



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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Phone (218) 726-7201

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Duluth, MN 55802

TWIN POINT ACQUISITION FUNDING NEARLY COMPLETE

At the May 17 SICA Board meeting, Treasurer Elmer L. Andersen announced that of the original purchase price of the Twin Points resort of \$750,000, a total of \$190,000 remains to be paid. Further, he stated, \$76,000 is on hand so that only \$114,000 remains to be raised. This represents a major accomplishment by SICA and indicates the determination of the Board to effect transfer of lands to DNR in exchange for the Sugarloaf property at an early date. With Sugarloaf property in SICA hands active planning can be undertaken for the establishment of a viable interpretive center.

SECOND LCMR PROGRAM ASSURED

With the first study program (which was cooperatively financed by a grant from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources) nearly complete, it has been learned that a second grant is assured. This project will be jointly accomplished by the Grand Portage Ojibway Band, the Cook County Historical Society, and SICA. The subject will be *"The Impact of the Life of the Ojibway on the History of the North Shore"*.

Funding for the \$90,000 project will include a grant of \$60,000 from LCMR and \$30,000 from private sources including the Ojibway Band. The study will be initiated on July 1, 1997. Norman Deschampe, chairman of the Grand Portage Band and president of the Minnesota Ojibway Tribal Council, will be coordinator.

HISTORIC BELL AT GRAND MARAIS

A bell which had rung at the Gunflint CCC Camp #712 until the camp closed in 1942 is now

possessed by the Cook County Historical Society. It is ensconced in a tower, specially designed by Russell Zenk, located on the grounds of the Historical Society. It is intended to honor the importance of the CCC camps in the history of the area. At the installation ceremony in August 1996, the first ringing was performed by Peggy Heston, past president, and former presidents Herb Hedstrom and Willis Raff spoke.

NEW GRAMPA WOO ARRIVES

On May 7 *Grampa Woo III* arrived at Lake Superior from Alabama to replace *Grampa Woo II* which was wrecked in the fall of 1996. The Kollars are ecstatic!

- CALENDAR -

June 22-Aug. 23: Summer Programs, Wolf Ridge ELC. Family vacations, Elderhostel, Environmental Education Institute, Summer Youth Programs, Explorers Trips. 800/523-2733 or 218/353-7414.

June 14-15: Dedication of Commercial Fishing Museum, Tofte.

June 28-29: John Schroeder Days, Schroeder.

July 14-25: Operation Pathfinder. Great Lakes Summer Workshops, Lake Superior Center, Duluth.

July 17: Shorelink, Gooseberry Park.

July 20: Lake Superior Day. Activities at State Parks.

July 31-Aug. 3: Fisherman's Picnic, Grand Marais.

Aug. 8-11: Annual Meeting Grand Portage Friends. Indian Rendezvous, Grand Portage.

Aug. 16: SICA Annual Meeting.

Sept. 18: Shorelink.

Sept. 19-21: Autumn Nature Photography and other workshops, Wolf Ridge.

SHORELINK NEWS: DIRECTORY ISSUED, IDEAS EXPLORED

Shorelink, the "cooperating communications network of interpretive and educational organizations in the Lake Superior region", achieved a milestone in early March with the publication and distribution of "Shorelink Directory, A Reference Guide". Filling a North Shore need, the Directory lists 107 private and public community organizations such as museums, state parks, environmental groups, learning centers, historical societies, etc.

Shorelink meetings were held on April 14 and May 17 and future meetings are scheduled for July 17 and September 18. At the May meeting Dr. John Green led a geology hike at Sugarloaf noting features of the tombolo and beach. Items of discussion at meetings have included getting information to schools on Shorelink activities, exploring the desirability of publishing a Shorelink member directory, and participation in Lake Superior Day, July 20.

SMALL BOAT HARBORS PROGRESS

Another step in the establishment of North Shore safe small boat harbors was achieved on March 4, when construction bids were opened for phase I (breakwater construction) at Silver Bay. The successful bidder, Marine Tech of Duluth, has already begun the work. The Minnesota DNR and the US Corps of Engineers are providing funds.

At Taconite Harbor the lease for the site has been signed by LTV Steel Company and the easements for the land access have been secured. A \$400,000 appropriation for the project has been made by the State which is contingent on receipt of matching funds from the Federal government.

The establishment of a recreational small boat access on a portion of the Twin Points property now owned by DNR will further enhance small boat activity on the Lake.

PICHOTTA RECEIVES FIRST WILLARD MUNGER AWARD

On April 30 Jack Pichotta, founder and director of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center received the first Willard Munger Environmentalist of the Year recognition. The award was named for Rep.

Munger of Duluth by the Minnesota Natural Resources Foundation. The 43-year legislator has been committed to environmental causes in Minnesota during all of that time.

Environmental educator Pichotta worked nights to earn his science degree, taught social studies in Cloquet while earning his master's degree, but growing national environmental consciousness caused him to organize a teach-in on the environment prior to the first Earth Day in 1970 which received national attention. This experience led him to open the nation's first residential environmental education center which became present day Wolf Ridge. The center now serves 13,000 school children annually and is expanding to serve 16,000.

