



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SYMPOSIUM ISSUE • SUMMER 1964

Symposium Explores Ideas for Canoe Country



KELLY STODDARD OLSON KAUFERT NEFF RAIKEN MacCONNACHIE RUDD DUNCAN

NOT SEATS. This panel of speakers, representing many sides of the warmly debated wilderness question, fielded some sizzlers in 90° heat at symposium. Facing a large, articulate audience in Green Hall ("air-conditioned by nature") were: Charles S. Kelly, chairman, the President's Committee; Charles H. Stoddard, U.S. Dept. of Interior; Sigurd F.

Olson, author; Dr. Frank H. Kaufert, director, School of Forestry; Lawrence P. Neff, supervisor, Superior National Forest; Mrs. Jean B. Raiken, Cook County commissioner; William M. MacConnachie, Jr., Northwest Paper Co., and Dr. Clayton G. Rudd, Natural History Society. Umpire was Dr. Donald Duncan, assistant director, School of Forestry.

IT WAS a big day for the wilderness area of Northeastern Minnesota.

May 22, 1964, marked the first time in a long, turbulent history that all sides were given equal opportunity to present their divergent views on management policies governing the famed Boundary Waters Canoe Area (see map).

Keynoting a symposium at the University's School of Forestry, Dr. Frank H. Kaufert, the school's director, ticked off for the audience of several hundred some of the more important interests that have stakes in the area. They included recreation, resorts, conservation, the timber industry, mining, federal, state and county governments and Canada.



MODERATOR McKNIGHT
First, the facts

The one-day session was sponsored by the Quetico-Superior Foundation and the President's Committee. State senator Henry T. McKnight, president of the foundation and moderator, defined its purpose as gathering the facts that are needed before any agreement on use of the region can be reached. "It is our hope," he said, "that you will learn something today about Quetico-Superior that you didn't know before."

A summary of facts and views presented by some 20 speakers during the 8-hour proceedings begins on page 3. See also guest editorial, next page.

Wilderness News

This is the first of a series of newsletters to be published quarterly by the Quetico-Superior Foundation.

President: Henry T. McKnight; Vice Presidents: A. M. Blood, James T. Wyman; Secretary-Treasurer: Robert V. Tarbox; Asst Secretary-Treasurer: Frederick Winston. Other board members: Paul Clement, Russell W. Fridley, F. Peavey Hefelfinger, Jr., Charles A. Kelly, Elizabeth Melone Winston. Executive Secretary: Clyde N. Ryberg; Editor: Philip F. Kobbe.

While we hope to deliver Wilderness News free to interested individuals, a donation of \$1 per year to cover printing and mailing costs would be appreciated. Please send all contributions, financial or literary, to Quetico-Superior Foundation, 1666 Northwestern Bank Building, Minneapolis, Minn. 55402.

INTERESTED OBSERVER

Nobody followed the symposium proceedings more intently than George A. Selke, former Minnesota commissioner



DR. SELKE

of conservation. For Dr. Selke had just been appointed by Secretary Orville Freeman to head a special committee to make "a complete review of the entire Boundary Waters Canoe Area—its use and management."

The 76-year old consultant said the day's discussions would help his group decide what recommendations it would eventually submit to the Department of Agriculture. Members of Selke's committee are Ray Haik, Izaak Walton League, Rollie Johnson, TV news director, Wayne Olson, Minnesota conservation commissioner, John Vukelich, St. Louis County supervisor, and David J. Winton, Winton Lumber Co. Their report is expected next fall.

GUEST EDITORIAL

From Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, May 24, 1964

Wilderness Controversy Gets an Airing

SHOULD the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Northeastern Minnesota become an official wilderness? That designation would mean the end of logging and motors in the million-acre zone.

The issue was drawn Friday at the symposium called by the Quetico-Superior Foundation. Spokesmen for the U.S. Forest Service, the timber industry, resort interests and nearby communities favored the present multiple use program under which controlled timber cutting is permitted in about two-thirds of the area.

