A history of Camp Two, and its eighty acres owned by the Paris Campbell family from 1958 to 1996. This document was researched by and prepared by Cathryn E. Campbell, Paris Senior's oldest daughter.

In the mid-1950s, we Campbells were campers. We explored most Minnesota state parks and some national ones in the Rockies. Tents and tarps then weren't light-weight and easy set-up, so Dad and Perry bore the brunt of camp work. Dad's camping enthusiasm waned some, especially after rainy and long, multi-park vacations. Still, as Minnesotans, love of lakes and woods was in our blood.

Dad was a generous but also frugal man who managed to save money from his paycheck as assistant foreman of the hog kill division at Swift & Company. Further, he was very handy. He learned skills from his father, a logging camp carpenter and blacksmith, and from his own youthful work as a farm laborer and dairy truck driver. The farm work began when Dad at age 12 was hired as a potato picker. After short observation, the farm owner called Dad over to tell him that he was working like a man so he would be paid a man's wages. Maybe that reward helped define one of Dad's ultimate measures of a man: that he work hard. (His other measure was that he have a good heart.) When he was about 16, Dad built roads in Yellowstone National Park. As a result of thrift and varied handyman skills, Dad was able, with aid from a carpenter brother-in-law, to complete most tasks of building our house in South St. Paul. The family was living in the basement when I arrived in June 1947 and moved into the finished home before I was two.

Mother had a history of health problems, starting with polio when she was about three. She miscarried multiple times between our parents' April 1935 marriage and Perry's (Paris junior) birth in October 1942. She was in bed for most of her pregnancy with me. Less than two years after Marcia's February 1951 arrival, Mother had another difficult pregnancy ending in the early delivery of twin girls in March 1953. Marion and Margaret, named for their grandmothers, lived only a couple days. Roughly two years later. Mother's cancer resulted in a mastectomy and hysterectomy followed by radiation treatment. When she recuperated enough to tolerate another surgery, she had gallstones removed. Like many patients with potentially life-threatening illness, Mother reflected more deeply on the meaning of existence. She intensified her spiritual journey, including through reading and writing—and she desired more time in nature for these pursuits and physical healing. As a result, by late 1957, she and Dad thought seriously about buying lake property. They also wanted a permanent vacation home versus frequent camping.

Through scouting, Bill and Theresa Chapin became family friends in South St. Paul. (Mother was a Girl Scout leader before Marcia and I were even Brownies.) Bill grew up as one of nine children, five of them boys, on farms in Wadena County. The wider Chapin clan had hunted for many years in next-door Cass County, initially traveling there by horse and wagon. Specifically, they went through the Camp Two property eventually owned by Ralph Robideau into the mainly paper company- and state-owned forest beyond it. On learning of my parents' incipient search for land, Bill mentioned that Ralph had died in February 1957 of a heart attack. He'd been shoveling snow outside the tiny house near Pine River where he and his wife, Mattie, had moved when age made winter work and isolation at Camp Two difficult to handle. Bill thought it possible that Mattie might want to sell the land, especially because the couple had no children. The Chapins owned a cabin on Little Boy Lake, so they invited Mother and Dad to stay there with them in order to check out the Robideau property. At first sight, my parents fell in love with it. They chanced visiting Mattie that same weekend to ask if she would consider selling it to them.

Mrs. Robideau was a petite, frail-looking but quite spritely 76-year-old, who hadn't decided yet to sell. She needed time, but agreed to call or write my parents to advise them. While awaiting word from Mattie, my parents looked at other properties. None out-rated Camp Two. By December, Mother and Dad could wait no longer, so on a weekend trip to visit another lake site, they stopped in again at Mattie's home. Upon opening her door, she marveled, "Well! How did you get here? By helicopter?" The day before, she had mailed a letter accepting their purchase offer.

She added that she liked my parents and wanted a buyer who would appreciate the property as much as they seemed to. The sale was finalized in January 1958.

