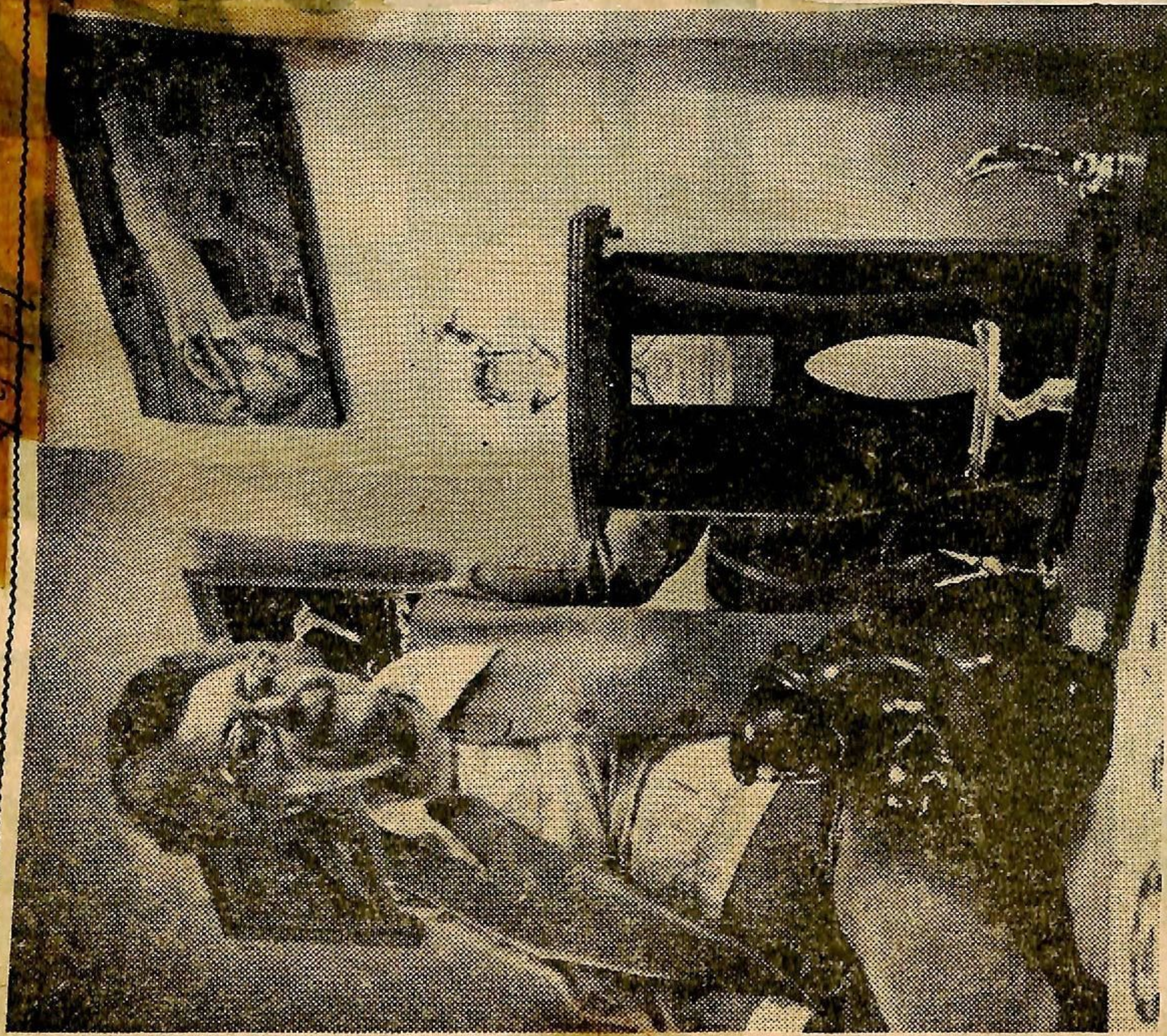


1977



Roselle Hughes worked right alongside her late husband, great outdoorsman and founder of the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters, Len Hughes. In recognition for her outstanding performance in the field of Northern tourism, she recently received the annual NOTOA trophy, the Bob Giles Award. A Karsh of Ottawa photograph of the Hughes' late son, Peter, on Lillibelle Lake, near Cochrane, during his piloting and guiding days, hangs above the trophy.

