



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SPRING 1980

30° - 40° BELOW IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

by Lucy Bruntjen

It was a glorious February morning in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area. The snow covered pines and birches glistened in the powerful winter sun as we shouldered our packs and fell into line making our trail on cross country skis through the soft woods of Northern Minnesota. Spirits and energy were high. Our progress was slowed only to remove some of our many layers of clothing and once to retrack an exciting slalom run through the trees. Nine of us, including two trustees of the Quetico Superior Foundation, were heading for Three Mile Lake on the South Kawishiwi River for three days of winter camping under the guidance of Bert Hyde and Derek Pritchard of the Minnesota Outward Bound School (MOBS), an organization which is widely known for developing camping, canoeing, safety and personal skills in the wilderness setting of Superior National Forest and the Quetico Provincial Park. In our brief introduction to winter camping, both our respect and appreciation of the cold, stark beauty of both the season and the area were enhanced.

Shortly before noon we emerged from the woods onto Three Mile Lake. The campsite selected had a protective ridge to the north and a nearby patch of wind-blown snow which, after further packing beneath snowshoes, was our source of blocks for building a roofless igloo for sleeping and a protective corner wall for the fire and eating area. We exercised considerable care in building the igloo which was about 15 feet in diameter and six feet high — large enough to sleep nine fitting like spokes of a wheel with feet to the middle and heads to the outside rim. Other camp requirements included gathering plenty of firewood, chopping a hole for water through foot thick ice and layering the igloo floor first with nylon tarps and packs to insulate against the cold, then with woolen articles to absorb any moisture buildup and finally with sleeping bags.

There was enough time remaining in the late afternoon to explore the lake and nearby woods. After rounding a bend we crossed a large set of wolf tracks. The tale told was that of a hunter bounding across the lake at

great speed, perhaps after deer or moose. As evening approached we realized that only a fire yet to be built, a meal high in carbohydrates, a down jacket and our sleeping bags awaited us to ward off the developing chill and to keep us warm through the anticipated -40 degree night. There was a strange loneliness in the thought as we made our way "home".

That night, huddled around the campfire, we marveled at the transformation of our outdoor eating area as it became almost magically lit and warmed by the fire blazing in the center, the candlelight and firelight reflecting off the white walls and the stars shimmering overhead. In this surrounding the discussion of winter camping and safety was closely followed. Wool is generally the best material to wear since it absorbs moisture away from the body. Multi-layers are more comfortable than a single bulky garment and generated body heat can be easily regulated by adjusting layers. Two sets of sleeping

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FANNING THE FLAMES

An unusually dry April has caused extraordinary fire danger in the BWCA. The real danger to the Canoe Country this spring, however, rests in an ill-considered lawsuit launched by the Albert Quie administration to challenge federal regulation of motorboats and snowmobiles on lakes in the BWCA. The effort of Governor Quie and his DNR head, Joseph Alexander, appeared destined to rekindle war over the Boundary Canoe Area, a battle which was fought to an exhausting finish in

Congress in October of 1978. Most Minnesotans felt that the Boundary Waters Wilderness Act, which was signed into law in October, 1978, had settled the controversy. The governor and his DNR head reopened an issue with a marginal lawsuit which many feel represents no service to the state of Minnesota.

On May 2nd, U.S. District Judge Miles Lord heard the suit filed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and state of Minnesota, which argues that the BWCA law

passed in October of 1978 by Congress deprives the state of its authority to exercise control over 250,000 acres of state-owned waters and lands within the million-acre BWCA.

State attorneys said that the DNR's main objective in the case is to block any attempts at mining or mineral prospecting in the million-acre wilderness. However, environmentalists argued that DNR Commissioner Alexander and

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30° below zero.



Winter camp on Three Mile Lake.

bags are used, the outer shared with another camper. A good place for ski boots, mittens and the next day's clothing is inside the sleeping bag and an especially welcome piece of equipment can be a hot water bottle. Another enclosure to retain warmth is to use the sleeve of the down parka for breathing. We had previously practiced ice water rescue technique using connected poles and three teams — one to keep the wet skier active, another to start a fire and a third to warm a double sleeping bag with body heat. Planning, preparedness and caution are central to enjoying winter camping.

As we gathered ourselves together, mentally and physically, we crawled into the down and wool cocoons and looked up at the transparent sky. It was cold and getting colder. We tried to relax and to thereby spread the captured warmth to the entire body — but sleep and rest did not come easy.

The morning was cold and raw but the campers strong friend, a sense of humor, served us well and soon the warmth of a fire and the arriving sun

overcame the effects of little real sleep. In short order we were alert and eager to experience the unfolding beautiful winter day. Carrying only our lunch and an ice rescue pack we set out across the crystalline landscape. The snow was heavy for the lead skier, requiring a shift in position each 20 minutes or so. Even though the temperature had been well below zero over an extended time, the lake held hidden perils. As the river drains beneath the surface, ice, without support, can crack and give way under its own weight. The presence of slush can be more than just bothersome since it may indicate an open area beneath the snow cover.

