell, Mr. Gurian, Gladys Schmall, Ramona Oldenburg, Ann May, Helen Wilmot, Dora Crass, Nell

Vogel and Thelma Van Wie.

Supervising teacher of Conover Schools for many years was Miss Beaversdoriff. She arrived on the morning train, supervised Conover until noon, walked to Monheim School for the afternoon and would walk back to Conover and stay at the hotel run by Schuyler Primley and his wife (parents of Margaret Primley Johnson). The next day, she started out on foot again until her work as finished in and around the Conover Area. Ann Christman was county nurse and she visited the school in a Model T. Conover boys have served in the armed forces. The school has a plaque which gives name of two who gave their lives in service to their country: Reynold Soquist and Russell Morecraft. Since that time, many other Conover men and women alike have served. In 1989, John Mark Price lost his life in the panama Conflict. Operation Desert Storm had many other local sons and daughters involved in like duty.

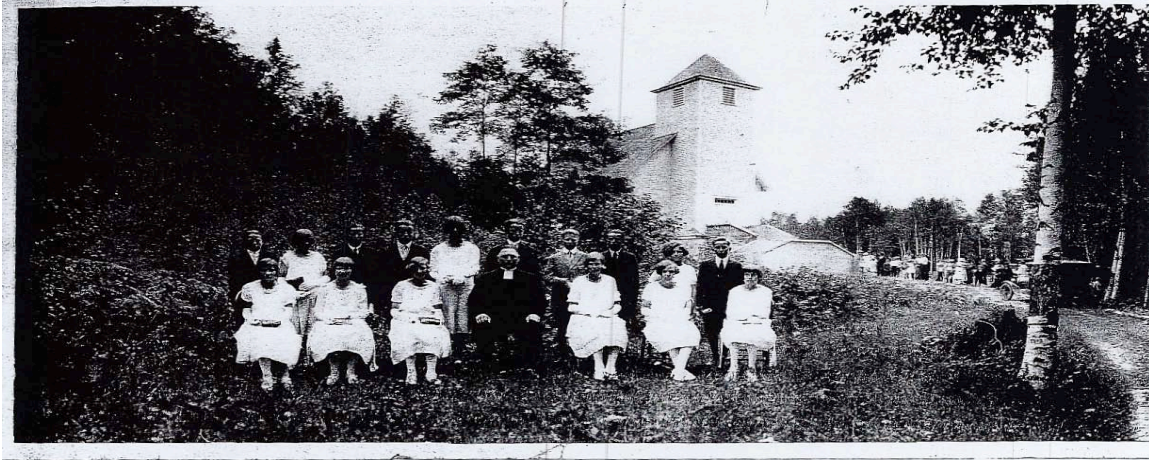
PIONEER LAKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Congregation of Conover was organized October 26, 1903 at the August Osterberg home with Rev. N. Gibson of Ironwood, Michigan as pastor. The first members were Mr. and Mrs. August Staffen, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lillund, Mr. and Mrs. August Osterberg, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Osterberg and Richard Dahl. All had offices from deacon, trustee and secretary. Services were held in the homes. A Constitution was adopted at a meeting and there were two baptisms: Hjalmer Osterberg, son of August Osterberg and Everett Osterberg, son of August Osterberg. In 1904, the



congregation applied for admission to the Augustana Synod and were accepted. Rev. J. W. Johnson of Ironwood was called as pastor and served until 1907.

Pastor A. E. Miller of Prentice visited the congregation several times in 1907; and in 1908, Pastor A. C. Landell of Rhinelander served the congregation. The first confirmed was in 1908; Jennie Johnson Ewald. Sunday School classes were held in the different school houses as were the church services. The first marriage was on April 28, 1908 when Anna Hagstrom and Richard Dahl were united.



From 1909 to 1911, Rev. W. C. Ekeberg of Bessemer served the congregation. Rev. F. E. W. Kastman made his first visit to the congregation in 1909. In 1912, Rev. G. A. Ekeberg and Rev. C. J. Silfversten held services. This was the year in which the first efforts were made in securing lots for a new church building.



The land was purchased from Matt Anderson and a new church building was begun. A building committee was formed with the following persons: August Staffen, Mike Lillund, John Carlson, Martin Thorsen, Hans Hansen and Peter Hedeén. In 1912, Rev. S. L. Wilson served as Vice-Pastor until student Theodore Hjerpe came and served until 1914. In 1915, Rev. C. J. Silfversten was called and served until 1918 when Rev. F. E. Kastman of Ironwood acted as Vice-Pastor during the years 1918 and 1919. The first organist was Bertha Swanlund. Pastor in 1920 was Walter Lindberg. In that same year, Rev. Kastman conducted the first service held in the new church although the building was far from completed. White birch boughs were placed across the window openings. When Rev. Lindberg left in 1921, Rev. Kastman filled in until Rev. E. J. Alstadt came and served until 1926.

In 1933, Sunday School was held in the church with Mrs. Peter Hedeén as first superintendent, followed with Hans Hanson. English was introduced in the evening services at this time. In 1926, a Student Pastor G. R. Grahn served during the Christmas Holidays and called as pastor later, serving until 1938.

On July 26, 1931, the church was formally dedicated with Rev. C. A. Lund, President of the Superior Conference, conducting the dedication service. Some English was introduced into the morning services that year. On November 12, 1932, the first wedding in the church united Elsie Carlson and Tore Lindberg. Rev. Albin Olson was the next pastor, serving until 1943. He held the first Midnight Christmas Service and the first Sunrise Service on Easter. Rev. Seeberg held services intermittently until Rev. William Raymond came to serve the congregation. In 1945, the name was changed to Pioneer Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. Chester served the church until 1948. Various student ministers served the congregation during the summers with the following being alternate: Rev. A. J. Berghault, Rev. Anderson,

Dr. Kenneth Andeen, Rev. Gustafson, Rev. Charles Holmgren and Rev. James Wiberg.

The church has been recipient of gifts through efforts of the choir and Ladies Aid. Individual gifts as memorials have added to the beauty of the church. The parsonage was built in 1948 by the Reed Brothers with the help of extra volunteer labor and material. First to occupy the parsonage was Chester I. Johnson and family. Golden wedding anniversaries that have been celebrated at the church are those by the following: Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Hedeon, November 3, 1928; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ericson, December 31, 1928; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson, May 1945; Mr. and Mrs. August Staffen, November 28, 1949 and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lindberg, June 2, 1951.

