

WOLF'S

EYE

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Isle Royale National Park



GUS W. MUEHLENHAUPT LEAVES FOR COLONIAL
(story: page 1)

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

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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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MUEHLENHAUPTS LEAVE FOR WARMER CLIMATE

Since April 4, 1949, Gus Muehlenhaupt has been an important cog in the wheels at Isle Royale National Park. Gus started his National Park Service career in the Houghton Office as Fiscal Accounting Clerk, when the Park was under the jurisdiction of the Region Two Office at Omaha, Nebraska. As a result of the changes brought about due to the transfer of Isle Royale to the Region Five area, with headquarters at Philadelphia, Gus was promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant in 1955. He has capably served in this capacity since that date, and it is going to be hard to imagine the office without him -- in fact, he was sometimes regarded as fixed equipment.

But all this is to be changed. Early this month Gus was offered the opportunity to transfer, with promotion, to Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Virginia, as Administrative Officer. Fortunately (?), the offer came at a time when the local thermometers registered 'way below zero and temperatures at Richmond (a short distance from Yorktown) reported a balmy 75. THAT clinched it. Gus didn't hesitate -- he wired his acceptance!!!!

Yorktown, where Gus will be located, is situated on the Colonial Parkway which is administered by the National Park Service. The Parkway links together the historical and cultural centers of Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Jamestown. The Williamsburg and Jamestown restorations by the Rockefeller Foundation are perhaps the most important historical restorations of their kind in the United States.

The Colonial Town of York was established in 1691 as a trade center in Virginia. It figured prominently during the American Revolution, the victory at Yorktown in 1781 being the decisive event in the struggle to make the United States an independent nation.

This move also takes Gus out of Region Five. Yorktown is in Region One, with headquarters at Richmond. However, he will not be entirely among strangers. Ed Kurtz, a former Park Ranger at Isle Royale, is Chief Park Ranger at Colonial. Not too far away, at Cape Hatteras, Gus will find former Superintendent Robert F. Gibbs; in fact, he is already planning a duck shoot with Bob.

While Gus shall be missed in his old haunts, he and Jetty leave with the good wishes of all their friends for a happy, healthful, and prosperous life at Yorktown. Gus just isn't the kind of a guy who'll forget old friends, so we know we can promise you news of him every now and then.

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY AND PARK PERSONNEL STUDY THE TIMBER WOLF

On Monday, February 2, a trek to Isle Royale begins for several of the Isle Royalty. Dave Mech, a graduate student at Purdue University working under Dr. Durward L. Allen, is the main investigator and will be accompanied by Park Naturalist Bob Linn and Heavy Duty Mechanic Frank Taddeucci as they drive to Eveleth, Minnesota. There they will be flown in two planes to Washington Harbor, Isle Royale on February 3 (weather permitting). The immediate task upon arrival will be in Frank's hands as he prepares to start the Windigo generator -- this may prove a little difficult if it's as cold at Windigo as we think it is. After the generator is started and a thorough inspection of the powerlines is made, it is hoped that we will have radio communications to the Houghton office. Then on February 4th one plane will return to Minnesota with Frank, leaving Dave, Bob, the pilot and plane at Isle Royale. Several times until March 31, Park personnel will relieve one another at the Park. The winter leg of the study will end when Ranger III makes the first trip in April.

The purpose of the winter trip to Isle Royale is to study the timber wolf (Canis lupus). The purpose of the study is to determine the rôle played by the wolf in the overall ecology of Isle Royale -- the relationship of the wolf to moose, beaver, snowshoe hare, fox and other animals. The study at the island will also enable Park personnel to keep a good check on Park installations, winter snow damage, etc.

To get a better idea of what it's all about, here's what has happened in the past concerning the wolf at Isle Royale: Two sets of wolf tracks were reported for 1948 -- one set near the Daisy Farm campground and one set crossing a beaver dam between Moskey Basin and Chippewa Harbor. This would indicate that a few wolves had arrived (probably from Canada over the ice) at the island within a year or two before the tracks were reported. By 1952, the number of wolves had increased to the point that Ranger Bob Hakala found no trouble securing quite a few plaster-of-Paris casts of wolf tracks. In subsequent studies in 1953 (Cole and Hakala), 1956 (Cole and Linn), 1957 (Cole) it became evident that the wolf has had a definite effect upon Isle Royale fauna -- and flora. The number of wolves reported in 1956 and 1957 indicates that no major increase in the wolf population took place in those two years and, from observational evidence during the past year, no increase seems likely to have taken place since then.

In a natural situation an animal and plant population is arranged into sort of a pyramid according to what each finds to eat. Simplified, the pyramid looks like this:

LARGE PREDATOR ANIMALS
/WHICH EAT LARGE ANIMALS AND SMALL ANIMALS/

/LARGE ANIMALS WHICH EAT SMALL ANIMALS OR PLANTS/

/////SMALL ANIMALS AND INSECTS WHICH EAT PLANTS/////

//////////PLANTS: GRASSES, HERBS, SHRUBS, TREES//////////

If no large predator exists, such as the wolf or lynx, the population of animals upon which the large predator would ordinarily feed becomes so large that it begins to run out of food -- starvation may result. Such a thing happened several times to Isle Royale moose before the wolf arrived. Therefore, the arrival of the wolf is one of "natures" balancing acts and most wildlife scientists would agree that the wolf does much good in the Isle Royale fauna. Not only does the presence of wolves maintain a healthy number of moose, but it also affects directly or indirectly the other animal populations, the plants which support these other animals and the browse which supports the moose. Just what all of the intricate effects are may never be fully known, but the object of the present study is to determine as many of these effects as possible.

