



Dedicated to the care and preservation of our lakes, for the enjoyment and safety of all.

May 2002

First issue of the year

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Editor: Bill Downing, wdowning@uslink.net
 38067 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 218-326-4730
 1834 Simpson St, Falcon Heights, MN 55113 651-644-9625

Officers:

President: Dick Chambers 326-2809
 Vice President: Bud Sage 326-4535
 Treasurer: Cathy Rudolph 327-0820
 Secretary: Susan Lick 326-6837

Advisory Committee.

All the above, plus:

Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
 Roger Pierce 327-2142
 David Lick 326-6837
 Joel Soloman 326-5177
 Steve Bryant 326-5473
 John Adams 326-2206
 John Zimmerman 326-1020

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First Meeting: May 18, 2002!

Speaker: Don Basispa, the Deputy Sheriff who patrols our lakes. He will talk on boat safety, water safety, and the laws pertaining to boating.

Important decisions will be made in the business meeting, and

Your attendance is needed!

See President's letter below...

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS:

The robins, loons and of course those noisy, messy geese are back. True signs of spring.

On **May 18th** we will start the 2002 WCOLA meetings. We will start this year with a continuation of our water management plan that our members started this past year. **John Adams, John Zimmerman, and the Advisory Committee** will start off our first meeting with a review and update on our water management plan. We will seek the advice of our members, and go forward.

Come and be part of these decisions. Remember if you want your voice heard you have to be a part of these meetings. There are no bad ideas. We are all willing to listen to each other. Let's share some ideas, and see what we all can come up with

We live on one of the most beautiful chain of lakes in the country, and it's up to us to see that they continue that way. Which leads us all to another problem--what to do about our property taxes.

Hope to see everyone on May 18th.

Dick

2002 MEETING SCHEDULE.

8:30 for coffee, 9:00 for meetings.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW—

MAY 18

JUNE 15

JULY 20

JULY 20 AFTERNOON: PICNIC!

AUGUST 17

SEPTEMBER 21

Location, Location, Location! - FISH REAL ESTATE ON THE CHAIN

Fish-spawning time is a good time to send along this interesting article by our member and valiant fisherman Jack Velzen:

I've recently run across some interesting articles about 'fish housing'. Yeah, believe it or not, articles about where fish set up shop in the spring. Northerns, bass and crappies have all been studied scientifically to understand how they pick their spawning habitat, and it has big implications for how you handle your real estate. I hope 'fish housing' matters enough for you to read on.

One study on bass and crappies was completed in the Alexandria, MN area by Jeff Reed, a DNR Research Biologist. He was looking at the effect of shoreland development on the spawning habits of Bass and Crappies. He looked at one lake that was 25% developed, and another that was 80% developed. He found and mapped 165 bass and 897 crappie spawning nests and then analyzed the locations compared to shoreline development to see if there was a relationship. Let me quote the conclusions from the article. Mr. Reed indicated,

"Only 24 of the 897 crappie nests were located near shoreline that had any type of dwelling on it. Even if there was suitable habitat, such as a bulrush bed, the crappies wouldn't use it. The bass were a bit more tolerant of shoreline development, but they still nested along undeveloped areas far more often than could be explained by chance."

He also discovered some other interesting things. For example, bass and crappies almost always spawned within two feet of an underwater object - reeds, bulrushes, aquatic vegetation, etc. He says,

"Nearly 90 percent of the nests were near bulrush stems. That indicates pretty clearly how important bulrush beds are to bass and crappies."

Another finding: Crappie nests on the most heavily developed lake were much closer to each other than on the other two lakes. He says,

"This may indicate that the fish were being squeezed into the remaining suitable spawning habitat. And that makes them more vulnerable to angling and weather conditions that disrupt spawning. What this tells me is that bass and crappies need submerged objects and undeveloped shoreline, and that we ought to minimize disturbances to shallow water and to the shoreline itself if we want to maintain healthy crappie and bass spawning conditions."

The other article I read was about selection of spawning sites on Kabetogama Lake by Northerns. This study went so far as to track the same fish over many years. The purpose was to see if they returned to the same spawning site year after year. They did. As a matter of fact, so did the young fish they spawned once the young fish reached spawning age. They even did some genetic testing to determine how 'pure' the strain of Northerns was at two different spawning sites - over 70% believe it or not. That meant that the number of northerns that at some point went to a different spawning site was less than 30%. Pretty amazing!