PIONEER LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH LADIES AID

In 1906, a meeting was held at the Hans Hanson home to organize the Ladies Aid. The first president was Mr. Hans Hanson in 1906; Mrs. Ed Goranson, 1907; Mrs. John Hagstrom Sr., 1908; Mrs. Eric Ericson, 1909; and Mrs. Hans Hanson again in 1910. Mrs. Hanson served until her tragic death in 1925 when her home was burned. Mrs. George Swanlund finished the year and served also the following year. Mrs. Oscar Johnson was president in 1927 and Mrs. Peter Hedeon became president and served through 1943. Mrs. George Dobbs, 1944; Mrs. Bert Cole, 1945; Mrs. Reuben Reed, 1946; Mrs. Ernest Heth, 1947-1948; Mrs. Walfred Anderson 1949-1950 and Mrs. Dan Jefferson 1951-1952. Others who have served were Mrs. Leonard Johnson and Mrs. Ed Hedberg.

HILDEGARD CEMETERY

In 1906, the Blue Grass Land Company donated forty acres of land to the church to be used as a cemetery and this was dedicated at the home of John Hagstrom in November 1906. The first death in the congregation was that of Hildegard Turnquist in 1908 and the cemetery was named "Hildegard Cemetery" in her memory. Several years ago, a group of people from Pioneer Lake Lutheran Church did much work on the grounds. Caretaker was Ralph Reed for many years.

PRESENTATION & DEDICATION OF THE BELL

"In Memory of Marie and August Staffen"

At the Church - 3 PM - Sunday, December 5, 1954

While reading the "Lutheran Companion," I came upon an article that I was very much interested in. This article told how the steam locomotives owned by the railroads, were taken out of service, and being replaced by the more modern diesel engine. The article went on to say that the brass bells were salvaged from the steam locomotives and were ringing in more

than 270 small churches across the land.

This article gave me an inspiration. Our church has needed a bell since the year 1919 when the first services were held in the building. But let's go back to its very humble beginning on October 26, 1903, with only nine charter members to support it.

It was hoped at that time and they prayed that the membership would increase, but after a few years, the membership decreased instead. Many times, the Pastor came to preach to only two members. There were times when they gave him their last five dollars to support their church and reaffirm their belief in Christ; fantastic as it may seem, nevertheless, it is the truth.

But every dark cloud has a silver lining - prayers were answered. Most of the members came back to the church. The membership grew steadily until it is what it is today. The last time that Dad attended services in church was on September 27, 1953, when he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of our church. At the banquet held in honor of the occasion, he was asked to say a few words. He stood by his table and this is what he said, "I won't be around here much longer, but I hope the people will support the church and carry on the good work of the Lord."

Our mother passed away on the 11th day of July this year and we wanted to get something for our church in her memory. I remembered the article I had read in the Lutheran Companion about a train bell. I expressed my desire to our family that we should try to buy a bell from the Northwestern Railway for our church in memory of our Mother. Through the efforts of my brother Edwin, who is employed by the Northwestern Railway, we were informed that we could buy a bell, so we ordered one.

It arrived about a month later. My brother Ed thoroughly cleaned and sanded it. It is a beautiful big, brass bell weighing 187 pounds. About the time the bell arrived, our Dad passed away on October 17th this year. Therefore we had the bell beautifully engraved with these words "IN MEMORY OF MARIE AND AUGUST STAFFEN, OCTOBER, 1954", a fitting tribute to our parents, who at one time, were the only two members of our church. This bell was installed in this church on the 13th day of November, 1954, and we, the family of Marie and August Staffen, are gathered here this afternoon to pray with you and present this bell to our church.

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

In 1932, the American Sunday School Association under the guidance of Rev. R. L. Twist started a Sunday School and Young People's group in the Conover Area. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Anderson assumed leadership of the growing work, which first met at the Mayo School and later at the Washington Town Hall on Sunday mornings and the Reed School in the afternoons.

Revival meetings conducted by Rev. Oscar Renberg resulted in the desire to see a church established in Conover. In May of 1932, Andrew Swanland of First Covenant Church in Rockford, IL aided in the organization and start of a pastoral search process. The name for

the new congregation was Bethel Bible Church.

The first pastor of Bethel Bible Church was Rev. Oscar Renberg. The charter members were: The Alfred Andersons, John Kroons, Victor Nelsons, John Olsons Sr., George Pitts, Oscar Renbergs, Ollie Olson, Clarence Olson, Evelyn Olson, Charles Reed, Kenneth Reed and Andrew Swanland. In 1936, the church joined the Evangelical Mission Covenant Church and continued to meet at the Washington Town Hall, Reed School and Conover Town Hall. In 1940, John and Anna Olson donated a parcel of land on the Northeast corner of Highway 45 and Church Road. Rev. Erickson served for five years, when the group moved to the Conover Town Hall for a short time. In this year, 1942, a group of interested people arranged for the purchase of the Tamarack School. It was moved on Highway 45 and Pioneer Road. The location would be the North East Corner of Highway 45 and Church Road today. During the years of World War II, ministers were difficult to obtain, so Layman C. E. Olson carried on the work. With the aid from the Covenant, they were supplied with interns to serve one year at a time and who were credited with one year of experience. During 1955, the church was moved to its present location on the West side of Highway 45.

In 1970, with the help of Rev. R. Dean Smith, the Great Lakes District Superintendent of the Evangelical Free Church, the church associated with the EFFA. In May, a young graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Rev. William Hannaford (1970-77) was called. Over the next seven years the church expanded its youth ministries to include AWANA, started a radio ministry, and built a parsonage. In 1976, the first major expansion of the old church was initiated, extending the building's sanctuary northward.

In 1978, Rev. Bryon Seashore (1978-82), a missionary from Zaire was called. An associate pastor, Tom Garasha was added in 1979. The Conover Church was instrumental in aiding a group of believers in



Minocqua area to establish an Evangelical Free Church within their community. This would be the first of three new churches started in the northwoods. Pastor Seashore returned to the mission field in 1982. Pastor Garasha became a church planter in Arizona.

