



January 2018

# The Iron Port

Official Newsletter of the Lake County Historical Society  
& Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast

## The Response to Black Friday Part 1 55 Years Ago - 1963

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Organized in 1925, the mission of the Lake County Historical Society is to preserve the history of Lake County, MN through the preservation, study and interpretation of artifacts, documents, photographs and historic sites and to tell the story of our past and present culture.

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*Some of you may know that this is one of the periods of history in Two Harbors that has captured my interest. I have had the good fortune to see information on this subject and I believe the 15 year period following Black Friday may be the communities finest hour. I do not have the time to fully research a complete history on the subject prior to my departure. Someone should before we lose the remaining people that were a part of this effort.*

*We start with the Silver Bay News January 10 1963.*

### TH Docks To Close This Year

Another chapter in the history of the once great Missabi Iron Range came to a close Friday (Jan 3 1963) with the announcement that the DM&IR would close down ore shipping operations in Two Harbors.

All shipments of ore over the DM&IR during 1963 shipping season will be handled through the Duluth docks, D.J. Smith, president of the railroad told a Two Harbors delegation during a meeting in his office Friday.

This results, Smith says, from the "severe reductions in the tonnages of Minnesota iron ores which mining companies formerly shipped over our railroad".

In 1963, Smith commented, the DM&IR faces further decline in shipments. "With our customers planning to move less than 15 million tons of ore this season, and to obtain the best handling of their shipments, ore loadings must be confined to a one port (Duluth) operation". In its top year just ten years ago (1953), Smith pointed out, the DM&IR handled more than 49 million tons of iron ore.

Smith held out little hope that Two Harbors would participate in shipping seasons in future years, but that commercial car repairs and bridge and building work will be handled in Two Harbors. In addition, local trains would continue to operate.

DM&IR officials estimate the decision will mean the loss of 230 jobs in Two Harbors. They indicated that 65 trainmen have sufficient seniority to "bump" into other jobs in the Biwabik area.

DM&IR officials assured the Two Harbors group that they would make every effort to attract another industry to the community. They said the railroad facilities— buildings, equipment and trackage— would be available to any prospective industry.

They also announced that one such industry had been contacted and expressed interest in the facilities. A definitive answer from the prospective industry is expected in perhaps two months, officials said.

The company was not identified other than it is a "heavy industry" and employment may exceed the number of jobs lost through the closing of the docks.

Smith explained that concentrating shipments at Duluth would enable shippers to "obtain better service" since the preponderance of ore shipments originate from central and western Messabi Iron Range area. In addition Smith said, "utilization of the Duluth dock permits the continuation of interchange ore movements with other Minnesota railroads, thus affording all iron ore shippers the necessary flexibility for the grading and blending of ore."

# New Industry Meeting Set

Representatives of all groups in the community are scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. at the chambers of the city hall. The subject, civic association means of securing new industries, is of paramount importance to the community. The Civic Association is along those lines and there are essential new industries going to be developed. A complete study is being mounted which will be anticipated.

I can only assume that the community was in complete shock of the sudden loss of jobs. However there were people in the community that recognized the scope of the crisis and they began to plot a course of action immediately. With great optimism civic leaders moved ahead.

## TWO HARBORS, MINN., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1963. Lake County's Home Newspaper SINGLE COPIES Industries Group Formed

### TWO HARBORS, MINN., THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1963. Lake County's Home Newspaper SINGLE COPIES Norlen to Head Council

All Review Plans County Zoning progress is planning zoning Lake County will be reviewed at a meeting of the zoning Advisory Commission held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the courthouses at Two Harbors. Among the specific things to be reviewed are results of a recent survey, policies for zoning and planning and the start of zoning ordinance work. Harrie Agner of Agner, Johnson and Wisniewski, a survey consultant, will be present for session.



Take Over City Reins—The six men who hold key administration posts for the next two years are shown above as they organized for the term. Clockwise around the table are Councilmen Raymond Raab, Don Carroll, Loren Hoganson, President Walter Norlen, Mayor David Battaglia, Bern M. Lambert, Arvid Engstrom and Robert Coleman. In the left background are (partially obscured) City Attorney W. Albert Henry and...

All but Officer Rename... Two Harbors' new city council, elected Monday for the coming biennial term, will be the first to be elected since the city was reincorporated in 1957. Walter H. Norlen, 52, was elected president of the council and Raymond Raab, 48, was elected vice president. The new city office will be located in the old city hall, a post now held by...



WALTER NORLEN

### 12 Name By Units In City

Walter Norlen was elected temporary chairman by members of the New Industries Committee following its organization at a meeting last Friday evening attended by some 40 delegates from community organizations. A treasurer and secretary will be appointed by the committee later. It was decided also that the committee decide the amount of financing to fulfill the job...

Elections for the City Council were hotly contested in 1963. Some wards had as many as six people registered for the primary. Dave Battaglia would win the Mayors job and only one incumbent would retain his seat.

There are better people than me associated with this organization to write the history of Walter Norlen. Largely due to his efforts, in 1968, the City of Two Harbors opens the Industrial Park that bears his name. This would foster the diversification of manufacturing industry in the community.

