



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

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Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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In Care of University of Minnesota, Duluth

Phone (218) 726-7201

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LCMR RECOMMENDS SICA GRANT TO LEGISLATURE

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources has recommended that the Legislature grant \$70,000 to SICA. This, with private matching funds of \$40,000, will facilitate study of geological and botanical characteristics of Sugarloaf Beach, Cove, and Point. Test plots may be established to assess the possibilities of reintroducing native species and restoring wetland. The natural history of the area will be studied, and on-site educational programs will be initiated. If approved, the grant will become available July 1, 1995.

TWIN POINTS PROJECT APPROVED BY SICA

At the July 16 SICA Board meeting, SICA unanimously agreed to undertake the purchase of Twin Points Resort for the purpose of putting it into public ownership. A one-year purchase option is being negotiated with the owners at a price of \$750,000. The Department of Natural Resources approves the efforts as it has plans for the land and the highly desirable Twin Points Lake frontage. A transfer of the Twin Points property to the State will be effected in exchange for the transfer of Sugarloaf acreage to SICA.

A memorandum of understanding with DNR to protect the long-range future of Sugarloaf Beach, Cove, and Point is being negotiated. If SICA were later to relinquish ownership, the property would be sold back to the State.

HOW LAKE SUPERIOR MAKES WEATHER

How Lake Superior affects our North Shore weather and many other weather questions will be subjects of two programs jointly sponsored by SICA and NOAA Weather Service in Duluth. Why does the wind come from the east when the weather comes from the west? Do we have measurable cycles of wet and dry or warm and cold weather? How accurate are weather predictions? Is global warming really happening?

These questions will be addressed on September 10, 7-9 p.m. at the Grand Marais Community Center by Kim Pye and on September 18 2-4 p.m. at Two Harbors Community Center

with Daves McGuiness. Both speakers are meteorologists with the US Weather Service (NOAA) of Duluth.

- Ed Landin

SUGARLOAF VIDEO SHOWN AT ANNUAL MEETING

A video, based on the Dick Crawford film of the historic logging, rafting operation at Sugarloaf and augmented by descriptive material narrated by Dr. John Green and Robert Hagman, was premiered at the membership and board meetings of SICA on July 16. The video, professionally produced by Glenn Maxham, will soon be available for presentation at schools and historical meetings in the North Shore area.

Another feature of the annual meetings was geologic tours of Temperance River and Tettegouche State Parks conducted by Drs. John Green and Richard Ojakangas, professors of geology at University of Minnesota Duluth.

A matter of significance, particularly to Board members, is the decision to change Board meetings from bi-monthly to quarterly - in February, May, August, and November. A determined effort will be made to conduct more of the work of SICA in committees, thus lessening the volume of business at the regular Board meetings. The SICA *Interpreter* will also appear quarterly following the Board meetings - in March, June, September, and December. A special meeting primarily for the election of officers will be held September 24, 1994.

CALENDAR

Saturday, September 10 - 7-9 p.m. "How Lake Superior Makes Its Own Weather" with Kim Pye, NOAA Weather Service. Grand Marais Community Center.

Sunday, September 18 - 2-4 p.m. "How Lake Superior Makes Its Own Weather" with Daves McGuiness, NOAA Weather Service. Two Harbors Community Center.

Saturday, September 24 - 10 a.m. SICA Board special meeting. Election of Officers. Duluth, UMD.

Saturday, October 29 - 10 a.m. to 12 noon "North Shore Visual History" (Lee Radzak slide lecture). Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

Saturday, November 19 - 10 a.m. SICA regular quarterly Board meeting.

SICA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three new members of the SICA Board of Directors were elected by the membership at the annual meeting on July 16, 1994.

Dr. Pershing (Jack) Hofslund is a world recognized ornithologist. He received his Bachelor's degree from Mankato State Teachers College, and his Master's and PhD from the University of Michigan. In 1949 he accepted a position as instructor in the zoology department of UMD where he continued until his retirement in 1982 as a full professor. He is past president of the Duluth, Wilson, and Minnesota Ornithological Societies. In 1951 he co-founded a project for the observation of the migrations of hawks in Duluth. With the help of many dedicated volunteers and the assistance of a grant from The Nature Conservancy, the Hawk Ridge Observation Area and Lookout became a reality and was dedicated in 1972. By pursuing creative and widespread fund raising, the entire Nature Conservancy grant was repaid in 1976.

Deonne Parker has traveled and lived around the world and has chosen Minnesota as her home. Deonne is an Assistant Hennepin County Attorney in the Environmental Protection Division. She oversees the proper disposal of waste for all of Hennepin County. She has owned North Shore property and is a frequent visitor. The family of her mother-in-law, Nina Castner, emigrated from Sweden and settled in Two Harbors in the early years of the century. The Mary McDonald school in Silver Bay is named for another member of the family. Her husband, Lynn Castner, is also an attorney and a past president of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union.

