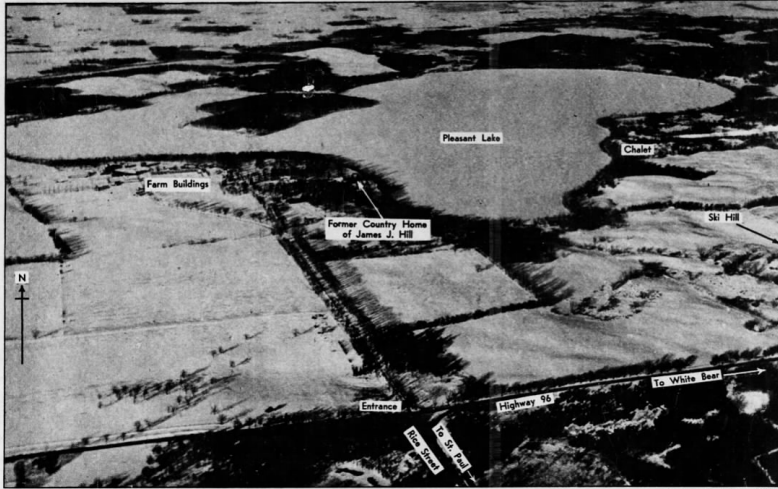


HILL FARM

Acquired by "Empire Builder" in 1884.
It is to become a Unique Community

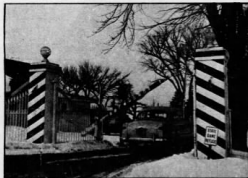
James J. Hill, called the "empire builder" because of the importance of his railroads to the vast Northwest, was also interested in agriculture. In 1884 he acquired a 4,000-acre property north of St. Paul. There Hill tested many of the agricultural theories, including diversification, which he used with great success in developing the territories tributary to his railroads.

Recently the present owners (four grandchildren of James J. Hill) announced their plan to develop the Hill property, now called North Oaks Farms, into an outstanding residential and recreational community. The project would be carried out over a period of years. Applications to purchase are not being received or considered at present and the property, shown in these pictures, is not open for inspection.



Here is how part of the 4,000-acre Hill property looks from the air.

Sunday Tribune Photos by Ray Swan



At the entrance (see airview above), is the type of gate used at railroad crossings. It is being raised here by John E. P. Morgan, who will have charge of the residential and community development of North Oaks farms.



This imposing brick structure was formerly the country home of James J. Hill, who died in 1916. It was built after his retirement and he did not live long to enjoy it. The house is on the shore of Pleasant lake.



Farm manager is Walter S. Duckstad, shown as he made an inspection of buildings and livestock. Because of its wilderness areas, the Hill property has been a state game refuge. Deer and other wildlife are found there.



John Nord, caretaker of the chalet at North Oaks farm, has lived and worked at the Hill farm for many years. His father worked for the original owner. The chalet was designed by Louis W. Hill, Sr., son of James J. Hill.



The room in the chalet was the studio of Louis W. Hill, Sr., who enjoyed painting as a hobby. The unusual white porcelain stove in the far corner was imported from Vienna by Jerome Hill.



Seasonal sports areas are planned at North Oaks. Following Nicky Benz at the ski tow is one of the present owners, Louis W. Hill, Jr. Other owners, all children of Louis W. Hill, Sr., are Cortland Hill, Jerome Hill, and Mrs. Hannes Schroll.

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