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# Within Katahdin's Realm: Log Drives and Sporting Camps - Chapter 10: North from the Stinchfield and Heath Camp at Pemadumcook Lake on Nahmakanta Stream

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***Within Katahdin's Realm:  
Log Drives and Sporting Camps***

Part 2

Sporting Camps

Chapter 10

North from the Stinchfield and Heath Camp on Pemadumcook Lake at  
Nahmakanta Stream

At the Mouth of Nahmakanta Stream

At Third and Fourth Debsconeag Lakes

At Nahmakanta Lake

On the Pollywog Pond Drainage

At Rainbow Lake

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<https://sites.google.com/a/maine.edu/mountain-explorations/home>

## Chapter 10

### North from the Stinchfield and Heath Camp on

### Pemadumcook Lake at Nahmakanta Stream

The early Native Americans paddled across Pemadumcook Lake into the mouth of Nahmakanta Stream and used a succession of lakes and short carries to reach Nahmakanta Lake and avoid five miles of poling and carrying upstream directly to the lake. Once the loggers' tote road paralleled the stream, some began to use it. Travelers found that if their timing was right, they could ride with a teamster to Nahmakanta Dam. Lucius Hubbard's 1879 guidebook, his first, described a carry trail on the north side of Nahmakanta Stream. By 1898, guidebooks listed this portage trail as suitable for buckboard travel. By 1917, the tote road shifted to the south side. Sports generally found good hunting along these tote roads as the spillage during the toting operations attracted grouse and deer. In 1934, the Appalachian Trail (AT) used the south side tote road.

However, Lewey Ketchum, Darius Warren (D. W.) Hopkins, Horace Cushman, Lee Clement, and Eugene Henry Smith, all guides for sporting camps along the route, advertised and generally used the old Native American canoe route<sup>1</sup> with a portage from the head of Pemadumcook Lake at Nahmakanta Stream to Third Debsconeag Lake where the route forked with one direction using carries to Fourth Debsconeag Lake and to Nahmakanta Lake and the other taking the portages to Big Beaver Pond and to Rainbow Lake. From Nahmakanta Lake, the route went through Wadleigh Valley to Wadleigh Pond, bypassing an uncanoeable Pollywog

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<sup>1</sup> Cook, David S. *Above the Gravel Bar: The Indian Canoe Routes of Maine*, 2nd edition. Milo, ME: Milo Printing, 1985.

Debsoneag Chain,  
Nahmakanta,  
West Branch

Nesowadnehunk Tote Road

floating bridge

Millinocket Tote Road

dam: red bar on waterway logging  
camp: unfilled red box  
major tote roads: red lines  
sporting camp: unfilled green box

White House

Michaud

Farquhar

Spencer

river ford

Millinocket Tote Road

1924 Rainbow fire boundary

sluice

McPheters

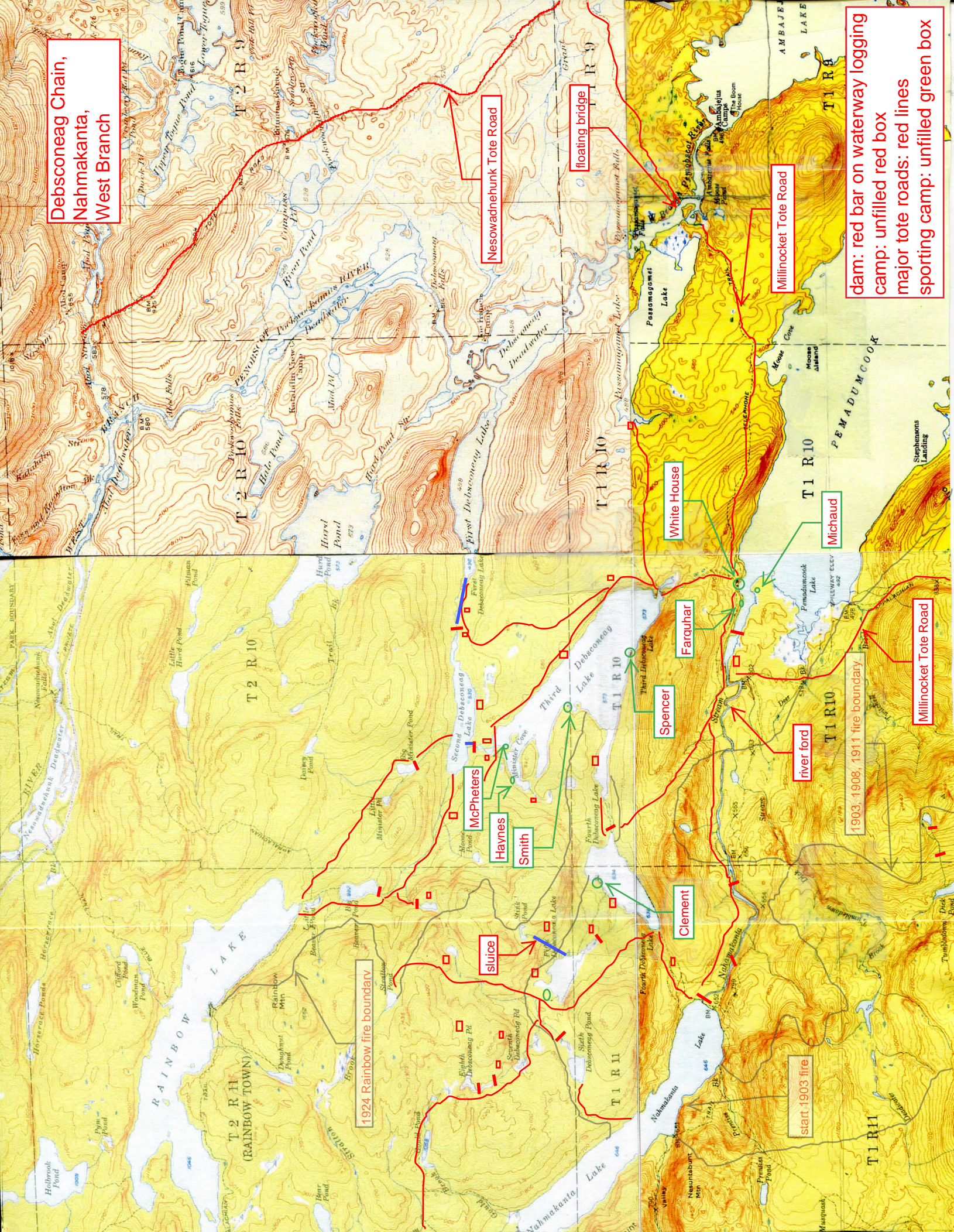
Haynes

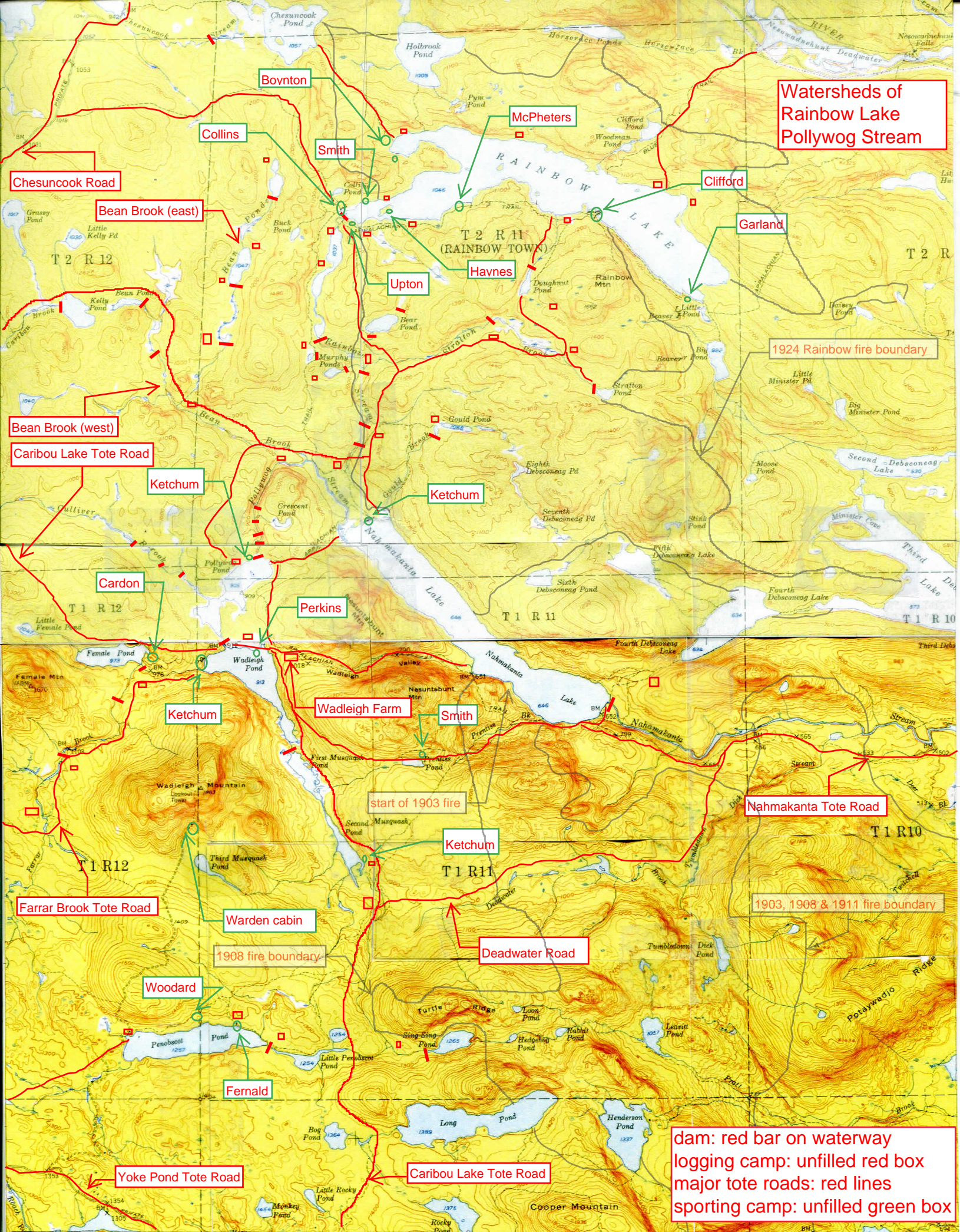
Smith

Clement

start, 1903 fire

1903, 1908, 1911 fire boundary





Watersheds of  
Rainbow Lake  
Pollywog Stream

1924 Rainbow fire boundary

Nahmakanta Tote Road

1903, 1908 & 1911 fire boundary

dam: red bar on waterway  
logging camp: unfilled red box  
major tote roads: red lines  
sporting camp: unfilled green box

Gorge, and then continued to Penobscot Pond and over the height of land into the Roach River system of the Kennebec watershed. Those accessing a sporting camp at Penobscot Pond came in via the Roach River system, and those camps downstream at Musquash, Wadleigh, and Pollywog ponds came via Nahmakanta Lake. For sporting camps on Rainbow Lake, a later route came east from Greenville. Hubbard's guidebooks described a route from Nahmakanta Lake up Rainbow Stream to Rainbow Lake and over a ridge to the Upper Chain Lakes, but none of the sporting camp owners at Rainbow Lake advertised the route.

### At the Mouth of Nahmakanta Stream

As soon as loggers needed supplies at Nahmakanta Lake, they probably built a camp at the mouth of Nahmakanta Stream and a hovel for the oxen. The site was a 10-plus-mile tote from the Nahmakanta Tote Road at South Twin Lake. The camp, probably abandoned in the off-season, provided sports a place to spend the night before moving on. Beginning in 1893, steamers stopped at the camp and saved travelers a 14-mile paddle across the Lower Chain Lakes from North Twin Dam and Norcross. H. L. Stinchfield and Fred Heath turned the camp into a sporting camp, which was on the north side at the carry to Third Debsconeag Lake, and provided lodging and toting service in the mid- to late-1890s until about 1910.<sup>2</sup> Some sports stayed for a while, whereas others spent a night before moving on to Albert J. and Fred D. Spencer's on Third Debsconeag Lake, Lee Clement's Pleasant Point Camps on Fourth Debsconeag Lake, Lewey Ketchum's Nahmakanta Lake Camps, Sammy N. Smith's at Prentiss Pond, or the sporting camps at Rainbow Lake.

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<sup>2</sup> dates determined by using information in *In the Maine Woods*

John B. and Madline Michaud became neighbors of Stinchfield and Heath about 1906 when they built a year-round home opposite them on the south side at the mouth of Nahmakanta Stream.<sup>3</sup> The Michauds advertised their home as a sporting camp, lived there in 1910, and moved out about 1912. The 1911 forest fire may have negatively affected their operation.

Stinchfield and Health closed their sporting camp about 1911 when the Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) began to build the Debsconeag depot complex at its site.<sup>4</sup> Sport travel through this junction continued, but what toting services may have continued to be available between about 1911 until the mid-1920s is unknown. The new Debsconeag depot camp had a large two and a half-story sixty-person white rooming house that resulted in the names *White House Landing* and *White House Camps*. GNP maintained the camp after the Debsconeag logging operation ended (c. 1920). By the mid-1920s, the company hired Joseph and Grace McDonald to run the camp for GNP clients and executives. Grace and a former husband Ernest T. Mayo had previously had a sporting camp at Passamagamet Lake, and following that, she worked one with her second husband Roy Bradeen at Kidney Pond. During the McDonalds' first years, they lived in the log camp of the former lumber camp and GNP guests stayed in the white house. During this time, the portage road to Third Debsconeag Lake became known as "Trotter Park." Whether true or not, stories persist that the camp had riding horses that guests used on the roadway.

