

Woman Gets Broughton Pin Conservation Award

There was no public at hand when an Izaak Walton league Broughton award pin was presented Tuesday night to a Wauwatosa conservationist. But the occasion was no less impressive than it would have been in a large auditorium. Mrs. Max J. Schmitt, 1912 N. 84th st., long a leader in Wisconsin conservation, accepted the pin in the combination sitting room, office and bedroom where she alternately works and rests.

A committee of four crowded around her hospital bed, at first chatting about everything but the reason for which they had made their surprise visit to her home.

"You weren't able to get to the Manitowoc convention this spring," Lawrence Hautz, 5400 N. Lake dr., vice-president of the Milwaukee Izaak Walton chapter, then reminded Mrs. Schmitt. Some of the pins given by the league each year as gifts of Charles Broughton, Sheboygan newspaper publisher, were presented at the convention, Hautz said.

Brought From Manitowoc

"We have one that was meant for you at Manitowoc. So we brought it here. Beautiful, isn't it?" Hautz asked.

Mrs. Schmitt reached for the jeweler's box holding the little gold pin, sparkling with a little diamond.

"Yes, it is beautiful." She was silent. "But I don't know why I should have it."

The others knew. It was evident from the way the chatter was resumed. Miss Pearl L. Pohl, 9516 W. North av., teacher in the 68th Street school and member of the Walton state board of directors, knew about Mrs. Schmitt's work in the state for the last 20 years, prodding the government and private organizations to conserve Wisconsin resources.

She Kept Working

So did Arthur Molstad, 1303 W. Kilbourn av., chairman of the Wisconsin Conservation commission, and Lorenz Frankfurth, 1824 N. 68th st., Wauwatosa, president of the Milwaukee Izaak Walton chapter. They paid tender compliments to her for continuing her work by mail and telephone during the last few years, while illness has kept her at home.

Whether Molstad talked about the wind funnels that whip fire through dry forests, or whether Miss Pohl asked about the blighting of the elms in Springfield, Ill., Mrs. Schmitt had her bits of information to be added.

The group debated whether it was the duty of the conservation commission to preserve the historic Wade house at Greenbush in the Kettle Moraine, whether approval should be given to the proposed resumption of CCC (civilian conservation corps) camps, and whether the immersion of "popple" stumps in metal salt solutions produces a long lasting fence.

Lived in East

There was reminiscing about Mrs. Schmitt's early life in New York state and New England, where her

mother, Winogene Scott Hiles inspired her study of forests . . . her work with Gov. Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania in the interests of conservation . . . her correspondence with the late Senator George Norris . . . her entrance into Wisconsin conservation work through membership in the Wauwatosa Garden club and Wisconsin Garden Club federation . . . her appointment as garden club delegate to the Milwaukee County Conservation alliance . . . her early championing of the sustained yield (selective cutting) method of maintaining forests.

Mrs. Schmitt, it was recalled, became one of the sponsors of the alliance conservation school for adults at the Trees for Tomorrow camp at Eagle River, Wis. Often she visited the Wisconsin legislature to advocate conservation measures, and at times she was called by other states to help set up conservation departments and formulate plans for forest management and control.

The committee members, when they bade good night to the slight little woman in a hospital bed, had no doubt as to why she was chosen to receive the Izaak Walton award.

Wednesday, April 26, 1950



Although an invalid, Mrs. Max Schmitt, 1912 N. 84th st., Wauwatosa, won an award for outstanding work in conservation from the Izaak Walton league. Lawrence A. Hautz, 5400 N. Lake dr., Whitefish Bay, vice-president of the Milwaukee chapter of the league, made the presentation of the award at the home of Mrs. Schmitt Tuesday night.

—Journal Staff

Arlene was recovering from a cerebral aneurysm. In 1950, Arlene & Max were living @ 1912 N. 84th St.

Arlene spent her early life in New York State & New England.

Arlene's mother was Winogene Scott Hiles