But this also has some pretty significant implications for shoreland real estate owners on the Chain. The researchers in the Kabetogama study went so far as to say that if the spawning site for a strain of Northerns was destroyed, chances were significant that the entire strain would disappear because they would fail to successfully find and use another spawning area. They also indicated that if extensive, significant spawning sites were located, it may be warranted to protect the spawning area and land around it to insure the spawning area was not destroyed. (By the way, the article title was, "Spawning-Site and Natal-Site Fidelity by Northern Pike in a Large Lake: Mark-Recapture and Genetic Evidence" Just makes you want to pick it up and read it, doesn't it. Be glad I summarized it for you.)

As a responsible WCOLA shoreland owner, carefully consider the impact you have on the flora and fauna of the Chain lakes. The last 50 feet of shore before the water, and the shallow water (less than 15 feet) are critical to the health and well-being of the lake ecosystem. Be very thoughtful before deciding to disturb the natural vegetation in either of these areas.

ARE YOU ABOUT TO FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN?

As a careful steward of the lake you love, you won't want the tiniest speck of phosphorus to go into the water. Phosphorus is very soluble in water, and ground slopes down to the water. Our soil contains all the phosphorus that grass can use, bound in rocks and sand so plants can get it but it won't dissolve easily. You can buy fertilizer with N and K, but guaranteed to be free of P, at nearly any Grand Rapids hardware store, and Kiwanis sells it as a service. **Please use only that kind!**

DIFFERENCES IN TESTING RESULTS

Bill Downing

A couple of members have mentioned to me that people have told them that they are having trouble understanding the differences between the results of water testing by our Association (WCOLA) and those found in the Lake Assessment Project (LAP) testing by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Apparently some people feel that our data should match the MPCA data exactly, and if they do not, our testing is flawed. I'd like to answer any questions I can about this uncertainty, and I'm probably in the best position to try that, since I am one of those who in 1990 originated our program of lake testing, and have been involved in it ever since.

First, I'd like to say that I find the differences to be very *small* between the two sets of data, and I am delighted—and somewhat surprised—that our two sets of data are as *close* as they are, given our two different but similar goals. The few differences that there are between the two sets of data seem to stem from four dissimilarities:

1. Purposes of sampling,
2. Number of basins sampled,
3. Sampling dates,
4. Sampling methods.

1. Purposes of sampling.

With the limited funds available to a dues-supported organization, the WCOLA intended to obtain as much legally-defensible data as we could afford, on the three parameters most likely to be changed by human activities, and most likely to lower the desirability for lake use and property values if they increase: total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and chlorophyll-a. We wanted a base-line, so we could be sure if changes took place. We planned to use a recognized laboratory, and study ten basins in our chain, four times during the unfrozen months, regularly every four or five years. No state or local agency at that time planned to provide the kind of data we wanted.

We spent 1990 finding a laboratory to provide reliable data at the accuracy we demanded (micrograms per liter, or parts per billion), and made our first complete study in 1991.

When we at WCOLA heard that the MPCA planned to expand its LAP program to include more lakes, we urgently suggested that our Chain be included. To our surprise and pleasure, the MPCA agreed to include Wabana Lake (only) in its on-going LAP study for the year 1991. The purpose of the LAP study is much broader than that of WCOLA—to obtain base-line data on *many* parameters, for a *great number* of lakes in Minnesota, and over a *long historical time*.

2. Number of basins sampled.

The WCOLA decided initially that we needed data from ten basins in our chain, and we have sampled all ten, four times a year: four in Wabana, two each in Bluewater and Trout, and one each in Little Wabana and Interlachen (aka Little Trout). For its purposes, the MPCA felt that fewer basins would give adequate information on our Chain. In 1991 it sampled our four basins in Wabana, but none in the other lakes of the

Chain. In 2000 it sampled three in Wabana, two each in Bluewater and Trout, and one in Little Wabana.

