

WOLF'S

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1958

Volume 2

Number 9

Isle Royale National Park

EYE



Wolf's Eye

.....SERVING TO DISSEMINATE THE NEWS AND NATURAL HISTORY
LORE OF ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION IN COOPERATION
WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AT ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK, HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN

VOLUME 2

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1958

NUMBER 9

WOLF'S EYE IS THE NAME GIVEN TO THIS MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION BECAUSE ON A MAP OF LAKE SUPERIOR, THE LAKE APPEARS AS A PROFILE OF A WOLF'S HEAD WITH ISLE ROYALE SIMULATING THE EYE OF THE WOLF. WOLF'S EYE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN JANUARY, 1957, AS A NEWSLETTER OF ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK, AND IN MARCH OF THAT YEAR THE IRNHA ASSUMED PUBLICATION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BOTH NEWS-LETTER AND NATURAL HISTORY PURPOSES.

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FROM AND ABOUT THE ISLE ROYALTY

Because WOLF'S EYE has featured so many special natural history and events in the past several issues, the news of the Isle Royalty has gone by the board. We have received quite a few notes and letters --- so without further comment here they are:.....

Mr. George F. Baggley, Regional Chief of Operations at Region Two, National Park Service, writes that Mrs. Baggley teaches at the University of Omaha at the Present time. Their daughter, Ruth Ann, is now a senior at Ames Iowa State College. The Baggley's often see and visit with the Ralph's, McPherron's, Nixon's and others --- all former residents of Isle Royale. Mr. Baggley says they they may visit Isle Royale next summer if all goes well. Their present address is: 3535 78th Street, Omaha 14, Nebraska.

There's an unsigned note on our desk which gives the current address of former Seasonal Ranger Bob Daschke as:
Rct. Robert F. Daschke US 55640596
Co. B, 2nd Eng. Bn.
2nd Inf. Division
3rd Platoon
Fort Benning, Georgia

Please write, the card requests!

"The only news we have at the present time is that we are on the teaching job as usual at the Appleton Vocational and Adult School. The Cessna 180 is back on wheels again and the floats are getting a new dress as Dona Young would say it. Besides planning school work I manage to do a bit of flying on weekends with our little Globe Swift or a charter for Leithold Aviation at Green Bay using his Cessna 180. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and the Best New Year ever!"

.....Bob Rusch

"We moved to Longwood, Florida, in July, '57, and are living next door to our daughter in our little new home, which sets in an orange grove. Florida is unusually beautiful right now with the great clumps of poinsettias in every yard and the ripening oranges hanging on the trees. We hate to see the pickers come. Old Father Time is catching up to us, and we don't expect to be able to visit the Island again. But we have many pleasant memories of the years we spent there and the contacts we made there. If any of our friends visit Florida, be sure to look us up. Longwood is not far from Orlando."

Dr. & Mrs. F. H. Clay
1285 East Lake Ave. South
Longwood, Florida

.. "I'm going to school here in Houghton this year. Now that you are back on the main shore, I'll stop in one of these days. Since leaving the Island, time has gone by so fast that it's hard to believe Christmas is close at hand. Nothing really exciting has happened; I've been busy with schoolwork most every day and I suppose you have a pile of papers stacked up on your desk?" (yes, we do) "Will stop in and see you one of these days."

.....Ray (Wiinamaki)

.. "I am making my home in Madison, Wis. together with my daughter, who may be remembered at Isle Royale as Sis Farmer. We are both widows; she is secretary to a prominent City Dept. head; I am active in club and church work. My twenty years in charge of Rock Harbor Lodge (1922-42) were busy and happy ones, during which I made many lasting friendships with fine people all over the United States. The last five years (1937-42) I also operated Windigo Inn and Belle Isle, under a National Park franchise. Many times I wonder if it would be a wise thing for me to visit Rock Harbor Lodge as it is today. I know there have been many changes, and it might seem like an alien world to me. It was my good fortune to know Isle Royale during an era uncomplicated, warm and friendly. My greetings to old friends who may still remember me."

.....B. (Bertha) Farmer
105 South Owen Drive
Madison 5, Wisconsin

"The 'SS' Voyageur was storm-bound 4 days at the Island on its end-of-the-season trip -- returning home yesterday. Skipper Oberg and "coal-passer" Otto missed out on their turkey! Melford Johnsons are at Wrights Island with Ingeborg and Ed Holte. Pete and Laura Edisen are at Rock Harbor. Otherwise all the fishermen are back on mainland. Fran Mattson former co-manager of Windigo is seriously ill at University Hospital --- underwent surgery recently. Our new road over Mt. Josephine is progressing rapidly. As soon as the "Voyageur" is in moth balls for the winter, the Ottos hope to follow the birds southward. Errol, their son, will operate a boat at Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.)."

