

FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SUMMER 1965

## RESEARCH

### BWCA

#### Fact or Fiction?

To separate fact from fiction, "research should be given a high priority in the BWCA." So suggested the Selke Committee to Secretary Freeman last December. Six months later the suggestion got a nod from Washington when the U. S. Forest Service was granted an appropriation of \$75,000 to open a brand new door this summer to BWCA research.

After pulling together plans and personnel, the Lake States Forest Experiment Station (based at the U. of Minn.) will begin what promises to be the most intensive program of its kind ever undertaken in the area. As outlined by chief geographer Robert C. Lucas, four main research trails will eventually be blazed through BWCA:

**Usage:** number of visitors is expected to triple within the next ten years.

**Assets:** an evaluation of physical properties such as soil, vegetation, wildlife, water.

**Value:** to be measured not only in terms of tourist dollars but by actual worth to the individual.

**Management:** how to protect BWCA in the face of rapidly increasing use.

Some of the more specific questions that need to be answered:

- ▶ Why do people go to BWCA?
- ▶ When is a wilderness not a wilderness?
- ▶ How soon will the uncrowded areas fill up?
- ▶ How does the public feel about such facilities as roads, portages, fancy picnic tables and fireplaces?
- ▶ What is the nature and degree of water pollution in BWCA? (See back page.)
- ▶ To what extent does the behavior of some visitors spoil the pleasure of others?
- ▶ How do attitudes toward BWCA vary among canoeists, boat campers, auto campers and resort guests?
- ▶ How important is fishing success?
- ▶ Wildlife observation?
- ▶ How objectionable is logging?

Obviously the people themselves hold the key to many of these questions. To unlock some of the answers Dr. Lucas has had to rely in the past on rather sporadic interviews with visitors where and when he could catch them. By using mail questionnaires, however, the Forest



SAMPLING PEOPLE



SAMPLING WATER\*

*\$75,000 for correct answers*

Service hopes soon to broaden and stabilize its human sample.

**Mystery Story.** Study of the purely physical aspects of BWCA will be assigned to top scientists. Interesting project: an attempt to reconstitute the area's plant life to resemble more closely conditions in the days of Voyageurs.

In some ways the proposed research will simply expand upon the work being done at the Quetico-Superior Wilderness Research Center on Basswood Lake. For

over a long period of time."

Because BWCA, the only important primitive canoe area left in the United States, is fast filling up with customers, the big basic questions cannot long remain unanswered. "Many of the decisions that face us today," says the Forest Service, "would be less difficult if an intensive research program had been begun 25 years ago."

\*Hydrologist Hickok of Excelsior.



## Two Resolutions

At its meeting on June 24 the Board of Directors of the Quetico-Superior Foundation unanimously adopted two resolutions:

**1** The Voyageurs National Park should be established on Minnesota's Kabetogama Peninsula, as recommended by the National Park Service.

**2** The new regulations for management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area ordered by Secretary Freeman on January 12, 1965 should be put into effect and enforced as soon as possible.



## Two Comments

Many leading newspapers have expressed editorial approval of recent actions in Quetico-Superior Country. Two excerpts:

**1** "The economy of northern Minnesota would undoubtedly be greatly enhanced by a national park. Why not, then, a statewide roar of approval for the Voyageurs Park on Kabetogama Peninsula?"

— Minneapolis Tribune

**2** "Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former governor of Minnesota, is under heavy fire in his home state because he has intervened to protect from exploitation the irreplaceable Boundary Waters Canoe Area . . . His decision deserves the strongest public support."

— The New York Times

## Wilderness News

Published by the Quetico-Superior Foundation, a non-profit organization.