3. Sampling dates.

The WCOLA decided it made the most sense for our purposes, to take samples four times a year: at ice-out, then in the spring, then during summer stratification, and finally at autumn overturn. The MPCA, however, has found that *monthly* samplings during the warm months all over Minnesota fit its needs better. Thus our dates are different, and that can make a large difference in results, when dealing with fast-growing organisms like algae. The dates from 1991 illustrate the disparity:

Month:	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
WCOL	5/10	6/24			9/4	10/21
MPCA	5/28	6/24	7/30	8/27	9/24	

Comparison between the two sets of data is possible only rarely (in 1991, only on June 24), and therefore we can only compare summer averages. Using averages is not the best procedure in this kind of study.

4. Sampling methods.

This is perhaps our greatest source of the minor differences we encountered between the two sets of data: differences in depths of samples.

WCOLA followed the advice of limnologists in deciding how to take our samples—to focus on the upper 30 feet of water. We take a large clear plastic tube with inside diameter about 1¼ inches, about 30 feet long with a weight on the lower end and a plug available for the upper end; put it over the side of the boat so its upper end is submerged, plug that upper end, pull it into the boat with its water still in it, and empty the contents into a plastic bucket to mix it; then take the liter sample from the mixture.

MPCA apparently preferred samples from various depths, so the procedure as described in 1991 was: "Lake surface samples were collected with an integrated sampler, which is a PVC tube 6.6 feet (2 meters) in length with an inside diameter of 1.4 inches (3.5 cm). Mid-depth and near-bottom samples were collected in a 2-liter Van Dorn sampler."¹ Some samples were reported from deeper than six feet, at apparently random depths from 22 feet to 98 feet. Some of these deeper samples were analyzed for phosphorus and nitrogen, but none for chlorophyll.

The method of sampling in 2000 is not described in the 2000 report², but again the deeper separate samples vary somewhat randomly from 5 to 30. We therefore expect that our samples, which feet, and were not analyzed for chlorophyll.

In making our comparisons, we compared our 30-foot mixed sample data with the 6-foot *surface* data of the MPCA—not a perfect solution, but the best we had available. Sunlight penetrates upper water, and where sunlight provides energy, algae will grow, doubling daily where enough phosphorus is found, and therefore rapidly depleting the surface water of phosphorus. contain a much greater volume of deeper water than the MPCA's, will have more phosphorus and less chlorophyll. A look at the phosphorus readings from the

¹ Bauman, Heidi, May 1992, Lake Assessment Program, 1991, Wabana Lake (I. D. #31-0392), Itasca County, Minnesota, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Division of Water Quality, Nonpoint Source Section.

² Klang, Jennifer and Steve Heiskary, January 2002, Water Quality Update and Trend Monitoring in Itasca County, 2000, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Environmental Outcomes Division.

MPCA's deeper samples confirms that their deeper samples contain more phosphorus than their upper samples.

When we published our testing results for the first time³, we included tables and graphs comparing the phosphorus, nitrogen and chlorophyll data from both WCOLA and MPCA studies. From those we concluded that there was generally *good* agreement in 1991 between MPCA and WCOLA, in three of the four Wabana Lake basins studied by both organizations; WC Wabana Central, WN Wabana North and WS Wabana South; and *close* agreement in WW Wabana Wakeman except on June 24. That WCOLA sample contained much more nitrogen and phosphorus, and less chlorophyll, than the sample the MPCA took. We may have picked up someone's lawn fertilizer, septic system outflow, or other material—at any rate, there was an unexplained difference on that date.

Ms. Klang kindly allowed us to publish her then-unpublished 2000 data in our Newsletter⁴, as follows:

SUMMER AVERAGES				
PHOSPHORUS				
	1991	2000	1991	2000
	WCOLA	WCOLA	MPCA	MPCA
WC	9.0	11.4	9.2	10.2
WS	8.0	16.0	4.4	9.2
WW	20.3	16.0	24.2	11.8
TN	8.0	10.7	n/a	2.4
BS	7.0	11.7	n/a	7.0
LW	11.8	19.1	n/a	14.2
TS	6.3	8.6	n/a	n/a
BN	5.8	17.2	n/a	n/a
IN	9.8	14.3	n/a	n/a
WN	9.5	12.6	11.8	n/a
CHLOROPHYLL "A"				
WC	2.9	3.3	2.0	2.7
WS	3.6	3.5	2.4	2.4
WW	5.2	5.4	3.0	3.5
TN	3.0	2.8	n/a	1.4
BS	2.5	3.7	n/a	1.4
LW	3.7	3.7	n/a	3.8
TS	2.9	1.9	n/a	n/a
BN	2.9	4.3	n/a	n/a
IN	2.0	2.3	n/a	n/a
WN	3.3	2.7	3.8	n/a

(Please remember we are dealing with parts per billion—very tiny amounts of chemicals—sort of like seeing if it is one or two grains of salt in a bath tub of water. It takes extreme sensitivity of analysis to come even close!)