.....E. M. Otto
Grand Portage, Minn.

"This is the first winter that the "Mayor of Belle Isle" has gone into full fledged retirement. This should come as no surprise to Bob Janke who has never caught me working yet. Unfortunately, house painting, rebuilding Jim's fish tug into a cruiser and various odd jobs about the house have made me long for the eight hour day. We may be down to see Jack's little girl and we'll see you soon."

.....Emil Anderson
3410 Grand Avenue
Duluth, Minn.

..."have been going to the Island every summer since 1919. When my folks (Henry L. Beard and Mother) were able we stayed eight weeks. Since they have been unable I stay about a month. For me there isn't anything that comes close to a vacation at the Island. The folks first went up there and stayed at Tobins Lodge about 1910. Then for two years rented General Roberts place (now Stacks). Then in 1919 built the place that I use. I have a life lease on it. I am employed at the Omaha Stock Yards and it will be 40 years next summer."

.....R. H. Greene

..."and there is news! We bought a beautiful new home in Rochester, Mich. and we are enjoying it so! Rochester is north of Detroit --- about 20 miles (close enough). Just got back from a trip to Kentucky -- saw pictures of the new boat which looks wonderful! We are having an Open House for Isle Royale friends on December 13 and we are looking forward to seeing everyone. Ed Mezey is working in Big Bend National Park this winter. Our new address is: 20 Perrydale, Rochester, Michigan."

.....Ruth (Sanders) Bardes

"Still working on MS degree in lichenology. Passed my exams for MS last week and am now working hard on course completions and thesis. Am working on 1/2 time research assistantship on the lichens collected in Haiti and Dominican Rep. where I spent last summer. Work is going pretty slowly on the Lichens of Isle Royale paper and no completion date can be set yet. It will bring out some interesting distributional patterns I think. My folks are moving to Florida for the winter in January."

.....Cliff Wetmore

Grant Merritt will be through with his Air Force service on the 17th of December and will be back home for Christmas and then expects to locate in Minneapolis for his work there. "I also talked with Dr. Wallace Merritt and wife who came here for Grant's wedding on September 13th and they told us about their plans to make a European tour this coming summer. It means that they won't likely visit Tobins in 1959."

.....Glen J. Merritt
Duluth 1, Minn.

"No 'news' from the Rudes. We got to Duluth November 22 - after waiting a week for the boat. Saw the biggest storm so far on November 18 (SW). The water from the lake ran across the point at Fishermans Home into the Bay. We really have rocks in our rock garden now, while the beach is washed clean."

.....Sam and Elaine Rude

"G. B. Hanson presently visiting Big Bend National Park, Texas. Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park, will open for ski season on December 20th. L. L. Lewis, former Manager of Rock Harbor Lodge, visited Mammoth Cave National Park recently as well as Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Lund, also former Manager of Rock Harbor. With 3 old Rock Harbor managers and tenderfoot Jay Young getting together --- much Isle Royale talk floated about (Ham Houchins got in on his share also). All were just knocked out after seeing the beautiful RANGER III! Lib Goble and a friend spent a few hours at Jays house early in Dec. and was also flabbergasted by photos of the 'III'. Reservations for '59 already flowing! Hurry with those housekeeping units!!"

.....J. W. Young

..."Elise is busy taking exams for nursing school and getting the necessary shots. Fullfare was in the water until October 18th and now is reposing in our garage. After taking some of the equipment off we were able to get 26 mph with the lighter load and the 13 x 15 prop. At the present we do not contemplate using the boat next year. Our plans call for a trip to Alaska taking about 2 mos. Elise plans to work next summer. Lil will co-pilot the Alaska trek."

.....Vance, Lillian
and Elise Zink

"Sorry we haven't written much sooner. The pace of life kind of picked-up for us the last few months as we got a chance to attend the NPS training session here at Yosemite National Park. We've enjoyed it immensely. The session is nearly finished and we'll be heading for Lake Mead and Christmas there."

....Ted, Holly and Gail Scott

"You know nothing ever happens to me, outside of baleful looks from chagrined field areas that fail to get the increases they think they should have every year. At Isle Royale there were always emergencies of one kind or another to keep things interesting, and I note from the current Narrative Report that this still holds true. Hope you have a fine winter and a wonderful Holiday Season, and please express my good wishes to the old friends up yonder."