During the day we studied tracks of deer, grouse, moose and wolf. By later afternoon we were well attuned to the rhythms of the day and had developed a reasonably effective spring in our skiing technique.

On the second night, our increased confidence and exercised muscles allowed us to relax more fully. Bert and Derek shared with us some stories of Indian heritage and beneath the clear

sky and bright stars the commune with nature was joined.

The return home was another special day in the BWCA. After a somewhat slow start the pace accelerated throughout the morning. Shedding the packs at lunch near a road for later retrieval, we picked up a rhythm along the Marathon Trail into the MOBS homeplace with the last 100 yards a joyful burst. After a sauna, an ice water plunge and more orange juice than we will ever drink again, we reviewed our adventure and said a long and deep goodbye to companions.

Our short adventure in the BWCA taught us that winter camping must be accepted as a challenging experience. Discipline and preparedness are essential to participants. The effort expended, however, will be rewarded with new insight and appreciation of the Solitary Season.

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his boss, Governor Al Quie, are in fact primarily interested in appeasing northeastern Minnesotans and carving out a constituency for Quie in northeastern Minnesota.

Wayne Olson, a private attorney from Minneapolis representing the DNR, told Judge Lord that if he rules in favor of the state, then DNR head Alexander will lift or ease motorboat and snowmobile restrictions on thirteen lakes in the BWCA: Lac LaCroix, Perent, Fall, Moose, Snowbank, Sawbill, Saganaga, Homer, Sea Gull, South Fowl, North Fowl, Isabella and Brule.

On May 2nd Judge Lord heard more than six hours of arguments in the case, which actually involved three lawsuits challenging the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act. In addition to the state of Minnesota suit, a suit was filed in 1979 by the National Association of Property Own-

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BILL MAGIE HONORED BY FRIENDS

Bill Magie, pioneer conservationist, veteran wilderness guide and living canoe-country legend, was honored August 18th, 1979 when a plaque was placed in a rock on the shore of a lake adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

The plaque is inscribed as follows:

*Think on this land of lakes and forests
It cannot survive Man's greed
Without Man's selfless dedication
William H. Magie
Friend of the Wilderness
Devoted most of his life to this cause
Now it is yours.*

About 70 friends and relatives were present for the surprise party which was held at the base camp of Wilderness Inquiry II. At the presentation ceremony, which took place on the shore of a lake adjacent to the wilderness, many of the persons who worked with Bill spoke admirably of his achievements.

Bill entertained those present with stories about the likes of Crooked Neck Charlie, Big Fred Fredrickson and Four-Bottle McGovern.

A THANK YOU FROM THE NORTHLAND

An editorial in the Rainy Lake Chronicle

Permit us to add to the obituary of Frank Peavey Heffelfinger this quiet note of a special good work he did during his 81 years on a planet whose gifts he accepted as obligations inviting some giving in return.

Consequently, and in those days courageously, he defied the Establishment that claimed our northland wilderness as its rightful spoils and proposed to crown the reckless logging era by choking our border lakes and rivers into millponds that would serve the few at the expense of the many and at the expense of the region's ecology.

Ironically, the thrust for sane use of these northland treasures — of which the unspoiled boundary waters were then as now the crown of jewels — came from that same faraway place as came the thrust for their looting. It came from Minneapolis and St. Paul, from an urban area awakening to the very real value of wilderness, both to man and to his planet.

Frank Peavey Heffelfinger was among those who blew the whistle on the looters and risked their reprisal to conserve the boundary waters wilderness for coming generations that will need them more than we. And he was in the good company of Charles Scott Kelly and Frank Brook Hubachek and Frederick and Donald Winston and their mother and Arthur C. Andrews and his daughter Frances.

Unfashionable though it may be here among the principal beneficiaries of their conservation efforts, we say Thank You to the intruders from Minneapolis. Their intrusion has been that of foresight and concern, qualities well demonstrated by Frank Peavey Heffelfinger, who earned a special Thank You from us and those who replace us on this planet.

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ers (NAPO), in behalf of a group of northeastern Minnesota property owners seeking to have the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act declared unconstitutional and to have the court issue a temporary restraining order to prevent the implementation of the Act.

The National Association of Property Owners' attorney, Ben Wallis, filed a second lawsuit on January 23, 1980, alleging that the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978 is invalid because the Department of Agriculture failed to file environmental impact

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QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK BANS MOTOR BOATS

Ontario Natural Resources Minister James A.C. Auld announced in April, 1979 that the second phase of a six year process to phase out motorboats on Quetico Provincial Park waters is now complete.

He said the motorboat ban, which is now in effect, was part of the Province's plan to manage Quetico as a prime Wilderness Park.

"Quetico Provincial Park is one of the finest canoeing areas in North America and the vast majority of the park's users have made it clear that they want its special wilderness atmosphere retained", said Mr. Auld.

An exception to the ban has been made only for members of the Lac la Croix Indian Band Guides Association.

"As this small isolated community depends on guiding as a means of livelihood, the guides only will be permitted to operate powerboats of not more than 10 horsepower on Beaverhouse, Quetico, Wolseley, Tanner, Minn and McAree Lakes and the Maligne River from Tanner Lake to Lac la Croix", Mr. Auld said.

