

FISHERMAN'S RESORT IRVIN MEANS

T39N R5E SEC 3 LOT 1 & 2 1912-1915 ?

Irvin Luther Means was born in Waushara County on April 7, 1882. His father had emigrated from Prussia, Germany. The first record of him is his marriage license on September 22, 1904 when he married Etta (sometimes listed as Edna) Heppner on September 22, 1904 in Brown County.

The 1905 census from Wausau, Wisconsin shows him to be working as an engineer. The Wausau city directories from 1908 & 1910 have advertisements for Irwin L. Means Bicycles and Sundries. The 1910 census again finds him in Wausau, working as a laborer doing odd jobs.

An advertisement offering a resort for sale must have caught his eye. An article in the Minocqua Times from August 25th of 1910, reports that Ed Walsh sold his resort on Lake Shishebogama to a Mr. Means of Wausau. Three months later, on December 22, Irvin Means filed a claim for an additional 144 acres that he eventually purchased.

It appears that he only ran Ed Walsh's resort for the 1911 season. An article from the Minocqua Times on February 15, 1912 states:

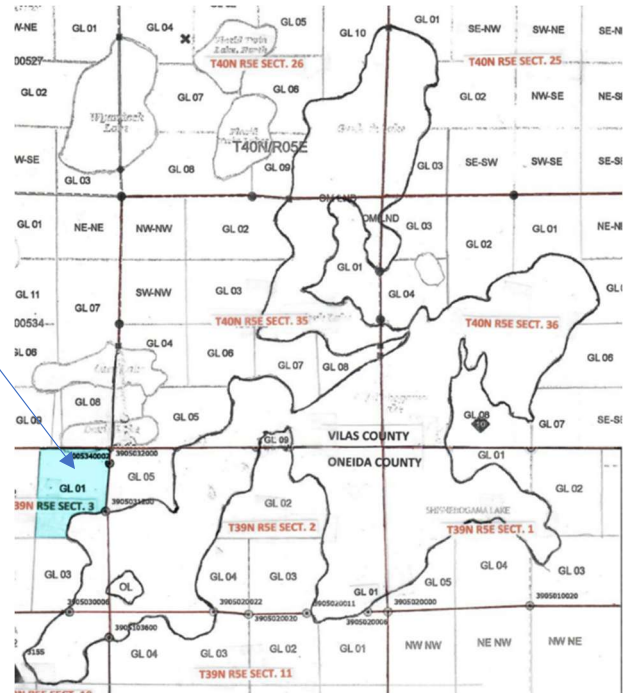
BACK IN HARNESS. *Ed. Walsh Buys Back His Former Resort Business. Ed Walsh, who sold his summer hotel two years ago to I. Means, is again the owner of the resort. The deal was consummated last Saturday, and Mr. Walsh takes possession at once. The property is located on Shishebogama Lake, and Mr. Walsh purposes [sic] to tear down the log cottages and erect modern ones in their place. He has also bought several acres of adjoining land.*

This was followed on April 18th with the following:

NEW RESORT. *I. Means, who purchased some property on Shishebogama Lake, has erected a summer resort built entirely of cedar. It will accommodate about thirty-five people. Last year Mr. Means conducted the Walsh resort.*

The Wausau Pilot from May 7th reports that: "Andrew M. Peterson on Saturday resigned as patrolman on the police force, to enter into partnership with Irving L. Means in conducting a summer resort on Lake Shishebogama."

Andrew Peterson was 39 at this time. The 1910 census for Wausau lists him as married with 6 children. I have to wonder if he took the family with him. Andrew shows up again in the 1914 Wausau city directory as employed as a carpenter. He died on March 30, 1918 in Wausau.



The only reference I have found that names the resort is a copy of a list of area resorts printed in the June 5, 1913 issue of the Minocqua Times:

RESORTS TRIBUTARY TO MINOCQUA

PROPRIETOR	HOTELS	LAKES	MILES BYWAGON ROAD
Gus Nolan	The Northern	Kawaguesaga	2-1/2
M.H. Bradley	Woodland	Kawaguesaga	2-1/2
Frank Roemer	Blue Lake	Blue Lake	7
A.H. Darrow	Darrow's Camp	Shishebogama	7-1/2
Irvin Means	Fisherman's Camp	Shishebogama	10
Mrs. M.H. Barnum	The Pines	Shishebogama	8-1/2
Ed Walsh	Walsh's Resort	Shishebogama	9
Mrs. M.J. Bishton	Mercer Lake Hotel	Mercer	7
Henry Hanson	Forest Home	Squirrel	13
Harry Hanson	Hotel	Tomahawk	2
J.C. Coon	Camp Franklin	Trout	14
J.B. Mann	The Manitowish	Trout	14
A.L. Whitbeck	Rocky Reef	Trout	15
Indian Reservation	Lac du Flambeau	17	
Peddycort	Lake Side Farm	St. Germain	18
William Hill	Cedar Lodge	Squaw	21-1/2
John Oxley	Camp McKinley	Wolf	30
Pat Madden	Kawaguesaga Hotel	Kawaguesaga	4
John Hunter	Hunter's Home	St. Germain	15
Robert McGregor	St. Germain Hotel	St. Germain	13
C. Chabrisson	Chabrisson's Home	St. Germain	14
Hank Leary	Leary's Hotel	Tomahawk	2-1/2
Schwartz & Anderson	Birchwood Hotel	Birch [Garth]	12
A.W. Harris	Sunday Lake Hotel	Sunday	10
O.W. Sayner	Plum Lake Hotel	Plum	15
Herb Warner	Forest Home	Plum	15
H.B. Chapin	Clear Lake Resort	Clear	9
J.C. Sprague	Camp Minocqua	Tomahawk	5
J.A. LaMotte	LaMotte's Camp	Shishebogama	8
Mrs. S.J. Noble	The Hemlocks	Tomahawk	2
Ed Gabe	Gabe's Resort	Lost	14
A. Milkey	Little Arbor Vitae Resort	Little Arbor Vitae	7

