

## City of Grygla



Hunting and snowmobiling are among the recreational activities that attract many visitors to Grygla.

Grygla is located in the center of many wildlife areas where deer, moose, bear, grouse, geese and many other animals are plentiful. Grygla is also home to a free-roaming elk herd which is unique in Minnesota.

A network of groomed snowmobile trails, the largest trail system in the Midwest, lead through Grygla to the vast forest lands to the east and north.

In spring and summer, visitors enjoy the large varieties of birds and wildflowers in the area. The large tracts of state and federal wildlife lands are interspersed with farmlands where wheat, sunflowers, canola and hay crops add color to the landscape.

The city has a motel, three restaurants, and churches of different faiths. Two parks are available for picnicking and other activities, with electric and water hookups for campers. A hiking trail along the Mud River leads from the Klein park, and tennis courts are adjacent to the park.

Grygla is a clean, neat city with a progressive spirit. Two manufacturing businesses provide employment. The city offers free lots to anyone who builds a new home here.

For more information, contact Joy Nordby, Mayor, City of Grygla at (218) 294-6220.



## Thief Lake Wildlife Refuge

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division has a field headquarters for Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) at the west end of Thief Lake off of Marshall County Highway 49. It lies north of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, and comprises 53,000 acres of marsh, brushland and forested habitats.

Thief Lake is a 7,100 acre shallow lake, and is famous as a waterfowl migration and staging area. Large numbers of geese, ducks and cranes use the area as a migration stopover and breeding area. The lake provides abundant opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting. The surrounding state lands provide habitat for a variety of animals in addition to waterfowl, including deer, moose, bear, elk, ruffed and sharp-tailed grouse, and a variety of furbearers and song-birds.

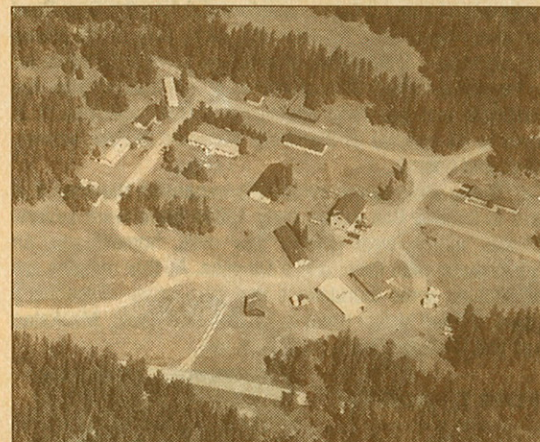
Thief Lake has an interesting and unique history. The lake was dredged and drained for agriculture in 1914-1916. The Department of Conservation installed a dam on the outlet to restore Thief Lake in 1931. A CCC camp was located just north of the river from the headquarters in the 1930's.

A viewing mound provides an overlook of the lake about 1-1/2 miles southeast of the headquarters. A picnic shelter, interpretive and historical signs are present at the site.

Office hours at the headquarters are 8-4:30 Monday through Friday. Call (218) 222-3747 for information.



## Red Lake Wildlife Refuge and Norris Camp



Norris Camp is located in the middle of the Beltrami Island State Forest. It is the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Division's headquarters for the Red Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Norris Camp has a rich history that spans over 65 years. More than 1000 people have been employed and housed there and it is one of the last Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in the nation in operational condition. Norris Camp is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Red Lake WMA is the largest wildlife area in the state. It is a part of the Beltrami Island State Forest and the two units together are over 600,000 acres in size. The forest is comprised of pine covered beach ridges from the ancient glacial Lake Agassiz surrounded by lowland conifers, aspen islands, and bogs.

In addition to exploring the history of the area - including numerous former homestead site and cabin remnants, there are opportunities for hunting, bird watching, blueberry picking, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and wildflower observation.

Norris Camp staff at (218) 783-6861 for more information.



Reflections of the Past . . .

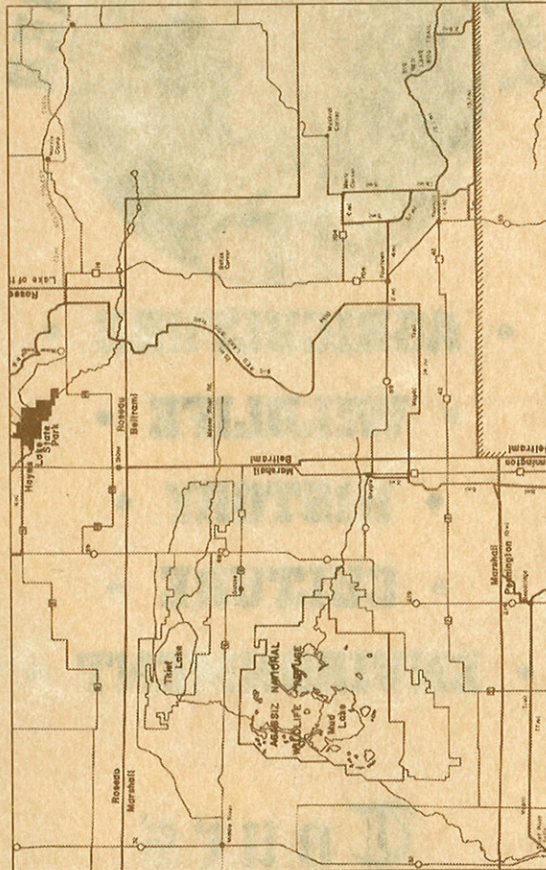
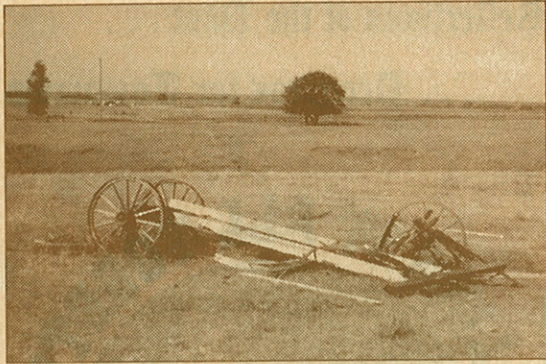
. . . Progress for Tomorrow



