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Fur Company, organized by the United States, also had a trade post on the Leaf River in 1830.

The Ojibwe proved to be good and friendly neighbors to the earliest settlers in the Sebeka area. Sebeka's history book, "Pages of Time," records the memories of two early pioneers:

"Mrs. Annie Siltala and her mother Mrs. Sarah Peterson were the first white women in Red Eye Township. Indians used to come and visit them. Mrs. Peterson served them coffee, and the Indians in return brought her venison."

"Henry Bimberg was ten years old in 1886 when his family settled in Red Eye Township. Henry recalled that Indians roamed in the woods, but they were friendly."

"The Indians, of whom there were many, actually proved to be good and friendly neighbors to the earliest settlers. They lived in their nearby wigwams through the winters, and early each spring would move to a lakeshore, where fishing was good and the forest rich in fruits and berries. As the white population increased, the Indians began to go farther and farther north. Finally the time came when they did not return, even for the winters." - Pages of Time

the white man mused it up, and the days you kept your eyes and ears open and your mouth shut."

Once the value of the vast forest lands were realized, lumbermen led a large wave of white people into the area, many of which became permanent settlers. The most rapid period of settlement in our region was in the 1880s. There were several large lumber companies that brought in northern Europeans to cut down the vast wealth. Timber disappeared fast around Sebeka, where it was floated down the Red Eye River to the sawmills.

Pages of Time records: "The earliest mention of the Sebeka area dates back to 1878. According to the diary writings of E.H. Pelton, there was a log landing on the site where the pioneer monument now stands in Sebeka Park. The logs from the N.P. Clark Company were landed on the river here and during the spring flood stage were floated down the Red Eye River to the Crow Wing River in Motley.

"September 17, 1878, we built a logging camp in Wadena County about where Sebeka is now located. We stayed in there ten months until we came out on the logs which drove down the Red Eye River, into the Crow Wing and then to Minneapolis by way of the Mississippi River." - E.H. Pelton

Mr. Pelton went on to write, "Thousands of men were lumbering in Wadena, Otter Tail,

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Harvesting the Virgin Pine Forests and the Coming of the Railroad

Before the loggers arrived, the landscape north of Sebeka was a vast forest of virgin white and red pine trees that stretched as far as the eye could see when looking north, east and west.

E.E. Dickerson, another pioneer woodsman, wrote in the Menahga Messenger in 1949 (when he was 80 years old): "I came up in these parts when just a lad, from the prairies of southwest Minnesota and found this to be the prettiest place on earth. You could stand among the tall pines and Norways so thick you had to look straight up to see the sky, and under those trees the short grass was like a well kept lawn. That was in the early days before



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RERD Buck a Duck

The Sebeka C&C will be sponsoring the Buck a Duck races again this year. Tickets may be bought at the following businesses: Anderson Homes, Hub 71, Community First Bank,

S&S Garage, Sebeka Liquor Store, Sebeka Medical Clinic and Rife's Arco.

Races will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Red Bridge.

RERD Guess the Weight of the Rock

The Sebeka C&C will be sponsor Guess the Weight of the Rock contest during Red Eye River

Days. The rock will be placed on the corner of Minnesota and Hubbard, west of Community First Bank Menahga & Sebeka. You can register your guess at the bank in Sebeka, Ted's Hardware, Hub 71, and Sebeka Lumber starting Monday, June 10.

Each person is limited to five entries. The person with the closest guess to the actual weight will be awarded \$100 in Sebeka Bucks. If more than one entry has the correct weight, the prize will be divided equally. The winner will be announced on Sunday, June 16, at the Town Square after the raffle. Good luck.

The rock can be yours! If you would like the rock in your yard, contact Becky Johnson at (218) 837-5194. If more than one person would like the rock, there will be a drawing. Free delivery within Sebeka City limits.

