Itasca Park

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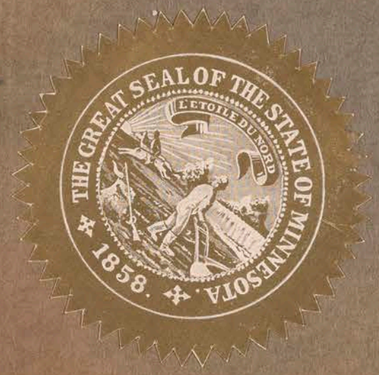
STATE FLOWER

Album 31



I T A S C A.

When bright September draws to nature's fold
And tints the summer green in brown and gold,
And early frosts under warm slanting rays
Are quick dispelled and lost in autumn haze;
At such a time, in climax of review,
The artistry of autumn claims its due,
And yielding to the impluse and the call
To see the canvas ere the curtain fall,
I go where, from business far apart,
Itasca nestles close to nature's heart.
A gem whose stately setting ever thrills
And lends enchantment to its pine clad hills.
No sound of strife; no city's wild alarm,
Serene in place and beauty- now as then,
Inspiring source of waters and of men.

You lovers of the water, sky and hill
To whom past pleasures paint their picture still,
If you would see the vision splendid rise
Like sunsets painted in God's wonderous dyes,
Where rounded hills with vistas set between
Throw shimmering lake or landscape on the scene:
Come back where Junetime lent its rare delight,
Mingle in summer's softly falling night,
By Minnesota's wooded paths and see
Triumphant autumn's gorgeous pageantry.

The sumach in his robes of royal reds
Beneath where maples rear their golden heads,
And blended in a brilliance of array
The oak, unrivalled, reigns in splendid way.
Splashes of yellow, green and brown and gold
In all their varient shades the hills unfold.
The mind may visualize, vain words may tell
But mine is not the pen to do it well.
Whose genius may — how great the mental feat,
He still must leave the picture incomplete.
Art may aspire to paint the fairest flower
Yet man must drink the wine to know its power.
The air, the sky, the woods, our cares seduce
And rapture lends the laggard step excuse,
How fortunate the man who, humble, grows
In contemplation of such vast repose.
Sunset and dying leaf - a miracle is wrought-
The while the soul is purged of selfish thought.

Itasca State Park Report

Itasca State Park was established by the legislature in 1891. Congress, acting upon the request of the executive officers of the state, contributed on behalf of the United States all the land within the limits of the Park. The Park covers an area seven miles square; comprising about 32000 acres. The location of the Park is chiefly in Clearwater County with Hubbard County on the east and Becker County on the south, each having seven sections a total of 49 sections in the Park boundary.

To think that we have 365 lakes within the Park boundaries is wonderful. A total of about 5000 acres of water. Even more wonderful than that we have the source or headwaters of the great Mississippi River starting in Itasca Park. The Mississippi Basin consists of Elk Lake, Mary's Lake and Itasca Lake with many small tributaries flowing into these and the Great Park watershed which holds back an unlimited amount of water in its swamps and dense forests. The elevation at which this great river leaves the north end of Itasca Lake is 1467 feet above sea level. The Mississippi a small stream at its beginning becomes the world's mightiest river as it winds its way to the Gulf of Mexico; covering a distance of 2,552 miles. This great river carries the name of "Father of Waters".

The forests in Itasca Park are magnificent; 125,000,000 feet of Norways and White Pine still tower their heads toward the heavens. These trees average from 80 to 135 feet in height. Enough virgin timber has escaped the lumberman's axe to build a board walk 12 inches wide and one inch thick around the world. Besides the great amount of virgin forest we have an abundance of second growth timber that is slowly growing to maturity. Some of the must common deciduous varieties are the Aspen or Popple, Oak, Maple, Ash, Basswood, Elm and White Birch. Of the coniferous type we have the Balsam and Spruce with their different species. These kinds of trees are very beautiful and are the outstanding new growth that spring up throughout the Park. This type of tree is used at Xmas time for decoration purposes and many, many thousands are used each year as Xmas trees. The Jack Pine , a thrifty coniferous tree that is easily grown on light sandy soil, is producing more financially, to the people of northern Minnesota to-day than most any other variety of tree. The old slogan being- "Mr. Jack Pine, you are the White Pine of to-morrow."

Besides seeding and spreading very easily, the Jack Pine is surely the fastest growing and hardiest of the coniferous trees.

