

INDIAN CROSSING

RENEE GILMAN AND H. NEUMAN

HC-L-02-34-1 27

WAUPACA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
321 S. Main St.
Waupaca, WI 54981
1-715-255-8888

SINED

"INDIAN CROSSING"

By

Renee Gilman
and
Harlin Neuman

Copyright
1941

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Waupaca, Wisconsin

Table of Contents

I Chain O' Lakes

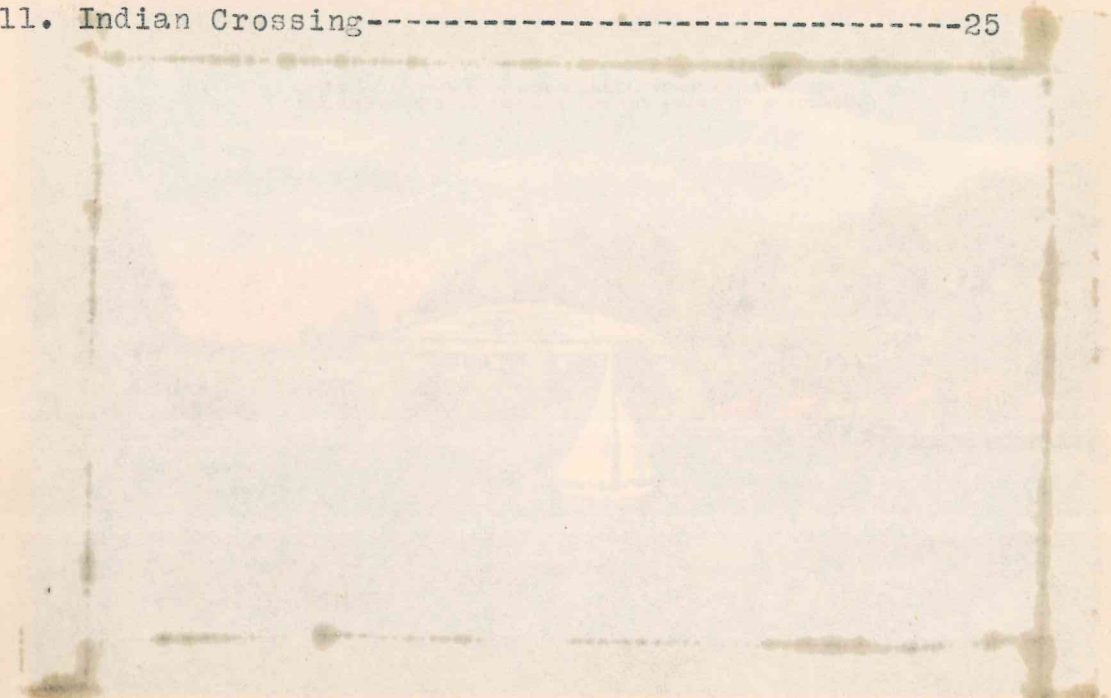
II Indians

III Building of the Resort

List of Illustrations

Page

1. View of Casino-----	Introductory Page
2. Old Indian Crossing-----	3
3. Casino at Indian Crossing-----	5
4. Bowstring Jack-----	8
5. Pamplet of Shawano Indian Reservation-----	16
6. Chain O' Lakes-----	20
7. Columbian Lake and Casino-----	21
8. Limekiln Lake and Casino-----	22
9. Pamplet (Indians at Work)-----	23
10. Pamplet (Indians at Work)-----	24
11. Indian Crossing-----	25

