



Pine City Area History Association

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PRESENTS:

POKEGAMA SANATORIUM





Pokegama Sanatorium, Pine City

From <http://www.mnsans.com/pokegama.html>



Dr. Henry Longstreet Taylor was an active anti-tuberculosis crusader in Minnesota. In 1902 he had worked with doctors Ancker and Boeckmann to establish a tuberculosis ward in the City and County Hospital in St. Paul. In 1903 he established a tuberculosis ward in Luther Hospital at John and Tenth streets, also in St. Paul. He served on legislative committees that studied potential construction of public sanatoriums. He became frustrated with the slow pace at which state government was dealing with a serious health problem. In 1905 he used his own money to open a private institution near Pine City. It was named Pokegama Sanatorium for its location on the lake of that name. Pokegama is an Ojibwe word meaning "at the side."

Pokegama catered to patients who could pay their own way. Rates per week ranged from \$30 to \$50. When the county sanatoriums opened, their rates ranged from free for the indigent person to \$7 for those who could pay. Pokegama also furnished electric blankets for each bed, rather than the five to 10 woolen blankets issued at the county institutions. Stock market quotations were available for the businessmen.

Pokegama was built with 15 open-air cottages, but in 1918 new cottages were added. They had steam heat with private bedrooms and bathrooms shared with only two or three people. A reception hospital added in the early 1920s contained a modern surgical suite, a long-distance telephone system, and elevators.

Pokegama's most famous patient-in-residence was Dakota County attorney Harold Stassen who was there in 1930. He was elected governor of Minnesota in 1938. Dr. Taylor died in 1932. His sanatorium closed in 1944 when World War II created shortages in both supplies and staff.

Sources: "A Famous 'T.B.'er' - Harold Stassen," *The Moccasin*, Walker, MN; Greetings 1917, a Pokegama Sanatorium calendar; *Announcing the Completion of the Reception Hospital*, pamphlet, Pokegama Sanatorium, 1918. "Building Our Sanatoriums," Jerry Vessels, *Everybody's Health*, 1956, June, July, August. P.8.
Additional resource: Pine County Historical Society





A Sanatorium at DoBell Point.

Dr. H. L. Taylor, of St. Paul, was in Pine City Saturday and Sunday to confer with Dr. R. L. Wiseman in regard to a sanatorium which the gentlemen will conduct at Pokegama lake.

The doctors have decided to locate the sanatorium on DoBel Point at the mouth of Jarvis bay and will begin building operations at once. Cottages will be erected for convalescing patients. It is intended that the sanatorium will be ready for patients by the 1st of May.

The location is a most desirable one, and the scenery is very picturesque. The delightfully bracing pine air that is so abundantly bestowed upon Pine county residents will afford natural advantages that will tend to act as an elixir of health to all who choose the Pokegama sanatorium as a means of relief from the ills of life.

Drs. Taylor and Wiseman should meet with gratifying success in their new enterprise and endeavor to restore lost health, and their move has the hearty endorsement of their numerous friends.

March 3, 1905

All the arrangements have been perfected for the sanatorium at Pokegama lake. An addition is to be built onto the Wiseman cottage, making that building 72x14 feet. It is to be an open air affair with a screened interior, and is intended only for summer work. Several small cottages will be built adjoining the main building and tents will also be available. A good launch will be purchased for transporting patients to and from the sanatorium. The sanatorium will be conducted for the express purpose of treating incipient cases of consumption.

March 10, 1905

Geo. McRay and John Bergwell of North Branch, and Rex Ahlstrom of Grantsburg, were in Pine City last week doing work for the Mutual Telephone Co. Among other jobs they installed a telephone at the Pokegama Sanatorium, and the resort is now in telephonic connection with the "outside world."

May 12, 1905

A plate of fine winter apples are on exhibition in the show window of the Pine City State Bank. They were grown on the Pokegama Sanatorium farm.

September 29, 1905

The Sanatorium farm provided fresh food for the patients.

