



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

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Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVES LAND EXCHANGE. BALANCE OWED ON TWIN POINTS REDUCED

The State Executive Board - consisting of the governor, attorney general, and state auditor - has approved an exchange of land between the State of Minnesota and SICA whereby land at Twin Points will be traded for land at Sugarloaf. This will enable SICA to ensure protection of the designated Scientific and Natural Area at Sugarloaf. The state had already acquired from SICA frontage at Twin Points which is planned for a recreational boat safe landing.

SICA has recently made a payment of \$140,000 plus interest to the owners of the Twin Points property, thus reducing the balance to \$190,000 of the original \$750,000 purchase price. All expenses of interest, taxes, and insurance are paid up to December 31, 1996. It is expected that the balance owed on the project will be paid in 1997.

SHORELINK RESOURCE DIRECTORY NEARLY READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

Shorelink, the inter-organizational activity of SICA, has nearly completed the work of preparing a directory of North Shore organizations. It will include names and addresses of mostly non-profit community units together with descriptive data on their functions and a listing of operating personnel.

The work of assembling the data in the document has been a cooperative effort of the Department of Natural Resources and SICA. It is expected that the publication will be ready for distribution in late March, 1997.

NEWS FROM GRAND PORTAGE

In 1996, the Grand Portage National Monument commissioned historian Alan R. Woolworth to prepare a thorough historical study entitled "*The French Presence on Lake Superior and at Grand Portage, 1660-1740*". Much is known about the British era at Grand Portage, but far less is known about the earlier French period. Funding for this project was provided by the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association.

- CALENDAR -

- March 14-15 - Friends of Grand Portage annual meeting.**
- March 19, 7:pm - Superior Hiking Trail Association.** "*Living Lightly Near the Lake*". Knife River Recreation Council Hall. 218/434-2700.
- March 24-26 - Lake Superior Center Educators Colloquium.** "*Experience the Lake Effect*". Best Western Edgewater, Duluth. 218/720-3033.
- April 26, 7:30 pm - North Shore Commercial Fishing Museum, Toftte.** "*Commercial Fishing on Lake Superior*". 218/663-7804.
- May 10-June 1 - Wilderness Trails Alliance** spring trail clearing. Contact: 800/818-4453; 612/436-1795; 612/644-9598.
- May 17, 11 am - SICA Board Meeting,** Wolf Ridge ELC.
- May 17, 1 pm - SICA, "Hike Through History at Sugarloaf".** Call Carrie between 5 and 8 pm 218/726-4136.
- June 28-29 - John Schroeder Days.**

BOOK REVIEW: "GEOLOGY ON DISPLAY, GEOLOGY AND SCENERY OF MINNESOTA'S NORTH SHORE STATE PARKS"

By John C. Green

Reviewed by B.J. Smith Kohlstedt

More like a field guide than a textbook, "*Geology on Display*" is designed to help those of us who explore the North Shore to make some sense out of it. With a delightful combination of technical information and simple explanations, Dr. Green uses light humor and analogies to lead one through a topic which can seem ponderous and daunting.

The first half of the book provides a chronology of geological processes in the region. Bedrock geology is explained by citing ingredients and sequences much like following cookie recipes for rocks. Surficial geology, a legacy of glaciers and erosion, gives meaning to the overlying gravel and soil which cover much of the bedrock. The concise format is easily readable, and drawings, models, photos, maps, and charts spark interest and enthusiasm. It makes you think, "I'd like to see that."

The second half of the book provides detailed analyses of the North Shore State Parks, giving specific examples of the fascinating diversity of bedrock and soils on the Shore. The geologic maps are informative, but can be complicated. I found myself also wanting a simple park map to highlight modern features and get my bearings. Still, the excellent photos and descriptions sparked my curiosity, and the maps served as reference.

This book could lead one to search for porphyritic rhyolites, ophitic basalts, and anorthosite inclusions much as a birder would search for indigo bunting, boreal chickadees or pileated woodpeckers. Rocks are in some ways easier to track down than birds or flowers because they are less apt to move, change color or lose parts. Rocks also tell stories. "*Geology on Display*" provides a dictionary of their language and prepares us to listen.