Chris (Martin Christenson)

"School's out 12/19 - 1/4/59. We hope to visit Jim's family in Duluth, also see the Isle Royale Duluth contingent - Merritts, Mattsons, Anderson, et al. Sent you copy of telegram announcing change of Post Office name to "Isle Royale National Park" - made me very happy. Have a good Holiday Season..."

..Fluently, Coach & Angelique

Here's a nice letter from Roy J. Snell,
Tobin Harbor

"I am going to thump off on my typewriter, some things that I have thought of doing for some time. First of all, in coming home this season, our son Laurie and his wife together with Mrs. Snell, my wife, took one route by way of Minneapolis, in a car and I went off on the Ranger and took a train direct home from Houghton. I arrived at the Union Depot in Chicago. That depot has had it in for me for some time. This year, it got me. I am subject to congestion under certain circumstances. As I walked the mile-or-so-it seemed to the waiting room I got a hunch to put my club bag on a redcap's truck, just as a precaution. The next thing was a few steps, followed by my finding myself on a four wheeled table. I sat up fast and said: 'Air! Air! I can't breathe.' I heard someone say oxygen. A bit later a cooling breeze went down my throat and I felt better. But I could not see. Some woman said: 'Don't be frightened. You are not going to die.' I had not given that a thought. What I said was: 'Oh, You can't frighten me. I am seventy-nine years old and I know that everyone must die sooner or later.' That I consider a classic remark. The depot police took me in an ambulance to a small hospital, there I got my sight back. The nurse asked me several questions, then she deposited me in a separate room; for others were coming in. In my private room, I discovered my clothes on a chair, all but my 'longies.' It was cold in the room so I fished up my shirt and trousers and put them on. The nurse caught me reaching for my socks. What she said surprised me. It was: 'What do you want to do, take a taxi to your station and take the train home?' Very casually I said: 'No, I guess not. There are few trains and I'll be sitting stewing in the depot. I'd rather go all the way (25 Miles) to Wheaton by taxi.' She asked me if I had enough money. I said 'Yes.' And so it was. Once home I cooked me a good supper and ate it with relish. Now how's that??? I've had my ups and downs since that but feel quite sure I shall be catching trout and steelheads next summer as usual.

SOME INTERESTING HISTORY CONCERNING ISLE ROYALE

"There is another story that I think could well be told sometime. In the summer of 1921 Albert Stoll, whose monument is on our end of Scoville Point, together with Laurie Erskine, a well known writer of stories for boys, particularly for AMERICAN BOY but who, for that year was reporting for the DETROIT NEWS, spent about two months on Isle Royale. Their

glowing reports lead the DETROIT NEWS to start a campaign to make Isle Royale a National Park. That same year I began giving a yearly series of talks to the children of Detroit Schools, under the auspices of the DETROIT NEWS. At that time I was giving lectures based on my experiences gained while managing the largest Eskimo village and the big reindeer herd on Behring Straits, Alaska, in the year of 1908 and '09.

"This I kept up for several years, but from time to time, there were suggestions that I spend a summer on Isle Royale and get material for lectures about the Island. At last in 1951, I gathered up our three small sons and my wife and sailed for Isle Royale. We spent the entire summer in the cottage now occupied by Postmaster Orsborn. My first series of lectures on the Island in Detroit came that autumn. The School Board made me out a schedule of four schools a day for three weeks. This meant that I came in touch with thousands of children and their teachers and preached my sermon on the charm of Isle Royale. At first I used colored slides as a background for my talks. As radio came in, I got off a few talks over that medium. About my third year, I took up a movie camera and took kodachrome pictures of moose, loons, my trained pine squirrels, etc.. These I used for background to my talks. In this way I came into contact with hundreds of thousands of children and their teachers and gave them my sermon on: 'Come out into the Woods and View the Beauties of Nature, and make it Isle Royale.' Even today, every season, some teacher of long ago or their pupils make a trek to our cabin to pay us a visit and tell us of seeing my pictures. Today I write no more books (two of them had Isle Royale as a background) and I give no more lectures but I still dream of those golden days; and as long as my condition permits shall continue to spend my summers on the Island. You live longest if you can make it.

"Just now we are very snugly housed in our big, sixty-year old house in Wheaton, Illinois, with the thermometer at 4 above outside and promising to go lower.

