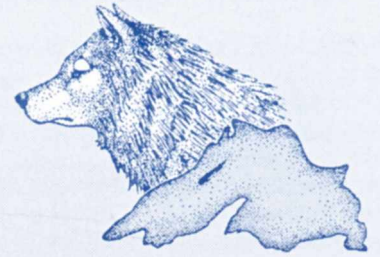


Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE & KEWEENAW PARKS ASSOCIATION

2009 No. 1

THE MOOSE OF ISLE ROYALE: Eight Decades after Ade Murie's Study

by Mary Hindelang, Wildlife Ecologist

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Isle Royale Moose/Wolf Ecological Research Study, my thoughts go to those early naturalists who ventured to the island years ago. In particular, Adolph Murie's meticulous and comprehensive study of Isle Royale conducted eighty years ago in the summers of 1929 and 1930 has been the foundation for many of us who followed him as researchers.

In the spring of 1929, Michigan passed an act to survey Isle Royale's resources for potential future uses. The University of Michigan conducted the survey and the biological portion was placed under the Museum of Zoology where Adolph Murie was the new assistant curator of mammals.

It was a fitting summer adventure for young Ade Murie who had spent three years at the University of Michigan (1926-1929) becoming "burdened with a PhD". His following two summers were devoted to studies of a little known remote wilderness island in Lake Superior. Previously, Ade had accompanied his brother Olaus Murie to Alaska in 1922-23 conducting caribou research, an experience that inspired his life's work.

Although most of Ade's time on Isle Royale was devoted to a study of the moose, his observations and trapping enabled him to determine the presence or absence of the smaller species and he created

an annotated list of the mammals on Isle Royale. Murie's moose research was published as a professional scientific manuscript. He estimated that after only a few decades on the island in the absence of effective predators, there were well over a thousand moose and many of their preferred plant species were overbrowsed.

As I ventured through my doctoral research on the skeletal pathologies of Isle Royale moose in the early 1990s, a University of Michigan Museum of Zoology "miscellaneous publication" called "The Moose of Isle Royale" by Adolph Murie became my constant inspiration and reference, a copy always in my backpack for comparing observations or light reading by candlelight at the

close of an exhilarating day among the moose of Isle Royale. His list of mammals, similar to our present list except for a rare coyote and lynx and the absence of wolves, kept me vigilant for critters smaller than a refrigerator.

With growing admiration of the work of Olaus and Adolph Murie, I had the great pleasure of visiting the Murie Ranch in Moose, WY, and spent many hours with Mardy and Louise (Weezy) over the years. They invited me to browse hand written notes and vast archives of bones and scat, and helped me locate the museums where they had donated more of their husbands' works. Louise was particularly happy that I found Ade's work and collections so helpful in my research and was enthralled with my photos and journal of my experiences on Isle Royale. She once told me that my style of studying wildlife reminded her of what she called "the Adolph Murie way", witnessing the wild patiently, slowly, curiously; noting observations meticulously in a hand-written journal.

Immersed in Ade's handwritten notes of his time on Isle Royale, I find many observations similar to passages in my own journal. He never missed mention of a carcass of a moose mired in the mud, moose beds in cedar swamps and on ridges, reactions of moose encountered in great detail; or while endlessly walking the uplands and valleys noting asters, dogwood, fireweed, pin cherries; birds and small mammals scurrying around; sunrises and sunset and wild storms on Superior.

In 1935, Adolph Murie prepared a report on the qualifications of Isle Royale as a National Park. He noted that Isle Royale had both esthetic and scientific values of the highest order and concluded that it was "unique and outstanding in many ways that merit action which will assure its preservation -- the insular character of Isle Royale's flora and fauna, absence of many mainland forms, and distinctive mixture of boreal and southern elements in its biota." On its value as a wilderness area, he wrote, "Isle Royale is practically uninhabited and untouched. The element of pure wilderness which it contains is rare and worthy of the best care. True wilderness is more marvelous (and harder to retain) than the grandiose, spectacular features of our outstanding parks. It alone labels Isle Royale as of park caliber."