At some point in the late 1920s, the McDonalds opened the camp to the general public and toted sports' gear to Third Debsconeag Lake. Eventually they brought an old truck across the

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<sup>3</sup> Information from *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>4</sup> Information for the White House site came from GNP records at University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collection, Ancestry.com, Jack Hale, Larry Ferguson, Doug Farquhar, Ray Woodworth, Erwin and Maureen Bacon, Shorty Budreau, Bill and Cindy Ware

ice to do the toting. Beginning in 1934, they also provided boat service for Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers who signaled for a ride from the point opposite the sporting camp. In 1939, the McDonalds went to work at Rainbow Lake Camps, and William and Mary Myshrall took over the lease at White House Landing, continued to serve hikers and other sports, and provided transportation to Third and Second Debsconeag lakes with the old truck. The Myshralls ceased operations in 1943 when GNP wanted the site vacated and helped them move to what became known as Debsconeag Camps on Third Debsconeag Lake.

After the Myshralls left, GNP had all the buildings except the three log camps removed. Elmer Woodworth, the proprietor of Millinocket Lake Camps, assisted by Ralph Dorr and Shorty Budreau, took down the white boarding house board by board, salvaging everything. Woodworth towed the materials back to his dock at Spencer Cove on an old GNP barge. Much of the lumber went into rebuilding a camp he once lived in on Reed Island in Millinocket Lake. Jack Farquhar used some of the salvaged clapboards on his house in Millinocket.

About 1950, Stephen J. Chamberlain, who worked for London Guarantee and Accident Company in Boston and had been a yearly guest at Antlers Camps on nearby Lower Jo-Mary Lake, took a noncommercial lease on the site's three remaining buildings, resided in one of the small log cabins, and was content to use the buildings as they were. He came a few weeks every year and let his friends and clients use the buildings. Dorr was Chamberlain's first caretaker, and when Dorr was busy, Mayo helped out. Mayo's son-in-law Rex Hale took over in 1958 and stayed until Chamberlain sold. Rex, who was born in Norcross, was son of Charles A. Hale who was clerk when loggers used the site about 1911. Rex guided full time until 1927 when he went to work for the post office and thereafter guided for Jasper Haynes at Buckhorn Camps on Middle Jo-Mary Lake during the fall in the 1940s and 1950s when Rex was on vacation.



Beginning in 1958, he spent most of each summer living at the site, tending the garden, and caring for Chamberlain's guests. Either Rex or his son John (Jack) picked guests up in the camp's 25-foot cabin cruiser with a 100-horsepower engine. By this time, the old truck and other assorted vehicles used for the portage no longer worked, so the Hales brought a jeep across on a boat raft from Maher Landing (c. 1959). In the late 1960s, lightning struck the Chamberlain cabin, and it burned to the ground. Chamberlain lost a valuable fly rod and gun collection that included a considerable amount of ammunition, which exploded during the fire. He did not return to use the remaining two camps.

About 1970, Erwin and Maureen Bacon, who lived in Connecticut, took over the lease. Erwin grew up in southern Maine and had hunted with his uncle from the camps at Fourth Debsconeag Lake, which at the time were run by Philip Pulsifer, also from southern Maine. Erwin enjoyed the spot, returned regularly, and brought Maureen. During one of their stays, they heard the White House Landing sporting camp was for sale, so they went over to see it and liked what they saw. They resided in the log structure on the knoll, added to it, and maintained a barn and garage-type structure, both of which were part of the 1911 logging camp. The Bacons eventually moved to Millinocket where Erwin became a real estate broker. After about fifteen years of personal use, they changed the lease to a commercial one, built some cabins, and hired a couple to run the sporting camp as North Woods Wilderness Camps. The building on the knoll, with its additions, became the main lodge as it was in 2014. The venture was successful particularly in the winter months. In 1992, Bill and Cindy Ware bought the sporting camp and have operated them until about 2012. They made improvements in every building and in 1999 reopened the sporting camp to AT hikers. With 400 AT guests in the first season, they added a bunkhouse in 2000 and began serving 800 to 900 hikers a season.

The Wares still had their guests come in via the lakes or float plane. About 1996, when mechanized logging, working its way west from Golden Road, breached the portage between Pemadumcook and Third Debsconeag lakes, the Wares had a sometimes-negotiable road as an alternative route for supplies and materials. Their predecessors in the 1950s and 1960s also had an alternative—a no longer passable circuitous route from Kokadjo to the Maher Landing area opposite the sporting camp. The abandoned vehicles in the area are a reminder of that bygone era.

Up behind the White House Landing on the portage to Third Debsconeag Lake, GNP maintained a cluster of three buildings that the log drivers used until the last drive in 1966.<sup>5</sup> Everett (Turk) Perrow and some others prevailed upon GNP to move the two early 1950s cooking and dining structures by skidder a short distance to the east to a shore lot. Perrow positioned the two framed canvas covered buildings facing each other to form the basis for the new building. GNP burned the remaining log cabin, a sleeping camp for a crew of six to eight men and probably part of the 1912 Debsconeag Camp.

About the time Stinchfield, Health, and the Michauds were closing their operations, John Farquhar paddled a short distance upstream from their sporting camps, liked what he saw, and between 1910 and 1915 built the Farquhar family camp, Mouse Haven, which has always been a private camp.<sup>6</sup> Farquhar was a carpenter who came to Millinocket where he worked in the mill as a foreman. He used his carpentry skills to build the inboard motor craft the family used on weekends to get back and forth across the lake to Millinocket. In later years, John's son Jack had

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<sup>5</sup> conversations with Doug Farquhar, Larry Ferguson.

<sup>6</sup> conversations with Doug Farquhar and Jack Farquhar

an air sled he used on the ice in the mid-1960s. The family maintains the camp as it was in 1920 when they built an addition.

John Farquhar, Stinchfield, Heath, and Joseph McDonald guided friends and sports on day trips into the watershed of Tumbledown Dick Stream, which enters Nahmakanta Stream just above the Farquhar camp. None of them or anyone else ever built a sporting camp on the watershed, but it did have trappers' camps. In 1902, Sumner A. Potter, guiding a sport from his Antlers Camps on Lower Jo-Mary Lake, used a camp on Tumbledown Dick Pond.<sup>7</sup> It could have been an old lumber camp near the southwest corner of the pond. Alfred Bradbury and his son Ted found the camp disintegrated when they fished the area in the 1950s and 1960s, so they built a lean-to near it.<sup>8</sup> Perhaps about the 1970s, Henry Archibald may have had a small fishing shack on the north side near the outlet.

Someplace on the Tumbledown Dick watershed, Mayo and Guy Haynes had a tent camp in support of their hunting trips in 1907.<sup>9</sup> On Tumbledown Dick Stream below the pond, Woodworth had a trapper's camp in the 1950s.<sup>10</sup> One very cold winter day in the early 1960s when he was trudging back home across Pemadumcook Lake to Ambajejus dike loaded with skins and nine beaver, which had not yet been skinned, he got an unexpected ride. Jack Farquhar, noticing a person crossing the ice, took out his air sled to help whoever it was.

### At Third and Fourth Debsconeag Lakes

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<sup>7</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Mills, T. L., "The Cohasset Gun Club at Jo-Mary," 10, no. 115 (March 1903): 128–130.

<sup>8</sup> conversations with Ted Bradbury

<sup>9</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, "Sergt. Keough in the Woods," 15, no. 172 (December 1907): 61.

<sup>10</sup> conversations with Ray Woodworth

Once Albert Fowler's Norcross Transportation Company ended its scheduled runs across Pemadumcook Lake to White House Landing in the late 1920s, each of the proprietors on Third and Fourth Debsconeag lakes had a boat and called for guests and supplies at Elmer Woodworth's wharf at Ambajejus dike.<sup>11</sup> They stored the boats on a nearby tiny island for the winter. The last use of such boats was probably in the 1950s. When necessary after that, Woodworth, owner of Millinocket Lake Camps, brought guests and supplies to White House Landing where a proprietor took over the transportation. Generally, the proprietors had some kind of portage arrangement between Pemadumcook and Third Debsconeag lakes. At Third Debsconeag Lake, each sporting camp kept another boat, and Fourth Debsconeag Lake proprietors used a boathouse at the portage trail at the head of Third Debsconeag Lake. Starting in the late 1940s, Chink LeGassey's floatplane service began to replace the water and ground services.

Eugene Henry Smith, Fred D. and Albert J. Spencer, William (Bill) Moriarty, Guy Haynes, and Walter McPheters were the early guides who brought their sports over the carry to Third Debsconeag Lake and paddled them to their respective sporting camps on the lake.<sup>12</sup> In the late 1890s, Smith, who lived on South Twin Lake and was a woodsman, trapper, and Nahmakanta Dam tender, was probably the first of them to build. He chose the top of the bluff on the point west of Minister Cove. Eugene's son Sammy took over the location in the early 1900s.

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<sup>11</sup> conversations with Shorty Budreau

<sup>12</sup> Third Lake information from Ancestry.com, Stirling Smith, Mike Higgins, Doug Farquhar, Reid Campbell, Shorty Budreau; *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, "Sergt. Keough in the Woods," 15, no. 172 (December 1907): 61; advertising of *In the Maine Woods* and *The Maine Sportsman*

In 1904, Sammy was living at Norcross when he married Elsie M. Powers of Medway, Maine. They had five children and continued to live in Norcross other than when they lived at Daisey Pond up behind Big Minister Pond. Sammy also had a sporting camp at Prentiss Pond and operated it through at least the mid-1920s.<sup>13</sup> He and his dad had trapper's camps in the headwaters of the Farrar Brook deadwater, at Rainbow Lake, and on Passamagamet Lake. Sammy likely spent considerable time at Third Debsconeag Lake as area folks kindly referred to him as a hermit or "the ghost of Third Lake" in his later years. Jack Farquhar, who grew up at the mouth of Nahmakanta Stream, occasionally stopped at the camp with his father, and Sammy offered molasses cookies.<sup>14</sup> Sammy died in 1948 when he was hit by a train at Norcross; he was seventy-three years old.

When Sammy gave up the lease is unknown, but in 1952, his former trapping companion Woodworth swapped his camp on Reed Island in Millinocket Lake for the 10 x 10 horizontal log camp, which Dean W. and Dorothy Ambrose of Millinocket then owned. Five years later, Woodworth sold it for \$600 to five Brownville–Milo area men who worked for the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, called themselves "Parley's Rangers" (Frank Duffy, Wayne Duplisea, Parley Duplisea, Buster Duplisea, Allen Sharp), and named it Camp Wildwood. They paid \$10 per year for their lease that over the next thirty years increased to \$135. The materials needed for the roof replacement in 1959 and for the addition of the vertical log-style Otter Room in 1974 came by boat from Woodworth's at Ambajejus dike to the carry trail at the head of Pemadumcook Lake. The men hauled the material over the portage to Third Debsconeag Lake and then transported it up the lake. LeGassey flew in some lesser supplies each year at \$8 per trip

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<sup>13</sup> GNP and Penobscot Development Company records located at University of Maine Fogler Library

<sup>14</sup> conversation with Jack Farquhar

in the early years. Modern building materials signify the third addition. The rangers kept track of their yearly fish catches. In their first fifteen years, they caught 3,201 togue and 1,209 trout with a combined weight of more than two tons. Mike Higgins, the current leaseholder, bought Camp Wildwood about 1987; at the time, he ran the flying service, which LeGassey founded. The old photo of Fred Gilman Richardson fishing in nearby Little Beaver Pond on May 14, 1901, still hangs on the wall, and a number of wooden boats of unknown owners are on the lake bottom in front of the camp.

The Smiths' early neighbors were Albert J. and Fred D. Spencer at Jones Point on the lower west shore of Third Debsconeag Lake. They opened Third Lake Camps about 1901 as a branch camp of their sporting camp they were building at Ambajejus dike.<sup>15</sup> Someone made notes on the walls inside the two small oldest buildings, indicating someone built them between 1901 and 1909. The Spencers probably added the 1909 building to meet demand. The complex also eventually included a no-longer-standing boathouse. At some point, they hired Sammy N. Smith as caretaker, and then in 1917, the Spencers changed their advertising, listed Sammy as a proprietor, and changed the name to Smith and Spencer Camps. About 1918, Sammy N. Smith added Fred D. Spencer as a co-owner of Smith's camp at the other end of lake.

The Spencers received their first lease from Ansel A. Lumbert and Frank J. D. Barnjum. Several land sales took place, and all landowners honored the lease. Talbot Aldrich, a painter from southern Maine, bought the property on April 12, 1920, and honored the lease. After Albert died in 1922, Fred and Sammy continued to operate the sporting camp through at least 1923. At some point, Aldrich took over the sporting camp, used it as a private residence, and retained Sammy as caretaker.

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<sup>15</sup> Information from: Piscataquis County Register of Deeds, Tony Cesare, Reid Campbell, Peter Smallidge

In 1939, Aldrich sold to William and Mary Myshrall, who were running White House Camps at White House Landing on Pemadumcook Lake at the time. Whether they ran two operations simultaneously or not is unknown. The Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) wanted them to close the sporting camp at White House Landing and helped facilitate their purchase of the structures and property from Talbot. The Myshralls closed the White House Camps by 1943 and advertised their new sporting camp on Third Debsconeag Lake as “Debsconeag Camps.” In 1955, the Myshralls added a large building, but never finished the interior and may not have used it. During the off-season, they lived in Millinocket where William was a barber.

They ceased their commercial operations sometime before 1962 when Mary died. Bill died two years later and their son Galen, who worked at the Millinocket mill, lived on alone at the sporting camp as a private residence until his health made it difficult for him to get around and he moved to town. In 1984, when Galen was absent from work, a friend, Norman Berube, checked on Galen and found him needing medical help for what turned out to be appendicitis. He was grateful and, following the wishes of his mother, sold the sporting camp to Berube. Galen died soon after, and Berube sold the structures and land to Reid Campbell. Campbell sold a portion of the land and one building. The land the other four buildings rest on is held in common by four families with each owning a building, and all are still in use.