OWNERSHIP HISTORY OF CAMP TWO PROPERTY

If I am reading Cass County online records correctly (and the cross-offs and write-ins were sometimes confusing), the two 40 acre properties purchased were the SE1/4 of the SW1/4 and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 30 in Trelipe Township. Ownership of these two sections follows. To help track the section currently with the house, I'm adding an (H) after SW1/4 of SE1/4.

1915 and 1916:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Minneapolis & St. Cloud Ry. Co. (Could this be the company that built the railroad grade into the woods for logging?)
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	S. S. Brown (also owned NW1/4 of SE1/4)

1917-1919:	NO RECORDS

1920-1925:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	No owner listed **BUT** the **1920 Census** notes that George S. Kline, his wife, and (at the time) 6 children were farming and owned a home, mortgage-free, in Trelipe Township.
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	S. S. Brown (also owned NW1/4 of SE1/4)

1926-1934:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	George S. Kline. The **1930 Census** states that George Kline, father, 49, was living there with his son, Benjamin Kline, 29, the actual head of household, along with Ben's wife and 2 young children. Ben's industry was truck farming. George's wife, Ora, is not listed. The couple may have been separated.
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	S. S. Brown (also owned NW1/4 of SE1/4)

1935-1936:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Ben C. Robideau. (hand written over Kline)
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	S. S. Brown. (also owned NW1/4 of SE1/4)

1937-1938:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Ben C. Robideau
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	Ralph Robideau (handwritten; note added taxes pd in full 1938 and 1939 and "sold for taxes.") In 1937, Ralph was 55 years old.

1939:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Ben C. Robideau
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	Ralph Robideau. (NW1/4 of SE1/4 henceforth owned by State)

1940:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Ben C. Robideau. BUT he died 1/9/1940 (and handwritten note adds "sold for taxes"
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	Ralph Robideau

1941:	INCOMPLETE RECORDS	
1942-1945:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Ralph Robideau
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	S. S. Brown (Accurate?)
1946-1956:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Ralph Robideau
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	State of Minnesota
1957:	SE1/4 of SW1/4	Paris J. & Myrtia A. Campbell. (written over Ralph Robideau)
	SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H)	Paris J. & Myrtia A. Campbell. (State of MN crossed off; "Mathilda Robideau" & "Repurchased" written in and not crossed off, but Campbells also listed with note that taxes were paid in full Jan 6 and Feb 28, 1958)

Until looking at county records, I hadn't heard of S. S. Brown nor known that he owned the SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H) as well as some other area properties. I can't find any Census or other data about S. S. Brown either as a person or a company (as perhaps a logging operation).

George S. Kline probably owned the SE1/4 of SW1/4 from 1920 through 1934. There may have been a house in that section throughout most if not all of this period, since I'm quite sure that he and his family were living and not just farming there. For his 1917 draft registration, George gave a home address of Wabedo, which is in Wabedo rather than Trelipe Township. Then the 1920 Census had him in Trelipe Township (as head of family, homeowner, and farmer), and the 1930 Census lists his address as Section 30, House Number SW1/4, Trelipe Township. (As noted, for the 1930 Census, George was an unpaid worker and family member on the truck farm his son Benjamin was operating.) I think that George's house was near the original pump across the road from the sand pit. However, I never saw any foundation or other building remnants there. Mr. Kline stopped once at the house while we were summering at Camp Two. He and a few family members then drove around to the north shore for a picnic. Unfortunately, I didn't hear his conversation with Mother to learn any history of his time in the area.

George Kline's wife from 1903 until they divorced about 1940 was Ora Alma Robideau. She was a sister of both Benjamin Clarence Robideau, Jr. and Ralph Robideau, as well as five other siblings. By 1902, George and Ora were both residing in or near Pine River. At least four and probably six of their seven children were born there; the youngest was born in 1925 in Longville.