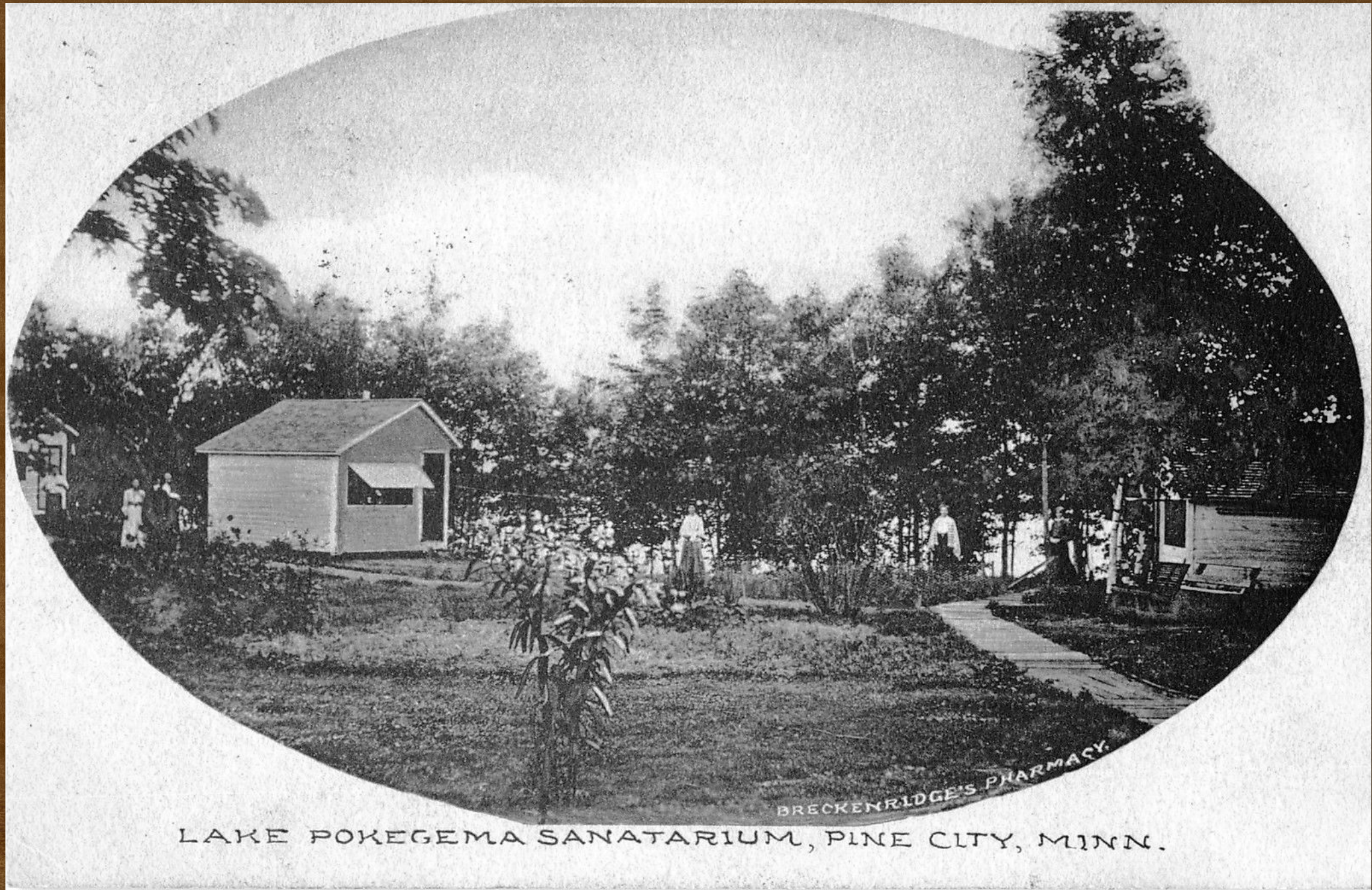
1905 THE START OF THE POKEGAMA SANATORIUM



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LAKE POKEGEMA SANATARIUM, PINE CITY, MINN.

