

## From My VIEW POINT

by Louis Hoglund,  
Managing Editor



## Smile Those seasonal visitors are our friends, neighbors—and possibly future full time ‘citizens’

Surrounding every lake, there are hundreds of parcels, dwellings—and dwellers—with a vested interest in the Pelican Rapids lakes area.

I hesitate to suggest this, for fear of sounding commercially insensitive—but these folks are also “customers.”

As we enter into the summer festival season, its important to remember that those folks who are part-time residents and seasonal visitors are also our friends, neighbors and participants in the community.

This message was driven home by a recent letter we received at the Pelican Rapids Press office. The note was totally unsolicited and unexpected by us, and we’ll print the content here:

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“I wanted to send you a note with my appreciation for The Press. My wife and I bought a lake lot in the area during the winter, and since we hope to eventually build a house and commute to Fargo, I thought a subscription to The Press would be a good way to get to know the community.

I have not been disappointed.

I thoroughly enjoy receiving the newspaper each week and learning about both the history of Pelican Rapids and current events. I am also pleased that print editions of The Press continue to be available because that is still by far my favorite medium to read the newspaper.

Kudos to you for your work and to The Press for its continued importance to the community.

With gratitude,  
Dale Shook

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Now, we appreciate those kind comments about the local newspaper, but the reason for publishing the letter is not intended to be self-serving.

This is an example of folks that bring “added value” to Pelican Rapids and the surrounding lakes area—as well as economic impact.

Not only do they shop at local businesses, they may patronize the Pelican Rapids Library; become patients with our local medical providers; and they may be sitting next to you at church on Sunday. These are folks that may be a few paces away on the parade route; or next to you in line at the Pelican Rotary Turkey Barbeque.

Some of these folks may even step up and volunteer for a local charity, or serve on a county, city or school committee—or maybe sit on a local township board.

Over the next four to six weeks, there are activities and events virtually every weekend in our area—from Friendship Fest to Pelican Fest to Erhard July 4th to Cars in the Park to Art in the Park.

Remember to SMILE!

Help them feel like the Pelican Rapids area their “second hometown.”

These seasonal folks are our neighbors.

They may well become semi-retired or retired permanent residents—and fellow citizens in their new “hometown.”



A sunset view of Pelican Lake

## Questions and more questions—about the quality of ‘lake life’ and the lake environment

By Sherry Trepp  
Guest columnist

Once upon a time ...

... there were two lakes. One built a town on the side of the lake and one built small cabins all around the lake. Over time ....

The lake with the attached town thrives on tourism, lots of attractions, activities and economic development. It attracts tourism through festivals, carnivals, contests, music, theater, arts and sporting events. The lake is surrounded by restaurants, bars, rental cabins, hotels, marinas and gift shops. This lake has a huge public beach, bike paths, walking paths and multiple boat launches. The lake is lit up at night by manmade lights. Public roads surround the lake. Cars and trucks fill intersections and pedestrian crosswalks. Economic development and commercialism is the “culture” of this lake. It’s lively and fun. The newest lake toys and snow toys abound. “Build it and they will come” could be their motto. It’s unclear if one is at the lake or in town and I wonder how the water quality is preserved.

The lake without the town attached has resisted development. Few businesses exist on the lake and those that do exist promote the “up north” feeling. The lakeshore consists mostly of family weekend cabins with a smattering of year round residents. The cabins are multi-generational filled with tradition and family time. Much of the lake is preserved with old trees. The view toward shore from the lake is dense green and natural vs open manicured lawns and building structures. Small, older trailer parks and small resorts have, over time, privatized into shared ownership. Cabins are accessed by beach roads owned and maintained by property owners. Native plants are treasured. Residents complain about the deer, moose, woodchucks, racoons and skunks eat-

ing their gardens. Families fish for food. The orchestra of orioles, wrens, mourning doves, sandhill cranes and loons is enjoyed. Residents enjoy star gazing under a naturally dark sky because of the lack of manmade yard and street lights. Peace and quiet is a priority. Peaceful Place could be their motto. Families swim in the lake without concern or needing to shower afterward and water quality is good.

Why do you come to the lake? To... ..

View natural, tree lined, green shorelines or view buildings and boat lift covers that resemble circus tents?

Maintain a second tier of green woods and fields or have a second tier of commercial development and parking lots?

Enjoy a celestial, dark night sky or a shore line dotted with bright electric lights?

Have boaters using their docking lights as headlights while cruising the lake at night or have boat captains that understand the red light, green light safety system?

Hear wrens, orioles, mourning doves, loons, owls, ratta tat wood peckers, trumpeter swans, ducks, the quick fly by buzz of humming birds and children laughing as they canon ball into the chilly water or hear a big base sound of music coming from multiple boats?

Have sediment stay in an undisturbed ecosystem on the bottom of the lake or a lake churned up by deep wake boats lifting up the silt, disturbing the ecosystem that has kept the lake clean for centuries?

Fish with family for dinner or encourage non-local boats to come to the lake to search for non-native and non-edible trophy fish?

Have as many boats on the lake as

people desire or only the number of boats that mother nature can support and still maintain good water quality?

Encourage boaters who are perhaps unfamiliar with environmental best practices to launch vessels from infested waters into the lake or shall you restrict their entry?

Be surrounded by short term boaters who are less concerned about the future of the lake or be surrounded by boaters who are concerned about the long term impact of their behavior on and in the water?

