

EDUCATION

Just Like The Good Ole Days

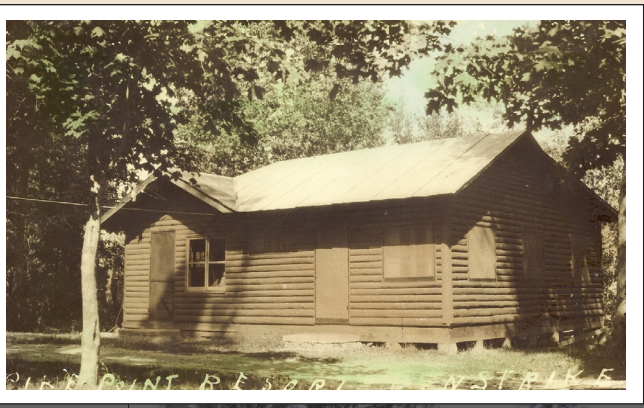
Pike Point Resort Celebrates 90th Anniversary

By Scott and Sue Springer, Pike Point Resort and Lodge



This summer, Pike Point Resort and Lodge guests will experience a bit of history as they join in celebrating the resort's 90th anniversary of continuous operation. Resort guests will have the opportunity to enjoy festivities through a variety of activities, such as: Sunday Afternoon Ice Cream Socials, Wednesday Noon Potluck Fish Fry, Ladies' Night Out - pontooning

and fishing with cane poles, weekly fishing contests, water balloon volleyball tournaments, kid's minnow races, horseshoe rally, 4th of July Celebration, live music, and hayrides.



Before the current lodge was built, what is now Cabin 5 was used as the lodge. The Richardson's used it to serve meals to loggers and farmers.



These are the first cabins built in 1923 establishing Hi's Pike Point Resort, which was the only operating resort on Gull Lake for 13 years.

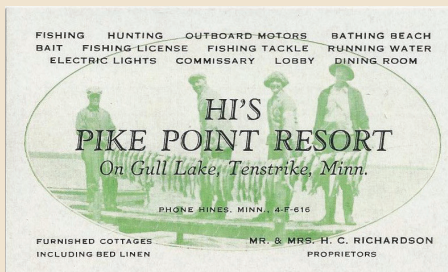
In 1939, the Richardson's built the lodge structure that is still used today. Meals were served at the lodge for as many as 75 guests at one time. It was originally built down by the lakeshore, but in the mid 70s was moved up on top of the hill and placed on footings where it sits today with modern facilities. The Richardson's cut and planed the lumber themselves, from trees on the property, for all of the cabin buildings and the lodge. They also made all the dining room tables and chairs, which are still used in Cabin 5 and furnishes the lodge's seating today.

The rich history of Pike Point Resort and Lodge begins with the purchase of approximately 80 acres and the building of the first cabin in 1923 by Hi and Ada Richardson. Located two miles west of Tenstrike, it was the only resort in operation on Gull Lake for 13 years. Every year thereafter, they added another new cabin until there were eight. Today's Cabin 5 was the original lodge built and used for serving meals to loggers and farmers.

The Richardson's had their own garden, chickens and cows. Ada canned fruits and vegetables for the meals she served. Cloth linens were used at the dinner tables and water had to be carried from the lake for washing and cleaning. Food and ice were lowered into a box in the ground to keep cold until the lodge was built. The guests would get down on their knees to get their milk and meats out of the box in the ground. An icebox was built in the new lodge for cold storage. The original icebox is still located in the lodge today.



1923 resort guests show off their fishing success with this pole full of walleye.



Cabins rented for \$3 a day, which included three meals a day and a boat. Minnows were 10 cents a dozen and boat rental was 50 cents a day. The lake was stocked from the Red Lake Hatchery and the Bemidji Hatchery, 20 cans were put into the lake each year.

Hi's Pike Point Resort's original business card with rates on the back.

Completely furnished housekeeping cabins, with boat

	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	1 week
1 Bed	\$3.50	\$7.00	\$10.50	\$14.00	\$16.50	\$18.75	\$20.00
2 Beds	5.00	9.50	14.00	17.50	21.00	23.50	25.00
3 Beds	7.00	12.50	17.50	22.50	25.00	27.50	30.00

Good Sandy Bathing Beach for Children.
Meals served at all hours, European Plan.
Month and Season Rates on Application.



Note how the Richardsons advertised their resort on the tire cover for their automobile. The original tire cover was discovered under a cabin when the Springers raised the cabin during leveling. This along with other memorabilia is on display at the resort.

Hi Richardson died in 1943 and Ada, was remarried to Galen Lapp in 1952. Ada and Galen continued to operate the resort cabins, but did not serve meals as had been done in the past. The camp was full each year with the cabins having the atmosphere of the *good ole days*. The resorters recalled using the *detachable rowboat motor* by Evinrude. That is what they were called back then. The motor was actually purchased for the resort from the Gibbons Store in Bemidji in the early 1920s for about \$50. Twenty flat bottom rowboats, hand made of pine by Hi, were still being used.

The resort changed hands a couple of times between 1973 and 1979. In 1979, Ron and Joan Yearling purchased the property. They had their work cut out for them with cabins needing work and updating. At that time there was no running water to the cabins and only two of the cabins had a sink. They modernized cabins with running water and bathroom facilities. A shower house was built with heat and hot water. Bathrooms and screened porches were added to some of the cabins. Ron passed away leaving the resort's operation to Joan to run. Being a widow and not having the talents of her husband at her side, Joan made the decision to sell the resort.



Hi Richardson was very crafty and used timber from the resort to make everything, including the flat-bottom boats, tables and chairs. The tables and chairs are still being used today in the Lodge and Cabin 5.



The original lodge was built on the lakeshore and remained in this location for 50 years until the second resort owners moved the lodge up the hill to its current location. The lodge had to be jacked up and placed on wheels in order to be relocated.



Current resort owners, Scott and Sue Springer purchased the resort January 29, 2010 and love what they are doing. They live on site in a year-round home originally built in 1923.

On January 29, 2010, Joan sold the resort to the present owners Scott and Sue Springer. The Springers are living at the resort in the remodeled original home site on the property. The first and second spring brought new floating docks to the lake with electrical hookups for the boats. Cabins began to be lifted and leveled for the comfort and safety of guests. New roofs were installed on four of the cabins by the spring of 2012. The original lodge had a make over with new bathroom, fireplace, and kitchen, as well as refinishing existing wood floors and pine walls. The RV sites now have electrical hookups, water hose bibbs and crushed concrete driveways and pads.

Scott and Sue have a vision for the resort and it includes all *those great people* who have made it what it is today; a place to bring family and friends, great fishing, enjoying outside activities, hearing plenty of laughter, gaining new friendships and building memories that will last a lifetime. Follow all of the 90th Anniversary activities in keeping with the atmosphere of the 'good ole' days on the resort's website at www.pikepointresort.com.



The Springers continue to update the resort. They added three new docks in 2012 along with many other updates.