SLEEPING COTTAGE 1907

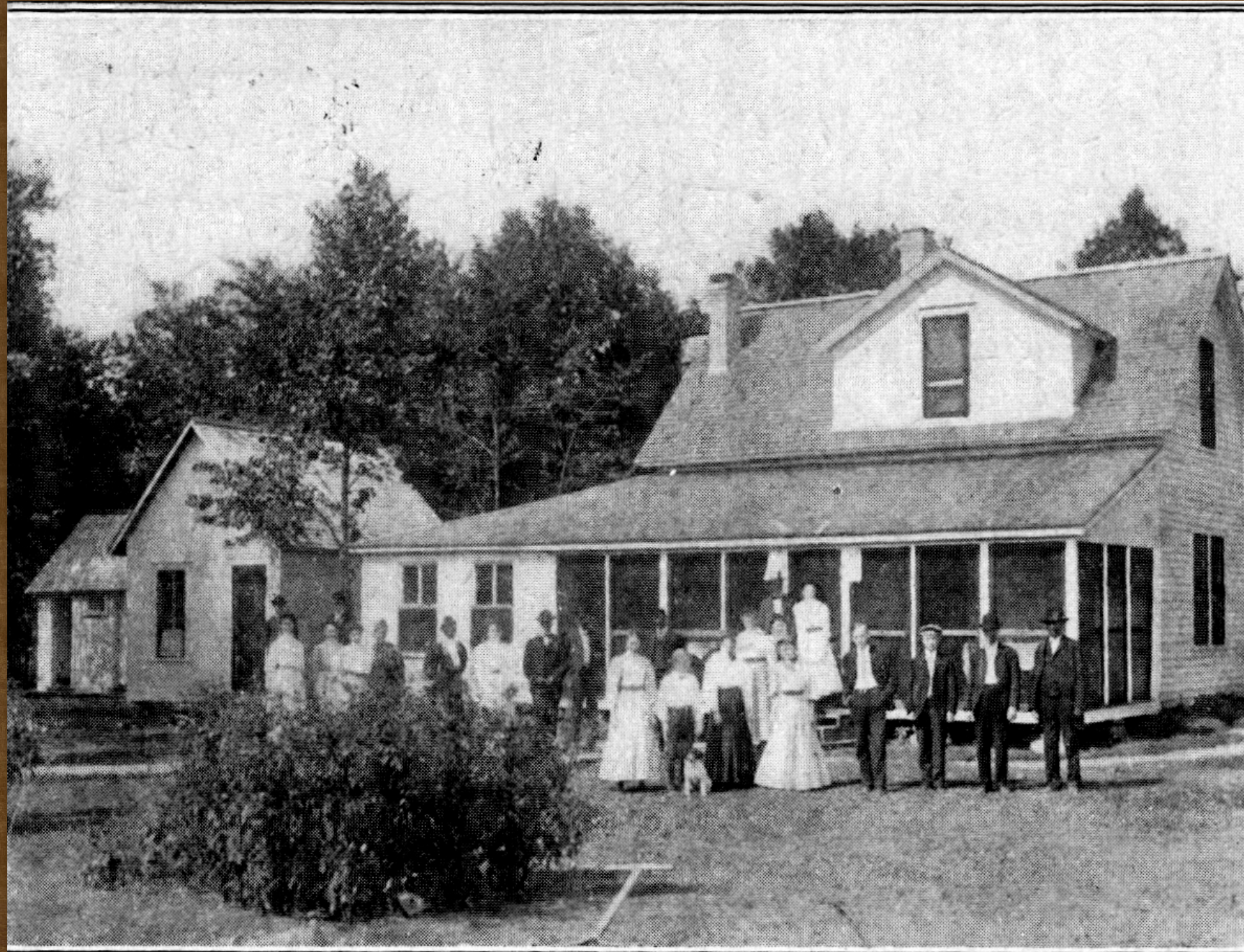


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POKEGAMA SANATORIUM, PINE CITY, MINN.

This is where
I am located
at present.
This is the
dining room.
We eat on the
porch. Hope
you and
Lester are
well. Am
feeling fine,
Lillian G.

DINING ROOM 1908



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POKEGAMA SANATORIUM



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ADMINISTRATION BLDG AT TAYLORS SANATORIUM
COPY BY R A DANIELS PINE CITY MINN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1910