Walter McPheters, Guy Haynes, and William Moriarty soon joined Albert J. and Fred D. Spencer and Eugene Henry and Sammy N. Smith on Third Debsconeag Lake. Each of them guided out of Norcross and had multiple camps.<sup>16</sup> Their camps on this lake were perhaps only

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<sup>16</sup> This information is gleaned from *In the Maine Woods* and *The Maine Sportsman* advertising and *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, November 1905 (Moriarty), December 1907 (Haynes and McPheters), and the camps appear on GNP Division of Forest Engineering map, Township 2 Range 10, February 12, 1915.

way stations used to make trips to their more prominent sporting camps a little less strenuous for sports. McPheters built his camp in what he called Caribou Cove, known to some as McPheters' Cove, which was nearest the outlet on the north side. Haynes's camp was at the westernmost end of Minister Cove near the small stream that flows off the hillside. Both men's camps were near tote roads that intersected north of the lake and went on to Rainbow Lake where they both had sporting camps as early as 1904. Moriarty advertised his camp in 1906, but did not reveal its location. It may have been a logging camp or very near it on the north side of the finger that leads to the Fourth Debsconeag Lake portage. Moriarty had sporting camps at both Nahmakanta and Rainbow lakes. When these three men built their camps is unknown. They were open in 1907, were probably in use in 1915, but not likely after about 1920. Haynes moved out of the area by 1916; McPheters died in 1918 and Moriarty in 1926.

As these men paddled their sports through the lake, they pointed to the north for the stunning view of Mount Katahdin. In the fall, they may have seen a white top from early snow, brown-gray turning to yellows, oranges, and reds below with green still at the lowest levels. If they had time, they might have scrambled a short distance to the top of the cliffs at the foot of the lake to trace their route on the Lower Chain Lakes. Moriarty's sports lost the view as they entered the lake's northwest finger leading to the inlet from Fourth Debsconeag Lake. After a night at Third Debsconeag Lake, Moriarty took them across the short carry, pointed to a perched rock along the way, and rested at a fine spring at about the midpoint. At the dam, they climbed into another boat, and Moriarty took them across to the sporting camp near the base of the large cliffs they could see from the dam. Moriarty's colleague Lee Clement was there so Moriarty probably stopped before moving on to the Nahmakanta portage.



Clement moved to the lake sometime before 1904, the year he first advertised Pleasant Point Camps in *In the Maine Woods*. Previously he guided for South Twin House. Charles W. Townsend guided for him, and Jean Robinson did the cooking.<sup>17</sup> Both Clement and Robinson had been married for at least thirty years, but their spouses apparently did not work at the sporting camp. Clement lived at the sporting camp year-round.

When Clement guided for South Twin House and took sports to its branch camp at Nahmakanta, he paddled past a hunter's camp at his future sporting camp's site on Pleasant Point. Mary (Mimi) Ketchum, daughter of Lewey Ketchum whose family resided on Nahmakanta Lake starting about 1890, always waved to the Native American family as her Native American family paddled by the camp. This unknown family's camp was possibly the old camp, now called "Indian Camp," that still stands close to the shore at Pleasant Point and is part of Pleasant Point Camps.<sup>18</sup>

At some point, the unknown family left and Clement moved in. "Indian Camp" had a trap door and two root cellars. Someone at some time intricately decorated the camp's interior walls and ceiling with birch bark shapes. At one time, the shapes outlined two lithographs of Theodore Roosevelt. The birch bark artist is unknown, but two tales persist. Some think the person was the unknown hunter's Native American wife. Others believe that an artist bought his wife to stay at Clement's sporting camp for health reasons and that he decorated the inside when he was not painting. In 2000, the sporting camp owner Clifton George's grandson found birches on the hillside southwest of the outlet with old cut out bark shapes matching those in the camp.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ancestry.com

<sup>18</sup> information provided by Mimi Ketchum in a visit with Paul Nevel family.

<sup>19</sup> conversations with Marty Thompson, wife of Clifton George.

“Indian Camp” was also central to a local folk story about Pleasant Point Camps during Clement’s early years. Some believe that President Theodore Roosevelt stayed in “Indian Camp” sometime between 1905 and 1909.<sup>20</sup> He allegedly had a Native American mistress whom he visited as often as possible. No confirming documentation can be found to support the lore. However, some of those with family alive and working in the area not long after the visit swear to it. Another person whose step-grandfather wintered at the sporting camp never heard anything about such a visit.<sup>21</sup> Roosevelt was a close friend of William Sewall who had a place on Pleasant Pond near Island Falls, and Roosevelt visited there as a college student. Roosevelt came to Maine during his presidency and after, but never made it back to Island Falls. If Roosevelt came to the sporting camp, then he probably traveled by rail to Norcross, but the Norcross Transportation Company has no record of him being in Norcross.

Clement ran Pleasant Point Camps until 1922 when he sold to Nelson H. and Mary Shorey. A 1922 Penobscot Development Report listed a Crocker as a joint proprietor, but what role he played in the sporting camp’s operations is unknown. The Shoreys moved to Millinocket about 1905 when Nelson worked for the railroad and continued to reside there in the off-season. Whether Nelson continued in the railroad’s employ while they had the sporting camp is unknown, but he worked for the railroad after they sold the sporting camp. During the Shorey era, Hattie was the cook, and John Farrington wintered at the sporting camp, caring for it as he trapped.

Nelson Shorey may have added buildings to those Clement built. It is not clear how many buildings may have been at the site both before and after the 1924 forest fire that was nearby, but

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<sup>20</sup> conversations with Hal Ware

<sup>21</sup> Ralph Boynton as told to him by his step-grandfather John Farrington

it did not engulf the point. By the time the Shoreys sold, the structures included a large building with a kitchen and dining room, six sleeping camps, vegetable gardens, apple orchard, and a hen house. The main lodge may have been named Moose Lodge, and the sleeping camps may have been Bear Camp, High Camp, Point Camp, Indian Camp, Chickadee Camp, and a two-story, stockade-style building with sleeping on the first floor and perhaps storage, given the access and lack of windows, on the second floor. The two-story structure was no longer standing by 1942. The Chickadee camp may have burned once, but someone rebuilt it. High Camp may have been built or rebuilt in the 1940s.<sup>22</sup>

In the mid-1930s, Nelson Shorey sold to Roy Daisey, who died in June 1938. Roy, who grew up in the Millinocket area and worked the woods, was the son of Charles A. Daisey who bought the sporting camp at Nesowadnehunk Lake in 1904. Roy's brother Arnold continued that operation after their father's death. Another brother Fred guided for Arnold and the sporting camp at Daicey and Kidney ponds and brother Harold W. Daisey had a trapper's camp at Rainbow Lake. After Roy's death, Vernon H. Lewis either owned or managed the sporting camp. Lewis came from Houlton with his family in the 1920s and was a papermaker at the mill. He hired James (Jimmy) A. Goodwin as a fourteen- to fifteen-year-old to do summer chores. One of the jobs was restringing the phone line to the Ambajejus Boom House.<sup>23</sup>

About 1940, Lewis sold to Halson (Junior) W. and Ida Richards.<sup>24</sup> As a part of the operation, they had two branch camps, one at Wadleigh Pond and one at Fifth Debsconeag Lake. The Richardses did not hold a lease on the Wadleigh camp, but Walter F. Rutter allowed them to use it in return for keeping an eye on it. Amy Astel was their cook and Roland Anderson, a

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<sup>22</sup> conversations with Mardi Thompson

<sup>23</sup> conversations with James A. Goodwin

<sup>24</sup> conversations with Shorty Budreau

young man Ida's family looked after, was a helper. When Junior was at Elmer Woodworth's dock in 1942, Shorty Budreau, at fifteen years of age and working for Elmer, gassed up his boat and asked about a job. Shorty worked for the sporting camp through 1945—guiding during the hunting and fishing seasons and cutting and storing ice in the winter.

Before Junior moved to Millinocket area, he was a music teacher in Houlton. Ida had grown up in the Millinocket–Norcross area and, through her father Tom Perrow, who worked for the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and had an old camp on North Twin Lake at Perrow Point, was well acquainted with sporting camps. During the winters, the Richardses lived in town with Ida's parents. When Junior was called up to serve in the war, Ida ran the sporting camp with the help of her sixty-year-old father. With Junior back from the war, the Richardses bought and moved to Rainbow Lake Camps in 1952, and Lewis, his wife Dianna, and perhaps the youngest of their four children moved back to the sporting camp to live year-round. They used an early motorized snow sled to get back and forth to Ambajejus dike during the winters.<sup>25</sup>

In the mid- to late-1950s, Ralph Boynton, a local high school student whose family had a camp at Debsconeag Falls and whose step-grandfather John Farrington cared for Pleasant Point Camps in winter, used to visit the sporting camp. Boynton paddled across Pemadumcook Lake, visited with Rex Hale at White House Landing, and Stephen J. Chamberlain drove Boynton across the carry to Third Debsconeag Lake where he continued his canoe travel. One night at the carry to Fourth Debsconeag Lake, he met Edson Hitchings, who was guiding for and perhaps managing the sporting camp. Hitchings bent over with a pack-basket on his back, and Boynton heard something fall in the water. He stopped, dug out a light, and found a handgun. Hitchings was grateful, and from that day forward, Boynton always had a free bed at the sporting camp.

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<sup>25</sup> Information in this paragraph came from ancestry.com and conversations with Shorty Budreau.

In the early 1960s, the Lewises moved out, and the sporting camp remained unused for a year or more. Between about 1962 and 1964, Hitchings and his wife were back and used the sporting camp, but whether they owned them is unknown. The Hitchingses were in for a short time during the winter of 1964 and were unsuccessful in hiring someone to shovel the roofs. The main camp roof caved in late that winter.<sup>26</sup>

Philip Pulsifer, who referred to himself as a hermit, bought Pleasant Point Camps in the mid- to late-1960s.<sup>27</sup> Pulsifer lived in southern Maine, had recently retired, and, with his son-in-law Hal Ware, was looking for a set of sporting camps to own and run. Gean G. Sargent, who flew for LeGasseys' flying service, flew guests into the sporting camps in the mid-1960s, and Pulsifer met them at the wharf. He led them from the dock to Moose Lodge where he always had a pot of stew brewing for the arrivals. The stew contained any and all game, bird or animal, he caught. Allegedly, he never ran out of stew because he just kept adding to it, never changing the pot. Pulsifer spent the spring, summer, and fall at the site living in the "Indian Camp" with the birch-bark-decorated interior. He tended to the sporting camp pretty much by himself with some family help. In 1980, he sold to Ware, who flew in and out when he had guests and needed to do routine maintenance.

When Pulsifer purchased the sporting camp, he could sometimes get to the lake via a road from the foot of Nahmakanta Lake to the boat landing at the west end of the lake. At that time, it came from the Yoke Pond Tote Road across the north side Penobscot Pond to Deadwater Brook to Nahmakanta Stream, where it turned upstream to the dam and the tote road to Fourth Debsconeag Lake. The road was often in poor condition, and vehicles forded Penobscot Pond

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<sup>26</sup> conversations with Shorty Budreau

<sup>27</sup> Information on the Pulsifer era came from conversations with his son-in-law Hal Ware and Glenn Perkins, game warden for the area at the time.

Stream at Musquash Field. On a late 1970s Memorial Day weekend, a family on their way to visit Pulsifer became stuck in the stream in the middle of the night in high water. Unable to dislodge the truck from the rock, the husband spent the night with three children in the back of the pickup under a tattered cap. His wife and one child spent the night inside the cab. The next day Game Warden Glen Perkins came upon the truck and discovered all but the father had died of asphyxiation. The condition of the road especially between Nahmakanta Lake and Fourth Debsconeag Lake remained problematic into the 1990s.

Ware sold to Jeanne C. Sargent of North Conway, New Hampshire in 1994. Jean, recently widowed, knew of the sporting camp from previous visits and felt the magic of the place. Daniel, Jeanne's son, helped her and did some trapping. Unfortunately, Jeanne's health deteriorated, and she was unable to keep the place up. She sold in 2001 to Clifton George and Mardi Thompson.<sup>28</sup>

George had previously run Tea Pond Camps and Penobscot Lake Lodge, and Thompson grew up taking outdoor adventures with her grandfather, a Maine guide and a physician on a North Pole exploration. At the time of their purchase, the Georges had a camp on Middle Jo-Mary Lake and were looking to run a sporting camp in their retirement. They knew this sporting camp needed considerable work, but they did not realize how much until they moved in. For nearly one hundred years, treasures accumulated on the lot, and the Georges needed to reduce the piles.

They were unable to save main lodge, Moose Lodge, so they tore it down, and built a new one in 2003. The old building, perhaps built by Clement, was a collection of three buildings from three different time periods. The oldest section faced the lake, had three roofs, one on top of

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<sup>28</sup> Information for this time period came from conversations with Mardi Thompson

the other, and had evidence of fire between the first and second roofs. The building had a double wall; the inside wall was made of split cedar done by an exceptional axe man.

With a great deal of hard work, the Georges salvaged the other buildings. When replacing the rotted sill logs on “Indian Camp,” they re-leveled it to eliminate the substantial tilt. At Bear Camp, they added sill logs, which may never have been present, and pulled in the spreading walls. They rebuilt Chickadee, redid the inside of High Camp, built a workshop, and eliminated the piles of accumulated remains. During the two years of rebuilding, they had only one or two buildings available for guests, primarily those who had been there previously. When they sold in 2008 to the Chewonki Foundation, they retained the right to continue to use Point Camp. The sporting camp continues to be open for public use and to host a girl’s summer program.