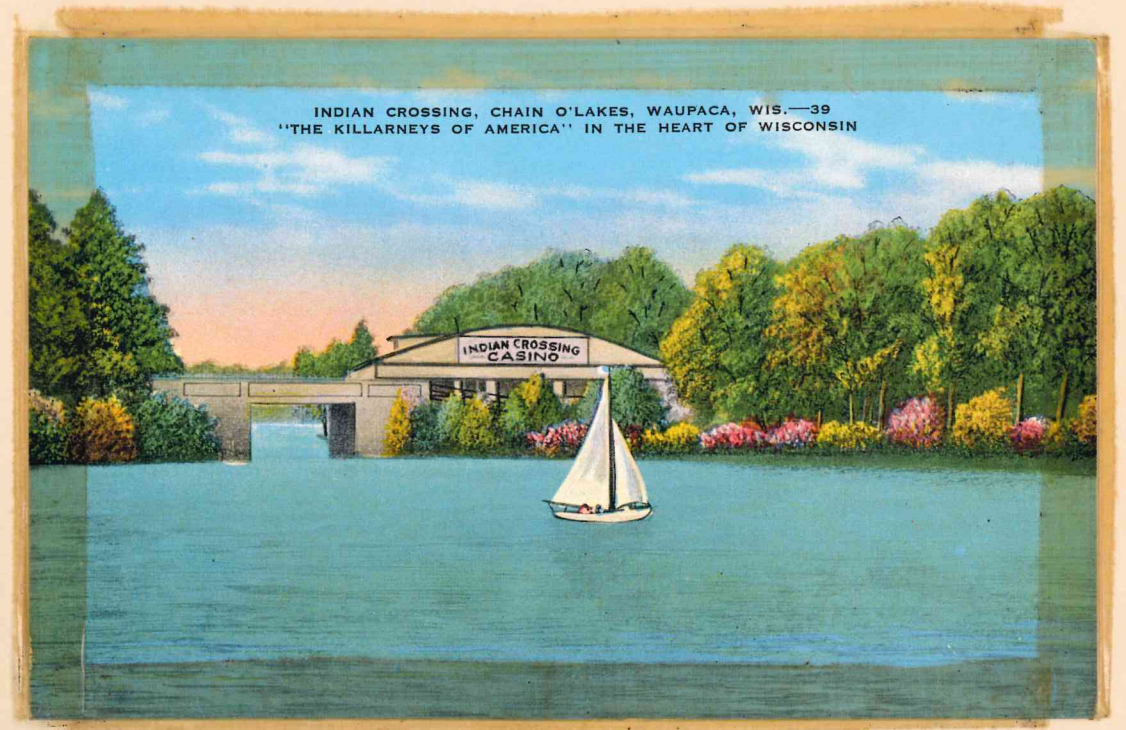


1. View of Casino-----Introductory Page
2. Old Indian Crossing-----3
3. Casino at Indian Crossing-----5
4. Surrounding Lakes-----8
5. Prospect of Shawano Indian Reservation-----15
6. Chain O' Lakes-----20
7. Columbus Lake and Casino-----21
8. Limerick Lake and Casino-----22
9. Prospect (Indiana at Work)-----23
10. Prospect (Indiana at Work)-----24
11. Indian Crossing-----25



Introduction

The Wuapca, Chain O' Lakes, "The Killarneys of America", with its ²¹~~23~~ crystal-clear Spring-fed lakes, with good fishing from the lordly muskellunge to the lowly blue gill, a vacation paradise, with winning picturesque spots, swimming, boating, hiking, riding, tennis, and golf, is one of the best vacation time places in all Wisconsin. Every year groups of tourists come from all over to enjoy this paradise.



Indian Crossing

One of the most enchanting and picturesque spots on the chain is the "Indian Crossing," which was formerly a narrow channel or out let connecting Round and Columbus Lakes, and it must have been used by the Indians as a "portage," as a trail led across this channel when the country was first occupied by the white man, hence its name. Several years ago this channel was dredged and widened so that now the largest motor boat passes through it with ease and across it a cement bridge which forms a part of one of public roads of Farmington... (1)

There is not found anywhere a more charming body of water than the justly celebrated chain of lakes, 3 miles west of this city, nor any other that can afford better fishing. These lakes have a general trend from northeast to southwest in the towns of Farmington and Dayton for a distance of not more than 6 miles. The narrow so-called canals or channels are but lesser parts of the body entire rather than out lets connecting separate and well-fined lakes. With the exception of one place, called Indian Crossing, near the middle of the chain, the whole stretch of water is navigable for row and sail boats without obstruction. The irregular shores of these lands, bluff and even precipitous in places, and in others sloping gradually to the water's edge, forming smooth and hard sand beaches that tempt the lover of bathing, are in the main heavily wooded with nearly all the varieties of forest growth known to this region. The deep, clear water in its ever varying and always

beautiful hues is quick to record every change of sky and wind, while the little islands, dotting the surface of the lake here and there, with their inviting beaches and wooded crests, are the crowning glory of the landscape. These lakes, as well as the numbers of smaller and independent ones immediately surrounding them, afford in the way of fishing, as has been said, all that the most ardent sportsman can desire. Most plentiful are nearly all varieties of the gamey bass, perch, and pickerel, while speckled trout, with which the waters were generously stocked by the state six or more years ago, are now being taken out in great numbers. (2)

Columbian Lake

Columbian Lake is the fifth largest lake of the chain with a water area of 86 acres. Its greatest depth is about 67 feet.