See and hear boats congregating on the water to socialize for the day or would you rather watch a pair of loons duck down and wonder where they will resurface, observe the width and

shape of the sun sparkling on the lake, watch the wind come up, die down, shift, watch the lake change color as storms approach, see a brood of ducklings cared for by mother ducks, watch a heron

take flight?

Have the DNR, County and State promote the lake for tourism or strive for a natural low key lake life?

Develop a lake management plan that prevents abuse and overuse of the lake or let other people who live afar determine what is right for the area?

And lastly, do you want to assume someone else will protect the lake for you? Afterall, it could be a lot of work. You might have to be vocal or meet with authorities or organize a movement or go to a meeting or influence government. Yikes, that’s not why you come to the lake! What a dilemma. Do you want to work to protect the lake or R&R and see what happens?

*Editor’s note: Pelican Lake area resident Sherry Trepp has been a lake “advocate,” and is a full time resident of the lake country.*

## Norwegian Grove a progressive township a century ago

### Pelican turkey production topped 33 million pounds in 1971

100 years ago, June 16, 1921

#### • Norwegian Grove Setting an Example in Road Building

The township of Norwegian Grove is gaining an enviable position in the matter of good roads. The town has \$10,000 or more to expend this summer on roads, and it is going to put practically all of this on ten or twelve miles of road. Edward Aas, who is chairman of the town board, has the supervision of the road building.

About five miles are to be graded through the center of the township running east and west and about the same number of miles through the center of the township running north and south. The roads are graded from thirty-six to forty feet wide.

Besides teams with scrapers to grade down the hills, a Caterpillar tractor of 120 horse power, belonging to the county, has been hired to do the grading. This tractor costs the township \$6 per hour, but it moves the dirt very rapidly. It is estimated that it moves a cubic yard of dirt every ten feet it travels, and it goes two miles an hour. The Press is always pleased to note any improvement in the community, and it is especially pleased to record the progressiveness of the township of Norwegian Grove in road improvements. It is hoped other townships will take note of the good work there and go and do likewise.

#### • Estate of Late O. A. E. Blyberg Amounts to Over Quarter of a Million

A petition for letters of administration has been filed in Judge Frankberg’s court here in the estate of the late O. A. E. Blyberg of Pelican Rapids, whose death occurred on April 23. Mr. Blyberg was 71 years of age. The estate is one of the largest if not the largest ever filed here. The personal property amounts to \$266,043 and the real estate to \$21,940, making a total of \$287,983. His daughter Mrs. Lottie Blyberg Haugen is the sole heir. — Fergus Falls Jour-

nal.

*Blyberg’s estate would be worth approximately \$3.7 million today.*

75 years ago, June 20, 1946

#### • Lyle Haglund has Serious Accident

Lyle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Haglund, met with a very serious accident Saturday morning. He has been employed at the Einar Grimstad filling station, and he went across the street to the post office to get the mail. As boys often do, he went with some speed and somehow slipped on the approach to the door and went headlong against the glass in the door. He evidently threw out his arm to protect his fall, and this went through the glass. An awful gash was cut in his arm near the elbow, severing the cords and arteries and two other gashes further up on his arm, and two fingers were cut.

Dr. Boysen happened to be there at the time, and he helped Lyle to his hospital, where he was given first aid in stopping the flow of blood. He was taken by ambulance to the Wright Hospital in Fergus Falls, where physicians dressed his wounds and joined the severed arteries and tendons.

50 years ago, June 17, 1971

#### • New High at West Central

Production at West Central Turkeys in Pelican Rapids reached a new high during the past year manager Howard Carlson reported this week. The number of pounds of processed turkey handled at the plant during the year was 33,724,587, up about 2 1/2 million pounds from the previous year.

Carlson said the plant’s payroll went over \$1 million, with up to 450 persons employed during the peak production period.

## Looking BACK

by Paul Gubrud,  
Columnist



#### • Spray Plane Hits Power Line Causes Outage

A crop sprayer working just west of Erhard hit a power line Tuesday afternoon, causing an 11-minute power outage in Pelican Rapids.

The plane was not damaged in the accident and was able to return to the Fergus Falls airport without incident.

According to a power company representative, the plane hit a Lake Region Co-op Electric Association service line that was not energized. The broken wires, however, snapped across Otter Tail Power Company’s nearby 115,000-volt transmission line, causing the power outage.

25 years ago, June 12, 1996

#### • Man Injured When Ditch Wall Collapses

A Scambler Township farmer was injured shortly before noon last Thursday when the wall of a ditch fell on him.

Stuart Restad was working in the ditch as it was being excavated for a water line in the farmyard. A large section of the ditch wall caved in, burying Restad to his waist.

Neighbors and other workers were freeing Restad from the cave-in when rescue personal arrived at the scene. He was taken to a Fargo hospital for treatment. Reportedly, Restad suffered a crushed pelvis and internal injuries. According to family members, he will be incapacitated for from 2 to 3 months.

#### • Police Report – Bikes, CD Players Reported Stolen

Bicycles have been the favorite target of thieves this past week, although CD players are a close second.

At least four bikes have been reported stolen the past week, with a value of up to \$300. While some were later recovered about all that was left was the frame. Wheels, handlebars, etc., had been removed.

Three vehicle owners reported CD players stolen. Two vehicles parked in the downtown area were also entered.

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