Ade Murie went on to become something of a legend, devoting 32 years to the National Park Service leading pioneering studies in Yellowstone and Denali. He was an ecologist before the term was commonly used, focusing on relationships in the whole ecosystem rather than on single organisms. His contributions to wildlife research are many, but in my mind a greater gift was that Ade's life inspired ways of experiencing the natural world with deepening desire to protect wild lands and wild creatures. Anyone who has ever heard of Isle Royale, or has grown to love her as I have, has Ade Murie to thank. ■

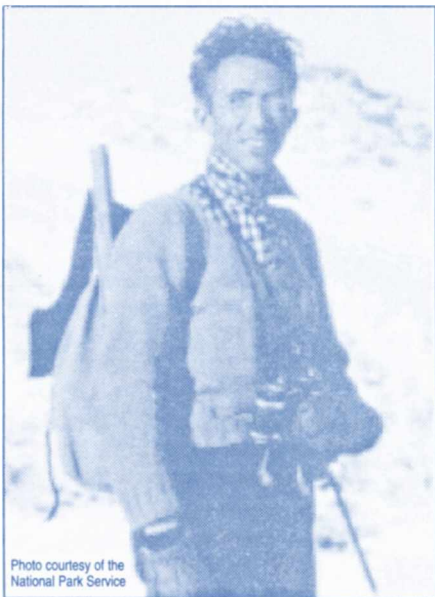


Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

KNHP Planning Visitor Center

The National Park Service at Keweenaw National Historical Park is making plans for its first visitor center in the Union Building in Downtown Calumet.

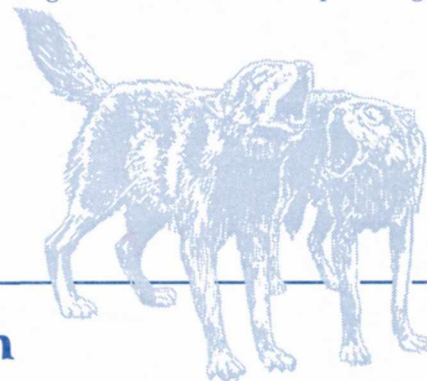
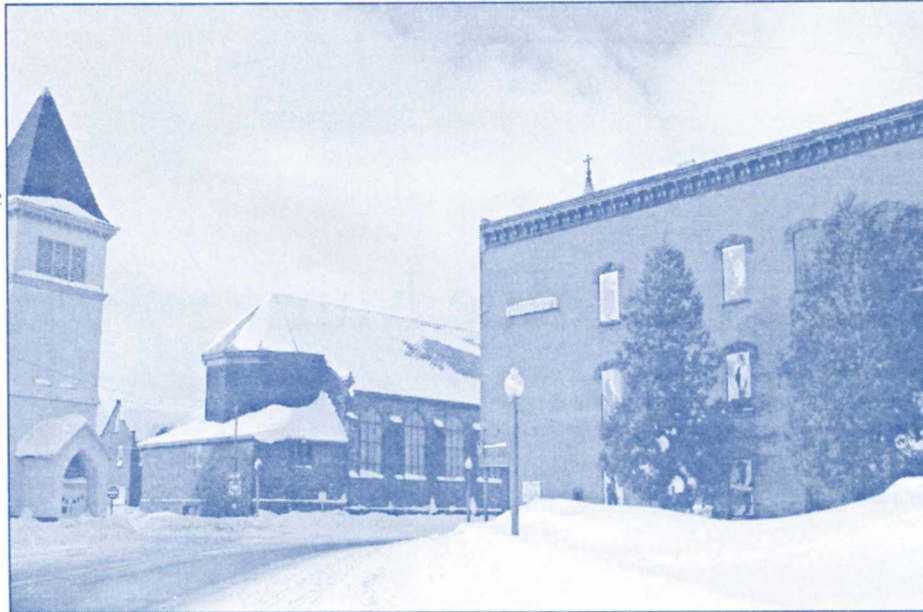
The Union Building was built in 1889 through a collaborative effort of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, hence the name "Union Building," on land provided by the C&H Mining Company at the head of Fifth Street in downtown Calumet. While there were many commercial enterprises on the street level over the years, the upper floors were used for fraternal and benevolent organizations' meetings for more than seventy years.