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POKEGAMA LAKESHORE 1910

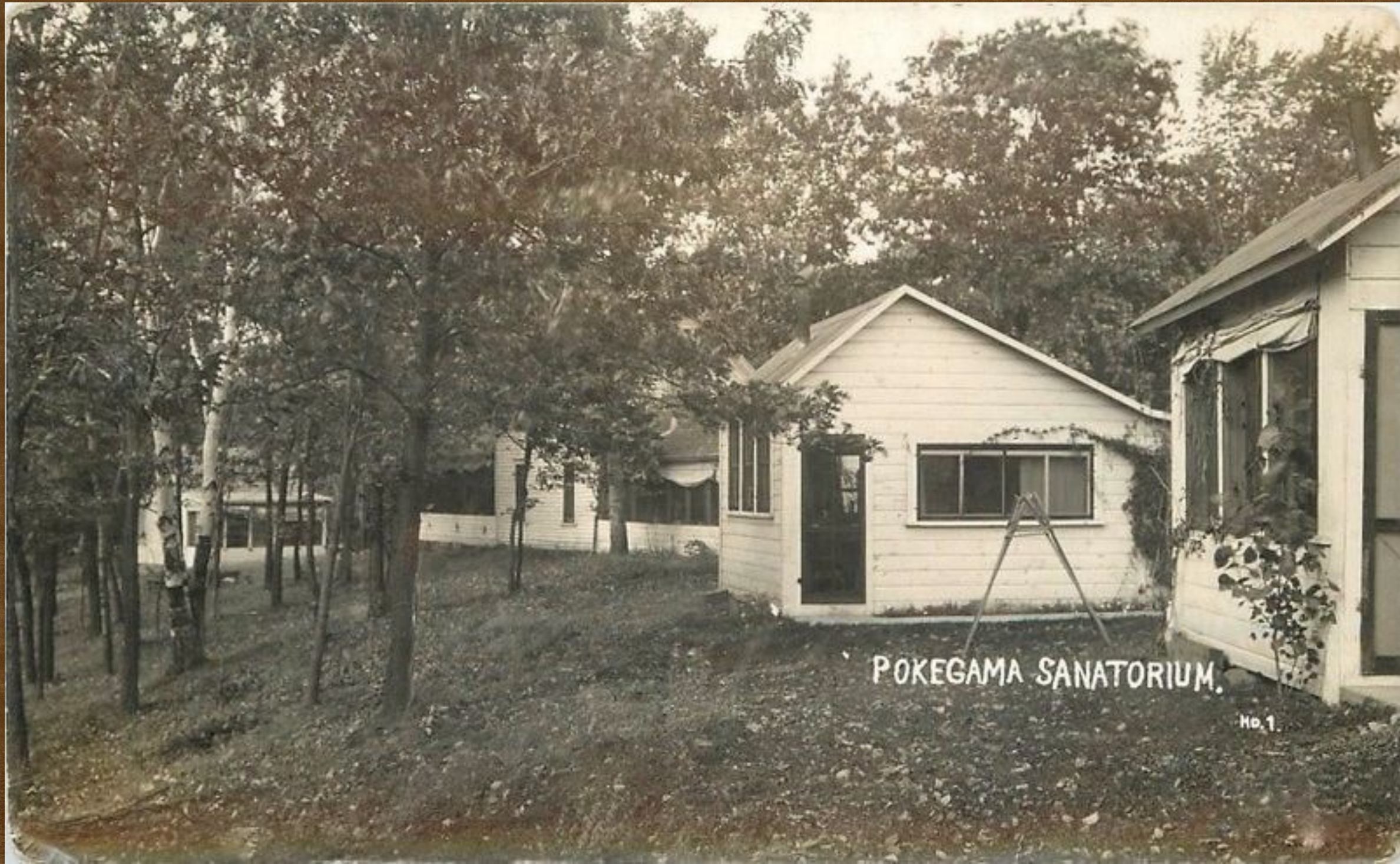


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SLEEPING COTTAGES 1910





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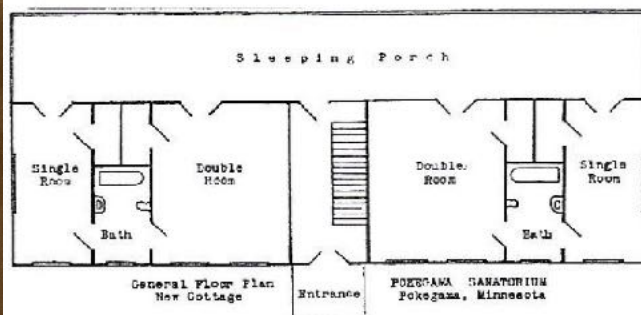
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POKEGAMA SANATORIUM



POKEGAMA SANATORIUM

BOAT DOCK ON LAKE POKEGAMA AT SANATORIUM



Floor plan of new cottage available after October 1918. Two story, stucco finish, steam heated and modern throughout.

Importance of Sanatorium Treatment

Eighty-five per cent of the tuberculosis cases diagnosed in their incipency and treated in a sanatorium become thoroughly arrested, and, if they live as they are taught after discharge, they are eventually cured. This indicates the importance of proper institutional treatment to the individual that he may be returned to useful life. Home treatment very often fails because the home is adapted to the requirements of people in good health, and its activities, as well as the intrusion of solicitous visitors, too frequently interfere with "taking the cure" even when the method is known. Also, few busy practicing physicians can take time for the medical supervision of details necessary to insure obedience. Under sanatorium conditions, with the encouragement of others, the treatment is not so likely to become irksome but is accepted as a matter of course. A second consideration is that the sanatorium teaches the precautions necessary to guard against infecting others, particularly small children, who are most susceptible to tuberculosis. It is also desired to emphasize the advisability of sanatorium treatment as soon as tuberculosis is diagnosed. A sad feature of the weekly office routine is the necessary refusal of hopeless cases who are willing to spend any money or time on "the cure."

STAFF

- H. LONGSTREET TAYLOR, M. A., M. D., Director
(St. Paul Office, 814 Lowry Building)
- M. E. LANE, M. D., Resident Superintendent
- OTIS H. COLE, Roentgenologist
- DR. WARD L. BEERE, Bacteriologist and Pathologist
(St. Paul, Minnesota)
- J. J. SCULLY, D. D. S., Dental Surgeon
(Pine City, Minnesota)

RATES AND INFORMATION

POKEGAMA SANATORIUM

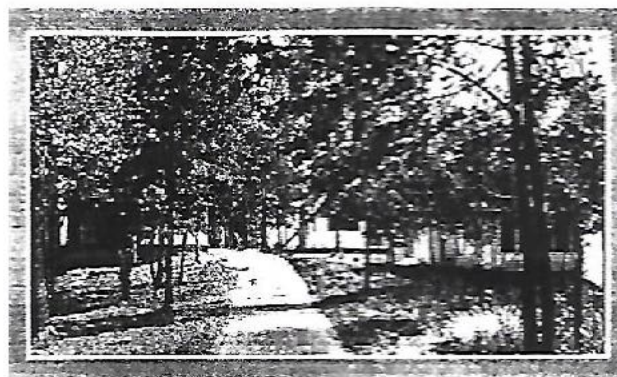
Established 1905

P. O. Address: Pokegama, Pine Co., Minn.

Railroad Station:
Grasston,
Minn.



