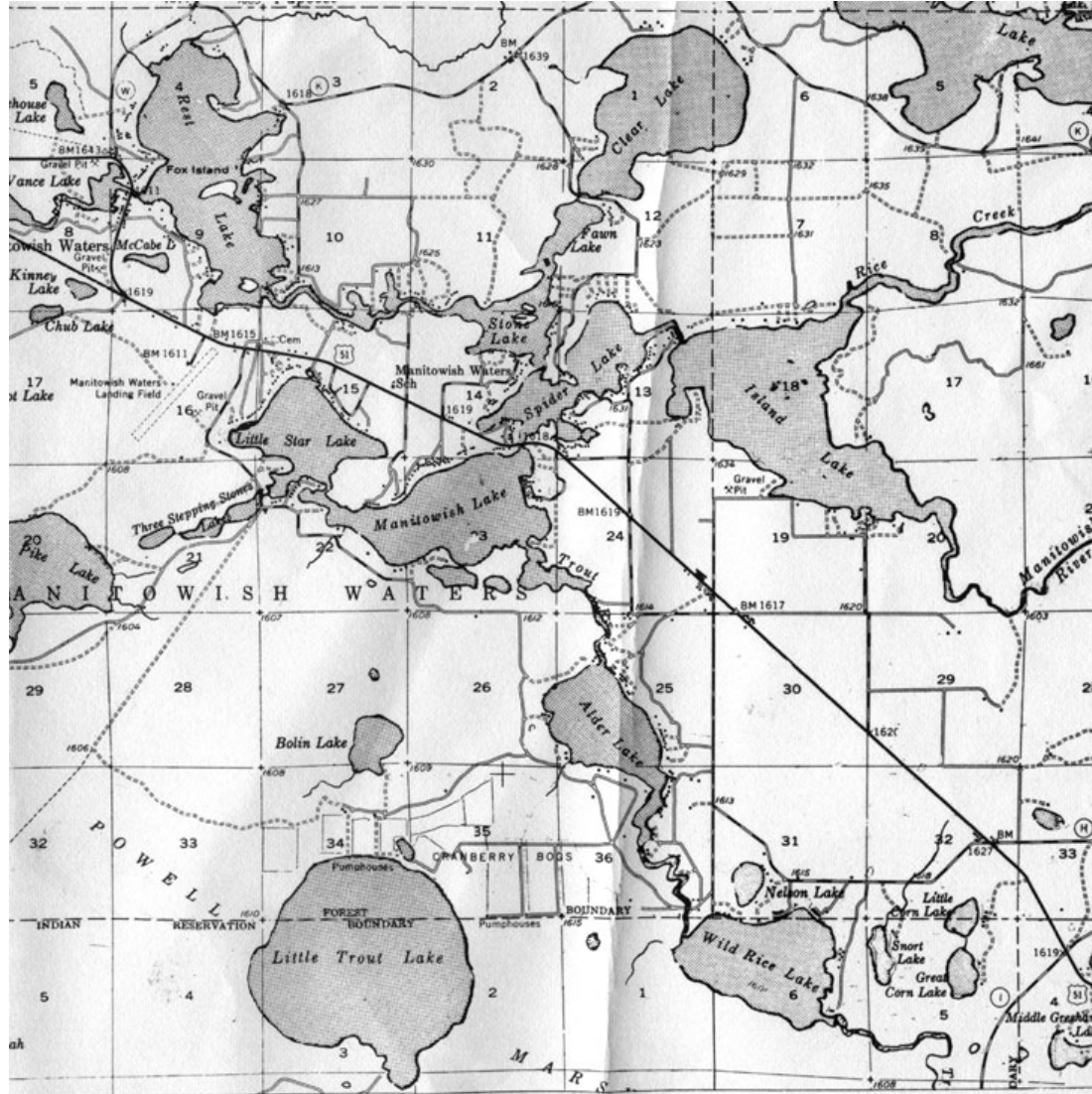
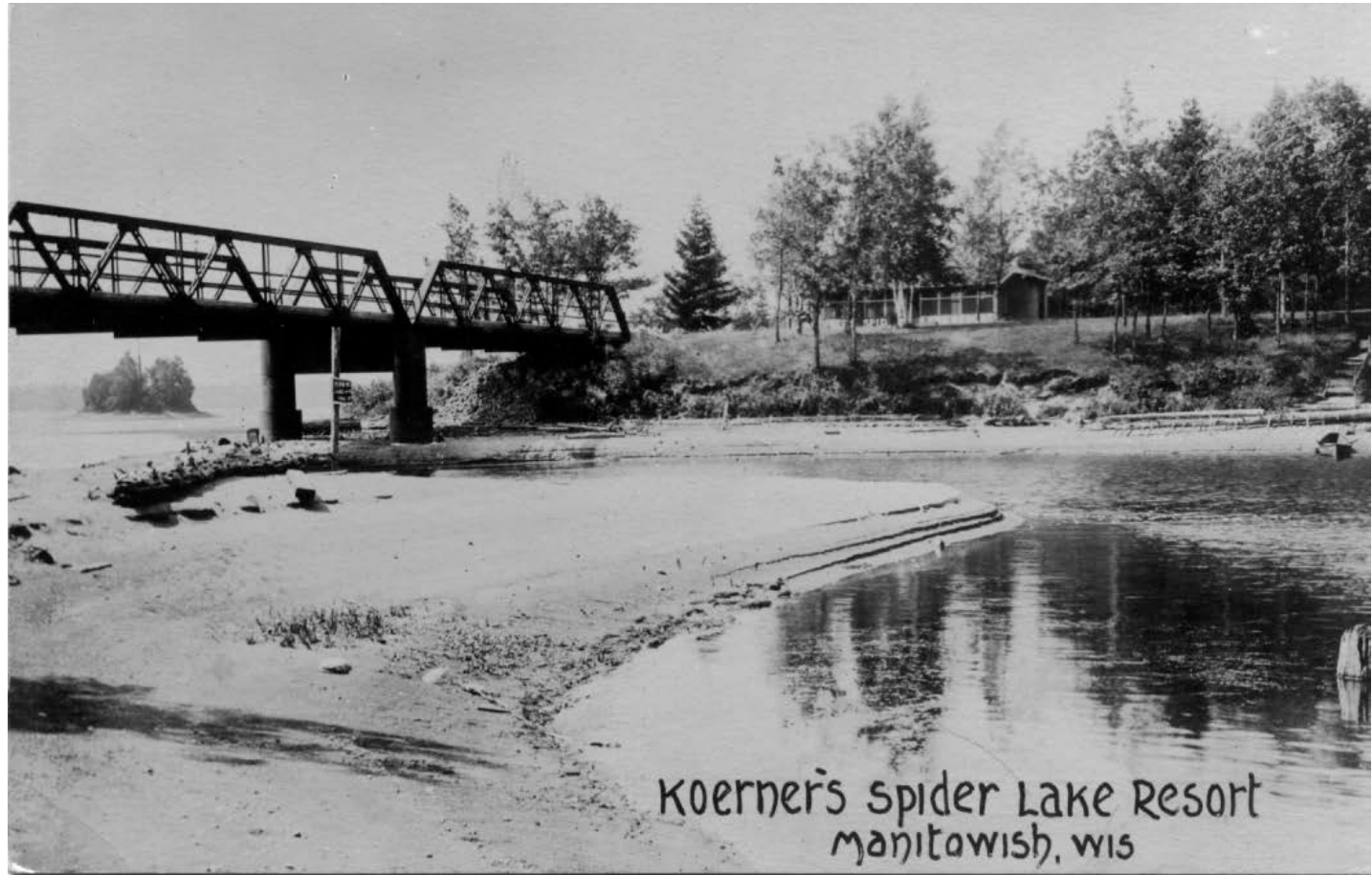


Manitowish Waters Historic Mysteries



The Manitowish Waters Historic Mystery Project will reveal unsolved mysteries from all lakes connected to the chain through the Trout and Manitowish Rivers. These mysteries continue to challenge those interested in documenting and clarifying the robust history of Manitowish Waters.

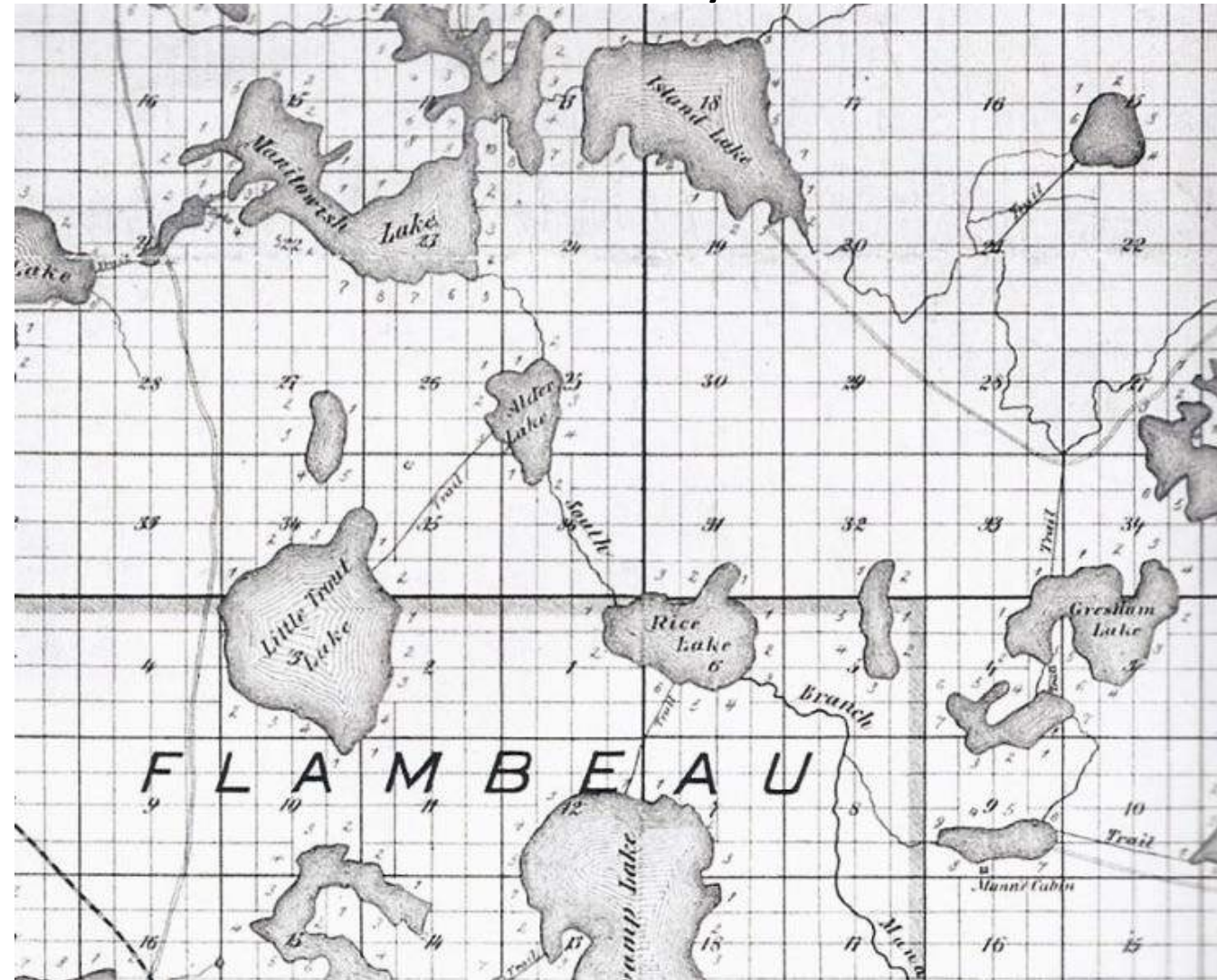


Koerner's Spider Lake Resort
Manitowish, Wis

Solving these mysteries will require additional research, collaboration, and reasoned conclusions based on our evidence. We welcome all who are interested in solving these mysteries and documenting area history to join us as we grow the Manitowish Waters Historical Society.



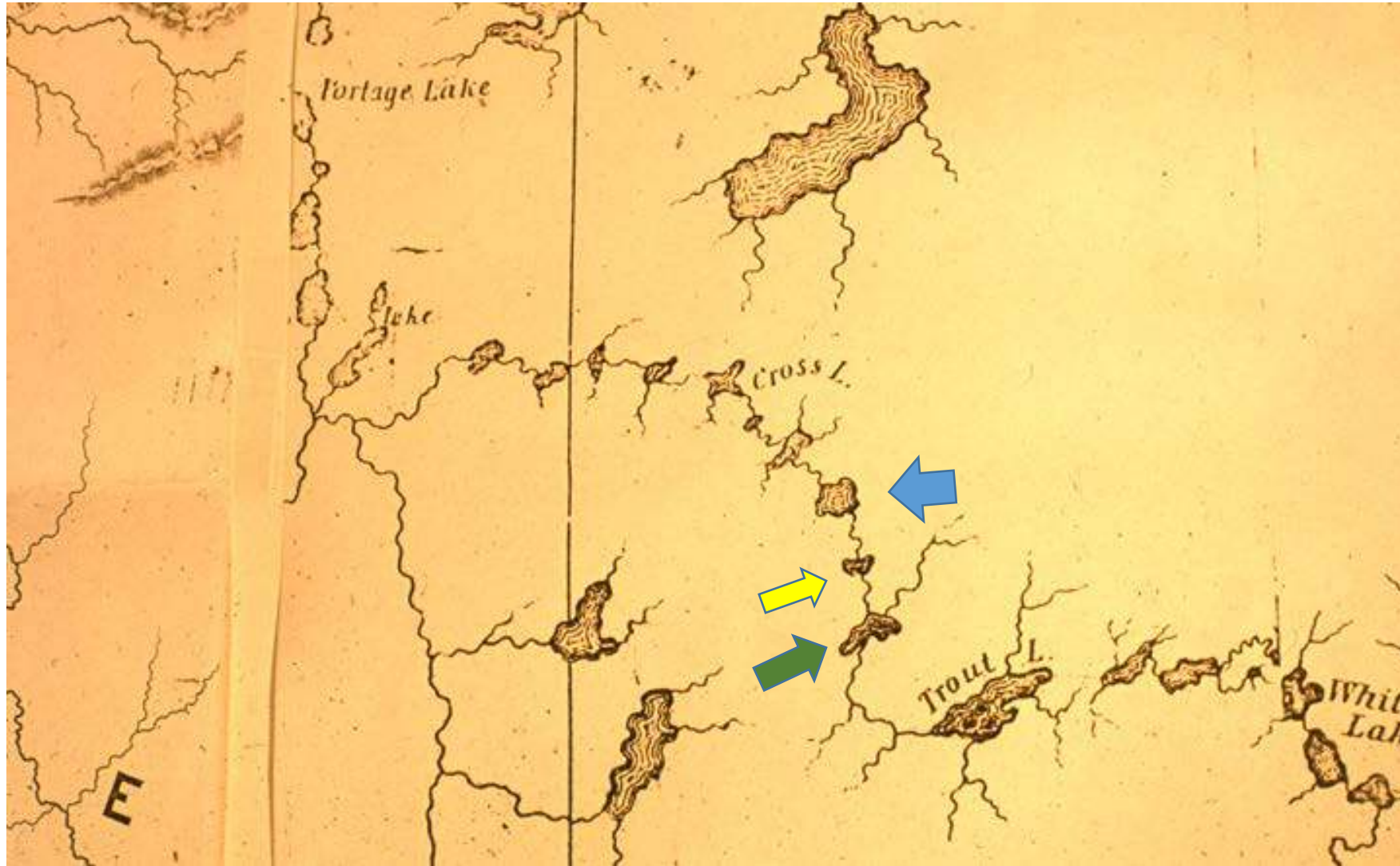
AN IDEAL LODGE IN THE WILD WOODS.



Because Manitowish Waters has a well documented early history only three lakes will be explored in the second presentation



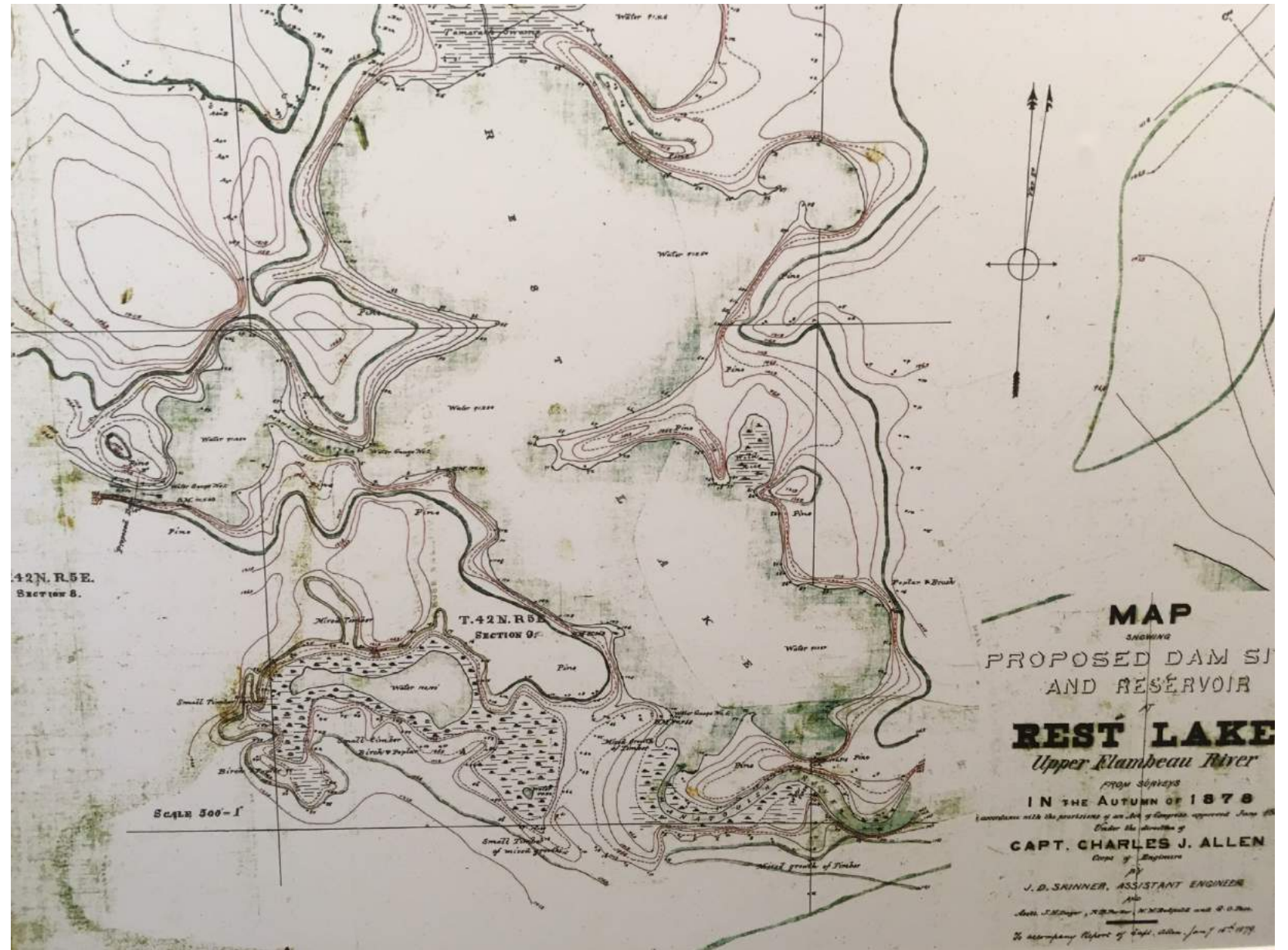
The location of Wild Rice and Alder Lakes on this 1846 map of the Manitowish Chain which is a mystery.