Itasca Park is a great covering for wild animals and, I think, one of the most satisfactory Game Reserves in Minnesota. Most animals that are habitats of Northern United States are found here and are protected as much as possible. Occasionally we have Moose that come drifting into the Park but they do not stay any lenght of time as conditions here are not favorable to them as they like the swamp lands. An Elk herd is kept in a large pasture here. A number of them are turned out each year to try and stock the country. We have some which are not fenced in-that are doing well; but as soon as they leave this game reserve they are molested by man. Elk are curious creatures and easily shot. We boast of having more white tail deer here in Itasca Park than anywhere else in the state. Deer become very tame and can be seen along forest roads or trails in the park;in the early morning or late evening is the best time to see deer frisking about. The largest number of these"fleet-foot" counted at one time in one herd is 37. In this locality last hunting season a record deer was shot having a 34 point horns. We have had a satisfactory increase in black bear at Itasca Park during the past five years. Their main haunts are the Nicollet Creek Country and LaSalle Creek Basin. We hope that they will increase to the extent where tourists may see one occasionally. We have also a large number of beaver in Itasca Park. Some of them should be trapped as there is a shortage of food near the creeks and lakes that they inhabit. The beaver has been really, one of the stand-bys in the north country from a financial stand point. Ever during the up-building of the North Woods their fur has been valuable and held a standard price; thereby helping many an old pioneer to purchase food and clothing for his family. It is estimated that we have about 70 families or colonies of beaver in the Park-numbering from 2 to 5 in each colony.

Of the predatory animals we have the wolf, bob-cat and lynx which are very distructive to other animals. The wolf's main prey is the deer and rabbit, while the bob-cat and lynx like our feathered friends such as the partridge and grouse. The most destructive animals to fish are the Otter, Mink and Coon. The Otter has the lead as we have seen many of the lunch grounds of this cunning and swift water animal but because of the fish-devouring habits of these animals the restocking of our streams with fish has been a hopeless task.

Some of the other animals that find a fearless, quiet home and an abundance of food in Itasca State Park are as follows: The Raccoon-we remember him because of the large shining eyes he has and his manner of washing his food before he eats it. The Badger-which is distinguished as the most efficient at digging. Red and Gray Squirrels are always chirping and scolding as you approach their favorite abodes. Weasel-a small animal that lives mostly on mice, has a fur that is always high in price. Snow Shoe Rabbits-these resemble the prairie jack rabbit but is not so fleet of foot. He is always found in wooded areas and swamp lands. Porcupine-with his many short quills feeds mainly on the bark of trees; the white pine, jack pine, tamarack and aspen are most delicious to him. The Skunk is almost harmless, only he likes a chicken feed now and then. Skunk fur is always valuable but remember-the scent is not so good! Itasca Park has many more of the smaller types of animals but lack of space and time do not permit us to describe them.

Many different kinds of birds make our summers more beautiful and our springs are made very cheerful with their continual singing. We can readily hear that they are glad to get back to our wooded spaces. The Partridge, surely a native bird to this section, has been the main food for many an early settler in this country. A few years ago a disease hit these birds and thousands of them died. The small number then left have been protected until they are quite plentiful again at this time.

Unquestionably one of the most out standing places of safety for ducks is in the many lakes in the Park. When hunting season starts, thousands of ducks come here for safty. It can be truthfully said that Itasca Park harbors in the neighborhood of 150 thousand ducks daily from the opening of hunting season until they journey south. Another thing that many people are much interested in is that the ducks leave the park about sun down and fly to the two Rice Lakes and river for food, returning to the Park before day light the following morning. The distance to the feeding grounds is about 15 miles. Surely,it would do your soul good to still see a duck flight that darkens the heavens for half an hour while passing over.

Here, we too, have the Heron family. The Heron is a large long-legged bird. We think of them as fishermen and tree destroyers. In our opinion we don't think that they should be protected.

Animals and birds are two of the factors that bring people to this northern section and we should therefore protect all but the predatory birds and animals for they are an asset to our country.