The award was presented by Munger "and the third diamond in the state's environmental crown, former Gov. Elmer L. Andersen." (Mpls. Star Tribune)

NEW SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE HISTORIC EXHIBIT OPENS

The worst storm in Great Lakes recorded history, the 1905 Mataafa Storm, wrecked or damaged 20 vessels, including the schooner-barge *Madeira*. In fact, the story of Split Rock Lighthouse begins where the *Madeira's* ends. Less than two years later Congress appropriated funds for a lighthouse at Split Rock, just south of where the *Madeira* rests.

The new exhibit covers the mining history and delves into the lives of lighthouse keepers and local commercial fishermen; explores the time of Ojibway Indian seasonal Lake Superior fishing; and will introduce the visitor to current navigation techniques.

A huge interactive map of Lake Superior reveals facts about the lake, the landscape, and the history of the North Shore. Through photographs visitors will meet the people whose lives were intertwined with the lighthouse which was in operation nearly 60 years.

A six-ton, cast iron, steam-powered hoist engine symbolizes how precarious it was simply to arrive at the station. Strong steel cables ran from the engine to a tall derrick that extended out over the lake. Some 100 feet down below, supplies and people were loaded into a wooden crate, which was then slowly winched to the top, swaying in the wind.

Beginning May 15 the hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call 218/226-6372.

EARLY NATURALIST PROGRAM AT GOOSEBERRY STATE PARK

By DR. P. B. (JACK) HOFSLUND, SICA Board Member

It has been 32 years since Don Lewis, naturalist at Itasca Park, asked me to head a naturalist program at Gooseberry State Park. Don and W. J. Breckenridge at that time were more or less the directors of the naturalist program in the 1950's. Pay, housing, and equipment were minimal, but a park summer seemed like it would be not unlike having a cabin without having to pay for it. So on June 11, 1965 we loaded our Nash Rambler with mostly food, clothing, and our two kids (ages five and 15 months) and headed northeast for Gooseberry.

The Park as we first knew it was largely as constructed during CCC and WPA days. The buildings exhibited the beautiful stone work of expert stone masons; and the trails (Rim, Gitchi Gummi, Fifth Falls) were probably laid out originally by the CCC boys. There were few remnants of the CCC camp still left - only enough to point out where a building once stood and to illustrate to campers what a great asset the CCC organization had created in the Park.

All of the structures, trails, and maintenance were under the guidance of the superintendent, Palmer Roen, and an assistant, with a park crew made up of the boys who managed the sticker sales, temporary workers from the area, and an occasional state park specialist group. Palmer not only managed Gooseberry but also the other North Shore Parks. After the day's work was done, Palmer on his little trail bike would tour the campground and visit each camper to collect camping fees and to chat with an old friend. I went with Palmer occasionally and I too made friendships that have lasted for years.

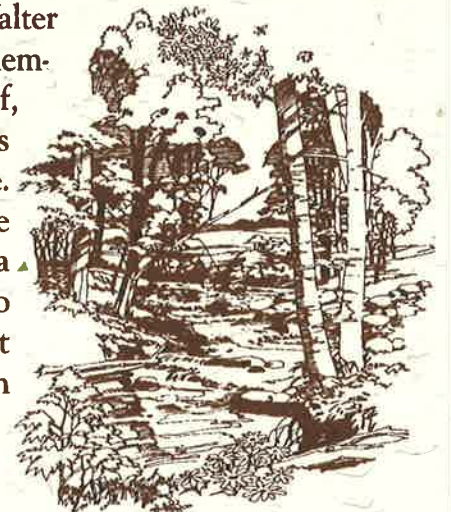
My duties were to lead nature hikes, give evening programs, and construct nature trails. When I had free time, I would make my own reconnaissance, finding nesting sites, and making interesting observations and notes. I collected vertebrate specimens and made study skins of some of the local rodents. These skins and some of the reptile and

amphibian spirit specimens were put in the UMD vertebrate collections. I prepared a pamphlet on the birds of Gooseberry which was available at the Refectory. We also had a mailbox affair where hikers could pick up guide sheets before starting a walk. A list of plant specimens was kept. Such rare plants as butterwort were identified for the trail hikers.

After our sojourn at Gooseberry, I was sitting on a rise overlooking the expanse and realized that the Park was in a process of natural change. At that time moose were beginning to be present after being extremely scarce in preceding years. As I viewed the terrain I noticed that among the alder, poplar, and birch, spruce trees were beginning to appear in several areas.

I believe our naturalist program was a success. We would have as many as 75 people on some of our hikes and 170 at the evening programs. I remained as chief naturalist for six seasons, and then began to share the work with Lyle Bradley. He was the naturalist for several years and was replaced eventually by Harvey Djerf. While we set the program in motion, it was Harvey who developed and solidified it to what it is now.

One of our most treasured memories was a lasting friendship with so many wonderful families. We have mentioned the Roens. Then there were the people at Encampment Forest, who became close friends. Among the were the Penners, the Kingmans, the Walter Pratts. The best memory is the Park itself, but Palmer Roen is no longer there. And maybe the *Pinguicula* (butterwort) no longer grows in that particular pool in the lava flows.



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Sugarloaf Interpretive Center
Association
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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.