

## “Great Times Come with the Territory”

### **A Brief History of Eagle River, Wisconsin:**

Eagle River is the location of the first permanent settlement of the Old Copper Indians and the Woodland Indians, from 2,600 B.C. to 800 A.D. These Indians are believed to be the ancestors of the Chippewa, Potawatomi and Menominee Indians. In 1853, the town was given its name due to the numerous eagles living in the area. The two individuals who came up with the name were also responsible for developing a settlement in 1857. Two different men are referred to as Eagle River’s founding fathers, John O’Connor and his son George O’Conner. In 1885, the settlement was dubbed a town because of the involvement of these men. The development of Vilas County (the county to which Eagle River belongs) was made official eight years later. Today, Eagle River is known for its Cranberry Fest, and as the snowmobiling capital of the world!

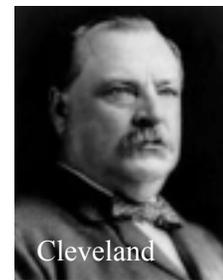
### **Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s):**

Eagle River is located in Wisconsin’s Northwoods near the Watersmeet Lake. Eagle River’s nearest major airport is Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Here are directions from Austin Straubel Airport to Eagle River:

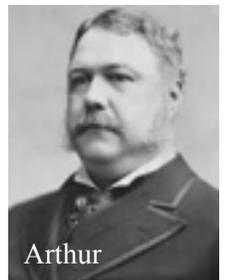
- 1) Take Airport Dr, W Mason St and Hillcrest Dr to WI-29 W/WI-29 Trunk W/WI-32 N in Hobart
- 2) Follow WI-29 W/WI-29 Trunk W and US-45 N to E Wall St in Lincoln
- 3) Continue on E Wall St. Drive to E Spruce St in Eagle River

### **Who was President when this town was founded? What was the political environment in America at that time?**

At the time of the founding of Eagle River, Chester Arthur was finishing his presidency term, and Grover Cleveland was entering office for the first time. While Arthur was president, he made reforms on navy (modern ships), postal system (better and cheaper service), and the first child labor and working condition reforms.



Cleveland



Arthur

### **Oldest businesses/largest businesses today:**

The oldest business in Eagle River is Eddie B’s White Spruce Restaurant and Tavern. It all started in 1883 when George P. Dickinson and Lyman J. Cook set up a tent and sold merchandise. Later, they built a building which was devastatingly burned in a forest fire. George and his family moved into a log home he built in 1884, which is known today as the White Spruce Restaurant and Tavern. The business itself was established in 1943.

## City Government:

Every 2 years, there is an election for mayor and the term officially starts the third Tuesday of April. There are 4 elected Common Council members.

## Historic Attractions in the area; Festivals and Events:

Eagle River is home to the annual Cranberry Fest. It's held in the fall of each year to celebrate the history of cranberries with various cranberry dishes, hundreds of craft and food vendors and so much more.



## Where can you stay if you visit Eagle River?

If you're looking for a Bed and Breakfast on Carpenter Lake, the Inn at Pinewood would be a perfect choice! On this private 345 acre woodland escape, you can enjoy great food and beautiful accommodations. Also, the Nicolet National Forest is only 2 miles away — available there is hiking, biking and in the cold snowy months, snowmobiling!

## Why Would I Like to Visit Eagle River?

From the research I have done on Eagle River, I am intrigued by all the history that has happened there over the years — from the very beginning with the Old Copper Indians, to the development of the city. Who would have thought back in 2600 B.C. or even 1885, that Eagle River was to become such a sought after tourist attraction? And, let's not forget about their delicious cranberries!

## Links you may be interested in:

<http://www.eagleriver.govoffice2.com>

<http://www.eagleriver.org/history.asp>

<http://www.eagleriver.org/CranberryFest.asp>