President: **Henry T. McKnight**; Vice Presidents: **A. M. Blood**, **James T. Wyman**; Secretary-Treasurer: **Robert V. Tarbox**; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer: **Frederick Winston**. Other board members: **Paul Clement**, **Russell W. Fridley**, **F. Peavey Heffelfinger, Jr.**, **Robert E. Hess**, **Charles A. Kelly**, **Henry S. Kingman, Jr.**, **John C. Savage**, **Elizabeth Melone Winston**. Executive Secretary: **Clyde N. Ryberg**. Editor: **Philip F. Kobbe**.

### HELP WANTED

If you wish to support our work in a tangible way please send your tax-deductible contribution to Quetico-Superior Foundation, 1666 Northwestern Bank Building, Minneapolis, Minn. 55402.

## CUTTINGS

### Two Sides of a Park

A national park would draw people here and give Minnesota the image of a great tourist state.

LLOYD L. BRANDT  
Chamber of Commerce

Minneapolis

There are enough parks. We can't afford to have the government give us a few beads, as it did for Manhattan Island.

JENO F. PAULUCCI  
President, Chun King

Duluth

The issue is: Shall we permit the federal government to grab another 200,000 acres of our land or shall the citizens and the state of Minnesota retain control of it?

LEON D. KELLER

Virginia

I am sure the people of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Arizona do not consider their national parks as land grabs, but as economic and recreational assets.

ROBERT NORDGREN

Minneapolis

I cannot see how we would benefit from a national park. The area should be dedicated to free enterprise instead.

WILLIAM SMOLENSKY

Virginia

There are several communities close to the area which should have an opportunity to provide necessary visitor facilities through private enterprise.

DUAYNE ERDMAN  
KARL WEBER  
Voyageurs Camping Club

Mankato

Timber producers are opposed, in principle, to any program that would take forests out of production.

M. RUSS ALLEN  
Timber Producers Assoc.

Duluth

We must show the foresight of Theodore Wirth, and display the guts to shout down the vociferous minority who seek to perpetuate their domination of what should be public lands.

KEITH M. LYSÉN  
National Campers and Hikers Assoc.  
Minnetonka

There is already more than an adequate area owned by the government to provide for the reasonable needs of the public at present and in the future.

E. J. CHILGREN  
Former State Representative

Littlefork

In this day and age we must save all our natural resources for recreational purposes to recreate our own souls from the strains of modern-day living.

MRS. C. STAVENGER

Pipestone

## NATIONAL PARK?

### Minnesota Ponders Proposal

In all the United States there are only 32 national parks — most of them way out west. Now the Department of the Interior is proposing the creation of No. 33 to be located in northern Minnesota. Named after the old-time Voyageurs traders, it would join the ranks of such world-famous public preserves as Yellowstone, Glacier, Grand Teton.

The people of Minnesota, however, are by no means united in their glee at this glowing prospect. Many of those who live at or near the site see only a loss of land, taxes and timber. It was reported, for example, that "probably 90 per cent" of those who showed up at public hearings in northern Minnesota are opposed to the proposal.

Just what is the proposal?

**No Counterpart.** After years of studies and surveys (the idea was first hatched in 1891), the Interior's National Park Service has finally concluded that an area of 168,000 acres around Minnesota's Kabetogama Peninsula along the Canadian border deserves to be tapped: "It has no counterpart in the present national park system."

The actual site (see map) stretches 24 miles from Superior National Forest,

### Who Owns Kabetogama?

Here is how ownership of the 75,000 acres of Kabetogama Peninsula is now divided:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Industry            | 63% |
| State               | 14% |
| Individuals         | 13% |
| U.S. Forest Service | 7%  |
| Counties            | 3%  |

Source: National Park Service

on the east, toward International Falls. In addition to the peninsula it embraces Kabetogama Lake and parts of Rainy and Namakan lakes. In fact nearly a third of the park would consist of navigable waters.

