

Obituaries

7-6-86 ST

Benjamin Patterson, ex-state senator and resort owner, dies

Benjamin B. Patterson, 75, a former state senator and owner of the Pines Resort in Deer River, Minn., died after a long illness Saturday at Methodist Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

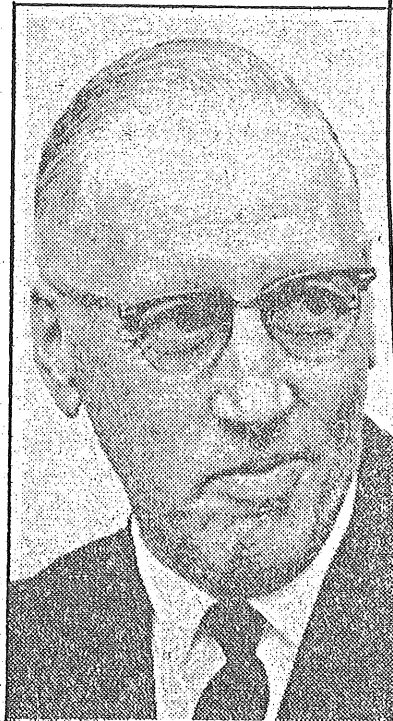
Patterson operated the Pines Resort on the shores of Lake Winnibigoshish near Deer River from 1945 to 1971. His stepfather, Ken Nault, had bought the resort in 1920.

In the 1957, 1959 and 1961 Minnesota legislative sessions, Patterson worked as an administrative assistant to the secretary of the senate. In 1962 he ran for state senator as an Independent on the conservative side, basing his campaign on the tacnite amendment. Patterson was elected to represent Cass and Itasca counties in District 58. He was freshman senator with Gov. Rudy Perpich in the 1963 legislative session and served on the Fish and Game, Public Domain, Public Highway, Towns and Counties, Transportation and Communications committees.

"Ben was particularly active in the development of outdoor recreation in the state and particularly in the Mississippi headwaters area," said George Rossman, retired publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review. "Much of his work laid a groundwork" for the later establishment of the Mississippi Headwater Board, he said.

Patterson ran for reelection in 1966 but was defeated by Norbert Arnold.

Patterson was born Aug. 15, 1910, near Hibbing, Minn. He graduated from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks in 1940 and did graduate work at the University of Minnesota in 1966. Before managing the Pines Resort he worked at General Motors Co. in Indianapolis, Ind.,



Benjamin Patterson

helping to develop the first jet engines used in World War II.

He suffered a stroke in November 1970 and retired to Rochester in 1971.

Survivors include his wife, Viola; daughters Jane Laskowski of Eden Prairie and Barbara Rawn of New Brighton; a sister, Dr. Florence Patterson of Rochester, and two grandsons.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday at the Masonic Lodge in Deer River. Memorials to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart and Lung Association are suggested.