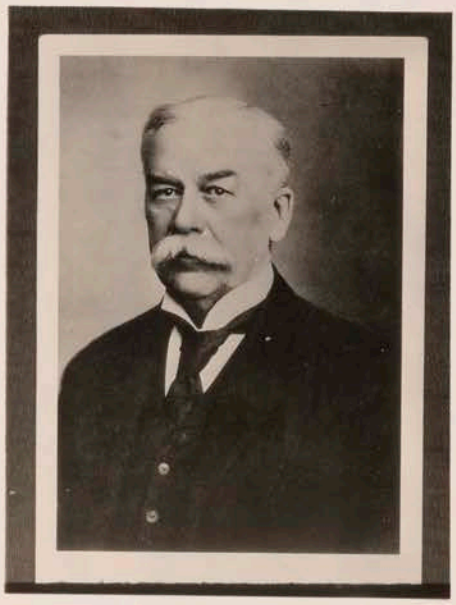
Fishing in Itasca Park is very good considering the heavy amount of tourist fisherman who come here year~~y~~ Itasca Lake probably furnishes more fish than ~~each~~ all the other lakes in the park. Thousands of pounds of fish are taken from Itasca Lake every summer. It is astonishing how it keeps on producing fish. This lake is heavily stocked each year and a part of it (the west arm) is closed to fishing. This gives the fish a chance to propagate. Itasca Lake furnishes Wall-Eyed Pike, Great Northern Pike, Perch, Bass and some of the finest Crappies and Blue Gills to be found anywhere in Minnesota Waters. Elk Lake furnishes Wall-Eyed Pike and due to the cold springs that make the lake, the fish are exceedingly delicious. Morrison and DeSota Lakes are noted for bass fishing and when the bass bite-well you just have to bait your hook behind a tree! Many other lakes in the park have fish but those mentioned are the most favorable for fishing.

Itasca Park is noted for its many beautiful wild flowers. The predominant ones are: Violets Baby Breath, Arbutus, Trillium, Blue Bells, Daisies, Dog Teeth, Asters, Golden-Rod, Morning Glory, Iris, Mary Gold, Tiger Lilly, the "Myrtle" or Indian Paint Brush and our famous state flower, the Cyprepedium or Moccasin Flower. These are all found in great numbers at Itasca State Park. MOCCASINS are found on the lowlands, covering as much as an acre to a patch. Could you imagine a prettier sight than a carpet of these delicately colored slippers? We are proud of our Minnesota State Flower and give it the best of protection. It is generally known that Itasca Park has more species of flowers and plants than any other like area in the United States.

J.V.Brower.

Mr. J.V.Brower directed an exploring party into Itasca Park in 1889, representing the Minnesota Historical Society, With transit and level lines they penetrated the basin of Lake Itasca and to this day their charts and diarys are taken as an authentic record.

Too much cannot be said of the ability and loyalty of this man. His heart and soul were wrapped up in Itasca Park and he was a constant park-promoter all of his life. Two books were written by Mr. Brower describing his exploring results and many other interesting things regarding the Park. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Brower as a pioneer of the Lake Itasca Basin. His life was filled with services that are valuable to historical seekers. We think Mr. Brower should have the honor of bearing the name "Father of Itasca State Park" and that a statue should be erected in memory of this nature loving man at Itasca Park.



LEGEND FOR ITASCA STATE PARK MAP.

A. PINES TRAIL, a road connecting all the trails and roads of the Park with Trunk Highway No. 4 at the Pines entrance.

B. THE PARK DRIVE, a one-way road, is a trail built for fire protection of the north half of the Park but is passable for cars during most weather, thus permitting guests to see the large timber and beauties of the interior of the Park.

C. LAKES TRAIL, a scenic road winding among the lakes in the southeastern portion of the Park from the Lakes entrance, connecting with the Pines Trail at Douglas Lodge.

10. DOUGLAS LODGE, a state-owned summer resort, leased to private hotel management and operated as a first class summer hotel. The main lodge was built in 1903, is a two-story log building, forty by eighty feet in size, and named in honor of Hon. W.B. Douglas, who as Attorney General of the state did much for the establishment of Itasca State Park.

11. PREACHER'S GROVE, is made up of a dense stand of large, beautiful Norway pine and is now used as a public lunch ground. The name was given it because it was the gathering place for religious services by the early settlers of this region.

12. PEACEPIPE SPRINGS, a clear, cool, beautiful spring at the edge of Lake Itasca at the foot of a steep, timbered slope, a lunch ground is maintained at the crest of the hill.

13. COLLEGE OF FORESTRY, University of Minnesota, summer school campus and experimental forest nursery.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S HEADQUARTERS, with office, shops, barns and other buildings, in which the Park Superintendent and staff of employees live.

15. ELK, DEER, AND BUFFALO PASTURE, in which specimen animals are kept so that guests may see them.

16. ELK ENCLOSURE, in which is a herd of forty elk for propagating and releasing thruout the state.

17. PARK CAMP GROUNDS, on the site of the lost village of the Mound Builders, is the only location in the Park in which over-night camping is permitted. There are camping accomodations, including artesian wells, modern sanitation and conveniences, for all the guests that may visit the Park, and a store where supplies may be purchased.

LEGEND FOR ITASCA STATE PARK MAP.

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18. RANGER STATION AND 100-FOOT STEEL LOOKOUT TOWER. This is the central point for the rangers, with their fire fighting equipment for the protection of the Park.