We only have complete data for three basins: WC Wabana Central, WS Wabana South, and WW Wabana Wakeman Bay; but we have partial data for some others.

Phosphorus:

- WC data for the two are nearly identical.

³ Downing, William L., April 1999, Wabana Chain of Lakes Water Testing, 1990-1994, Wabana Chain of Lakes Association.

⁴ Wabana Chain of Lakes Association Chain Letter, November 2000, Volume 4, Number 5.

- In WS the P doubles in both—from 8 to 16 for WCOLA, from 4.4 to 9.2 for MPCA.
- WW agreement is still affected by the problem of an unexplained peak on June 24, 1991.
- Other basins with incomplete MPCA data: With no 1991 data for six basins, and no 2000 data for four, all we can say at present is that WCOLA gives higher phosphorus readings than MPCA, probably due to the differences between the 30-foot and the 6-foot sampling tubes. The WCOLA data seem to indicate an upward trend in phosphorus concentration in all cases, over the nine years.

Chlorophyll.

- In the three basins for which we have complete data, the data from the two organizations are amazingly consistent with each other. WCOLA data read a bit higher than MPCA's, but given the tiny amount of chlorophyll being studied, the two are the same.
- None of the basins studied seems to show significant increase in chlorophyll—the algae level seems to remain constant at present. This is in keeping with our relatively constant Secchi disk readings, since increase in algae would make our waters cloudier, and consequently lower the Secchi readings.

Conclusions.

In comparing data that involve such tiny amounts of chemicals, the agreements are surprising; particularly when the purposes of sampling were different, the number of basins sampled was different, the sampling dates were different, and the sampling methods were widely different. Whether or not we interpret the data to indicate water quality decline depends on the emphasis one places on chemical analyses, or on Secchi disk readings. Water quality data suggest that the water quality in Wakeman's Bay is lower than in other basins, and that decline is taking place in Wabana South at present. However, based on *Secchi disk* readings over the years, the MPCA finds no indication of water quality deterioration.

In 1991 the MPCA found the water quality in our chain to be good, and suggested that "a high priority should be placed on maintaining the good quality." Its 2002 publication adds the caution: "The lakes could exhibit declines in transparency and increases in the amount of algae with increases in in-lake total phosphorus. The Wabana Chain should be sensitive to change in trophic status with increases in the nutrient loading from watershed or in-lake sources, as is evidenced from the historical data."

A limnologist consultant suggests that we increase our WCOLA testing from the present 4-to-5 year intervals, to 2-to-3 year intervals. It's too late to start 2002 testing, but we should gear up for full testing in 2003, beginning at ice-out.

The MPCA commends the Association for its efforts to date, and makes about six recommendations to the Association for future actions, many of which are already underway.

Most urgent: complete weekly Secchi disk readings. This essential testing keeps tab on our trophic status faster than any other. Please call Nancy Ellsworth at 326-8056 to volunteer! Teams work well!

LETTERS

John Adams wrote in December that he had completed the draft of the Visioning Plan, and enclosed a copy, but I'm not printing it here because it's gone beyond that by now. The Steering Committee has been discussing it and probably revising it, and it will be a major topic of conversation at the meeting on May 18. This is an important document and deserves your attention.

David Lick wrote in February about the Itasca County meeting regarding the policy the Board developed at that time, on septic inspections in Wabana Township. The Commissioners have been exceptionally cooperative, and together, the County, the Township and the Association are standard bearers for Minnesota. Dave wrote:

Itasca County has formally agreed to inspect every septic system on every lake in Wabana Township in the next two years. Rather than taking three years to accomplish this, they have agreed to do it in two. They will be looking by bid for two inspectors to accomplish the task. They are expecting to actually hire a person who does just inspections. **Bob Frick** praised the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association for its efforts in accomplishing this benchmark, and asked that we continue to encourage other lakes to do what we have done.

