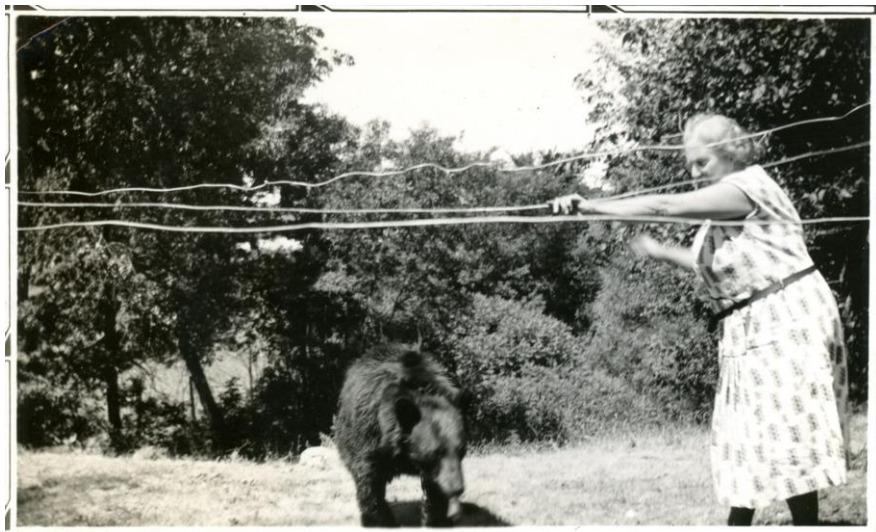


## Wiggins the Bear

In the late 1920's Long Lake's serial entrepreneur and practical joker, Sam Rettinger found a bear cub in the northern Minnesota woods. Sam brought the bear home to Long Lake to raise as a pet. Sam named the bear 'Wiggins'. Sam owned a general store in Long Lake, started a Ford dealership and a funeral home. Sam also created the Long Lake Sea monster in 1913 which became quite a local sensation, drawing folks from Minneapolis hoping to get a sighting of the monster.



Young Wiggins helping Alice Rettinger hang clothes about 1930

Sam would occasionally load Wiggins into his model T Ford and bring him to Maple Plain to buy him an ice cream cone.