The present study on the wolf is under the technical direction of Dr. Allen at Purdue University in cooperation with the National Park Service and the study is expected to last for three years. Funds for the study have been granted to Purdue University by the National Science Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation. Other studies on the beaver and the snowshoe hare are in the planning stage.

VOLUME 3

Last year at this time, the editor told all his troubles and delights to all who would read it. Now, as we begin Volume 3 of WOLF'S EYE, that time has come again to look briefly back over the past year.

Volume 2 began with nothing startling -- we were printing the covers for each issue on the little hand letterpress which still adorns one of the corners of your editor's office. The inside pages were all mimeographed. Then in April, a photograph appeared on the cover which actually looked like it was supposed to look and photographs and printed matter were found all through the issue. The method of reproduction used from April on was offset lithography -- which turns out to be considerably more involved, but also considerably more versatile. We cannot claim perfection in our printing so far, but we keep trying.

The May-June issue (No. 5) contained our first attempt to replace Smoky, The Bear. This may come as a shock to some folks, but that big cute bear in those posters has a tendency to make park visitors think that bears are nice gentle critters. They are not, however, and many folks get hurt every year because they try to feed them....not at Isle Royale, of course, but in many other parks and areas. What'd we try to replace "Smoky" with? Well, we haven't yet found a name for him, but he's a Northern Red Squirrel -- he looks cute and he is cute. He's not dangerous....and you'd hate to see his home in the forest burn down, now wouldn't you? He's pictured on the back covers of the May-June issue, the August issue, the Al. Stoll Memorial Trail Guide, and on the last page of the July issue. Now, the only reason we mention this scheming, low down plot is because no one else has mentioned it. So, we'll keep

plugging away at old Smoky with out squirrel and hope that someday folks'll see the light we're trying to shine.

The July issue with all its pictures of plants and animals was the first time we completely changed the cover design -- and it hasn't been the same since. The outline of Lake Superior with the wolf's head became part of our trade mark on the back cover instead of being along with the cover title. Also, the July issue was the first time we tried using real glossy paper..it's the last time we do THAT! That stuff really sticks to press rollers and gets all wound up, comes apart in little pieces, and before you know it we've got our head stuck in the press trying to figure out what to pull out next.

Our main natural history issue of the year was in August (No.7). Quite often we get requests here in the Houghton Office for an explanation of plant and animal life on Isle Royale -- and this issue has been sent out a number of times in response. Although it needs revising in several spots, we're kinda proud of it.

Many folks regard our year's masterpiece as the September-October issue, "The Rangers", which is mostly about the construction of Ranger III and its arrival at Isle Royale. In the confines of our editorial office, this issue is known as the "backward" issue: The picture on the inside front cover got printed backwards; the story of Ranger II on page 4 states she was built on the west coast, but the fact is she was built on the EAST coast; and our little trademark on the back cover -- well, Lake Superior and the wolf's head are backward. Nevertheless, we're proud of the issue.

In November when we moved the printing press and our process camera into Houghton, our setting-up was a little faulty. So the November-December issue (No. 9) has black spots in some of the corners and we didn't "register" so hot on the covers. We did have quite a bit of news from the "Isle Royale", however.

Last year we offered "cover-folders" for those who wished to keep their WOLF'S EYE issues bound together by volume. So few wished to have them, however, that 80% still remain covering 1957 and 1958. Unless there is something like an overwhelming demand for 1959 folders, we just don't believe it'll be worth the effort to produce them.

Now, then, a look to the future. Next month, February, your editor will be writing away as usual, but nothing will get printed until March because he'll be on the winter wildlife study at Isle Royale. We'll give you some of the highlights of the study operations in the March issue and if our camera works in the cold weather, we should have some pictures of conditions out there.

see you in March, Ed

Robert M. K.

NOTES OF THE ISLE ROYALTY

Superintendent John Lewis recently spent several days in the hospital for a congested bronchial. We suspect that the sudden change from Arizona and Mexico was just plain too much. All's well now, however, and he's back on the job busier'n ever.

John and Blanche Markham have been heard from several times along their route through the south. Last we heard, they were basking delightfully in the sun.

John Murn and Salem Lahti started their annual leave today. Said they were going to some unpronouncable place in the south seas.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The engagement of Fanny Walker Miller, Berea College Kentucky to Robert G. Johnsson, Chicago, on New Year's day. The couple met at Isle Royale where Fanny has been working at Rock Harbor Lodge and Bob has been Ranger-Naturalist at Rock Harbor. Bob is also Associate Editor of WOLF'S EYE. A spring wedding is planned. Congratulations, you two!



Isle Royale Natural History Association

The Wolf's Eye Press

Isle Royale National Park, Houghton, Michigan