They have asked that we try to write a grant to obtain lab equipment to test water samples for lake associations throughout Itasca County. I made it clear that we would like the County to begin inspections on all lakes in the County. They will have monies available from the sale of leased lots that must be spent on Environmental issues. **Ted Voneida** has volunteered to write grants for us—could we ask him to submit the application to the foundation for the lab equipment? It looks like the Soil and Water Conservation District would have room available to house a small lab. We would need to know how much cutting edge equipment would cost before we submit grant applications.

Nine thousand shoreland brochures will be mailed this Spring, thanks to **Harold Dziuk**, and it is absolutely excellent. Harold and **Don St. Auben** have also now rewritten the zoning rules, and have given their draft to the Consultant for the County. More excellent jobs done by 7 or 8 energetic stewards.

When I received this I asked our son **John Downing**, limnology professor at Iowa State University, to look into what lab equipment would be needed, and how much it would cost. He agreed

readily, and said he would consider what else should be in a good limnological lab. He has had experience in obtaining grants, also, and may be able to help Ted in writing.

Michael Wilkus wrote:

I am writing to you regarding the Wabana Dam site, and your wonderful article in the Chain of Lakes Newsletter. We have a place on Bluewater (North end/West side) and we also own the 36 acres adjacent to the dam and boat launch. The photo from 1905 is looking towards our property - I believe. I was so inspired that I retrieved our abstract/title to research the history of the land.

It was sold in 1873 by the U.S. Land Office to a Charles Rouleau with 92 title entries before we purchased it in 1990 from my Uncle, Raymond Boland. A.K. Seckinger purchased it in 1937 from the Prairie River Power Company and granted an easement to the State of Minnesota for the dam on April 19, 1939. A.K. Seckinger sold it to my uncle in 1949. It has no record of Joyce family ownership. I do have a photo of my Grandfather and Mother standing on the dam in 1949.

I will forward by mail a copy of the "Balsam" township map that you may find interesting. The map is included in our Abstract and refers to Wabana Lake as "Wabano Lake", Wakeman Bay as "Bluewater", and Bluewater Lake as "Blue Lake". The roads are also very interesting as referenced in the map. [I really look forward to seeing that map! If possible, we'll publish it here.]

Another small bit of history - Scott Ellsworth and I as High School friends, spent several summers at the Ellsworth cabin in the early seventies. During one of our getaways we brought SCUBA gear, and dove off the point across from Ellsworth's. We discovered, and retrieved, a complete logging sled, runners and cross members. I have photographs of the sled before it was given to the Grand Rapids Historical group. It was on display for some time in the Central School.

I love to read the bits of History in each news letter - please keep it up.

Dear members: I think letters are the best part of the Chain Letter, and hope you will send along all those things you want to communicate to your fellow members. My address is on the masthead! – Editor.

THE MEMBERSHIP JOINS ROBERT SAGE OF BLUEWATER LAKE AND HIS EXTENDED FAMILY IN MOURNING THE DEATH LAST WINTER OF HIS WIFE OF 17 YEARS, RUTH MERRILL SAGE. RUTH WAS AN ACTIVE AND INTERESTED MEMBER OF OUR ASSOCIATION, AND A GREAT MANY OF US KNEW HER WELL. SERVICES WERE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2002.

From Harold Unger:

Enclosing a couple of articles about the murder-suicide that took place in 1925. Anton Haglee's great-grandson visited here a couple weeks ago and sent me these reprints from the Grand Rapids *Herald Review*. In reading them it's a little confusing where the shooting took place. I believe it happened in the thoroughfare between Little Trout and Trout Lakes, where Brad and Mary Nett's dock and boathouse are presently located. The Barber place was just up the hill to the south and overlooked Bluewater Lake. Anton Haglee lived on Trout, not Wabana.

I think your geography is right on, Harold! I remember canoeing the Chain with my brothers in about 1933-34, and calling on Mrs. Barber on the hill above Trout Creek. She was very welcoming, and grew the biggest and best delphiniums I ever saw. Also, I think that at that time David Joyce kept his launches at the site of the old Cochran Hotel on Wabana's east arm, not at Wakeman's on Wabana's west arm, until he built his garages on the south end of Trout Lake.