I believe that George and Ora had a long separation before their divorce. After living with his son (1930 Census), George lived with one of his daughters. Marie White, and her family in Kego Township (1940 Census). Kego surrounds but is a separate entity from Longville. He was working for the State in road construction. As of the 1950 Census, George was 69 and living in Longville with his daughter Helen and her husband Lars Jordan. Meanwhile, Ora had moved to Oregon where she remarried in 1940.

George's father, Daniel Kline, is buried in Pine Ridge Cemetery, Pine River. George died 11/14/1972 at the age of 92 in Pine River, but he and three of his children are buried in Riverside Cemetery near Longville.

From 1937 through 1940 (records for 1941 are incomplete), Ralph Robideau is listed as taxpayer for the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 (H) section. I think Dad heard from neighbors that the current house was built there in the '30s. They said that the wooden floor boards in the main-floor living and bed rooms were obtained from an old one-room schoolhouse in the county. We were glad that the Robideaus had left the white kitchen wood/gas stove, living room wood furnace, brass bed, one or two wooden rocking chairs, treadle sewing machine, quilting frame, and a few smaller items like two sad ("heavy") stove-heated irons. (I have the irons as a memento of Mrs. Robideau.) Mother bought another (white-painted) treadle machine from a used-a-bit shop, but it didn't work as well as Mrs. Robideau's. The claw-footed oak table came from either the Robideaus or, less likely, our South St. Paul neighbors, the Milberts. These neighbors gave us a couple bedroom dressers and my favorite furniture in the house, a small drop-leaf table with two high-backed benches that fit well in the porch. Mother repainted the set and added a toll painting of a dove on the inside back of one of the benches. It became "the peace chair": when my sister Marcia and I squabbled, our punishment was usually to sit on the bench until we reconciled. The peace chair and the view of the lake and woods while sitting in it had a magic aura: normally, a parent's instinct is to separate warring siblings—not force them to sit next to each other—but calm soon came over us in the peace chair, so we could dash off for further play.

A mystery to me is why Ralph Robideau was listed in county records from 1942-1956 as the owner of only the SE1/4 of the SW1/4. I don't know when he and Mattie moved near Pine River, but as of the 1950 Census, they were still at Camp Two. Surely, they would have resided in the house in the SW1/4 of SE1/4 (H). Are tax records accurate? Could Ralph have not paid taxes on the housed eastern property for such a long period and still been able to live there? Dad and Mother were both listed in tax records as owners even years after Mother died 7/16/1966. Dad sold the property to Paris J. & C. J. Campbell in 1990.

ROBIDEAU FAMILY HISTORY

Pierre "Pete" Gideon Robidoux, Ralph's grandfather, was born in Quebec in October 1821 or July 1828. Using the 1821 birth date, he lived in Kankakee, Illinois at age 24, St. Louis, Missouri at 25, and Belle Plaine, Minnesota Territory at 28. There he married Marie Hyppolyte Apolline "Polly" and had his only recorded offspring: Benjamin Clarence (Sr.) in 1855 and George E. In 1857. (Some sources say George or both sons were born in Chicago rather than Belle Plaine.) After service in the Civil War, Pierre lived in Michigan, Lake City, Minnesota, and then several locations in Redwood County, Minnesota. In February 1911, he died in Pine River at the age of 89. He had outlived Polly by about 21 years.

Pierre and Polly's two sons probably married sisters. According to one source, Caroline "Lena" and Elizabeth "Betsy" Olson were born in Wisconsin about 1861 and 1862, respectively. Their parents, Sylvester and Anna, had immigrated from Norway.

The older sister, Lena, married the younger brother, **George E. Robideau** in November 1879. The couple had 12 children and lived in Redwood County locations before relocating in 1897 to Pine River. According to an article in a Pine River newspaper, they were considered pioneers of the city, and lived there the rest of their lives. George E. died in 1932 and Lena in 1938. Both are buried in Pine Ridge Cemetery, Pine River, along with at least three of their children.

