



FROM OUR FILES:
Riverdale Ferry



**New Ferry For
 St. Croix River**

The new Ferry across the St. Croix river, east of Pine City, is now in operation, and made the first trip last Sunday morning. M. A. Soderbeck is the proprietor, and it will be known as the Riverdale Ferry.

Over 20 automobiles crossed on the ferry Sunday, 9 Monday and 13 Tuesday. A ferry across the St. Croix at this point, has been a long, much-needed want for some time, and will not only make it very convenient for farmers in that locality, but will be greatly appreciated by saclemen and tourists traveling between Pine City and Grantsburg. Heretofore anyone from here going to Grantsburg found it necessary to cross east of Rush City, making many extra miles of travel.

Mr. Soderbeck states that quite a number of tourists have already made use of the ferry, and there have been cars from Indiana, Iowa and other states. The Ferry is opposite the St. Croix road, which makes a first class road from Pine City to the river.

Pine Poker July 27, 1922

In 1922, recognizing a long standing need, Magnus Soderbeck started a ferry service across the St. Croix River. He named it the Riverdale Ferry



Photo courtesy of Adie Henjy

The maiden voyage .



Photo courtesy of Soderbeck Family

The first ferry was built wide enough to carry two Model T cars or a team and a wagon. In 1927 a larger ferry was constructed that held four vehicles.





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Magnus had a large family, 14 children. The boys in particular helped run the ferry.

The ferry was a 24 hour service. There was a small cabin called the ferry house where the boys would take turns sleeping. It was their job to operate the ferry during the night.



Photo courtesy of Soderbeck Family

The Magnus Soderbeck family about 1930



Photo courtesy of Jim Foster

Bill Bantleon's car crossing July 29, 1923

It cost 25¢ to cross. One 4th of July they took in \$40, which is a lot of crossings at 25¢ a piece.



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Photo courtesy of Soderbeck Family

The elephants were too heavy to go on the ferry. They had to be led across a shallow area upstream.



Photo courtesy of Soderbeck Family



Photo courtesy of Soderbeck Family

When the camels and zebra got on it looked like the ferry belonged to Noah rather than Magnus Soderbeck.



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Photo courtesy of Soderbeck Family

Soderbeck Landing was a popular place in the summer. Families would pack a picnic lunch and come to ride the ferry, play horseshoes, visit and just have fun.

While the Soderbecks quit running the ferry in 1942 it continued to operate for ten more years before shutting down for good.



Photo courtesy of Soderbeck Family