The camp’s earliest guides—Clement, Charles W. Townsend, Nelson Shorey, Roy Daisey, and Junior Richards—all took sports up the camp’s trail to Fifth Debsconeag Lake where they either had a canoe or a raft from which to fish.<sup>29</sup> By the time Shorty Budreau guided for Junior, someone had built a camp 200 yards up the inlet stream at the site of what had perhaps been an old logger’s camp that was destroyed by the 1924 Rainbow fire. After Junior moved to Rainbow Lake, interested individuals tried to care for the camp. In the 1950s, Henry Peter Beaupain, who guided for the Nahmakanta Lake Camps, fixed it up and began using it. Charles, his son, went there as a youngster in the late 1950s and early 1960s with his dad on winter trapping excursions. Doug Farquhar, whose family had a camp at the head of Pemadumcook Lake, remembers going to the camp in the late 1960s with his father and taking something to cover the leaky roof. Barry Nevel recalls that he and his father, Paul Nevel, proprietor of Nahmakanta Lake Camps, hiked over to Fifth Debsconeag Lake from Sixth Debsconeag Lake to

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<sup>29</sup> Information for Fifth Lake came from conversations with Shorty Budreau, Charles Beaupain, Barry Nevel, and Doug Farquhar

fish and stayed at the camp in the early 1970s. It was in poor shape at that time, even though everyone using it kept patching it up. Whether this camp was part of the lease for Pleasant Point Camps before the ownership of Pulsifer and Ware is unknown. These two men were the last leaseholders for this single camp at Fifth Debsconeag Lake. Ware did not maintain the camp, and it had disintegrated by the early 1990s.

### At Nahmakanta Lake

After William (Bill) Moriarty said good day to Lee Clement, he paddled his sports to the west end of Fourth Debsconeag Lake, left his canoe as Lewey Ketchum, Sammy N. Smith, Guy Haynes, Ernest T. Mayo, and others did, and carried the dunnage to Nahmakanta Dam where he had another canoe.

According to Maine's oral history, Ketchum built a private camp at the head of the lake in 1872 for Samuel P. Colt.<sup>30</sup> Colt used the camp until 1890 when Ketchum built him another camp at Kidney Pond. For most of those years, Ketchum was operating out of Greenville and may not have used the river routes from Bangor. Ketchum and Colt perhaps came in from Greenville through the Roach River system or Caribou Lake to Kelly Pond and over the height of land and down Bean Brook to the camp.

No primary source of information puts Colt in Maine before a canoe trip he and his brother LeBaron took in 1897 from Greenville to Norcross via the West Branch of the Penobscot River. Samuel, born in 1852, was six years younger than LeBaron; their father had died in 1855; and their uncle, with whom Samuel lived for a time, died in 1862. In 1872, Samuel was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and LeBaron was practicing law in Chicago.

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<sup>30</sup> Nearly all the information on Samuel and LeBarron Colt is available at the University of Rhode Island Robert Carothers Library in the Samuel Colt family papers and from ancestry.com.



LeBaron moved back home to Bristol, Rhode Island in 1875, and Samuel, who graduated from Columbia Law School a year later, continued to work in the Rhode Island governor's office. Both men had their personal financial challenges at the time, which suggests that any camp at Nahmakanta was most likely a simple structure or may have actually belonged to Ketchum. The Colts' archived records provide no hint as to their personal outside interests, but they were clearly very close to each other. Ultimately, Samuel was the founder of United States Rubber Company, and LeBaron was a U.S. senator from Rhode Island and a federal court judge.

Ketchum probably guided at least one if not both Colt brothers on more than one trip to the Nahmakanta camp. Ketchum (b. 1849) was the son of a Penobscot mother and an English officer, went to work on the West Branch drives at fifteen years of age, and worked them for the following thirty-three years. Over many years, Ketchum guided notable parties of surveyors and adventurers. Among them was Maine's Honorable Hannibal Hamlin, vice president of the United States (1861–1865), Maine governor, and a Maine U.S. senator. The chronicles of these trips as provided by the leaders commonly compliment Ketchum for his skills as a woodsman, canoeist, tracker, and observer of all that was around him including people. Others thought his skills and decision making were extraordinary. The Colt family was well connected and if either one or both brothers were interested in a trip into the Maine wilderness with a known guide, they would have heard about Ketchum.<sup>31</sup>

Over time, Ketchum probably taught the two brothers how to live in the Maine wilderness, and they became experienced woodsmen who enjoyed their six-week 1897 trip without a guide. The daily journal kept by LeBaron never expresses consternation with the often-rainy weather. The text reveals that they knew how to handle the windy lakes, pitch a tent so it

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<sup>31</sup> Most of the specific information about Ketchum's life is available in the Fanny Hardy Eckstorm papers at the University of Maine Fogler Library

kept them dry, put up a tent in the dark in rain, build fires with wet wood or during rain, bake bread, cook bean-hole beans, and find their way into remote ponds to fish. In no instance did he indicate that they had to figure out how to handle some situation. The brothers had been good students.

By the early 1890s, Ketchum no longer simply shared the lake with loggers; guiding activity on the lake increased. Some who guided in hunters and fishermen stayed at lumber camps, generally at the north end of the lake. Others guided sports to newly established camps. In 1893–1994, the South Twin House advertised an outlying sporting camp complex someplace on Nahmakanta Lake.<sup>32</sup> Two accounts, one from fall 1895 and one from fall 1900, place a Dr. C. P. Thomas (from Brewer, Maine), captain E. B. Thomas and associates on the lake hunting moose from their camp, Birch Point Camp, a point extending into the lake.<sup>33</sup> From 1894 to 1898, Darius Warren (D. W.) Hopkins, of Norcross and Milo had a camp on the east shore of the lake at about its midpoint and opposite Nesuntabunt Mountain.<sup>34</sup> The camp sat on a slight rise with views up and down the lake. He died of typhoid fever in 1898, and it appears that Horace R. Cushman, also of Norcross and partner of Hopkins, took over the camp. In 1896 and 1897, Moriarty and Cushman advertised a camp.<sup>35</sup> This camp or that of South Twin House may have been at the southwest corner of the lake below the mouth of Prentiss Brook as marked on a 1901 Debsconeag Fish and Game Club map. By 1915, only Ketchum’s camp remained. During the next fifty years, however, trappers probably set up for the winter in the area. One was on the north side of the lake halfway between the lower beach and the dam in 1940. Whether any of

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<sup>32</sup> South Twin House advertised in *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>33</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, vol 6, 65 (January 1899)

<sup>34</sup> Tyro. “Three Trips into Maine.” *Forest and Stream* 51 (December 10, 1898): 462.

<sup>35</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

them made arrangements to stay in the sporting camp at the head of the lake as a couple of trappers did in 1968 is unknown.

During the winter trapping season, trappers and camp proprietors, pulling hand sleds and carrying packs, snowshoed between lakes and walked across the wind-cleared lake ice. In March 1896, Moriarty and Cushman were returning to Norcross with their hand sleds in high winds.<sup>36</sup> Cushman decided they should set up a sail. Having no material for such, he cut two big spruce boughs. They each held one and the wind did its work. The report was they went from the mouth of Nahmakanta Stream to Norcross, 12-plus miles, in thirty-five minutes.

Ketchum began using the Colt camp for commercial purposes in the 1890s after Samuel Colt departed for his new camp on Kidney Pond near Mount Katahdin. Beginning that first year, Ketchum advertised it as simply “Ketchum’s.”<sup>37</sup> Exactly what he had for a sporting camp is unknown, but in October 1894, he built a new 50-foot-long structure, perhaps to accommodate additional guests and his growing family.<sup>38</sup> Ketchum married for a second time in 1885 to Louisa who gave birth to five children, Abbie, Mary (Mimi), Harriet, Celia, and Gilbert. He had no children from his first marriage. The family moved to the sporting camp from their home at Indian Island as soon as ice was out and left just before freeze up.<sup>39</sup> Ketchum returned after ice-up to trap and cut wood and ice for the next season. He loved the area and found it exceedingly difficult to stay parted from it. Once, when in the Millinocket hospital, he checked himself out before he was discharged, and while walking back to his sporting camp, an eagle attacked him at about the midpoint of the phone line on the east side of Nahmakanta Lake.

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<sup>36</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, “They Sailed Pemadumcook,” 3, no. 33 (May 1896): 8.

<sup>37</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>38</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, “New Camps,” 2, no. 14 (October 1894): 19.

<sup>39</sup> information provided by Mimi Ketchum in a visit with Paul Nevel family.

Mimi Ketchum, who returned to the sporting camp in 1981, provided a glimpse of life at the sporting camp. The building she had slept in was still a sleeping camp. Nahmakanta Stream and the lakes were their link to Norcross. They used either Nahmakanta Stream or Fourth and Third Debsconeag lakes to reach Pemadumcook Lake. To help ensure their travel, her dad was the lake's dam tender and used his position to his advantage. When the family needed to get supplies or pick up guests, he paddled to the dam, opened a gate, and let the water flush him down-stream to Pemadumcook Lake. He could do the round-trip to Norcross in a long day if the weather and wind cooperated. Sometimes he towed a loaded canoe. At only one place on Nahmakanta Stream did he have to portage on his return trip. When the whole family went, they used the route through Fourth and Third Debsconeag lakes.

Mimi's reflections centered on three aspects of life at the camps: friends, fishing, and free time. Friends, who were numerous and frequently visited, paddled to the sporting camp at all hours of the day and night. Those friends included many of the other guides, such as Sammy N. Smith, Guy Haynes, and Joe Francis, her uncle. They came up from Norcross and Pemadumcook Lake to play cards, and they left in the middle of the night negotiating the stream in the moonlight. If the wind was blowing, they stayed and curled up under their canoes out of the weather. One of Mimi and her sister's weekly chores was a Thursday or Friday trip to Gould Pond with a bucket and fishing gear, so they could bring back fish for Friday's main meal. They also frequently walked down the east side of the lake to the most prominent point, which caught the wind and kept the bugs down. Native Americans used to camp here in the summer and the area was littered with shells. Mimi and her sister once found a skull reported to be that of a Native American who died in a logging accident. Mimi always liked watching the horses haul logs and listening to the jingle of their harnesses.

Sometime before 1910, Ketchum hired Harry V. Iredel and his sister Harriet L. to live and work at the sporting camp. Harry, a widower, married the Ketchum's daughter Abbie in March 1912. Whether Harry continued to live year-round at the sporting camp with Abbie is unknown. At some point, perhaps about 1916, Ketchum sold the sporting camp to Harry, who advertised as proprietor in 1917. Mimi recalled that Harry soon grew tired of the hard work, so her father took back the operation by 1918. Knowing he was no longer capable of running the sporting camp, he sold it in 1918 to Melvin H. and Blanche B. Scott, who had moved to Norcross from Prentiss, Maine. Melvin, a guide, was a stepbrother of local guide Ernest T. Mayo of Prentiss and past camp owner at Passamagamet Lake. By 1920, Ketchum was living with his family in Old Town, and Harry and Abbie were in Santa Ana, California. Ketchum died in 1922 at about eighty-two years of age.

In 1922, the Scott's Norcross neighbors, Robert and Persis McDougall became proprietors and renamed the sporting camp, Nahmakanta Lake Camps.<sup>40</sup> Persis was Blanche's sister and Maurice York at Twin Pine Camps on Daicey Pond was her brother. Robert, Melvin, and Maurice guided for Samuel P. Colt and his guests at Kidney Pond between 1905 and 1920. Robert guided in the area from at least 1898 and was Colt's caretaker from about 1904 to 1923.<sup>41</sup> As proprietor at Nahmakanta Lake Camps, he started by rebuilding the branch camp Ketchum had at Wadleigh Pond, but he then died in a logging accident at Grindstone three years later. Persis continued to run the sporting camp, and at some point, her widowed daughter Edna Boyington and her four children, Rebecca S., Thelma P., Bennie A. and Gertrude H., who were living at Norcross, moved in to help. Edna's husband Ralph R. Boyington grew up at his

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<sup>40</sup> information from *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>41</sup> Nearly all the information on Samuel and LeBarron Colt is available at the University of Rhode Island Robert Carothers Library in the Samuel Colt family papers.

family's sporting camp on Passamagamet Lake. Persis and Edna ran the sporting camp until 1944. They did not continue the use of Ketchum's branch camps at Second Musquash and Pollywog ponds.

Until the mid-1920s, the McDougalls had a large boat they kept at Norcross and after that at Woodworth's dock at Ambajejus dike. With the boat, family members ferried both supplies and people to White House Landing to begin the journey across Third and Fourth Debsconeag lakes to Nahmakanta Lake. In the late 1920s and well into the 1930s, the McDougalls also brought in guests from Greenville via a road to the foot of Caribou Lake area where they took the tote road to Rainbow Lake dam and down the west side of Rainbow Stream. Fred Clifford, a proprietor with a sporting camp at Rainbow Lake, was one who worked at trying to keep the roads passable.

Persis and Edna sold Nahmakanta Lake Camps to Frank Schoppe in 1945.<sup>42</sup> He was familiar with the area in that he had worked the 1923–1924 logging operation at Rainbow Lake, was clerk of a logging operation in nearby T3R11 W.E.L.S. in 1930, and a Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) scalar by 1940. The camp's buildings were in need of substantial repair, so he hired Perley Randall, a friend from Cherryfield, Maine, to help restore them. The Clinton E. Boyington family of Hurd Pond was Schoppe's on-site manager in 1945. Clinton was Edna Boyington's brother-in-law.

After the Boyingtons left, Schoppe hired Lloyd and Rosetta Goodwin, and they managed the facility for three or four years. After they left, Schoppe, his wife Minnie, and daughter Elizabeth took over the daily operations with Minnie doing the cooking. As at most sporting camps, the Schoppes maintained a garden. Elizabeth, who came out on weekends when school

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<sup>42</sup> conversations with Elizabeth Keith

was in session, enjoyed the fishing particularly in Pollywog and Wadleigh ponds. Once when fishing with her dad on Nahmakanta Lake, a large salmon jumped out of the water; her dad quickly swung the canoe, and the fish landed in the bow.

During their first years, the Schoppes traveled to the sporting camp by boat from Norcross to White House Landing and used the Native American canoe route. The Fowlers of Norcross transported the guests to White House Landing where Schoppe met them and brought them the rest of the way. As they needed fresh supplies during the season, they called out and had them delivered to White House Landing for pickup. Schoppe dragged many supplies in over the ice in winter. Soon after Chink LeGassey started his flying service, most people and goods came by floatplane. The camps hosted ten to fifteen guests at a time, and a fair number of guests were Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers on their way to Mount Katahdin. Soon after Schoppe sold, the family moved to Fairfield, Maine, and Schoppe became the proprietor of a Western Auto store in Waterville, Maine.