Betsy married **Benjamin Clarence Robideau, Sr.** They had eight children in Redwood County, most near Morgan. The first was Benjamin Jr. in 1878, the third was Ralph in 1882, and the fifth was Ora in 1887. In Census records over the years, Benjamin Sr. was identified as a day laborer, jail keeper, and farmer. He also was, at times, a saw filer.

In the 1880s, his father Pierre was living with the family. For unknown reasons, as of the 1900 Census, Betsy was living in Redwood Falls apart from Benjamin Sr. She was head of household and a washer woman. With her were seven of her children, including Benjamin Jr. (but not Ralph), and Antoinette with her husband George Warming and a daughter. I could not find Betsy in any subsequent records except for a death on December 1, 1932 in Consort, Alberta, Canada, where her youngest child, Mabel was also then living (and died in 1938). In 1905, Benjamin Sr. was residing in Pine River with only son Ralph and Ralph's first wife Mable. In 1916, he was living in Minneapolis on Harriet Avenue with Ralph and Ralph's second wife Mattie. In 1920, he was in St. Paul with his son-in-law, George Warming, and three grandchildren, aged 13, 7, and 6. George was head of household; his wife, Antoinette, had died in September of the preceding year at 39. Shortly after the 1920 Census, Benjamin Sr. must have moved back to Cass County because he died there in June 1920 at age 64. He is buried in the same Pine Ridge Cemetery as his brother, George E.

Also in Pine River by the 1905 Census but living at a different address from his father, Ralph, and Mable were **Benjamin Jr.**, his wife, Jane E. "Molly" Jones (married there in December 1902), and their month-old daughter, Eldora Esther. By 1908 through at least the 1910 Census, the family was in St. Paul. They had returned to Pine River by 1917. As of the 1930 Census, Ben Jr. owned a house on forty acres in Walden Township, just southwest of Pine River Township. During his first residence in Pine River, Ben Jr. was a mechanic. Before and after that, he was a shoemaker. By the 1930 Census, he was a steam engineer. Ben Jr. died January 9, 1940 in Pine River at the age of 61. Molly died in 1985 at the age of 98 or 99. Both are buried in the Pine Ridge Cemetery, as is their only child, Eldora. This daughter had married J. Waldemar Wicklund, and moved with him from Pine River to Walker in 1932, where he became superintendent of Cass County schools.

I don't know if Ben Jr. and his family actually lived on the SE1/4 of the SW1/4 anytime during the roughly five years from 1935-1939 that Ben Jr. paid taxes on it. One possible indication of non-residence at Camp Two is that, for the April 1940 Census (i.e., shortly after Ben Jr.'s January death), Molly was living in Walden Township.

Ralph Robideau, like his father Ben Sr., brother Ben Jr., and sister Ora, had migrated from Redwood County to Pine River by 1902. Members of the Pine River baseball team that year included Ralph, his first cousin George A. Robideau, George Kline (who became his brother-in-law the next year), and two other Klines. On January 7, 1905, Ralph married Mable Haldeman in Cass County. He was 22; she was 17. The 1905 Census shows Ralph (and Mable) were farming with his father near Pine River. In 1910, Ralph was 27, divorced, and still in the Pine River area, but laboring at odd jobs and boarding with his cousin George A. and George's young family. Ralph married Mattie Merritt on February 10, 1915 in St. Paul. He was 32; she was 34. Mattie was born January 22, 1881 in Wisconsin to parents from Norway. A 1916 Minneapolis directory shows that, as noted above, Ralph and Mattie were living with his father on Harriet Avenue. Ralph was then a mechanic. As of the 1920 Census, the couple owned a home in Minneapolis (specific address not identified) and Ralph was a mechanic contractor. The 1930 Census gave their owned home an address of Aldrich Avenue, Minneapolis, and Ralph's occupation as an auto garage mechanic. He was 74 when he died 2/13/1957. Mattie died at age 83 on 10/25/1964. Sadly, I don't know where either of them is buried.

