

The Uihleins in Forest County

Excerpts taken from Mike Monte in The Pioneer Express

2045 acres of Forest County Forest land was recently dedicated to grouse hunting and to Dave Uihlein, Sr., a big supporter of the sport of grouse hunting and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Entry point to this property is located on Keith Siding Road where the handsome sign can be seen. Uihlein was an ardent grouse and woodcock hunter who spent a great deal of time on his hunting lands in the northern end of Forest County. He believed in healthy forests, abundant wildlife, and the sporting tradition. He passed away at age 89. In Milwaukee, the name Uihlein is synonymous with the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company, founded in the 1850's to become one of the nation's leading breweries until its demise in 1982. It is interesting to note that the Uihlein name was associated with Forest County in the early days of the county. Ancestors of Dave Uihlein owned a very large tract of land in this county going back to the 1880's. The land around Lake Lucerne, then Stone Lake, was owned by the family, and a lodge was built on the north end of the lake where the Walerko family owns today (see pictures). The Uihleins were friends of the Wilcox family who owned, it is thought, the first resort in Forest County, also on the north end of the lake. It is also possible that the Uihleins bought the property after hunting with Wilcox. They sold all of the land except for the site of their lodge, to the Page & Landeck Lumber Company around 1891. Page & Landeck had plans for a big sawmill in Crandon, but they had to wait for the Chicago & Northwestern to run a spur line in from Pelican Lake. That took ten years. It is likely that when the Uihleins visited their lodge and ran their steamboat around the lake, they had to come into the depot at Pelican Lake and complete the trip to Stone Lake by wagon. In 1901, when the C & NW finally got around to running in the spur, a big sawmill on Clear Lake in Crandon was waiting to send out its first shipment of lumber. The Uihleins, it is thought, didn't make the trip to their lodge as often in these days, but made their vacation spot available to people from the community, and after the Wilcox resort building burned, let their friend use their building to keep his resort going. Unfortunately, this building was also lost to fire. All that remains now of the Uihleins is the stone foundation of their boat house which has emerged from the lake due to the low water levels.