In 1999, the National Park Service purchased the historic Union Building in Calumet with the long-range goal of making it a visitor interpretive facility. Keweenaw National Historical Park completed the first phase of the building's rehabilitation by stabilizing its exterior in 2005. In 2008, the park received funding to begin planning the interior portion of the project. When the project is completed, targeted for 2011/2012 depending on funding, it will be the park's first NPS-operated visitor facility and will include an information station to orient visitors to the park and the Keweenaw Heritage Sites, as well as interpretive exhibits that will characterize "Life in a Mining Town" from the human perspective. According to park superintendent Jim Corless, "The NPS is looking forward to welcoming residents and visitors alike in our 'new' facility," adding that "should funding become available, we hope to have the Union Building open year-round."

Proposed alterations to the historic structure include the installation of an elevator to provide universal accessibility and restroom facilities that comply with current building code guidelines. These alterations will require the removal of historic fabric in the building. The challenge is to minimize the impact to the historic character of the structure.

The Office of Krister Olmon, Inc., has developed preliminary concepts. In Value Analysis workshops, which included subject matter experts from the NPS, the contractors, and community members, a preliminary preferred alternative was developed. Keweenaw National Historical Park hosted a historian's roundtable meeting

January 13 - 15 to discuss the national context of the Calumet social story and review themes, concepts and information related to the Union Building exhibits. A document resulting from the workshop is posted on the park's website at www.nps.gov/kewe. There is a link on the homepage for the Union Building project where the public can review the document to get an idea of the concepts being considered.



New Scholarship Honors Bob Linn

The Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association has established a new scholarship in memory of our founding member Bob Linn. Bob was Park Naturalist for Isle Royale National Park for many years before becoming Chief Scientist for the National Park Service. The Bob Linn Scholarship is designed to pay tribute to Bob by providing financial assistance to students interested in nature and the environment. The Bob Linn scholarship will provide \$250 to a high school senior who plans to major in biology, forestry, or earth sciences in college. The scholarship is open to members of IRKPA, their children, and all students in the Copper Country Intermediate School District. The initial funding for the Bob Linn scholarship was contributed by Chuck Boyle and Bob and Linda Guiliani. Tax-deductible contributions to the scholarship fund will help us to maintain the scholarship for years to come. We encourage you to support this outreach effort.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduating Senior from CCISD High School or home school, or child of Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Assoc. member.
- College acceptance with plans to major in biology, forestry, or earth sciences.
- Interest in nature and the environment as demonstrated by letter and recommendations.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Letter of not more than 2 pages describing college plans, and activities and volunteer work related to nature and the environment.
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, Scout Leader, or other non-related adult.
- Copy of school transcript.

Applications should be sent to Jill Burkland, Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Assoc, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI 49931. Deadline: April 15, 2009 • For more information, please call Jill Burkland at 906-482-7860.

* Note: Children of Isle Royale or Keweenaw Park employees or IRKPA employees are not eligible for this award.

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CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Each year, the terms of two or three of our board members expire, and we are always interested in finding new people to fill those vacancies. If you are a current member of the Association and are interested in becoming more involved, consider running for our board. Board members serve three-year terms during which they are expected to attend three meetings each year, serve on committees, participate in fundraising, and support IRKPA financially as they are able. These are volunteer positions; board members receive no compensation.

