

1919

January, 1919

- Ranger Harry MacKenzie dies of influenza at Cabin 16 on Basswood Lake.
- Shevlin Clarke operating five lumber camps in Park mostly near Quetico and Beaverhouse Lakes.
- Perley Holmes and B. V. Holmes seek commercial fishing licences for Long (Cirrus) Lake and Quetico Lake.
- Ten park rangers on staff.
- Moose very numerous.
- Permission received to trap beaver and other fur in Quetico.
- \$195 collected in 1919 for Quetico fishing and guiding licences.

September, 1919

- Edward, Prince of Wales, four valets, ten British noblemen and 43 Indian Guides under Jack McKirdy of Thunder Bay went speckled trout fishing at Orient Bay. Jack had to 'chew out' a British admiral after a guide came to him in alarm saying he was bound to tip the canoe over the way he walked around and carried on. The Admiral said, "The guides, they are nervous, aren't they?"

1920

- E. W. Backus proposes dams on boundary waters.
- Extensive logging in west portion of Quetico.
- 24 horses hauled steam gator into Beaverhouse Lake. A bird scared horses while they were being fed at noon at Dinner Lake and they all ran away and broke harness. Had to round them up and return to Flanders to have harness repaired.
- Fisherman's shack on Emerald Island used between 1920 and 1930 by Louis Struve of Mine Centre.
- Bass discovered in small lake south of Quetico Lake. This is farthest north that bass have been recorded.
- Sigurd Olson made his first trip into Quetico-Winton-Basswood-Sucker-Birch-Knife-Saganaga-Kawnpipi-Agnes-Sunday-Basswood.
- Some of 1920 Quetico staff were George Mudge, Ted Dettbarn, Bob Ogglestein, Gunder Graves, Jeff Seeley.
- House of Commons approved agreement between Canada and the United States, regulating levels of Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake, May 6.
- After World War I, many U.S. and Canadian citizens became concerned at the destruction of the wilderness character of Minnesota and Ontario by industry. The U.S. formed the Quetico-Superior Council to defend and extend the roadless wilderness areas along the boundary waters. Many Canadians joined the Quetico-Superior Council as a Canadian Advisory Committee.
- 100 bears taken this year in Quetico.

Conversation with a bush pilot in 1920

Citizen: "Doc Smith says the baby in at Sturgeon Lake needs cow's milk."  
 Pilot: "What makes you think we're running a dairy?"  
 Citizen: "Well, we're getting a cow in on Tuesday night's train."  
 Pilot: "What do you want us to do - fly the cow in?"  
 Citizen: "We'll pay you for it, whatever it's worth!"  
 Pilot: "A cow? A live cow? Sure, we can take her if Doc will give her a hypo!"

1921

- HS2L flying boats, used during World War I for submarine patrols, were purchased from the United States by the Ontario Forestry Branch for forest fire detection.

- Shelter cabins built on Windigoostigwar and Baptism Lakes.
- "It is not the wish of the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines to do any trapping in Quetico this year."
- Speckled trout planted in Eva and French Lakes.
- "We had ten rangers during the year whose duty was to patrol, repair and build cabins, cut trails, roads, etc. The rangers work in twos and the cabins are built, so that, at the end of their respective sections, every alternate cabin serves the rangers of two or more sections." (From Hugh McDonald's annual report).
- J. A. Mathieu resigns from Shevlin Clarke and takes over Border Lakes Lumber Company on the shore of Rainy Lake near Fort Frances. He reorganized it and modernized it under the name of J. A. Mathieu Ltd. It operated continuously from 1922 to 1954 during which time it produced and processed 800 million B. F. of lumber.
- Camp Windigo, established by Dr. Sprague of Chicago and Professor Buck of Gransell College, Iowa on Baril Lake 1914 sold to Mr. W. L. Childs, physical instructor of New Frier High School, Kenilworth, Illinois (suburb of Chicago) and partner J. Beach Craigen, instructor of music at Chicago University. Henceforth, it will be known as Camp Owakonze.
- "A tree will make a million matches. One match will destroy a million trees."
- The Dominion government has arranged for a dirigible capable of carrying eight passengers besides the engineer and pilot. Airdrome will be 170 feet by 70 feet wide and 70 feet high. Airship will be 130 feet long with a speed of 70 m.p.h. to provide rapid communication between Fort Frances, Kenora, and Winnipeg. A far cry from the day of the dog sled when it took 6 or 7 days from Fort Frances to Kenora.
- Reports are that survey of the whole of the vast timber resources of the Quetico from the International Boundary line to the Shevlin Clarke limits is being made.



Canoe on Jean Lake, Quetico Provincial Park.

Wild Animals Captured by Superintendent of Quetico Park

September, 1921

To capture alive and ship to Toronto a live deer, a porcupine and a beaver on seven days' notice is some feat even for an experienced woodsman. This is what was accomplished by Mr. H. McDonald, the Superintendent of Quetico Forest Reserve. The Ontario Government wished to secure some representative specimens for Toronto Exhibition and probably without any idea of the magnitude of the task gave Mr. McDonald only seven days to gather a collection. Although realizing that the time was far from sufficient to get much of an exhibit, Mr. McDonald and his assistants went to work. A beaver was asked for, so a trap was set near a beaver dam. To prevent a beaver from liberating himself from a trap the trapper must either make his set so as to drown the beaver or else use a