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CANADA PAYS TRIBUTE ANNUALLY TO JACK MINER WILD LIFE WEEK

When the late Jack Miner died in November, 1944, Senator T. A. Cresser, who was then Canada's Federal Minister of Fish and Game at Ottawa in paying tribute said, "I doubt if there is any field of work in Canada or anyone who has contributed more and has rendered a greater National Service than Jack Miner."

In London, England, The Honorable Sir H. Brent Grotian Bart, D.L., K.C., said, "If you wish to see Jack Miner's Monument or Memorial, look around you."

Senator Joseph A. Bradette said, "The European countries gave the world great artists, great sculptors, great philosophers, great musicians, but Canada gave the world one of its great Naturalists."

The Honorable Paul Martin, Canadian Minister of Health and Welfare, said "Jack Miner by placing his aluminum bands on the geese legs wrote Canada across the skies."

With thousands of similar tributes from kings, queens, presidents and men in every walk of life finding their way to the family of the late Jack Miner and with the Book of Knowledge carrying a biography within its pages of the late Jack Miner along side of such men as Edison, Ford, Lindbergh, Churchill, it was only natural that the Canadian House of Commons and Senate would at his death, make plans to honor this great Canadian.

Three suggestions were advanced. One was to establish a large park in the North West Territories and name it in his honor. The second was to build a large observation tower for the public to view the

birds at the Jack Miner Sanctuary while the third was to create a National Wild Life week to always fall on the birthday of the late Naturalist which was April 10th.

This latter suggestion met with the approval of the family of the late Jack Miner because first of all, they said, it would not cost any one or the government one cent and April 10th was such an appropriate time because it was the spring of the year when the birds were returning to Canada to nest and raise their young. It was the time of the year when everyone was conscious of our wild life and natural resources in general.

One sunny afternoon, April 18th, 1947, to be exact, a thunderous ovation rolled through Parliament Hill as inside the House of Commons and the Canadian Senate the dignified members roundly applauded the approval of legislation which established National Wild Life Week as Jack Miner's Memorial. It has been stated that it was the first Bill since Confederation to so unanimously pass both houses.

The week has been observed each year with greater enthusiasm than the previous year because it has been kept a strictly educational week when school teachers have been asked to stress the need of conservation. The junior pupils draw birds and animals with crayons and the more advanced students write essays on Canada's Wild Life.

Miner Sanctuary Over 50 Years Old

It was just 50 years ago that the late Jack Miner coaxed the first wild geese out of the sky to land on his property, which is now the world-famous Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary.

From the years 1878 to 1904 he had been an ardent hunter and had not only grown up with game conditions in Essex County but at the time of his death had spent 60 falls in Northern Ontario camped in a canvas tent in various locations from Lake Keewapa to the Lake of the Woods at the Manitoba border.

With this wide spread knowledge of game conditions he could see that the game warden system alone was not saving and could not save our fast diminishing wild life, so in 1904 he journeyed to Henry Julien's farm near Oxley and purchased four wing tipped Canada geese; this started his bird sanctuary which in 1954 celebrated its 50th anniversary.

His sanctuary and idea of conservation spread so fast that in 1906 The Minneapolis Journal speaking editorially of him said, "Jack Miner, the founder of the conservation movement in North America." This was no little honor to be handed out to a then brick and tile manufacturer.

In 1908 the first Canada geese found refuge there and from that time made annual flights to the haven of rest.

In 1909 Jack Miner banded his first duck in August of that year, which was shot in January, 1910 by Dr. W. E. Bray of Anderson, South Carolina. This constitutes the first complete record of any banded bird on the continent.

From 1909 to 1915 Jack Miner banded approximately 50,000 ducks with the name Jack Miner and the town Kingsville stamped deeply on each band. These ducks carried the bands to all remote corners of the continent. The press throughout the land carried stories as each bird was shot and while Jack Miner became known throughout the civilized world yet his home town Kingsville became equally as well known.

From the year 1910 until 1940 Jack Miner had a lecture career which filled the largest auditoriums in both U.S. and Canada and at the time of his death several biography writers said he had spoken to more people from the lecture platform than any other person, a feat not to be passed by, because his education was limited to only a few months.

In 1932 the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation was incorporated in the U.S.A. under the philanthropic laws of Michigan, while in 1938 the said foundation was incorporated in Canada by a special act of parliament of the Ontario legislature which means the property will always be held in trust and stand forever as a living monument to the late Jack Miner for insight and foresight.

PUBLIC SPENDING

Citizens who are nominally pretty careful with their own money are coming to be alarmingly generous spending other people's money. . . . They have developed a habit of turning to the public purse.



FAIR ANGLERS WILL BE OUT, TOO, when Ontario speckled trout season opens Saturday, April 30, a day earlier than usual this year because regular opening day, May 1, falls on Sunday. Scene: Vermilion River, near Sudbury.

Fish Contest

Again this year, the Canadian Champion is sponsoring a trout fishing contest on the first weekend of the season.

Local fishermen will be out to their favorite stream on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. Those with fish over 10 inches long are asked to contact the Champion office Monday — and meanwhile, to keep their best fish on ice! The paper wants a picture of the winning trout.

