

Fish Cannot Get Mail!

No wonder fish can't get mail! Even if they live and spawn in a single lake, people keep changing the name of the lake! Blame it on the sawmill owners!

Early in the history of Granite Falls, the Ewald Brothers had a mill on a lake about one-and-a-half miles southeast of town. Joseph Swartz had a mill on a lake about three-quarters of a mile further south. Not surprisingly, the two lakes were called Ewald Lake and Swartz Lake on maps from 1910. There were almost a dozen mills in the immediate area, belonging to people like Sobey, Anderson, Robe-Menzel, Chappell, and so on. Sometime about 1910 (according to an anonymous, hand-written history of Granite Falls dated 1917), Sobey and Waite bought the Ewald mill.

A year later, Waite bought out Sobey's interest, so the mill was operated as Waite Mill for almost twenty more years. Waite Mill became the area's largest employer and had a daily capacity of 125,000 board feet of cut lumber. It closed in 1927.

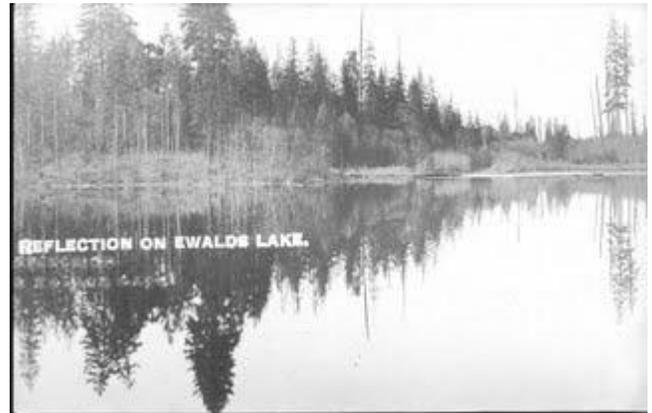
Most modern residents know exactly how to get to the old mill location; just turn onto Waite Mill Rd and drive to Ewald Lake, right? Oops, all the current maps call it Swartz Lake! And the original Swartz Lake, where Swartz lived and milled, is now Boyd Lake. The change shows on maps from as early as 1927, but there's no apparent reason for the change.

In 1949, Frank Niles, an early Granite Falls newspaper editor, was asked to write a history of Granite Falls.

In speaking of Waite's Mill he said, "By the way, I believe this lake should be called Ewald's Lake and the one below the hill is properly called Swartz's Lake. The other designation was used as long as I was in Granite Falls."

So, Ewald Lake became Swartz Lake. Swartz Lake became Boyd Lake, but was known by many local residents as Dexter Lake (the Dexter family lived there for years), and a developer tried to name it Kwaladi Lake.

Aah, fish don't need mail anyway.



Ewald Lake, shown in a postcard, was often half full of logs by 1910



Waite Mill had a capacity of 125,000 board feet daily and was the area's largest employer until 1927.



Swartz Mill, looking from what is today Scotty Rd

