Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1940-1950: The Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes has been a popular summer camping area since the latter part of the nineteenth century. Highway U.S. 2 can be seen in the foreground. Railroad Lake is in the foreground, then going north Bass Lake, Middle Lake, West Lake and North Lake. Long Lake is to the right. Two additional lakes, East Lake and South Lake, are not visible in this postcard view. This unused postcard view dates from between 1940 and 1950. [William John Cummings]

Emmanuel Chainey’s Resort, Bass Island, Bass Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, 1896: This early photograph by Jorgen J. Eskil was taken from Clubhouse Point in 1896 and shows Emmanuel Chainey’s Resort on Bass Island in the narrow, central area of Bass Lake. The larger building was a hotel built by Chainey on the main land west of his island during the summer and fall of 1893. It was moved over on the ice to this quarter-acre island during late December, 1893. Chainey made many improvements on Bass Island during the years he operated the resort, including a dance pavilion shown at the east end of the island which was then a picnic shelter, the hotel with kitchen wing, latrine, tool shed, ice house and saloon. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]
Bass Island Resort, Bass Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1911: This black-and-white halftone postcard view, postmarked Iron Mountain, Mich., May 31, 1911, shows people sitting at the lakeshore of the Bass Island Resort. Note the picnic tables and rowboats. This photograph also appears in The Eagle Spreads Its Wings by Putnam Robbins on page 103, identified as “Picnic Tables and People at Bass Island Resort.” [William John Cummings]
Bass Island Resort’s Long Dock and Eagle Island Resort’s Dock, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1908: This black-and-white tinted halftone postcard view published by the Abe Sackim Company in Iron Mountain, Michigan, was postmarked Iron Mountain, Mich., June 24, 1910. Putnam Robbins identified this picture as follows in his book *The Eagle Spreads Its Wings* on page 108: This is a picture of Bass Island Resort’s long dock at the depot lake landing with Eagle Island Resort’s dock in the foreground, and private docks at left. George Bailey’s towboat and “Coal Oil Charley” were waiting for tourists’ arrival on the Sunday morning passenger train in the summer of 1908.” On page 140 the same photograph appears with this additional information: This picture taken in 1908-09 shows Edward Neubauer’s tow boat, converted from a Green Bay, Wisconsin, sail boat which Edward used to transport passengers by towing it behind the launch after the “Kid” launch was filled to capacity. Note the boxes of freight piled on the stern of the “Kid.” This spot is where 56 gallon gasoline barrels were placed to transport them to Eagle Island. Neubauer’s little “Evelyn” launch is also tied to this dock. The long dock to the left of Neubauer’s, has George Bailey’s big tow boat and two row boats tied on its side. The Robbins’ “Anna” launch is just visible in front of the standing people and Bailey’s “Coal Oil Charley” is docked at the end. Passengers from a morning train are just getting down to the docks. [William John Cummings]
Private Docks at the Spread Eagle Depot Landing on Railroad Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1916: This black-and-white tinted halftone postcard view was postmarked Iron Mountain, Mich., July 30, 1916. On page 167 in his book *The Eagle Spreads Its Wings*, Putnam Robbins provided the following information about this photograph: There were very few rowboats which were pointed at both ends. The one pictured was owned by E.F. Brown of Long Lake. The first slip holds R.T. Miller’s launch, notice [sic – launch. Notice] the high bow and the stove pipe exhaust muffler sticking up near Mrs. Miller’s right arm. Mr. Rudolph Miller, in white hat and shirt, is talking with two other men on the dock. The next slip and launch is Andrew Bjorkman’s, then the next launch with a fringe around the high top and pointed stern is the “Queen Mary” owned by E.F. Brown. The next launch also with a flag is Frank Crocker’s [sic – Crocker’s]. The last launch is Emil Croll’s. [William John Cummings]
Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1909: This black-and-white halftone postcard view was postmarked Iron Mountain, Mich., August 4, 1909 and again postmarked Laurium, Mich., August 6, 1909. On page 179 in his book The Eagle Spreads Its Wings, Putnam Robbins provided the following information: Eagle Island Resort launch “The Kid” giving a Lodge or Church group a ride around the lakes with towboat and rowboats in tow to hold the large number of people. Frank Crocker’s boat house and log cottage is on the mainland to the left. [William John Cummings]
Boats on Their Way to Railroad Lake Docks, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1913: This black-and-white halftone postcard view was postmarked Iron Mountain, April 10, 1913. On page 230 in his book *The Eagle Spreads Its Wings*, Putnam Robbins provided the following information: *Above is a picture of boats on their way to Railroad Lake docks. The launch is E.F. Brown’s “Queen Mary.” Note the tall virgin pines left during the original logging. These were harvested by Andrew Bjorkman [during] the winter of 1919-20.* [William John Cummings]
Edward Neubauer’s “The Kid” Launch En Route to the Spread Eagle Depot Docks on Railroad Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1908:

This black-and-white tinted halftone postcard view was postmarked June 14, 1908. On page 177 in his book The Eagle Spreads Its Wings, Putnam Robbins provided the following information: Neubauer’s “Kid” launch on its way to the depot dock. The marine engine in the “Kid” was cranked using a steel clothespin, which was inserted in a hole near the rim of the large flywheel. This gave the operator more leverage in turning over the big engine than a short crank would. When the engine started the “clothespin” came out in the cranker’s hand, as the hole was slanted in the opposite direction to which the flywheel was turned. If the engine backfired, it could give the man cranking a sprained wrist. Edward also purchased a large sailboat at Green Bay, which he converted into a towboat that was pulled behind the “Kid” to handle the large crowds of tourists, who arrived on the passenger train to spend a Sunday or a week at Eagle Island Resort…The resort launches big trips were to get their guests back to the depot in time for the evening train to Iron Mountain. [William John Cummings]
Beckstrom’s Cottage Dock, Railroad Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1910: This unused black-and-white halftone postcard view probably dates from about 1910. On page 190 in his book The Eagle Spreads Its Wings, Putnam Robbins provided the following information: A family picnic at Beckstrom’s cottage on Railroad Lake. [William John Cummings]
Entrance to Tourist Park, Spread Eagle, Wisconsin, ca. 1934: Postmarked Spread Eagle, Wis., August 25, 1934, this postcard view shows the entrance to a tourist park and swimming area. On page 276 in his book *The Eagle Spreads Its Wings*, Putnam Robbins provided the following information about another postcard view identified as a tourist park: *This park and swim area provided recreational facilities for non-cottage youth and adults when the Bass Island and Eagle Island Resorts had gone out of business. Chainey and Son sold out to Louis and Paul Nelson, and the Nelson’s operated the store, post office and marina until The [sic – the] Wisconsin State Highway took over the site for a right-of-way for the new section of U.S. 2 Highway. [William John Cummings]*
Chainey Marina, Railroad Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1940-1950: This unused postcard view, showing portions of the Chainey Marina on Railroad Lake, dates from 1940 to 1950. On page 275 in his book *The Eagle Spreads Its Wings*, Putnam Robbins provided the following information about another similar postcard view identified as “Chainey and Chainey Bathing Area, Spread Eagle, Wis.” as follows: *Left to right: Diving platform and water slide, concession [sic – concession] stand at picnic park, marina boat house, icehouses, and at the top of the hill on the right the grocery store and post office.* [William John Cummings]
Chainey Marina Diving Platform and Water Slide, Railroad Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wis., ca. 1940-1950: The Chainey Marina on Railroad Lake boasted a diving platform and water slide. [William John Cummings]
Railroad Lake, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1950-1960: This unused postcard view, showing the view of Railroad Lake from U.S. 2, including the Chainey Marina boathouse, dates from 1950 to 1960. [William John Cummings]