This 1847 map from the Owen Expedition clearly illustrates Alder and Wild Rice Lakes. An extra lake is on the map and the Ojibwe name for Alder Lake was Walopeminis.



Shortly after
1880 the first
government
sponsored dam
was created on
Rest Lake



AND RESERVOIR
AT
REST LAKE
Upper Flambeau River

FROM SURVEYS
IN THE AUTUMN OF 1878

In accordance with the provisions of an Act of Congress approved June 18th 1878

Under the direction of

CAPT. CHARLES J. ALLEN

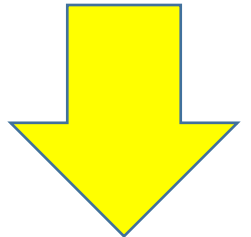
Corps of Engineers

The Rest Lake Dam was the largest on the Flambeau watershed p.1222

1222

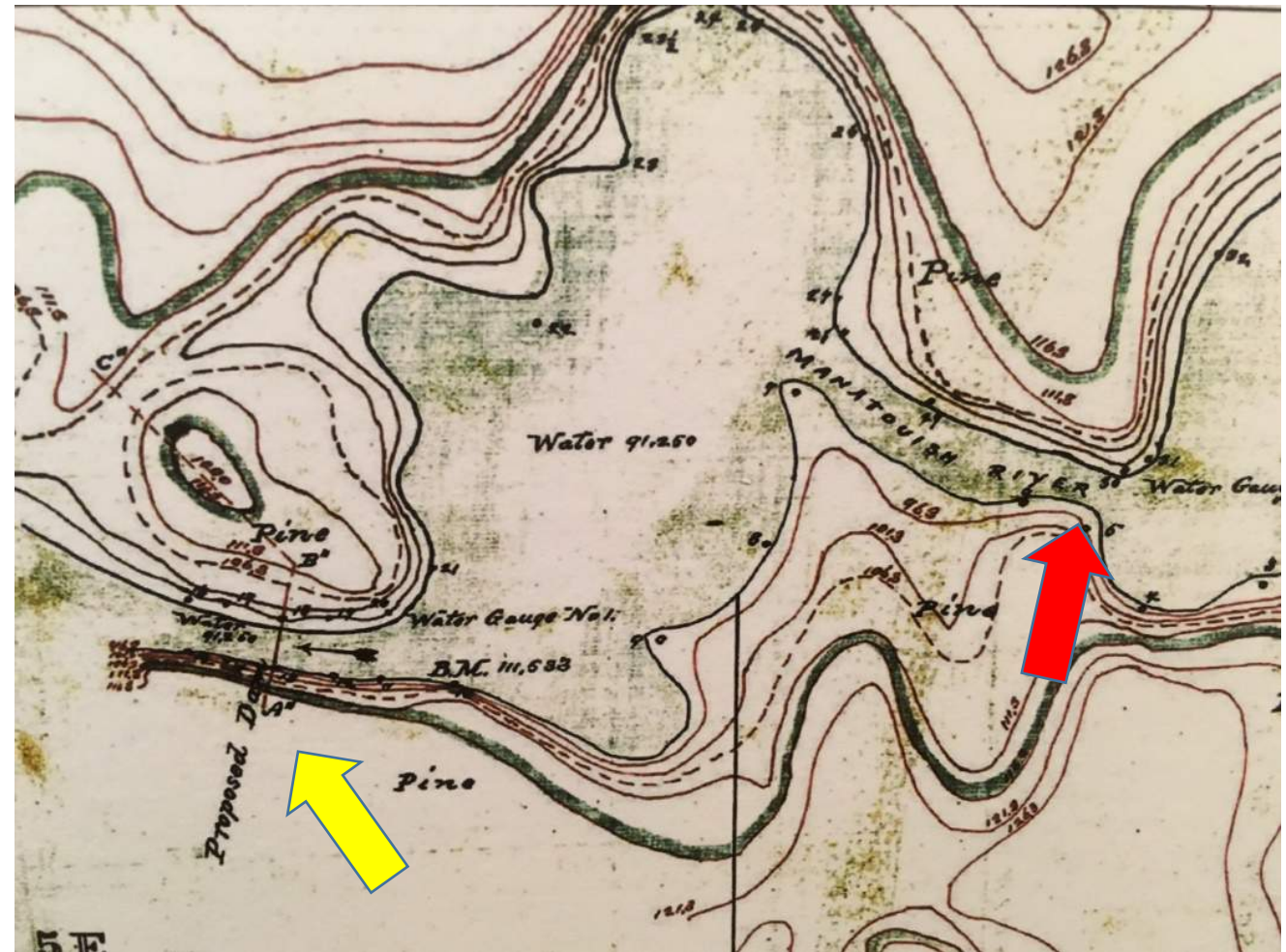
REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS.

REST LAKE RESERVOIR.

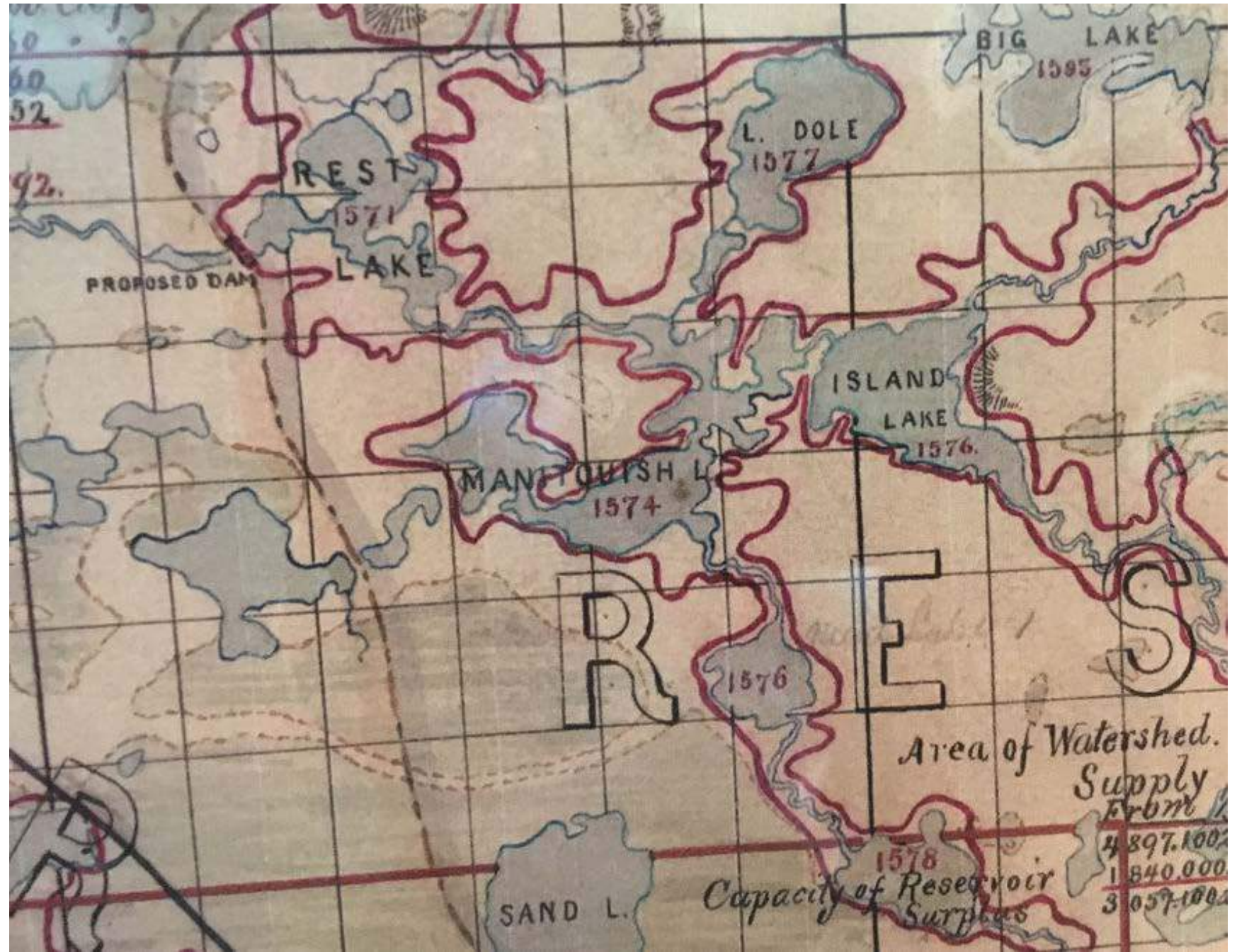


This is the most important of the three surveyed. The water can be raised 25 feet and the dam-site is an excellent one. The detail map will show its characteristics. Its capacity will exceed its supply, the former being 5,645,376,000 cubic feet, while the latter is 4,897,100,264 cubic feet. We can draw from this reservoir for a period of 90 days, per second, 730 cubic feet. The following is a recapitulation of the water that can be furnished from the three reservoirs surveyed :

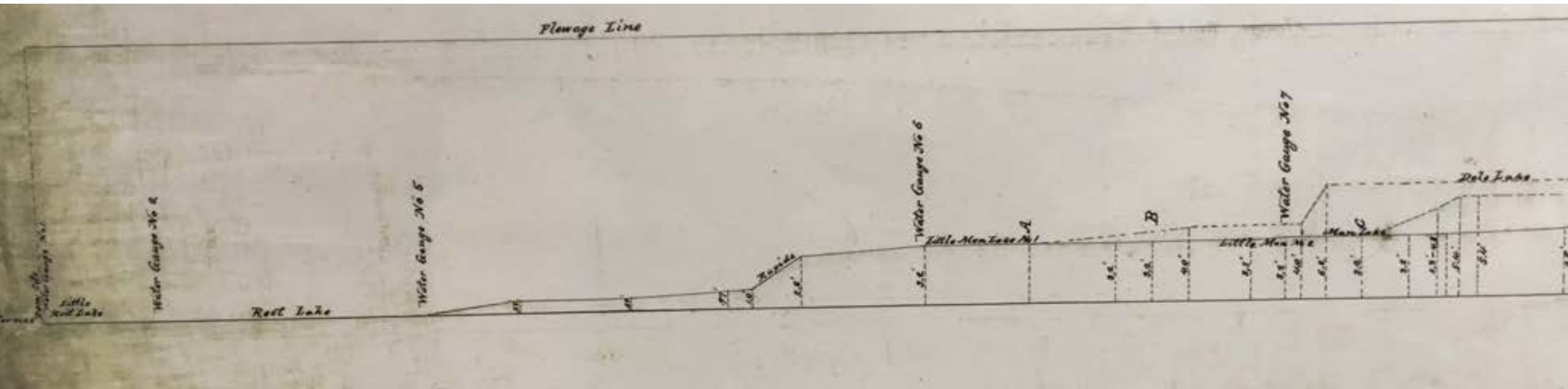
The Rest Lake dam was to be constructed on the outlet of Vance Lake in 1878 and then abruptly moved in 1880.



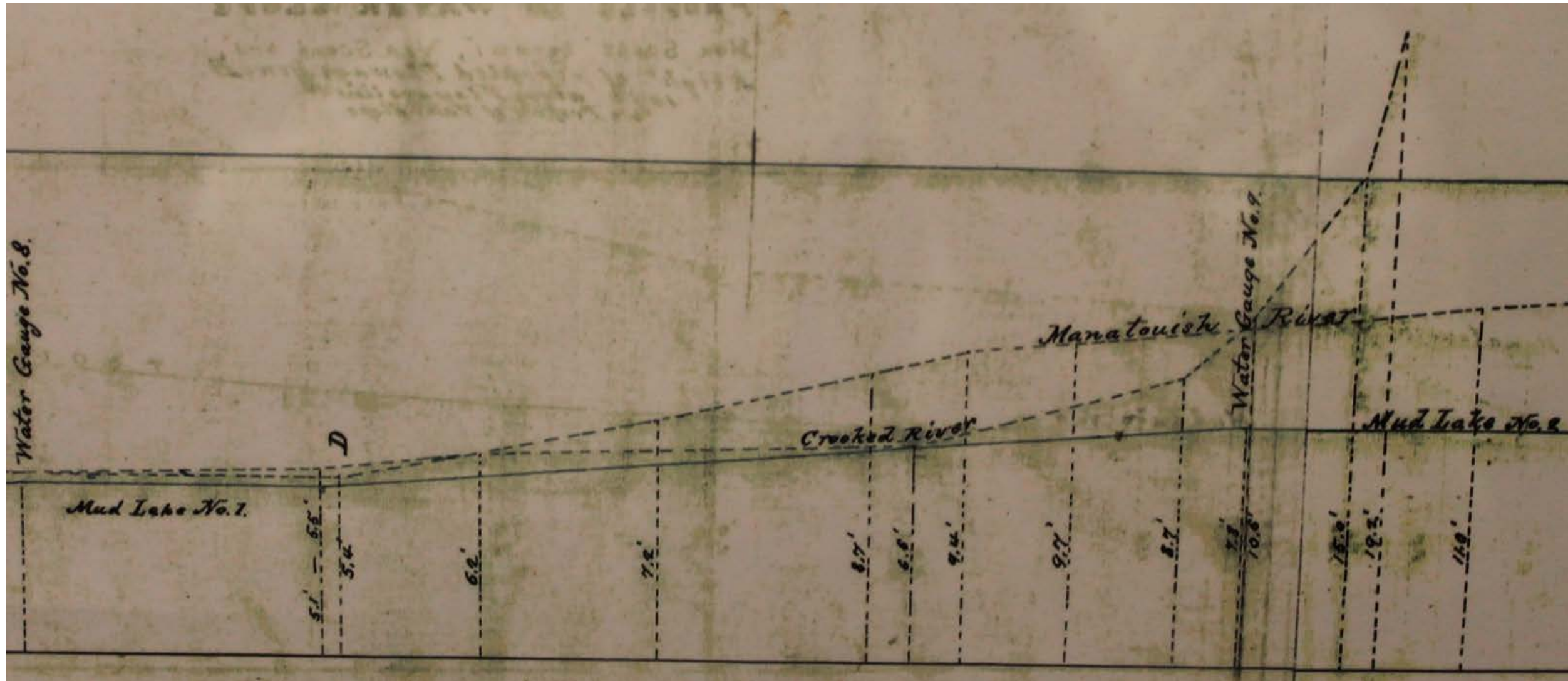
This recently discovered map solves one of the historic mysteries, because in 1878 the Army Corps of Engineers drew in red the new shore line of the 25 foot dam on Vance Lake. Would this dam have impacted your property?



The 1879 House of Representatives 45th Congress 3rd Session Doc. No. 54 also revealed the original water levels of each lake on the Manitowish chain which dramatically improves our understanding of how the lakes were impacted by the dam.



