



RED LAKE TIMES

It certainly is nice to see our Red Lake Association breakfast meeting filled with happy faces and cheery spirits.

I have, for a long time, been waiting to use my historical newspaper articles connected to our well known neighbor to the north of us just east of Gordon.

Retired Minnesota Vikings head coach Bud Grant has a "hideaway" east of Gordon. He has a nice estate on Germann Lake. My official Douglas County 1967 plat book shows "Frank Germann" property near Simms Lake, along the north side of Douglas County Road Y. At one time for many years I had the visual impression that Bud Grant was on the west side of Simms Lake which is very close, two miles from the Germann property. It has always been fun for me to research and think of our historical past and bring it forward to today.

Bud Grant is against road through his turf. Duluth News - Tribune & Herald
GORDON, Wis. -- When Bud Grant ended his career as head coach of the Minnesota Viking last winter, he wanted to kick back and relax, hunt and fish and build a \$150,000 home on Germann Lake. But a contention by some Gordon residents that people have the right to use a road that partially runs through Grant's property might block one of his retirement goals. Last week, Grant said he'd scrap his game plan to build the house on Germann Lake northeast of Gordon if a one-mile stretch of the two-mile East Germann Road isn't closed. He said he wants the road abandoned to protect his home from burglars and vandals and to give him and his family privacy. Grant asked the Town of Gordon last July to abandon East Germann Road and offered \$10,000 to compensate for the loss of state gas tax money the township receives to maintain the road. The state allocates \$600 a mile to Gordon annually for the township's 158 miles of roadway. Because some townspeople strongly opposed closing East Germann Road, Gordon's supervisors refused Grant's request. The plan's opponents, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, say closing the road would deny the public access to upper Ox Creek, part of a navigable brook trout stream. East Germann Road crosses the creek within Grant's property. In February, the former football coach appealed the supervisor' decision to a board of commissioners, consisting of three Douglas County Circuit Court jurors, and won. Grant considers the case closed and plans to barricade his section of the road and plant tree on it. But some local residents say they'll fight to keep East Germann Road open and are counting on the DNR's help. "The DNR," said Gordon resident Roger Postl, "is our only salvation."

Grant homesite to be protected. Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. -- Bud Grant will have privacy at his north woods retirement homesite and the public will have access to a nearby trout stream under an order that has been approved by a state hearing examiner.

The former Minnesota Vikings football coach must grant the public an irrevocable easement across his land to the headwaters of Upper Ox Creek in the town of Gordon in Douglas County in return for closure of part of a town road that crossed the creek near his homesite.

"That's a reasonable compromise; we're pleased," public intervenor Kathleen Falk, who had proposed the plan, said Thursday when told of the order.

Rice Lake lawyer Joe Thrasher, who represented Grant, said he had not talked to Grant. Thrasher said Grant had agreed earlier to the compromise, and assumed Grant would accept it.

"As a practical matter, he is getting what he wants, which is closure of the road going past his building site and across the stream," Thrasher said.

Bud Grant among people touched by Wis. Wildfire. Duluth News Tribune - May 27, 2013

IN NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN - Long a land of dreams and dreamers, this portion of Wisconsin bears a history embedded in its tall pines, watery bogs, blue lakes, famous rivers and sandy soils. The sand is rare among North American landscapes and in some areas extends 600 feet above bedrock. It's here that Bud Grant, being a kid in Superior, often hunted and fished, catching a ride when he could to the Brule River, or to Solon Springs, or Minong or Gordon, a fishing rod or firearm in his hand.

The land inspired him. "If I ever get the money," Grant promised himself, "I'm going to buy some land up here." Fast-forward to May 14. Grant, 86, is en route from his Bloomington home to the Northwestern Wisconsin land he has owned for about a half-century, the first parcel of which -- about 60 acres and 1,500 feet of lakeshore -- he purchased for \$1 a foot in 1945, the year he was discharged from the service.

Grant's second land purchase, 400 acres of nearby hunting property that includes a small lake, would cost more. Still, when he bought it in the early 1960s, using money he made playing basketball for the old Minneapolis Lakers and , later, pro football for the Philadelphia Eagles and Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the transaction was a bargain compared to today's prices.

But Grant wasn't thinking about land values as he drove north. Instead, the late spring had set back everything at his modest lake home, the one sitting on 1,500 feet of shoreline. The dock needed to be put in, the leaves raked and his many birdhouses maintained. The retire Viking coach wanted these chores behind him, and he wanted also to move his pontoon boat from its winter resting place near his lake home to the small lake lying within the 400 acres. It's there that he enjoyed fishing with the kids, grandkids and great-grandkids, put-put-putting around the lake, searching for crappies and bass.

Grant had no way of knowing while he drove north that sparks from a logging machine earlier that day had gathered into flames and were spreading quickly among the tinder-dry pines that extended for miles in all directions of his two properties.

Already, fire departments from towns small and large, as well as state and federal crews, were on the scene of the blaze or headed there, hoping soon to extinguish a fire that would grow to thousands of acres. Fueled by blustery, 30-miles-per-hour winds and 90-degree temperatures, the inferno was out of control.

CHARRED LANDSCAPE. Fast-forward again. It's last Wednesday and Grant, in his Suburban, is driving among the charred ruins of Grant's lifelong dream, his hunting and fishing land. Now Grant, touring his charred land, was pointing at a big ghost of a tree, its long limbs blackened.

"That white pine, every one of my kids has climbed to the top of it," he said. "You can climb a white pine because its limbs alternate. Here and there, some life was evident among the ruins.

Black-capped chickadee flitted. A pair of drake mallards rose from a beaver-dam pond. And Canada geese honked overhead.

Other people in the area fared worse. In all, more than 8,000 acres burned, along with 17 homes and 35 or more other structures, including hunting camps.

"Fire is the big fear of living in this country," Grant said. "The sand drains water quickly, and the soil is dry. You can grow pine here. And pine burns quickly.

Grant said; "It's all gone now. All burned." Then: "We have to be thankful for what we have. It'll grow back. But I won't live to see it."

John K