We heard stories about Ralph that revealed aspects of his talents and personality. He got into at least one fist fight over his policy of charging a fee (I think, a dollar) for cars to drive through his property into the woods beyond—and the same fee for them to exit it. Post-fight, he must have taken the matter up with the Longville sheriff, who confirmed that Ralph had the right to charge the fees, and could, in fact, close the road and plow it into a garden if he chose. For however long Ralph made these road use charges, they likely frustrated numerous fishing and hunting sportsmen paying them.

To control ingress and egress to the woods and Camp Two, Ralph dynamited out the road near the east side of Blueberry lake. It had been used for logging traffic as well as visitors to/from Inguadona. His reason was, I'd guess, primarily financial. The closed road ensured that more people would enter the woods through his route. Also, like my Dad, Ralph would have worked hard and at some cost to maintain the road (built on a railroad grade) from the mailbox to the east edge of his property. Dad only rarely got loggers hauling on the road to accept some responsibility for its repair, even when they had damaged it more extensively by spring hauling. Perhaps especially during periods of heavy logging, Ralph would have had some luck getting maintenance help, but he still may have felt he was due remuneration for road work.

He had at least two boats that he built. I assume that he wanted income from rental of these boats, as well as fees for the launching of other people's boats from his property. Then too, he probably would have been protective not just of this income, but of fish in Camp Two. We heard, for example, that he discouraged use of sucker minnows, and broke the backs of all those left before they could be dumped into the lake.

Two of Ralph's boats came to us with the property. They made me a great admirer of his craftsmanship. They were narrow, 12-foot, three-seat, flat-bottoms that road low in the water, yet rowed superbly—one slightly better than the other, but both better than any other boats I've ever rowed. I'd heard that flat-bottoms were more dangerous than round-bottoms because they tipped easier. Not true for these boats! We sometimes stood on a boat's gunnels, one person near the bow and another near the stern, and rocked the vessel, trying to dump our opponent into the lake. We couldn't use Ralph's boats for this game: they would hardly rock let alone tip over. Years after Mother's death stopped us from summering at the lake, Dad and I were visiting it for a weekend. By then, we had only one, but the better of Ralph's two boats. While we were in town, someone hacked a hole in the bottom of it and shoved it out into the lake where it sank in the shallows by the nearby reeded point of land. I wept.

RALPH AND A PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

I learned about another of Ralph's skills while researching prisoner of war logging in the woods beyond Camp Two. My interest in the topic was initially piqued during our first summer at the lake when Walter "Mick" Putnam, nearest neighbor to the south of us, told us he was a guard there. (As an aside, we couldn't have had better neighbors than the Putnams.) In late 1942, after the U.S. had decided to intern Axis prisoners in the U.S., the War Department began planning for using the prisoners as contract labor. By early 1943, growing at-home labor shortages intensified the planning in co-operation with the War Manpower Commission, War Production Board, and War Food Administration.[1] Treatment of prisoners in the labor camps was to be in accordance with Geneva Conventions of 1929. Camps had to meet the same standards as base camps of the U.S. Army. "Food, medical care, clothing, exercise, and recreation had to be provided, with rations required to be equal in nutritional value to those served to American troops."[2] A labor camp was approved only upon certification that prisoners did not displace civilian workers in the area. Any issues of public, including union, animosity needed to be resolved before POW laborers could be used. Generally, they were. Contract employers paid the Army the area's prevailing wage rates. The Army, in turn, paid working POWs based on the pay scale for their rank. For privates, this equated to about $.80 per day, plus a gratuity of $.10 per day for personal needs. (One source said that the POWs got only the gratuity on days that they did not work.) The money was put in an escrow account to be paid when the POW returned to his home country. However, POWs could withdraw some of their pay to purchase canteen coupons, also referred to as chit booklets. These were worth from 20 cents to $20.00 and could be redeemed only in a base canteen. The value of any chits leftover at the time of repatriation were added to the POW's account. Some POWs returned home comparably better off than compatriots there were after the war. Contracts covered other specific work policies.