"The proposed Voyageurs Park," says Howard R. Stagner of the Park Service, "would well represent a very significant American landscape type now missing in the national system — the northern forests and lake country." Other reasons cited for picking this particular spot:

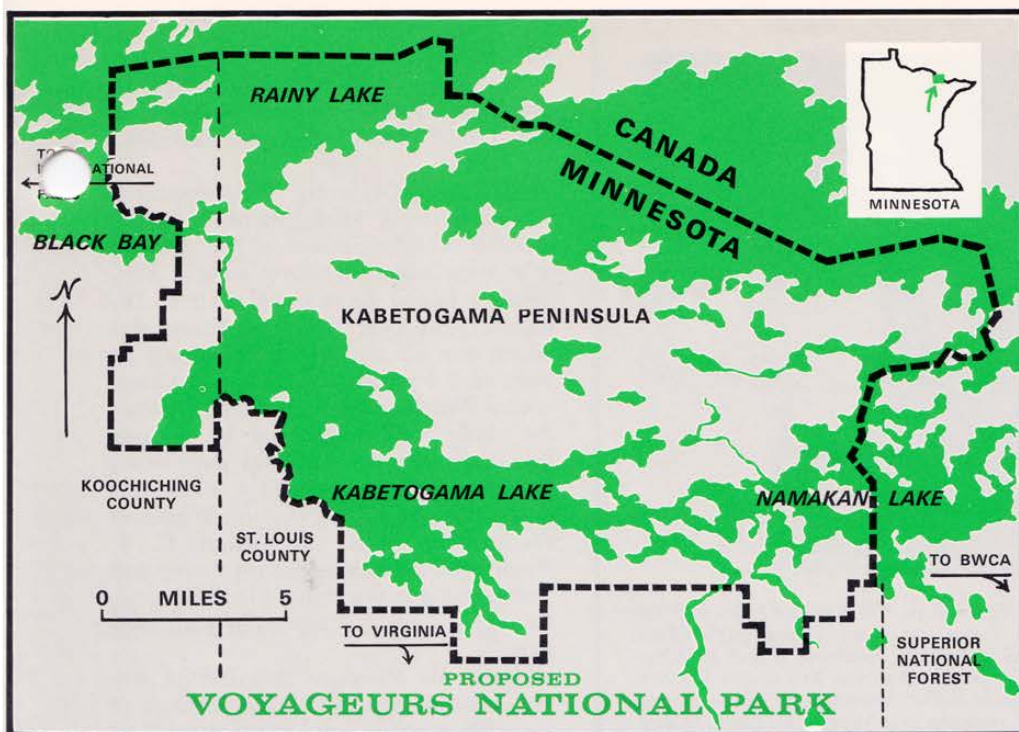
► **Geologic.** It contains the remnants of a billion-year old mountain range.

► **Historic.** It occupies an important segment of the "Voyageurs' Highway."

► **Scenic.** It promises a unique feature: instead of looking at water from the land, you would look at land from the water. (Travel within the park would be mostly by boat — or foot.)

**Land Grab?** Not all agree with this reasoning. Some critics, while favoring a national park for Minnesota, object to the Kabetogama site: the climate is too





cold, the season too short, the waters too rough, the landscape too flat. Crying "land grab," they point out that three-quarters of the peninsular is privately owned. Why not, they say, move the park a few miles east into the Lac La Croix area 85% of which is already in federal hands?

Opposition is also based on purely economic grounds: the annual loss of \$40,000 in taxes and 8,000 cords of timber, and the displacement of resort operators and summer cabin owners. Local residents are now demanding (and may get) "depth studies" of alternate sites. Final decision is up to Interior Secretary Udall.

**Double Your Money.** Those who favor the Voyageurs proposal insist that any immediate losses would be more than made up by permanent gains. Most telling arguments were put forth by three U of M professors who predict that in ten years the parkland's tourist income would be doubled—from \$2 million in '63 to \$4 million in '73. The area would also benefit by the \$9 million it would cost the federal government to develop and operate the park during its first five years. Timber production, they claim, could be restored from surpluses in adjoining forests. Resort operators would enjoy increased business: they would be encouraged to set up shop just outside the park. Few cabin owners would be disturbed: most would be offered a life tenure within the park.

As for alternate sites, the leading contender, Lac La Croix, is said to be less accessible than Kabetogama Peninsula and better suited to canoeing than to straight sightseeing. In fact it already is part of BWCA.

**Last Chance.** The case for a Voyageurs

National Park was summed up by author Sigurd Olson, who serves as special consultant to Secretary Udall:

"This is Minnesota's last and only chance for a national park. There is no other area with such great historic character and primitive beauty left within its borders . . . If we turn down this opportunity, the loss will be great, not only because the area needs protecting, but because of its prestige value and impact on the tourist industry."

Meanwhile the people ponder.

## LAND EXCHANGE The Governor Was Not Happy

A law (HF 567) passed by the 1965 state legislature may delay expansion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as ordered by Secretary Freeman, and might even jeopardize establishment of the proposed Voyageurs National Park. It prohibits for two years all exchange of federal and state lands in Superior National Forest.

When Tribune writer Jim Kimball asked Gov. Rolvaag, who signed the bill into law, how he felt about the measure, he replied that he felt "not at all happy."

**Harassment?** Said the governor: "I don't think it is good legislation, and there could possibly be a constitutional question in that it tries to eliminate the duties and powers of a constitutional body—the Land Exchange Commission. However, I talked to the people in the U. S. Forest Service and they thought it was less a serious matter than a harassment. On the basis of that I rather reluctantly signed it."

Rolvaag added that he would be "very opposed to this becoming a permanent

law," and explained that to continue the moratorium for more than two years "would hamper the development and management of recreational areas in northern Minnesota."

There were some who thought this might have been a good time for the governor to use his well-used veto pen.

## MORRC

### Report of a Two-Year-Old

Q-S Country is getting a good share of Minnesota's two-year-old multimillion-dollar natural resources program. Financed by a penny a pack cigarette tax that yields \$3½ million a year, the program is guided by the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission, created by the '63 legislature.

Already MORRC has helped channel some \$7 million into Minnesota lakes, streams and forests—much of it earmarked for improvement of the state park system. Because matching federal funds are now available MORRC's co-ordinator, F. Robert Edman, figures that in the next two years "over twice this amount will be invested in Minnesota's natural resources."

**Clamoring For Pie.** Besides suggesting places to put the money, MORRC is making a valiant effort to see that it is wisely spent. For example it induced the 1965 legislature to set up a long-range planning agency to eliminate duplication and conflict among various hungry state departments all clamoring for a piece of the conservation pie. MORRC also had a big hand in these resourceful moves:

- First complete inventory of the state's natural resources.
- Financial support for counties and municipalities who wish to do their own recreation planning.
- Broadening the natural resource concept to include such areas as historic site preservation, archaeology and paleontology (study of fossils).

Result of these actions has been to put into effect major recommendations made in 1962 by former Gov. Elmer L. Andersen's Natural Resources Council which was directed by Q-S Foundation president H. T. McKnight. MORRC chairman is Sen. Henry Harren of Albany.

## Q-S Study Group Formed

To help the Quetico-Superior Foundation keep abreast of fast-moving conservation developments, H. T. McKnight, president, has appointed a Continuing Study Committee within the organization.

Headed by James T. Wyman, the group will make recommendations to the board on all matters affecting Quetico-Superior Country and BWCA. Members are Russell W. Fridley, F. Peavey Heffelfinger, Jr., John C. Savage, Elizabeth Melone Winston and Frederick Winston.





**A STATE PARK IS RE-BORN.** On a raw, rainy Sunday afternoon last September a group of shivering North Shore enthusiasts gathered on the left bank of Minnesota's Arrowhead River, 15 miles up Highway 61 from Grand Marais, to change the name of the Bois Brule to the Judge C. R. Mag-

ney State Park. Officiating at the dedication ceremony were (from left) Chief Justice Oscar R. Knutson, Albert M. Marshall, president of the Minnesota Council of State Parks, Minneapolis Judge Edwin P. Chapman and Wayne H. Olson, Commissioner of Conservation for Minnesota.