Moonlight on Pokegama



ENTRANCE



LOOKING NORTH

HOW TO REACH POKEGAMA

At any season come to Grasston on the Great Northern and take the auto or team livery. From May until late October the most popular route is by launch from Pine City on the Northern Pacific where a boat livery is available. Trains are met on notice.

SECURING ADMISSION

Get the home physician to report your condition or go to Dr. Taylor's office, 814 Lowry Building, St. Paul, for examination. Patients may come direct to the sanatorium if more convenient, but it is preferred that they stop in St. Paul. Hopeless, far-advanced cases are not desired.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Plain, comfortable garments to suit the season. There is no occasion for dress affairs—patients are here to get well. A raincoat, rubbers, sweater, outing flannel night clothing and three changes of underwear are advised. During the cold months, a heavy coat, arctic, and a robe or horse blanket to use on the porch chairs during the day should be provided. Hot water bottles, thermometers and other personal drug sundries necessary may be purchased at the office.

MAIL, EXPRESS AND MESSAGES

Address all mail to Pokegama, Pine Co., Minnesota. This is a regular government postal and money order office. Send all freight and express to Grasston, Minnesota. Telegraph and Telephone connections are direct through Pine City.

FOREWORD

Pokegama is a private sanatorium for the treatment of Pulmonary and Laryngeal Tuberculosis. The work does not compete in any way with the various county and state sanatoria in whose organization and maintenance our staff is vitally interested. Pokegama is conducted to meet the demand for institutional treatment with the better food, greater privacy, and closer medical and nursing attention that is more attainable with a small patient list. The institution is grateful for the interest and support of the medical profession, and invites the further consideration and cooperation of physicians and the public.

RATES PER WEEK

Cottage, occupied by one	\$35.00
Cottage, occupied by two	27.50
Elms and Diamond cottages, single room	30.00
Elms and Diamond cottages, double room	27.50
No. 6 cottage, occupied alone	40.00
No. 6 cottage, occupied by two	30.00
Ward cottages	22.50
Infirmery, private room	40.00
Infirmery, double room	30.00
New cottage, private room and bath	50.00
New cottage, double room and bath	35.00
(New cottage to be completed Oct., 1918)	

X-ray chest plates	\$20.00
Special nurse's board, per week	10.00

Visitor's board, \$2.50 per day, 65c per meal
Tray service outside of infirmery, 25c per tray or \$4.00 per week.

Drugs, personal laundry, and operations are extra.

A deposit in advance to cover at least one week's charges must always be maintained by each patient. Any balance is refundable on demand. Statements are rendered each week.

VISITORS

Special accommodations are provided for in Main Building separate from all patients. Patients must not be disturbed during rest hours, from 9 to 10 A. M. and 2 to 4 P. M., and after 9:00 at night. It is not advisable to bring small children as they are most susceptible to infection. To adults, the danger of infection is negligible.



Location of Pokegama

The sanatorium is located between the Great Northern and Northern Pacific main lines between the Twin Cities and Duluth. A "star route" stage leaves Grasson on the G. N. Ry. daily except Sunday, about noon, or after the arrival of the midday passenger trains, with direct mail to the U. S. postoffice maintained at Pokegama, and is equipped to carry passengers. From early May until late October a pleasant, easy trip is by launch from Pine City on the N. P. R. R. Conveyances may be had at either Grasson or Pine City on call. If desired, arrangements will be made to meet any train on notification of intended arrival. Those coming from Chicago or similar distances do not find it tiresome to take a sleeper to St. Paul and then the morning train out. The sanatorium grounds, chosen to provide dust-free, invigorating forest air, coolness for summer and the quiet and seclusion best adapted to the "rest cure," are thus easily accessible. The buildings are situated on a high peninsula with lake or stream on three sides and heavy woods to the west. A half mile beyond is the sanatorium farm and the trails through the intervening woods are popular strolling places. The orchard and well-kept garden lie on the peninsula near the sanatorium.



MAIN BUILDING

Buildings and Equipment

In the Main Building are found spacious club and dining rooms, medical, business and post offices, kitchen with refrigerator and store rooms.

Patients quarters consist of small and large cottages grouped about the main building. Of the small cottages there are two types: the first provided with flaps on three sides which may be closed and the room quickly heated before the patient arises; the second has a screened porch and closed dressing room. Of the four larger cottages, one with two wings and steam-heated dressing room accommodates ten women; another with private dressing rooms and a common living room gives place for four women; two with six beds each are maintained for men. The steam-heated infirmary with a special nurse in charge affords quarters for eight bed patients. A new two story cottage for twelve, modern in every way, will be available in October, 1918. In the basement, especially designed quarters will house the complete X-Ray outfit for stereoptic and fluoroscopic work. See floor plan on another page.