Four attractive large points indent its rather irregular outline. To some of the Menominee Indians it appears to have been known by Me-he-con-as-kay, the name referring to the trail at the Indian Crossing or only as me-he-can (Trail).

A single round mound has been located on the North Shore, just west of the northeastern shore of the lake. No trace of it could be found. The old Indian trail from the Waupaca River passed the North shore of Columbian Lake on its way to Indian Crossing.

A concrete bridge spans the water connection between Limekiln Lake (Southwest lobe of Round Lake.) and Columbian Lake, where once was Indian Crossing or a ford

of this stream. When this ford was still in use in the early days of the white settlement the redman waded through the shallow water and crossed by means of a log "bridge" reported to have been there.



Old Indian Crossing

At the Indian Crossing groups of Indians passing north or south over the trail occasionally camped. One of these sites is on the bank of Limekiln Lake north of the crossing, where flint and quartzite flakes and several arrowheads have been found. This site also extended over on to the Casino grounds on the opposite (Columbian Lake) side of the road, where more flint refuse and burned stones were disturbed. They camped also on the banks of both lakes on the southwest side of the crossing. On the west side of the highway, on

elevated land of Indian Crossing Resort, overlooking the creek, several pits were found.

At the forks of the highway leading from the crossing a cluster of 5 or more similar pits were found. No traces of bark or other lining were found, only a small arrow point. (3)

Columbian and Round Lakes are connected by a shallow ford dredged so that smaller boats may pass. This is "Indian Crossing," a spot where all the beauty of the lakes seems to converge into a single entrance. The shaded shore lines narrow down; the boat goes bumping along over muck and stones, but soon the crossing has been made, the Columbian waters expand before us, and in the distance Long Lake.

Location of Lakes

The Chain O' Lakes is 3 miles southwest of Waupaca.

On State Trunk Highway 22 and near U.S. Highway 10 from Green Bay westward across the state.

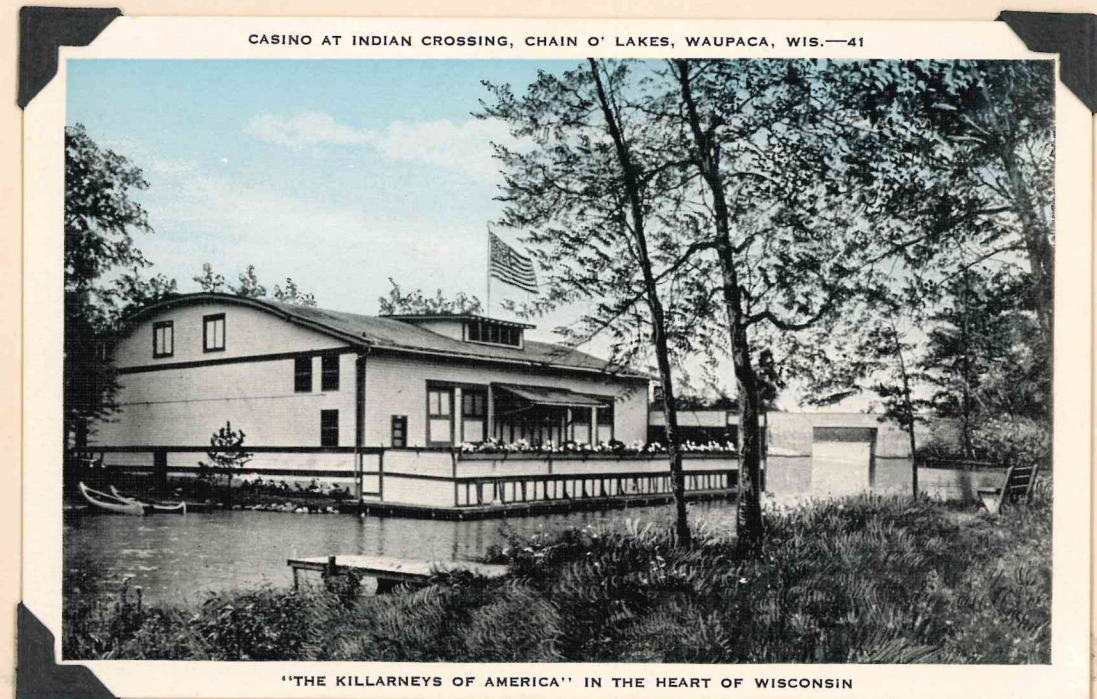
The Chain O' Lakes of Waupaca is a vicinity of the Wisconsin Vets Home.