Alder (Mud Lake #1) and Wild Rice (Mud Lake #2)



Proposed 1879 Alder and Wild Rice Lake shoreline is outlined in red. The height of water from Rest Lake to:

Manitowish Lake 3.5'

Alder Lake 5.1'

Wild Rice Lake 7.3'

Little Trout Lake 11'

Likely the channels had rapids between these lakes



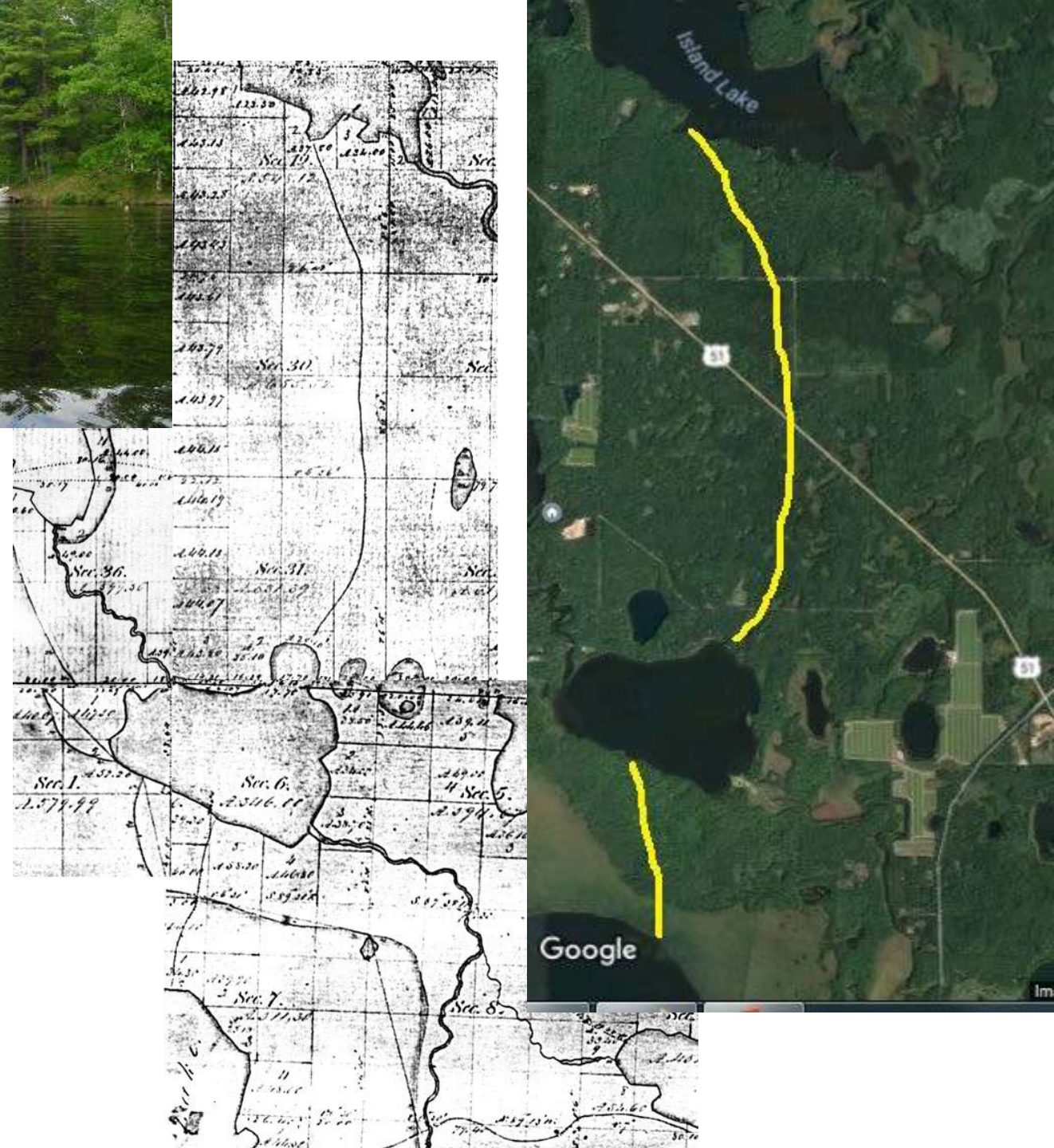
1862 original
survey map of
WildRice lake



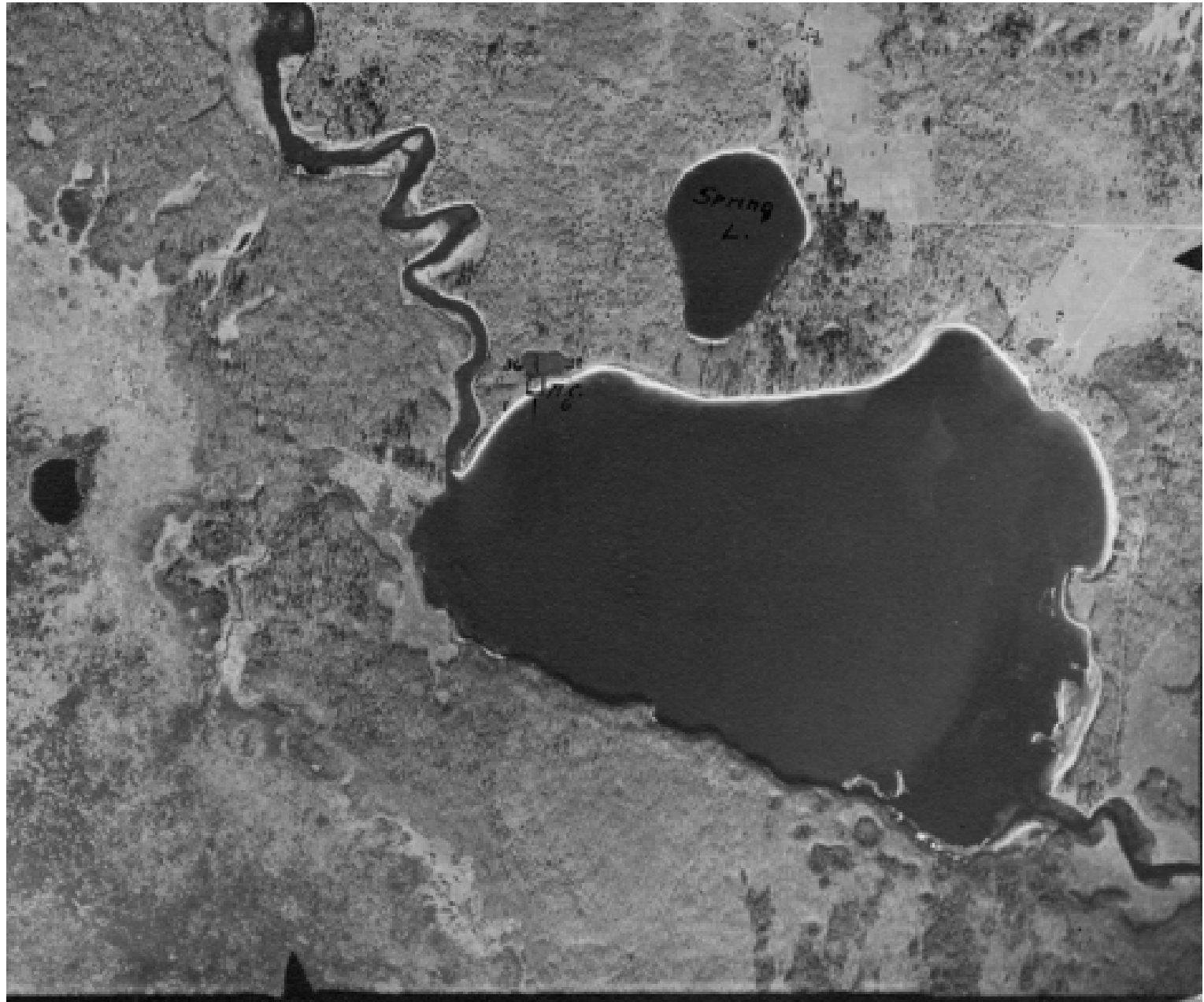
Lakeside view of
the trailhead on
Island Lake



1862 original
survey map of
Island, Wilds rice
and Ike Walton
Lakes and a
modern map
with American
Indian trails



1937 Ariel
photo of Wild
Rice Lake



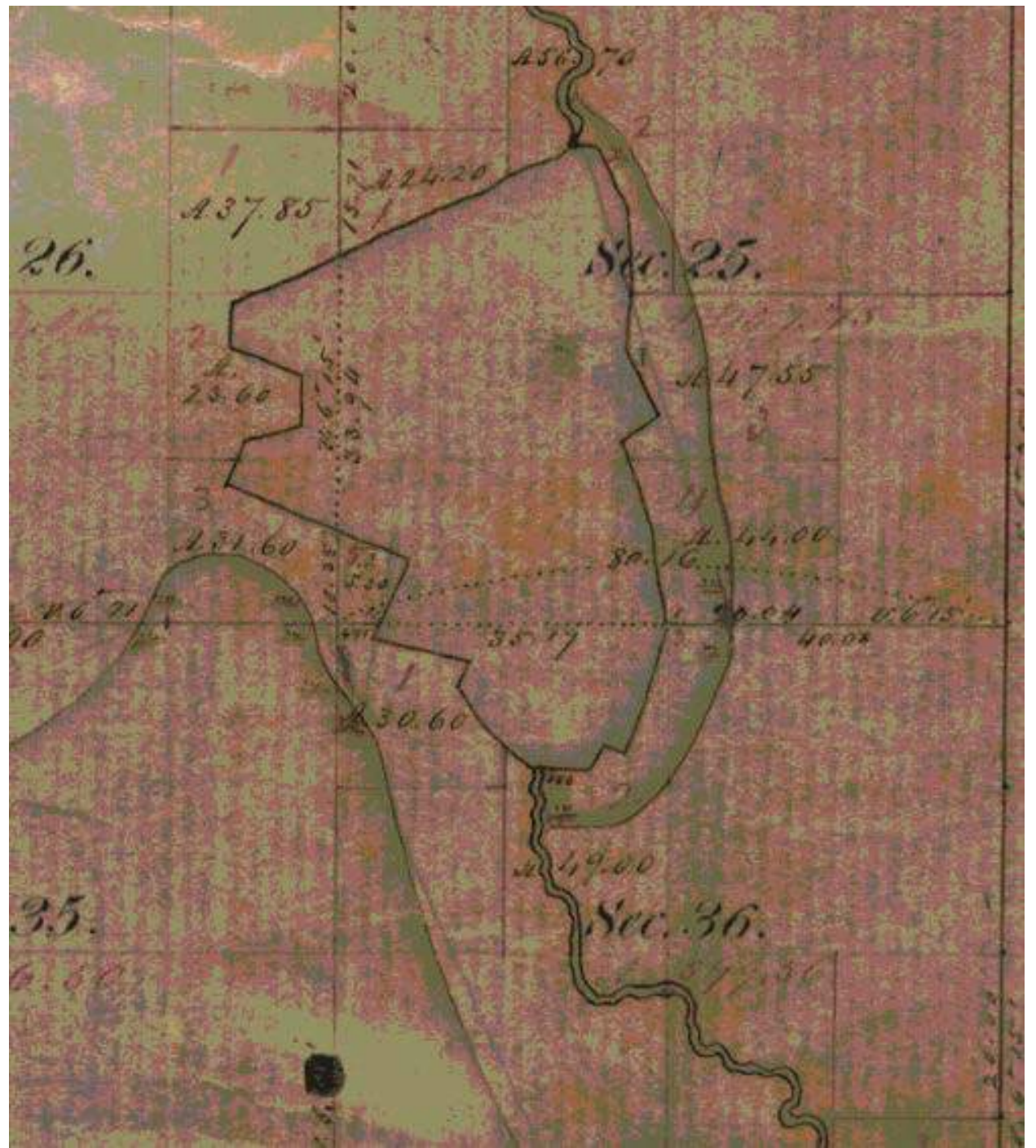
1937 Farms near Wild Rice and Nelson Lakes



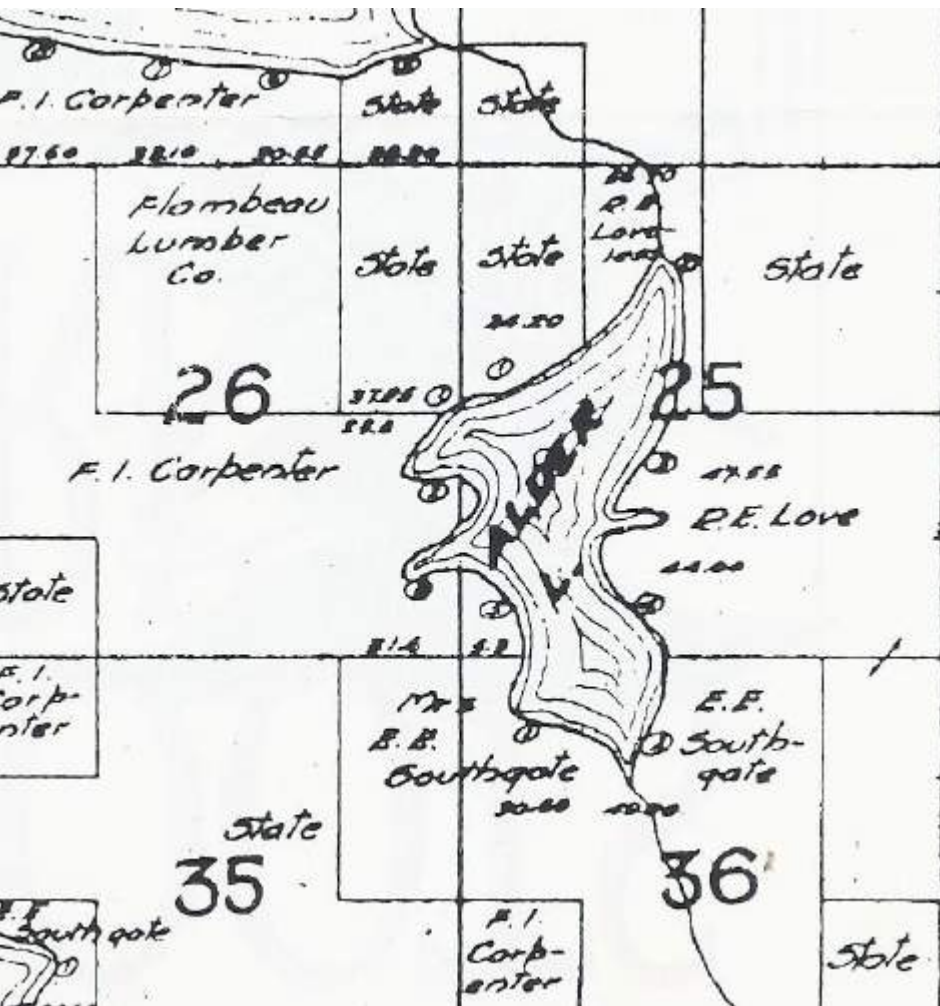
Additional farms
along the
southern end of
Alder Lake which
was part of the
Lavigne
homestead.



1862 original Survey map of Alder Lake



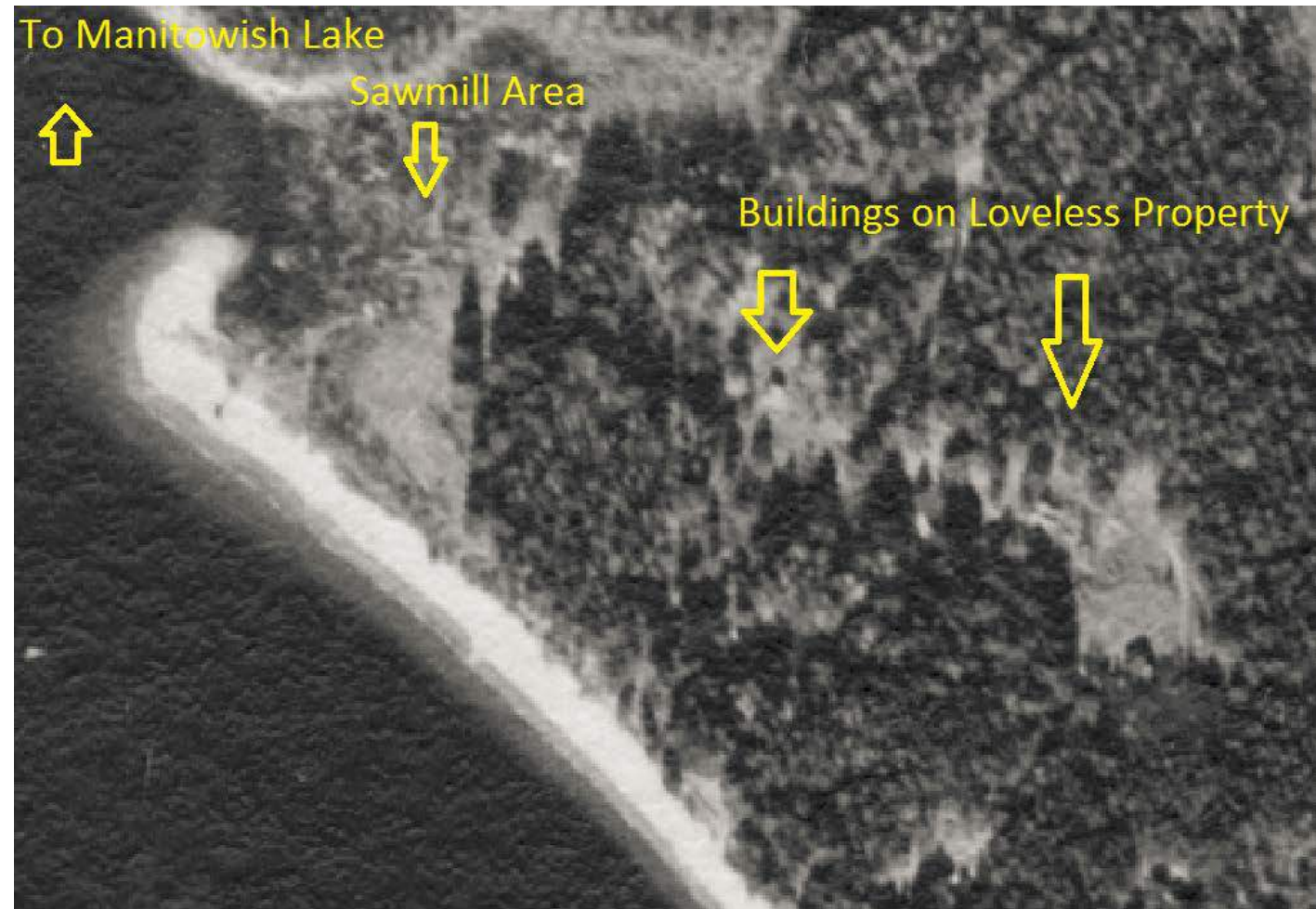
1937 air photo of Alder Lake



Loveless protected his timber leaving hundreds of virgin pines that became a signature of his property



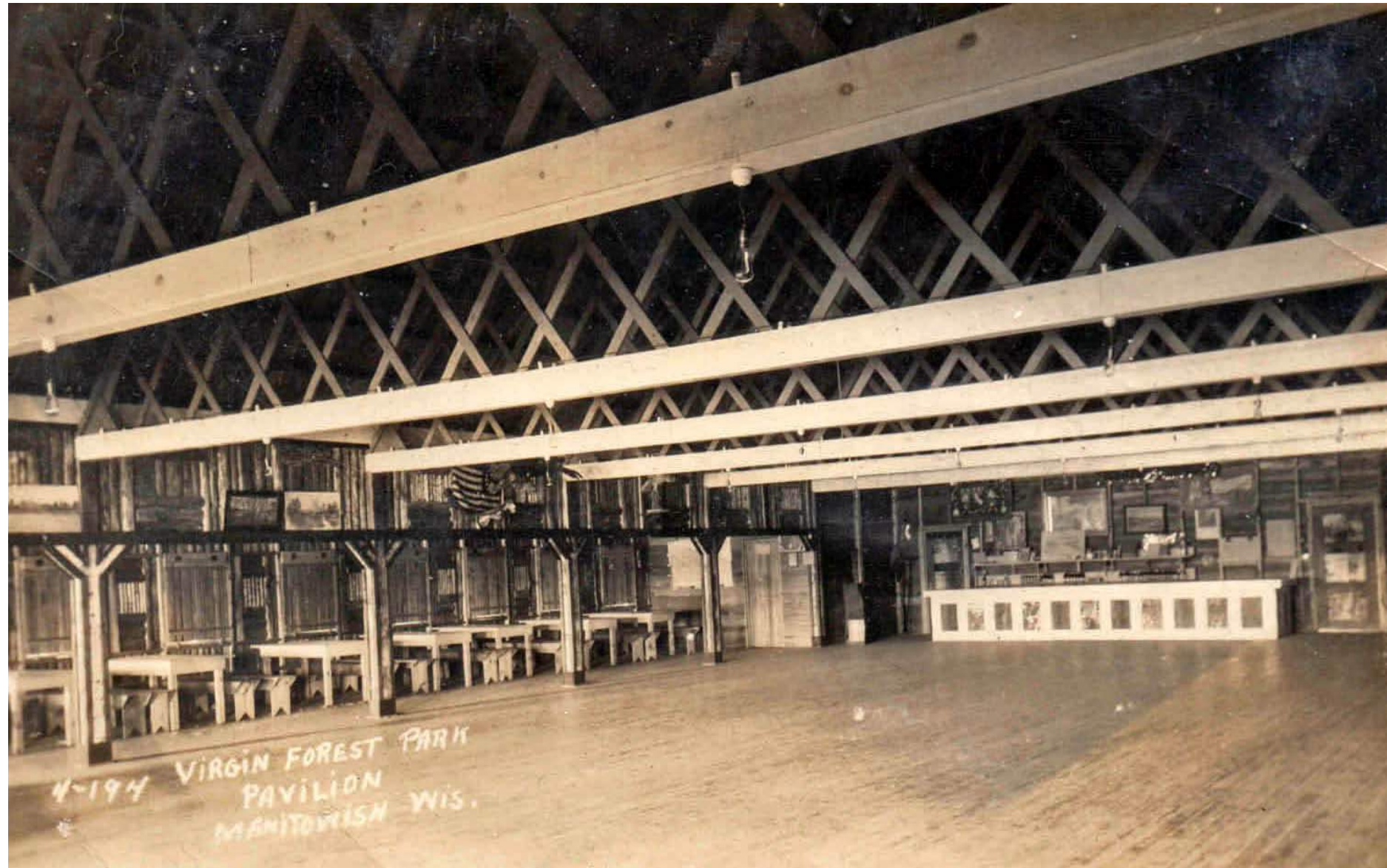
Loveless Virgin Forest Park and sawmill on Alder Lake



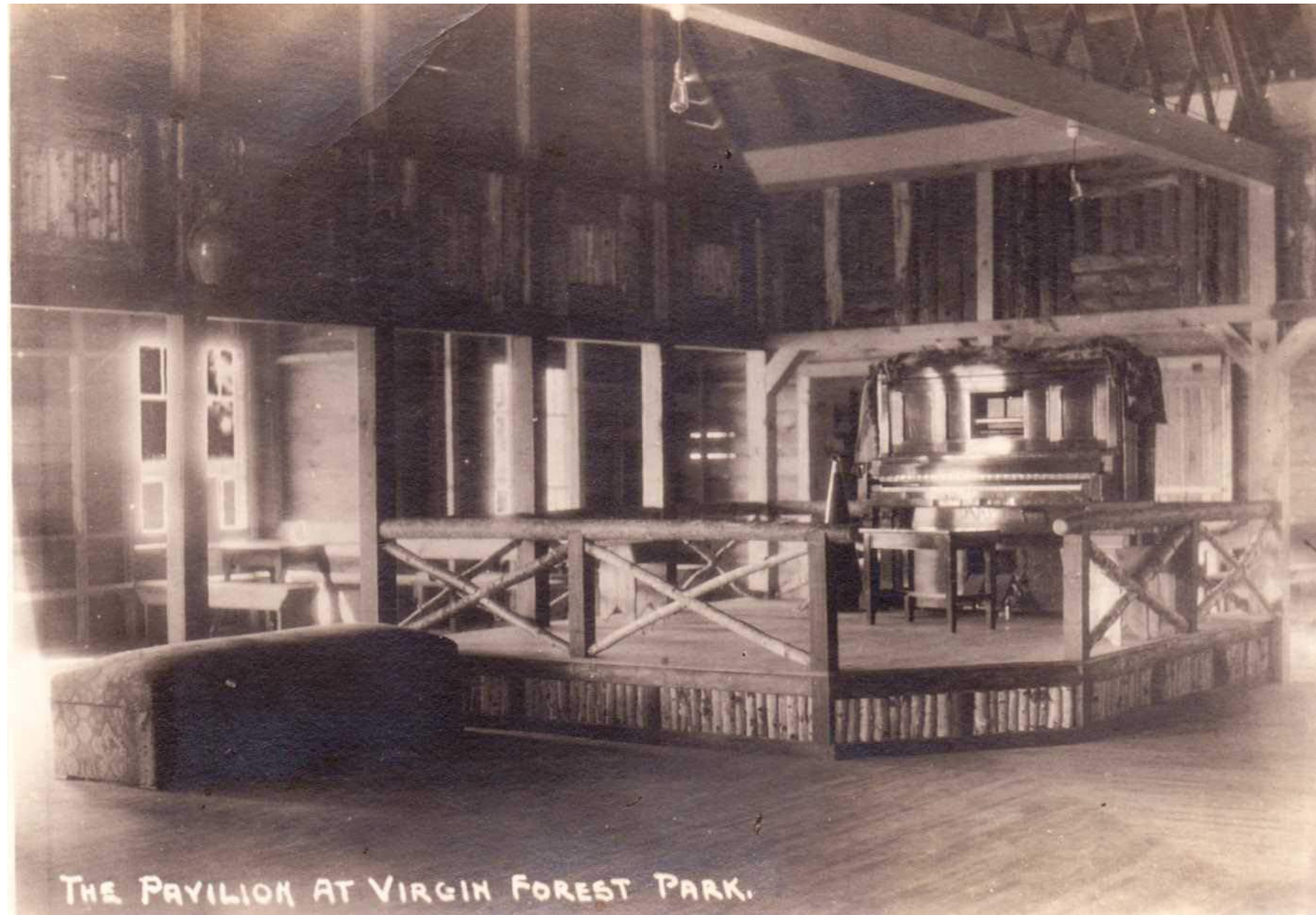


Reported location of
the Virgin Pines
Pavilion/dance hall

Loveless
Virgin
Forest Park
Dance Hall
or Pavilion



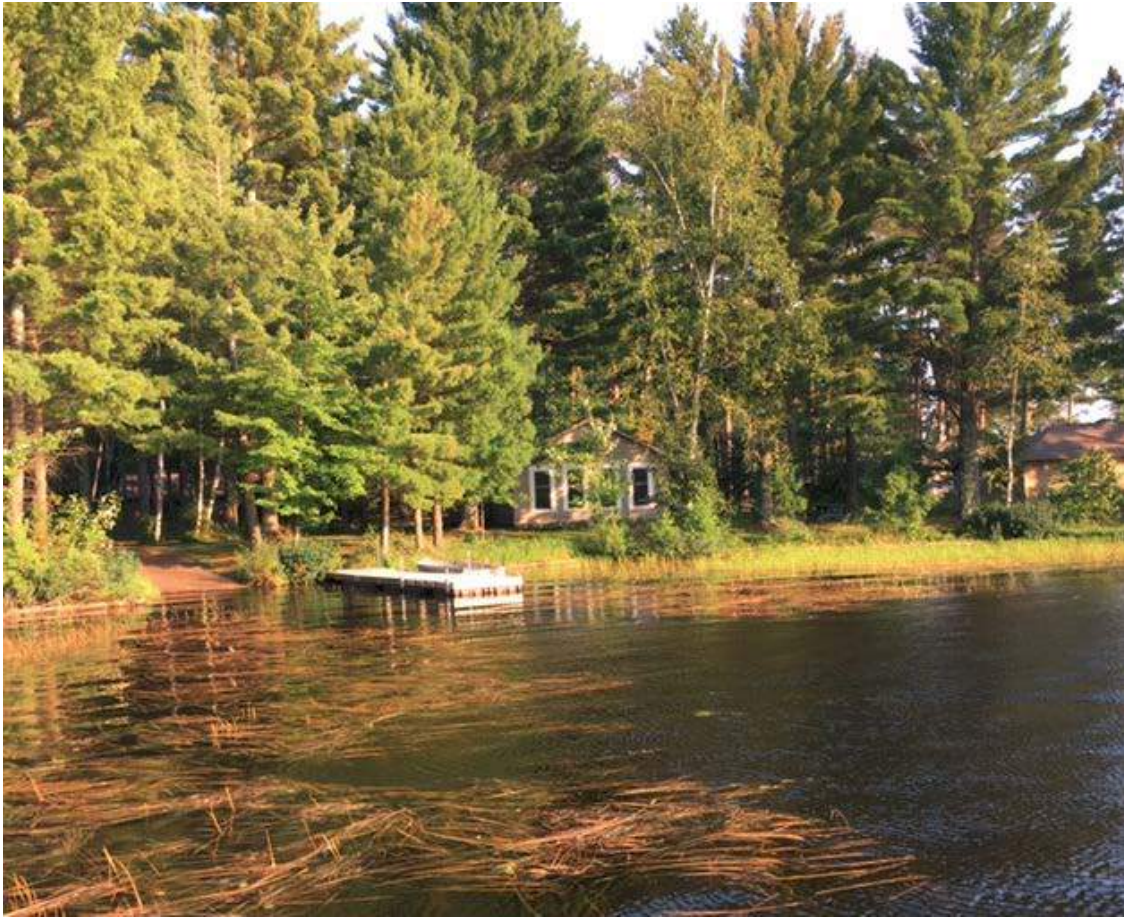
Music and
band area
from the
Virgin Forest
Park Dance
Hall or
Pavilion



Yellow arrow marks the water access and sawmill site, while the green arrow targets wagon landing and skidding trail for saw logs



Modern view of the
sawmill and log water
access



Drop in pine trees marks
the landing and log
skidding for timber
delivered by wagon



Spinning
blade of the
Loveless
Sawmill
prior to the
construction
of the
building



Loveless Saw Mill on Alder Lake

BERT F. LOVELESS - SAW MILL - 1920
ALDER LAKE



[5-32] Loveless Sawmill - Alder Lake 1920°

Loveless had a rail system to move both lumber and saw logs. Note Alder Lake in the background.



Loveless
property on
Alder Lake
featuring the
boat livery and
a large pile of
lumber waste



Shoreline of Virgin Pines Resort and a 1928 trophy musky



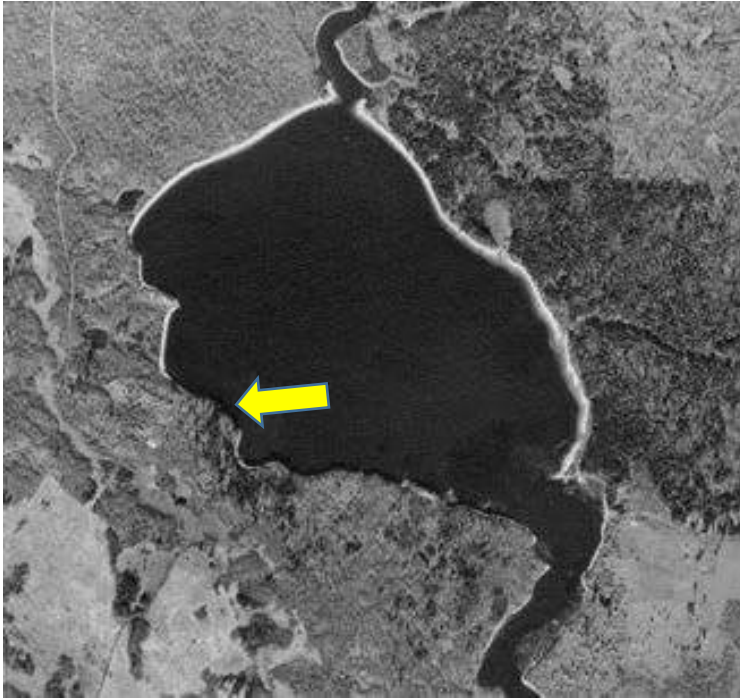
Loveless's business extended to Hwy 10 (51) with a tavern, gas station, store, hotel and zoo. This property is currently the Howling Dog



Loveless
had
cottages on
highway
10, tent
camping,
and
spectacular
lake side
cottages.



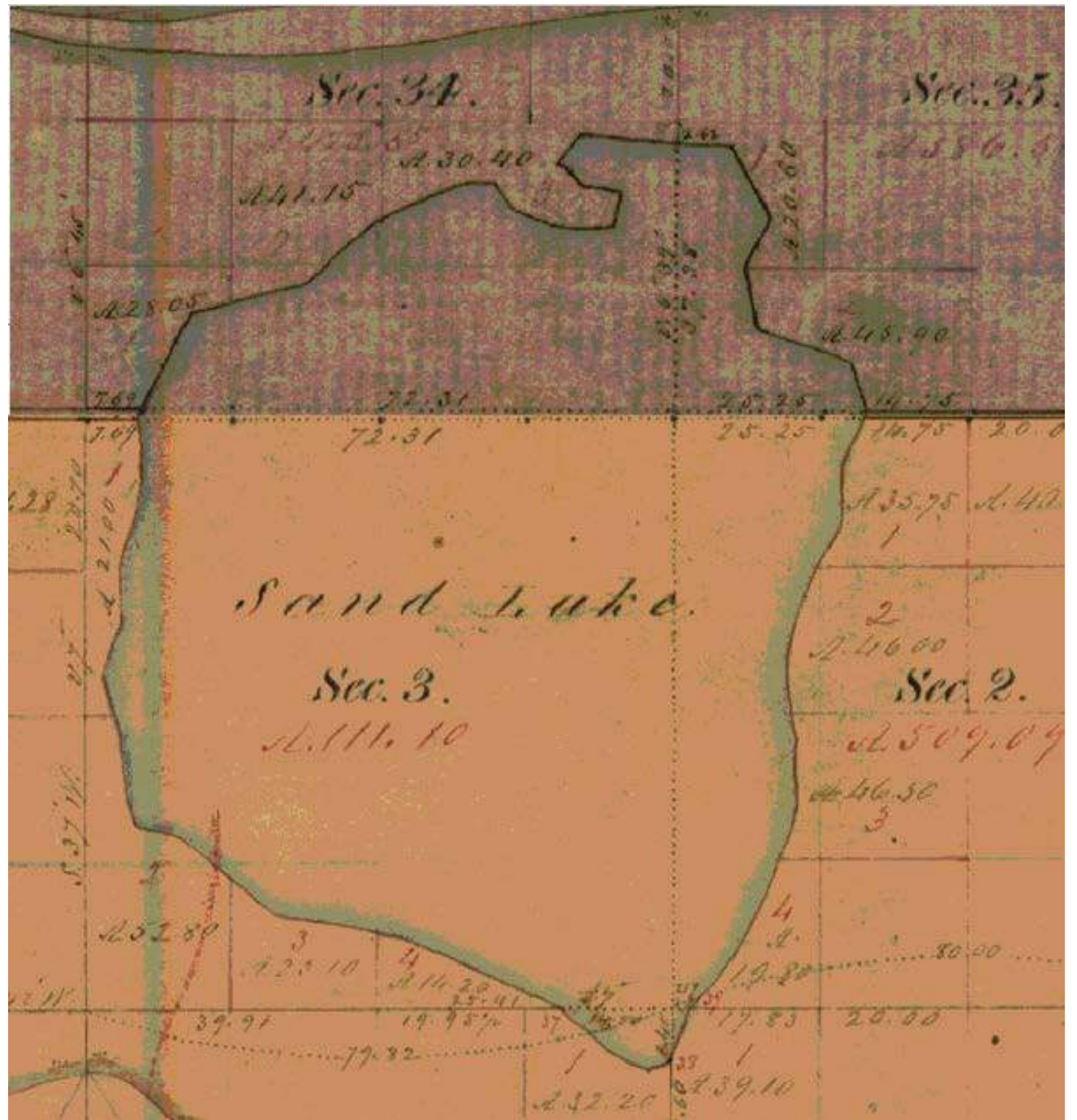
- Lutheran girls camp was in operation during the 1920's and buildings were still visible in the 1940's