—Nugget Staff Photo by Dave Palangio

## North's 'Mrs. Paul Bunyan' receives Outfitters' award

By LINDA WILKINS-VOLLRATH  
Nugget Staff Reporter

"This really belongs to Len," said Mrs. Len Hughes as she displayed the trophy recently presented to her.

The Bob Giles Award, presented annually to an Ontario Tourism Association Outfitter in recognition of outstanding performance in the field of Northern Ontario tourism, rightfully stands in the living room of Roselle Hughes' home on Algonquin Ave. Roselle Hughes and her husband and worked with him through every phase of his famed career in Northern tourism, specifically in the operation of Camp Champlain on Trout Lake which was opened by Len in 1920. Len

retired in 1956 to "do a little fishing and exploring" he told The Nugget at that time. He passed away in 1966.

His memory and the memories of 36 years in the tourist and conservation business are carefully and fascinatingly recorded in the photographs, certificates, albums and love of nature decor of Roselle Hughes' home.

Ever mindful of the preservation and conservation of Northern Ontario's wildlife, Mr. Hughes, described as Northern Ontario's "Paul Bunyan," in 1929, invited every known camp operator to attend a meeting in North Bay. The outcome of that small gathering was the establishment of the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters

Association. He was president of the association for 18 years and Roselle acted as his secretary for 10 of those years.

Mrs. Hughes recalls how her husband was instrumental in gaining the attention and respect of government officials who were responsible for the future of the Northland.

On behalf of that future, he visited every corner of Northern Ontario, Quebec based meetings of the Outfitters' Association and Wildlife Institute of America meetings in many U.S. cities, nearly always accompanied by Roselle whom he married in 1916.

A special memory for Roselle is of the time in the summer of 1941, when the Hughes received as their guests at the camp, the stars of the movie "Captains of the Clouds," including James Cagney, Dennis Morgan, Brenda Marshall, Alan Hale Sr. and George Tobias.

A North Bay girl, Middy Morland (now Mrs. Jack Gorman of Toronto) was Brenda Marshall's "stand-in" and there was a scene in which she had to stand on top of a haystack while Cagney swooped his plane low overhead, in fact within inches of Middy's head. Some of Hollywood's top stunt flyers were here for the flying scenes. Mrs. Hughes recalled that although many wilderness areas were scanned by the movie company, they chose the beautiful and rugged area around the camp on Trout Lake.

Throughout the years, the camp was visited by people from China, Turkey, England, Peru, France, across Canada and from every state in the United States.

Such was the success of the camp which began as Len Hughes' dream — a parcel of Crown land, five miles down the lake, accessible by boat and later by self-made road, bearing a lodge and a row of tents with wooden floors and walls, which he would transform into a Northern paradise for tourists who appreciated his special brand of hospitality and woodland know-how.

Mrs. Hughes, as was her husband, is a life member of the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters' Association. Although the camp is no longer in operation, two of the Hughes' children, Don and Shirley (Johnson) make their homes on the peninsula. Another son, Gary, lives in North Bay and a daughter, Helen, lives in Ottawa. They are the only surviving members of the Hughes' family of eight. A son, Roger, drowned in Trout Lake 43 years ago, while Peter, Nadine and Eleanor all succumbed to emphysema.

We can only imagine what a busy life it must have been for Mrs. Hughes, raising a family, supporting her husband's active concern for his beloved Northland and helping him at the camp.

She is the rightful recipient of the NOTOA trophy for her contribution to the preservation and conservation of the Northland and for helping to make it a Northern tourist industry that it is today.