Lakes are:

- 50 Miles from Oshkosh
- 68 60 Miles from Fond du Lac
- 52 Miles from Green Bay
- 125 Miles from Milwaukee
- 35 Miles from Wisconsin Rapids
- 60 Miles from Wausau
- 155 Miles from Eau Claire

Investigations

Investigations in this region show that no less than 3 principal trails meet at the shallow ford between Round and Columbian Lakes, which to this day is known as "Indian Crossing." (4)



CASINO AT INDIAN CROSSING, CHAIN O' LAKES, WAUPACA, WIS.—41

"THE KILLARNEYS OF AMERICA" IN THE HEART OF WISCONSIN

- (1) History of Waupaca County Page 204 and 205
- (2) Illustrated Waupaca Page 29
- (3) Waupaca Chain O' Lakes Indian History Survey Page 48, 49
- (4) Alluring Wisconsin Page 331, 333, and 337

Building of Resort

When William R. Arnold built the Indian Crossing Resort in 1923, and the Casino in 1924, he no doubt realized that he had chosen a location that was the crossroads of the lake region. He must have seen that as long as the Chain O' Lakes are populated the only route between the north and the south shores is by way of Indian Crossing.

In 1930, William Arnold sold both Indian Crossing and the Casino to John Martin and his brother-in-law, Paul Asplund. Keeping only the Casino and the property connected with it, they sold Indian Crossing Reosrt to Emil Jansson of Chicago.

Emil Jansson was born in Sweden and came to the United States in 1908. His first home in this country was Chicago, and there he lived until he came to the Chain O' Lakes in 1930. When Mr. Jansson bought the Crossing, there were only three cottages on the hill, but since that time he has built 3 more and remodeled the rest of them. He is one of the few people that live at the lakes the year around.

John Martin and Paul Asplund operated the Casino until 1938, and then Asplund sold his share of the property to Allen Martin, son of John Martin. Since that time father and son have made a very successful venture of popular dance hall. Martin and son started in business with a cottage, and the Casino, but in 1939 they puchased J. A. Terrio's property and acquired three more cottages.

John Martin was born in Chicago in 1887. By

LADAGE

trade he is a piano builder, and for 22 years he worked in the Steger Piano Company, which was once the largest of its kind. Allen Martin, who is now 27 years old, is a partner in ownership and operator of the Casino and also owner of the property in connection.

One of the most popular dance hall on the Chain O' Lakes is the Casino. Many fine orchestra play here during the summer months. Some of which are Arch Adrian, Tiny Hill, Wally Beau, Ray Alderson, Harold Menning and many other outstanding bands. Years ago there was a Casino standing there but unfortunately it burnt, since a new Casino has been rebuilt. (11)

"Indian Crossing"



Site of Indian Crossing



Limekiln Lake with a view of Indian Crossing in the rear.

I
N
D
I
A
N
C
R
O
S
S
I
N
G

I
N
D
I
A
N
C
R
O
S
S
I
N
G

"Indian Crossing"



I
N
D
I
A
N
C
R
O
S
S
I
N
G

Indian Crossing showing
concrete bridge in the
distance.

I
N
D
I
A
N
C
R
O
S
S
I
N
G



Columbian Lake

"Indian Crossing"



Limekiln Lake with view
of Round Lake in the
distance.

I
N
D
I
A
N
C
R
O
S
S
I
N
G



Channel at Indian Crossing
with a piece of the Casino
in view.

I
N
D
I
A
N
C
R
O
S
S
I
N
G

"The Crossing"

Channel of Indian Creek in
view of the Casino
in view.

Limelick Lake with view
of Round Lake in the
distance.

