



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SUMMER 1981

## QUETICO ENTRY STATIONS CLOSED ON BASSWOOD APRIL-MAY

Canadian officials said on April 2 that U.S. citizens would not be allowed to paddle their canoes in the summer of 1981 through two popular entry points on Basswood Lake. Roughly half of Quetico's visitors annually enter the park at the two Basswood points, but the Canadian federal government said it was closing customs stations there for economic reasons.

The action angered Ely canoe outfitters and resort owners who rely on Canada to allow American canoeists easy access into Quetico Park. The sentiment was not shared by their Canadian counterparts at Atikokan, Ontario. The Canadian outfitters felt that more U.S. visitors would drive to Atikokan and enter Quetico from there instead of going through Ely. The Canadian Customs Service said it would continue to operate stations at Saganaga Lake and Crane Lake. Those entry points, of course, are far from Ely and have never been as popular or as accessible as the Basswood entry stations.

Representatives Bruce Vento, Fourth District, and James Oberstar, Eighth District, protested the closing action to Canadian officials.

In late May Canadian officials agreed to re-open the Prairie Portage Customs Station at least for the remainder of this tourist season. That warning sounded somewhat ominous as far as the summer of 1982 and beyond. The Ottawa Island Station would not be re-opened.

A future cost-cutting and workable compromise might take the form of an on-shore telephone station such as the type used by Canadian Customs and Immigration Departments in the Sault Ste. Marie area. A boat using Canadian waters in that area reports

the necessary information by telephone and the Customs Officer has the option of requiring an additional check if necessary before entry is permitted. Most such telephone checks are merely routine. This way canoeists could check in with Customs and Immigration by telephone. They could also deposit any necessary customs fee in a collection box. The Immigration Department could still meet its statutory obligations of an immigration check.

A number of U.S. canoeists in fact did drive their automobiles to Nymm Lake and other Canadian entry points in April and May. Canoeists attempting to enter the Quetico

through Crane Lake found that the entry quotas into Canada were filled and trips had to be delayed.

When Prairie Portage was re-opened it was structured on the basis of fifteen permits per day, a cutback from twenty-seven permits in previous years. A visitor permit is needed for a canoe party of up to nine people. Consequently, on some weekends since June 12, parties who have wanted to go into Quetico have been disappointed because no permits were available. Canadian officials advised that despite the closing of the two popular entry points, a record number of U.S. citizens visited Quetico Park in May and June.

## BWCA CITIZENS TASK FORCE

In 1979 the Minnesota Legislature established the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Citizens' Advisory Task Force to study and recommend policies for implementing the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act. The Task Force came about through the efforts of northeastern Minnesotans who opposed passage of the BWCA Act. Environmentalists generally opposed the creation of the Task Force and feared it would become a state-subsidized lobby like the Voyageurs National Park Committee. Establishment of the Task Force was part of a compromise that paved the way for creation of Tettegouche State Park.

Governor Quie appointed 17 members to the Task Force. By law, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties are entitled to three representatives each with the remainder chosen at-large from around the state. Although a few members wished the committee

to become an effective opponent of the BWCA Act, Richard Humphrey, Chairman, and others prevailed in their view that the Task Force should restrict itself to studying pertinent BWCA issues, such as Congressional appropriations, the buy-out provisions of the BWCA Act, or acid rain, and recommending policies.

At its second meeting an Ely representative moved that the Task Force go on record supporting the State's legal suit against the BWCA Act. After considerable discussion, the committee voted 10-6 to table the motion because such stands were inappropriate to the committee.

Since then the Task Force has studied BWCA issues but has issued no comprehensive reports or sweeping policies. Although innocuous insofar as the BWCA is concerned, the state's taxpayers spent \$15,000 annually to maintain the committee.



