

*Hauntingly Beautiful Legend Lake*  
**LAKES OF THE MENOMINEES**  
Totem Trail • Keshena, Wisconsin 54135 • Phone Keshena 4851

September 1, 1970

Dear Property Owner:

This is written to assure and to clarify for all those concerned about recent matters and press material published concerning Legend Lake, Menominee County, Wisconsin. The following is a brief chronology of events leading to the creation and development of Legend Lake by Menominee Enterprises and the involvement of N. E. Isaacson & Associates therein.

In 1954, the United States Congress enacted the so-called Menominee Termination Act, which directed the removal of all direct Federal supervision over the members of the Menominee Tribe and their properties. The act became effective on May 1, 1961 and Menominee County came into being. Thereafter, the state laws became fully effective in the former reservation and the lands were taxed for the first time. The latter is some of our problem.

Menominee Enterprises, Inc. was created to administer and operate the business affairs of the Menominee people. Its principle assets are the sawmill at Neopit and the Menominee forest. Initially, the Enterprises had to pay about 97 percent of all taxes to support Menominee County. Initially, the forest was expected to yield 30 million feet of timber per year to the sawmill - this would provide considerable job opportunity for residents and substantial earnings for taxes. In 1966, it was found that the forest could produce only about 22 million feet of timber annually. This reduced Menominee Enterprises' annual earnings and made taxation overburdensome.

To alleviate the tax problem, Congress enacted the so-called Nelson-Laird Fund which provided \$150,000 per year for public school purposes, \$100,000 per year for welfare aids, and \$100,000 per year for health and sanitation needs. These aids relieved local taxes and would expire in 1970. In the meantime, Menominee County and Menominee Enterprises were required to commence developments to provide for their own support beyond 1970 as a commitment to the Congress in return for these aids.

(over)



Under Federal funding, the management consultant firm of Ernst & Ernst was engaged to do an economic development analysis for Menominee County. It made its report in March 1967. It recommended the recreational development of the southeastern lakes area in the county and certain industrial improvements. Menominee County experiences the same difficulty of other northeastern Wisconsin counties in that industrial development is slow and uncertain due to many economic factors such as transportation and railroad tariff, raw material supply, and insufficiently trained work force. The recreational development of the southeastern lakes area was certain, safe, and would yield necessary cash and tax returns to aid in overcoming the loss of Nelson-Laird Fund aids in 1970.

After considerable study and review, the Board of Directors of Menominee Enterprises, the Menominee Common Stock and Voting Trust concurring, unanimously adopted a resolution on August 10, 1967, authorizing the development of "economic development zones" in the county, expressly including the southeastern lakes area, and authorizing land transfers in the economic development zones by absolute warranty deeds. This action was concurred in by Menominee Enterprises shareholders on September 23, 1967, after due notice to all shareholders including a full report on the proposal explaining the problem and necessity for this course of action. There were meetings with shareholders in Chicago, Milwaukee, Keshena, and Neopit in advance of the special meeting on September 23, 1967, to consider the report and its specific recommendation regarding lakes development.

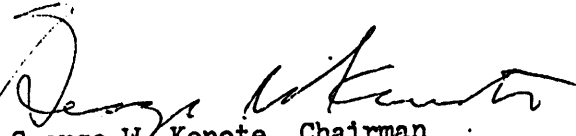
Menominee Enterprises commenced the lakes development on its own initiative in the fall of 1967. Problems in the field of development, promotion and marketing of a project of this magnitude soon showed the need for a well-organized and experienced organization. Among others consulted, N. E. Isaacson & Associates was engaged as a partner in July 1968, after a due study and review of various proposals and considering and demanding the fullest possible protection of aesthetics, prevention of pollution, and a high style of development for long term best interests of Menominee County and its residents. The partnership is titled "Lakes of the Menominees" and has full supervision of the Legend Lake development, promotion and marketing.

Before commencement of sales operations, the Wisconsin Real Estate Examining Board demanded and received a complete review of project proposals and the method of land transfer, including protection of title. The Chicago Title Company writes title insurance on all properties conveyed under the Lakes of the Menominees' development, the premium being paid by the Lakes of the Menominees. The history of title is an initial deed from the United States by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to Menominee Enterprises, Inc. on April 29, 1961; a second transfer by warranty deed guaranteed by title insurance from Menominee Enterprises, Inc. to the Lakes of the Menominees partnership; and a third transfer to the Legend Lake property owner, again guaranteed by title insurance. These titles are perhaps the safest and best titles that can be given in the State of Wisconsin. They guarantee the owner peaceable possession, and Lakes of the Menominees, Menominee Enterprises and N. E. Isaacson & Associates standby to assure this peaceable possession.

The demonstration type activity noted in the press and media has been recently generated and fanned by representatives of the Judicare program in Wisconsin and at least one representative of the National Education Television project. Some of this has been in the "hippie type" protest, not in the Indian image. This has preyed upon those of the Menominee people who do not or will not reasonably understand the economic plight of Menominee County and Menominee Enterprises. I believe it is fair to say that except for these, the Menominee people realize the necessity of this development and the long term benefits that derive from it. It creates a continuing tax resource for support of the county and school district without burdening the county with new costs, it provides Menominee Enterprises with a substantial and necessary cash return. It brings new cash flow to support local effort in economic development. As an income and tax resource, Legend Lake is a lifesaver to us and most of us realize that. Without it, Menominee Enterprises would not now be able to provide adequate wages and benefits for its employees and their families who comprise most of the county residents.

I have personally lived through and worked through the past 12 years of the Menominee problem, and certify to the above.

Sincerely,



George W. Kenote, Chairman  
Menominee County Stock and Voting Trust

GWK/ab