

R. JORGENSEN
WEST FALLS ESTATE
INT'L FALLS, MN.

56649



MR. BOB AMFT
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ELLSWORTH ROCK GARDEN

The Ellsworth Rock Garden was built in the wilderness area on the southwest shore of the Kabetogama Peninsula between 1944 and 1965 by Chicago contractor Jack Ellsworth, ^{His DOCTOR SUGGESTED HE DO HARD LABOR AFTER A BREAK-I} for his own enjoyment and recreation during his summer vacations. This location had been a former lumber camp at the turn of the century from which one cabin remained. ^{5 MILES FROM GIFFIN HAND.} The Ellsworths lived in the logging cabin while they began construction of the rock garden and summer home.

GARDEN WAS ESPECIALLY BEAUTIFUL IN AUG. WLD TIGER LILIES IN BLOOM.

Approximately 62 terraced flower beds were constructed on the granite outcrop that were filled with more than 13,000 ^{TIGER} lilies of four different varieties at the peak of the garden's bloom. Twenty-eight other flower varieties augmented the flower beds. The terraces were connected by a series of walks beginning with a sign indicating "up" at the east edge of the garden. Ellsworth accented his landscape with statuary he created out of native rock and concrete as well as with the placement of interesting rocks and boulders. Well over 150 of these creations and unusual rocks existed throughout the garden. A number of rock tablets with the Ellsworth name also appeared in the rock garden. At the top of the garden were two stylized tepee structures of wooden poles. Both were covered with canvas having battery powered lights fixed in the apex to light the interiors.

The buildings associated with the garden were the Ellsworth summer home and outhouse, workshop, and the guest cabin and outhouse. The Ellsworth home, privy and workshop are all frame structures with half log siding with hipped roofs. ^{RED clay tiles} A dock and signpost topped by a bird house marked the

landing to the rock garden. All foreign construction materials such as planed lumber, nails, cement, hardware and furnishings had to be brought to the location by barge across the lake from local resort landings to the wilderness area. He created the 62 flower beds by hand crushing rock to form terraces on the sixty foot high granite outcrop. Soil was brought in by wheelbarrow from surrounding areas in which to plant his flowers. By 1960 Mr. Ellsworth had spent 14,000 hours creating his garden. Adding to the beauty and impact of the rock garden is the fact that it was shielded by a screen of trees so that it blends in to the wilderness when seen upon approach to the location from the lake. ^{Smiles}
From Gappa Landings.

MR. BOB AARFT.

DEAR SIR,

SHERWOOD ANDERSON OF PINE AIRE RESORT HAS BEEN WORKING TO GET ELSWORTH GARDENS RESTORED. I BELIEVE A NEW DOCK HAS BEEN BUILT.

THE MPLS TRIBUNE, MPLS. MN. 55400 RAN AN ARTICLE, COMPLETE WITH PHOTOS IN THE SUNDAY EDITION OF THE ROTOGRAVURE SECTION. THE NEWS PERSON, A LADY, TOOK MEALS AT OUR ESTABLISHMENT "SIS'S CAFE".

I KEPT THE ARTICLE FRAMED ON THE WALL WHEN WE ¹⁹⁷¹ SOLD. EVIDENTLY OUR BUYER DID NOT APPRECIATE IT, NEVER SAW IT AGAIN.

MANY PEOPLE CAME JUST TO VISIT THE GARDENS, SOME EVEN IN TAXI CABS.

THANK YOU FOR RETURNED SNAPSHOTS AND NEGATIVES

YOURS TRULY,

Ray Johnson

ED. TOWN AND ELSIE WICHNER ARE TWO SEPARATE ADDRESSES.

They may know YEAR OF DEATH

P.S. THE ARTICLE APPEARED I BELIEVE, IN THE AUG. 1960 EDITION. IT CONTAINED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELSWORTH'S, ETC. (A LARGE METEOR WAS ALSO PICTURED.) AND WRITTEN ABOUT.

ANOTHER POINT OF INTEREST
AT LAKE KABETOGAMA

MIR. HERMAN MELHEIM ^(AGE) (93)
c/o LITTLE FORK NURSING HOME
LITTLE FORK, MIN.

56653

MIR. MELHEIM WAS IN "RIPLEY'S"
BELIEVE IT OR NOT " YRS. AGO.
HE HAD CARVED A GR. FATHER
CLOCK FROM A TREE TRUNK
6 MONTHS F/THE DAY IT WAS
FELLED, WITH A POCKET KNIFE.

HE CONTINUED TO CARVE, WAS
ALSO FEATURED IN MPLS. ROTO -
GRAVURE SECTION, (SUNDAY):
HE DREW HIS OWN DESIGNS, OF
AN ELABORATE STYLE. THE METH-
KAB.) O.D. ST. CHURCH HAS ALTAR,
PULPIT, BAPTISMAL FONT,
CANDLE SCENES, ETC. HAND
CARVED BY MIR. MELHEIM
HE'S TRULY AN ARTIST!

I'LL ENCLOSE NEWS ITEMS -
(HAVE SNAPSHOTS TOO)

HE AND HIS WIFE LIVED IN A 2 STORY
LOG CABIN IN WOODS. NO ELEC. NO PHONE,
PLUMBING AND BARREL STOVE F/HEAT