19. INDIAN MOUNDS. From six of these mounds ancient stone implements and pottery have been removed and preserved by the State Historical Society.

20. THE SOURCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. Here, 1,467 feet above the ocean, the mighty Mississippi begins to flow 2,546 miles on its winding way to the Gulf of Mexico. Also the first bridge across the Mississippi River.

21. CONTROL DAM. The first dam across the Mississippi River and used to maintain a fixed water level in Lake Itasca.

22. UNIVERSITY FROST EXPERIMENT for determining the upheaval of rocks by freezing.

23. SQUAW LAKE CABIN for housing fire guards and game patrol.

24. BOHALL TRAIL is a foot path extending from the west arm of Lake Itasca to Bohall Lake and the Park Drive, passing thru virgin timber the entire two miles.

25. MIDDLE WEST CABIN is the first one of a series of cabins built many years ago for housing fire fighters and Park Patrolmen.

26. THE LIND SADDLE TRAIL was proposed by Hon. John Lind and laid out by him while Governor of the State of Minnesota in 1900, most of the funds for its building being donated by him. The trail is thirteen miles in lenght, beginning at Douglas Lodge, going around the west side of Elk Lake, past De Soto Lake, Gilfillan Lake, Mary's Lake, back to Douglas Lodge. Twenty-eight lakes and ponds may be seen from this trail.

27. DEER RUN SPRING. Hunters stood on the ridge above this spring and shot deer for the market as they were driven between the lakes.

28. FIRST SERMON preached at this point by Rev. J.A. Gilfillan in May, 1881, Text; "Then had thy peace been as a river."

29. EAGLE'S NEST located in a large white pine. The same pair of eagles return to this point for nesting each season.

LEGEND FOR ITASCA STATE PARK MAP.

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30. ELK SPRINGS. One of many large, cold springs flowing into Elk Lake.

31. DEER PARK LAKE TRAIL. A beautiful short-cut trail from Douglas Lodge to De Soto Lake, suitable for saddle and foot travel.

32. SWIMMING BEACH.

33. LA SALLE SPRINGS.

34. NICOLLET CABIN. A small log building located on the Lind Saddle Trail in Roosevelt Grove, used for both winter and summer park patrol.

35. SOUTHWEST CABIN , which is a permanent residence for the Park Patrolman.

36. DE SOTO CABIN , for Park Patrol

37. EAGLE TRAIL , built by Eagle Scout troop thru beautiful timber, connecting De So to and Southwest patrol cabins.

38. IRON CORNERS . A monument marking the corners of Becker, Clearwater and Hubbard Counties. Readily seen from the Lind Saddle Trail.

Mississippi Headwaters.

These scenes are of the source of our great Mississippi River showing us howthe early settlers got across the river. This picture taken in 1894 convinces us of olden days by the clothing the people on the foot log wore. The old log sluice-way or wagon bridge used in the early logging days has now been replaced by a new one. Other scenes show the beauty of the infant river in winter.

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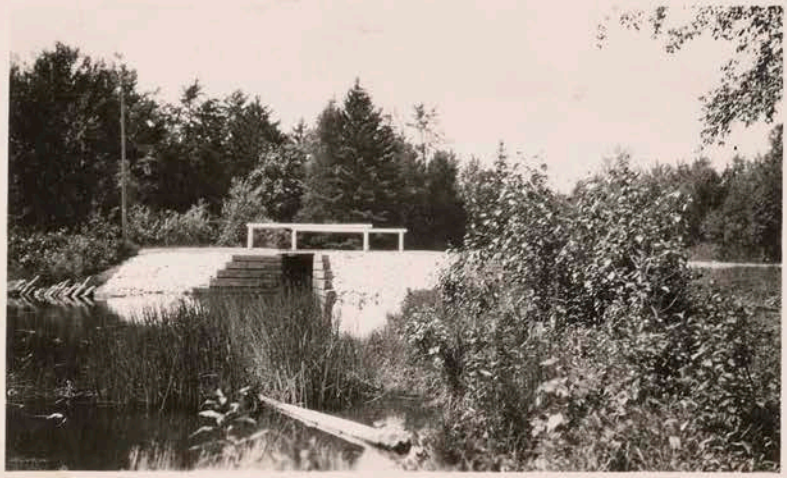

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Logging Days.