Representatives of a number of conservation organizations urged wilderness status — preferably right now, but in any event within a reasonably short time.

Forestry people argued that an intelligently managed cutting program gives better protection to game and water resources, better protection from fire and insects than does an untouched wilderness.

The conservationists answered that the area is so unique in its combination of lakes, streams, rocky outcrops and trees that it should be saved from commercial logging for the enjoyment of the people who otherwise wouldn't know what wilderness meant.

Unfortunately, this is not a simple case of exploitation versus unspoiled canoe country. The growing number of canoeists — 50,000 in 1953 and 230,000 in 1963 — already has meant the overuse of some facilities, vandalism, forest fires, littering, etc. In winter, snowmobiles produce similar problems.

How will the area cope with the estimated eight-fold increase in use by the year 2000? Clearly needed is more education in a code of outdoor ethics.

As for a new designation, that is the prerogative of the Secretary of Agriculture. He has named a committee of able men to examine the question. They are preparing for a summer of intensive study.

But that many an American feels he has a personal stake in the magnificent area was proved by the large, intent crowd at the symposium.

IN MEMORIAM



FREDERICK S. WINSTON
1892-1964

Dedicating the symposium to the memory of the late Frederick S. Winston, Minneapolis, Ernest C. Oberholtzer, a founder of the Quetico-Superior movement, presented a resolution which read, in part:

"Frederick S. Winston was one of the leaders in the creation of the Quetico-Superior Foundation, and was active for many years in the Quetico-Superior Council. His vision and efforts contributed immeasurably to the preservation of the wilderness canoe country along the Minnesota-Ontario border — his truest and most enduring memorial."

What is President's Q-S Committee?

Just 30 years ago Franklin D. Roosevelt formed the President's Quetico-Superior Committee, which co-sponsored the symposium of May 22.

Its original purpose was to determine "what features of the U.S. portion of the Rainy Lake watershed have primary value for public use for recreational, health, educational and scientific purposes."

The chairman, Charles S. Kelly, Chicago, and Ernest C. Oberholtzer, Ranier, Minn., have been members of the committee since its inception in 1934. The



KELLY OF CHICAGO
Heads President's Committee

other members are Paul Clement, former president, Minnesota Izaak Walton League, Arthur W. Greeley, deputy chief, U.S. Forest Service, and Charles H. Stoddard, director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

SAMPLE VIEW OF CANOE COUNTRY: LAKE INSULA



SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout that long, warm Friday of May 22, thousands of words were spoken about the Quetico-Superior country, especially that part of it once called "Roadless" and now known as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

We give you here a few condensed highlights from these talks—a sort of listeners' digest that we hope will inspire you to read and study the complete speeches. Copies, transcribed from tape recordings, are now available at the bargain price of \$1.50 per set. Order from Clyde Ryberg, 1666 Northwestern Bank Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402. Telephone: 339-6336.

BACKGROUND

Julius F. Wolff, Jr., political science professor at the University of Minnesota (Duluth), sketched the history of what he labelled "an arena of conflict":

► For over 300 years the Quetico-Superior country has been a battleground. To preserve its wilderness beauty, conservationists since 1928 have countered attacks by waterpower developers, tim-



HISTORIAN WOLFF
An arena of conflict

ber interests, airplane resorts and road-building enthusiasts. Now they are facing assaults by snowmobiles, high-powered motor boats, houseboats and even amphibious vehicles. It is a never-ending battle.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Arthur W. Greeley, deputy chief, **George S. James**, regional forester, and **Lawrence P. Neff**, supervisor of Superior National Forest, defended the present management plan for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as basically sound:

► There is little argument that this area should be protected for primitive recreation. The questions arise over the degree of protection and what other resource should be permitted.



GREELEY & JAMES
They like present plan

► A true wilderness unused or unaffected by man does not exist, except possibly in remote areas of the world.

► A let-alone policy permitting only canoeing, camping and hiking will neither preserve present conditions nor restore early wilderness conditions. Uncontrolled fire, for example, could destroy much of the area.