Raymond Sargent and his close friend David Harding, both of Ellsworth, bought the sporting camp in 1958 and hired on-site managers Vernon and Josephine (J. B.) Forbish.<sup>43</sup> Vernon came up from the Georgia and North Carolina area where he had been a trapper and cook. Whether they lived at the sporting camp year-round is unknown. Raymond and his brother Delbert (Deli), each had floatplanes and came in regularly. Raymond grew up working in the woods of eastern Maine and eventually formed a successful construction company that worked on Lock Dam between Eagle and Chamberlain lakes to the north. The family is not quite sure why he purchased the sporting camp. Deli, retired from the Maine State Police, was caretaker for what was known as the McLean Camp on Harrington Lake and another family's camp on Eagle

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<sup>43</sup> information during the Sargent years came from conversations with Greg and Edward Sargent

Lake during this period. The McLean camp was once owned by Ned and Evalyn McLean, owners of the Hope Diamond in the early 1900s. Deli likely knew Schoppe and may have influenced his brother's purchase.

In 1963, Raymond Sargent sold to Buzzy and Betty Hopper, who instituted a number of changes.<sup>44</sup> They acquired a generator from GNP and transported it from Kokadjo to the foot of the lake where they built a raft to bring it up the lake. Buzzy replaced the sporting camp's one source of water, the hand pump in the middle of the yard, with a large tank placed on stilts that allowed a gravity feed to the individual buildings. They did the laundry at the sporting camp instead of carting it out. To bring in wood and to carry folks to the Rainbow Stream deadwaters, Buzzy drove in an old World War II army surplus ambulance from Greenville to Rainbow Lake dam and down the old tote road used by the AT.

The Hoppers opened the sporting camp to fishermen at ice-out in mid-May. Their sons, who boarded in Millinocket during the school year, joined them for the summer season, helping with every aspect of the operation including the guiding. The sporting camp stayed open through hunting season, their busiest season. Guests arrived by floatplane. Each year about one hundred hikers on the AT stayed a night. Many of them wanted a ride to the foot of the lake where they picked up the trail. Three women hikers, one in her mid-seventies, hiked in on the AT yearly. They started in the Monson area and stayed a week at each sporting camp along the way. During the week, they worked on the trail.

Getting to and from the sporting camp was at times a harrowing experience for the Hoppers. The road from Kokadjo to the dam was nearly impossible. The weather or wind could be nasty on the lakes when they were trying to get back and forth by boat. Buzzy commuted to

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<sup>44</sup> information during the Hopper years came from conversations with Betty and Buzzy Hopper



his job at the Millinocket post office by taking his boat to the end of Nahmakanta Lake, riding a bike 7 miles to Maher Landing and then using another boat to reach Ambajejus dike. He returned late each night. On one particular late night return with no light, Betty was riding on the bike's crossbar while Buzzy peddled with a large pack on his back. The ride down the last hill to the foot of the lake was hair-raising. In later years, they had a vehicle at Maher Landing that they drove up the old tote road to Nahmakanta Dam. One night the lights died, and Betty sat on the hood holding a flashlight to guide the way. Sporting camp life was no mystery to Betty whose grandmother Grace McDonald ran the White House Camps in the 1920s and 1930s.

Buzzy hauled most of their supplies in during the winter months with a snow sled. During the other months, he carried in what they needed in a large pack. The loads could be both substantial and frequent because they did not maintain a garden. On his return one bitter cold day after hauling in one of four 100-pound gas cylinders, he went through the ice at Gull Rock in Pemadumcook Lake. The ice kept breaking and he could not get out. He fainted and soon woke still clinging to the ice. He tried some more and fainted again. When he woke, he was standing on the ice in below zero weather. He knew he had to keep moving and had no time to break into a camp and even if he did, his stiff fingers could not light a match for a fire. After walking four-plus miles across the exposed ice, he reached his vehicle at Ambajejus dike. Fortunately, he had left the keys in the ignition, and it was a push button start.

Just before selling Nahmakanta Lake Camps, Buzzy bought a floatplane for his commute. He was running late one day and did not take time to drain a pontoon he knew had water. With Betty and others watching from the dock, he took off, but the plane did not lift off fast enough and one of the wings clipped a tree and the plane spun around and dropped tail first to the ground in the woods behind the camp. After crawling out a window, he walked back to the sporting

camp, through the kitchen and out the front door facing the dock. Betty, headed to the kitchen, saw him and fainted; she thought she saw a ghost. Buzzy left by boat soon after to get to work.

Paul and Frances Nevel bought Nahmakanta Lake Camps in 1968 and operated them until 1993.<sup>45</sup> By 1968, most of their guests came in exclusively by floatplane. Some guests were AT hikers, but by about 1980, the Nevels had the AT relocated away from their site; a result of too many hikers coming through under the influence of drugs. Supplies came by plane directly to the sporting camp and by vehicle to the foot of the lake. The Nevels could, with difficulty, get a truck in from Millinocket or Greenville along the Deadwater Road to the Nahmakanta Tote Road. There was a gate at the top of the hill before dropping to the lake, but vandals took it out, and Paul never replaced it. In the fall of 1979, the logging road reached and crossed Pollywog Stream just behind the sporting camp. That fall, the Nevels felt the tremendous vibrations and noise of blasting for the road. The first guests driving to the sporting camp came in the spring of 1980. Paul felt that nothing was the same after that—the primitiveness that once encapsulated the place began to disappear.

The Nevels had their transportation tales too. Despite no road to the camp for their first thirteen years, they had a functioning vehicle much of the time. Paul drove one in on the old tote road from Chesuncook Lake via Rainbow Lake dam, but it took considerable winching. Another time, they lashed two boats together, put some heavy planks across them, towed “the raft” to the south end of the lake, drove a 1949 Willys jeep onto the planks, and towed it back up the lake. Getting out could also be difficult. One year, the snow and ice came abruptly and early and they had to have John Hofbauer fly in from Greenville. Since he could not get near shore because of ice, Paul and his sons waded in the icy water carrying their mother, sister, and duffle to the plane.

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<sup>45</sup> Information during the Nevel years came from conversations with Paul Nevel, his daughter Lana, and son Barry. Paul also collected history of the camps and, as the Hoppers, had past information.

The truck, which they had to leave for the winter at the other end of the lake, was not there in the spring.

As with the previous owners of Nahmakanta Lake Camps, the whole Nevel family participated in the operation. The children left their school in Andover, Maine, when ice went out so they could help prepare the sporting camp for Memorial Day opening. Lana, who was ten years old the first year, worked with her mom cooking, cleaning, gardening, and canning. Her brothers, Barry and Kerry, cut wood and logs for cabins. In the fall, the parents stayed at the lake and the children boarded in Andover until the sporting camp closed after hunting season. Once the ice formed and snow covered the ground, Paul returned with his sled dogs to trap. He returned home just before the first melt. During his first winter at the sporting camp, Eugene Larlee, a fellow trapper from Millinocket, stopped to say hello and Paul invited him to stay. Henry Peter Beaupain, another area trapper, also spent some of the winter there that first year.

As happened in most sporting camps, Paul frequently dealt with bears. One climbed through the kitchen window to get the fresh cookies during night. He had Frances handle a light while he held a gun. At the sight of the bear so close, Frances dropped the light. Paul shot in the dark and hit the bear. He left it there and in the morning took care of it. Another time a bear was near the building where Lana slept. Paul rigged a small trap from which he thought the bear could escape and be scared enough not come back. Unfortunately, the bear did not get out of it and climbed a tree. Paul shook the tree to no avail and had to shoot it.

In 1993, the Nevels put Nahmakanta Lake Camps up for sale and wrote a longtime guest from Glendale, Rhode Island, Rene Cardon, who had previously expressed interest in buying the establishment.<sup>46</sup> Cardon bought them in conjunction with the Nevels' son, Barry. Two years

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<sup>46</sup> post Nevel information came from conversations with Rene Cardon and Don and Angel Hibbs

later, Don and Angel Hibbs, the current proprietors, bought the sporting camp, but Cardon retained the branch camp at Female Pond. In 1975, Don hiked the AT's 100-Mile Wilderness and saw the sporting camp from the top of Nesuntabunt Mountain. He also thought what a great life it would be to own and run a sporting camp deep in the Maine wilderness. Looking for a job three years later, Don wrote to every Maine sporting camp that had an ad in hunting and fishing magazines, and Paul hired him. Don moved to Millinocket from Connecticut where he grew up. Angel lived in Millinocket, and in 1974, her parents bought the Millinocket Lake Camps, which are still in the family.

As the Nevels had, the Hibbses have been interested in discovering and preserving the history of their sporting camp. They found boards in the buildings marked "Lewis Ketchum, Norcross, Maine" suggesting the lumber was off loaded at Norcross and Ketchum ferried and carried it to the site. Some of the buildings have dates of visitors' stays carved in the walls. The earliest such date is 1901. The Hibbses are reasonably certain part of the main building and the two either side of it may be original structures. To preserve the traditional ambiance of the sporting camp, the Hibbses have done significant maintenance work.

The closest neighbors of a Nahmakanta Lake camp owner were Eugene Henry Smith and his son Sammy N. who had a sporting camp at Prentiss Pond.<sup>47</sup> Eugene knew Ketchum as a fellow Nahmakanta Dam tender and Sammy guided for him. When the Smiths reached Nahmakanta Dam on their way to Prentiss valley, they probably walked across the dam and picked up the Prentiss Valley Tote Road that passed along the south end of the lake and through Prentiss valley to Prentiss Pond at the height of land. Eugene had an early camp halfway up the small stream at the beaver flowage and a later one at Prentiss Pond. The camp at the bog may

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<sup>47</sup> GNP and Penobscot Development Company records located at University of Maine Fogler Library

have been an old lumber camp Eugene knew about as an area fire warden. What became of it is unknown, but they abandoned it by the 1920s.

Sometime after 1913 and before 1919, Sammy built a 24- by 16-foot camp at the northeast corner of Prentiss Pond on a knoll in the spruce. He had also cut and peeled enough spruce for a second camp, which he eventually built. One of the mysteries about the pond involves its fish. Some seem to think that Sammy built there not knowing it had no fish. Whether that is true is unknown, but Sammy's son Nelson did carry fish in buckets from Tumbledown Dick Stream and emptied them into the pond.

Sammy did not have a lease for the sporting camp at the pond, and when cruisers reported the structure, the landowners weighed whether to provide it because he had a reputation of being a hard drinker. Lee Clement knew Sammy and spoke to his not drinking for the previous year. Sammy received the lease, and a 1922 Penobscot Development Company report acknowledges Sammy's sporting camp at the pond. A July 11, 1925, letter reports that Sammy burned more than two acres of a 1919 burn near the sporting camp. A September 11, 1926, cruiser's report stated that six sports and a guide were at the pond.

How long Sammy or his family used the sporting camp is unknown. However, about 1950, two years after Sammy's death, Jasper Haynes, a fellow trapper who knew Sammy and his sister, and Jasper's son Sandy hiked into the site from Nahmakanta Lake and replaced a building's roof.<sup>48</sup> In 1963, when Buzzy and Betty Hopper bought Nahmakanta Lake Camps, they declined a lease option for the site partly because of the structure's poor condition. Who, if anyone, had a lease on the sporting camp at this time is unknown. About 1967 or 1968, GNP burned a number of rogue trapper's camps and other abandoned leases in the area, and this

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<sup>48</sup> information from Sandy Haynes

sporting camp may have been one of those. The only thing left of the old sporting camp when Larry Ferguson found it about 1970 was an old bed frame, which was still in place in 2011.

### On the Pollywog Pond Drainage

When Eugene Henry and Sammy N. Smith continued past Prentiss Pond on the tote road, probably the old and little-used Native American canoe route on a bypass of Pollywog Gorge, they arrived at Wadleigh farm near Wadleigh Pond's northeast corner. The farm, built in the mid- to late-1830s, was probably unused after the late 1920s. Trappers and guides such as Sammy, William (Bill) Moriarty, Guy Haynes, Ernest T. Mayo, and Darius Warren (D. W.) Hopkins may have occasionally used one of its buildings until it collapsed. From Wadleigh Pond, these men could cross the pond into the Farrar Brook watershed, go a short distance down the outlet stream into Pollywog Pond, or follow the Native American canoe route, and later the tote road, to First and Second Musquash ponds, Sing Sing Pond, and the outlet of Penobscot Pond.

Hopkins traveled this way checking his animal traps in the 1890s, built a small, rough trappers' camp or used a logging camp above Wadleigh Pond on either First or Second Musquash Pond, and guided sports to it about 1896 to 1898.<sup>49</sup> Moriarty, who may have overlapped with Hopkins, also trapped the area and that had him building or using existing camps about 1900 at Pollywog, Female, and one of the Musquash ponds. In 1906, his advertising included guiding to these camps, but he never revealed their locations.<sup>50</sup> Guy Haynes and Mayo guided together into this area in 1906.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Tyro. "Three Trips into Maine." *Forest and Stream* 51 (December 10, 1898): 462.

<sup>50</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>51</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, 13, no. 156 (August 1906): 268 and January 1906 and August 1906

These men shared the area with their contemporary Lewey Ketchum who used branch camps at Wadleigh, Second Musquash, and Pollywog ponds. Ketchum reached his camps by walking west on the tote road from his main camp at Nahmakanta over the shoulder of Nesuntabunt Mountain to Pollywog Pond dam. He did not need to paddle to reach his Pollywog branch camp. His sports crossed the dam and walked a short distance along the shore to a small rise at its edge where two buildings sat side by side. He built both structures about 1900. What happened to them once Ketchum sold is unknown. They did not appear on the map Robert McDougall used, nor were they mentioned in his promotional literature. Years later, when the Hoppers bought Nahmakanta Lake Camps, they were asked if they would like a lease on the spot, but they declined. Whether anything was still standing there at the time is unknown.

