

Mystery Photo 7

I'm guessing that if you had visited Havenwoods forty years ago, it would not have occurred to you that one day this land would be a state forest with wild turkeys and prairie grasses. Forty years ago, there were about ninety buildings scattered around Havenwoods—ranging from three-story prison cellblocks to stables. There were miles of roadways and acres of parking lots. People lived here, and children grew up here. They planted flowers outside their homes and tended gardens. They walked over to the PX to pick up groceries and mail. Today, it is challenging for us to imagine that Havenwoods was once a bustling military prison complex.

The daffodils shown in this photo were planted near the prison gym. I do wonder who planted them and cared for them. I also wonder how these flowers survived the last forty years with absolutely no care. I wish my garden flowers were so self-sufficient! I've read that squirrels are less likely to dig daffodil bulbs than tulip bulbs, and apparently, deer are not very fond of the leaves. But still, I wonder if I could maybe forego the watering during dry spells, the cutting back of the spent foliage, and the application of compost . . . would my flowers still be blooming just fine without me?

Scattered remnants of garden plants are just one of many clues to the past that you can find at Havenwoods. Check out a satellite view using Google Maps or DNR WebView (<http://dnr.wi.gov/maps/gis/appwebview.html>). Even though the last buildings were torn down in 1974, current satellite images still reveal the outlines of some of the buildings. If you would like to see where the old buildings were located, stop by some time when I am around. I can show you old aerals and share with you a brand new GIS map that layers an aerial from 1956 over a current aerial. It is fascinating to switch back and forth between the two photographs! Call first to be sure that I'm around!

As I mentioned, Havenwoods is not alone in having a unique history. Do you know which Wisconsin state park, forest, or recreation area . . .

1. Was once a Native American copper mine?
2. Almost became an airstrip?
3. Is a burial ground for the Old Copper People?
4. Was a limestone quarry?
5. Housed Nike missiles?
6. Was owned by a cranberry company?
7. Is the site of an old mill?
8. Used to be a bar and dance hall?
9. Was once a lumbering town?
10. Has been a sacred spot for generations?
11. Used to be a ski slope?
12. Features a lead shot manufacturing tower?

Answers:

1. Amnicon Falls State Park
2. Richard Bong State Recreation Area
3. Copper Culture State Park
4. Harrington Beach State Park
5. Havenwoods State Forest
6. Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit
7. Mirror Lake State Park
8. Natural Bridge State Park
9. Newport State Park
10. Perrot State Park
11. Pike Lake State Park
12. Tower Hill State Park