INFIRMARY

Pokegama Methods

The resident physician sees each patient twice daily and is available for any emergency. He is assisted by the medical director who spends considerable time at the sanatorium and keeps in close touch with all cases. Each patient is carefully classified by physical findings and observation, supplemented by the X-ray. Rest, exercise and discipline, together with proper food and open air living are the foundations of treatment at Pokegama. Medicine plays a small part in the direct cure of tuberculosis, but frequently is of great value in correcting secondary disorders that may arise in individual cases. Tuberculosis is not a disease that can be healed in a fortnight, but rather requires close medical supervision of every symptom and detail for a considerable period. Patients should come with the idea of remaining several months, as, except for acute conditions or for diagnostic purposes, little can be done in less time. Tuberculin, vaccines, artificial pneumothorax and graduated labor are prescribed as indicated. Good food is a big item. A wholesome general diet is given rather than forced "stuffing" as it is found to produce more consistent and permanent results.

In cases that indicate it, special diets are prescribed. Dairy products come from the thoroughly tested dairy herd maintained at the sanatorium farm.



SMALL COTTAGES

Entertainment and Recreation

Properly selected amusements, entertainments and lectures are provided at intervals. Religious services are held by both Catholic and Protestant clergymen, from Pine City, and by visiting pastors. Walking through the woods and about the lake is a favorite exercise at all seasons. In summer the lake furnishes boating, fishing and bathing; and in winter, skating, ice-boating and fish-spearing to those deemed strong enough. Lawn croquet, cards, and other games are permitted. The most general diversion is reading and to those not running fever, sanatorium life furnishes an excellent opportunity to do extended reading, light study, or writing along any line. The club room library affords a number of newspapers, periodicals and books. For those interested in nature study, books along that line are suggested as flowers, trees and birds are found on and about the grounds in profusion. A great deal of botanical is also done. It is





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POKEGAMA

SANATORIUM



DINING ROOM 1920



**LAST RITES HELD
 FOR EDNA HINZE**

Miss Edna Hinze, daughter of Mrs. E. R. Hinze, passed away at the Pokegama sanatorium last Tuesday morning, May 19th. Miss Hinze was taken ill a few weeks ago and went to the sanatorium April 17th.

Funeral services will be conducted this afternoon by Rev. Carl Steging from the Zion Lutheran church and the remains will be laid to rest in Birchwood cemetery. The pall bearers will be Robt. Moeding, Clifford Cornelius, Milo Brown, Robt. Dipprey, Clarence Schwartwald and Arnold Hischer.

Edna Alice Anna Hinze was born in Pine City June 6, 1911, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Hinze, and was 19 years, 11 months and 13 days of age. She had lived all her life in this community, with the exception of about two years spent in Hot Springs, S. D. She graduated from the high school at Hot Springs in 1929 and completed the teachers training course in the normal department of the Pine City school in 1930. She taught school in district No. 1, northeast of Pine City, until her recent illness. She was a member of the German Lutheran church and was a faithful worker.

Left to mourn her loss are her mother, 4 brothers and 2 sisters, Hubert, Ernst, Erick, Marvin, Arnold, Helene and Renaba (Mrs. Ray Nelson.) Her father preceded her in death Jan. 21, 1926.

Edna Hinze, a local Pine City woman, passed away at the Sanatorium on May 19, 1931 at the age of 19.



PATIENT EDNA HINZE 1931



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JARVIS BAY, POKEGAMA LAKE 1930



No. 52

OMAR HOLLAND KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT TWO OTHERS INJURED

Kenneth Cox, son of Volney Cox of Pine City, and Miss Ruth Erwin, daughter of Sam Erwin of Rush City, who were riding with Holland in his car, were seriously injured. Cox suffered a skull fracture on the left side of his forehead, the left eye is injured and he may lose the eyesight in that eye. Miss Erwin had a narrow escape from death as she received a bad cut on the left side of the neck, which just missed the jugular vein. The left side of her face was also badly bruised.

The accident occurred about 10:30 Saturday night, just south of town below the hill on the pavement. Mr. Holland was driving north and was accompanied by Cox and Miss Erwin. The car ran into the rear end of a Model T Ford truck owned by Henry Jakala of Kettle River. The truck, which was also traveling north, was loaded with silo staves, 16 feet in length. Testimony given at the inquest stated the lumber stuck out beyond the rear of the truck body from 4 to 6 feet.

The car, a 1934 Dodge Sedan, struck the right side of the truck, the lumber just missing the left side of the car radiator, crushing thru the fender and demolishing the left half of the car body. The car was jammed under the lumber and it was a difficult job to release it. The occupants of the car were all knocked unconscious and considerable difficulty was encountered in getting them out. Holland was pinned under the steering column and it was necessary to bend the column before he could be removed.

Mrs. H. V. Jorgensen and Miss Lucille Gottry were the first persons to reach the scene of the accident, as they came along right after it happened. They phoned Dr. Stratte and he arrived there within a few minutes. The injured were placed in cars or motorists, who stopped to help and were taken to the Pokegama Sanatorium. Omar Holland did not regain consciousness and passed away at 1 a. m. Sunday.