In 1906, Ketchum paddled his sport from the Pollywog Pond dam to a west side landing at the head of Pollywog Pond and walked a short distance to an old logger's camp on a bluff with a view of Doubletop Mountain. Robert McDougall rebuilt it in 1921. Ten years later, Persis McDougall gave John M. Oden, who was a frequent guest, permission to construct additional buildings at the site at his expense.<sup>52</sup> He hired Denny Stevens, who became the caretaker, and Lawrence Hurd, whose father Charles was a well-respected woods superintendent, to do the construction. They brought in a portable saw to mill the necessary lumber. The structures were lavish in that the main building had a stone fireplace and chimney and hardwood floors, plumbing, kitchen accouterments, and furnishings. One outhouse had an interior papered with birch bark designs and another with calendar cover girls.

Oden—who founded (1912) and retained ownership of Oden Metal Tube and Hose Company of Brooklyn, New York, until his death in 1938—used the sport camp as an

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<sup>52</sup> The history of the camps on this point came from Geoff Wing, Shorty Budreau, Paul Nevel, James A. Goodwin, Richard Fernald, Rene Cardon, Barry Nevel, and Mardi Thompson.

entertainment setting for his clients. His principal customers were major oil and pump companies. Oden and his guests drove from Greenville to Rainbow Lake dam, then down the west side of Rainbow Stream. At Nahmakanta Lake, they walked the old tote road to Pollywog Pond, paddled or rowed across the pond to the west side of the outlet, and walked to the sporting camp. By the mid-1930s, the Rainbow Lake tote road was impassable, so they came by water from Ambajejus dike to Nahmakanta Lake.

Camp guests enjoyed a good time, which included eating and music making. When Oden came, so did his cook, friends of both sexes, and a four- or five-person minstrel band. The band joined him while he sang and played either banjo or mandolin in the Clef Cabin, which was made with corrugated metal—which some say was to enhance the sound of the music. This structure also had a trap door in the floor. When city guests asked what it was for, the reply, in jest, was, “to hide the Black men from the law.” It was the sporting camp’s root cellar. Lloyd Goodwin, one of Oden’s caretakers and guides, was there one summer when some members, if not all of Guy Lombardo’s band, was present. Lloyd lived in Millinocket and had a family camp on Little Porus Island in Pemadumcook Lake. His son Jimmy worked a summer about 1940 at nearby Pleasant Point Camps.

One sunny day in the early 1930s when four or five members of the minstrel band were fishing near the Wadleigh Pond inlet, George Fernald, as he had done in previous years, was walking over from his camp at Penobscot Pond to visit and was stunned to see the African Americans. The band helped the sporting camp become a social gathering point for folks of all ages in the area. Eleanor Blue, daughter of Denny Stevens, spent a great deal of time there as a youngster and enjoyed it.



Fernald continued his trips to the Wadleigh sporting camp even after Oden's death in 1938. On one such excursion, Fernald's whole family hiked from the West Branch to Wadleigh Pond on the recently completed Appalachian Trail (AT), staying at the sporting camps on Rainbow and Nahmakanta lakes along the way. When they reached the Wadleigh camps, they stayed for about ten days.

About 1940, the Oden family sold the sporting camp to Walter F. Rutter, who was president of a Boston investment firm, W.F. Rutter Inc. He either hired or continued to have Halson (Junior) W. and Ida Richards, who were managing the sporting camp at Fourth Debsconeag Lake, look after and use them. Shorty Budreau, a Richards's guide, brought guests to the site in 1942. They hiked from Fourth Debsconeag Lake across the tote road to the Nahmakanta Dam, crossed on the dam structure, continued along the south shore of Nahmakanta Lake into Prentiss valley, passed by Sammy Smith's camp at Prentiss Pond, and continued down to Wadleigh Pond. During Shorty Budreau's time, the old wagon wheel ruts on the Prentiss Valley Tote Road were still visible; a reminder of times not too long past when horses toted the supplies from White House Landing.

Rutter also employed Tom Perrow, Ida's father, to work on the buildings, and he spent from about 1940 to 1942 doing much-needed repairs and maintenance. At the time Rutter took over the sporting camp, he may have also bought a boat Oden might have used and kept near the Ambajejus dike where Budreau gassed up the boats of the well-to-do. Some years, Rutter and his guests came in from Norcross, but other years Rutter's chauffeur could drive them directly to the site. When Chink LeGassey began his flying service out of Millinocket in the late 1940s, Rutter and some of his guests began to use that service.

Compared with his predecessor, Rutter ran a quieter operation, but he enjoyed good alcohol, the bottles of which he hid in hollow stumps and trees around the property. He was an ardent fisherman, liked to be left alone, and used to try to prevent others from going to nearby Female Pond; he wanted them to ask permission first. Sometime in the late 1960s, Rutter hired Bill Rideout, retired Millinocket police chief, to look after the place.

Over the years, Rutter got to know Frank E. Wing Jr., whose father, Frank Sr. brought him into the area through Third Roach Pond where Frank Sr. had Camp of the Winds, a large, old, logging camp cook and dining building. Before that, he had a camp on Upper Wilson Pond and ran a boys' camp. He loved the area, came frequently with his son and grandson Geoffrey (Geoff), was a registered guide, climbed Mount Katahdin, and took Boy Scout groups into Rainbow Lake. Eventually, Frank Jr., who in 1947 worked as a cook for the Hollingsworth and Whitney Paper Company logging operation, sold the camp and built one on Penobscot Pond west of the Fernald's in the early 1970s. At about the same time, Rutter's health deteriorated, and he realized he could no longer manage at the sporting camp, so he sold the buildings and all contents to Frank Jr., who then sold his camp on Penobscot Pond. In the first years, Frank Jr. and his son Geoff drove over the bridge that crossed the brook between Wadleigh and Pollywog ponds. When the bridge was no longer useable, they drove carefully through the stream. Once Geoff stalled out in the middle and had to walk to Penobscot Pond to get someone to tow him out and get the truck restarted. After that, they left a boat on the Wadleigh shore and ferried their baggage across.

While Geoff was away serving in the armed forces, Frank Jr. became ill and the sporting camp fell into disrepair. In the mid-1970s, the Young family visited the site and it seemed to be abandoned. They found old unopened jars in the root cellar and one building unlocked, a

deliberate tactic in hopes that it would prevent the other buildings from being broken into. When Geoff returned in the late 1970s, his dad soon died, and Geoff began the process of restoring the structures. During this time, someone broke into the buildings during the winter and stripped them of their furnishings.

In the early 1980s, Geoff heard from the lessor, Diamond International Company, and learned that they assessed his lease as invalid. After a few years of communication, Diamond offered a 1985 lease for a sum of \$2,000 per year with an allowance for deductions of up to \$1,000 per year for camp improvements. In contrast, the lease from 1974 to 1979 was \$144 per year and increased to \$368 in 1983. Geoff did not accept the \$2,000 offer, and the company put the lease out to bid. The new owner's plans to turn the place into a time-share never materialized. In 1990, Maine's Bureau of Public Lands purchased the property and gradually destroyed all the buildings with the last one being burned in the winter of 2011. Clifton George, owner of the Pleasant Point Camps on nearby Fourth Debsconeag Lake, approached the state of Maine with a proposal to fix them up, but the state rejected the plan.

Once Rutter sold his Wadleigh camps, the landowner granted two leases. In 1975, Paul Nevel and his sons built the lone camp at the foot of Female Pond near Farrar Brook.<sup>53</sup> To reach the branch camp, they hiked from the head of Nahmakanta Lake over the ridge to Pollywog Pond dam and canoed across to just south of Gulliver Brook where they took a trail to the camp. Rene and Dorothy Cardon have held the lease since 1993. He often flew his floatplane to reach the camp. His family now uses an old tote road from the foot of Wadleigh Pond. Glen Perkins, who

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<sup>53</sup> conversations with Paul Nevel, Barry Nevel, Rene Cardon

served as a game warden in the area, built his camp in 1979 at the pond's northeast corner. He has one of the handmade cedar beds from the Oden camp.<sup>54</sup>

At Wadleigh Pond, Moriarty and Sammy Smith crossed to the mouth of Farrar Brook on the west side where Moriarty went to his camp on Female Pond. Sammy continued up into the Farrar Brook headwaters where he had built a small trapper's camp. The timber cruisers found Sammy's camp in 1924 and questioned his building of it. In his polite response, he reminded the cruiser that trappers had built such camps for years, and that they were careful because they appreciated being able to use land they did not own and wanted to ensure animal habitat. Trapping in this same area was Ray O'Donnell, who came in from the west.<sup>55</sup> O'Donnell's camp was probably the one on the west edge at the foot of the first large bog south of Farrar Brook deadwater's southeast corner. He began guiding and trapping in the 1930s and owned Medawisla Camps on Second Roach Pond from 1953 to 1982.

Ketchum and Hopkins paddled up Wadleigh Pond to the granite spillway, carried to the dam at the outlet at First Musquash Pond, and paddled on to their camps. Hopkins did not reveal his camp's location, but if he used a logging camp before he died in 1897, it may have been at the head of Second Musquash Pond on the east side of the inlet. J. A. Lobley's 1910 and 1915 maps mark the site as Ketchum's camp. The McDougalls may not have used the camp even though it was still standing. Given that Robert McDougall rebuilt the Ketchum camp at Wadleigh, this one may have needed repairs that he never got to before he died in 1925. In the

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<sup>54</sup> conversations with Glen Perkins

<sup>55</sup> Duplessis, Shirley. *Hidden in the Woods: The Story of Kokad-jo*. Greenville, Me: Moosehead Communications, 1977.

same general area in the late 1960s, Charles Beaupain and an associate built an unofficial camp they used in support of their trapping.<sup>56</sup> The MFS discovered the camp about 1975 and burned it.

Whether any of the old Ketchum camp at Second Musquash Pond was still standing when Fernald passed the site as he walked the eight miles of tote roads from his camp on Penobscot Pond to Oden's camp on Wadleigh Pond is unknown. He used a network of tote roads that included a portion of the Caribou Lake Tote Road. Coming through the same network, but fifty years earlier was perhaps Ketchum. At the time, he worked from Greenville and may have guided Samuel Colt to his Nahmakanta Lake site by crossing Moosehead Lake to the Roach River, paddling and poling up river to the head of Second Roach Pond, carrying to Penobscot Pond, and coming down the Pollywog watershed on the Caribou Lake Tote Road to Wadleigh Pond.

Fernald reached his camp on the north side of the pond via the Roach River system.<sup>57</sup> A group of Greenville men lead by Charles McPheters built the camp in 1911 after losing their lease on a camp on Second Roach Pond at Deadman's Point. Soon after McPheters completed the construction, a forest fire flared up. Unable to predict its path, some of the camp owners loaded everything in the camp into two lashed together canoes, which they sank to save the materials. The fire swept across the far side of the pond. In 1917, one group member invited Fernald to stay at the camp and hunt. He did not care to hunt, but he went and fell in love with the place. Over the years as the other owners died, he bought up their shares and finally obtained them all in the 1940s. The camp will remain in the family by virtue of a trust established by Fernald's son Richard, who preserved the camp in its original state by fibreglassing the logs.

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<sup>56</sup> conversations with Charles Beaupain

<sup>57</sup> conversation with Richard Fernald

In 1938 when Richard made his first visit, the route to the camp was from Kokadjo via the Yoke Pond Tote Road that went across the south side of Second Roach Pond to a parking place about three-quarters of a mile from the bridge over the pond's inlet. From this point, family members either walked or skied in until 1960 when loggers created a passable road.

After World War II, Fernald contacted the Penobscot Development Corporation, learned they abandoned the lumber camp buildings on the hillside behind his camp, and received permission to salvage the materials. Richard and his brother salvaged the planking, removed the nails, and carried the boards to the log camp in 1946 and 1947. They also cut spruce for studs in preparation for building another structure, icehouse, and boathouse. Charles McPheters, now in his 80s, returned, squared and otherwise shaped the studs with hand tools, and supervised the construction. They used old boom logs for joists, the salvaged planking for the walls, and completed the structures in 1951.

One of the family's favorite and frequently visited spots was the Wadleigh Mountain fire tower, which they took care of until about 2009 when it got beyond their means. The Maine Forest Service (MFS) built the tower in 1927 and staffed it until 1952. To reach the tower, the Fernalds took the warden's tote road and trail from the northwest corner of Penobscot Pond and site of an abandoned lumber camp over locally known Penobscot Ridge to a four-corner intersection where they began their walk up the west side of the mountain. Near the base of the mountain behind Third Musquash Pond, they passed the warden's cabin, which burned sometime before 1970. The bear claw marks on the old door suggested they were a presence with which to contend. Beyond the tower toward the west end of the ridgeline is a curious-looking hole perhaps 8 by 20 feet. What caused it is unknown.

A Fernald neighbor was hermit Benjima (Ben) Woodard, who worked the area trapping and guiding in the 1920s from a camp on the north side of the pond on a small brook near the town line. Once when Ben needed food, he knocked on the Fernald door. They provided a meal, had him stay the night, and gave him food to take. At times, Woodard lived with his wife Marion, a daughter, and three boarders in Dover, Maine.