"Indians"

Indian Trails

Indian Crossing was the junction of two famous Wisconsin Indian Trails, and today it is the junction of two busy automobile trails of the whiteman. (5)

From the south shore of Lake Ottman its course was Eastward, between this lake and the north shore of Columbian Lake. At the northeastern angle of the latter it turned southward running between this lake and Limekiln Lake, crossing the water connection between these lakes at the well-known Indian Crossing. From this ford it continued southward east of the eastern shore of Columbian Lake to the Western end of Dake Lake. From this place it ran in a southeasterly direction past the western end of Rural Hill and through the location of the present village of Rural its course paralleling Arbor Creek. Beyond the village, its direction unchanged, it forded the creek a short distance last of the outlet of Junction Lake, its direction unchanged, and being thereafter toward Lake Poygan.

A trail from Portage on the Wisconsin River to Lake Shawano near the boundary of the present Menomini Indian Reservation entered the chain O' lakes region about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of Emmons Lake, from this place it followed a general northeasterly direction crossing Big Spring Brook and Badger Brook and the north shore of Youngs Lake, and uniting with the Wisconsin River-- Lake Poygan trail just west of Lake Ottman. This trail is followed to the South side of the Indian Crossing. Here it turned eastward passing the north shore of Miner Lake and south shore of McCrossen. From here it continued eastward to the chain to Waupaca highway.

The course of this old trail to the location of the

present city of Waupaca.

At various places along the courses of these 3 Indian travelways through the Chain O' Lakes region are places where the aborigines once had villages or camped for short periods during both prehistoric and early historic times.

The State Land Office maps of the Chain O' Lakes region show a trail which turned southward from the Shawano-Portage trail, already described, at about opposite the Wisconsin Vets' Home property and continued southward through Dayton Township to the South Fork of Waupaca River, then continuing on in a southeasterly direction. In its southward course this trail must have passed over or around the western end of Cemetery Ridge of the Home grounds. This map does not show the Shawano to Portage Trail as continuing westward between McCrossen and Miner Lakes to the Indian Crossing.

Several of the Indian Trails pass through our Chain O' Lakes. One of these, the Wisconsin River to Lake Poygan trail, a travelway which many thousands of moccasins-clad feet have passed over in the course of several centuries. A map shows that they had to come from the Waupaca River this trail to the Menominee Indian villages on the shores of Lake Poygan in Winnebago County pursued a southeasterly course to southern shore of Lake Ottman (Pollys Lake). On its way it passed the eastern ends of Big Rock Ridge and Knight Hill and the eastern end of Amy Lake. (6)

Indians (Menominee)

Many Indians roamed Waupaca County many years ago and probably resembled the Indian in the picture below, who is known as "Bowstring Jack."



"Bowstring Jack"

Indians around Waupaca

Indians came from the upper Wisconsin River, crossed the lakes at Indian Crossing, and journeyed south to Lake Poygan. They came from Portage City and crossed here on their way to Shawano. Thus the trails of the Indians met at the same place hundreds of years ago where the highways of the White man meet today. (7)

One of the Menominee bands of Indians were located at our own Chain O' Lakes. This tribe was called the Shakitok and were under the leadership of Ni-aqtowa-pomi. In early days of settlement and before groups and number of Menominee of all of these bands and villages were always over the trails which lead north and south and east and west through the Chain O' Lakes region. In early settlement days they were also reported to have had six villages in Waupaca County, these being located near Clintonville, Symco, and Big Stone. (8)

Henceforward their home was in that vicinity, and their settlements, extended at times to the Fox River in what is now Wisconsin, until 1852, when they were removed to Keshena and the present reservation which originally covered 12 townships, but was reduced by the sale of two township in 1856 for the stockbridge and Munee Indians. (9)

These Indians had some interesting beliefs and superstitions about springs. Some are believed to be the abodes of spirit bears. They are easily angered and sacrifices of implements, food, clothing, dogs, and of other possessions were formally made to them. Many of these so called sacrifices have been taken from our lakes.