I could not make a good photo copy of the articles, so I have copied them verbatim and they are printed in the same style as the original in the paper.

From the Grand Rapids *Herald Review*, September 2, 1925:

TWO DEAD IN WILD FRACAS

William H. Robertson Runs Amuck and Murders Brother-in-law, William Barber, Then Ends Own Life.

CAUSE IS A MYSTERY

Morose and Quiet Disposition Only Indication of Reason for Sudden Madness—Murderer Loaded With Ammunition and Supplies.

William H. Robertson, single, age 38, ambushed and murdered his brother-in-law, William Barber, married, age 45, and then shot himself, at the Barber boat landing on Bluewater lake, a small body of water between Big Trout and Wabana lakes, early last evening. Anton Haglee, who lives on Wabana, was in the boat with Barber when Robertson opened fire, but by plunging headlong into the lake escaped injury and scrambled to shore through the thick brush, to summon aid.

Three charges of buckshot from a 12-gauge shotgun were fired at the occupants of the boat, the first hitting Barber in the stomach and he died a few minutes after he arrived in a local hospital.

It was seven o'clock in the morning before the posse found Robertson, with a bullet from his 45-caliber Luger automatic pistol through his brain, in a thick growth of brush not over 50 feet from the boat dock, and probably in the same clump from which he had fired on the boat.

Robertson Missing.

The Barber home is on the shore of Bluewater lake and Robertson has a shack about a quarter of a mile from it, taking his meals at Barbers and living in his own shack. Anton Haglee lives on the shores of Wabana. Barber and Haglee have been working a distance up the shore of Wabana from the Joyce summer home. Robertson was Joyce's gardener. Every morning Haglee came over in a launch and picked up the other two men. They dropped Robertson off at the Joyce place and then in the evening would stop and pick him up again.

Last evening when they stopped Robertson could not be found. Inquiry disclosed the fact that he had not been seen for three hours or more. They traced his footprints a short distance down the road, which leads to the Barber place, and finally gave up and started home. By this time it was getting dark and stormy, and when they drew up to the dock after seven o'clock it was quite dark. Barber picked up the lantern and stepped up on the dock to receive the first charge of buckshot in his stomach. He fell back into the boat.

Haglee who jumped out of the launch finally crawled out of the lake and went up to the house and phoned to the Joyce place. H. C. Wyman, caretaker, and the Joyce chauffeur, jumped into a fast launch and came over, taking Barber on down to the lower end of Wabana to Wakeman's place, where they transferred the wounded man to Mr. Joyce's car there and rushed him to the hospital. He breathed his last a few minutes after arriving.

A posse of deputies was soon on the grounds and an all night search was continued in the wet timber. Early this morning one of the searchers came on Robertson's body near the dock. He had killed himself, although it is not certain whether he did it immediately after the murder or later during the night.

Heavily Armed.

The murderer had belts and pockets of ammunition of all kinds and three firearms including the 12-gauge Winchester pump shotgun, the Luger 45 with which he shot himself through the head, a 38 automatic pistol, with lots of ammunition for all. In addition they found a lot of 22 hi-power ammunition in a clump of brush on the banks of the thoroughfare leading from Trout into Bluewater, which leads the sheriff to believe that he originally was hiding there, waiting to shoot the two men with the rifle as they came through the small creek, darkness thwarting this plan. He also had a big sheath knife in his belt, and a pack sack containing food and other articles. Members of the posse think his original plan was to kill both men and try to escape, but his failure to get Haglee aroused his fears as to his possibility of escape and he suddenly decided to kill himself.

Mrs. Barber was a sister to Robertson, and no stories have been unearthed yet to disclose any trouble between the brothers-in-law. Some of those who were with him often say, however, that he was always a morose sort of man, with little to say to anybody. He had been somewhat sullen of late, and had made some remarks that have been recalled since the shooting as having a possible suspicious trend.

The coroner had not yet arrived with Robertson's body at noon today.

From the Grand Rapids Herald
Review September 9, 1925:

KILLING HAD BEEN PLANNED

Letters Written by Robertson
While Sitting in Hiding for
Victims to Arrive Disclosed
Deliberate Planning.