Fernald's family was the only one on the lake until 1960–1961 when the land owners offered lease options for seven other sites along the north shore at the west end. The George (Skip) and Carol Young family of Millinocket took one of the leases, built their camp in 1961, and still have the camp. The Keith and Virginia Hasty family, who started traveling into the area in 1946 when they brought their three boys to camp in the Yoke Ponds area, took one of the other leases. Two other early leaseholders were Frank Wing Jr., and Linda and Darryl Day, who trapped the area with Keith. These folks traveled to their camps from Kokadjo via a one-lane corduroy road to the pond. The last leg took six hours.<sup>58</sup>

### At Rainbow Lake

At least forty-five years before the George Fernald family's 1938 hike from Rainbow Lake to Wadleigh Pond, Lewey Ketchum built the earliest documented camp on Rainbow Lake. The camp's location and whether it was ever a branch camp of his Nahmakanta Lake sporting camp operation is unknown, but it appears he abandoned it soon after 1897. A sporting camp, owned by an unknown person, opened at the dam in 1895. H. L. Stinchfield, a guide out of Norcross, advertised a sporting camp in 1897, but provided no specific location. Four years later, Charles C. Garland built a branch camp of the Debsconeag Fish and Game Club on the lake's south edge at its southeast corner. By 1903, Charles Collins was advertising Camp Uno, which was at the

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<sup>58</sup> conversations with Skip and Carol Young, Darryl Day, and Geoff Wing

dam on the west side. Walter McPheters, who had a sporting camp on Porus Island in Pemadumcook Lake in the 1890s, had Camp Cody on the shore at what was known as Rainbow Spring by at least 1904. Guy Haynes built Camp Krusoe on the large island a half-mile east of the dam in 1904. Two years later, William (Bill) Moriarty listed a sporting camp, but did not reveal its location.<sup>59</sup>

H. L. Stinchfield, Charles C. Garland, Charles H. Collins, Walter McPheters, Guy Haynes, and Bill Moriarty used various routes to reach the lake. H. W. Rowe, editor of *The Maine Sportsman*, traveled to Camp Uno in 1904 with Collins and published an account of it.<sup>60</sup> They left Norcross on the steamboat, arrived at the head of Pemadumcook Lake, walked to Third Debsconeag Lake, paddled to the north end, hiked to Big Beaver Pond, canoed across it, and walked the remaining short distance to the southeast corner of Rainbow Lake for the final leg in a canoe. Collins had a canoe at each body of water, so he did not have to portage one. Haynes, Moriarty, and McPheters used the same route and had sporting camps on Third Debsconeag Lake so they could break up the long, 25-mile trip. Garlands' route, 26 miles, came from Norcross up the West Branch of the Penobscot River to his sporting camp on First Debsconeag Lake. The following day, sports went on to Second Debsconeag Lake with a carry to the southeast corner of Rainbow Lake. The shortest route, which also had the greatest amount of walking, was through Pemadumcook Lake to Nahmakanta Lake via either Third and Fourth Debsconeag lakes or Nahmakanta Stream, and up Rainbow Stream to the west end of Rainbow Lake (about 20 miles).

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<sup>59</sup> Compiled information from "In the Maine Woods" and *The Maine Sportsman*, June 1904 (McPheters and Haynes), November 1905 (Moriarty); Editor, "Ructions at Rainbow," 13, no. 154 (June 1906.): 212; Editor (Nahmakanta Lake), 13, no. 156 (August 1906): 268.

<sup>60</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, "Resourceful Rainbow," 12, no. 142 (June 1904): 201.



In 1901 Garland's two-story log building at the edge of a rise and steep drop to the water was near the southeast boat landing, a sandy area about 100 yards west of the mouth of the stream from Little Beaver Pond. He had a 10-year lease with payments of \$25 per year and an option to build more structures at an extra \$10 per year per building and to create a garden of up to five acres.<sup>61</sup> Demand for its use was apparently excellent, for in 1907 he placed a permanent host at the site and added a main lodge and two sleeping cabins.<sup>62</sup> He sold his sporting camp on First Debsconeag Lake in 1910 to Herbert M. Howe who operated for at least two years. Whether Howe continued to use the buildings at Rainbow Lake or someone else did or they remained unused is unknown.

At the other end of the lake in 1903, Collins, who had been guiding on the lower Penobscot River, advertised Camp Uno on Rainbow Lake in the August issue of *The Maine Sportsman*. The same magazine issue reported that Collins bought the old Horace R. Cushman and Darius Warren (D. W.) Hopkins sporting camp on Nahmakanta Lake with a view of Unsuntabunt Mountain and was refurbishing them. Whether Collins ran two sporting camps is unknown. Cushman and Hopkins had a camp on Nahmakanta Lake opposite Nesuntabunt Mountain in the mid-1890s, and Hopkins died of typhoid fever in 1897. Cushman kept the camp and partnered with Moriarty for an unknown period. At the time, mapmakers labeled Rainbow Lake and Stream *Unsuntabunt Lake and Stream*. Collins's sporting camp at Rainbow Lake had a nondescript view of Rainbow Mountain, but whether it was ever called *Unsuntabunt Mountain* is unknown. His advertising did not indicate that he had any outlying camps and never revealed the Rainbow location, but a 1904 trip report indicated Camp Uno had a commanding view of Mount

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<sup>61</sup> Piscataquis County Registry of Deeds

<sup>62</sup> Garland wrote promotional brochures each year; some are in Maine libraries and others are privately held.

Katahdin and a June 1906 trip report places them at the dam where there is such a view.<sup>63</sup>

Collins and his wife Annah had no children, lived at their two-building complex year-round, and used tents when the number of guests exceeded the buildings' capacity. In 1910, Collins was a deputy fire warden for the area and likely served as such for a number of years.

McPheters set up operations on the site of the old Maxfield logging camps on the lake's south shore two miles east of the dam. He was using the sporting camp in 1904 and advertised it as "Camp Cody at Rainbow Spring" in 1906.<sup>64</sup> A 1913 cruiser's report noted the two buildings, but when he opened and closed is unknown, as is whether he built two camps or used two abandoned logging camp structures.<sup>65</sup> After McPheters died in 1918, it appears no one took over the camps, which the 1924 forest fire destroyed.

In 1904, Guy Haynes, brother of Bert Haynes of Buckhorn Camps on Lower Jo-Mary Lake, built a sporting camp complex with a number of buildings on one of the lake's islands.<sup>66</sup> He never indicated which one. However, a clue appeared in the January 1906 issue of *The Maine Sportsman*. One of Guy's guests shot both a buck and a doe on the sporting camp's island. Only one island is reasonably close to shore; the large island east of the dam near the south shore. More recently, people have observed deer on this island. Assuming his camp had a view of Mount Katahdin, it was on the island's east end and hidden from deer crossing the shallows at the west end. Inconclusive evidence of a camp rests at the east end campsite on the low knoll. Guy started advertising his guiding services in the mid-1890s, advertised "Camp Krusoe" in

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<sup>63</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, "Resourceful Rainbow," 12, no. 142 (June 1904): 201; Editor, "Ructions at Rainbow," 13, no. 154 (June 1906.): 212.

<sup>64</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>65</sup> Clark, Kenneth McRuer. "Growth Plan of TWP 2R11 W.E.L.S. June-July 1913." (Sewall Co.)

<sup>66</sup> *The Maine Sportsman*, Editor, "Resourceful Rainbow," 12, no. 142 (June 1904): 201.

1910 and 1911<sup>67</sup>, and moved from the area in 1916. The 1924 fire destroyed everything on the island.

Perhaps around 1920, either Sammy N. Smith or his father Eugene Henry Smith built a small trapper's camp on the north shore a quarter-mile from the dam in an area not burned by the 1924 fire, which was immediately east of the camp. The Smith trapper's camp was about 11 by 13 feet and large enough for a couple people. By the 1940s, Sammy Smith was getting on in years and going to give it up, so he sold to his friend Harold W. Daisey, another son of Charles A. Daisey at Nesowadnehunk Lake.<sup>68</sup>

Undeterred by the fire, Eban Upton, Manley Boynton, Fred Clifford, and Eugene O. Hale each established sporting camps on the lake between about 1920 and 1928. Collins, Upton, Boynton, and Clifford all used one or both of two western routes to bring in guests and supplies. Sammy Smith and the Hales likely used one of the older routes from the south and east given their bases of operations were Norcross and Medway. Beginning about 1920, a passable road stretched between Moosehead Lake and Ripogenus Dam. One route started with a walk or a ride from Ripogenus Lake to Chesuncook Pond where guides ferried sports across to the tote road at the southeast corner to either walk or get a bumpy ride in a Model A Ford across the corduroy road that ended at the northwest cove. From there, they continued by boat to their destination. The second route left the Chesuncook tote road, later named the Greenville Road, about a mile below the foot of Chesuncook Lake and went easterly directly to Rainbow Lake dam. The road was in use as early as 1889, but to reach it people had to cross Moosehead Lake to Lilly Bay to

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<sup>67</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>68</sup> conversations with Peter Bartley

connect with the Chesuncook tote road. In 1924, camp guests walked the road in December.<sup>69</sup> By 1930, Clifford advertised riding over the road by vehicle to Rainbow Lake dam, and Harold W. Daisey still used a buckboard in the 1940s when Andy Pease came in.<sup>70</sup>

Upton and his wife Zoya were proprietors on the lake by 1920, and Harold Alpin, Zoya's brother, was a partner. Whether Upton built his sporting camp or refurbished logging camp structures is unknown. In the winter of 1921–1922, the Penobscot Land Development Company requested and received permission from Upton to use the buildings at the dam.<sup>71</sup> He hid the key in a small hole in a log near a door. The buildings were probably on the east side of the dam because Collins was still on the west side. Upton consistently ran ads through 1929.<sup>72</sup> The 1928 ad referred to the sporting camp as *Old Rainbow Lake Camps*. He seems to have abandoned the operation late in 1929, and no one took it over. The sporting camp was no longer standing when the Appalachian Trail (AT) organization built its shelter on the site in 1935.

At the other end of the lake, Eugene O. and Hattie M. Powers Hale, proprietors of the Passamagoc Carry Camp on the West Branch, advertised an outlying camp from 1923 to 1928. Given the location of the Hales' base camp at Passamagamet Falls, their Rainbow Lake camp could have been the old branch camp of the Debsconeag Fish and Game Club that was in an area not touched by the 1924 fire. Pictures of the Hale camp show it to be a substantial structure as Garland's were. Eugene advertised a farm and Garland had one. During the winter months, Eugene supervised post-1924 logging operations, which included those at the east end of

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<sup>69</sup> *The Northern*, vol. IV, 5 (August 1924). (Millinocket, ME: Great Northern Paper Co., 1921–1928, a monthly magazine). University of Maine Forestry Program hosted at Rainbow Lake.

<sup>70</sup> conversations with Andy Pease

<sup>71</sup> Upton, Eben A. Letter dated December 16, 1921 to L. J. Freedman of Penobscot Development Corporation.

<sup>72</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

Rainbow Lake, and Hattie was a logging camp cook. By 1930, the couple had moved to Greenville where Hattie cooked in a hotel and Eugene guided.

Boynton of Medway, with the help of Albion Hathaway of Medway, operated his first sporting camps on the lake beginning about 1925, but he never revealed the location.<sup>73</sup> Walter R. Boynton, who grew up at Debsconeag Falls and worked the summer of his junior or senior high school year at the sporting camp in 1929, provided clues to the location. To get the mail he hitched up a horse and buggy, used the tote road along the lake shore to the Rainbow Lake dam and took the tote road from there to the Greenville Road, the drop spot site. From the camp on the north side of the lake, he could look across to Clifford's New Rainbow Lake Camps, which had just been built. Given these descriptors, the sporting camp was likely in the northwest cove at the end of the carry trail from Chesuncook Pond and the tote road from the dam. Old maps place unlabeled structures at this site.<sup>74</sup> Manley Boynton operated until about 1935 when a fire destroyed the sporting camp. A year later, Boynton was proprietor of the former Collins sporting camp at the dam.<sup>75</sup>

Manley Boynton's predecessor at the camp at the west end of Rainbow Dam, Clark, may have purchased them from Collins. "Clark" was neither the Clark family at Chesuncook Village nor the Clark family at Ripogenus Dam. Whether he was Kenneth McRuer Clark who cruised the area in 1913 is unknown. In 1938, Boynton sold to Clifford.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> conversations with Ralph Boynton

<sup>74</sup> Great Northern Paper Company, "Plan of Township 2 Range 11 W.E.L.S.," December 19, 1908 and "Township 2 Range 11 [W.E.L.S.]," October 8, 1934. Penobscot Development Company, "T2 R11 [W.E.L.S.]," 1948

<sup>75</sup> *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine 1936*

<sup>76</sup> *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine 1938*

A couple years after Boynton started his operation on the lake Fred and Ada R. Clifford took a lease on land for a sporting camp on the large point east of the midpoint of the lake's south shore and built the "New Rainbow Lake Camps" about 1927.<sup>77</sup> Fred came to Millinocket from Bangor about 1912 and, with his partner Fogg, opened a furniture business that expanded to include sporting goods and hardware. Fred also developed an early partnership with Roy Bradeen with their first sporting camp being at Slaughter Pond (c. 1919) followed by the Kidney Pond Camps in 1924–1925. In the off-season, the Cliffords lived in Millinocket where Fred wrote promotional materials for the West Branch area.

No specific documentation cites Fred as the builder of the Rainbow sporting camp, and it could be that a camp existed before his arrival. However, no old maps show a structure at this location, and advertisements for the area's guides with a camp on the lake about 1920 account for the camps at other lake locations. Clark Lakeman, whose father started working for Fred in 1929, never heard his father tell a story of the sporting camp being burned in the 1924 fire and then being rebuilt. Some old maps of the burn suggest the fire missed the point, and stories of the 1924 fire make no mention of a sporting camp at this location.

Over time, the Cliffords built a large complex that included fifteen buildings: three cabins for staff and caretaker, five guest cabins, a lodge with a dining room to seat twenty people, various out buildings and a root cellar. The original storage building, built before 1930, rotted and the owners rebuilt it in 1992. They also replaced the original walls of the root cellar with concrete walls. Clifford started a large garden, which was still in use in 1975, at the site of an old logging camp immediately east of the outlet stream from Doughnut Pond. Whether Clifford

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<sup>77</sup> Clifford's first advertising began in this year in "In the Maine Woods;" his ads were large and contained considerable information. He also wrote promotional brochures which are privately held.

started the tradition of having a cow is unknown, but in 1947, the sporting camp had a cow and fresh milk.