In 1982, Rev. Dianel Grell (1982-86) was called as pastor. Services were started in Three Lakes in 1984, which eventually became the Three Lake EFC. During the same time, Conover's EFC began a building program that doubled the building size to include a larger sanctuary, new offices and a gym. Due to the illness and eventual death of his wife, Diane, Pastor Grell moved to California in 1986. In 1986, Rev. James Anderson (1986-89) arrived and was joined by Rev. Dean Smith who retired from the EFCA Minneapolis Office becoming Associate Pastor of Visitation and Hospitality. The first youth pastor was also called and was Dave Raquet from 1988-90. Pastor Anderson was taken on a call to a church in Kansas City in 1989 and Raquet returned to school at Trinity.

In 1990, Rev. Steven Johnson (1990-95) was called as the new senior pastor. During the next few years, the congregation continued to grow which resulted in planting a new church in St. Germain and increasing the Sunday School space. In 1994, Larry Voss was called as youth and discipleship pastor. Pastor Johnson accepted a call to a church in Colorado and Voss entered the business world. In 1995, Rev. Al Bishop was called as an interim pastor for six months. In the following year, Dr. Joseph F. Mlaker was called as senior pastor. The congregation continued to minister in the northwoods and touch the lives of many residents, both full-time and part-time vacationers. During this time, GOD had a new vision and challenge for the congregation at the Conover Ev. Free Church.

Due to excessive snow loads, the sanctuary roof trusses became over stressed and broke in March of 1997. During the next two years, the congregation began planning for the future. They developed a comprehensive long-range ministry plan, entitled "ASAP GROWTH." In 1998, a building committee was established that developed the plan for the current facility. The congregation voted in October of 1998 to begin the extensive building program. In May, they called a new youth pastor, Paul Holder, a recent graduate of Bethel College. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Labor Day 1999. After over 10,000 hours of volunteer labor and a cost of \$650,000, a new ministry center was completed. On May 29, 2000, the building was dedicated to the honor of Jesus Christ. The building provides a 400 seat sanctuary, central air-conditioning, new staff offices, canopied entryways, new fellowship hall and new library to mention a few.

LOGGING, SAWMILLS AND CONSERVATION

The first logging in Vilas County was supposedly done on the Eagle Chain of Lakes in the spring of 1856 by the firm of Fox and Helms. Helms had received an appropriation for the purpose of cutting a road from Merrill to the State Line. State Line is now party of the Land o'Lakes area. In 1878, the lumbermen of the Wisconsin Valley built a dam on the Wisconsin River at the head of the Otter Rapids.

Engelbrecht Sawmill

The same year, John Phelps erected logging camps on the bank of the Eagle River. Conover and State Line were supposed to have the best white pine stands in Northern Wisconsin. The cruisers for timber always pushed north of Eagle River into these areas because of the perfect pine. Within a mans' lifetime, this mighty stand of timber was laid low, but the tragic fact is that not more than 40 percent of the potential lumber in the forests ever reached a sawmill. The people and their government were guilty for failing to control the exploitation of a precious national resource. The timber cut in the Vilas County in 1885-1886 was 58,000,000 feet. The estimated timber cut on the Wisconsin River above Rhinelander from 1886-1887 was 108,000,000 feet.



Sawmills in the Conover area were many, including those of C. W. Johnson, Seth Swanson, Julius Strelow and Fred and Carl Engelbrecht. There were many forest fires menacing the area in the early days. At one time, everyone was digging ditches and putting their valuables in them. The smoke was dense and people were sure all would be lost. Some sent their families to other places such as Green Bay for safety. In 1928-1929, the house at the Ranger Station was erected; and in 1936, the regular station was build by the W.P.A. The forest fires subsided and blueberries also disappeared. Ray Pripps was head range for many years in the

Conover Ranger Station. The building now houses the Conover Volunteer Fire Department as well as the ambulance contracted by the Northwoods Hospital of Phelps. The fire department and ambulance personnel are all Conover residents. The fire department was formed in the mid 1980's. Since its organization, John R. Burczyk as Chief has been its organizational backbone. During the beginning years, a spring dry season and fury of fires, left Greg Bauer, a volunteer fire fighter and Town Official, paralyzed when a tree top fell upon him.

FIRST SETTLERS

The Blue Grass Land Company had much of the logging acreage in this area and sublet the logging to various companies, such as the Helms Company. After the logs were cut off, the land became much less valuable. Sanborn, Lawler and others recognized this fact. They bought up large tracts and sold farms to individuals. The story goes that they talked up this property to great lengths and during the years of 1902-1903, put on a regular drive and many of Conover's old settlers bought up from 80 to 120 acres. The land was "cheap" but this was as hard to get at this time, as five times that amount today.

We cannot forget to mention bringing his young courageous wife up to this wild country. She was a true pioneer, raising her family under many handicaps but doing the best she could with a pleasant smile for all. She said she sometimes wonders how she baked, washed, scrubbed, sewed and cared for his family as she did. She told of happy holidays spent together, when Christmas really meant "Christ" and not gifts alone. The children were pleased with one or two small taken of some kind for Christmas. She preserved for winter, the harvest from the garden, which was always good. They always managed to have lutefish for the Christmas Holidays.

Mrs. Reed related an incident of one carrying one of her babies to the Carter and Emmons store for groceries. As she started for home with the baby in one arm and groceries in another, a childless squaw came along and insisted upon carrying the baby and not the groceries. Mrs. Reed became very frightened, dropped the groceries and ran with her baby as she was very sure the squaw would have taken her child



In this interview prior to her death, Mrs. Reed mentioned how they ordered through the mail order catalogues. Mail was once a day, but there was not any rural free delivery. Mrs. Reed said it took her a while to become accustomed to living in the wilderness and tramping Indian trails, narrow two-wheel trails or the railroad track. Most of the provisions were carried in by man-power. These two pioneers lived in a small house while Mr. Reed, a carpenter, built a comfortable home. During the winters, he worked in the woods, logging large white pine. Mr. Reed got the idea of starting an apple orchard but was discouraged by the people in and around Eagle River. However, in 1905, he decided to try the experiment and set out 12 trees, adding more each year until he had an orchard of almost one hundred trees. These bore such good fruit that he took several prizes at county fairs and was often spoken of as the "Apple King" of Northern Wisconsin. He also raised strawberries successfully and had an apiary of ten swarms. He cleared 20 acres of his land by his own efforts. The Reeds helped start a school named after them and served as an officer for many years. They brought other new settlers into the area and helped them get started. As were most of their neighbors, they were members of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

In his later years. Mr. Reed devoted more time to his hobbies; one of which



was carving shapes and faces out of stone. He had a large Indian head that to this day, has been a great attraction. He also took old knurled wood and carved things from them. Always pleased to show you his display, however, not a piece would he sell.