I am not aware of any other records of Fisherman's Camp. The resort and the partnership were short-lived. The Minocqua Times reported that the resort, which had built in the spring, burned to the ground on September 23, 1912. Irvin vowed to rebuild that fall and be ready to open the following spring. The patent for the homesteaded land was issued to Irvin Means on February

25, 1915 and he wasted no time in selling the property. The March 25, 1915 Minocqua Times published an article:

Messrs. Richey, Lannigan, O'Connel, all of Chicago and members of the Rod & Gun Club, were here last week making arrangements to build a log hunters' cabin on Lake Shishebogama on land recently purchased from I. Means. The cabin will be a rustic one hundred forty foot square. These gentlemen are a model lot of sportsmen and are a welcome addition to our colony of summer people. May the big fish bite their hooks!

One more small line appears in the Times on February 17, 1916 that states that Irvin Means was in town from his resort. No further mention shows up. Irvin's draft registration card from September of 1918 states that he is a farmer in the Minocqua area. The 1920 census shows him and his wife and two young sons living in Sugar Camp where Irvin is employed as a laborer on a stock farm.

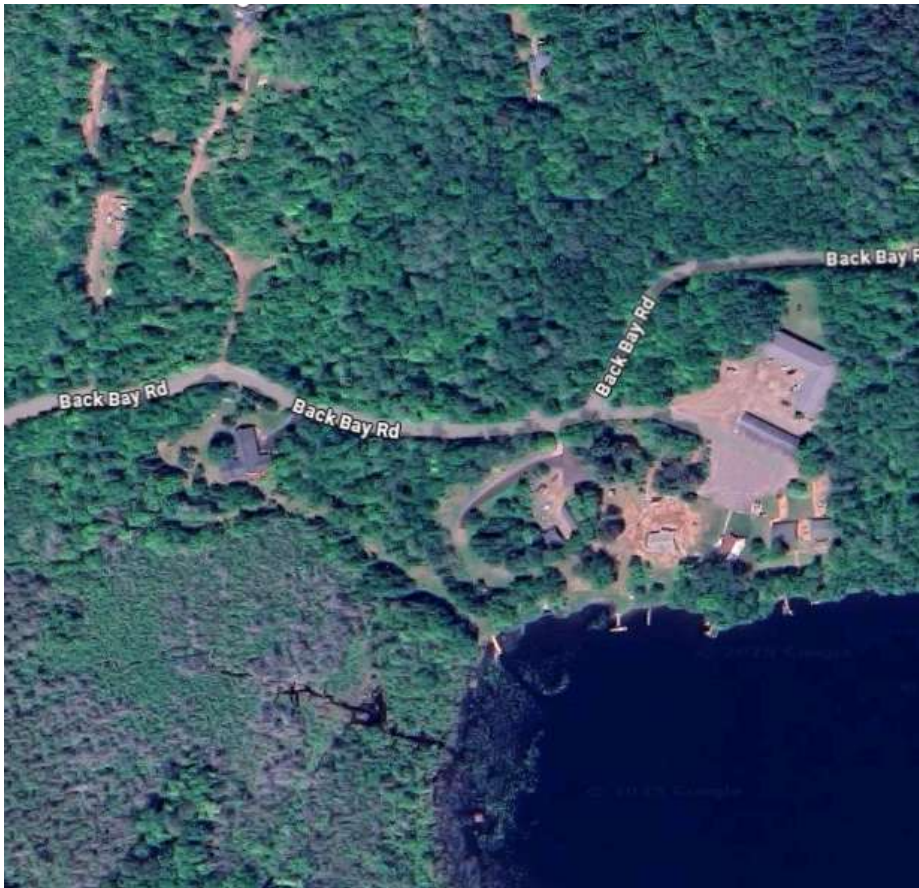
By 1930 the family had moved to Waukegan, Illinois and he is a pipefitter for a coal and oil company. By 1940, still in Waukegan, he is a carpenter at age 58 and by 1950 has his own business carpentry business. Irvin died in February of 1960 in Pinellas, Florida.

There is a deed recorded on March 13, 1915 whereby Irvin Means and his wife Etta sold all of Lot 1 and a strip 125-foot-wide of Lot 2 to the Chicago Rod and Gun Club for \$3,000. They also received a permanent easement to the highway.

The Chicago Rod and Gun Club existed on the lake until 1966. In 1968 it became Schmalzer's Back Bay. It went through a few owners and at one time was home of Chef Renee's Back Bay Restaurant.

**1937 AERIAL PHOTO OF T39N R5E
SECT 3 LOT 1**





RECENT AERIAL PHOTO OF T39N R5E SECT 3 LOT 1; PARCEL MAP BELOW



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