# A FINANCIALLY STRONG AND HIGH PROFILE WILDERNESS SOCIETY FACES 1981 CHALLENGES

In late 1980 Gaylord Nelson who had served eighteen years as United States Senator was appointed Chairman of the Wilderness Society. Shortly thereafter, Joseph L. Fisher, who had served for six years as a member of the House of Representatives from Virginia, became the first Director of the Society's Economic Policies Department. At the Society's Denver meeting in June it was announced that Cecil Andrus, former Secretary of Interior and another outstanding spokesperson for the Society, would become a special consultant to the Wilderness Society.

Under the very able leadership of William O. Turnage, Executive Director, and Harold A. Jerry, Jr., President of the Governing Council, the Society has rebuilt its endowment to

over one million dollars. 1980 was highlighted by three very significant grants. The first was a \$620,000, 3-year grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to establish an Economic Policy Department. Second, the Society established a forest management program with a \$165,000 gift from Jennifer and Edmund Stanley. Finally, the Society received a \$120,000 3-year grant from the Steele-Reese Foundation to support the work of the Society's Northern Rockies regional representative. The Wilderness Society has truly seen renaissance in the past twenty-four months. It has become the national voice in responding to the anti-environmental initiatives of Interior Secretary Watt.



Joseph L. Fisher, Director; Economic Policy Department

## WATT'S THE MATTER

Since James Watt took office as Interior Secretary early this year, he has moved aggressively to place his stamp on the department that oversees more than 770 million acres of government-owned land. He has accelerated the sale of offshore oil and gas leases, eliminated a big chunk of the department surface mining enforcement program and increased industry access to extensive wilderness areas for drilling, mining and exploration.



Gaylord Nelson, Chairman; The Wilderness Society

tion. Next on the list, Mr. Watt wants to halt purchase of additional land for federal parks.

Mr. Nathaniel Reed, a Florida businessman and GOP figure who held high Interior Department posts under four Interior Secretaries, said that he is "deeply concerned" that the Reagan administration wants to "turn its back on the Republican Party's long and proud" conservation tradition.

Unless Mr. Watt is forced to moderate his attack, Mr. Reed cautions, "a whole generation of Americans will come to believe that the only people who care about the environment are the Democrats."

Gaylord Nelson, Chairman of the Wilderness Society, points out that, "traditionally, Secretaries of Interior have been strong and outspoken advocates of the conservation ethic. In the past twenty years we have had the positive leadership of Stewart Udall, Wally Hickel, Rogers Morton and Cecil Andrus. They share the same philosophy and sought the same goals. Whatever differences they had were matters of degree, not principle. I think it accurate to say that they would have nothing to share with Secretary Watt except that they all once held the same title."

Mr. Nelson continues, "Mr. Watt is clearly contemptuous of the concept of wilderness. He believes there should be maximum exploitation of

all resources on all available public land without particular regard for unique and beautiful areas."

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, the Sierra Club and other organizations have initiated the "Watt Watch" to resist the aggressive moves of Watt which will cause serious exploitation and degradation of our country's natural resources.



## HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SLASHES FUNDS FOR BWCA

In May the House Appropriations Committee cut nearly in half the federal government appropriations for the BWCA for fiscal 1982. Included in the cut were \$2.5 million to buy resorts from owners who wished to sell and \$3 million in grants to the Minnesota Forestry Program to improve timber production from state-owned forests. The 1978 Boundary Waters Wilderness Act contains specific lan-

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# SIG OLSON HONORED AT BUILDING DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION

The formal dedication of the new home for the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin took place on May 9. More than 500 people participated in the salute to author Sigurd Olson.

The new building will house the activity of the Institute staff and also serve as a conference and display facility. The building is a very attractive, modern structure utilizing to the fullest natural materials and facing south to take greatest possible advantage of solar heating. A massive internal wall and the floor of the building's interior serve to collect and hold solar heat.

A special feature of the building is that part of the lumber has come from trees that were planted by the famed Wisconsin naturalist, Aldo Leopold. Nina Leopold Bradley, the naturalist's daughter, and her husband,

Charles, have donated for the building Norway and white pine trees from the Leopold Preserve near Baraboo, Wisconsin. All elements of the landscape and natural vegetation have been altered as little as possible to maximize the building's environmental character.

