

Historical Clippings

Three Lakes Museum

June 2021

Two Minne-Wonka's and an O-Tahn-Agon

Minne Wonka Lodge was a camp for girls founded in 1921 by Leslie and Viola Lyon. In 1918-1919, the Mine Wonka Corporation bought property on Big Fork Lake, which had been a small resort, called the Laurelton Hotel. The corporation first operated the property as a resort for the parents of the boys who were attending Camp Minne Wonka for Boys on Virgin Lake. The girls' camp, Minne-Wonka Lodge opened in 1921.

Camp Minne-Wonka on Virgin Lake operated until 1941 when World War II created a shortage of supplies and counselors. In 1945 Ruth Becker of St. Louis purchased the 50 acre boys camp and renamed it Camp O-Tahn-Agon for Girls. There were 20 campers that first year but eventually enrollment reached 85 girls ages 9 to 17 for the eight week sessions.



Campers at O-Tahn-Agon learning to sail.

In 1965 the Lyons sold Minne Wonka Lodge Girls' camp to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanna of Ohio who operated it through 1983. In the summer of 1984 it became a 21 lot subdivision.

Camp O-TAHn-Agon ceased operation in the same summer of 1984.