► The long-standing plan of management provides for maintaining primitive conditions, particularly near lakes, streams and portages without unnecessary restrictions on other uses, including that of timber.

U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR

Charles H. Stoddard, land management director, pinned down what he considered to be the main issue:

► Whether we have a wilderness area in its completely pristine condition or whether we have a multiple-use management area is really not quite the issue. Even with a wilderness area, as proposed by a large group of Minnesotans, we're going to have to have management. The question is: How can we best reconcile local demands for economic development with regional and national demands for a scenic recreational wilderness?

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

Charles S. Kelly, chairman, the President's Quetico-Superior Committee, traced the history of his bi-partisan group:

► We have now reached a point where there can be a fresh look at the management plan of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Land acquisition is nearing an end, and population is increasing. I emphasize, however, that it is the program rather than the Forest Service which should have attention.

TIMBER

William M. MacConnachie, Jr., Northwest Paper Company, spoke for the timber industry:

► Forests are not best conserved by prohibiting all cutting. A properly managed forest affords better watershed, game and

disease protection than one that is left alone. We would not be procuring wood from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area if it were readily available elsewhere. Were it not for the large supplies of good quality timber here, loggers would have long since moved out to the West Coast or to Canada.

MINING

George M. Schwartz, professor emeritus of the School of Geology, pointed out that there is practically no iron ore in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and only



SCHWARTZ & PFEIDER
Few minerals, few problems

small deposits of other minerals such as copper, nickel and granite:

► These are not likely to disturb the area very much.

Eugene P. Pfeider, head of the School of Mineral and Metallurgical Engineering, saw no real conflict between mining and canoeing:

► The philosophy of the modern and able miner is not that of an exploiter but of a conservationist. We believe it is possible to arrive at an agreeable solution to the operation of a mining venture of a few hundred acres within the wilderness area without detracting from its natural beauty. At the same time it would provide the nation with a vital resource.

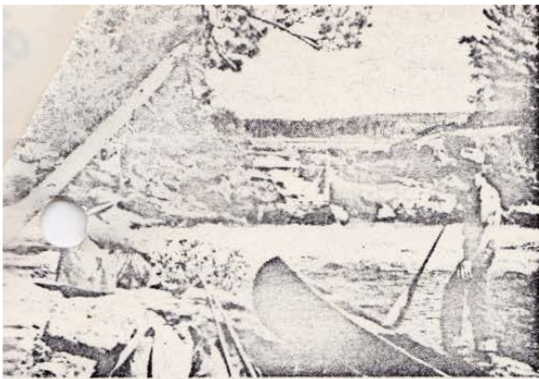


ARROWHEAD'S SMREKAR
15,000 want to be heard

RESORTS

John A. Smrekar, president of the Arrowhead Association, feels that his 15,000 members should have a louder voice in wilderness matters:

► Resorts in northern Minnesota are a multi-million dollar business. We have



ALL OUT FOR WILDERNESS

no fight with the canoeists. We welcome them. But who is better qualified to speak for the area than those who live in it? We ask for more local participation in the wilderness concept.

COUNTIES

Mrs. Jean B. Raiken, Cook County commissioner, also represented St. Louis and Lake counties:

► The counties have no basic quarrel with the management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. They are simply fighting for their existence. After all, if you subtract 3,777,655 acres of publicly owned land from 6,804,234 total acres in the three counties, what is the difference? Does anybody care?

RECREATION

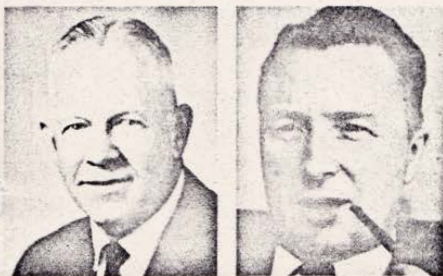
Another side of the picture was portrayed by a group of conservationists, most of whom went all out for wilderness.

Dr. Clayton G. Rudd, Natural History Society of Minnesota:

► We are asking for a reclassification of the canoe country, making it specifically a wilderness area. One million acres — a very small part of Minnesota — are involved. Because of the press of population and the acceleration of logging here, we believe we should take a new look at the policy and management of this area.