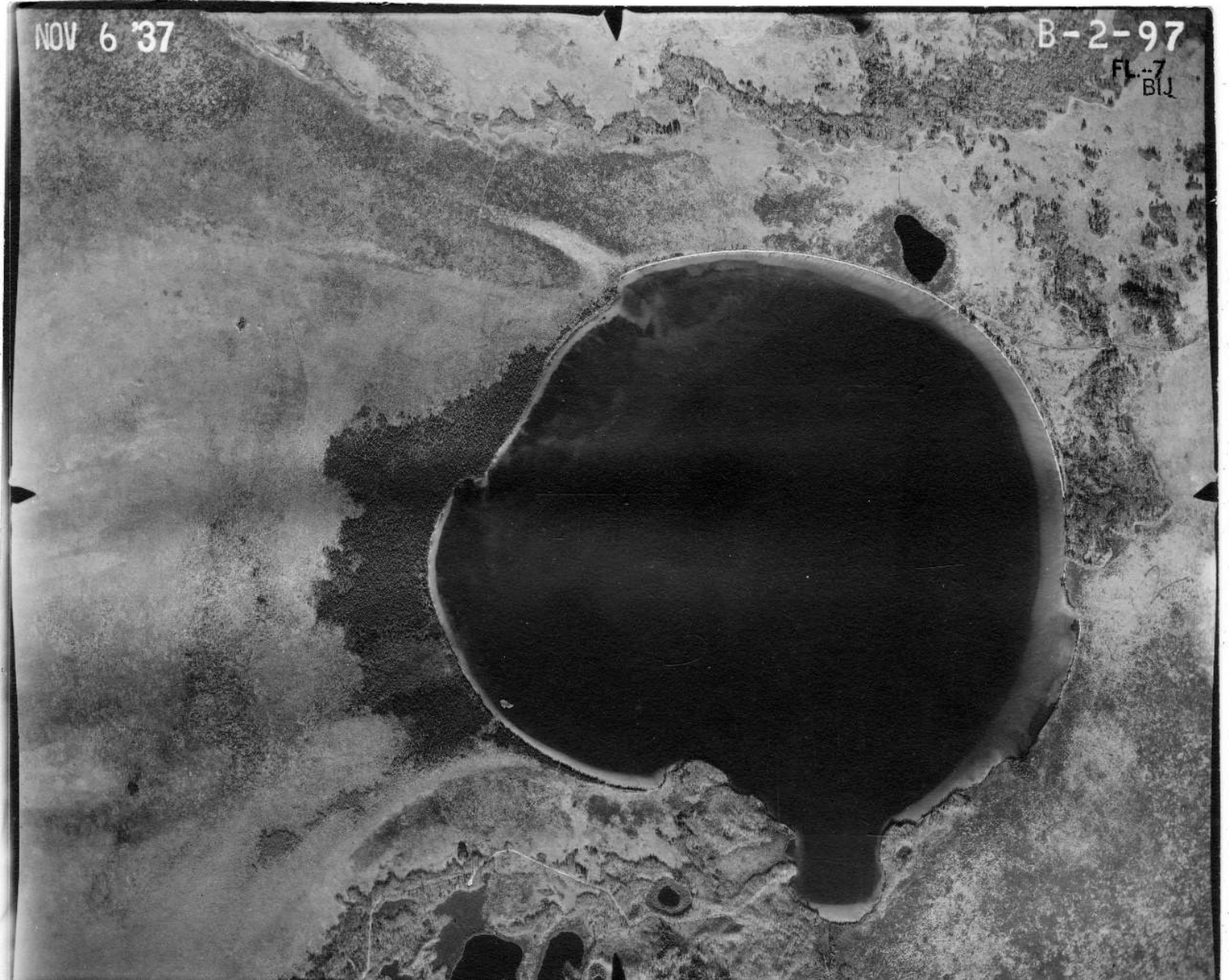
Lone remaining cabin from the
Lutheran girls camp on Alder
Lake. Can you decipher the camp
name below from Cal's journal?



1862 original survey for Little Trout Lake



Little Trout Lake
aerial photo
1937



R. H. Southgate's canal leading to his property on Little Trout Lake. Marvin Hewitt president of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad was a partner in the canal construction.



one time in the year of 1897 when i had charge of Mr Richards Southgate Residence and Mr Marvin Hughitte as Now Vice President of the Chicago North western Railroad well one time i Staid at Little trout Lak for a perid of time of 2 Soled Months all alone and Never Seen a Man or livin Sole.... Excerpt from Robert Loveless Journal

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1900.

<p>R. H. SOUTHGATE IS INSOLVENT.</p> <p>Manager of the Auditorium and Annex Files Petition in Bankruptcy, Plac- ing Liabilities at \$434,938.</p> <p>Richard H. Southgate, manager of the Au- ditorium Hotel and the Annex, filed a vol- untary petition in bankruptcy yesterday, in which he schedules his liabilities at \$434,938 and his assets at \$306,775. The proceedings</p>	<p>The World's Greatest Complete Housefurnishe CREDIT GIVEN TO EVERYBODY.</p> <p>Hallman FURNITURE & ETC. CO.</p>
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will try some sea fishing at Long Island.

Mr. R. H. Southgate, of the Auditorium Hotel, of this city, has left for Little Trout Lake, Wis.

Mr. C. F. Thompson, of this city, has gone to the Ash-land, Wis., country after some bass fishing, and will be

Date 1900



LIST OF CORPORATIONS—Continued.

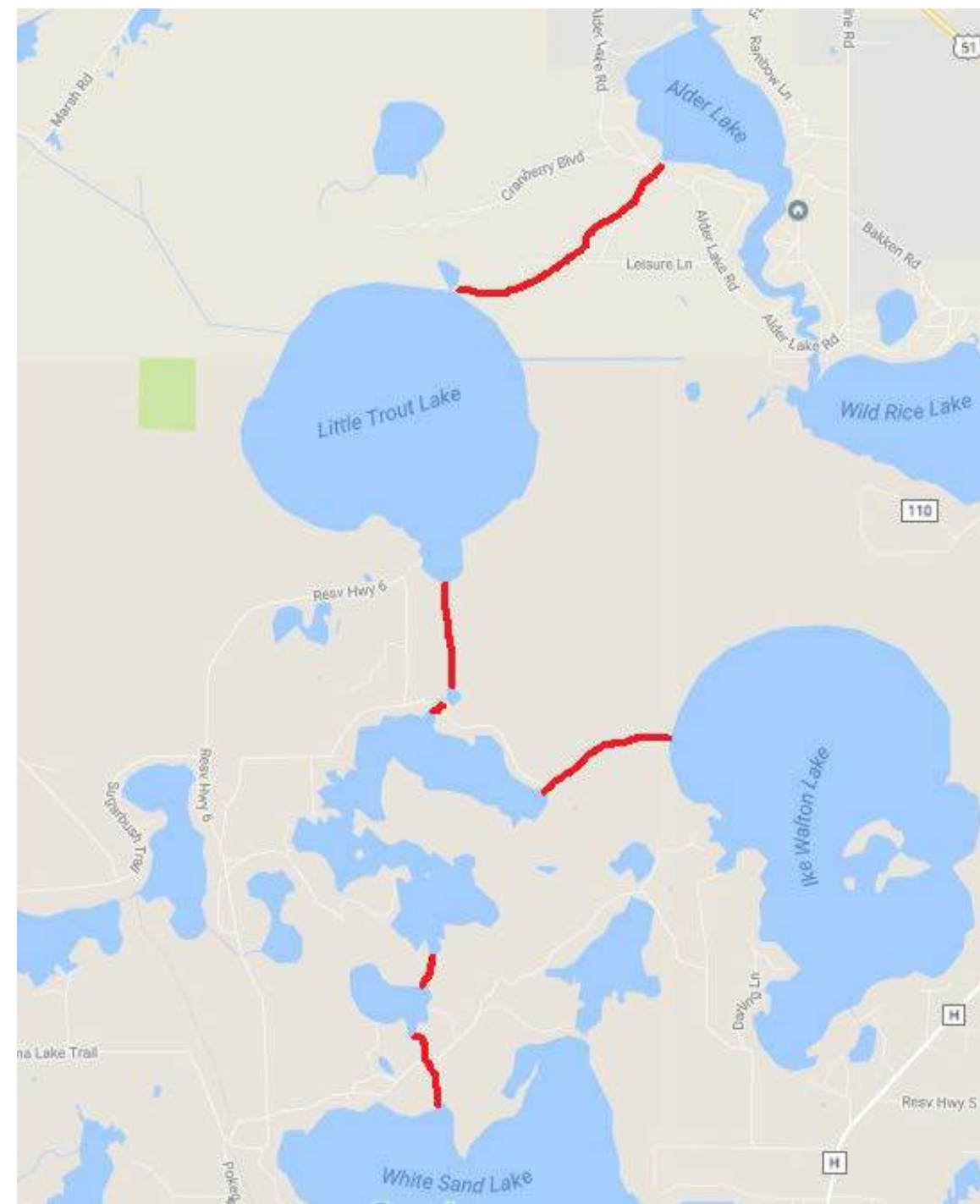
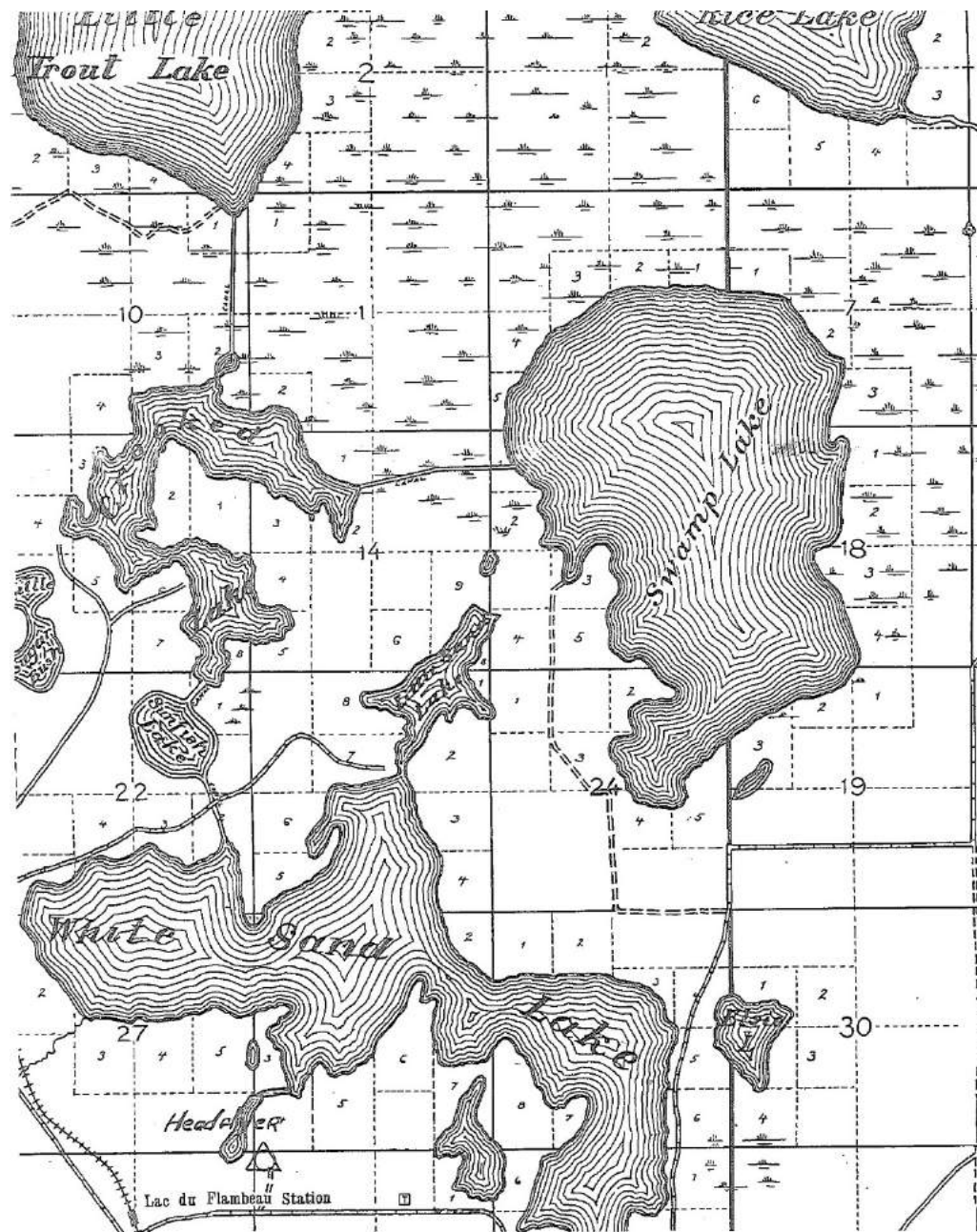
Date: 1901

NAME OF CORPORATION.	CAPITAL STOCK.	LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE.	PRESIDENT OR MANAGER. (Name and Address.)	SECRETARY. (Name and Address.)
Auditorium Hotel Company.....	500,000	Congress Hotel Annex, Chicago....	R. H. Southgate, Lac du Flambeau, Wis.	Vacant.

For Tomahawk District.

Judge Warwick Hough, of the Circuit Court, St. Louis, Mo., has for many years made trips into the muscallunge district of Wisconsin. In a letter at hand he says: "I shall hope, during the first or second week in August, to get away for a trip to Tomahawk Lake, near Minocqua. Mr. Southgate, of the Auditorium Hotel, Chicago, has a cottage near the Northwestern railroad, on Lac du Flambeau, northwest of Minocqua, where I understand there is fine fishing.

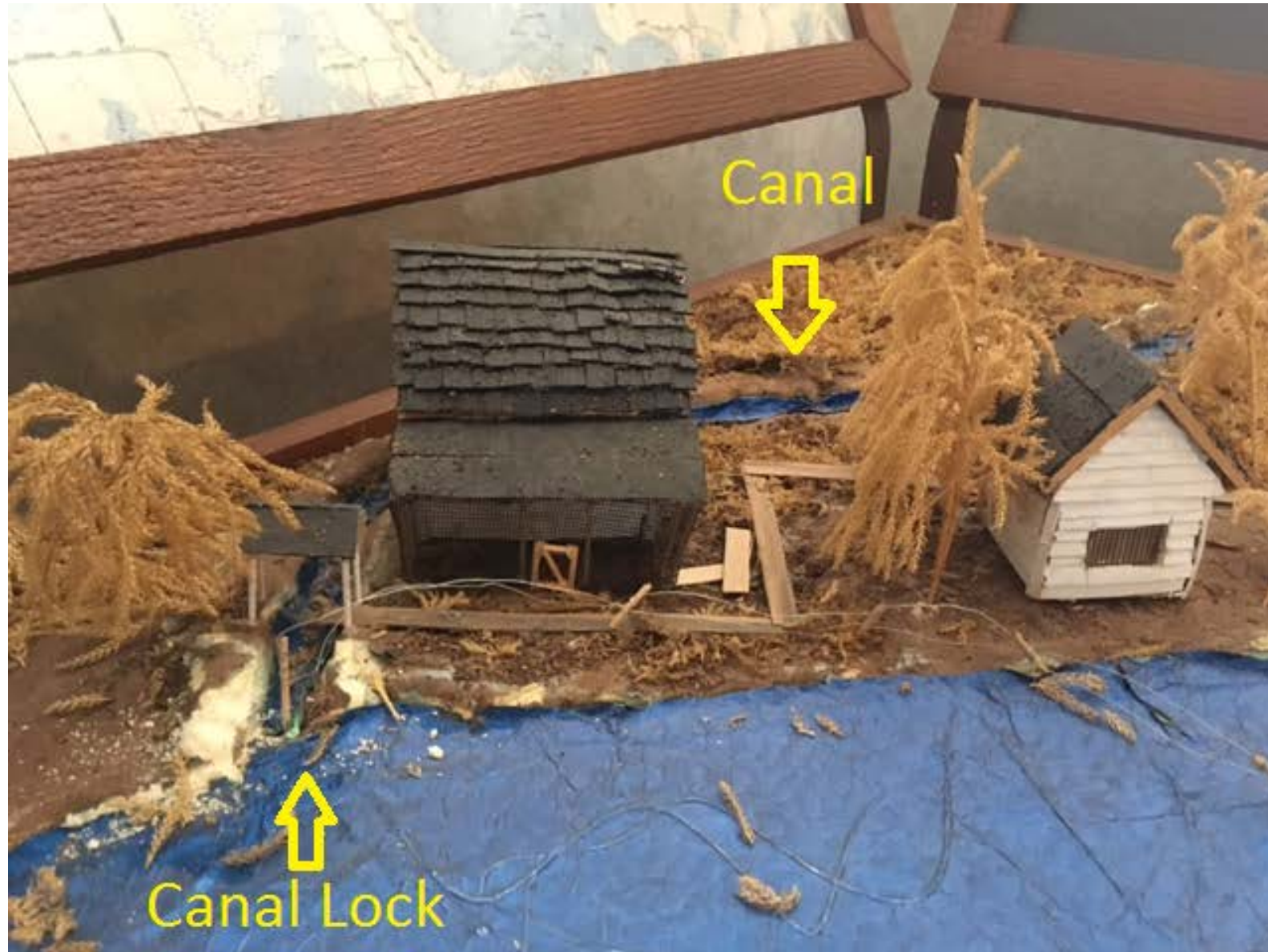
Date: 1903



Diorama of Southgate Property created by Steven Bartling under the supervision of his grandfather Cal La Porte



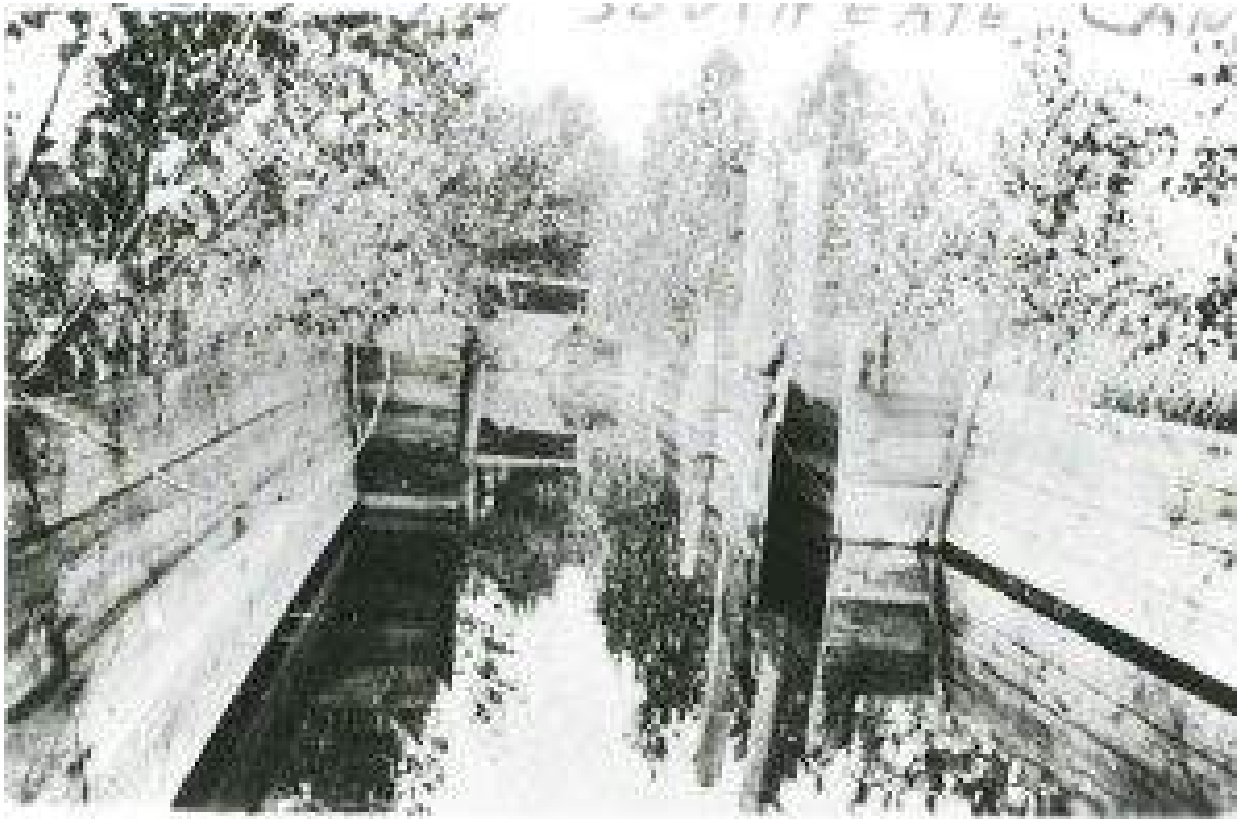
Southgate canal and lock system



Lake view of the Southgate property. All of the property burned except the caretaker's house in the early 1930's Powell Marsh fires



Images of the Alder to Little Trout Lake canal and locks in operation



Beginning of the Southgate canal exiting Alder Lake with the lake clearly in the background. Note the fishermen on the boardwalk observing canoers using the canal.