The labor internment camp program was considered a success. POWs played a vital role in alleviating labor shortages. Nationally, more than 140,000 of the roughly 426,000 mostly German POWs participated, working mainly in food processing, agriculture, and logging (pulpwood and lumber products). They kept these industries running, and the U.S. "realized more than $102 million from" their work.

Minnesota's 15 plus camps housed in total 1,275 Germans (plus some Italians) during the course of the program. Contractors here used these POWs in the same three main industries. The first logging contracts in the state were negotiated in November 1943, but the reaction of Timber Workers Union 29 of the International Woodworkers of America in Duluth caused abandonment of the contracts. In fact, because of union opposition, most of the logging prisoner camps in the state were outside of northeastern Minnesota.

Contracts were signed with timber operators in Cass, Beltrami, and Itasca counties. On January 31, 1944, an American officer and 18 Army guards escorted 37 German POWs through Duluth to the former CCC camp just northeast of Remer. This contingent prepared the camp for the arrival in late February of additional prisoners, who brought the camp POW total to 247. By April, logging camps had opened at Bena and Cut Foot Sioux (Deer River). At first, all were under the jurisdiction of the Army's Concordia, Kansas major base camp; in June supervision transferred to a new Algona, Iowa headquarters.

The prisoners at the Remer camp had mainly been captured in Tunisia and served in Rommel's African Corps. Some were attached to the Luftwaffe in North Africa, others to Panzer tank divisions, artillery, or infantry. Their average age was 23. About half were married, many by proxy after their arrival in the U.S. A single barbed wire surrounded the camp. Two guards patrolled during the day, and three at night. Basically, the camp was close to operating on an honor system.

Prisoners did all the cooking, with the same food being served in the 250-seat mess hall to everyone from prisoners to American officers. A young German physician ran the dispensary, where he treated camp Germans and Americans. A 20' x 40' room doubled as a chapel and a classroom where high school and some university-level courses were offered. The camp had a 5-acre athletic field, tennis and fussball courts, and in addition, equipment for boxing, ice skating, baseball, and soccer. A recreation room was available for ping pong and crafts such as wood crafting and painting. A library had books in German. Music and singing were heard frequently.

Morale seemed very high. Many internees said that northern Minnesota was "schust like Germany." Mr. Putnam mentioned that a few stayed or came back to the area after the war. And although American staff were to indulge only in work-related conversation with POWs, many, including Mick, came to view the Germans as pretty much like themselves.

The pine to be cut by the Remer POWs was second growth in a tract of 69 forties, mostly in Trelipe township. Jerry Hall from Walker acquired titles for the timber from multiple owners and then signed a deal with Corcoran & Sells, contractors for Wisconsin Paper Mills, to cut the tract for pulpwood. The Army also had contracts with Corcoran & Sells, as well as a few other logging operators, for German POWs to be part of the labor force for the project. It was anticipated to last 18 months and yield about 20,000 cords. Men rose at 6:30 a.m., ate breakfast from 7:00 to 7:15, and assembled before a convoy of 8 to 10 trucks for an 8:30 departure to a current logging site (such as near Blueberry and Camp Two lakes). Each prisoner was expected to cut 4/5ths of a cord per day by the 6:30 p.m. quitting time.[3]

The project contractors also hired saw filers. One of them was **Ralph Robideau**, whose father, Ben Sr., had been an expert at the task when virgin forests were being cut.[3]

In late January 1945 (that is, about a year after their arrival) the POWs at the Remer camp were moved to another ex-CCC camp at Day Lake. After working year-round, they had finished cutting in the project area. The last prisoners of war in camps throughout Minnesota left the state in late December of 1945.

MATTIE ROBIDEAU AND THE CAMPBELLS

Mother and Dad were grateful to Mattie for selling the lake property to them. They also came to know and appreciate her as a quiet and kind person who could use some friendship in her rather lonely life as a widow. As far as we knew, she interacted almost exclusively with her next-door-neighbor, Mrs. Scott, who, thank goodness, was younger and helpful to her.