.....Roy J. Snell
705 North Wheaton Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois

The Linn's returned from their annual vacation on December 12th. They had a trailer-load of furniture dragging along behind the old Dodge through all this snow. No mishaps, however, and they're all settled in their new apartment 3 1/2 blocks from the office.

John and Blanche Markham are talking an awful lot about Florida these days!

"We Bermels are "wintering" in Immokalee, Florida, which has been called, appropriately so, we think, "The Last Frontier". Immokalee is one of the largest winter produce areas in the country and is largely populated with migratory laborers; therefore, the town is virtually a melting pot....on Saturday nights, the pot usually boils over. Every day Pete plunges deeper and deeper, literally, into his work down here -- namely the Big Cypress Swamp. We have only been here 2 weeks and he is camping out already, something he did not expect on this assignment. His latest hobby is taxidermy and he is now currying the skin of a 6-ft. diamondback rattlesnake which he killed his first day out. He says he might as well learn on a small one. It promises to be an 'interesting' assignment."

Bobbie Bermal

This winter's address only:

c/o USGS

10 Box 1085

Immokalee, Florida

Notes, letters and phone calls from Two Harbors, Minn., indicate that Milford Frank, and Bob Johnson started fishing from Knife River on about December 18th. The Duluth Harbor area is already freezing up. The radio and TV broadcasts which were heard throughout this entire area listing the "Jeffrey" with six men and two women aboard as missing and possibly lost were frightening to all who heard them. But the Jeffrey and all aboard were safe and sound --- part of the time at Wright's Island and part of the time at Washington Harbor. Ingeborg Holte wrote that it scared them to death when they heard that they were lost. Anyway they're all safe and sound, and are we ever glad.

"Miss Kemmer is out in San Diego, visiting her brother, Judson, over Christmas; his wife died and Miss Kemmer has been there about a month. She and I took a trip around to Port Arthur and then (in perfect weather) went to the Soo on S.S. "Keewatin", then on down here...all this in September. My best to you all."

....Alfreda Gale

"You will recall I mentioned talking to one of the Regional Directors of the Michigan Parks during their meeting on Isle Royale....well, I'm now working at Ludington State Park as an "A" Ranger -- with hopes of setting up some sort of a nature study or interpretive program. We have a very nice residence right here in the Park -- lots of room."

Tom and Lynne (Smith)

A phone call from Dennis Glen Cooper just came in as we were finishing-up this issue. Mr. Cooper said that he was beginning a new TV program next week which will feature Isle Royale. The program is named "GEORGE PIERROT PRESENTS" and will appear over Channel 4 (WWJ-TV) in the Detroit area, Monday through Friday at 5:30 PM(EST), during the week of Jan-

uary 5th. Each program will be of ½-hour duration. This is certainly a valuable contact in the all-important Detroit area. (It will be in full color, too!)

NEWEST IN THE ISLE ROYALTY

A DAUGHTER has been born to Bob and Nadine Janke. She arrived on November 25 to become the "newest" and youngest of the Isle Royalty....Janet Lynn, welcome!

Mr. Grant J. Merritt, son of Mr. Glen J. Merritt (Tobin Harbor), took Miss Marilyn Louise Pederson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hilberg Pederson (Duluth) as his wife in September. Congratulations, Grant and Marilyn. Grant has been visiting Tobin Harbor since he was five years old and his wife, Marilyn, has come to like Isle Royale, too, after visits there with Grant the past few summers.

"Keith (Keith Moran, Trail Crew 55 & 54) was in town for a few days last month and I had a nice visit with him. It sounded like he really likes the Air Force and is planning to make it his life's work. He had just come from Germany and was on his way to Texas. From the way he talked I'd say that Isle Royale is still pretty dear to him. He said that there are people in Germany who don't know a thing about Michigan but were real hep on Isle Royale by the time his tour of duty was up. (Regular Chamber of Commerce, Roving.) His current address is:

Sgt. Keith R. Moran

327 Burkdale Avenue

San Antonio 10, Texas"

.....Tom Keast

552 Alger Street

Marquette, Mich.

"I was talking with one of the FWS biologists from Ashland a couple of weeks ago and he said that the fellows who were out with the MV Sisowet this summer wanted to thank everyone at the island for the considerations that were shown them."