1970's image of
Southgate canal
in Lac Du
Flambeau



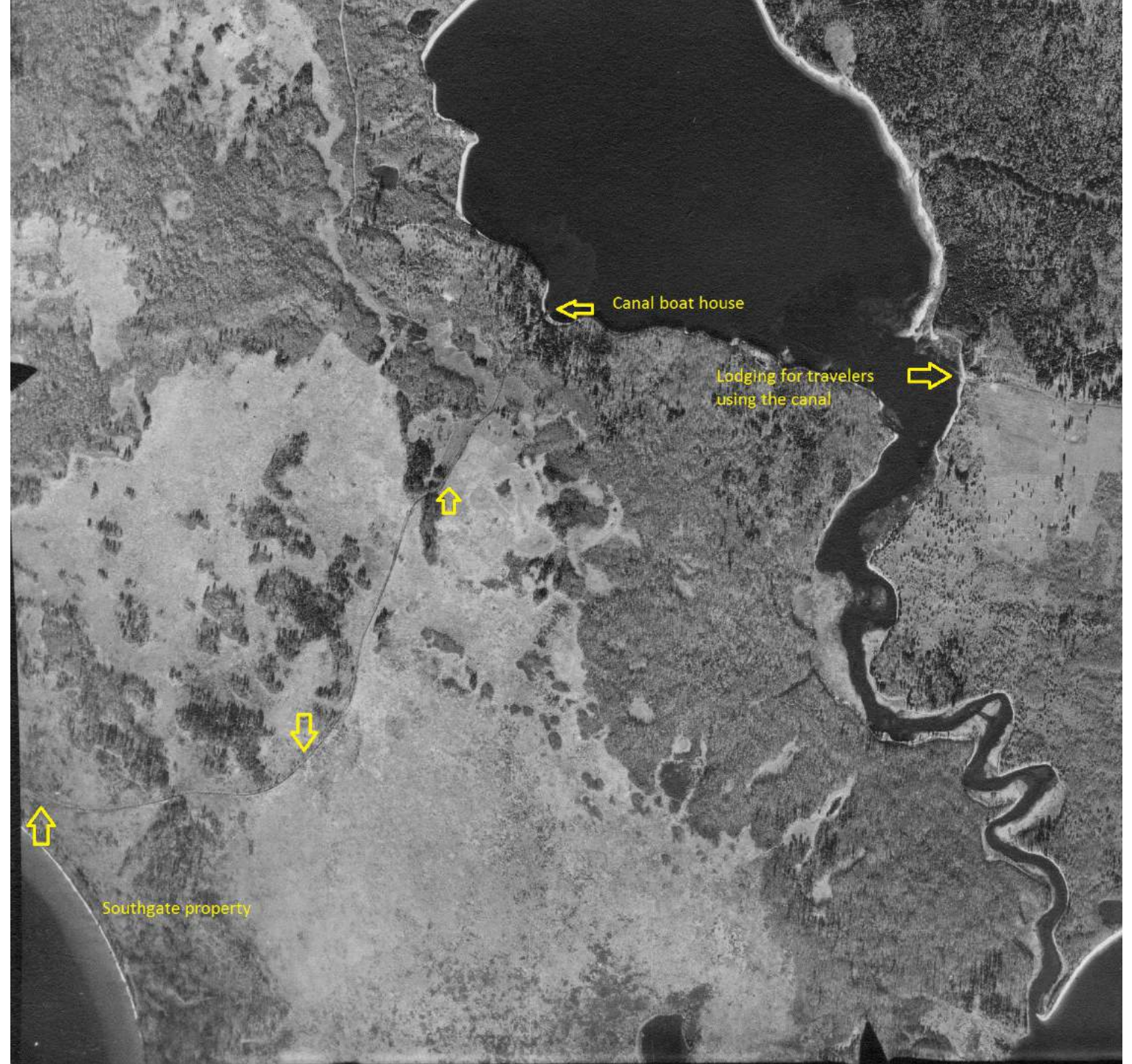
1921 Camp Manitowish canoe journal using the canal to travel from Alder to White Sand Lakes

We then deserted the Manitowish river, turning south through South Branch river, to the right of Deer Creek Lodge, into Alder lake. At the south end of Alder lake, we found, in the rear of an old boat house, the end of an old canal. A reconnoiter of the canal showed that it led about twenty-eight hundred steps into Little Trout lake, and since 1,740 of the writer's steps make a mile, we had about two miles to go, either dragging the canoes or portaging. We did a bit of both. The water was turned on through the canal about noon, so that one could wade and pull the loaded canoes, thus helping the long trip through the meadows. The cranberries along the banks were abundantly fruiting, and the native dewberries were at perfection. Also bullfrogs were plentiful, so that in this short trip the writer managed to catch more than fifty. We had frog legs for supper. Instead of making the last hundred and fifty feet of the canal where the sand made going difficult, we portaged across a narrow strip of land, which landed us on Little Trout lake.

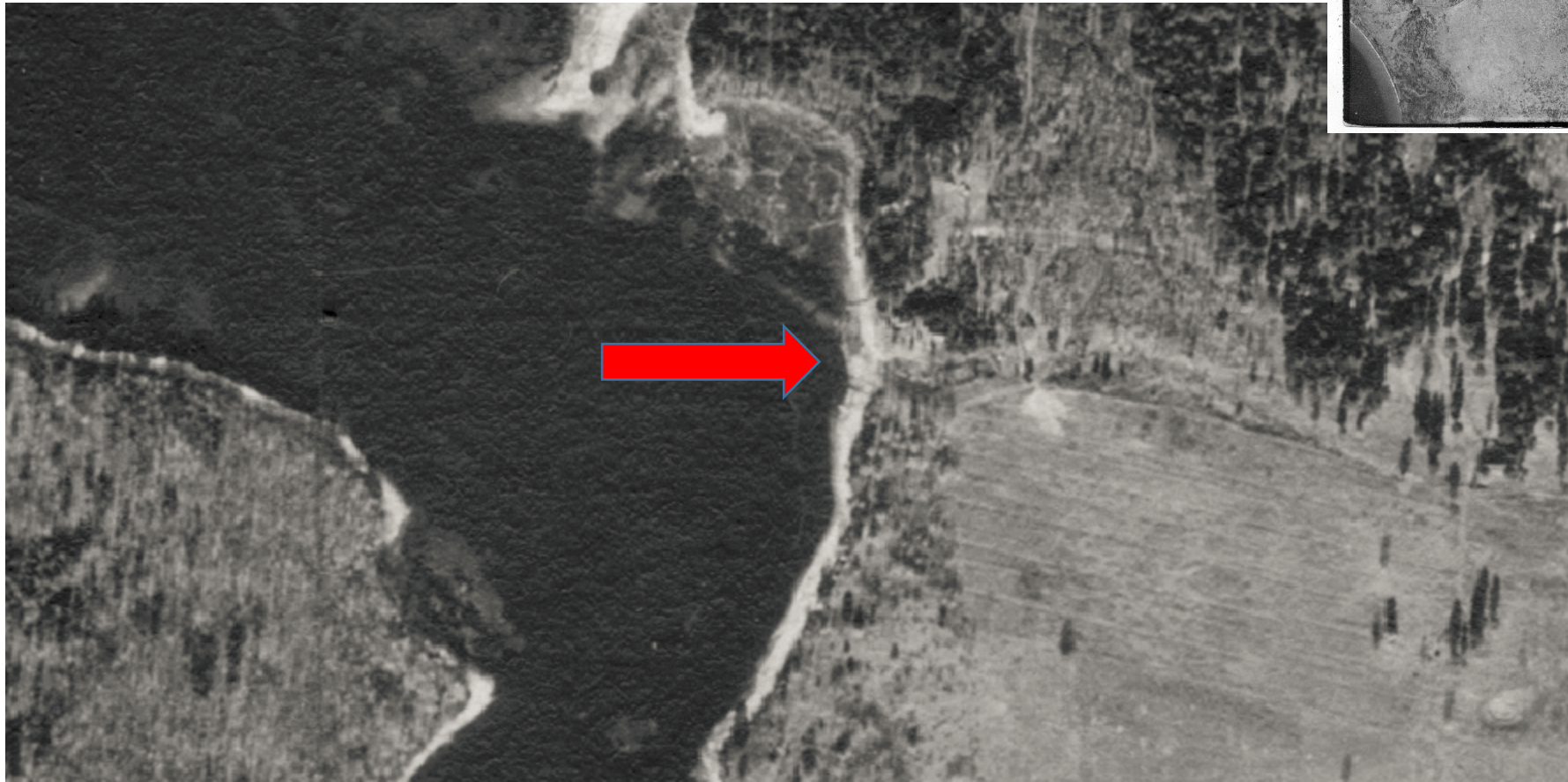
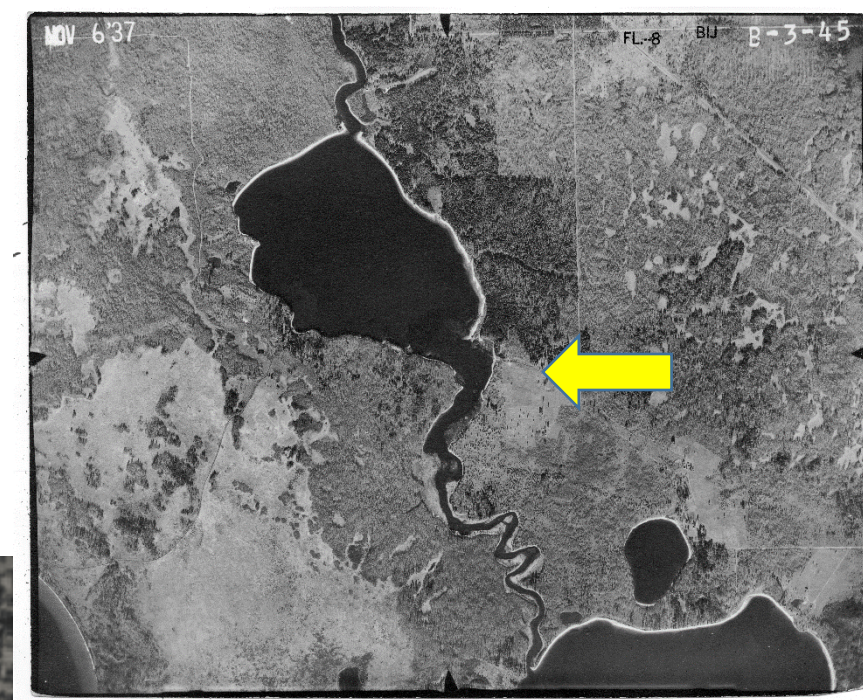
We crossed Little Trout in a southeasterly direction to the juncture of dead and green timber and there found a canal containing more water than the former one, but also more brushy. One man took the canoe through, while the rest walked the banks. The banks were lined with white birches and little balsams, and the vistas stretched away in a straight line. It was a beautiful sight and we took several pictures, though the beauty was one of color rather than of form. This canal led into a little round, mud lake, where there was no fishing so far as we could discover. Another beautiful, short canal led into McKay or Crooked lake. We paddled a regular U-shaped course through this lake to the farther end, where we again picked up our canal trip. This was a long canal with a fish trap in it, and leading into little Sunfish lake. We did not think it was Sand lake, because it was so small, so scouted out around the lake and struck the home of some Chippewa Indians, where the women and children were industriously making baskets for the Indian fair. They were also chewing choke cherries, which they called "Pawahi menun." Running strips of the moist basswood through their mouths gave these strips a faint pink color.

The similarity of their tongue to that of the Menomini was enough to enable us to make inquiries. We found that Sand lake was through another canal further on. So we retraced our steps to the canoes and found the canal, which led us on to the narrowest arm of Sand lake. We crossed Sand lake in a southwesterly direction to the portage camp for Lake Pokegama. This portage leads over the Northwestern railway tracks. While the rest of the crowd prepared supper, Paul and I investigated the portage of over a mile to Lake Pokegama. We came back and made camp in a driving rain and here all spent a miserable night, thank you.

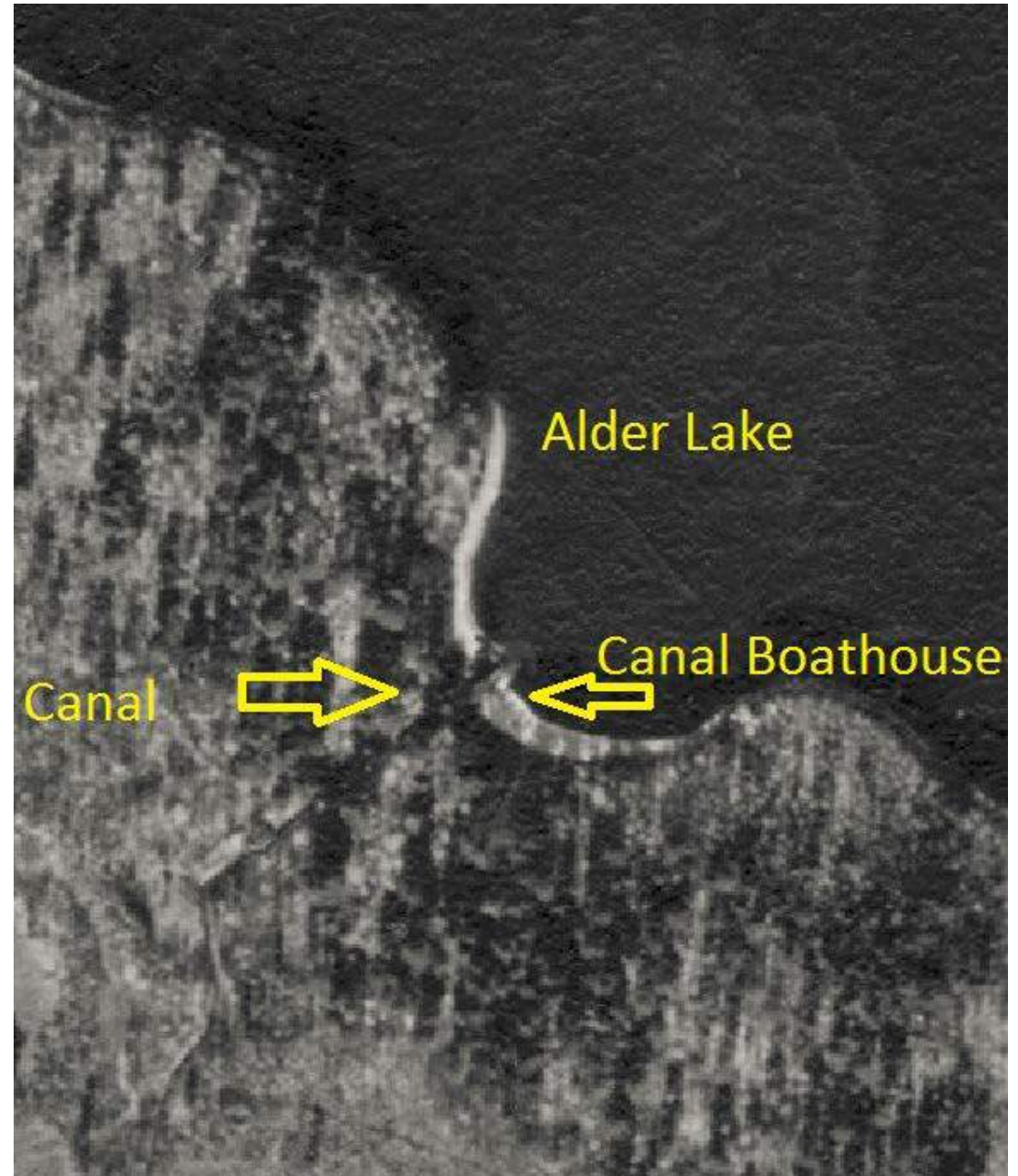
Detailed
1937 photos
illustrating
the entire
canal system



Sunny Cove was part of the Lavigne Homestead and housed guest who traveled on the canal.



