

- The Ontario Forestry Branch also maintains daily airplane patrol over the entire Quetico Park.
- Fire Ranger, Paddy Ryan, was testing the first fire pump ever used in Rainy River District when a jet of water from the fire hose hit and demolished a small mound of earth. Much to Paddy's surprise, about 200 or 300 birch bark Indian scrolls were unearthed by the force of the water.

Letter from J. A. Mathieu to Minister of Lands and Forests

"Just off hand, I can't see any particular benefit in making a treaty between U.S.A. and Canada, which would create an International Park - part of which would lie in Ontario and part in Minnesota. I can see a good deal of benefit in having close cooperation between the Minnesota authorities and the Ontario authorities and between Superintendents and the Rangers in these two Parks. There is at present good feelings and cooperation in that respect which I think could be widened and which would work out to the benefit which naturally accrues from Park areas."

--Carl Anderson of Minneapolis came to Atikokan to hunt timber wolves wearing a leather suit and helmet with 2-1/2" steel spikes about 2" apart covering the suit. This plus a small axe with a 26" handle were his only weapons. He set out for Steep Rock Lake, full of enthusiasm. Week after week he waited and none came, in spite of him acting as a wounded deer and an injured rabbit. The wolves kept a set of three hills of good hard Laurentian bedrock continually between themselves and the spiky leather suit. Finally, Joe Gordon, an old-time trapper came with two large wolves taken with poisoned bait and Mr. Anderson had his picture taken with them for a story in the Minneapolis newspaper.

A laugh is just like music
It freshens up the day
It tips the peaks of life with light
And drives the clouds away

The soul grows glad that hears it
And feels its courage strong
A laugh is just like sunshine
For cheering folks along

Anonymous

1925

In March, 1925, Hugh McDonald resigns as superintendent of Quetico Park due to allegations he spent the Quetico fishing and guiding licence revenue, (\$1,200.00) on booze.

Notes from the Superior National Forest 1917 - 1924

Superior National Forest Supervisors

Leslie Brownell 1917 - 1919.
Calvin Dahlgren 1919 - 1924.
1919 - 12,750 visitors to Superior National Forest
1920 - Highways proposed into interior of Superior National Forest.

1922

Hugo Sundling was a forest guard and lookout in Superior National Forest in 1922. One could go from Two Harbors to Grand Marais only by boat and had to walk north from Grand Marais with packsacks over tote roads and trails. In 1922, he spent time in a wooden fire lookout tower 30 feet high. If the telephone line didn't work, the first priority was to hit the trail to find the break or where the line was grounded. Moose took delight in getting tangled up in the wire. It was a thrill to be repairing the line and have someone along the line make a ring when one had hold of the wires. The resulting shock was a good one.

1923

1923 - A bad fire year in Superior National Forest. Excerpt from "A Pioneer Minnesota Game Warden" by Joseph Brickner:

"On October 10, Bill Hanson and I embarked on our first wilderness patrol trip by canoe along the Canadian Border. We paddled leisurely, inspecting beaver house areas on the way, pulling up traps whenever we found them. Each night we made camp at a different lake. Several days out, however, I came down with a miserable cold and was quite ill when we entered Frazier Lake and approached John Ek's trapping cabin.

As we pulled up at Ek's landing, we could see that the sauna (bathhouse) fire was lit. John Ek had a guest, Lindsay Lindsay, a neighbouring trapper in the forest wilderness. The two had come together for the Saturday night sauna. I practically was carried by Bill from the canoe into the cabin. John and Cully laid me on a table and quickly decided on my treatment - a sauna for the flu.

With some misgivings I took my first sauna, or Finnish steam bath, in which small compartments of a boxlike hut are filled with steam generated by the splashing of water or fireheated rocks. When I was well steamed, John Ek took me back to the cabin and gave me a thorough massage. With that, I was rolled in a blanket and placed in a bunk. This trapper's medicinal therapy did the trick, and Bill and I were able to continue our canoeing.

We resumed our trek eastward, enjoying some wonderful Indian summer weather but also paddling through days of wet snow. At Little Saganaga Lake we visit Olaf Harri, another isolated trapper, who treated us to the typical forest hospitality.

On Mora Lake, however, we encountered trappers of a different type - outlaws. As we appeared on this lake, two men in a canoe ahead of us paddled furiously for the beach, jumped out, and ran into the woods. We found both beaver and traps in the canoe. After a short search, we came across a trapping camp hidden in the cove of a small island. Confiscating everything we could carry in the seized canoe, we went on with our patrol. Our discovery of the outlaws proved an unexpected delight to Bill Hanson. He was virtually out of Peerless, and among the outlaw's supplies were twelve bags of it.

"To the victor belongs the spoils," piped Bill, dropping the prize tobacco into his own packsack.

We never did catch the two culprits, but they must have had a long, unpleasant walk out of the forest without their canoe and equipment."

1924

Leo Chosa, Minnesota game warden, took Miss Ruth O'Brien, a teacher at Duluth Central High School and 6 others on a winter trip into Superior National Forest. He took them to a cabin on Evergreen Island in Basswood Lake and visited Jeff Seeley, a Canadian forest ranger. They slept in tents at 30 below. Unpleasantly rigorous for a vacation? - not at all! Everyone came back to Duluth feeling rested and gloriously healthy from the unsullied whiteness of mid-winter.

Leo Chosa claims the dwindling moose population may be due to a "strange malady" (probably blind staggers contracted from growing numbers of white-tailed deer).



Author Shan Walshe is the Quetico Park Naturalist, a position he has held for the past 14 years, and knows the Quetico-Superior area like the back of his hand. He is the author of the recently published book: Plants of Quetico and the Ontario Shield. Shirley Peruniak is the Park Historian and is also very knowledgeable about the Quetico-Superior area from first-hand experience. She has researched and written extensively on the cultural aspects of Quetico Park.

This is the sixth of a series of articles on Quetico and the Quetico-Superior 75th Anniversary.