

# Historical Clippings

Three Lakes Museum

September 2024

## Out of Museum Experiences

### *Meeting Three Lakes History Where it Happened*

In 2023, the Demmer Library and the Three Lakes Historical Society joined forces to collaborate on a summer program titled ***Immersion Excursions***.

The intention of the pilot program that summer was to take groups of people out of the museum to actual historical places, possibly known to them as only words and pictures in a book at most. Or maybe a total unknown!

The first list of excursions included sites that were narrated by people directly involved in the site. These included for example, Linda Polarski of Polarski Wood Products, Ed Jacobson of the Petroleum Museum and John Morley from The Chapel in the Pines. Groups could meet at the library to caravan or meet at the location, and the event usually lasted an hour and a half to two hours. This time included the history, narration, a chance to look around, and questions for the host.

Turnout was small for some but feedback was so positive that 2024 planning began almost immediately after the last trip out.

Summer of 2024 excursions held to the same format that worked well for 2023. The list was expanded and sites were added based on interest. Every two weeks an Excursion set out on Thursday from the library / museum at 10 am to experience Three Lakes history where it happened and learn the who what when and how.

Four of the six destinations were no longer supported by the people that created the story so were then narrated with history gathered from the archives from the Three Lakes Museum. Participation varied from sitting in the sun at The Winery picnic tables to hiking through the National Forest to the ski hill.

Sam Campbell Trail

The Chapel in the Pines

Sheltered Valley Ski Resort

The Railroad Depot

Maple Lake Dam

Polarski Wood Products

We had a great time this summer on these Excursions and now are ready to begin planning for 2025! Give us your feedback! Let us know at the library or museum what you would like to experience outside of the museum!

# EAGLE RIVER REVIEW

VOLUME 38—No. 17

EAGLE RIVER, VILAS COUNTY, WISCONSIN, THURSDAY, September 25, 1924

PRICE \$2.00 A YEAR

## Tornado Wrecked Three Lakes Sunday

### One Killed; One Severely Injured

Main Street of Neighboring Village Virtually Destroyed By Terrific Storm—Property Loss Is Enormous.

### CYCLONE TRAIL WIDE

RESIDENTS OF STRICKEN COMMUNITY DIGGING OUT OF RUINS CAUSED BY STORM

Three Lakes, one of the prettiest little villages in Northern Wisconsin, is today digging itself out of the ruin inflicted by the terrific cyclone which struck it about 4:30 Sunday afternoon. The entire main street, with many adjoining properties is practically wrecked. The monetary loss will not be known for weeks, so great is the damage that was inflicted. Various es-

the hospital where he is recovering as well as can be expected at this time.

### CYCLONE MOWS DOWN TREES

For miles along County Trunk A the highway is littered with massive trees destroyed by the storm, many of them torn up by the roots. It was necessary for the road patrol to clear his debris away before traffic with the outside world in that direction could be restored.

The first farm in the path of the cyclone was that of John Kotarski, on the southwest edge of the village. Barns and outbuildings there were flattened, the kitchen torn off the house and the main structure, a two-story frame dwelling was blown ten feet off from its stone foundation.

The neighboring farm, that of Tony Karwoski Jr., is a complete ruin. Where once stood a large two story frame dwelling, barns silo, cattle sheds and other buildings is now but a waste space without even a sign of any building standing. The house is a heap of debris scattered over the fields, not a stick of it within two

Scenes of the Destruction Caused by the Cyclone that Wrecked the Village of Three Lakes Sunday Afternoon



This September 21st marks the 100 year anniversary of the tornado outbreak that crossed northern Wisconsin causing widespread death and destruction. While not part of the summer series of *Immersion Excursions*, the Three Lakes Museum in collaboration with other town groups will be commemorating this solemn event in various ways throughout the month throughout the town.

An event hosted by the Three Lakes Historical Society in conjunction with WJFW Channel 12 Rhinelander Meteorology department will take place on Saturday, September 21 as part of the town's Octoberfest Celebration. The intention of the presentation is to explain the history and science of that day and applaud Three Lakes resiliency.

We hope you will join us