As a layperson with a great interest, but only mediocre background in geology, I found "*Geology on Display*" to be the most complete yet simple and understandable guide to North Shore geology

yet published. Because it is handy, clear, and interesting, it has replaced others as my primary source of local geological information. I expect my copy soon to be dog-eared and worn.

(Dr. Green is professor of geology at UMD. Both John and BJ are members of the SICA Board of Directors. A free copy of "*Geology on Display*" is offered to new SICA members at any level of contribution.)

FORMER BOARD MEMBER DONATES SUGARLOAF PHOTO-LANDSCAPE

Anne-Marie Rose, St. Paul, member of SICA Board, 1993-1996, and professional photographer, has presented a photographic landscape of Sugarloaf to SICA. The photo is a composite of her favorite view of Sugarloaf combined with photos of the natural growth on the rock itself. It is printed in black and white which Anne-Marie has hand-colored with oil paints and pencils. When SICA has a permanent building the photograph will be on display there.

SICA BOARD MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

As one of her last acts as Grand Marais Mayor, SICA Board Member Andrea Peterson signed a conservation easement document putting 60 acres of Grand Marais waterfront under control of the Minnesota Land Trust, which will prevent unwanted development of the harbor front. The land, mainly west of the harbor, includes some wild area and development which will be grandfathered in. The existing campground, swimming pool, utility buildings, and a marina in the area will continue to operate as at present.

The Minnesota Land Trust is a Minneapolis-based group that administers easements letting owners keep the land while preventing unsuitable development.

The Geological Society of America has recently published a paper, "*Middle Proterozoic to Cambrian Rifting, Central North America*," edited by Ojagan-gas, Dickas, and Green. A photograph of Sugarloaf Point by Dr. Green is featured on the cover.

RAGNHILD SVE - A NORTH SHORE LIFE

By STEVE PIHLAJA, President, SICA



For many North Shore travelers the familiar sight of the Split Rock Cabins and its seemingly ever present "no vacancy" sign marks the heart of the North Shore. If you stop there for a visit with Ragnhild Sve and her family, you have the chance to learn a good deal about North Shore history - and hospitality.

Ragnhild's father was a fisherman who emigrated to Two Harbors from Blokken, Norway in 1906. After a year working on the docks and fishing, he saved enough to send for his wife, and Ragnhild was born on the North Shore in 1908. The young family lived on a small farm outside Two Harbors which was so remote that each fall the family had to buy the whole winter's groceries, delivered by the merchant with a team of horses.

Ragnhild's future husband, Ragnvald Sve, was born in Norway in 1902. He arrived in Canada on New Year's Day in, 1921, but came to Two Harbors the following year when an uncle assured him it was "just like Norway". Ragnhild and Ragnvald were married in 1926.

Ragnvald worked at many jobs. He worked with the blasting crew building the new road around Silver Cliff, but the dynamite fumes made him ill so he took up fishing. In 1924, he was virtually shanghaied to work on a freighter. He began as a coal passer but was quickly promoted when the fireman got drunk and missed the boat. After their marriage the young couple lived with Ragnhild's parents, and Ragnvald fished with his new father-in-law.

Fishing was a hard, dangerous job that Ragnvald and Ragnhild worked at together. When there were babies to care for, a pillow was placed in the bow net box on board the fishing boat, and the babies were laid thereon to be rocked by the waves.

The most dangerous moment for fishermen occurred when setting the nets' 350-pound rock anchors from the 16-foot skiffs. A misplaced anchor rope could easily capsize the skiff. Ragnhild once quickly threw overboard the bench she was sitting on when a tangled rope would have otherwise tossed her and two babies into frigid Lake Superior. In 1927 they bought the land on which Split Rock Cabins is now situated.

In 1932 Ragnvald, with nine other fishermen, agreed to net trout for the DNR in order to supply eggs for the hatchery and to determine if the trout were making a comeback. The license, which required him to put out 5000 feet of nets did not yield enough fish to pay out-of-pocket costs for three years. The derision of the other fishermen turned to envy, however, when the trout did make a comeback, and the DNR would not

increase the number of permits beyond the original ten. Ragnvald held his permit until he was in his 80's when the cold lake water and air became intolerable, and the DNR transferred the permit to his son, Walt. Now, Walt's 26-year-old son Eric is the youngest of the 27 remaining licensed commercial fishermen on the North Shore; there were once more than 400.