The Sigurd Olson Institute was founded in 1972. Sigurd Olson speaks of the philosophy of the Institute: "The guiding philosophy of this Institute should be the enhancement of life in our beautiful northern region through the dissemination of environmental and social knowledge and the encouragement of practices that will protect and preserve the unique character of our homeland here in the north. If we can change our priorities, achieve balance in understanding in our roles as human beings in a complete world, the coming era can well be that of a richer civilization, not its

end. This is the challenge in which the Institute of Environmental Studies will play its part in the years to come."

Keynote speaker at the celebration was Gaylord Nelson, Chairman of the Wilderness Society. Presentation of the first Robert Marshall Award to Sigurd Olson for exceptional contributions to the conservation movement was made by Harold Jerry, President of the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society. Marshall was a founder of the Wilderness Society and was a contemporary and friend of Sigurd Olson.

The primary goal of the Institute is to make the regional community more aware of the natural environment, to clarify and develop a set of values regarding environmental decisions within that community and to increase citizen participation in decisions involving resource management.



Sig and Elizabeth Olson listen to old (and true) stories from Sig's past at Northland celebration.



New home of the Sigurd Olson Institute of Environmental Studies at Northland College.

## HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SLASHES FUNDS FOR BWCA

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guage committing the government to carry out these appropriations. Under the 1978 law which restricts motor boating and logging in BWCA, Congress promised to assist small businesses and resorts that were adversely affected and to intensify management of federal forest lands.

Representatives James Oberstar and Bruce Vento of Minnesota urged the Committee to approve \$13.45 million for BWCA for fiscal 1982. Congressman Vento said that funds are essential to continue a program of reforestation. "The state has 37.5 million trees ready to be planted in the BWCA, but without federal funds for fiscal 1982, these young seedlings will have to be plowed under," Vento said.

In late July a Senate subcommittee appeared ready to restore part of the slashed funds. The subcommittee agreed to a grant of \$3 million for reforestation. Uncertainty remains over \$2.5 million in fiscal 1982 to buy resorts from owners who wish to sell.

Letters in support of funding the two provisions should be sent to Senator James McClure, Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Sub-Committee, Washington, D.C. 20510. Conservation organizations throughout the state have urged support of the funding.



# STATE OF MINNESOTA ASKS APPEALS COURT TO VOID BWCA MOTORBOAT LIMITS

In July 1980, Judge Miles Lord ruled in favor of environmental groups who urged the Court to sustain the October, 1978 Boundary Waters Wilderness Act. On June 18, 1981, the State of Minnesota asked the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, St. Paul, to throw out portions of the 1978 law which limits use of motorboats and snowmobiles in the BWCA.

The state argued that the federal government cannot extend its regulations beyond federal lands and waters to state-owned land and waters.

The case was taken under advisement by the three-judge panel. The decision probably will not be announced for several months. The case is attracting national attention because it represents an attack on wilderness preservation.

Attorney Brian O'Neill has been superb in representing the Sierra Club and several other environmental groups since the outset of the litigation in late 1979. He has worked on a volunteer basis throughout the trial and appellate levels of the cases. He told the court that Congress intended to establish an area of wilderness. "If you're going to allow motorboats in those areas you won't have a wilderness," O'Neill said.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, headed by Joseph Alexander, has said that it would

Motorboats on Rose Lake below Stairway Portage in summer, 1977. The Boundary Waters Wilderness Act of 1978 brought quiet back to the lake and the land. Governor Quie and DNR Commissioner Alexander are determined to change all that and to return the boats, their noise, their fumes, their speed, their intrusion.



adopt motorboat regulations different from those of the federal government, allowing larger motors on some lakes.

Environmentalists wondered why Governor Quie and his DNR head have exerted their efforts to rekindle the controversy over the BWCA when the state now faces many grave financial problems of high priority on which the governor can focus energies.

## Wilderness News

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