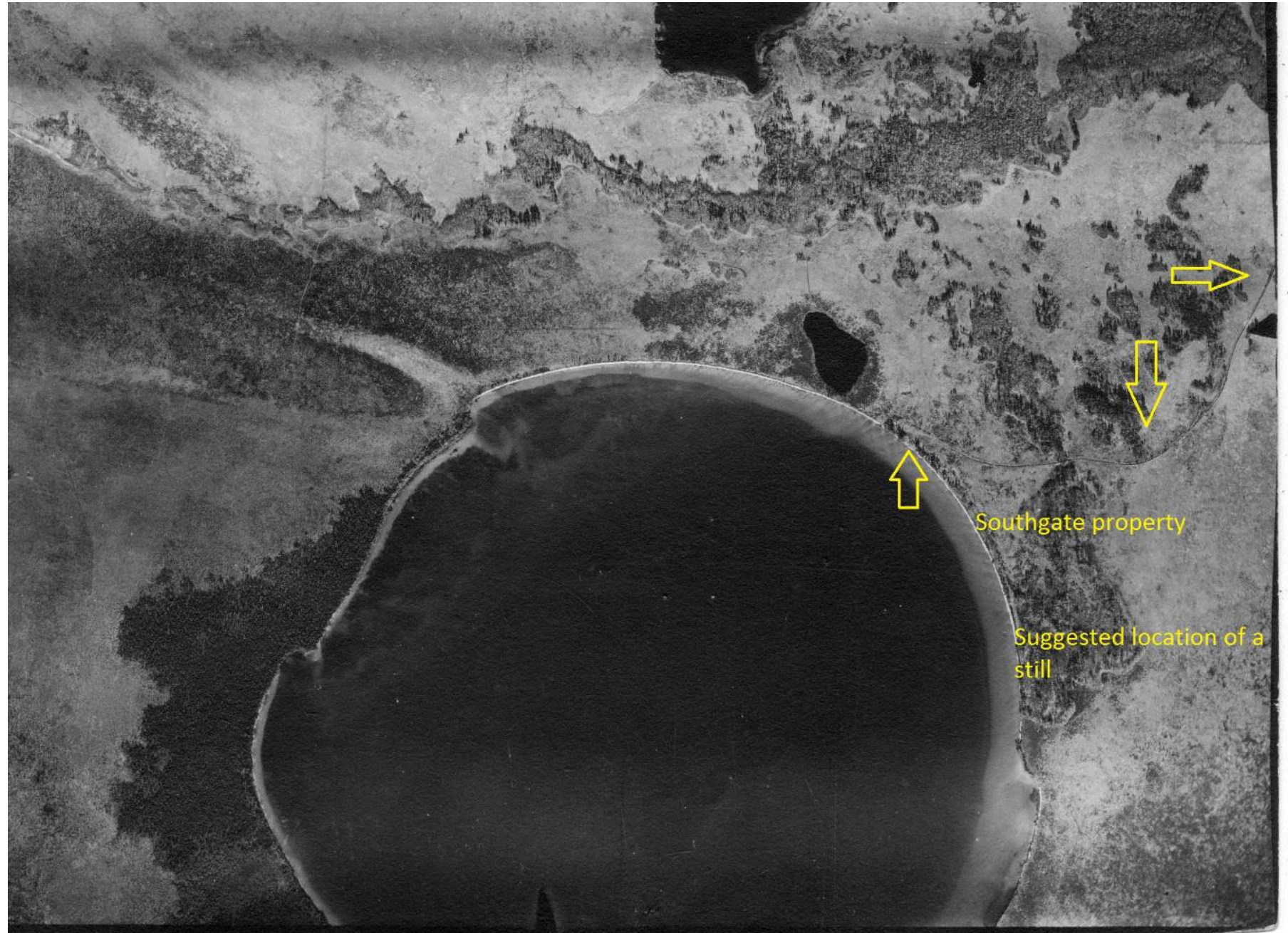
Remnants of the
old boat house
cited in the
Camp
Manitowish
journal are
visible at the
start of the canal
from Alder Lake



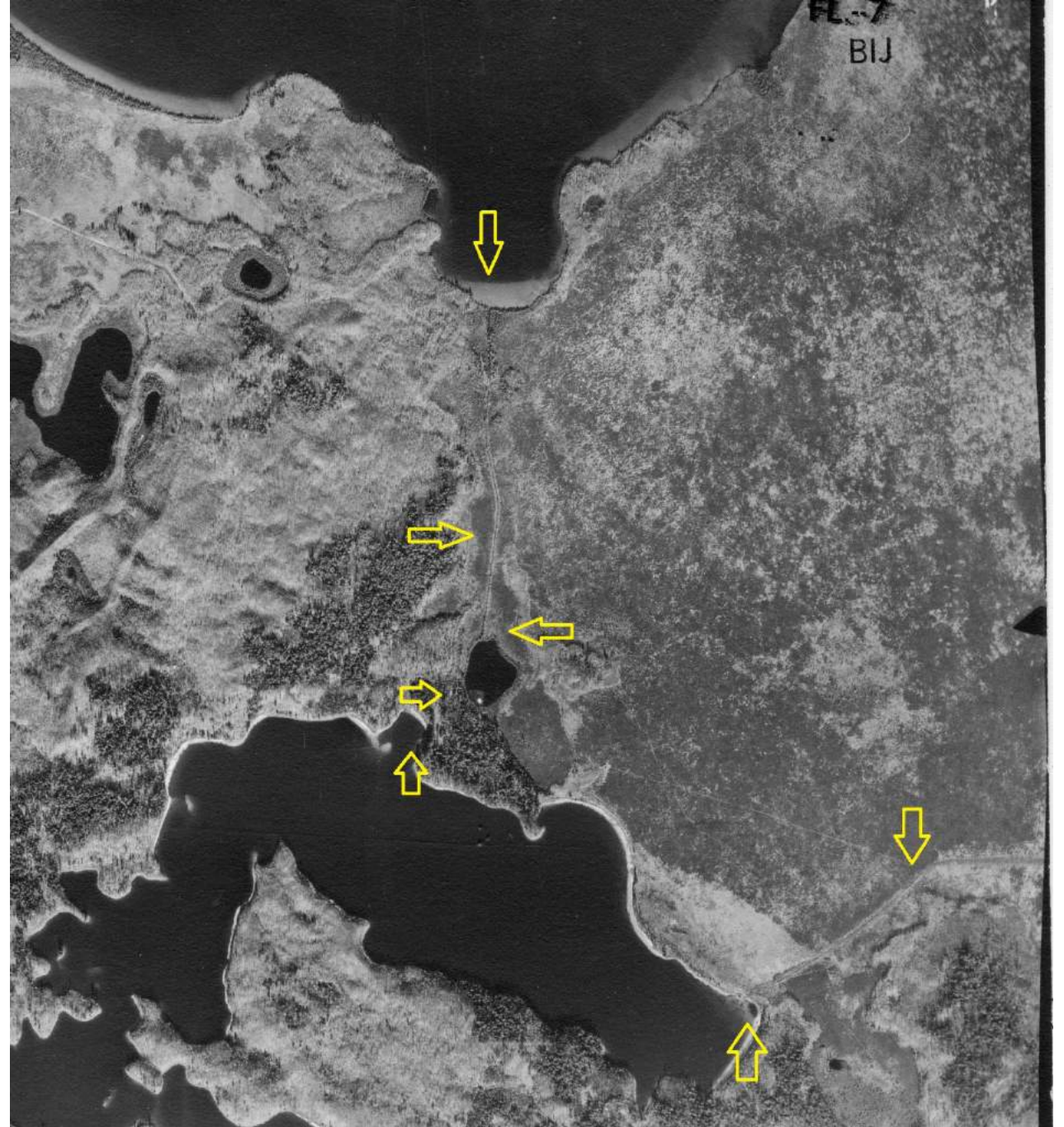
Southgate's launch on Alder Lake and the likely reason for the boat house at the end of the canal



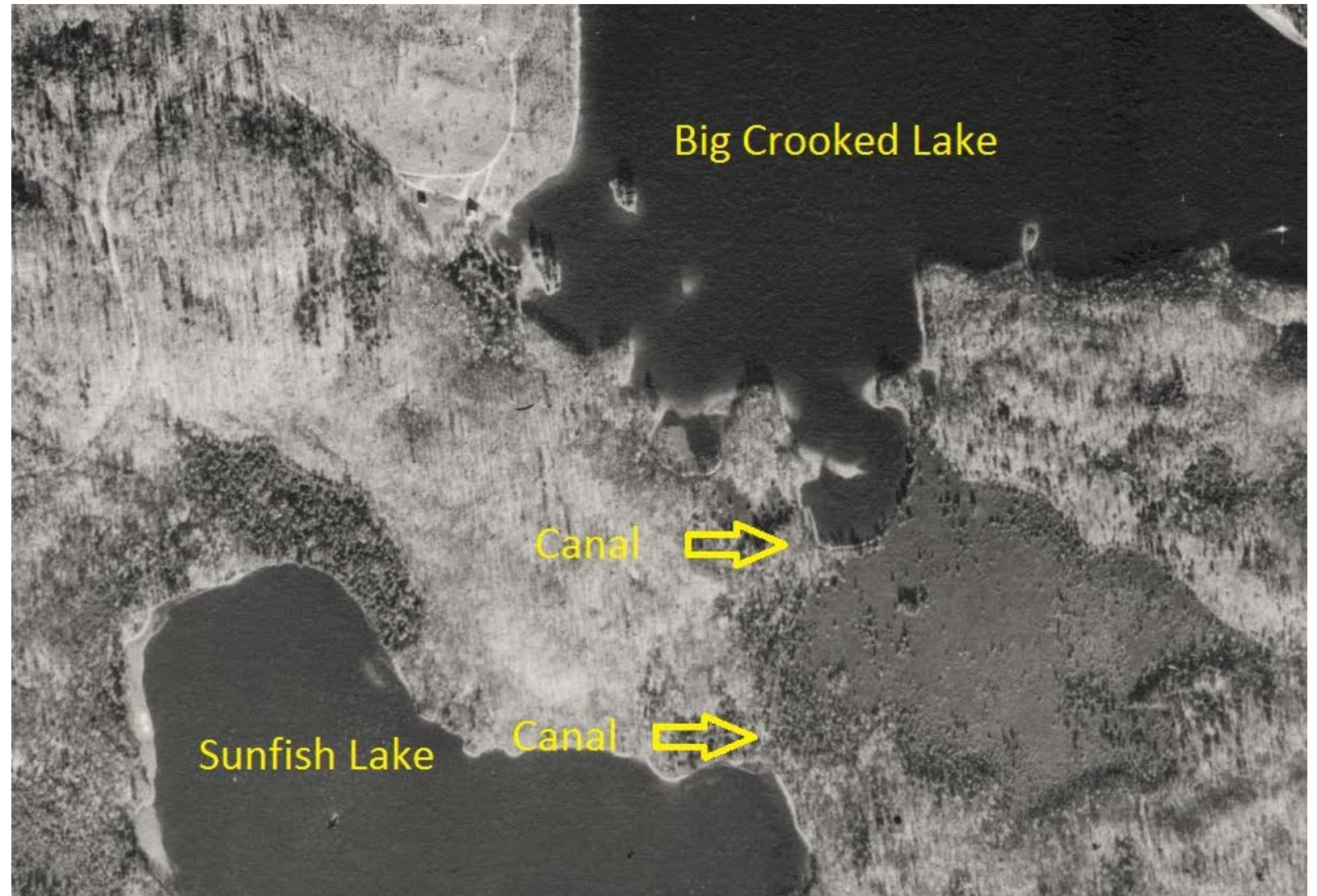
Southgate
property
and
conclusion
of the canal
on Little
Trout



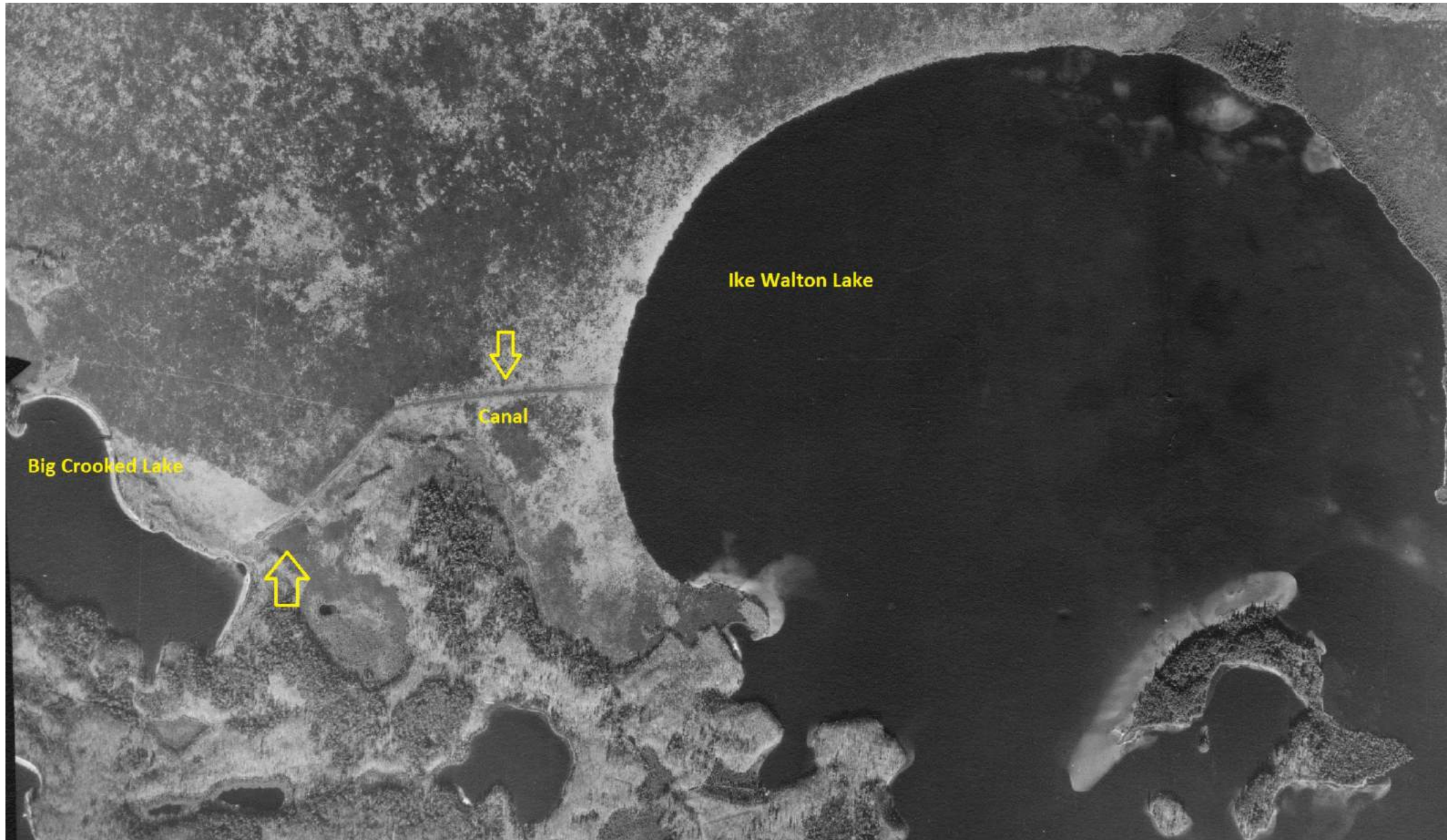
Canal from Little Trout to Big Crooked lakes. To the east is the start of the canal from Big Crooked to Ike Walton Lakes



Canal
from Big
Crooked
to Sunfish
lakes.