.....Tom Keast

"The enclosed brochures will show you that I opened my new picture on Isle Royale on October 19th at the World Adventure series to a packed audience. The show was wonderfully received there, and again the next week at New York Town Hall. A letter from Town Hall, incidentally, called it a "magnificent performance" and they said their patrons were most pleased. They had received many requests for information about the island as a result of the lecture, and they had directed them all to the National Park Service headquarters at Houghton, as I told them to. I was very pleased to have Ruth Sanders Bardes and her husband come backstage afterwards at the Detroit showing. They told me they were delighted with the show. Be prepared for a good, long evening of a subject quite new to you (next summer): Isle Royale!"

.....Dennis Glen Cooper
29729 South River Road
Mt. Clemens, Michigan

SPECIAL EVENT:

T E L E G R A M

WASHINGTON DC NOV 28 1958 1221 PME

HOMER T ORSBORN, POSTMASTER
ROCK HARBOR, MICH

HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT POST OFFICE DE-
PARTMENT HAS AGREED TO CHANGE THE NAME OF
ROCK HARBOR POST OFFICE TO ISLE ROYALE
NATIONAL PARK, MICHIGAN. CHANGE TO BE EF-
FECTIVE JUNE 15, 1959

REGARDS -

SENATOR PAT MCNAMARA

Thanks to all who helped bring this about!

....."Coach"

Superintendent and Mrs. Lewis are now visiting their daughter, Jeanette, in the beautiful sunshine of Arizona. In a letter to the editor, Mr. Lewis states: "Weather has been perfect here --- clear and sunny, 75° to 80°. We are enjoying every minute of our vacation."

Dave and Kay Stimson returned recently from a trip to Montana. Kay had gone west previous to Dave's journey in connection with a serious illness in the family (all o.k. now). On their return they brought the news that their son, Gordon, was married on December 5th to Miss Betty Louise May of Crescent City, Florida. Gordon, who is in the Marine Corps, has also been made Sargeant recently. Gordon and Betty's address:

Sgt. Gordon T. Stimson, 1542558
Golf Co., 2nd Battalion
2nd Marines, 2nd Division
Camp LeJeune, North Carolina

Paul Richards was in the office the other day -- just as live-wire and talkative as ever.

Fanny Miller is visiting sister and brother-in-law Holley and Bob Linn over the Holidays.

Ranger-Naturalist Bob Johnsson will be visiting his "boss", Bob Linn, between Christmas and New Years.

INJURY, BAD WEATHER, AND CLOSING-UP

From the desk of Chief Ranger Zerbey, comes this report of the last several days on Isle Royale this season:

"The weather began to turn bad around November 15th and plans were made to close the Park for the winter. On that same day Laborer Foreman Andrew Ziegler suffered a crushed finger while working on a cable winch. All efforts were made to

get him to medical attention in Grand Marais, Minn., but, by this time, winds of 50-60 MPH were blowing over the Lake and the Tonawanda had to turn back.

"The Ranger III found a hole in the weather on November 17th and proceeded to Mott Island but then the storm which sank the ill-fated Carl E. Bradley had set in and the return trip to Houghton could not be made. During the week in which the Park forces were weathered in at Mott Island all necessary closing operations were completed and on Thursday, November 20th, the boat moved from Mott Island to Rock Harbor Lodge to pick up contractor personnel and Project Supervisor Wittpenn. The last night was spent at Rock Harbor and a smooth trip was finally made on the 21st.

"Upon arriving in Houghton, Mr. Ziegler was rushed to St. Joseph's Medical Center where doctors found it necessary to amputate the crushed finger. With good medical attention he is doing well at present.

"To take advantage of what good weather was left, the Ranger III left the following morning for Windigo to pick up District Ranger Dave Stimson and Maintenance-man Ralph Pizzi. Materials and baggage were loaded the same day, the cruiser 'Demaray' was set on the dock by Ranger III's crane, and early on Sunday, November 23rd, we bid good-bye to Isle Royale for 1958.

"On Monday, November 24th, it began to snow in Houghton and has not stopped for one day since."

(Over 100-inches of snow to date. Ed.)

Louise Fretter is in Bete Glines ~~house~~ of here in the Keweenaw for the Christmas Holidays.

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THE COVER PHOTO

Winter can be beautiful! And perhaps one of the most beautiful things about it is the design of shadow upon snow. For interest, add a few animal tracks --mouse, fox, coyote. This particular scene was captured in a mixed paper birch and white cedar forest stand northwest from Siskiwit Bay along the Island Mine Trail in February of 1956.

Isle Royale Natural History Association

The Wolf's Eye Press

Isle Royale National Park, Houghton, Michigan