Reading through the sketches of early settlers, it is noticeable that many were born in Finland. Conover resident Alfred Johnson explained this, saying that many of these people were children of soldiers of Sweden. Their fathers fought for the Swedish King Gustaf Adolphus. These soldiers were given parcels of land in Finland as a reward for fighting for the King. Thus, many children born in Finland were really of Swedish descent. Many who traveled in Sweden and Finland said you could always tell which nationality predominated by looking at the name on the Town Hall. If the Swedes predominated, the sign was in big bold Swedish letters; if the Finish, the opposite took place. Many names changed in America, as a boy would take his father's name and add "son" to it; thus John's son, became JOHNSON.

The early settlers all followed about the same pattern. After coming to this country, usually the mining areas, they learned about land that was much like that of their native country. It was a place to escape the hard work of the mines, they thought; but they soon found it was a big job to clear the land for farming and prepare to build. These were the days

of the deep snows. The least snowfall expected was 112 inches. Drifts were many and fence posts could not be found. The summer and fall were busy laying in supplies for the hard winter, plus canning, salting and drying foods. Early roads were the tote and log roads. The military road went through in 1872 from Fort Howard to Fort Wilkins; the Wausau and North State Line Road in 1861; and Northwestern Railroad in 1883.

"MET DEATH IN FLAMES"

The following is a reprint from the May 24th, 1925 issue of the Vilas County News:

Mrs. Hans Hanson, Town of Conover
Cremated When Farm Home Burns

During an early morning fire Sunday, Mrs. Hans Hanson perished in one of the upper rooms of the farm home while trying to escape from the burning building. Her body was not found until after the building was entirely demolished, being discovered in the basement where it had fallen from the upper story. It was so badly burned that very little remained of the body. The Hanson home is located near Pioneer Lake in the Town of Conover.



The fire was discovered by Mrs. Hanson about 3:30 in the morning of Sunday. Her screams awoke her husband and her son and wife in the room adjoining on the second floor. Flames and dense smoke filled the rooms of the second floor where the two couples were sleeping. Mr. Hanson assisted his wife out of the room, and started down stairs. He was

caught in a blast of flame and fell, rolling down the stairway to the lower floor. Imagining Mrs. Hanson following, he rushed outside, but immediately found her missing. Placing a ladder to the second story, Mr. Hanson attempted to enter the hall and save his wife. In this he was unsuccessful, the flames in the meantime having mounted to the second floor and an entry was utterly impossible.

Gustav, the son and the wife occupied a room adjoining the father and mother on the second floor. When his mother awoke them, both were almost overcome by the smoke which filled the room. Mrs. Gustav Hanson was unconscious from the smoke and her husband carried her to a window and dropped her to the ground. Luckily she fell upon a pile of potato screens which broke her fall and escaped bodily injury except a cut from broken glass on the back of her head. Both the father and son received bad burns in the attempting to save Mrs. Hanson. Mr. Hanson is very badly burned on the shoulders and arms and his face and head is a mass of blisters and contusions. None of the three are in serious condition.

It was not until a number of hours later that the body of the unfortunate woman was found. Very little was left, except the stomach which had not been destroyed. An outline of the body could be seen in the ashes in the basement where the body had landed from the upper floor when the building collapsed. Mrs. Hanson had just returned home Saturday evening from the home of her daughter and there had been no fire in the house since the supper hour. The fire seemed to have started somewhere on the ground floor, the blaze and smoke filling the upper rooms where the family was sleeping. In the tragic death of Mrs. Hanson, the entire county offers its sympathy to the stricken husband and other members of the family.

Mrs. Hans Hanson, ne Fredericka Swanlund, was born in Wasa, Finland sixty-four years ago. In 1893 she married Hans Hanson and their home until they moved to Conover eighteen years ago was up at Ashland and Ironwood. Eighteen years ago they settled upon their present farm in the Pioneer district of the Town of Conover and have spent those years in comfort and happiness with their family and neighboring relatives and friends. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, and their daughters, Bertha (Mrs. George Swanlund) Caroline (Mrs. Robert Anderson) and son Gustav, who operated the farm with his father. Mrs. Axel Carlson of the Sundsten district southwest of Eagle River is a sister, while several brothers reside in Minnesota.

Mrs. Hanson was a lovable woman and her home ties were his main object in life. She was prominent in the church circles and her friends were only numbered by the boundaries of her acquaintance. Even in her tragic death she will leave a monument to the family and neighbors remaining of the love a helpmate and mother bore her family.

The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock from the Lutheran Church at Pioneer Lake; internment to follow in the Conover Cemetery.

WISCONSIN RIVER

The beginning of the Wisconsin River is at Lac Vieux Desert North of Conover. A plaque

was placed there by the Vilas County Historical Society. In 1952, the Federal government arranged funds for a historical society. These funds were available through a local organization. The VCHS was organized with George C. Dobbs as the treasurer. Besides the plaque, a parking space and trailway was built. Further down the river along Highway 45, a camping site was erected and another historic plaque set up. If you have not seen these markers, it would be interesting to do so.

There is beautiful scenery and wild life that can be seen from a canoe while journeying down the historic Wisconsin River. As the Wisconsin River continues its flow to the Mississippi, in the Town of Conover, five other rivers flow into it: namely, Haymeadow, Muskrat, Pioneer, Tamarack and Buckatabon. The Buckatabon Creek at one time, took logs to the Wisconsin River in the Spring after the logs were landed on the Buckatabon Lake during the winter. In the year 1907, the railroad built a spur track south of Conover and to the West of where the Soquist place is now on the South side of the Wisconsin River. A log loading ramp was built there. This had two endless chains with prongs every four feet. These chains ran into the river and took the logs up on a platform as high as the top of a loaded log railroad car. This was driven with a steam engine fired by coal. The men would push the logs on the chain in the river and then roll them from the hoist platform into the railroad cars. They could load 20 cars in a day. There was a boom across the river to keep logs from floating down river. The cook would get his grocery order to the store; Mr. Dobbs would put the groceries on a flat car and the train crew would take them to their camp. This was discontinued in 1914.

