

Bridge tournament spans Minocqua's history

By Mary Ann Doyle
Lakeland Times reporter

Only the soft, hushed shuffle of cards was heard at the Lakeland Retirement Center in Woodruff as 132 participants were deep in concentration during the recent 55th annual Minocqua-Lakeland Sectional Bridge tournament.

The history of the Minocqua area bridge tournament is an interesting one.

It started in 1938 when Ray Brady and Walter Fisher, both of Minocqua, traveled to Fargo, N.D. to check out a bridge tournament. They had heard from many of their bridge playing companions from different parts of the country, just what fun tournament playing could be and wanted to find out for themselves. As they traveled back, Brady and Fisher decided the Minocqua area would make a fine place to have its own tournament.

They talked over the tournament idea with Dr. Gale Huber and Rollie Haff, also of Minocqua. The four men formed a committee and traveled to Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Norfolk, Milwaukee and many other cities studying the different tournaments and how they were run.

Before planning their first tournament in 1941 they decided it was important to have a statewide organization and so the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Bridge Association was born. It now has a membership of 1,200 members.

In 1941 the committee held its first tournament at Meschek's Crawling Stone Lodge in Lac du Flambeau. Players from Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison traveled by rail board the 'Hiawatha,' and then were taken by car to the resort. They paid \$15 for three days of play, meals, lodging, coats, entertainment and entry fees for all bridge games. A first class, round trip train ticket from Chicago cost \$11.85.

After a day of bridge the tournament participants were treated to campfires, Indian powwows, free movies at the theater and guided fishing tours. Ladies could even get free osiery if it was torn during tournament play compliments of Coleproof and Phoenix companies of Wisconsin.

Over the years the tournament moved to different locations in the Lakeland area. In 1942 and '43 the tournament was held in the Minocqua Community building, now the Fitness Center, and for three years it was held at Voss's Birchwood Lodge and Koerner's Spider Lake Resort in Manitowish Waters. Participants played in a pavilion located at Koerner's.

It moved to Deer Park Lodge in Manitowish Waters for 15 years, the Minocqua Country Club for about 25 years, and at Dillman's Lodge for a couple of years. For the last four years the tournament has been held at the Lakeland Retirement Center in Woodruff.

Bridge results from the 55th annual Minocqua-Lakeland Section which was held June 14-18 are as follows:

Wednesday evening, June 14
OPEN PAIRS-Lynn Patinkin, Libertyville, Ill., and Jim Rugowski, Eau Claire.

STRATIFIED PAIRS
SECTION A-Al Levering and Sally DeForest, Frankfort Ill.

SECTION B-Joan Gerow and Gail Shilling, Kaukana.
SECTION C-Pat Quayle, Mequon and Sue Smith, Kenosha.

Thursday evening, June 15
STRATIFIED PAIRS
SECTION A-Mary and Mark Olsky, Madison.

SECTION B-Audrey and Rich Divilbiss, Hayward.
SECTION C-Ed and Norma Stoever, Rhinelander.

K.O. BRACKET ONE
Cecil Frank, Bloomington Minn., Charles Howard, Edina Minn., John and Dorothy Grandine, Hartford.

K.O. BRACKET TWO
Rochelle Klapman, Northfield, Ill., Deanna Fox, Glencoe Ill., Regina Rosentstein, Marcia Plonsker and Marilyn Kroll, Highland Park Ill., Nancy Weil, Lake Forest Ill.

Friday afternoon, June 16
OPEN PAIRS-Ward Johnson and Mark Olsky, Madison.

WOMEN'S PAIRS-
Judith Mourer, Long Grove, Ill., and Ginny Schuett, River Woods, Ill.

Friday evening, June 16
MASTER PAIRS-
Charles Howard, Edina Minn., and Cecil Frank Bloomington, Minn.

299er PAIRS
Bernice Lightbourn, Madison and Elaine Wake, Stoughton.

DR. HUBER PAIRS
June Harrison, Hazelhurst and Joanne Zickert, Minocqua.

Saturday, June 17
OPEN PAIRS
Bhola Singh, Steven Point and Jean Singh, Plover.
ROLLIE HAFF PAIRS
Blanch Bowen and Mary Jane Fero, Neenah.

Sunday, June 18
Swiss Team Winners
FLIGHT A-Diane and Ward Vaughn, Madison, Art Flashinski, Wausau and Lee Pellowitz, Ripon.

FLIGHT B-Jayne Paquet and Bill Krall Marquette, Mich., and Bobbie Sword, Summit Lake.

Some names are either spelled incorrectly or are completely wrong. Corrections will be posted here if and when I get the correct information.