MIND WAS WRECKED

Conclusion Reached That In-
sanity Had Been Coming on
Slowly for Weeks—Various
Circumstances Indicate Dis-
sension in Family.

That the killing of William Barber last Tuesday night had been deliberately planned by William H. Robertson was proved with the discovery by the corner of letters in a pocket of the trousers of the dead man, which told of the plot, of the imagined wrongs which drove him to his tragic deed, and which further showed clearly that Robertson was crazy.

Later evidence also showed that there was ill feeling and jealousy in the family group. Differences of opinion over a will, by which the dead man left his 20 acres of fine lake shore property to his sister, Mrs. Minnie Zeluf of Conway, Iowa, indicated a

lack of harmony. All the circumstances, as developed since the killing and suicide, simply confirm the opinion that family troubles worked on the mind of Robertson, who has too much time to think about them while living alone for a number of years. Finally his brain gave way, and it is generally agreed that it was a piece of unusually good luck that only two men are dead. It is thought he planned a wholesale killing.

The letters which cleared up the situation, were scrawled with lead pencil on three sheets of cheap pencil tablet and had evidently been written as Robertson sat in the clump of bushes waiting for the intended victims to arrive. They were addressed to his sister in Iowa, with whom he apparently was on intimate terms. He told her that he was sorry that he was going to come to such an end, but that "they" were jealous of him because he was getting ahead and had paid for his 20 acres of land, which he had bought from his brother-in-law, Barber. Many people were included, he evidently believing that practically everyone was against him and trying to "get" him. He mentioned the fact that Haglee and Barber, who called for him at Joyce's the night of the killing, were trying to "get him" but he gave them the slip. Haglee and James Garner were the only ones he mentioned specifically, although he did refer to Barber having killed one of his dogs 12 years ago, and he had never forgotten that.

James Garner is a son-in-law of Mr. And Mrs. Barber, and he lived at the Barber home. Robertson ate there but lived alone in his shack on his land a quarter of a mile distant. Thus they were all thrown together all the time and jealousy over work and various other things easily developed.

Finally in his incoherent writings he said that it was getting dark but that he thought he heard them coming and that it would soon be over.

Together with these letters was an informal will, written in pencil, on the same paper, and dated August 18, in which he said he wanted Mrs. Zeluf to get the farm and everything he had. He said she could not sell it or transfer it but must hold in her own name, otherwise it must go to an orphan's asylum. He evidently was afraid of efforts of some of the other relatives to get part of what he had, and he wanted it to all go to this sister, whose husband is a cripple and who has a large family of children.

It develops that Robertson had come to a Grand Rapids attorney on August 22, had a will legally drawn, and went away with it. This will cannot be found. Another will he had written himself in 1920 has been found and it is in substance about the same as the last one written on scratch paper.

Barber's funeral was held from the Community church Saturday afternoon at two o'clock with interment in the Coleraine cemetery. Robertson's funeral was held Sunday from the same church with interment in the Itasca cemetery

PAYMENT AND CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Want to get the drop on the new year? Dues for 2002-2003 are due on July 1, 2002, and you can be the first kid on the block to get yours paid. Be the envy of your neighbors! Send this coupon and your check today!

Regular 2002-03 Dues \$20.00 (Unchanged since 1988) Contribution \$_____ (Testing, etc.)

Name(s) as you want to be listed _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Seasonal Address _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Mail this form and your \$20.00 check for 2002-03 dues, made out to the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, to: Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer, 36542 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

*WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES
ASSOCIATION*

FIRST MEETING OF 2002!

SATURDAY MAY 18

8:30 COFFEE ETC.

9:00 PROGRAM:

*Deputy Sheriff Don Basispa, the man who
will be patrolling the Wabana Chain of Lakes this
summer, speaking on Water Safety, Boat Safety,
and Boating Laws. You won't want to miss meet-
ing this man!*

9:30 BUSINESS MEETING

*See the President's Letter for more informa-
tion on the topics. This is important!*

**EVERYBODY WHO
OWNS LAKESHORE
PROPERTY IN
WABANA TOWNSHIP
NEEDS TO KNOW THIS:**

Septic system inspections will be completed in two years, not three. This is a change from the County Board's decision last year that all inspections would be completed by 2003. They have additional money, and will contract with someone to do the work. See LETTERS for more details.