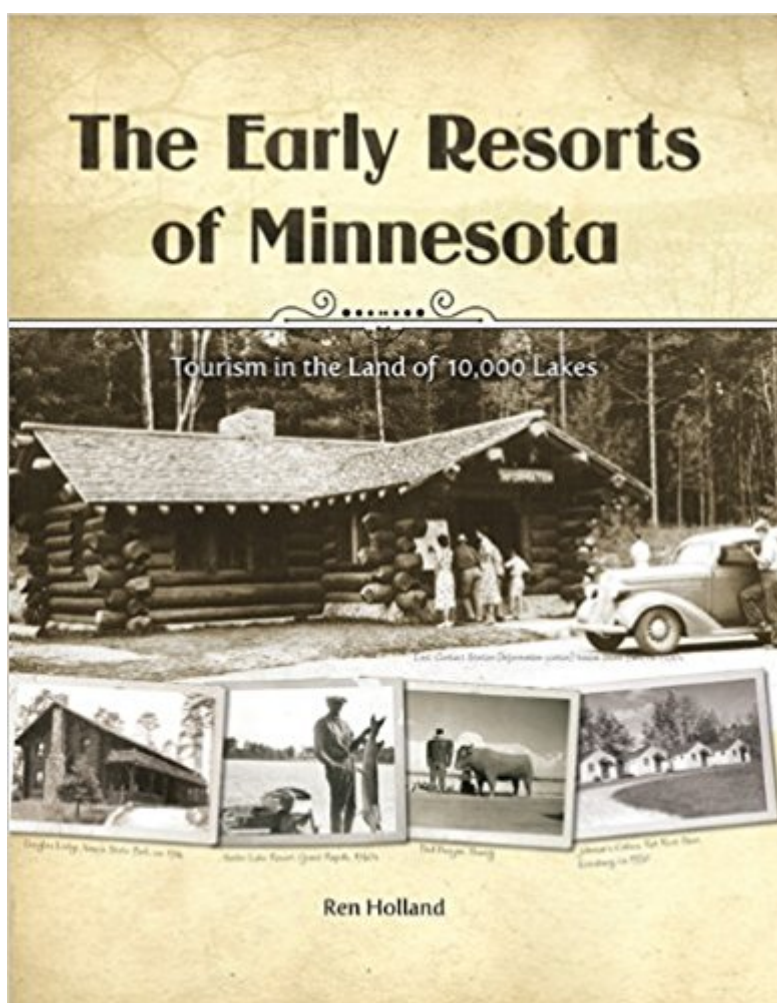


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# The Early Resorts Of Minnesota - Tourism In The Land Of 10,000 Lakes



## Synopsis

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

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If you're looking for a book in this sometimes crazy and imperfect world to comfort and restore, you're in luck. Ren Holland has put together a book filled with 100s of pictures from every corner of Minnesota. Whether your interest is history, photography or the natural beauty of the great outdoors, this is a book for you and your discerning friends. I wish I had had the vision and inspiration to do the great work and research it took to write the book myself." -- Wendell R. Anderson, Former U. S. Senator and Governor of Minnesota "A great chronological time line of the history of resorting in our state. Probably the only documentation of the many resorts that once existed and the people involved." -- Mark Ludlow, Ludlow's Island Resort, Lake Vermilion, Cook; Minnesota Resort & Campground Association's 2011 Minnesota Hospitality Hall of Fame Award "Ren Holland takes us on a fascinating journey through a vanishing era of Minnesota history. Slow down, relax, and

remember your childhood vacation at a resort!" -- Jill A. Johnson, Little Minnesota: 100 Towns Around 100 "It is an honor to endorse your book, The Early Resorts of Minnesota. I'm 88 and I have lived through this era and tasted the excitement of the early resorts." ---- Al Baert, Founder, The Minnesota Fishing Museum, Little Falls, Minnesota

Ren Holland was born in the tourist town of Park Rapids, Minnesota, in 1937. He was raised at a small store and resort owned by his parents, Elmer O. Holland and Betty Lauder Holland, at Little Mantrap Lake near Itasca State Park. Ren and his sisters, Grace and Betty, helped their parents with routine tasks at the store and cabins until the resort was sold in 1950. During high-school in Park Rapids, Ren worked at Blewett's Resort (Vacationaire) on Island Lake. Later, he worked at Fuller's Tackle Shop in Park Rapids, a traditional headquarters for tourist information and fishing supplies. Ren attended the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, receiving a BA degree in art and a BS degree in art education. He received a master's degree in art education at St. Cloud State University and taught art at Little Falls Community High School, retiring in 1996. In 2004 he wrote and published *The Edge of Itasca*, a book about the individuals and families associated with early Itasca State Park and the Mississippi Headwaters area. Ren and his wife, Ida Mae, live on the Mississippi River, across from Charles A. Lindbergh State Park, at Little Falls, Minnesota. They have two children, Randy Holland and Renee Holland Theisen.

What an excellent book on Minnesota Resort Culture! Incredible photos and history of this long-lost piece of our history. Well-documents one of the under-reported costs of the expansion of restricted-use park lands (the BWCA), and the forced-removal & closure of a wide range of small family businesses that once offered a 'natural' in-the-woods experience to the general public, without the need to hump in a pack, port in and paddle a canoe, and sleep outdoors in a tent with the bugs, in order to experience the boundary lakes in Northern Minnesota. Not everyone wants the 24/7 nature experience (I' built a cabin in the Superior National Forest, I should know ;p): Resort culture used to service that niche. And those business didn't fade away due to lack of customers. They were shutdown by the US Forest Service, to make way for the new 'Thou shalt only recreate THIS WAY!', approach. For folks that prefer a 'lodge' to a 'tent', this transition was a sad loss. And this book is a nifty document of that time and place.

The pictures were so good. It was like a trip down memory lane for me to read about the resorts on Leech Lake. I found the other lakes and pictures just as interesting. I would love to time travel back

to those days in the 30's, 40's, 50's, and 60's to see what those resorts and lakes looked like back then. This book is the next best thing! If you are a long time resident or a long time visitor to Minnesota this book is for you. I recommend it highly.

There are few systematic in-depth reviews of Minnesota resort joys. This is the BEST! Anyone who seeks to find out what made Minnesota a unique family retreat should read this book. Alternatively, it is sad. High priced real estate has replaced this wonderful and enjoyable family vacation site with individual exclusive property.

An excellent history of resort life in early 20th century Minnesota. Lots of research went into this. Seems to me to have been a very difficult subject to research. Great job, Ren!

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