FOREST AND TREES

As settlers cleared land, fires got away and large areas were burned over. The State had no funds for fire protection. However, in 1919, George C. Dobbs was made fire warden for six years. They sent a box containing shovels, axes and water cans with pumps and hoses to carry on one's back and also gave some money through authority from the game warden.

Some property was leased from Dobbs to the State in 1928. The Ranger Station house was built with John Wilcox as forest ranger. The State bought the land and with WPA help, built the block building which to this day, is the home of the trucks and equipment of the Conover Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance operating under contract with the Northwoods Hospital.

People cooperated very well with the state fire program. Soon the problem of fires was under control. The Conover School Forest South of Conover on Highway 45 was begun in 1932. By the year 1939, the tree planting program was really underway. Today, our forests are protected and growing rapidly under the direct control of the Department of Forestry.

EARLY SETTLERS

ADAMS, WILLIAM was born in Garbenheim, Germany, September 5, 1857. Educated in Germany, he came to the U. S. in 1875, locating first in New York City. After working in the summer resorts in New York State, he went

to Reedsburg Wisconsin where he followed the trade of a brewer for a year. Mr. Adams purchased Lakota Resort in 1903. He was married November 29, 1882 to Augusta Leiderback of Milwaukee. To their home, six children were born: William, Cora, Alfred, Olga, Theodore and Waldemar.

ANDERSON, FRANK was born in Sweden on November 19, 1870. He was reared and educated in Sweden and came to the United States in the Spring of 1888. He first settled in Polk County Nebraska where he worked on farms for five years and then moved to Minneapolis where 25 years were spent with the Twin City Rapid Transit Company. Anderson came to Conover on April 28, 1915 and began farming. Mr. Anderson was married on May 18, 1894 to Miss Carrie Olson. He and his wife had two children: Antoinette and Robert, but Antoinette who was a teacher in the Conover Schools, was taken by death in 1919. The Anderson farm was sold after the Anderson's death to Victor Olson. Robert Anderson remained at home and assisted in the farm operation until 1920 when he rented an 80 acre farm and purchased it in 1922 from August Osterberg. He married Caroline Hanson, daughter of Hans and Fredericka (Swanlund) Hanson on March 19, 1919. They had two children: Hazel and Dorothy.

ANDERSON, WILLIAM was born in Wasa Len, Finland, July 4, 1877 and came to Ironwood in 1895 where he worked as a carpenter in the mines. He was married to Lena Bickman on January 26, 1901. In 1916, his family came to live on his 40 acre tract of land which he bought in 1903. He added another 80 acres, building a home. There were seven children: Walfred, Edwin, Esther, Gladys (Larson), Siegfried, Ragnar and Ruth. He was a member of the Runeberg Society.

BLOHM, CHARLES P. was born of German parentage in Indiana in 1865. In 1902 he came to Conover as a dairy farmer and well-driller. Later he sold the farm to devote all his time to well-drilling. He helped organize the town and was the first chairman for three years. For 14 years, he served on the School Board, was assessor for 5 years and postmaster for 8 years. In 1922, he was elected sheriff of Vilas County. To his first marriage, there were three children and to his second, there were eight children.

CARLSON, JOHN was born in Finland on January 4, 1868. Educated in Finland, he came to

the U.S. in 1888. He worked in a Gogebic lumber camp in Bessemer. In 1904, he settled in Section 12. He belonged to the Modern Woodman and Runeberg Society. Married April 22, 1893 to Mary Gaffs of Bessemer, there were four children: Arvid, Elsie (Lindberg), Lilly and Myrtle. The first Mrs. Carlson died and he was married to Mrs. Anna Lillrose on June 5, 1915. The family were members of the Lutheran Church, which Mr. Carlson helped organize. The farm was sold at his death and since, the house has burned.

CHRISTIANSON, THEODORE was born in Finland February 1, 1865, coming to the U.S. in 1888. He also worked in Gogebic logging area and the Bessemer mines. Anna Clark, who was born in Finland, became his wife. They had seven children, two dying while quite young. Those surviving were: John, Arthur, Clarence, Cecelia and Florence.

DENTON, LOUIS [See story of Denton Generations]

EKLUND, CARL was born in Finland, as was his wife. They bought a piece of land in Conover and raised their family of six children. Mr. Eklund worked in the mines during the winter and farmed in the summer. Much of the farm produce was sold to cottages and resorts. Mrs. Eklund related how she took one of her children on a toboggan to Conover and by train to Eagle River to the doctor all alone. She arrived home in the middle of the night with a sick child to care for an entire month. The Eklunds were members of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

ENGELBRECHT, FRED came to Conover in 1903 and moved his family here in 1917. Born in Germany September 30, 1863, he came to America at the age of seven. He moved from Minneapolis to Conover and bought a large tract of land west of Conover where he built a farm. He had been a building contractor as well as a supervisor of brick making. Mr. Engelbrecht built the Old Soldiers Home at Buffalo Gap in the Black Hills out of pure sandstone. He worked for the Northwestern Railroad, building homes as the railroad was moving into and thru the Black Hills. He owned two ranches in the West. Fred Engelbrecht received his education in the German School of Iowa City. He married Clara Hier. They had two children: Adele and Carl. The daughter, Adele Carlson lived on the homestead as did her brother Carl for many years. Carl was Chairman of the Town for several terms.

ERICKSON, J. ERICK was born in Finland May 3, 1857 and was educated there also. He came to the U. S. in 1883, locating at Ishpeming. He worked in the woods and mines. He returned to Finland but stayed a short time. He worked in lumber camps in Shell Lake, then in the mines in Ironwood. In 1908, he came to Conover, Section 23, purchasing an 80 acre

plot. He sold his dairy produce to the fox ranches around him. Mr. Erickson was married December 31, 1878 to Marie Fredericka Ingo, who was also a native of Finland. They had a family of ten: Edna, John, Edward, August, Erick, Sigrid, Edith, Bernard, Edwin and Gertrude. They were members of the Pioneer Lake Church.