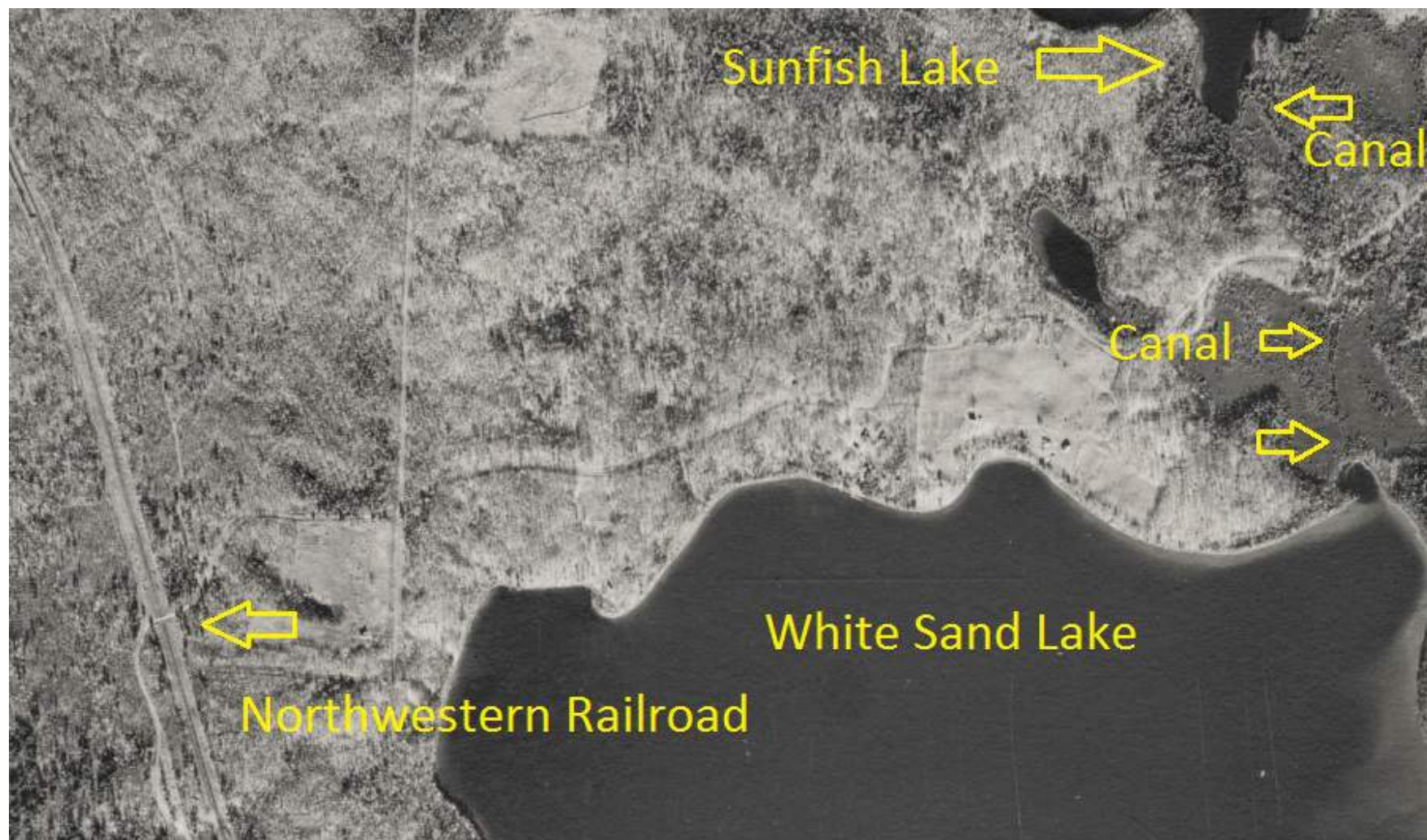
Canal from Big Crooked to Ike Walton Lakes



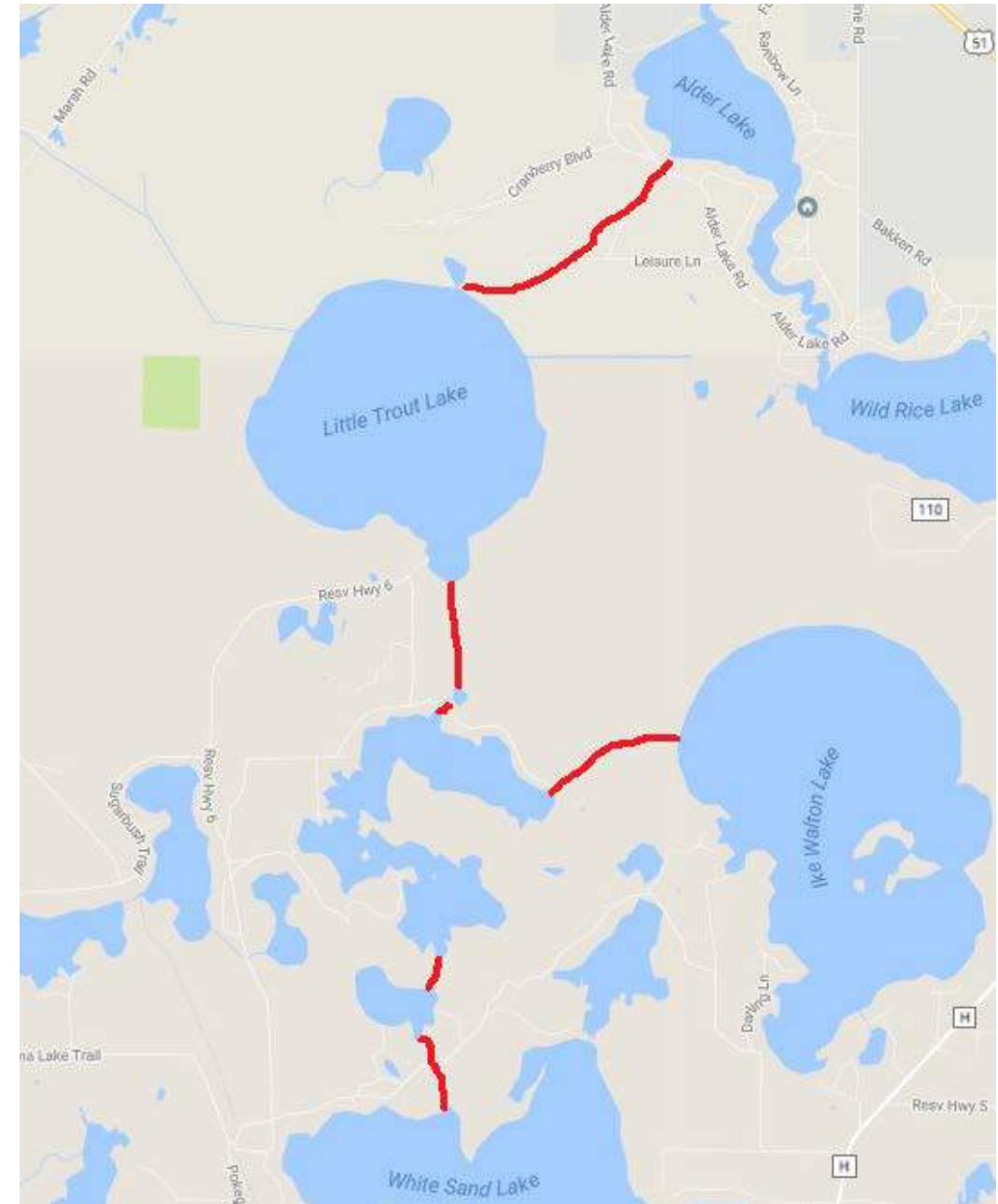
Canal from
Sunfish to
White Sand
lakes



Railroad drop off for Southgate and his guests to travel to his Little trout lake property.



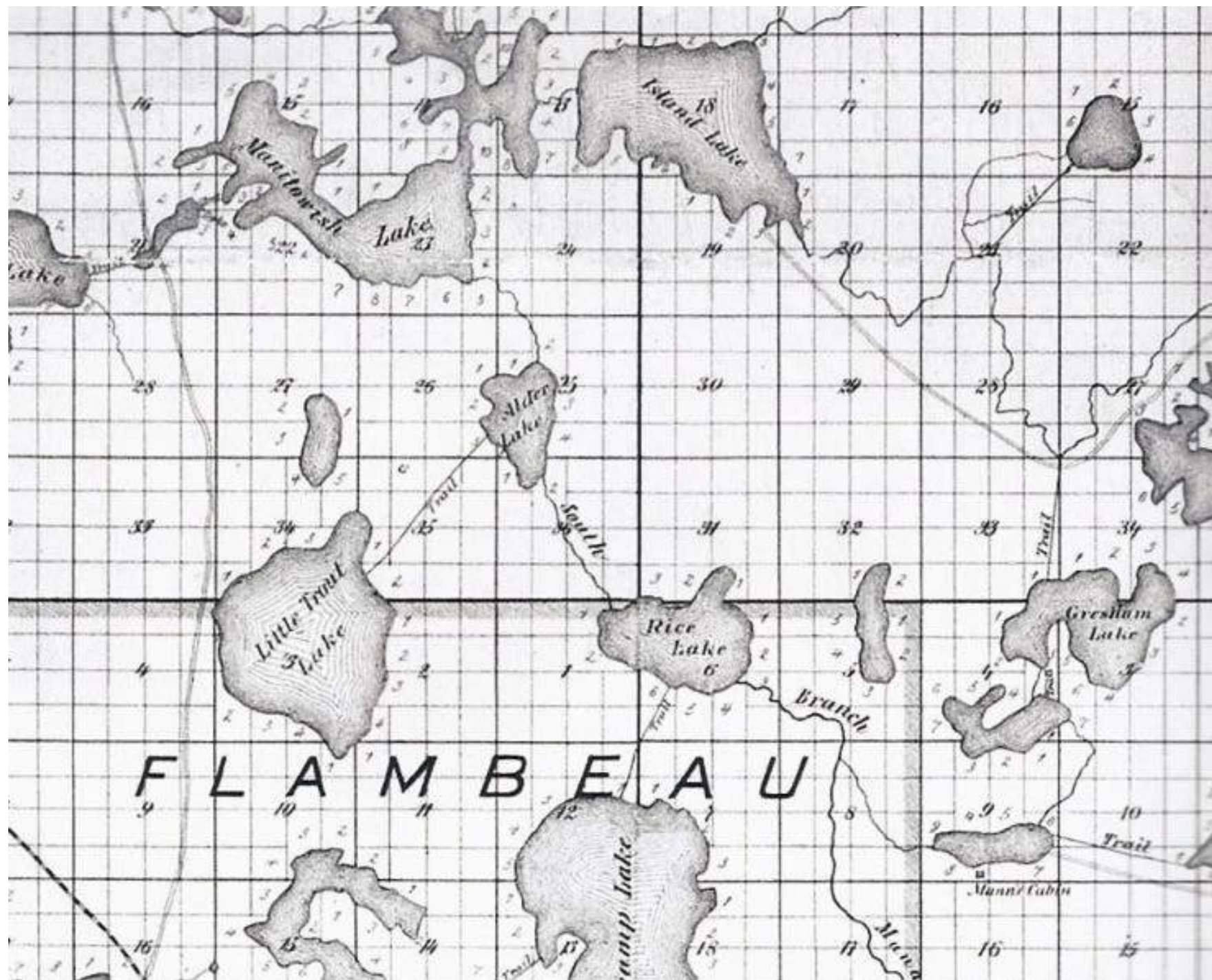
The Southgate canal is one of the more unique stories of early fishing camps using rail transport to access Manitowish Waters. Why use the canal system verses other means of transportation?



Robert Loveless 1897 highlights the remote

one time in the year of 1897 when i had charge of Mr Richards Southgate Residence and Mr Marvin Hughitte as Now Vice President of the Chicago North western Railroad well one time i Staid at Little trout Lak for a perid of time of 2 Soled Months all alone and Never Seen a Man or livin Sole or talked to anyone i had a Dog with Me that Belonged to My Hughitte his Name was McKinley and i Did Play the violin By ear and when i Did want Some Musick i would Play a tune or 2 and when i would Start Playing the Dog would Stick his head high up in the air and Begin to howell and when he would Do this it Made Me think that i was a good violinist and i would Play all the harder So i got so that i youst to Say to the Dog Sing McKinly and he got So that he Knew what i Ment and then he would Begin howling again Mr Southgate and Mr Hughitte at this time tride to get Some one to Deliver a telegram to Me But they failed to find eny one that Knew where Little trout lade was the hole Country was Heavy timbered and there was No Roads only Portage trails and talk about fish there was Lots of them in ever Lake Lakes that was way Back in the Woods and Big high Bluffs all around them you would wonder how they got in there and no out Let Nor in Let i tell you Some Country of Corse where ever you went you had to Pack a Birch Bark Canoe and your Bed and Something to eat

Thank you and
safe travels home.
Be thankful you
do not have to
take the Little
Trout to Alder
Lake trail with “...a
Birch Bark Canoe
and your Bed and
Something to
eat...”

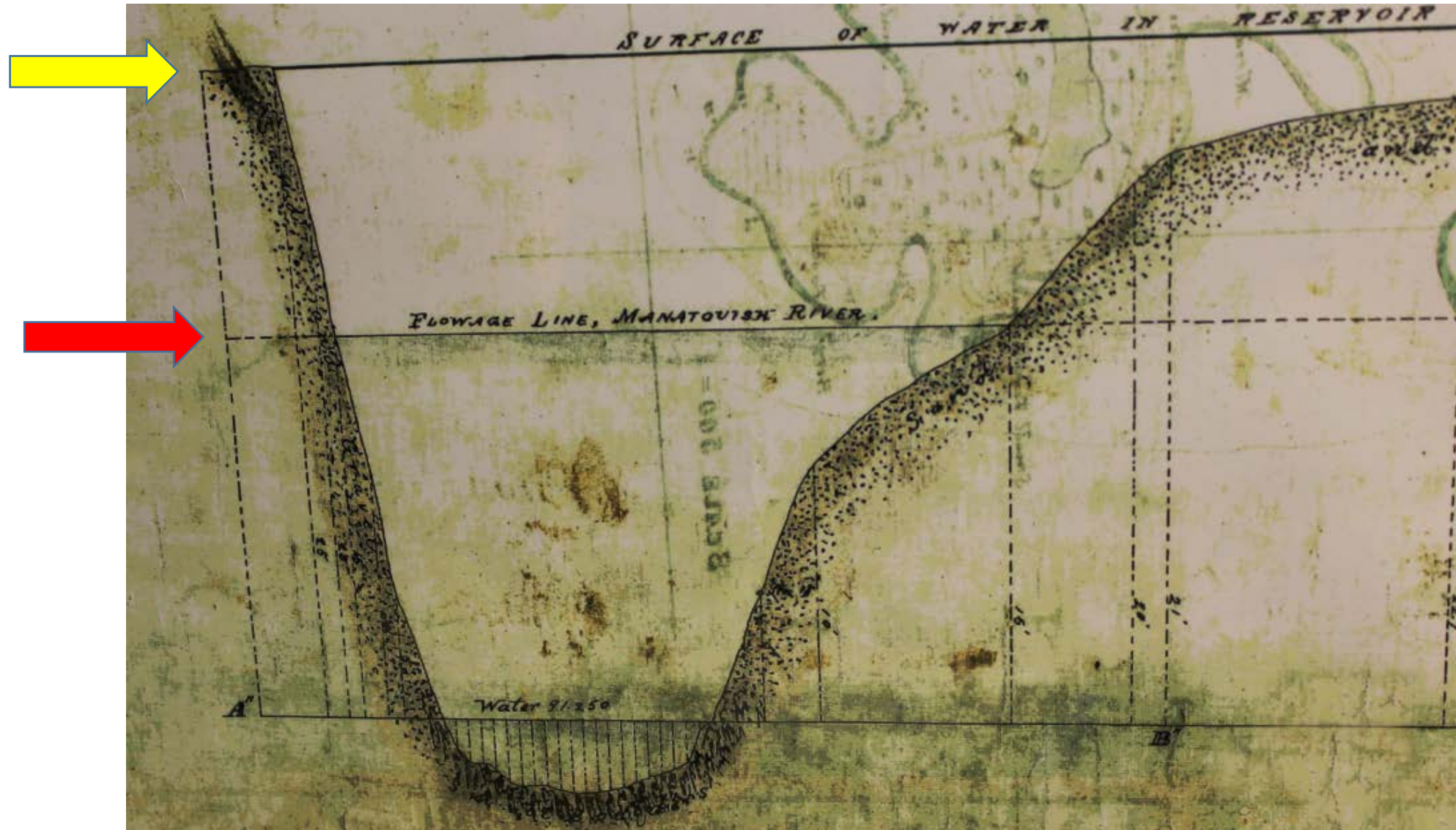


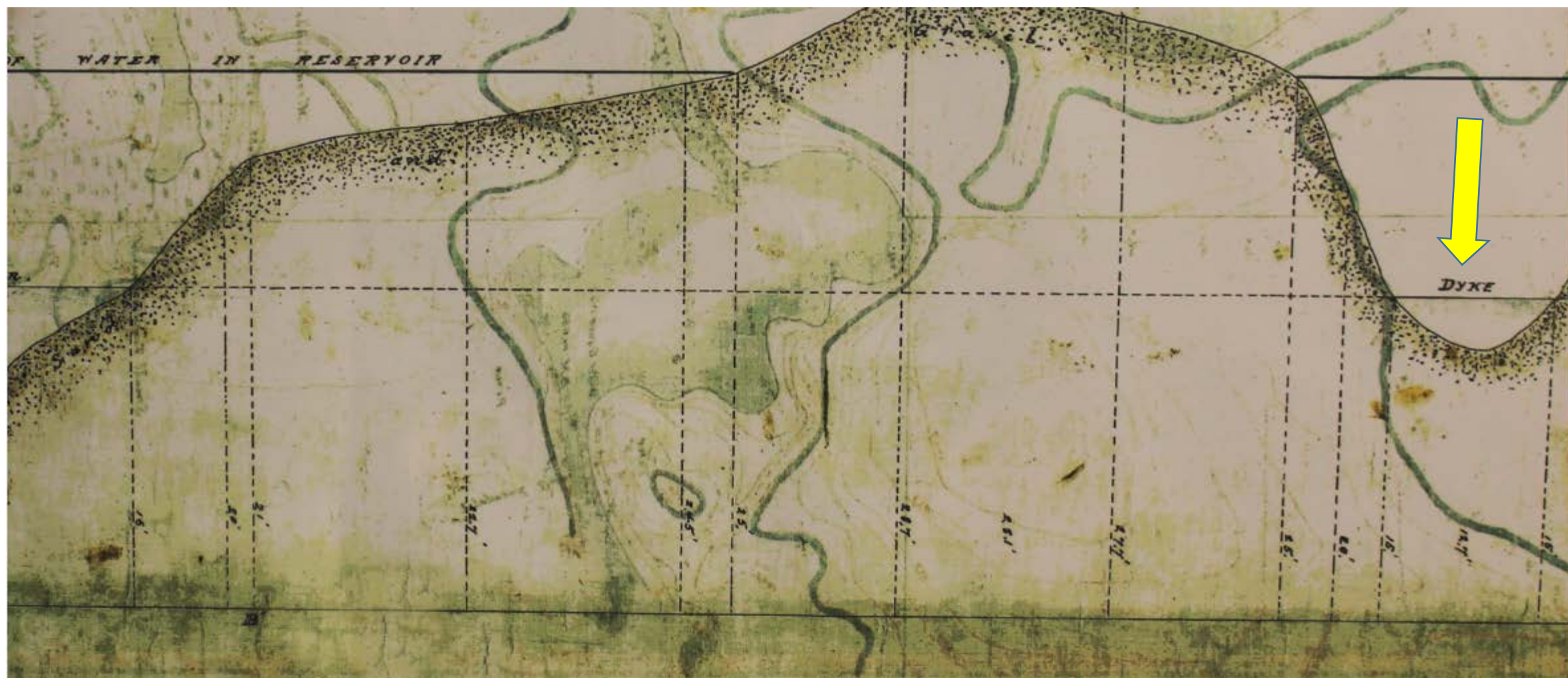
1880 House of Representatives 46th Congress Ex Doc.
No. 39

On the Manatouish River, at the outlet of Rest Lake. Proposed dam 15 feet in height and 250 feet in length.

Why did the dam site change in 1 year, when few in the area had any political influence and information traveled slowly?

Yellow arrow illustrates the 25' reservoir capacity
Red arrow illustrates the 15' flowage line





15 feet was the goal of
the flowage line