A major focus of the board over the next three years will be fundraising and membership development. Persons with experience in these areas are especially encouraged to apply.

To run in the upcoming election, please send a short biographical sketch indicating educational background and current employment as well as a statement about your connections to Isle Royale and/or Keweenaw National Historical Park. Please include your address and phone number.

Nominations should be mailed no later than April 15 to IRKPA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI, 49931, or submitted by e-mail to jburland@irnha.org.

Ballots will be distributed to all current members in June.

2009 Annual Meeting on the Keweenaw

At its October meeting the IRKPA Board of Directors voted to alternate IRKPA annual meetings from Isle Royale to the mainland. For the first time in recent history, this year's annual summer membership meeting will be held in the Houghton/Calumet area July 25 and 26. The 2010 meeting will be held the last weekend of July in Rock Harbor.

By alternating meeting sites, the board hopes to involve more IRKPA members, not only in the annual meeting, but also in special programs and social events held in conjunction with the meeting. Plans for this year's membership weekend will be discussed at the February 28 board meeting. A schedule of events will be included in the next issue of Wolf's Eye, will be sent to members on our email list, and will be updated on our website www.irnha.org.

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* denotes additional contribution
 made in FY 2008

Island Visitor Numbers 2008 2007 2006

May	498	555	592
June	2,191	2,277	2,512
July	3,592	3,483	5,188
August	4,529	4,397	5,437
September	1,020	999	888
Annual Island Visitation	11,941	11,786	14,678
Annual Houghton Headquarters Visitors	2,234	1,637	2,367
Total Annual Visitors	14,175	13,423	17,045

*The chart above shows a comparison of the number of people visiting
 Isle Royale National Park over the last three years. Visitation numbers are not available for
 Keweenaw National Historical Park.*

Income and Expense for Years Ended September 30:

Income	2008	2007
Sales Income	\$118,392	\$93,276
Member Dues	\$37,317	\$34,030
Donations/Grants*	\$20,366	\$13,845
Programs	\$10,173	\$6,086
Interest/ Misc. Income	\$46	\$630
Auction & Special Events	\$943	\$1,281
Total Income	\$187,237	\$149,148
Cost of Goods Sold	\$65,335	\$53,340
PROFIT	\$121,902	\$95,808
Expense		
Operating Expense	\$84,408	\$90,718
Net Annual Income	\$37,494	\$5,090
Aid to the Park	\$16,759	\$14,206
Net Increase/Decrease	\$20,735	-\$9,116

* Donations do not include gifts to KCF Endowment

Balance Sheets for 9/30 2008 2007

Assets

Current Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$4,767	\$8,308
Receivables	\$2,592	\$1,486
Inventory	\$151,162	\$135,785
Total Current Assets	\$158,521	\$145,579
Fixed Assets (Equipment)	\$577	\$1,037
Total Assets	\$159,098	\$146,616

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$13,544	\$11,591
Grants Payable	\$2,000	\$3,086
Tax Liabilities	-\$1,007	-\$511
Bank Loan	\$23,270	\$31,803
Total Current Liabilities	\$37,807	\$45,969
Equity	\$121,291	\$100,647
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$159,098	\$146,616

KC Foundation Endowment

Gifts to Date	\$107,629	\$44,171
Initial Agency Endowment	\$1,102	\$1,114
Total	\$108,731	\$45,285

Aid to Park

Cash Contribution	2008	2007
Greenstone Newspaper	\$2,540	\$2,751
ISRO Kids Newspaper	\$951	\$0
KNHP Newspaper	\$1,971	\$2,298
Free Park Brochures	\$1,379	\$1,452
Artist in Residence Program	\$210	\$2,012
Interpretation materials	\$100	\$110
Superintendent's account*	\$344	\$26
Natural Resources	\$3,114	\$0
Author/Designer Fees	\$6,150	\$5,370
Other		\$77
Total Cash Contribution	\$16,759	\$14,338

Botany and Photography Workshop Schedules for June, 2009

Learn to identify the diverse native plants of this incredible island with botanist Janet Marr or discover Isle Royale's many beauties with professional photographer Bob Guiliani!