Dana Kollars, retired major of Army Artillery, holds a captain's license in the US Coast Guard. A B.A. graduate of Cameron College in Nebraska, Genial Dana has had a varied career in many parts of the globe. He was drafted into the Army in 1968, attended Officer Candidate School, and was mustered out in 1988 as a major. During his army career he served two tours of duty in Korea, and became very proficient in the Korean language. In Korea he met and wed his wife Chunaë 26 years ago. In 1988 the Kollars started two businesses adjacent to Gooseberry Falls State Park - rental units largely devoted to the accommodation of cross-country skiers, and a charter fishing and cruise business.

- Steve Pihlaja

SICA EDUCATIONAL BOOK PROGRAM

The Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association has recently been furnished, at no charge, a number of copies of Craig Blacklock's new book, "Lake Superior Images." To date 45 copies of this beautiful, descriptive and pictorial book have been furnished by SICA to public and school libraries in the North Shore region. Pre-eminent among North Shore photographers, the Blacklocks, Les, Craig, and Nadine are the authors of a number of significant books primarily on the North country.

Also recently acquired at no charge are copies of Dr. Duane Lund's book, "The North Shore of Lake Superior, Yesterday and Today." These are being distributed as premiums to new or renewing members of SICA.

SHORELINK VISITS GRAND PORTAGE

The regular quarterly meeting of SHORELINK on July 19 met at Grand Portage in the impressive new community center. The center is architecturally striking in concept and appearance. New technical construction is blended with elements of the natural by the inclusion of a log supported framework within the lobby, library, and meeting room. The pool, gym, cafeteria, and classrooms will be a great asset to the community.

Superintendent Dean Einwalter of the Grand Portage National Monument and his staff conducted a tour of the Northwest Company post. The post program is a reenactment of some of the day-to-day activities which took place in voyageur times - living history. Volunteer and paid interpreters cook soup and wild rice at the kitchen hearth, bake bread in an outdoor clay oven, tend a historically accurate vegetable garden, clean and fire flintlock guns, make birchbark baskets, build wigwams, and do beadwork. All the while the staff converses with visitors giving anecdotal accounts of the life at the post.

The quantity and quality of the education that is occurring with simple and inexpensive settings was impressive. The reconstruction of the early, squared log buildings is magnificent. The displays of artifacts are simply set out as if for normal use. There are no flashing signs, display panels or cases, nor large arrows showing a visitor where to go next. A very realistic effect is achieved. An average of 500 visitors are accommodated on a weekend. There is everywhere an air of tranquility which is very conducive to a relaxed reflection on an important part of North Shore history.

- Ed Landin

OBERSTAR SEEKS TACONITE HARBOR FUNDING

Representative James Oberstar's office has indicated they are endeavoring to get \$1.2 million funding authorized to construct a safe small-boat harbor at the approved Taconite Harbor location. If authorization is approved the project would be eligible for appropriation in next year's Federal budget.

State funding sources are also being pursued. In a letter to Schroeder Township, Chester H. Lindskog, Chairman, Cook County Board of Commissioners, stated that at its August 9, 1994 meeting the Board went on record to fully support the Township request for State bonding money, which is available, be released for this project.

NORTH SHORE SAGA: THE ENGELSENS, TOFTES AND TOFTEYS

By Merlin Berg, SICA Board Member

The Engel Nelson Sjo family (who took the name of Engelsen) and the Tofte family all came from the town of Toftevag on Halsnøy Island near Hardanger Fjord, Norway. In 1890, Hans Engelsen, and in 1892, the Tofte twins, John and Andrew, came to the United States. Hans originally settled in West Duluth. The twins came first to Iowa, then tried farming near Dawson, MN, and finally with Engelsen determined to try their luck on the North Shore. In 1893 they selected what is now known as Bluefin Bay as a suitable site from which they conducted fishing, logging, farming, and various businesses as the years went by. This was the beginning of the town of Tofte whose centennial was celebrated in 1993.

Hans, being the most public spirited, ran for Cook County Commissioner and was elected in 1895 to the first of 14 terms in that office, ending in 1935. While he was in the office in 1897 he was directed to supervise construction of the new bridge over the Poplar River. Accepting the contractor's bid of \$149.50, Hans was successful in seeing the completion of the bridge in two month's time. As a member of the Commission Hans negotiated with Lake County on the completion of the road from Grand Marais to Two Harbors.

Hans was the first postmaster of Tofte, and was the first in the area to establish cabins for tourist rental. He was a master boat builder along with all his other talents. He constructed the sailboat that he and the twins used to go from Duluth to Tofte in 1893, and his 18-foot skiffs were used by many fishermen along the Shore.

Hans was married to Johanna Tofte. The union of Johanna Engelsen, daughter of Hans, and Tormond Tormondsen produced a large family including two daughters, Cecelia and Sonneva, who married John and Andrew Tofte, respectively. A sister of Tormondsen, also named Sonneva, married Johannes Tofte. (According to Mrs. Ade Toftey, Johannes was a cousin of the twins.) He was the one who, at the suggestion of Ed Tofte, added the 'y' to the name to avoid post office complications. From this marriage came another large family (11 children) which included Ed and Ade.