We spent our first summer at the lake in 1958. In that and the subsequent six summers before Mattie died in October 1964, Mother, Marcia, and I sometimes stopped to visit her when we went to Pine River. At first, this was at her house and, in her last year, it was at the nursing care facility where she had moved. We also invited her to stay with us at the lake for a week or two each summer until she was in the facility. While at Camp Two, Mattie, without bidding, grabbed a broom to sweep, a cloth to dust, a towel to dry dishes, a rake to clear leaves from the yard. We were embarrassed to sit and read a book or engage in other leisurely activities while a 77+-year-old worker bee buzzed about us. So, of course, we pitched in to finish tasks and then tried to get her to sit in a rocking chair. We learned from her how to heat a curling iron by resting it inside a kerosene lamp globe, how to shine the warm top of the wood stove with wax paper, where the Robideau's dog, Lady, was buried next to a lilac bush, the window where Mattie was standing when lightning struck the house and her face was purple for a week. Over time, she became rather grandmother-like to Marcia and me, especially because all our actual grandparents died before we were born.

She even provided us with occasional presents (besides her presence with us) and, in doing so, humanized Jake. He was our mutual mailman with a daily 50-mile route from Pine River to Longville and back. Most days when we met him at the mailbox, he waved, handed us the mail, and sped away without a smile or word beyond "hello." He was never nasty: he was simply a man on a long mission, which he performed with utmost efficiency and dedication. (A long, emotionless face added to his mien of remoteness.) He had, however, gotten to know Mattie and Ralph over the many years that he delivered to them at the lake and then in Pine River. I suspect that he felt compassion for Mattie, knowing of her long winters of isolation at Camp Two, her widowhood, and limited income. So when she made tins of oatmeal raisin cookies for us and asked, he delivered them without charge or further packaging. A couple times, he delivered her to us for her visits, again, free of charge. Surely these were unapproved postal services, ones that proved Jake's slightly hidden goodness and endeared him to us.

One fall, Mother and Dad brought Mattie to our house in South St. Paul for a Thanksgiving stay—which extended to a couple weeks after Christmas. At Mattie's insistence, Mother took her to J.C. Penney's before Christmas to buy presents for us. We could barely suppress laughter on the big morning when Marcia and I simultaneously opened red thermal underwear that unfolded down and down and down until it was well beyond our heights. Once Mother exchanged the adult sizes for children's, that underwear warmed us on many winter excursions. And we smiled as we donned them, remembering Mattie's gracious giving but err in sizing.

OUR LOVE OF CAMP TWO

I consider the years that we summered at the lake the best and most balanced of my life. They were special times shared with family and friends, adventures amidst the beauty of nature. They gave me memories and serenity that have helped me through difficulties inevitable even in a life as fortunate as mine. Mother was the one who went to Camp Two in search of spiritual strength, but it became a spiritual home to all of us.

Like Mattie before us felt when she sold her property, we're glad that the Kemps also love Camp Two and find it meaningful to their lives.

Note: The historical information about prisoner of war camps are not intended for publication. I was, frankly, sloppy about quotations and citations. (I need to buy a book on proper procedures for these!) Three main sources for the POW information are listed below—but, again, with woefully improper documenting.

[1] Edward J. Pluth, *Prisoner of War Employment in Minnesota During World War II*, 290, Minnesota History, published by the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, Winter 1975.

[2] Anita Albrecht Buck, *Behind Barbed Wire; German Prisoners of War in Minnesota During World War II*, Ch. 1 "The Geneva Convention," 3, 20, published by North Star Press of St. Cloud, Inc., 1998. Ch. 3 "Camp No. 3, Remer" was a source for much of the other information above.

[3] *Remembering the Prisoner of War Camp at Remer, 1944-1945*, 3-4, Cass County Clippings, published by Cass County Historical Society & Museum, Walker, Minnesota, January 1, 20