Let's go back to the last half of the eighteenth century when this area was covered by a vast, dense stand of Norway and White Pine which at that time started yielding great wealth to the State of Minnesota and her people: First it was necessary to send Cruisers into this wild and lonely country to estimate the amount of timber and the different locations that were needed. In the accompaning picture we find Mr. Al. DePue (deceased 1931) a pioneer cruiser and Minnesota Forest Service man in his camp. This camp was located in Itasca Park in 1886 when Mr. DePue cruised this country. His ability as a cruiser was unquestioned.

The men who did the work of cutting and getting the large trees to market were called "Lumber Jacks". They were men with great ability and strenght. Their main object was always to do a bigger and better day's work than his fellow-men. It was nothing for those hardy men to get out in the woods long before daylight with the thermometer registering from 40% to 50% below zero or for the log drivers to be wet all day long while wadding in the rivers with ice chunks floating around them. They considered that just "their work" and enjoyed it. The lumber jacks had to have a place for recreation so we are showing you the city of Mallard, a pioneer logging town. The first means of travel or getting out logs was by oxen. More up to date means of logging soon followed, such as the jamer for loading and the railroad to haul the logs away. All that now is left to remind us of the old logging days are scenes of old camp sites and charred stumps.

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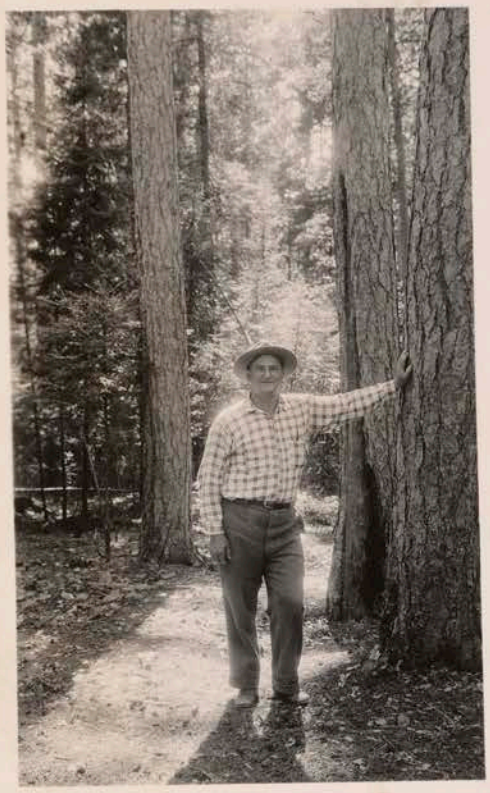

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Wallard, Minn.

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Forest Service.

Itasca State Park is under the Conservation Commission thru the channels of the Forest Service. The Forest Service maintains a Ranger Station, Observation Tower and all kinds of fire fighting equipment in the park. Under Ranger Frank Pugh's supervision, fire look-out towers are constantly manned watching for fires in hazardous weather. Probably one of the most important towers is that at Anchor Hill. This tower site is on the continental divide, 2000 feet above sea level, where smokes or fires are located very quickly and accurately by the towerman. It is commonly known that a Forest Serviceman must be posted on many different subjects, although the main one is trees. First of all he must keep fires out of the timber areas we now have, plant more trees and try to bring back the timber production in this northern country. There are many disadvantages encountered before a tree grows to maturity. Some of the most outstanding ones are fire, insects, ice and snow, Xmas-Tree seekers, draught or very wet years when water is backed up onto tree roots for too long a time. Probably the best thought that can be derived from the accompanying pictures is that of wonderful reproduction. The distant-looking picture with the lake in the center is taken from the Anchor Hill Tower. Two large smokes are visible, one directly over the lake and one under what looks something like an aeroplane which, however, is nothing but a spot on the negative.

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Forest Service Encampment

In June 1931 The Minnesota Forest Service held a three-day encampment at Itasca Park. This is the first encampment that has been held in the entire history of the Forest Service. Men for the first time had a chance to meet each other. The time was spent in going over the duties of Forest Servicemen and all present reported that a great deal of good was derived from the meeting. Due to fire hazards it was impossible for a meeting this year. Let's hope that next year we may all meet at some place and renew old acquaintances. Here's hoping it will be at Itasca Park.

The Crew.

Just some pictures of the crew. First the state has provided a wonderful modern log structure for us to live in. On an average of from 10 to 20 helpers are employed.. The cooks are highly respected for being good natured when late meals are to be served and also for the making of plain delicious foods which they keep in store for us. Supt. Lang by the stone chimney, foreman, John Korth, making friends with a deer and the mechanic, Olin Coan, standing in the shop-door are also essential "Its" about the campus.

Camp Grounds.

The Park Camp Ground, situated on the site of the last village of the Mound Builders, is the only location in the park where over-night camping is permitted. Good camping accomodations, including modern sanitation and conveniences for all the guests that may visit the park are found here.