GORANSON, EDWARD settled near Conover on an 80 acre plot. There were four children: Albert, Vera, Oscar and Clarence. This has been another active pioneer family in the affairs of the community. They too were Pioneer Church members.



HANSON, HANS was born in Denmark on March 6, 1871. With the loss of his father just after birth, Hans grew to manhood in Denmark under his mother's care until the age of 18. In 1889, both came to Ashland where three of his brothers were residing. They worked on the breakwater from Parishville to Washburn and then moved to Ironwood in 1892 where soon after, his mother died. In 1907 he came to Conover and settled with his wife Fredericka Swanlund who he married in Ashland on December 26, 1893. In 1910, he was appointed foreman of road construction for Vilas County. They had four children: Bertha, (Mrs. George Swanlund), Gustav who was active manager of the home farm; Caroline, wife of Robert Anderson and Carl who died.

HEDBERG, DANIEL was born in Sweden on December 9, 1872, coming to his country in 1891. He settled in Ironwood where he worked in the mines. He purchased 80 acres in Section 22 in 1908, working it as a farm in the summer and then in the mines during the winter. There were nine in the family: Alma, Erick, Harry, Florence, Clarence, Evelyn,

Martin, Edwin and Alice. Many of the family live near Conover. Alma and Harry lived on the original homestead until it was sold to the Chambers.

HEDEEN, EMIL AND PETER moved to Conover in 1907. Peter Hedeem Sr. was a native of Sweden and followed the trade of a shoemaker until 1893. Peter was born on December 15, 1882 and Emil on May 31, 1885. Coming to the U.S., they lived in Nebraska and Minnesota before purchasing a 160 acre plot in Section 21. In 1919, the land was divided between the two sons. Peter married Edith Akelund on June 3, 1922 and had two children: John and Betty. Both held many responsible offices in the community. Emil's farm was sold and Peter's farm was owned by his daughter for many years.

HETH, ERNEST was born at Fort Atkinson on December 21, 1887. He followed the toolmaker's trade and then came to Conover in 1913, buying 74 acres of wild land along the shore of Little Twin Lake. He had 1000 feet of lake frontage and his resort became well known in this area. Mr. Heth married Vera Goranson on December 23, 1914 and Mrs. Heth assisted him in the management of the resort. They were active members of the Pioneer Lake Church.

JOHNSON, C. H. was born in Sweden in 1873, coming to the farms of Minnesota in 1881. Arriving in Conover in 1904, he developed Sunnyside Oak Farm. Johnson rented the general store which later became Dobbs Bros. in 1906. Another enterprise was the operation of a sawmill on Pioneer Lake. The first Town Clerk, he also served as Clerk of Conover's School District and for many years as the Town Treasurer. Married to Bessie Houli, there were six children. One of his daughters was Mrs. Leonard Johnson, wife of a long-time rural route carrier for the Conover Post Office.

JOHNSON, ERICK was born in Vora Finland and married Ann Bertals, also from Finland. They came to Cedar River for a while but then went to Bessemer Michigan where he worked in the mines. He bought 80 acres in Conover working the fields during the summer and logging the forests during the winter months. He worked with Ed Martinson in the sawmill at Lac du Flambeau. They had a family of eight children: Jennie, Edwin, Ann, Esther, Edith, Alfred and Elsie. Quite a few of Mr. Johnson's family, still live around Conover.

JOHNSON, JACOB was born in Wasa Finland on October 1, 1863. Coming to the United States in 1888, his first job was at Crystal Falls. He married Mary Olain on August 15, 1896 and had a family of four: Ellen, Emil, Hilder and Esther. His 76 acres of land were in Section 25. Active in community, he served on the Town Board and was a leader in the Pioneer Lake Church.

JOHNSON, JOHN W. was born in Sweden on July 12, 1875 and came to Minnesota in 1896. He worked on farms and did logging in the woods. When he came to Conover in 1907,

he had to chop a road from the farm to the Conover-Eagle River Tote Road in order to give access to the farm. His success with his garden was known by all his neighbors. He helped build many miles of road in his locality. His religion was based on following the "Golden Rule."

JOHNSON, PETER named his 80 acre farm "White Birch Grove Farm." He was born in Sweden on June 13, 1853 and entered the U. S. in 1884. He worked on the railroad in Aurora Illinois and later worked in the mines. He married Johanna Lundin on November 8, 1890 and had a family of six: Helda, Jennie, Carl, Oscar, Lawrence and Eleanor.

LILLUND, MIKE was born in Finland on February 18, 1870, served in the Standing Army of that country and located in Bessemer in 1896. In 1903, he moved to Section 12, had the first silo on a farm in this area and was a stockholder in the Eagle River Creamery and Produce Company. His first wife, Reka Dahl passed away November 16, 1908 leaving three children: Einar, Herbert and Ellen. He married Lizzie Asplund and raised the following children: Alice, Edwin, Edna and Eugene. The farm is now owned by son Eugene and family.

LINDBERG, AXEL bought his land in 1903 and cleared the land to move his family in which he did in April of 1912. There were five children: Tore, Halvor, Amelia, Ruth and Milton. Tore and Amelia returned to Conover in later years. Tore's daughter did operate Dentons Sport and Gift Shop and the son of Amelia (Jensen) operates Jensen Hardware and Appliance in Conover.

MARTINSON, EDWARD was born in Finland as was his wife, the former Lisa Bertals. They settled on an 80 acre farm, which is currently occupied by the wife of his son, Emil. Ed Martinson worked at a sawmill in Lac du Flambeau for quite a few years and also worked in the woods. Never too busy to take a public job, he was respected throughout the community. Members of the Pioneer Church, there were five children: Edwin, Emil, Esther, Jennie and Mildred. Son Emil was assessor for the Town of Conover for many years. Many of the children and grandchildren live near the homestead.

NORTWEN, ANDREW was born in Sweden in 1864, coming to America in 1889. In 1904, he bought 80 acres in Section 22. During the winters, he worked in the mines. Through much effort, a good farm was developed. Married in 1889 to Ida Erickson, there were four children: Nancy, Ellen, Arthur and Florence. Art has always lived in Conover and served as Postmaster for many years. Florence taught school in early days.