Ragnvald built his own fishing skiffs based on traditional Norwegian designs that had been used for generations. Initially, all fishing boats were rowboats, some with outboard motors. The first inboard motor appeared in 1943. Walt has rebuilt his wooden fishing boat and still uses it. He has continued the family boat-building tradition and recently launched his son Eric's fishing skiff.

Walt was fishing with his own skiff at age 15 during the Depression, pulling 30-40 nets and selling dressed herring for 3 cents per pound. He recalls that one year was so bad the Sve family could not make a full mortgage payment; they paid interest only. They traded raspberries for flour, sugar, and salt. They even had their credit cut off by the Norwegian partner in the store in Two Harbors, but the Swedish partner gave them enough credit to supply staples to year's end. Better prices during the war years (16 cents per pound) allowed them to pay off the mortgage and even to buy a piano.

Ragnvald and Ragnhild built two tourist cabins in 1932, but fishing remained the principal business. The family, including four children, lived above their 14'x18' fishhouse until 1936 when they built the house where Ragnhild still lives. Over a 30-year period seven more tourist cabins were added.

The Sves have been regularly visited by divers, including the Argonauts, who stay in the fishhouse. They have recovered a huge prop blade probably from the *Edenborn*, which was towing the *Madeira* when it sank nearby in the deadly storm of 1905.

Walt and his wife, Carol, now manage the Split Rock Cabins resort. Carol grew up near Sugarloaf Cove and has followed SICA's work with interest. On two occasions when I visited the Sves, I was treated to Carol's herring fish cakes and Ragnhild's kringla and good Norwegian coffee.

Some tourists have returned to Split Rock Cabins each year for more than 50 years. They are like family to the Sves. "We know them better than our neighbors," said Ragnhild hospitably, while passing me another buttered kringla.

First Class
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Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
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Sugarloaf Interpreter is published quarterly by Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. Merlin H. Berg, Editor, 2230 W. Hoyt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Articles, graphic arts, and letters to the editor are warmly encouraged. Subscription to *Interpreter* is one of the benefits of membership in SICA; single copies available upon request.

SICA Officers: President: Steve Pihlaja, Minneapolis
Secretary: Robert Bruce, Duluth

Vice-President: B.J. Smith Kohlstedt, Finland
Treasurer: Elmer L. Andersen, Arden Hills

Twin Points Support

Yes, I/we will help Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association to keep Twin Points for public access with this gift to the Twin Points Purchase Fund.

\$_____ is my/our total gift commitment to be paid as follows: \$_____ is enclosed herewith.

\$_____ is pledged as follows:

\$_____ 19____

\$_____ 19____

\$_____ 19____

and/or: _____

\$_____ is pledged through a gift of insurance, real estate, a trust or will provisions as follows: _____

Name (please print) Signature Date

Spouse's Name (please print) Signature Date

Address City State Zip Home Phone

This gift can be matched by my employer.

Special gift designation if desired.

Make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to SICA, 31 W. Superior St., #401, Duluth, MN 55802.

SICA Membership Application

I like the idea of interpretation and education on the North Shore. I certainly believe that the important Scientific and Natural Area of Sugarloaf Cove, Beach, and Point should be protected and not be endangered.

Please enroll me as a member of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association in the category I have indicated. SICA is an educational, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Minnesota corporation. As a new member, please send my free copy of John Green's new book, "Geology on Display" (geology of the state parks). Or, with a contribution of \$40 or more, as a renewing member, please send my free copy of Howard Sivertson's "Tales of the Old North Shore."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Membership Categories

_____ \$5 Student/Senior _____ \$10 Individual
_____ \$15 Family _____ \$20 School/Library
_____ \$25 Contributing _____ \$40 Supporting
_____ \$100 Sustaining _____ \$500 Patron
_____ Add'l Contribution

_____ Payment Herewith _____ Please Bill Me

Make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to SICA, 31 W. Superior St., #401, Duluth, MN 55802. This membership will expire December 31, 1997. Thank you.