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WILDERNESS TREASURE

Naturalist

CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

*Journal of the NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY of Minnesota—an independent,
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Editor—Clayton G. Rudd

WILDERNESS TREASURE

ASTRIDE THE MINNESOTA-ONTARIO BORDER and extending north and westward from Lake Superior for over two hundred miles is a land of forests and waters unique on this continent. Fashioned from the ancient Laurentian mountains, its thousands of picturesque glacially carved lakes provide a veritable labyrinth of closely connected waterways.

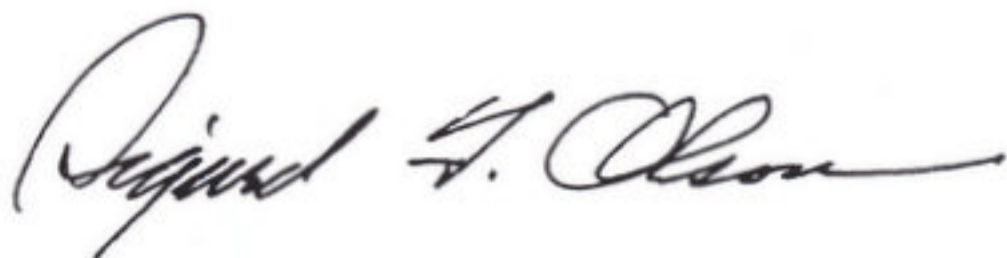
This is the Quetico-Superior Country named for Quetico Provincial Park of Canada north of the international border and the famous Boundary Waters Canoe Area to the south, its million acres comprising the upper third of the Superior National Forest.

Endowed with spectacular beauty, clean unpolluted waters, fish and wildlife, smooth glaciated campsites, high cliffs and fleets of rugged pine clad islands, it is a living museum, an ecological and geographical complex still intact. It seems meant for adventure and spiritual rejuvenation with a wilderness character that gives one a chance of recapturing some of the sense of far horizons our forebears knew.

For three hundred years this superlative lake region felt the impact of our quest for treasure, first fur and the advent of explorers and voyageurs, then timber, and minerals. For over half a century it has been threatened with roads, power dams, logging and exploitation of private lands, but miraculously it is still beautiful. Canoe men travel as did the voyageurs of old, know the same challenges, vistas, and joys, find in its quiet places calm and perspective on their lives and the outside world.

Today this land is faced with a new threat that could destroy swiftly and forever the very qualities that engender love and dedication in those who have known it. Short term mining developments within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area or close enough to affect it adversely must be weighed now against its value as wilderness.

This is an ethical and humanitarian problem rather than one of economics and industrial development. Let us therefore plan wisely to preserve this wilderness treasure of the North... America cannot afford to lose another priceless heritage.



"CANOE COUNTRY" Kodachrome by Les Blacklock Page 1.

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May we call your attention to the Color Essay in this issue devoted to the unique Water Wilderness of the Canoe Country as presented by the color photography of Les Blacklock... we are indebted to him for this valuable contribution. The unique quality of our Canoe Country is worth reporting again and again...

"CANOE COUNTRY"

Kodachrome by Les Blacklock Front Cover

"CANOE COUNTRY WATERWAY"

Kodachrome by Les Blacklock ... Center Spread

"PINK LADY SLIPPER"

Kodachrome by Les Blacklock Back Cover

This "Wilderness Treasure" issue of *Naturalist* is the work of a coalition of Conservation & Environmental Organizations. It presents factual material that should be available to many Americans. The Authors are competent, well-informed men in their special fields of interest. Together, we have produced a release of which we are all dedicated to defend. We trust that many questions you may have will be answered. A personal letter for further information will be answered by the Authors.

We appreciate your Interest and Involvement...

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Editorially speaking...

CONSERVATIONISTS AND WILDERNESS ADVOCATES are not opposed to Copper-Nickel mining per se. But, we will fight to the finish to prevent any mining or smelting, in or near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which will mar the beauty of the Wilderness or pollute its clean waters. There is more than beauty in the B.W.C.A... This is a unique, practically unspoiled segment of nature... Once lost, it cannot be recreated. There is no other waterland wilderness like it in the U.S.A. There are solid values involved—the values of the lakes and streams, the virgin forest, the carnivores, and especially the timber wolves—all of these are endangered. It is our purpose to maintain such an environment for all Minnesotans and to share it with other Americans.