Glenn W. Ross, Minnesota Nature Conservancy:

► I don't think we need worry too much about whether or not we can afford to dedicate this small piece of land — the only such piece anywhere in the world — to wilderness status. We have asked for a moratorium on cutting until Dr. Selke's committee can make its study.



ROSS & BRODIN

No cutting, no commercialism

Keith Brodin, Minnesota Conservation Federation:

► Our organization of 20,000 is opposed to any commercialism whatsoever in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. This is the only place of its kind left in Minnesota where you can get away from people. Because of that it will be a drawing card for many years if we can preserve its wilderness quality.

Sigurd F. Olson, author:

► Nowhere do you find quite the combination of clean, glaciated rocks, crystal clear water and vegetation that you do in this little strip between Rainy Lake and Lake Superior. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area is so unique, so different it deserves a different kind of treatment. It is mandatory that it be given wilderness status.

William H. Magie, Friends of the Wilderness:

► We believe in the primary importance of preserving the incomparable Minnesota wilderness canoe country. We be-



FRIENDS' MAGIE

Only one use is justified

lieve that public recreation is its highest and infinitely most valuable use. And we believe that no other use is reasonably

justified, nor should much longer be permitted.

Judge Edwin P. Chapman, Minnesota State Parks Association:

► We are concerned with the upper third of the Superior National Forest — roughly 300,000 acres. This is the zone we would like to have left, much as it can be, in natural wilderness. Outdoor



JUDGE CHAPMAN

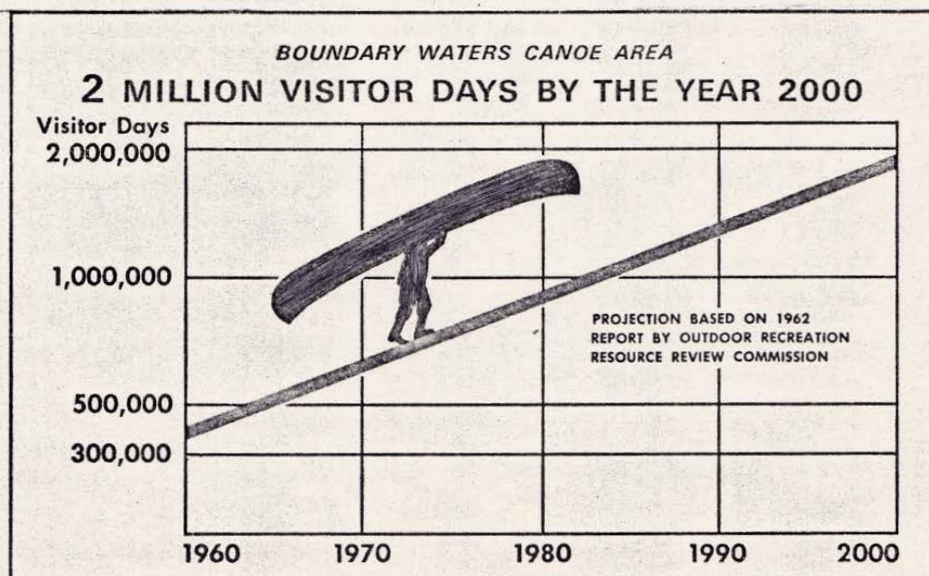
Rules in favor of breathing space

recreation demands have tripled within the last couple of decades. We should be increasing, not despoiling, this public domain. Let's start to preserve some breathing space for future generations.

CANADA

Dr. Carl Atwood, professor of zoology, University of Toronto, represented the Quetico Foundation of Ontario:

► Our management of Quetico is not so intensive as that proposed for Superior National Forest. However, I think a no-cutting rule on much of Ontario's Quetico Park is an excellent idea. Another pet idea of mine is a zone restricted to canoes propelled by paddles. I would call it the Paddle Zone.



A "STAGGERING" PICTURE, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE