



QUETICO-SUPERIOR COUNTRY



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SUMMER 1967

NATIONAL PARK

Last Chance

"We would like to see a national park in Minnesota," says Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, who runs the National Park Service.

So, it seems, would everybody else like to see a national park here — except possibly some who own property at the proposed Kabetogama site for the Voyageurs National Park just east of International Falls (see map, next page). Now even these hold-outs are beginning to realize that any reductions in tax revenue and timber production will be more than offset by solid long-term gains for themselves and the whole state.

As Udall observes, "There has been some local opposition to every national park when first proposed, but subsequently local residents have been overwhelmingly pleased."

Pay-off. In Minneapolis, Municipal Judge Edwin P. Chapman, who heads an association to promote the Voyageurs, cites impressive evidence that national parks pay their own way many times over. Examples:

► **GRAND TETON (Wyo.):** Sales and real estate values in Teton County almost doubled in 8-year period.

► **GLACIER (Mont.):** Now brings in annual expenditures of \$4 million for immediate area and an extra \$8 million for the rest of the state.

► **GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS (Tenn.):** 5½ million visitors a year spend \$42 million within a 30-mile radius of the park.

As for the economic prospects of Voyageurs, three faculty members at the U of Minn., who peered deeply into the region, predict that in 10 years the tourism take up there will just about double. In addition, during the first five years of the park's existence, the federal government is expected to invest some \$9 million for development and operation.

Water, Water, Everywhere. So why doesn't Minnesota have that national park today? Action (which involves an OK by Congress) was slowed down by demands for consideration of alternate sites in the border country. However, it now appears

PARKS VS. FORESTS

The difference between National Parks and National Forests confuses many people. In general, National Parks have been established to preserve superlative examples of natural beauty or historic significance. Their geological features, plant and animal life are protected; they are outdoor museums. In Forests, however, the emphasis is on use — logging, grazing, mining. National Forests cover seven times as much land as National Parks.

From Whose Woods These Are
By MICHAEL FROME

certain that if the people of Minnesota are to have a national park, they must accept the Kabetogama site as originally proposed in 1964 by the Park Service. "Here," they argued, "is the only remaining glacial country of this size and scope in the United States that is still relatively un-

changed by man and which includes such an outstanding variety of interconnected lakes — large, medium and small. It is the adaptability to public use and enjoyment that makes this area nationally significant." And just the other day NPS regional director Fred Fagergren went up to take another look, concluded: "The scenery is terrific."

Of all the U. S. national parks (there are only 33 in the entire system), the Voyageurs would be the only one where visitors would view its wonders from the water instead of the land. Since water covers 60,000 of its 168,000 acres, boats would be the main means of transportation. But first the park itself must be launched.

"Specifically needed," advised the Minneapolis Star on May 13, "is a bill authored by Rep. John Blatnik, whose district embraces the park." Blatnik has now stated that "the stage will be clearly set" for such a bill by next year. Then, indeed, will come Minnesota's last chance to realize its 76-year-old dream for a national park.

KABETOGRAMA'S WATERWAYS: A NATIONAL PARK BY 1968?

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



WHO NEEDS A NATIONAL PARK?

Along with the rest of the country, Minnesota is on the threshold of the greatest tourist boom in history. The question is, will our state get its full share of this booming business?

Fortunately there is one almost certain way to insure the answer we all want: immediate and unanimous acceptance of the National Park Service proposal to establish the Voyageurs National Park at Kabetogama. This proposal, incidentally, has been heartily endorsed by each of Minnesota's four most recent governors.

The counties of northeastern Minnesota need that national park to bolster their economy. They need the millions of tourist dollars that are bound to flow from those beautiful waterways — year after year after year.

Nearby International Falls needs that national park. Resort owners, business and professional people, representatives of trades and labor, employees of the Boise Cascade paper mill — all have underscored this need by banding together in a local (and highly vocal) chapter of the Voyageurs National Park Association.

The United States of America needs that national park in Minnesota. As population expands, parkland shrinks. According to U. S. News (June 19,

1967), "Close to 150 million visitors are expected to show up this year at the gates of national parks and other areas administered by the National Park Service." Just since 1960 their numbers have steadily increased each year by at least 10 million. This is one reason why President Johnson, in his State of the Union Message, made such a strong plea for creating more national parks.

Our neighboring states throughout the Midwest would give anything to be tapped for a national park. In fact, right now no less than 28 different areas — from Vermont to California, from Florida to Alaska — are desperately competing against Minnesota for this honor. Kabetogama is one of the few areas that can qualify — if only we will let it.

Who needs a national park? The people who live in the Rainy-Kabetogama area need a national park. So do the people in the rest of the northeastern counties. So do all the people of our state and all the people of every state in the land. Everybody needs a national park.

Now is the time for Minnesota to stride forward and take positive action on the Voyageurs National Park.

HENRY T. McKNIGHT

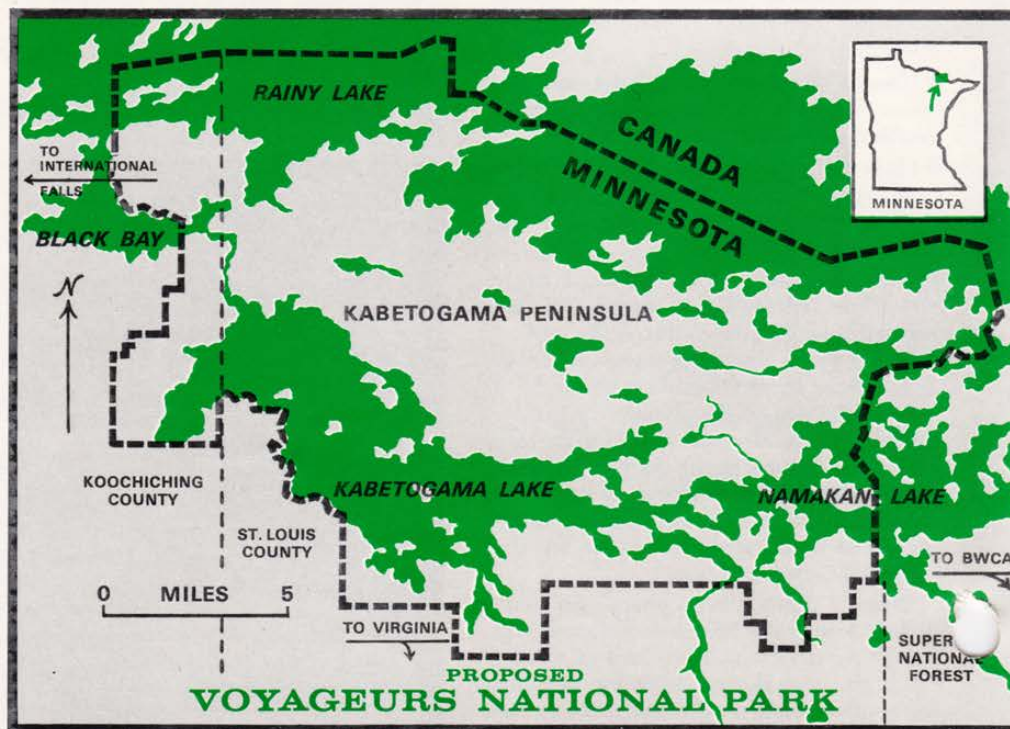
Wilderness News

Published from time to time 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., Walter E. Pratt, 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, 2400 First National Bank Building, Minneapolis, Minn. 55402.



"One of the few that can qualify."

WHO WANTS A NATIONAL PARK?



PRES. JOHNSON: "We should carry to every corner of the nation our campaign for creating more parks."



VICE-PRES. HUMPHREY: Asked about a Voyageurs National Park for Minnesota, he replied, "I'd love it."



SEC'Y FREEMAN: "If there's going to be a national park in Minnesota, it is going to have to be at Kabetogama."



SEN. McCARTHY: "We all agree that a national park in northern Minnesota would be of great value to the people."



"DEAR ABBY" (Abigail Van Buren): "My advice to Minnesota: let's give ourselves that national park."



SEN. MONDALE: "I strongly favor the idea of a national park in Minnesota, and believe we should have one."



GOV. LEVANDER: "The Voyageurs National Park is No. 1 on Minnesota's list of natural resources projects."



REP. BLATNIK: "The stage will be clearly set for congressional authorization of the national park in 1968."



GOV. ANDERSEN: "A national park is what we want, and the only place we're going to get it is Kabetogama."

CUTTINGS

The Park & the People

► If Voyageurs National Park becomes a reality people from all over the world will visit it.

DICK DUERRE

Minneapolis

► This park would provide access by highway to the only national park in the Midwest other than Isle Royale. It would bring the attraction of a national park within an easy drive of our major tourist markets in Chicago, Kansas City, Des Moines, Twin Cities and other centers. It would provide a tourist potential of literally millions of dollars for the northeastern Minnesota economy.

DALE W. OLSEN
FRED WITZIG

Duluth

► Several areas in Minnesota might qualify in some one or more respects as a "nation's park," but only one — Kabetogama — meets all the criteria.

JUDGE LEVI M. HALL

Minneapolis

► We of the 8th District DFL passed a resolution favoring this park. Much enthusiasm by delegates was evident.

TOM FITZPATRICK

Two Harbors

► California, Oregon and Washington have been more farsighted and have preserved large sections of the Pacific Coast for public use. We need to preserve a few wilderness lakes before they all become mere suburbs for the benefit of a few people.

ROBERT NORDGREN

Minneapolis

► We hear no outcries against any of the other already established national parks. To the contrary, they attract tourists in tremendous numbers. It is estimated, for example, that 920,000 tourists will visit the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore annually by 1970.

ZACHARY M. BAKER

Minneapolis

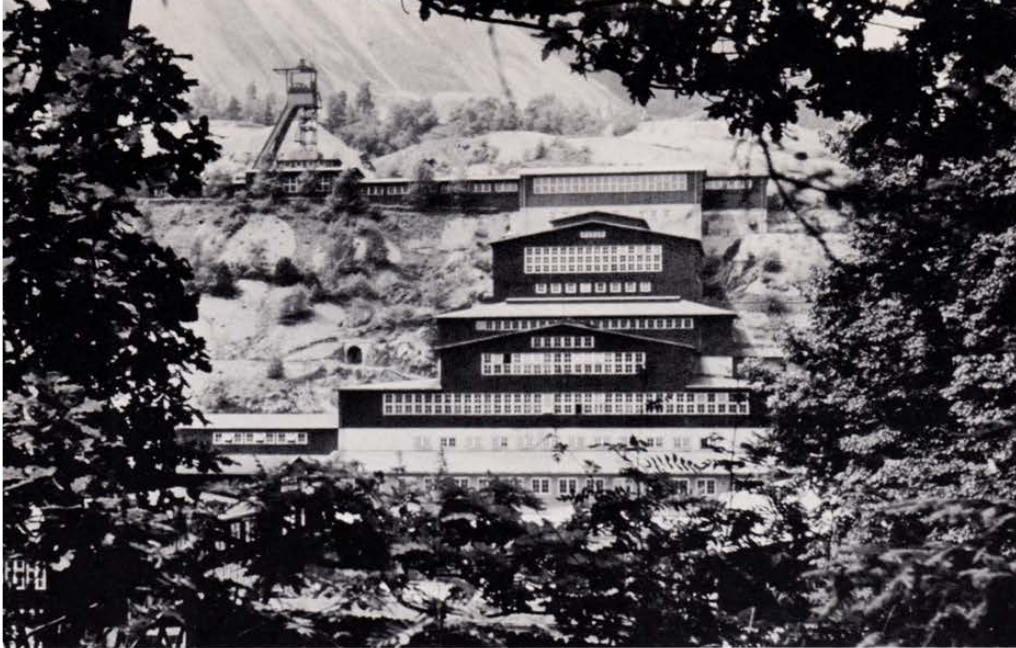
► I do not see how a national park could avoid helping the area.

JOHN BRULE

Isle Royale passenger boat captain
Grand Portage

► We had an enthusiastic demonstration by the people living in this area that we want the Voyageurs National Park established here soon.

WAYNE M. JUDY
President, VNPA Chapter
International Falls



HAMMELBURG MINE IN WEST GERMANY
No need to clobber the countryside.

EUGENE P. PFLEIDER

COPPER-NICKEL

Too Close for Comfort?

After 113 years of sparring and speculating, probing and prospecting, the fabled copper-nickel deposits of northern Minnesota are about to get their first real (and perhaps final) test. It will be conducted by Canada's International Nickel Co. (Inco) at the very threshold of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Spurred by special state tax laws, Inco has started sinking a 1000-ft. exploratory shaft, costing \$1.3 million, near the South Kawishiwi River about 8 miles southeast of Ely (see map).

Bonanza or Bust? Ore samples hauled up this shaft will provide an answer, probably next year, to the vital question: bonanza or bust? (To be commercially feasible a ton of ore, called "gabbro," should yield about 12 lbs. of copper and 3 lbs. of nickel.) A successful pilot test by Inco could blossom into a \$100 million full-scale operation, 1,500 jobs and a payroll of \$8 million. It could also trigger activity by the ten other mining companies who are sitting on leases totaling 180,000 acres — from Duluth to the woods north of Grand Marais.

All this, of course, would herald happy days for northeastern Minnesota while helping to satisfy world hunger for the scarce metals. But at what price?

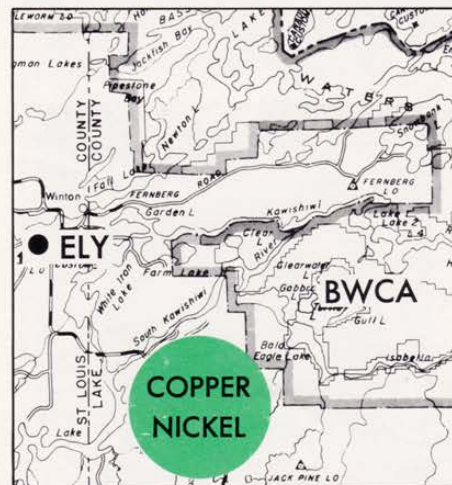
Ugly Scars. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which covers about a third of the 150-mile long Duluth Gabbro, is out of bounds to miners. Yet some wilderness lovers fear that copper-nickel mining may come too close for comfort. They can't forget the ugly scars so often left in the wake of mines — ramshackle buildings, dumps, pits and denuded landscapes.

"But it doesn't have to be so," says Prof. Eugene P. Pfeider, head of the U's Mining & Metallurgical Engineering School.

For a picture-book example, he points to West Germany's old Hammelburg iron mine (photo) which has been chugging away for more than 1,000 years without clobbering the countryside. He notes, too, that even in America's Midwest the scenery has sometimes been actually improved by the creation of pure, deep lakes after coal mines were abandoned.

Prescription. Pfeider offers these beauty treatment suggestions during and after mining operations:

- Roads needed for mines should be closed to other traffic — and guarded.
- Buildings should be designed to fit into the surrounding scenery.
- Operations should avoid pollution of waters, damage to wildlife.
- Area should be reclaimed so as to leave a safe and pleasant site.



John O. Wernham, who supervises Superior National Forest (where many of the copper-nickel deposits are thought to occur) has assured the public that federal leases do indeed include such stipulations. Nevertheless, friends of BWCA have their fingers crossed.