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Here are some excerpts from an interview written by Arlene Buttles and published in the Waushara Argus in 1975 about the developers of Silver Springs Lake.

"...1975 is the year when two new lakes joined the scores of lakes gouged out of central Wisconsin during the ice age . . . the developers spent two years building the twin lakes which are across Highway E from each other . . .

While the three partners have managed to keep in the background, their occupation ("We build lakes") is unusual enough.

Jim Lewandowski, Don Kemps and Milt Fischer come from varied backgrounds but they have two things in common; they are all house builders from the Neenah-Menasha-Appleton area and they are all mavericks. Mavericks in the sense Lewandowski meant when he said, "There's a certain maverick quality built in us and I think that's the reason we have taken chances and gone ahead where others wouldn't have." . . .

Lewandowski, respectfully called "the brain" by his partners, has had the most formal education. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a major in marketing. His involvement with the ROTC program at school necessitated spending six weeks of each summer at camp. He participated in cruises to foreign countries which left little time for vacation jobs. He got his first taste of house building between his junior and senior year, when he built a home. Then came a hitch in the Marine Corps. "After that I took a job for three weeks with a sales company." Lewandowski shook his head at that memory, "I decided that wasn't for me." Instead the tall, soft spoken young man began building houses in Menasha and soon became known for his ability to develop residential property.

While Lewandowski appears to be of a sober mien, almost withdrawn, his partner Don Kemps displays the outgoing nature usually associated with extroverts. Born and raised in Neenah, Kemps dismisses his early life with a few short observations. "I came from a house where money was scarce. I worked for various businesses throughout high school. I played football my first year of high school, but that was too much work and no pay, so I quit that." After he quit football, Kemps put any extra time to good use; working in a paint factory during the day and a root beer stand at night. When the root beer stand closed at the end of summer, he got a job in a drug store as soda jerk. . . . When he was a little older, he landed a job in a cabinet shop. He worked there part time during his last years of school, then stayed on until he went into the service. "I started building with a partner, but he died six months after we started. Then I began building houses and apartments." Kemps flashed one of his ready grins, a sure sign that he had been serious about as long as he could stand it. "People said I worked that partner to death, but there isn't any truth to it," he quipped . . .

Milt Fischer, the third lake developer partner, credits the success in his life not to luck, but to a Person, "The Lord's been good to me. He's offered me the proper partners at the proper time in my life." Of the three, Fischer has had the least formal education, "I came from a very medium to poor farm family and ventured out on my own at what would be called, by today's standards,

a very tender age." . . . Thinking back over his past, Fischer admitted, "It's been a long struggle. An absolutely determined struggle." Before getting into the house building trade, Fischer served in the military. Then, shortly after being married, he built a new home. The farm boy then went to work for a laundry firm. "I was getting about \$40 a week and had larger home payments. I had to sell my new car in order to sustain my obligation." After about a year of delivering laundry, Fischer realized he had to earn a better income to support a family, so he applied to a building contractor, Lloyd Wordell, for a job. . . After working for Wordell, the former farm boy started to reason that if he could make money for the boss, he should be able to make the money the boss was making besides his own salary. . .

It was just a step from home building to residential development. He, along with other partners, developed Colony Oaks. Then he teamed up with Kemps and Lewandowski to develop Cardinal Downs, an old English subdivision on the Fox River. It's one of the largest developments to be incorporated into the City of Appleton.

Lewandowski bought his first two lake lots at Lakewood 14 years ago. . . His first attempt at building a lake was successful, with all the lots sold out within a year's time. Few people realize that Bailey's Lake near Waupaca is a man-made lake. . .

Prior to their working together to develop Cardinal Downs, the three partners were individual home builders, all in competition. They met through the Valley Home Builders Association, of which they are all past presidents. "Being of the same nature, we all played cards," Kemps said, "and that's how we got better acquainted and began developing land in Appleton." . .

During the week the three partners studied maps. On Thursdays the three went out riding the roads looking for land. By damming up the Thorstad Creek, which runs thru the 300 acre property they purchased, the partners . . . developed 80 acre Lake Alpine . . .

Following the development of Hidden Springs Lake, the three partners turned their efforts to Silver Springs and Golden Sands. It took two years to complete the lakes . . . Although both lakes have clear water and sandy shores and lake bottom, Silver Springs takes its name from the silvery color of the sand and the fact that it is spring fed.