"The decision to phase out motorboats was made after considering recommendations made in 1972 by the Quetico Advisory Committee and examination of issues later defined in the Quetico Master Plan", said the Minister.

The Quetico Park Visitor Distribution Program introduced in 1977 will continue in 1980. The program is designed to spread visitor use more evenly throughout the park and the operating season. It is not required to make a reservation before arriving at Quetico, but it is advisable since some entry points will fill up early.

All requests for advance reservations must be received no later than 14 days prior to the trip starting date, using the

park reservation form. Reservations may be made in person at the park headquarters, Nym Lake, or by writing:

Reservations
Quetico Provincial Park
Ministry of Natural Resources
Atikokan, Ontario, Canada
POT ICO

Further information may be obtained by contacting park headquarters weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Telephone: 807-597-2735.

Any unreserved permits in each daily quota will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at any of the park's 22 entry points. Canoeers wishing to visit Quetico during holiday weekends or during July and August should obtain reservations before leaving home, otherwise they may be disappointed.

AID FOR BWCA

Senators Rudy Boschwitz and David Durenberger have urged Congress to fulfill its pledge to compensate northeastern Minnesota logging interests and resort owners for lost business resulting from federal restrictions on the use of the BWCA.

The senators recommended an appropriation of nearly \$18 million in fiscal 1980 for resource management and economic development programs in northeastern Minnesota, as authorized by the law. Of the funding, \$8 million would be used for intensified forest management on national forest lands outside the BWCA to replace timber lost through the logging ban. A major part of the remaining funds would be used for development of renewable resources, addition to trails, and assistance to resort owners, outfitters and others in the BWCA. The funding is strongly supported by both residents of northern Minnesota and environmentalists.



Sawbill Lake, a small and remote jewel of wilderness real estate which our state seems determined to re-motorize.

ACID RAIN CONFERENCE

The rapid rate at which rainfall is growing more acidic in more areas has led many scientists to conclude that acid-rain is becoming a very serious worldwide environmental problem.

The trend toward more acid in rain has been accelerating in parts of Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. Scientists have demonstrated that acid-rain can harm aquatic and plant life.

The Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness held a Northwood's Region Acid-Rain Conference on February 2 in Minneapolis. Over 500 people attended the excellent conference. The featured speaker was David Brower, founder of the Friends of the Earth. The purpose of the conference was to alert the public to the growing problem of acid precipitation. Dr. Eviline Gorham of the University of Minnesota, and Dr. Richard Wright of the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Oslo, explained the process of acid precipitation, and demonstrated the tremendous loss of fish life in Scandinavian lakes.

Samplings from about 100 BWCA lakes in the fall of 1978 alerted scientists to the severity of the problem there. In the BWCA, 20-25 percent of the lakes are in imminent danger, according to a study led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's research lab in Duluth.

Normally, lakes and their watersheds contain buffered chemicals that neutralize these acids and keep the lakes in chemical balance. But lakes in the Superior National Forest have little alkali in the soil and rocks around the lakes to counteract acid precipitation. With the lack of buffering ability, many of these lakes now hover about the level of pH5, which is at the borderline for many species of fish spawn.

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statements prior to requests for appropriations for the implementation of the Act in 1979. This complaint alleged that a variety of environmental and socioeconomic effects of the Act require the environmental impact statement, among them: the prohibition of the BWCA to the handicapped; the shrinkage of the tax base in the area; and the fact that where recreational use is limited to canoeists, there has been an increase of damage to campgrounds, portages and trees.

The main defendant in this suit is the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the BWCA, and its parent agency, the U.S. Agriculture Department. Aligned with the Federal Government are the Sierra Club, The Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, and nine other environmental organizations.

Brian O'Neill, a Minneapolis attorney who is representing the Sierra Club, said that the focus of the DNR's suit is motorboats on the waters; the mining or mineral prospecting claim of the DNR is simply a ruse. O'Neill has said, "The state's effort is an attempt to reopen the same issues that Congress decided in 1978. Statements about the state's traditional rights over water bodies, and similar statements are simply intended to hide the fact that this lawsuit is about snowmobiles and motorboats."

Judge Lord took the case under advisement and indicated that it would be at least several weeks before he would decide the matter. He stated his special concern for the dozen or so resort owners who have asked the federal government to buy out their businesses. Judge Lord said that he wants to assure adequate compensation by the government for those resort owners.

SIGURD OLSON IS HONORED

An Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree was presented October 5th at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, to Sigurd Olson, conservationist, educator and wilderness author. Mr. Olson was recognized for his achievements in writing, for his contribution to the development of national and international public policy and for his work on behalf of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Mr. Olson was also the subject of a film produced last autumn for KTCA TV and funded by the Northwest Area Foundation. The film was shown at the Minneapolis Art Institute and on KTCA in April as one of a series of five films called "Encounter with Minnesota Artists II".

In the film Sigurd Olson eloquently speaks of his love for the canoe country. He describes the self-fulfillment he has realized as an author. The beautiful film is recommended to admirers of Sigurd Olson and canoe country lovers. The film is a finalist in the American Film Festival.

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