## OUTDOOR MAN

*This profile is condensed from an article by Russell W. Fridley which appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press shortly after Judge Magney's death, at Rochester, in May, 1962.*

### And a Good Judge Too

CLARENCE R. MAGNEY was perhaps most frequently identified as a distinguished judge of the state supreme court or as mayor of Duluth during the first world war. Able lawyer and jurist that he was, he will be most remembered for his avocation — preserving Minnesota's natural scenery and historic sites.

What he accomplished constitutes an ambitious program of preservation that would do credit to any major state park system or state historical society. A dozen state parks along the North Shore, comprising 20,000 acres, were added — an area amounting to one sixth of the total acreage in the present state park system.

**He Knew Trout Streams.** One did not have to visit long with the judge to discover his irrepressible pride in the North Shore and his abiding concern that it be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Here, he believed, was an area whose natural beauty constituted one of the most spectacular scenic areas to be found anywhere. As a young man he walked its wilderness trails and came to know its trout streams, picturesque waterfalls, rock-bound shores and rich historical tradition. Thus he became its foremost champion seeking to preserve its natural setting.

Perhaps his most remarkable achievement was the indispensable role he played in the long and difficult movement that ultimately resulted in an agreement in 1958 which paved the way for the establishment of a national monument at Grand Portage.

**Preserving the Devil's Track.** Basic to his philosophy of conservation was an



**PARK PROMOTER MAGNEY**  
*A man of magnitude*

uncompromising emphasis upon preservation. The magnitude of this man's contribution to Minnesota can only be fully appreciated by a visit to Grand Portage and to the North Shore parks he brought into being — Jay Cooke, Split Rock, Baptism, Bois Brule, Manitou, Kodonice, Ray Berglund, Caribou, Cross and Devil's Track.

Our state will indeed be fortunate if the future provides it with dedicated citizens such as Clarence Magney.

## POLLUTION

### Lost Lakes?

"As a result of current pollution trends, over-use and mis-use, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Lakes are becoming lost lakes."

This headline-luring pronouncement was made by a Michigan State faculty member who for reasons of his own did a little pollution detective work in Minnesota's famed recreational waters. His report, "The Lost Lakes of Minnesota" which was released in March, stirred up more than a ripple in the Land of Lakes.

**Like Watching Football.** Some felt that the study itself might not be entirely free from pollution. Findings were based on samples of certain BWCA lakes variously listed as 17, 19 and 49. Whatever the number, even the author, C. R. Humphrys, confessed that his survey was "comparable to watching a football game for one second and reporting your findings."

► **Item.** An inference that BWCA fish are contaminated by DDT as a result of pesticide spraying was "substantiated" by an analysis of one ½-lb. small mouth bass taken from one lake.

As to the true extent of pollution in BWCA lakes, nobody knows for sure. Are they or aren't they?

To find the all-important answer, the Quetico-Superior Foundation has offered to help underwrite the cost of a professional pollution study in BWCA this summer. The investigation would be under the general direction of the Water Research Foundation, a non-profit organization headed by H. Alexander Dean, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Actual field work would be supervised by an internationally recognized hydrologist, Eugene A. Hickok P.E. of Excelsior. Since serving as captain in the Marines during the Korean War, Hickok, who earned his MS at Princeton, has been up to his leatherneck in water studies in New England, New York, Minnesota, Central America and the Caribbean. His preliminary report on BWCA should emerge next fall.

### I'M OFFISHAL



One thing the recent session of the state legislature accomplished — with an assist from Sen. McKnight — was to declare Minnesota's official fish to be *stizostedion vitreum* (also called the walleye).