Some of the old men among the Menomini Indians who in former days knew the Waupaca Chain O'

Lakes region, who stated that one of the reasons why some of their people were pleased to camp in this county was because of spring-fed-lakes and many clear springs. Particularly appreciated by both the natives and pioneers were the well-known springs on the north shore of Sunrise (Hicks) Lake, others on the north and west shores of Round Lake at Beasley Brook, on the west shore of Long Lake. Several other springs the Indians believed to possess medicinal virtues. (10)

- (5) Lake Land Bulletin
- (6) Waupaca Chain O' Lakes Indian History Survey--Page 25
- (7) Lake Land Bulletin
- (8) Shawano Indian Reservation Pamphlet
- (9) Shawano Pamphlet
- (10) Waupaca Chain O' Lakes Indian History Surevey--Page 11

Indian Crossing Historic Spot

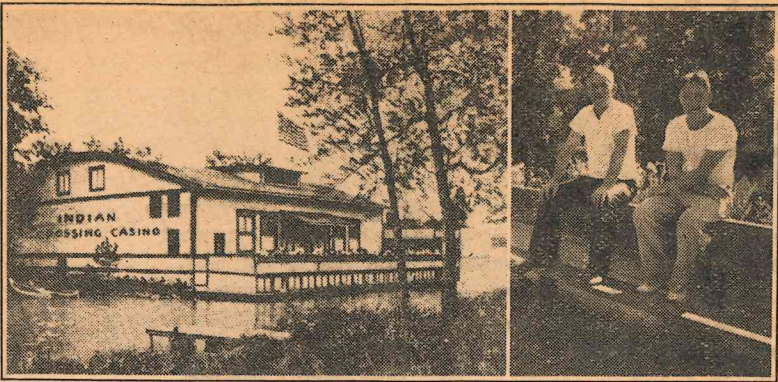
Resort Has Long Been Cross
Roads Of Lake Region

(By Laverne Nelson)

All roads lead to Indian Crossing. This is true today as it was true hundreds of years ago when the lakes were the lakes of the Indian and when the only boat was the birch bark canoe. Indian Crossing was the junction of two famous Wisconsin Indian trails, and today it is the junction of two busy automobile trails of the White man. Indians came from the upper Wisconsin river, crossed the lakes at Indian Crossing, and journeyed south to lake Poygan. They came from Portage City and crossed here on their way to Shawano. Thus the trails of the Indian met at the same place hundreds of years ago where the highways of the White man meet today.

When William R. Arnold built the Indian Crossing Resort in 1923, and the Casino in 1924, he no doubt realized that he had chosen a location that was the crossroads of the lake region. He must have seen that as long as the Chain o' Lakes are populated the only route between the north and the south shores is by way of Indian Crossing.

THE CHAIN O' LAKES IS ONE OF WISCONSIN'S BEAUTIFUL SUMMER RESORTS, OVER 50 MILES OF SHORELINE ON 23 SPRING-FED LAKES.



Indian Crossing Casino, Central Wisconsin's most popular ballroom and its genial proprietors, John and Allen Martin.

Indian Crossing

(Continued from First Page)

In 1930, William Arnold sold both Indian Crossing and the Casino to John Martin and his brother-in-law, Paul Asplund. Keeping only the Casino and the property connected with it, they sold Indian Crossing Resort to Emil Jansson of Chicago.

Emil Jansson was born in Sweden and came to the United States in 1908. His first home in this country was Chicago, and there he lived until he came to the Chain o' Lakes in 1930. When Mr. Jansson bought the Crossing, there were only three cottages on the hill, but since that time he has built three more and remodeled the rest of them. He is one of the few people that live at the lakes the year around.

John Martin and Paul Asplund operated the Casino until 1938, and then Asplund sold his share of the property to Allen Martin, son of John Martin. Since that time father and son have made a very successful venture of the popular dance hall. The Martins started in business with the Casino and one cottage, but in 1939 they purchased the J. A. Terrio property and acquired three more cottages.

John Martin was born in Chicago in 1887. By trade he is a piano builder, and for twenty-two years

STRATTON, PINE, GILBERT, TWIN & LONG LAKES HAVE QUALITIES THAT APPEAL TO PERSONS SEEKING QUIET RESTFUL VACATIONS.

Allen Martin, who is now twenty-seven years old, is a partner in the ownership and operation of the Casino and the property in connection. He was born in Chicago, came here with his father, and later bought his partnership in the establishment. Allen attended grammar school and high school in Chicago, and is an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin. In 1935 he married Lillian Calkins, a Waupaca girl. They have a daughter, Nancy Ruth, born in Waupaca, who is nearly a year old. Allen's favorite sport is baseball, and for eight years he was catcher for the Graycos, the city baseball team in Waupaca.