OLSON, JOHN came to Conover in 1913 from Iron Mountain. Born in Sweden on August 16, 1863, he spent years in the gold fields of California and Alaska. The Olsons raised a

family of seven (three were Mrs. Olson's sisters): Ernest, Oscar, Axel, Ellen, Ollie, Clarence and Evelyn. Mrs. Olson, living with her daughter, Evelyn Olson Pearson, tells it was not an easy task clearing the land and making a home. They had a plum and apple orchard as well as strawberries. The family took a large part in establishing the Swedish Covenant Church. Many family members remain in the Conover Area.

OSTERBERG, ALFRED was born in Wasa Finland, October 12, 1867. In 1893, he came to Dollar Bay Michigan where he worked in the rolling mills for four years. Before coming to Conover in 1902, he worked in the mines in Montreal Wisconsin. During the winter, he worked for Hackley Bonnell Company and resort owners during the summer. He married Marie Freming in Wasa Finland and they raised eight children: Einar, Esther, Charlie, Severin, Ed, Hjalmar, Nesley and Hulda. Esther took care of her father until his death and she left the old farm home to a grand niece, Mrs. Leslie Farrell.

OSTERBERG, GUST also settled in a Section of the Monheim District. Born in Finland, he came to Conover from Carey, independent way of living.

PITTS, GEORGE recalls coming to the Conover property in 1928 when he was just 8 years of age. They came here from Chicago and his mother, Mrs. Pitts had her brother John Kroon living here and also her cousin Edith Hedeon. Highway 26 was the main road (all dirt). They came to Conover by train and spend many happy times here. George Pitts attended the Reed School and then Eagle River. He worked for some 5 years at the Curtis Food Market in Eagle River before going to Belvidere/Rockford area. Kroon Road today goes to the Pitts property on top of the hill.

PRIMLEY, SCHUYLER was born in Ireland and he worked in the logging camps of this area. At one time, he was caretaker for Enos Hayward, the poet. He and his wife Anna, operated the Conover Hotel for some years; and later he was janitor for the school and town hall. They raised the following family: Dorothy, Bob, Juanita, Margaret, James and Donald. "Grandma and Grandpa" Primley were known and loved by several generations of Conover's young people. Mrs. Primley lived in Conover for many years thereafter next door to her daughter Margaret who is Mrs. Ray Johnson, former owners of Dobbs or Ray's Red Owl Store.



RADKE, FRED was born in Sheboygan Wisconsin in 1876. He came to this area and bought a resort on Buckatabon Lake. Mrs. Radke died at an early age, leaving a daughter and three sons: Viola, Elmer, Gilbert and Glenn. Mr. Radke sold his resort in 1942 to Hans Christensen from Illinois. He then moved to a cabin on Buckatabon Road and became tender for the dam on Buckatabon Creek for the Wisconsin Valley Company for about eight years. He died in 1952.

REED, CHARLES P. was born in Sweden July 25, 1873 and came to America in 1893. Married to Helen Anderson of Rockford, there were ten children: Ray, Reuben, Eldo, Simon, Amelia, Lawrence, Malcolm, Anna, Waldo and Irene. Brother Gust Reed also settled in Conover.

RUSH, MILTON D. better known as "Buck Rush," came here from Peru Indiana in 1904. He settled on the North shore of Buckatabon Lake where he did farming. He also enjoyed fishing and trapping. When he came to the store with a check, he would say he forgot his glasses, therefore, could not see to endorse his check. I later found out that he was unable to read or write, but he did have a very good memory. Mr. Rush had a horse and an Indian pony named Jack that had a very long and bushy tail. He would let the horses out and they would go into the lake to drink. One day, he saw the fish jumping for Jack's tail, so he got an idea and the very next day, he tied some fish hooks to the pony's tail and when he called the pony, here came Jack with three nice walleye pike hanging on to its tail.

SANBECK, PETER was born in Norway in 1877, educated in Sweden and came to the United States in 1887. After working in the mines of Ironwood, he went to Idaho where he followed the same work. Married May 11, 1894 to Josephine Anderson from Sweden, there were two daughters: Anna and Mabel. Anna married George Dobbs and Mabel owned and operated Milady's Beauty Shop in Eagle River for many years. Sanbeck settled on 100 acres of wild cutover land in 1909. He served as supervisor of the town and also chairman of the Town for a period of three years.

SOQUIST, ALBERT was born in Sweden and came to Conover in 1917 with his wife Martha. They settled on a farm in the Tamarack District and Mr. Soquist was a well known carpenter in the area. Children of this family were: Helen, Alvin, Mary, Reynold, Wilhelm, Eleanor and Dorothy. Mrs. Soquist passed away in April of 1966 at the age of 80.

STAFFEN, AUGUST was born in Finland in 1878 and came to Michigan in 1899. Married to Marie Dahl, the young Mrs. Staffen followed her husband to the United States in 1902 with the oldest son Gunnar. Arriving at Major Farm in 1904, he set to work clearing land and erecting a log house. The children of this pioneer family are: Gunnar, Einar, Ethel, Freida, Agda and Edwin. The staffens enjoyed dancing their native dances. Active in the community, Mr. Staffen served as school director for three years and township supervisor for two years.

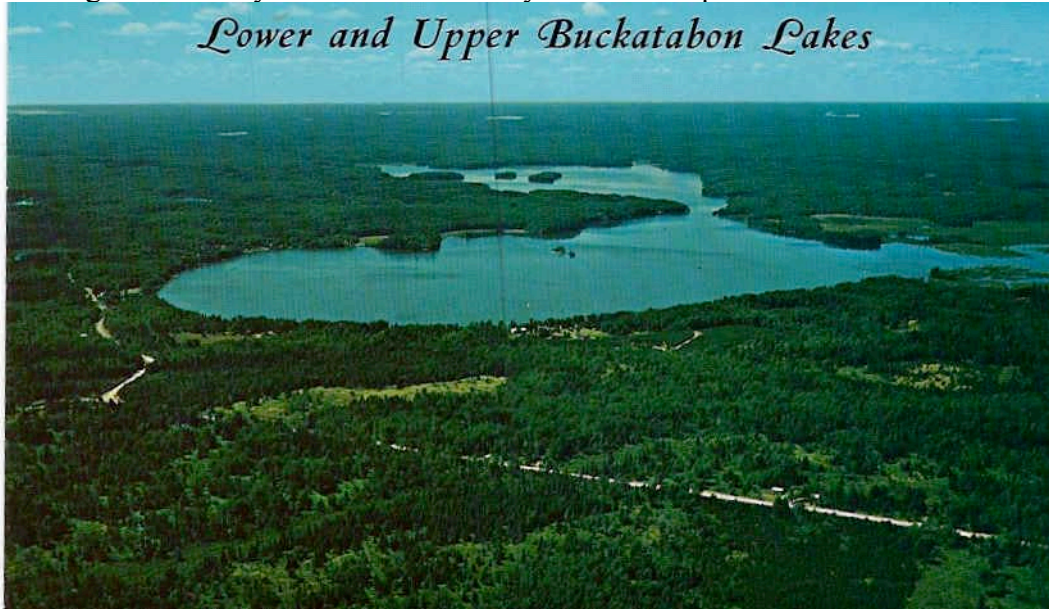


*The old farm house of August and Maria Staffen
on Monheim Road in Conover, Wisconsin*