A post mortem was held Sunday afternoon which disclosed the death of Mr. Holland resulted from pulmonary hemorrhage of the lungs. No bones were broken but the chest was badly bruised where he had been struck by the steering wheel.

Kenneth was in a critical condition, for a time following the accident, but reports yesterday stated he was gradually recovering and his recovery is looked for unless an infection develops. Miss Erwin was recovering nicely and was removed to her home at Rush City, yesterday morning.

Hold Inquest

An inquest was held by Coroner Gottry and County Attorney Hurley Tuesday afternoon. Testimony was given by Mrs. Jorgensen, Eben Gillespie, Reuben Ostberg, Dr. Stratte, Edwin Swanson, all of whom arrived after the accident. They testified to what they had witnessed upon their arrival, the position of the wrecked car and truck, condition of the injured, etc. Testimony given stated the tail light on the truck was still burning after the accident and Mrs. Jorgenson said there was a red piece of cloth on the rear end of the lumber.

Henry Jakala, owner and driver of the truck, said he lived in Minneapolis, where he had been employed the past 3 months but his home was at Kettle River in Carlton county. He said the truck was traveling about 5 miles per hour when the accident happened. When the car crashed into the rear of the truck he said the impact pushed the body of the truck forward on the rear of the cab. He said he got out and went to the car where he discovered the occupants unconscious. He was unable to get the car door open and stopped a car, coming from the north to get assistance. Other cars began stopping and the injured were taken from the car. He stated there was a red cloth on the end of the lumber.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. The coroner's jury was composed of John Tate, Louis Milgrom, I. R. Melin, George Bogue, Ray Nutting and Dick Caroon.

Funeral Yesterday

Funeral services for Omar Holland were conducted by Rev. Walker yesterday from the home at 1 p. m. and from Brook Park Methodist church at 2:30 o'clock and the remains were laid to rest in the Brook Park cemetery. The pall bearers were all cousins of the deceased, Clemens, Willis and Buford Kessler of Forreton and Richard, Bernard and Duane Wood of Henriette.

Omar Clayton Holland was born January 25, 1909 in Lee county, Iowa and came to Pine county with his parents two years later in 1911. He attended the Pine City high school and graduated from the School of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, in 1931. He took an active part in school activities at the agricultural college and was a member of their double quartette. He was treasurer of the Agricultural School Alumni Assn. at the time of his death.

Surviving are his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Holland of Pokegama, and 3 brothers and 3 sisters, Clarence W. of Mora, Mrs. Luella Christensen of St. Paul and Wayne, Ivan, Eileen and Myrna Rose at home.

In September 1934 Ken Cox was in a serious car accident. As the number of tuberculosis patients declined part of the Sanatorium was used as a regular hospital. Ken was brought there for treatment and recovery.

POKEGAMA, PINE CO., MINN. Sept. 15 1934

Kenneth Cox
TO H. LONGSTREET TAYLOR FOUNDATION Dr.
POKEGAMA SANATORIUM

Fees Are Payable in Advance. Statements Given Out Monday Cover Miscellaneous Charges To Previous Saturday Night. Any Errors Gladly Corrected.

	To Balance Account Rendered		
9/8	Fees 9/1 to 9/8 - 7 1/4 days	36	25
	Fees to 9/15	35	00
	Tablets		30
	gargle		05
	agarol		25
	alcohol		20
	Mineral Oil		05
	Special Nurses board	8	57
	Use of Operating Rm.		5 00
	Dressings		1 00
9/15	Fees to 9/22	35	00
	gargle		05
	Mineral Oil		20
	Tablets		25
	Baric acid		25
	alcohol		20
	Special Nurses board	10	00
			13262



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AERIAL VIEW
POKEGAMA SANATORIUM
POKEGAMA, MINN.

AERIAL VIEW



Working at the Pokegama Lake Tuberculosis Sanatorium

Memories of Virginia Haugen-Christensen

I first worked at the Sanatorium (San) the summer before my senior year in high school. After graduating from Pine City High School in 1937, I worked at the San for another year. I helped in the Hospital's diet kitchen. Food came from the kitchen in the Administration Building through a tunnel connecting it with the large brick Hospital Building. The Hospital contained patient rooms, a full medical operating room and the mechanical plant. The food was wonderful.

Then I went to Minneapolis before returning in 1940 after my brother Bob called and told me they wanted me to come back to work at the San. I would make \$25.00 a month plus room and board (Women staff stayed in the Administration Building). So I returned and helped as a waitress in the dining room. Some people were afraid they might contract tuberculosis if they got too close to the patients but it never scared me. I enjoyed helping and visiting with everyone.

The patients were all from wealthy families except one bed was free, making the hospital a nonprofit hospital. Dr. Callaban, who lived in Pine City, was the head doctor. Other doctors came from the Minneapolis/St Paul area.

Here I met Hans Christensen on June 12, 1940. He had moved from Askov to work at the San. He helped take care of the plumbing, boilers and furnaces. Even though he was somewhat shy, he talked a lot when he was alone with me. One day he proposed. My folks always said I must have asked Hans to marry me as he was so shy. We were married at the Zion Lutheran Parsonage November 9, 1940 with Reverend Steging officiating.

