



## The Early Resorts of Minnesota - Tourism in the Land of 10,000 Lakes

By Ren Holland

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**The Early Resorts of Minnesota - Tourism in the Land of 10,000 Lakes** By Ren Holland

As Minnesota's tourism expanded beyond the hotels along the Mississippi and early railroad lines, small family resorts emerged. They catered to the simple pleasures of an outdoor enthusiast: a good fishing lake, a passable road, and a lodge with a cabin or two. As the demands of tourists shifted throughout the twentieth century, the state's resorts were dramatically altered. *The Early Resorts of Minnesota: Tourism in the Land of 10,000 Lakes* explains how resorts evolved, their prime locations, owners, amenities, and the rustic elegance that made Minnesota's resorts national icons.

This book provides images from early tourism, with a website to help you further explore the history of Minnesota's treasures.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"If you're looking for a book in this sometimes crazy and imperfect world to comfort and restore, you're in luck. Ren Holland has put together a book filled with 100s of pictures from every corner of Minnesota. Whether your interest is history, photography or the natural beauty of the great outdoors, this is a book for you and your discerning friends. I wish I had had the vision and inspiration to do the great work and research it took to write the book myself." -- Wendell R. Anderson, Former U. S. Senator and Governor of Minnesota

"A great chronological time line of the history of resorting in our state. Probably the only documentation of the many resorts that once existed and the people involved." -- Mark Ludlow, Ludlow's Island Resort, Lake Vermilion, Cook; Minnesota Resort & Campground Association's 2011 Minnesota Hospitality Hall of Fame Award

"Ren Holland takes us on a fascinating journey through a vanishing era of Minnesota history. Slow down, relax, and remember your childhood vacation at a resort!" -- Jill A. Johnson, *Little Minnesota: 100 Towns Around 100*

"It is an honor to endorse your book, *The Early Resorts of Minnesota*. I'm 88 and I have lived through this era and tasted the excitement of the early resorts." ---- Al Baert, Founder, The Minnesota Fishing Museum, Little Falls, Minnesota

#### About the Author

**Ren Holland** was born in the tourist town of Park Rapids, Minnesota, in 1937. He was raised at a small store and resort owned by his parents, Elmer O. Holland and Betty Lauder Holland, at Little Mantrap Lake near Itasca State Park. Ren and his sisters, Grace and Betty, helped their parents with routine tasks at the store and cabins until the resort was sold in 1950. During high-school in Park Rapids, Ren worked at Blewett's Resort (Vacationaire) on Island Lake. Later, he worked at Fuller's Tackle Shop in Park Rapids, a traditional headquarters for tourist information and fishing supplies.

Ren attended the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, receiving a BA degree in art and a BS degree in art education. He received a master's degree in art education at St. Cloud State University and taught art at Little Falls Community High School, retiring in 1996. In 2004 he wrote and published *The Edge of Itasca*, a book about the individuals and families associated with early Itasca State Park and the Mississippi Headwaters area.

Ren and his wife, Ida Mae, live on the Mississippi River, across from Charles A. Lindbergh State Park, at Little Falls, Minnesota. They have two children, Randy Holland and Renee Holland Theisen.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Dana Gallo:

The book *The Early Resorts of Minnesota - Tourism in the Land of 10,000 Lakes* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend

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### **Gregory Eubanks:**

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