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## For More Information

**NORMA HANSON ~ (218) 378-4380**

**DAVID L. BROWN ~ (218) 378-4690**

## Agassiz Wildlife Refuge

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, originally called Mud Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, was established in 1937. It was one of many refuges established during the Dust Bowl Era which took its toll on man and ducks alike in the prairie pothole region. This 61,500 acre refuge provides a home for an incredible variety of wildlife. It is known nationally for the wonderful bird watching opportunities (280 species). It is home to 49 species of mammals including moose, wolves, otters and bobcat.

Today, looking out across the expansive marshes it is hard to believe that in the early 1900s there were several schools, stores, post offices, saw mills, homesteads, an experimental peat farm, and a townsite. All that remains are the ditches, some foundations and the names - Preacher's Grove, Golden Valley (farm fields and wolf pack), Maakstad Trail and Webster Creek to name a few.

### What happened?



Pioneers were encouraged to settle and conquer this wilderness. The area is flat, wet and riddled with peat soils. Marshall County became tax delinquent after 25 years spent on drainage efforts, yet flooding continued. The State Legislature saved the county from bankruptcy, but in exchange the lands were to be used for conservation. CCC crews constructed dikes to hold water, and the 'Mud Laker' pioneers were relocated. Soon after, the lands were transferred to the federal government and became part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

This history is still remembered by relocated families, some with relief others with regret. Visitors to the refuge considered it a place to be treasured. Perhaps Agassiz Refuge best represents that balance which is needed between man and nature. For more information, call (218) 449-4115.

## City of Goodridge



Goodridge is located east of Thief River Falls on Highway 1 and Highway 219 North.

The village of Goodridge as it was known in those early years was built in one year, 1914-1915. It was described as "a thriving and prosperous town with a population of 300 people." It was the terminus of the Minnesota Northwestern Electric Railway.

The Village included three hotels, two banks, three blacksmith shops, two lumberyards, several restaurants, general merchandise stores and other smaller shops.

On March 15, 1940 the Minnesota Northwestern Electric Railway was abandoned.

Today the population in the city is 98 according to the last census. The business section includes Hartz store and Cafe, Goodridge Coop Creamery, Cenex Station, Municipal Liquor Store, Manderud's Trucking, DWs Steakhouse and K-12 Goodridge Public School.

The Wapiti snowmobile trail begins in Thief River Falls and goes through Goodridge and beyond.

Goodridge was declared a historical city in 1988 by a request from the Goodridge Area Historical Society, Inc. in the form of a resolution.

For more information, call David L. Brown, Mayor at (218) 378-4690.

## Goodridge Area Historical Society, Inc.

The Goodridge Area Historical Society, Inc was formed in 1977 by a group of local citizens interested in the preservation of buildings and history of the community. The society has restored seven buildings within the city of Goodridge and have displayed numerous historical items in each of the buildings.



They include a log house and barn and the Woodrow country school house formerly owned by the school district. The Minnesota Northwestern Electric Railway depot was moved back to Goodridge from Grygla where it served as the post office for 50 years. The Northwestern telephone building is located on its original site that includes memorabilia on display from years ago. The H. Christianson and Son General Merchandise Store, now the Country Store and Museum, houses many items that were used in the store years ago. The last building restored is the Dr. David M. Brown two-story house located on its original site and built in 1914 and was open for viewing in 1999.

The buildings will be open for a scheduled bus tour on June 16 and June 22, 23 and 24 for guided tours for the general public from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any other time will be by appointment only. Admission fee, contact Norma Hanson at (218) 378-4380 or Marcella Hanson at (218) 378-4252.

## Good-Vue Ayr Farms



Good-Vue Ayr Farms are located in the Goodridge community and have been there since 1955. The two farms are owned separately by Lynn and Norma Hanson and Mike and Linda Hanson. Their farming operations include milking cows, and raising and showing registered Ayrshire cattle. Crops raised on the farms include wheat, barley, corn, oats and canola. Alfalfa hay is harvested as part of the feeding program for the cattle.

Michael and Linda Hanson will participate in small educational group tours by appointment. Lynn and Norma Hanson will offer small group tours along with scheduled bus tours. All visits must be booked in advance.

Lynn and Norma Hanson plan to have a corn maze and pumpkin patch available later in the summer.

The corn maze will be provided by Jim Potucek, representative for Pioneer Hybrid, Inc. who farms near Warren.

For more information, call Lynn and Norma Hanson at (218) 378-4380, fax: (218) 378-4280; or Mike and Linda Hanson at (218) 378-4588, fax: (218) 378-4588, e-mail: mili-ha@gvtel.com