Prize: a print of the picture that will prove your piscatorial prowess, and a year's subscription to the Champion.

Forestry Clubs See Nursery Care

Members of Halton county 4-H Forestry Clubs made a tour of the Provincial Forestry Station at St. Williams, Ontario, last Saturday.

The group left Milton shortly after 10 a.m. and arrived at the station about 12:30 p.m. Following lunch in the park on the station, the group met the superintendent of the station, J. S. Ball, who explained the history of production of nursery stock which has been a practice of the Department of Lands and Forests for the past 50 years.

M. McDonald, who has worked at all phases of nursery stock production for many years, took the group to the various places where they could see the many steps in production of the young trees. Included were newly laid out seed beds, beds of two year old stock ready for transplanting, the lifting and transplanting machines, and finally the beds of four year old trees which were to be shipped to various parts of the province this spring for reforestation purposes.

The group also had an opportunity to see how the trees are prepared and packed for shipment. Members showed keen interest in all they saw and were impressed by the many details of nursery stock production.

Included in the group were 10 Georgetown High School Forestry club members and their leader, B. Armstrong; seven Milton High School Forestry Club members and their leader, C. Wilson; the assistant agricultural representative for Halton county, Art Bennett; C. R. Groves, Zone Forester, and A. Vivian and V. Dennis, members of the Kiwanis Club Kingsway, the organization which sponsors the Forestry Clubs in Halton county.

Smelt Running On Halton Beaches

The smelt were running in the shallow water off Halton beaches this past week and many local fishermen joined in scooping up hundreds of the small delicious fish. Fires dotted the lakeshore as determined fishermen, wearing high rubber waders, practically took their first swims of the season.

The smelt attach no importance to time tables and seem to go and come as they please, staying in close to shore to provide a bountiful harvest for fishermen and then suddenly moving out further into the lake. Fishermen, creatures of nocturnal habits, must be ready at any time when the call goes up, "The smelt are running."

Accepted procedure for catching the fish is with nets but other equally versatile methods are used by the fishermen. A licence is required for each net used.

Although not much larger than a good sized sardine, the smelt is prized for its delicious taste and sportsmen cook them like trout — with plenty of golden butter sizzling in the frying pan.

Actually an ocean fish, smelt were introduced into the Great Lakes to serve as food for Atlantic salmon, also stocked in the lakes. The salmon died out, while the smelt increased to such an extent they have become part of the staple diet of fish-lovers near the lakes in the early spring.

Tall Tales Come From North Country

Northern Ontario is a fascinating field for the study of Canadian folklore and provides writers from all parts of the world with a fund of information, factual and otherwise.

Among the hundreds of field workers of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests stationed at posts from the Great Lakes to the Arctic Circle are men who worked in the old lumber camps of bygone days, who followed the "packers" when the only means of moving heavy loads was by canoe and pack-sack and who, travel today, by aircraft with equal nonchalance.

Some of the old-timers have lively imaginations, as is to be expected. Their tales run from a mysterious monster said to inhabit Lake Miminiska on the Albany River down to their boasts which some of them can bear out, about a man can carry in a pack-sack.

Veteran Algonquin Park Ranger Gerry Kennedy was one of the most noted story tellers and hundreds of visitors to Algonquin Park have listened in awe and admiration as Gerry spun laconic yarns.

Few men could match Gerry Kennedy's "man from Brent," a settlement on the north end of Algonquin Park, whom Gerry knew well — or says he did. Perhaps the only man who could match him was Paul Bunyan who actually began his career on the Ottawa River when it was a noted logging stream.

When Gerry told the story atmosphere meant a lot. It was usually told in the "boarding house" at Algonquin Park headquarters on cold winter nights when the fire crackled in the stove and when the boys had put aside their cribbage board and leaned back in their chairs. (They once made the largest cribbage board in the world for the Park Champion.) Someone in the party casually brought up the old packing argument—usually by design if a wide-eyed neiphyte was present.

It always ended in the same way: Gerry would sit silently back and listen. The Rangers and visitors would recount their experiences with packers and packs. Then, as bed-time neared, Gerry supplied the finishing punch.

"Yep," he always began, "I've seen some pretty good packers in my 70 odd years in the bush. But there was this feller from Brent who beat 'em all."

This fellow, the voracious Mr. Kennedy would recall, carried four 100-pound bags of flour on his back. He placed his ten-year-old boy on his shoulders. He pulled a loaded toboggan weighing 1,200 pounds with a tumpine. He carried two 100-pound pails of lard in his hands and he kicked a full barrel of gasoline uphill. Through the deep snow,

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Books In Review

FISHERMAN'S WINTER by Roderick Haig-Brown

For Milton sportsmen, the smelt fishing and the opening of the trout season in two weeks end a winter of inactivity as far as fishing is concerned.

Roderick Haig-Brown, who is truly a great sportsman, has written this book for other sportsmen. Usually he enjoys fishing in his native British Columbia. But in 1951 he was asked to go to Chile and Argentina to investigate the trout fishing there. "It was the sort of assignment that any fisherman might be allowed to dream about in his more wildly optimistic moments," he said. And of course he accepted.

This book, new in Milton Library, will surely interest local fishermen, who will be trying their luck for trout in two weeks.

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