Clifford enjoyed building trails and roads, and generally developing the area. About 1928, Walter R. Lakeman, a guide for Clifford from 1929 to 1941, built the camp's river camp on the West Branch at Horserace Brook.<sup>78</sup> In the 1930s, he fixed the west side tote road to Nahmakanta Lake such that a vehicle could sometimes use it and built the first trail up Rainbow Mountain. Clifford also built a small branch camp on the north side of Stratton Pond some time before 1936, but it was no longer standing thirty years later. His guests reached it by taking his trail via Doughnut Pond.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, John Farrington was the winter caretaker.<sup>79</sup> He cut the next season's firewood and ice, made building and boat repairs, and protected the camps. Subsequent proprietors did not always have a winter caretaker. With gas cooking and refrigeration, some of the work of the caretaker gradually became unnecessary. Occasionally there were problematic break-ins, such as the one that caused a fuel spill that leaked out onto the lake and was costly to clean up and replace. At the very least, proprietors either visited or hired someone to visit their camps periodically during the winters.

By 1940, Clifford and Harold W. Daisey had the only sporting camps on the lake. When Harold died in 1965, his brother Fred, who used to guide the Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) president and trap in the area, asked for and received a lease for thirty-three acres that included the rough camp.<sup>80</sup> When he was about to give up the \$25 per year lease, he told his friend Hastings Bartley who had hunted from the camp in the late 1950s. Although Bartley was

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<sup>78</sup> conversations with Clark Lakeman

<sup>79</sup> conversations with Ralph Boynton

<sup>80</sup> conversations with Peter Bartley

not interested in the lease, his son Peter was. By 1982, the camp was in bad shape, so Peter sought and received permission to build a new structure, which is not within sight of the lake.

Clifford, who did not know how to swim, drowned in the lake in 1945 when he and another person were transporting sawdust and their boat overturned.<sup>81</sup> His helper reached an island 150 feet away. Clifford's sporting camp at the dam and on the point continued to serve sports with Earl Goodwin (and two partners) as proprietors in 1946, William P. Schultz in 1947, George M. Rear in 1948, and Halson (Junior) W. Richards from 1949 to 1958.<sup>82</sup> During Richards's years, Kirk Winchester of the Winchester Rifle Company hunted from the camps and Junior served as his personal guide.<sup>83</sup> Another guest during these years was Maine's U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who came to fish. Richards's nephew, Ernest Perrow, had the privilege of guiding her. The senator probably fished from the fine inboard motorboat crafted by Richards. His cleverness extended to providing running hot water by placing water pipe coils in the woodstoves.

In 1958, GNP took over the Richard's lease that included the sporting camp at the dam and the sporting camp at the mid-point on the south shore of the lake, Rainbow Lake Camps. The company used the sporting camp at the lake's midpoint for corporate entertainment until the early 1970s. How the company used the sporting camp at the dam is unknown. At the time, the sporting camp at the dam included a big log cabin with a full front porch and two other buildings. Each of them faced the dam and had a wonderful view of Mount Katahdin. Water came from a cistern located to the east off the tote road to Chesuncook Lake. GNP burned this sporting camp sometime in the 1960s.

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<sup>81</sup> scrap book clipping of Clifford's obituary

<sup>82</sup> Archives of Webber Energy Company, Hampden, Maine

<sup>83</sup> conversations with Ernie Perrow



By the early 1970s, GNP was no longer entertaining clients at Rainbow Lake Camps, and leased them to Lloyd Robinson for a couple years. Lloyd and his son David drove out Golden Road from Millinocket, camped near the brook from Holbrook Pond, then walked in to Little Holbrook Pond, paddled across it and Holbrook Pond, and hiked over the trail to the shore of Rainbow Lake where the family and others had boats stored on the shore.<sup>84</sup> Lloyd learned that when his agreement ended, GNP planned to burn the buildings. He suggested to his friend Andy Pease, chief financial officer for Webber Oil Company, that the company buy the land and buildings.<sup>85</sup> In 1975, Andy, who knew the area because his father had been a frequent visitor at Harold W. Daisey's camp near the dam beginning in the 1940's, completed a sales agreement that included eleven acres of land, the buildings, and all equipment and furnishings. When Webber took over, the structures needed maintenance, which Webber employees completed. The company also hired Nelson Levasseur, who had had a long, distinguished career associated with the river drives, to lead a crew in rebuilding the rock cribs used for the camp's main dock. The company still owns the camps, uses them for the entertainment of its customers, and rents them to other corporate entities.

Any sporting camp on Rainbow Lake had to deal with the logistics of transporting supplies. Early owners had gardens, cut wood for fuel and ice for refrigeration, and kept animals and chickens. In the summer, they had their own boats or the lake steamer to bring supplies to landings where they carried them to the next pond. In 1903, Charles Collins snowshoed to Norcross and brought back supplies by hand sled. Sometimes horses dragged in heavy loads over the ice. As late as 1950, folks remember seeing Junior Richards walking across the ice of

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<sup>84</sup> conversations with David Robinson

<sup>85</sup> information from Andy Pease and Webber Oil Company files

Pemadumcook Lake dragging a hand sled headed to town. In later years, when the ice was firm and the snow not too deep, Richards used a U.S. Army surplus half-track truck. It went through the ice one year, and he recovered it. Snow machines and similar mechanical contraptions were in use by the 1950s. GNP and Webber brought their supplies in on the tote road from Caribou Lake to Chesuncook Pond, across the ice to the tote road to Rainbow Lake's northwest bay, and down the lake's ice to the sporting camp.

GNP used skidders to pull in the drays. One March, Levasseur and David McLean towed for GNP.<sup>86</sup> The plan was to drive in one day and leave the next. After Levasseur went to bed, McLean started digging down through the snow to get to the root cellar door and the liquor. The hole he dug was narrow, and as a big man, he could not get in position to open the door. He woke Levasseur, a small wiry man, who slithered in and got the booze. They were too drunk the next day to drive back, so they created a problem with the skidder and called in to say they would be another day fixing it.

Webber used a bulldozer to plow a path and tow the large supply sleds. One year when Pease was at the sporting camp sorting the supplies, a plane landed and the pilot reported that a bulldozer went through the ice on Chesuncook Pond. Fortunately, the accident occurred near shore, and no one was injured. With a large GNP bulldozer, a GNP work crew tried to free the other bulldozer, but the 1-inch steel cables kept snapping. They finally gave up and stuck a spruce in the ice to mark the spot. A crew successfully removed it later.

By the mid-1980s and continuing in 2012, a Webber crew brought the supplies in over the ice with heavy-duty ski machines. Typically, the crew made the hauls at night when the snow and ice were firmest. The supplies included 2,000 gallons of diesel oil, 1,000 gallons of gas, and

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<sup>86</sup> information from Chuck Harris, curator Ambajejus Boom House

50 propane cylinders. Since the late 1940s, smaller amounts of supplies needed during the operating season came in by floatplane.

Both GNP and Webber opened the sporting camp Memorial Day weekend and closed it at the end of fishing season. Webber generally had 250 to 300 guests a season. The typical stay was Monday through Wednesday with everything being free for the guests. The company hosted its customers and suppliers, and limited the number each week to twelve to fourteen at a time. In addition to hosting its clients, GNP sponsored a “Newsboy Program” for paperboys whose papers used GNP-produced paper. The newspapers selected their top newspaper boys whom GNP invited to come to the sporting camp for an all-expenses paid stay. The fifteen to eighteen boys, who were from all over the country, were present Monday through Wednesday. Chink LeGassey flew them in from Upper Jo-Mary Lake. Peter Bartley, who was one of the staff in 1967 and 1968, took the boys one day to Bear Pond and the next day to Stratton Pond. At both ponds, they fished from big rafts and then had an on-site fish fry. To move the boys around the lake, they used an old, flat-bottom 20-foot boom jumper GNP brought in from an old logging operation.

Beginning about 1947, sporting camp guests and other fishermen began to arrive at the lake by floatplane. In 1947, Erv Marston sat in his father’s lap beside LeGassey, pilot and owner of the new and first flying service in Millinocket, as they flew into Rainbow Lake Camps.<sup>87</sup> LeGassey grew up in Millinocket, served in World War II as an aircraft mechanic at the start and a flight instructor when discharged, returned to Millinocket, and opened the service.<sup>88</sup> His wife took care of the land-based operations, and his son started flying for the service when he was

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<sup>87</sup> conversations with Erv Marston

<sup>88</sup> conversations with Chip LeGassey

seventeen years old in 1968. LeGassey provided flying services for GNP. It included a winter schedule of fourteen to fifteen stops so a GNP employee could check the dams, measure snow depth, and determine water content. LeGassey also used the plane to support his trapping and did some with Elmer Woodworth. With a plane, the men could see what beaver houses were active; their warmth escaped through a vent hole and melted the snow. A few times, Woodworth got to a beaver flowage before LeGassey, and when he did, he cut poles and placed them in the ice to prevent LeGassey from landing. LeGassey laughed about it. He was a quiet, thoughtful man who did not say too much. One day, one of his clients acknowledged how long LeGassey had been flying and said, "You must know where every rock in these lakes is?" LeGassey thought a moment and replied, "Well, I know where they aren't." Guests at Nahmakanta Lake, Henderson Pond, Katahdin Lake, Wadleigh Pond, Third and Fourth Debsconeag lakes, Hurd Pond, B Pond, and Chesuncook Village used his service. LeGassey sold the service about 1977 to Scott Cianchetti.

In the early 1970s, LeGassey created a dock about a half-mile east of Rainbow Lake Dam near a small point where he kept a few boats. He picked the site to minimize fuel consumption. Depending on the wind, the plane's taxi on the lake to and from the dam or other spots on the lake could be long, and this site minimized the taxiing. As with other sites, he brought in his boats by plane. He painted the boats' tops with dayglow color so he could identify them when they were in use. When Gean G. Sargent flew for him in the late 1960s and 1970s, perhaps as much as 70 percent of the business was flying people into Rainbow Lake. The docking site is still being used by the flying service now owned by Jim Strang.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> conversations with Gean Sargent

From the landing, sports took a boat to the many official campsites that became well established at the dam, the end of the tote road in the northwest cove, the lake's points, and the islands. By the 1960s, some sports had their own floatplanes and others continued to reach the lake via the old land routes. The Corriveau family got to the lake via two routes.<sup>90</sup> In 1984, Rodney Corriveau was the last person to drive in to the dam from the Greenville Road at Chesuncook Lake. On his return, he found two loads of gravel blocking the access to the Greenville Road. He hailed a Maine Forest Service (MFS) truck and dug away enough gravel to get his vehicle out. After that, the flying service brought Mary in with the gear to the northwest cove, and Rodney came by boat across Chesuncook Pond and walked over to the cove.

Some individuals and groups attempted to build unapproved structures on the lake.<sup>91</sup> As they appeared, the MFS employees generally asked them to remove the structures. If removal requests failed, MFS employees burned the structure and accumulated belongings. Fishermen built structures in the field by the dam, on the largest island, and at the end of the tote road from Chesuncook Pond (1977). One group of men obtained a lease and started building a camp in the cove east of the point east of the Woodman Pond outlet stream. However, they did not have approval from state of Maine's Land Use Regulatory Commission and the MFS disposed of the structure. In the mid-1970s, three tent-platform campsites in the northwest cove rested in the pines opposite the tote road from Chesuncook Pond. One is still in use in 2011.

Other people came to the lake via the AT, which opened in 1934.<sup>92</sup> The original route from the north used the tote road from the foot of Horserace Rapids on the West Branch to Rainbow Lake, and the one from the south followed the old tote road from Nahmakanta Lake

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<sup>90</sup> conversations with Rodney Corriveau

<sup>91</sup> conversations with Rodney Corriveau, Doug Farquhar, Peter Bartley, and Shorty Budreau

<sup>92</sup> *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine 1934* and conversations with Roy Douglas Nelson, Jr.

along the west side of Rainbow Stream. From 1934 to 1936, hikers relied on the guides from the Rainbow Lake Camp to provide transportation across the lake at 25 cents per person. Those early hikers coming south such as Roy Douglas (Doug) Nelson Jr. and his father in 1935 banged on the pail hanging in the tree with an iron bar to attract attention of someone at the camp. The AT organization eliminated the lake crossing in 1938 when a crew re-routed the trail around the lake's east end.

Hikers used both the sporting camps and the AT shelters.<sup>93</sup> An AT crew built the first shelter at the east end of the dam in 1935, moved it in 1950 to Rainbow Spring, removed it in 1975, and reopened the site for camping in 1994. Hikers began using the lean-to on Rainbow Stream below the Third Deadwater in 1971. In 1982–1983, crews relocated the trail to the stream's east edge. Farther south, they built a shelter at Wadleigh Pond below the old Wadleigh farm in 1959. A Maine Appalachian Trail Club crew removed it in 1981 when the club relocated the trail to follow Pollywog Stream to Crescent Pond and pass over Nesuntabunt Mountain to a new lean-to at the foot of Wadleigh valley on Nahmakanta Lake.

Canoeists have continued to use the ancient portage paths from First through Fourth Debsconeag lakes to Nahmakanta Lake. Fishermen and snow machiners now use the old tote road linking Third Debsconeag Lake to Rainbow Lake. Many of the watershed's hiking trails were originally tote roads that sporting camp proprietors and landowners have kept open. People still use the trails opened by Fred Clifford to Rainbow Mountain, the West Branch, Gould Pond, and Big Beaver Pond. Nahmakanta Lake Camp proprietors have maintained trails to Crescent Pond, Gould Pond, Stratton Pond, Murphy ponds, Bear Pond, the Bean Ponds, Prentiss Pond, and Sixth Debsconeag Lake. A portion of the Bureau of Public Land's Debsconeag Loop trail

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<sup>93</sup> the series of *Guides to the Maine Appalachian Trail in Maine*

from the head of Nahmakanta Lake at Rainbow Stream toward Eighth Debsconeag Lake uses the lower portion of the Gould Pond tote road. Fishermen from the White House Camps such as Larry Ferguson in the 1960s kept the tote road open from Third Lake's Minister Cove to Moose Pond. Along Nahmakanta Stream, the AT still follows some of the original tote road. In 2008, the Maine Bureau of Public Lands cut a trail from the AT above the head of the second deadwater on Nahmakanta Stream westerly to Tumbledown Dick Falls, beyond which it uses part of the old tote road from Nahmakanta Lake to Tumbledown Dick Pond.