One of the significant anecdotes that dot the family history involves a fishing experience of Andrew's. He was tending his nets when a severe Noreaster came up and he was unable to land. He drifted for hours to the southwest. He was not warmly clad and had nothing with which to bail his almost swamped boat except his rubber boots. Finally the wind abated but he found himself in the lanes of the oreboats. He was able to row home but he had been on the water for 36 hours.

Before 1900 Ed established a sawmill at Tofte which prospered, employing as many as 30 persons. In the disastrous forest fire of 1910 the mill burned down and Ed moved to

Grand Marais. Later he determined that Grand Marais needed a store. Without funds he approached his friends and relatives saying, "I have an honest face and will repay every cent you lend me." He obtained the necessary funds, started the Toftey store which was a fixture of the Grand Marais scene until 1957, and indeed he paid back all his loans.

In 1902, Hans, Andrew, and Ed Toftey visited Norway and returned with 26 immigrants, mostly Toftes, who settled in the Tofte-Grand Marais area. They arrived in October 1902, too late to plant crops. Their first winter was therefore devoted to clearing land, building homes, laying in firewood, fishing, and cutting timber. Remembered are their fears of Indians, bears, wolves, forest fires, and the dark forest all around them.

The family has produced many prominent offspring. Theodore, a son of Andrew, was once principal of the Grand Marais High School and later superintendent of the Wadena schools. A son, Robert is a physician in St. Paul. Semor, another son of Andrew, a retired Iowa business man and legislator now lives in Rochester, MN. Since the establishment of the Tofte post office in 1897 many Toftes have followed Hans Engelsen as postmaster. A son of John, also named John but nicknamed "Casey" was a surveyor for the state highway and natural resources departments for nearly 20 years. A daughter of Ade, Joan, is married to Dr. Tom Schroeder, professor of chemistry, University of Pittsburgh.

Ade (Adolph), somewhat younger than Ed, worked in the store for a time after graduating from Carleton College in 1926 as an art major. In 1928 he acquired the Cook County News and continued the publication of the paper until 1971 except for a four-year hiatus. He became proficient as an artist and in his retirement years became known for his watercolors and oil paintings, mostly of the North Shore.

The projected Commercial Fishing Museum at Tofte will be constructed to simulate the twin fish houses of John and Andrew. They will be joined together by a common wall with a communicating door. The museum will contain memorabilia of the fishing industry and included will be a composite video of stories told by fishermen. At the water's edge below the museum there was until recently the remains of a fish house used by descendants of the founders of the clan. Before it was razed careful measurements and sketches were made of the structure, which will permit the construction of an exact replica of the original house. Here will be displayed typical fishing gear. It will be reached by a path down the slope from the museum.

References:

- Mrs. Ade (Bertha) Toftey, Grand Marais
- Mrs. Theodore (Helen) Tofte, Tofte
- Bryan J. Tofte, Silver Bay
- "Tofte" by Chris Tormondsen
- "Pioneers in the Wilderness" by Willis H. Raff

First Class
Postage

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
In Care of 140 Engineering Building
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University of Minnesota, Duluth
Duluth, MN 55812

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SICA'S PURPOSE

- 1) Committed to preservation and protection of a tract of land which includes Sugarloaf Beach, Cove and Point, a portion of which is a designated scientific and natural area that has statutory protection.
- 2) Committed to the establishment of a public interpretive forum which includes staff, an appropriate non-invasive physical facility, and ongoing, year-round educational programs. This center would depict the diverse aspects of the North Shore of Lake Superior including, but not limited to, geology, biology of native plants and animals, economic origins, history and cultural heritage.
- 3) Committed to obtaining adequate private and public funding to build and maintain the physical facility, establish a staff and programming, and create an endowment fund for the center's long-range future.

PLEASE EXAMINE THE ADDRESS LABEL

If the number 93 follows your name on the address label, it indicates that your membership is due for renewal. If there is a dash following the 93 followed by another number, that is the amount of your previous membership contribution. If you can increase it, we would be appreciative and it would help finance an expanding program. If your name is followed by a 94, it indicates you are a member in good standing and we thank you. If your name is followed by a C it indicates you are receiving the *Interpreter* on a complimentary basis probably because of the position you hold. If you convert that to a paid membership, we would be delighted and will send you a free copy of Dr. Duane Lund's "The North Shore of Lake Superior, Yesterday and Today." This interesting book is available free to all new or renewing members. It has been provided at no cost to the Association.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association in the category I have indicated. I like the idea of an Interpretive Center on the North Shore and I certainly believe the important Scientific and Natural Area of Sugarloaf Cove, Beach and Point should be preserved, protected and not be endangered. As a new or renewing member, please send my free copy of Dr. Duane Lund's "The North Shore of Lake Superior, Yesterday and Today."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

Membership Categories

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ \$5 Student/Senior | _____ \$10 Individual |
| _____ \$15 Family | _____ \$25 Contributing |
| _____ \$50 Supporting | _____ \$100 Sustaining |
| _____ \$500 Patron | _____ \$1000 and up
Benefactor |

_____ Payment Herewith _____ Please Bill Me

Make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to SICA in care of 140 Engineering Building, College of Science and Engineering, UMD, Duluth, MN 55812. Memberships are annual and expire December 31.