About 10,000 over-night campers made use of this picnic-ground last summer and some 125 thousand peopled visited here during the outing season.

A few details describing some of the snap shots are given. One picture taken in 1894 represents the first Fourth of July Picnic held on the Itasca State Park Camp Grounds. Many of the Pioneers shown in the picture are still living here.

Folks who have visited Itasca Park in the summer and describe it as being beautiful should see it in the winter when all out-doors is clothed in fairy-white.

A fish-cleaning building with running water ~~are~~ is one of the facilities at hand for the use of the tourist.

One of the views is of the dock and some of our campers, another of a flowing well where a person may be sure to get a drink of the best water in the land. A recreation building was erected in 1929. It is a beautiful log structure containing many curious as well as interesting specimens in glass cases and adorning the walls. The building has been officially named " O-Za-Win-Dib Wigwam" after Schoolcraft's Indian guides. It was through the efforts of Supervisor Linder,(the then Superintendent of Itasca Park) that the building was erected.

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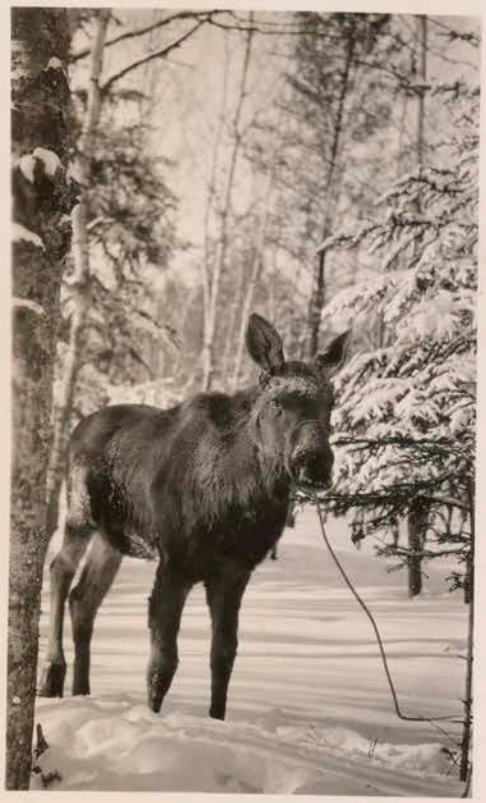
Moose.

In the summer of 1931 the State Game and Fish Department gave us a baby moose. To tell the exact truth we did not know if the moose was alive or not, anyhow, it certainly was a fierce looking animal. This baby moose was found in the woods close to the side of its dead mother, by a game warden. It is mostly through the efforts of our cook, Mrs. Korth, that the animal has grown to a huge stature and is now in the big Elk Pasture.



Lind Saddle Trail.

The Lind Saddle Trail was proposed and laid out in 1900 by John Lind while he was Governor of the State of Minnesota. Most all of the funds for building this 13 mile trail were donated by him. The trail begins at Douglas Lodge where it follows the north shore of Mary Lake, thru a beautiful hardwood and birch growth, to Elk Lake under a wonderful stand of Norway and White Pine, passing by Elk Springs; crossing Chambers Creek the trail leads on the west side of Elk Lake up onto Bower's Ridge where we see the first sight of Nicollet Lake and Creek. Journeying down Bower's Ridge we find one of the most picturesque places in the park, with dense stands of balsam and spruce on either sides of the trail. Going from the low lands up onto the ridge we are in one of healthiest growths of Norway in the Park and beneath the shade of these great trees we sight Nicollet Cabin. Leading on south through a rough country of many lakes and all kinds of trees we come to DeSota Lake where another Park Cabin is located. Thence journeying east past Lashbrook, Gilfillan and Sibilant Lakes we come to Iron Corners. This corner represents three counties, namely, Clearwater Becker and Hubbard. Turning north we pass into a wonderful wooded but rough country and going on past Josephine, Arko, Deming and Marys Lakes the trail then leads us to Douglas Lodge.

Elk.

Elk were imported into Itasca Park from Jackson Hole, Wym. about eighteen years ago. They were shipped to Park Rapids via the Great Northern Railroad thence over a logging operating spur that had its terminal at Beauty Lake just east of the Park. From here they were transported by wagon to Itasca Park. It was found that the Elk did not do so well in the big enclosure for the first years because of not being acclimated. In the winter of 1931 the Elk were moved to a new location nearer the Park "Headquarters" where they could get better care and protection. At the present time we have a fine thrifty herd numbering close to 40 animals.