## TWO HARBORS, MINN., THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1963. \$13,600 RAISED FOR INDUSTRY Fund Kick-off Meet

The first order of business was to create the New Industry Committee. The group would replace the old and dormant Lake County Industrial Committee.

This committee would work with the Two Harbors Civil Association. Their first order of business was to raise some working capital. Early efforts were quite successful. More than \$13,600 was raised. These funds were to be spent on research, development and to market the large skilled labor pool in Two Harbors to prospective businesses. They had the vision to market the quality of life in the community and the amenities the area possesses to business. Everyone was included, and participated in the discussions and decisions being made. In addition to all the governmental representation union bargaining units on the railroad, members of the Moose, Masons, Jaycees, Mrs. Jaycees, Rotary, Planning Commission, Ministerial Association, and the Community Health Center all took part in the planning and actions of the New Industry Committee.

ings Quick Action Campaign efforts for bridges



## Distressed Area' Resolution Passed

ver Bay Park Ends Year Job

The Two Harbors city council moved swiftly Monday night to pass a resolution to be sent to the U. S. Department of Labor, A.R.A. officials both in Washington, D.C. and in St. Paul calling official attention to the fact that the city constituted a distressed area for unemployment. The resolution was brought up by Walter H. Norlen, council president, who told his colleagues that the Lake County seat had not yet been reclassified as an area where the percentage of unemployment was much higher than the national average. Such reclassification is essential to the efforts now in progress to receive federal aid

assistance in establishment of new industry in the community. The fact that such reclassification was not on the record came to light when a group was in Duluth Monday conferring on continued negotiations for a new industry in the city. Before turning to budget and other matters later in the evening, the council also heard and placed on file several letters from P-TA and other groups opposing sale of land in the golf course-fairgrounds area in northeast Two Harbors. It also placed on file a letter from the city health officer, Dr. William Hilgediek, that all dogs who may have caused injury to persons be impounded for two weeks for observation for possible rabies infection. Routine matters also came up as the council got set for a meeting with officials of the city employees local union on phases of a new employment contract. An account of the later stages of the meeting appears elsewhere in this issue of the Chronicle & Times.

However, by the fall of 1963 the City Council was starting to become concerned about the number of unemployed men in the community and sought relief from other levels of government.

Someone needs to finish this story....

expansion program we began years ago."

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Deel Hoffman

# Before he became "Rocky"

## Meet Mr. Taconite



### New Mascot to Promote Tourism for Silver Bay

A little man that should make a world-wide impression was born this past month through the efforts of the newly formed Silver Bay Chamber of Commerce. The little man has tentatively been given the name of "Mr. Taconite", and will, it is hoped and believed, become the symbol of our community. A contest naming the little man will be held in the near future.

The image of "Mr. Taconite" will first become apparent as promotion material for the community's gigantic Fourth of July celebration, as he will be found on the face of the celebration's booster buttons, posters, and all publicity pertaining to the event.

"Mr. Taconite" will lead a prospective traveler in our area through a tourist brochure, as the visitor is introduced to the community, the taconite industry, and the recreational facilities that are available.

The Chamber of Commerce is also presently working on the production of a doll souvenir of "Mr. Taconite," that may be purchased by a visitor in our area and carried throughout the state and country.

The little man will play a big role in welcoming travelers on Route 61 to come into Silver Bay and visit its shopping center, schools, churches, and homes. He will invite observers of Reserve Mining Company, at the Observation Stand, to come up to the townsite to receive a free souvenir package of taconite pellets from any Silver Bay merchant.

The new-born symbol of Silver Bay will reach mammoth proportions as he will be reproduced in the form of monument, and will reign supreme in the townsite, much as Bemidji's "Paul Bunyan", International Falls' "Smokey", and Two Harbors' "Voyager" has reigned for many years.

It is hoped that "Mr. Taconite" will help make tourism a successful partner to taconite as Silver Bay's main industries.

### Freezing Rhubarb Can Put Spring In Winter Meals

When icy winds are blowing next winter, you can bring a touch of spring into your meals with a rhubarb pie.

Freezing some of the tender stalks of rhubarb from your garden will give you a supply you can draw upon next winter for rhubarb pie, cake or sauce.

One of the advantages of freezing rhubarb, says County Agricultural agent, is that it's so easy to process. Simply wash the stalks, cut off any blemished pieces, and woody ends. Then cut it up

package it in polyethylene bags. Mrs. Shirley T. Munson, in charge of the University of Minnesota food processing laboratory, says that you can freeze in quantities you will use in pies in cakes or for sauce. If desired, you can also pack it with amount of sugar you would use. For sauce, the flavor is a little sweeter. If the rhubarb is packed in sugar, use 3 cups of sugar to 4 cups of water.

When you use the frozen rhubarb for pies, be sure to thaw it partially before filling the bottom crust. Always caution the rhubarb is still frozen. To make the bottom crust sugary, there's a great deal of juice, may have to pour off some of