Hans and I made our home in a little cottage across from the San. That's where we were the Sunday after our wedding. The weather got funnier and funnier. It

started raining and then it turned to snow. It was still snowing on Monday morning when Hans left for work. And it kept snowing. Soon the electric lines were down and there was no radio or telephone. It was the deadly Armistice Day Blizzard.

Hans had taken the car to get to work but got stuck in the deep snow. He walked the rest of the way along the shoreline to the San. A transformer had blown. Hans and Dr. Callaban's son-in-law walked all the way to Pine City through the deep snow drifts to get the electric company to come out and fix the transformer. Hans didn't return home until Wednesday. I hadn't seen or heard from him since Monday morning. During that time I didn't know if he was alive or dead.

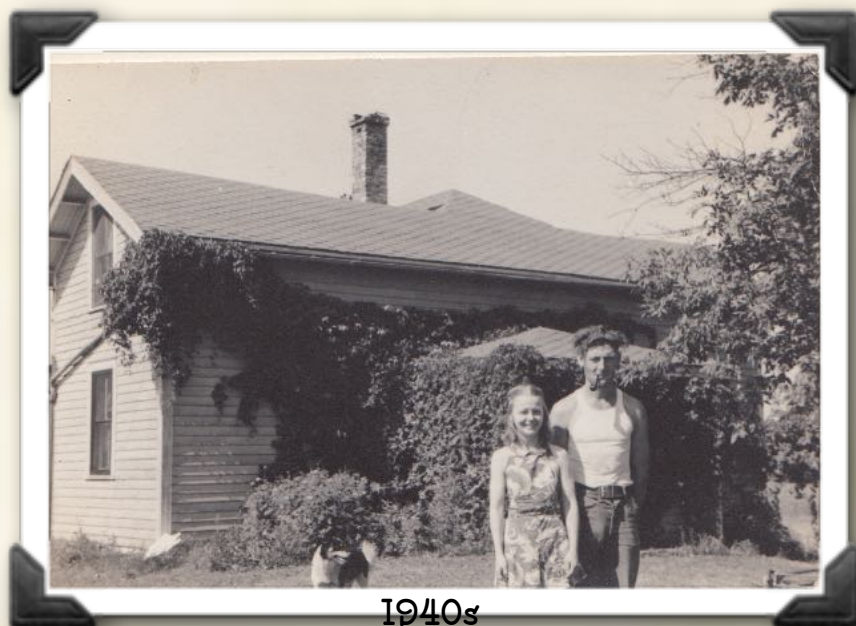
We lived in the uninsulated cottage all winter. Cold, winter winds howled around the door and windows and blew the linoleum six inches off the floor. Water froze in the metal pail overnight. I baked and cooked on a kerosene stove and made my first bread on that darn thing.

I worked at the San in the mornings, cleaning the Administration Building. Times were hard We made very little money and worked long hours but we also had fun. We always had lots of company as all the "kids" (younger staff) would come across the frozen lake from the San. My brother Bob also worked at the San on the grounds crew. His family lived across the bay from us. So we'd walk across the lake to see them.



1940

Robert Haugen Grounds Crew



1940s

Virginia and Hans Christensen at the Sanatorium Farm House

Then in the spring, we moved to the San farm house. It was on a little knoll west of the big red dairy barn and I was a little afraid at first when Hans wasn't home. Hans took over the care of the cattle. He had a cart with one horse that he used to transport milk to the hospital.

I had a big garden and canned everything possible. We had to thoroughly clean the farm house as no one had lived there for quite some time. That winter was so cold that all my flowers in the house froze. One morning I went outside and found a dog sleeping in a snow bank. We already had a dog named Tippy. We had to leave both of them when we left the farm.

Then came WWII. Our first child was on the way. Before Hans worked at the San, before we were married and before the War, he had gone to Minneapolis to enlist in the Marines. The Marines told him he was one inch too short. Now with

our entry into WWII, the Draft Board wanted him. Dr. Callahan went to the Draft Board and told them they couldn't have him as he was needed more at the San than in the service.

At the same time, the San was in the process of closing as tuberculosis was on the wane. But not before Sharon Nancy was born at the San Hospital. Hans came to see me in the Hospital before Sharon was born but kept fainting so finally the nurses told him to stay away. He sat the rest of the night in the furnace room with his boss, Larry Cummings.

In October of 1943, we moved to Elk River where Hans had a new job awaiting him. And our story goes on from a short stay in Elk River back to Pine City where we remained the rest of our lives.

The Sanatorium closed and became the home of the Catholic Redemptorist Fathers. At Christmas a life size Nativity Scene appeared in front of the former Hospital Building. A lighted star shown down on the manger as Christmas carols echoed through the night. We always stopped to look, listen and remember.

Recorded by Barbara Christensen





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MAIN BUILDING 1940