Elk were introduced in Itasca 1914-

1 Warden Weigman
2 State Forester Cox
4 Ranger AE Pimley
5 Daily News Photographer
6 Park Supt. Stillman
7
7 Harry Branigan
3 Syrus Eaton of Jackson Hole

Picture of the Crew which transported them from the Logging R.R. to the Elk pasture.

Young America.

The young Indian Chief called Minnesota his hunting and fishing grounds until his white brother, the Young American of To-morrow came along and claimed it as his own. The Red Men and the White Men went through many hardships before they decided upon becoming friends. To-day we find them living to-gether in peace and harmony. The little Indian boy is every bit as anxious to make the first snowman of the season as is his white brother.

Roads.

The roads in Itasca State Park should be much better than what they are. With the large amount of travel over our gravel roads it is almost impossible to keep them in good condition. We have about ten miles of such roads that really should be kept under better traveling conditions, and 24 miles of secondary roads that are passable but need culverts, etc. Besides the above we have many miles of roads to keep up on fire-brake. The following pictures will give some good ideas as to the scenery along our roads in winter. Stone monuments at all park entrances are authorized when financial conditions permit. The monument shown here was built more or less as an experiment to determine the exact size and kind of rock to use and the cost of building it.

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University of Minnesota.

In Itasca Park the University of Minnesota has a branch unit of Forestry where they send the Forestry Freshmen for a six weeks course. They also maintain a nursery and many of the small trees that are planted in the Park are grown in this Nursery. An extensive research program is carried on in etymology.

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The Beaver

The Beaver was introduced into Itasca State Park about thirty years ago. The Canadian Government gave three beaver (two female and one male) to this Park and released the animals on Schoolcraft Island. After a few months it was thought that the beaver had gone but later it was discovered that they had made their way to Nicollet Creek where they had built houses and dams. As a rule, a male beaver will weigh from 30 to 65 pounds. They have brown fur, web feet, large flat trowel-shaped tails and long sharp teeth. Their main food is the bark of the Aspen tree and different roots in and around lakes and swamps. The beaver seem to delight in damming the waters and are therefore great artists in the construction of dams. With their long sharp teeth they cut down the trees, chew off the branches and in instances where the trees are large they even cut them in-to lenghts of about four feet. These they then drag to their houses or dams which are under construction. They are also experts at digging canals which they use in bringing their food from high ground. In the fall of the year the beavers stores a good,big supply of food somewhere in the lake for their winter food. They make neat piles of their food supply for the winter,commencing their stores at the bottom of the lake where it is pushed into the mud and continue pilling it up onto this, interlacing it with mud and rocks so the waves cannot wash the food away. From the time the beavers were introduced until now, they have been steadily increasing and are now to be found in nearly all streams and lakes that have a good food supply.

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Douglas Lodge.

Douglas Lodge is a first class state owned summer resort leased to a private individual. The main lodge was built in 1903 and is about 40 by 80 feet in size. Many annexes and cabins have been built so that the resort has ample room to care for 150 people.
The lodge is named in memory of Hon. W.B.Douglas, who was at that time Attorney General of Minnesota. He did much towards the establisment of Itasca Park. Douglas Lodge, cradled in tall, stately pines, is a spot not soon to be forgotten; and the picture one sees as he stands at the top of the stone steps looking out over the east arm of Lake Itasca is like an infinite dream.

Recreation.

The old folks as well as the young ones in and around Itasca State Park are a jolly class of people who enjoy parties, dances,etc. Everyone seems to love the out of doors and especially winter life with all its lively sports. It will be only a short time before this great recreational spot will be calling the world for winter sports. Everything worthwhile to further these health-providing activities is to be found here and a winter carnival may soon be "the thing".

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Schoolcraft Pageant.

For the first time in the history of Itasca State Park the neighboring towns or cities helped promote activities here. In the fall of 1931 a discussion arose as to the possibility of having a celebration to commorate the discovery of the Lake Itasca Basin by Harry Rowe Schoolcraft on July 13,1832.
After investigating it was found that the Park was financially unable to carry out sucha fete.
Later some of the neighboring towns called a meeting and the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Society was formed with Earl Barker of Bemidji as President. Many different kinds of entertainment were mentioned but finally a pageant seemed most promising. This pageant was given six times thruout July, August, September with large crowds attending and enjoying each performance. The toal attendance being about 45,000 people.
This Indian Pageant was a great success and the extensive advertising that was sent out has done much to bring Minnesota before the eyes of the people in the United States.
The accompaning are a few pictures of the Pageant grounds and some of the Indians who took part in it.

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Education.