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP JUNE 19-24

Learn the many aspects involved in today's world of nature photography. Designed for the beginner and intermediate using either film or digital cameras. Not only will you learn from Bob, but the interaction with other participants will give you more insights into the wonderful world of photography.

Some of the topics to be covered are:

- What all those dials and buttons mean and do on the camera.
- The many techniques used in close-up photography.
- What to look for in lighting your subject.
- How depth of field changes the look of your image.
- Rules of composition that work and don't work and when.
- Sunrise, sunset pictures and if lucky, moon photos over Isle Royale.
- The effects of shutter speeds and f/stops on your final image.
- How to obtain the proper exposure.
- Using flash photography to illuminate your subject.
- Filters that make sense to carry with you.
- Critiques of your images.

Suggested equipment: Tripod, close-up capabilities either with a close-up lens, close-up filter or macro setting on the lens, flash in camera and/or a separate flash, a medium telephoto lens or longer, and a wide angle lens. Not all this equipment is needed, but most of it will be demonstrated by Bob while in the field with the participants. More specific information will be sent once registered. Bring notebook for notes and lots of film or memory cards. This will be a busy workshop with classroom lectures and in the field demonstrations with students taking many images while the instructor critiques them. There will also be time set aside to do photography on your own while visiting this classroom island filled with treasures of nature.

BOTANY WORKSHOP JUNE 15 - 20

This special botany workshop is open to anyone with beginning/intermediate knowledge of plant identification who would like to learn to identify the early season plants of Isle Royale. You'll learn to use such tools as a dichotomous key and hand lens to identify plants. Plant communities, rare species, ecology, and invasive species will be discussed.

The instructor, botanist Janet Marr, has had many years of experience studying plants across Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Isle Royale. She is co-author of Island Life, an Isle Royale Nature Guide recently published by IRKPA. Janet has taught two Isle Royale botany workshops as well as many botany and aquatic plant workshops in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.

Workshop activities will take place primarily outdoors. Field trips will be in the vicinity of Rock Harbor and will include Tobin Harbor, Scoville Point, and Raspberry Island. You should be able to hike up to seven miles a day with a daypack sometimes on steep, rocky trails and slippery bedrock shore.

FEES, LODGING, REGISTRATION

Participants may camp for free at a Rock Harbor group site, or stay in the Rock Harbor Lodge or housekeeping units at their own expense.

Total cost for each workshop is \$600 per person (\$575 for IRKPA members; see <http://irnha.org/> for information on becoming a member). Fee covers instruction, camping, meals on the island, and transportation to and from Houghton, Michigan, on the Ranger III. Participants may travel from Grand Portage, Minnesota, on the Voyager at their own expense.

Workshops are scheduled so that those wishing to can attend both for a cost of \$1100. There is a limit of 12 participants for each workshop. **Participants need to pre-register and send a \$100 deposit to be received by May 1st** to the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association, Attn: Jill Burkland, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931 in order to attend this workshop. For more information contact Jill Burkland @ 906-482-7860 or jburkland@irnha.org.

Don't Let This Be Your Last Issue of Wolf's Eye

As of January 31, 404 of you have renewed your memberships for 2009. Another 341 of you have not! We thank those of you who have given IRKPA your support for another year by renewing your dues and/or sending an additional contribution. We urge those of you who haven't yet renewed your support for 2009 to do so today. If all 341 renewed at the household level, IRKPA would have another \$12,000 to publish books and newspapers, provide programs like the botany and photography workshops, and assist our parks with money for education and research.

The mailing label on this newsletter includes your membership expiration date. If it says 12/31/08 we urge you to renew today by sending a check or contributing online at www.irnha.org.