SWANLUND, A.J. was born in Sweden on October 20, 1856, where he was reared and learned the carpenter trade. Swanlund came to the United States in 1892 and began working in the general contracting in Rockford, Illinois; doing so for thirty-five years. In 1919 he

purchased 80 acres in Vilas County in the Town of Washington. He later sold 40 acres to Alfred Anderson but with the remaining he farmed and developed a sawmill for custom sawing and produced from 50,000 to 75,000 feet of lumber every year. He also dealt in draft horses. He was married to Christine Olson. They had eight children: George, Fred, Mamie, Paul Raymond, Ethel, Nancy, Harold and Myrtle. George married Bertha Hanson and they had five children: Carl, Paul, Elna, Ruth and Arthur. Fred married Anna Linder and had four children: David, Paul, Leonard and Mae.

TURNQUIST J. VICTOR was another Conover resident born in Wasa Len Finland. He came to the Michigan area in 1888 at the age of 18. Working in the woods and mines until 1903, he purchased 160 acres in Section 25 dividing it with Erick Erickson. He returned to the Ironwood mines in 1913 but returned to his property in 1921 for general farming and carpenter work. Married in 1898 to Ella Erickson, there were eleven children: Edith, Elsie, Victor, Felix, Werner, Walter, Edwin, Rudolph, Lloyd, Lenore and Don. Rudolph and Virginia lived on the homestead for many years and both retired from working for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America formerly called "Camp Ramah" on Buckatabon Lake.



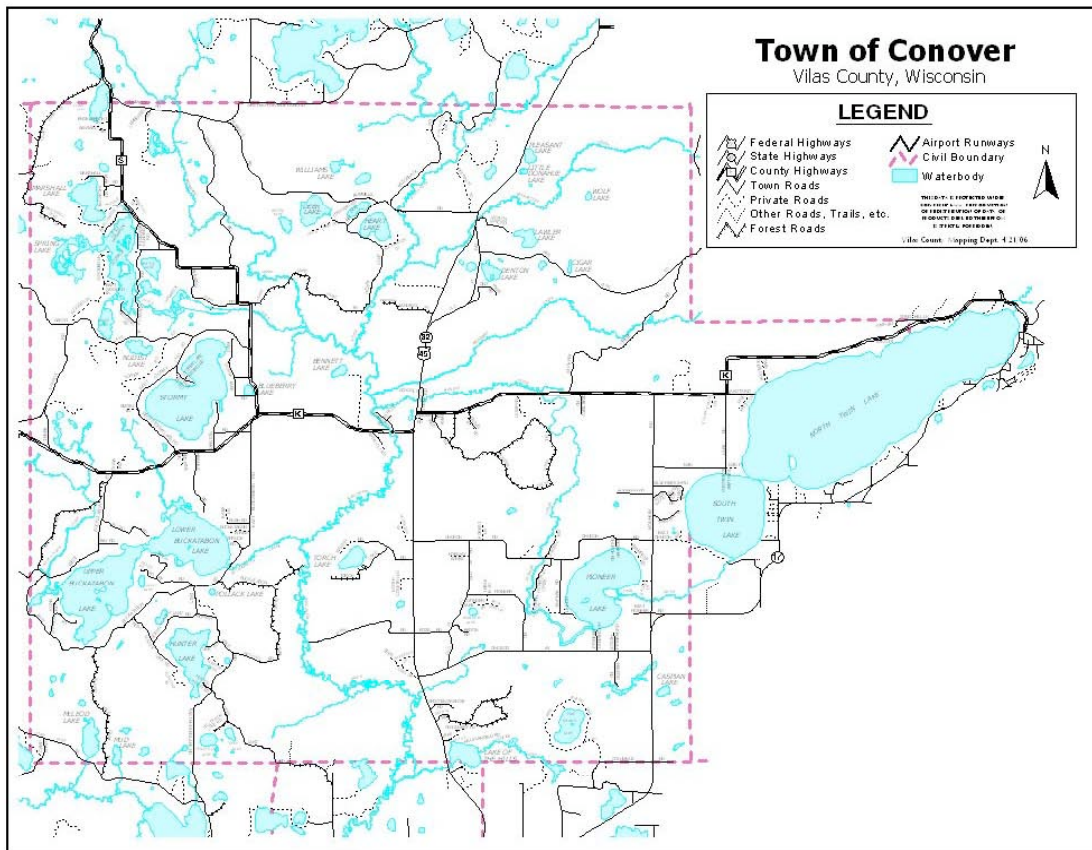
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Town of Conover

PO Box 115 – Conover 54519

Email: tconover@newnorth.net

Website: www.townofconover.com



CONOVER STATISTICS

POPULATION1260
MILES OF ROAD.....90.57

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.....2730 ACRES
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY..... 138 ACRES
AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY..... 129 ACRES
SWAMP & WASTE PROPERTY.....3674 ACRES
FOREST LAND PROPERTY.....11294 ACRES

TOTAL 17,965 ACRES

2005's Assessed Value for Town: \$2,725,567,800

Special Note: Town of Conover occupied the Elementary School and it became the "Conover Center." Town moved in on September 6, 1997.

2007 Marks Conover's 100th Birthday

Centennial Celebration

Official Sites:

www.conover.org

[and](#)

www.townofconover.com

Check out the full color tapestry for the Centennial and the Cap with the Official Centennial Logo - all on sale from the Conover Chamber. See website for details.