An educational program is carried on from this department all during the year. During the summer time lectures and slides are shown during the camping season. Through-out the whole year we are continually called upon to give lectures and show slides in different towns. The conservation program is taught and best carried out in our schools. We believe in teaching the children that they are the men and women of to-morrow who must carry on our conservation measures. We are much interested in Scouting and maintain an Eagle Scout camp at DeSota Lake each year where the scouts build trails and learn conservation from an experienced forester.


ISHKOTE ININI


FIRST SERMON AT THE SOURCE
DELIVERED HERE BY
REV
MAR
TEXT THIS MAN THE PEACE HERE AS
A GIVER

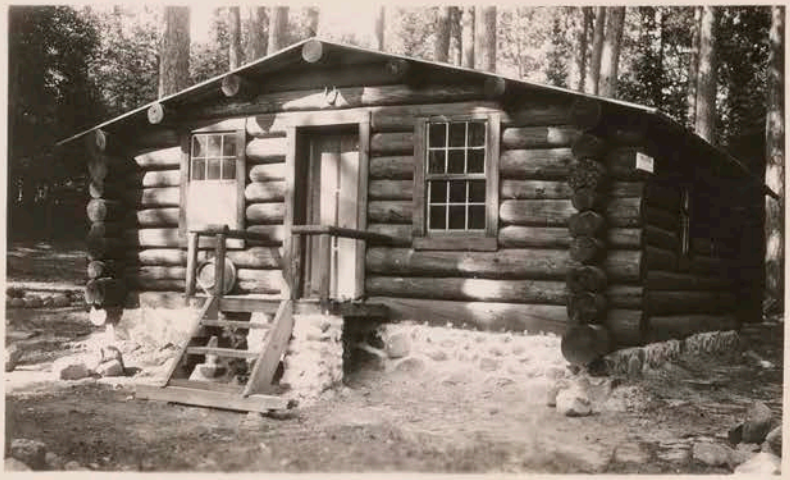
Animals.

The following are pictures of different animals found here. Many of the animals are very shy-making it difficult to obtain pictures of them. When the best opportunity for a picture comes along, your camera is at home. A few of the most outstanding pictures are shown here. In one of these pictures the Buffalo is rolling a snow-ball around. We all know it is a great delight for children to push snow-balls in the soft, wet snow, watching them become larger and larger as the snow sticks onto the rolling ball. This too is one of the Buffalo's great delights as the picture illustrates.
The duck flight has already been mentioned.
The picture where the deer is standing on his hind feet to get a cookie is outstanding; too bad the head is missing but, oh! what a shadow!
Our Racoon friends come to visit us every night hoping that they will be lucky enough to find something to eat on our back porches or in the garbage cans.

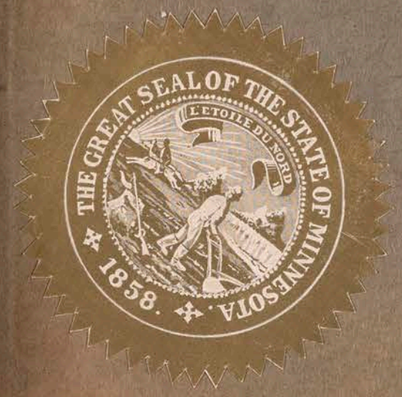
Game Patrol

Problems dealing with the management of Itasca State Park would be much less difficult it it were not for the necessity of game patrol. Every year the state spends large sums of money for the protection of game and it doesn't seem right that people will come deliberately into the Park to kill. One method used in protection is the "gate system". Each road entering the Park has a gate. These gates may be opened or closed as a person happens along. The traveler's car is then stopped and searched before allowed to pass through. So far this seems to be one of the best means of protection yet applied. Patrol cabins are maintained within the park boundary in which men are located at different times of the year to help in the protection of game. The state employs a man each winter to trap and kill the predatory animals.

The trail of some Game Poacher or Law Breaker often leads into days, weeks and even months and when he is apprehended and taken into court he may be fined $10.00 and costs and if he cannot or will not pay his fine he is sent to jail. There the county has to feed him and in most cases his family as well. It is not infrequent that we are told later by some county official that we did wrong by arresting the Poacher. Now what can be done? A place where this kind of violator can be put to work seems like a possible cure to keep some people from being more anxious to go to jail than pay their fine.




THE GREAT SEAL OF MINNESOTA.
QUO SURSUM VELO VIDERE
1849.


THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.
L'ETOILE DU NORD
1858.

ALBUM
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LAKE ITASCA REPORT

FOREST SERVICE
RECREATION
ANIMALS
ROADS
U of M
DOUGLAS LODGE
Schoolcraft