Thanks!

p.s. If you renewed and did not receive a 2009 membership card and would like one, please let us know. You can email jburkland@irnha.org or call us at 800-678-6925.

IRKPA Receives Major Endowment Gift

The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association Endowment Fund has received a gift of over \$47,000 from the estate of the late Eileen Niva of Hancock, Michigan. Miss Niva, who was a long-time member of the Association, provided this generous gift as a provision of her will through the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

Ms. Niva was born in Laurium, Michigan in 1915 and lived most of her life in the Copper Country. She was a graduate of Calumet High School and Michigan Technological University, where she was employed for many years in the MTU Library. She was very active in the community through church work and tutoring. Her interests included reading, golf, bowling, politics and environmental issues. She enjoyed her time at her cottage on the shore of Lake Superior. Her gift to the IRKPA Endowment Fund is an expression of her love of Lake Superior and Isle Royale.

For Information on how you can make a planned gift to the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association, contact Jill Burkland at 906-482-7860 or jburkland@irnha.org or the Keweenaw Community Foundation at 906-481-9673 or Keweenaw-community-foundation.org.

Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

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Philip R. Gale ~1920-2008 *by Chris Gale*

Phil Gale's first year at Isle Royale was in 1932. His mother, Alfreda, became friends with the How family of Tobin Harbor from time spent living in Duluth in the 1920s. He was born and raised primarily in St. Louis, and each year the family went to a lake in lower Western Michigan for vacation. In 1932, the lake had a major fish kill and was unfit for vacationing. Phil, his brother John, mother and grandfather Alfred Prince drove to Copper Harbor and took the Copper Queen. They quickly became part of the Tobin Harbor community, and camped on available islands in Tobin Harbor the first few years.

Alfred Prince purchased Gale Island in 1935 and hired Art Mattson to build a cabin, with materials shipped from Duluth aboard the Winyah. Phil and John helped Art for the next two summers. Alfred died on the island in 1946. His body was taken to Michigan by commercial fisherman Milford Johnson Sr., who used fish ice to keep him preserved. With the exception of one summer, Phil's mother spent the next 50 summers on Isle Royale, until the age of 82.

Phil also spent part of most summers of his life at Isle Royale. From 1937-1940, he ran a charter fishing operation out of Washington Harbor, purchasing a 28-foot excursion boat, the H.M.S., from Fred Scofield of Belle Isle Lodge. He and his brother John also developed film obtained from tourists at Tobin Harbor Resort and Rock Harbor Lodge. They advertised a blistering fast 72-hour turn-around service. During this time, John, operated a ham radio based out of Tobin Harbor, and offered communications with the mainland for a fee.

After college, Phil entered medical school as an officer of the Army in World War II. Following his service, he went into private practice in St. Louis as a child psychiatrist. In the mid-1970s, he moved to Hancock, Michigan for several years. He finished his professional career in Minnesota in the 1990s, and lived most recently in Boulder, Colorado.

Like his mother and his wife Penelope, Phil served time as a board member of the Isle Royale Natural History Association. He was an avid outdoor photographer, and leaves an archive of nearly 2,000 slides including scenes of Isle Royale from the mid-1930s to early 2000s.

Phil was able to visit Isle Royale for the last time at age 86 in 2005, and it was obvious that he was as excited and enjoyed it as much his first time, 73 years earlier. The Island was an integral part of his life, and his four sons have been fortunate to make it part of their lives too. Phil passed away in Boulder, Colorado on December 12, 2008, with his sense of humor and joy of life intact to the end. ■

Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

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IRKPA is a non-profit membership organization that assists Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park by publishing and selling educational materials to park visitors. Gifts, bequests, memorials and memberships are U.S. tax deductible.

Membership Categories

Individual \$25	Household \$35
Supporting \$50	Sustaining \$100
Patron \$250	

Life Membership \$1,000*

**Life memberships may be paid
in 5 annual installments.*

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