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CHARMING WAUPACA

A Description of a Beautiful and At-  
tractive Wisconsin Summer Re-  
sort – The Lay of the Land

The “Chain o’ Lakes” – Greenwood Park  
-- The Lovely Little City and its  
Surroundings  
(*From the Sunday Telegraph*)

Undoubtedly, no summer resort in the State has advanced more than Waupaca has, in high esteem of tourists and pleasure seekers. Situated as it is in the midst of a fruitful and beautiful farming country which is not wholly reclaimed from a state of nature, and surrounded by rivers and lakes on every side, the attractions offered for a quiet, pleasant recreation from the toils and heat of the city are truly manifold. Waupaca itself is small, (having a population of less than 2,000) the streets are wide, clean and abundantly shaded; the business places, residences, hotels and all, denote a degree of prosperity that at once favorably impresses strangers with the city. The people are hospitable, generous, refined and educated. Verily, the saying “a stranger in a strange land,” would never be thought of in Waupaca; it is home, it is comfort.

But perhaps it would be much better to tell of the boating, the camping, the bathing. To be plain, abundant facilities are offered for all these enjoyments. The fishing in the lakes could scarcely be improved; it is no trouble at all to go out to catch a boat load – depending entirely upon the size of the boat; pickerel, black bass, perch and trout predominate. The shores and banks are most beautifully adapted to camping, picnicking and bathing. On every hand dense forests are seen; the trees are all there; no wood chopper with an axe in hand has ruthlessly cut away the mighty oaks and shady elms and maples; the lofty pines appear upon the jutting points, that stretch far out in the lake in bold relief; everything seems to say: “I am perfect, for I am just as nature made me.”

But it is impossible to describe a summer resort that has been made entirely so by nature. Two and a half miles from the city are over a dozen beautiful lakes, ranging in size from one to five miles, in circumference, and all connected by natural channels of running water. These lakes, which two years ago were almost unknown to the pleasure seekers outside of Waupaca, are now spoken of as the “Chain o’ Lakes,” and their reputation is spreading, and the interest in them becoming so great that the quiet people of Waupaca are becoming quite surprised at their notoriety. Waupaca and the “Chain o’ Lakes,” is decidedly not a fashionable resort. A blue flannel suit for either ladies or gentlemen, from one week’s end to the other, is the rule and not the exception. The accommodations are not grand and expensive, but rather plain. A person gets his money’s worth every time and doesn’t feel that \$5 is being paid for something that is really worth but \$2.

The climate is extremely healthful; no malaria was ever heard of in this locality. The soil is more of a sandy loam than anything else; there are no marshes, no dense fogs. The lakes are composed of hundreds of springs, and the water is as pure and clear as the dew. There is no visible inlet to any of these lakes except these numerous springs. In some places the water is so clear that from a boat on the surface objects on the bottom can easily be distinguished at a depth of 80 feet. One very peculiar and attractive feature of the "Chain o' Lakes" is the changeable color of the waters. The effect of a wind on a sunny day produces the most charming view. The water seems to change into all conceivable colors, from a dark blue or almost black to a light blue, and from that gradually to a beautiful bronze, then to a yellow with a long band of orange on the further side. By taking a shay seat on the elevated banks, or perhaps on some high promontory that stretches far out into the lake, a person can pleasantly spend the greater part of an afternoon in simply watching the varying hues upon the waters. The lakes are frequently dotted with islands upon which cottages and boathouses have already been built. One desirable feature of the "Chain o' Lakes" is the general quiet of the waters, no sudden squalls ever come upon the boatman and unceremoniously capsize his boat; on this account it is that boating by even women and children can be enjoyed without any prospect of disastrous results. One thing that might be spoken of in this connection is the seven newly discovered mineral springs upon the land owned by Dr. G. H. Calkins. The water contains ingredients of a very health-giving and valuable nature and have actually cured several severe cases of dropsy. Dr. Calkins is a physician of many years experience, and he makes the positive assertion that the water from one of these springs contains more diuretic properties than any medicine he has ever tried. No analysis has ever been made of this water but its curative powers are an admitted fact, and it will soon take its place alongside of Bethesda and other mineral waters which are in no manner its superiors. These springs are bound to become almost a household word wherever dropsy or kidney disease are known.

The hotels at Waupaca consist of the Vosburg House, Lewis House and "The Waupaca," at any of which first-class accommodations can be obtained at reasonable rates. Private boarding houses in the city can provide quieter life than can be had at a public house.