

Conservation advocate and tribal ally, Charles Stoddard, walks on

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Spoooner, Wis.—When Charles Hatch Stoddard was born in Milwaukee, 1912, the unchecked exploitation of the environment was well underway across America. Consumption of natural resources accelerated as people demanded more from the earth.

As a young man interested in forestry, Stoddard witnessed the aftermath of the Wisconsin logging era when the northern tier of the state was cut-over by lumber barons and charred from wild fires. For Stoddard, it was clear that the natural world could not endure this reckless misuse and he embarked on a lifelong journey to become one of Wisconsin's most accomplished conservationists.

Stoddard died Christmas Day 1997 in Spoooner, Wis. at age 85.

Tribal members fondly remember Stoddard through his support in recapturing the Chippewa Flowage, opposing the Sanguine Project in the 1970s, and his help following Chippewa treaty rights litigation in the early 1980s.

Throughout his lifetime, Stoddard's relationship with Great Lakes Ojibwes extended beyond concern for the environment. He shared a spiritual connection with the land and the wild things that thrived there.

"Chuck Stoddard was certainly one of the friends along the path of life here," said Eddie Benton, Lac Courte Oreilles spiritual leader. "He was one of the principal men who defeated the original Sanguine Project. Chuck Stoddard was brilliant."

The Sanguine Project was a United States military proposal to create a massive underground communication network across northern Wisconsin that could withstand an atomic attack and relay messages to American nuclear submarines. Through Stoddard's efforts, the scope of the project was greatly reduced and is now known as ELF (Extremely Low Frequency), a 28-mile surface



Charles Stoddard

transmitter operated by the US Navy near Clam Lake, Wisconsin.

Stoddard's first involvement with the Navy occurred during the Second World War as a Reserve officer in the South Pacific where he operated a jungle timber sawmill. He also collected tree samples and discovered a new tropical species that carries his name, *Mastixiodendron Stoddardii*.

Following the war, Stoddard—who had a master degree in forestry from the University of Michigan—served as a professional forest consultant for both private and public organizations. During this period, his expertise expanded beyond forest conservation to include wildlife, land, and water resources.

Through the 1960s, Stoddard held several federal positions including Director of the Bureau of Land Management where he was responsible for administrating 400 million acres of the public domain. In 1967 he was appointed to serve as Upper Midwest Coordinator for the Interior Department and led the successful effort to stop the Reserve Mining Company from dumping taconite tailings into Lake Superior.

After leaving public service in 1969, Stoddard organized a regional environmental group—the Northern Environmental Council.

Committed to protecting natural resources in northern Wisconsin, Stoddard forged an alliance with Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) in the 1970s. He was instrumental in resolving the dispute between

LCO and Northern States Power over control of the Chippewa Flowage. In addition to lobbying against the Sanguine Project, he advised the tribe in their efforts to promote positive public relations with the non-Indian community after the Voigt decision.

Along his life path, Chuck Stoddard left distinct footprints, guiding future generations to live in unity with aki, Mother Earth, to use its gifts with wisdom. *Miigwech Niiiii.*

Charles Stoddard dies; he played key role in Reserve Mining case

A controversial 1968 Interior Department study he headed said taconite tailings were polluting Lake Superior

By Dean Rebuffoni
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Charles Hatch Stoddard was a besieged man 29 years ago.

As a top regional official of the U.S. Interior Department, Stoddard, who died Thursday at 85, had coordinated a major federal study on the taconite wastes that Reserve Mining Co. of Silver Bay, Minn., was dumping into Lake Superior.

Although the study had just been completed, it hadn't been released to the public.

However, Stoddard had provided copies to Reserve, which quickly went over his head to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

The company urged Udall not to release the study, arguing that it was riddled with errors. Some critics suggested that Stoddard, a Democratic political appointee and longtime conservationist, was biased against Reserve.

Reporters were constantly calling Stoddard's office in Duluth, seeking information about the study.

Also, Stoddard knew that he'd have to resign soon from his federal post: Richard Nixon, a Republican with strong political ties to Reserve, was about to be inaugu-

rated as president.

So Stoddard decided to release the study without Udall's approval.

On Jan. 16, 1969, the biggest headline on the front page of the Minneapolis Tribune read: "U.S. Study Finds Taconite Tailings Pollute Superior."

The study, which quickly became known as "the Stoddard Report," made him a hero among conservationists.

Udall, however, told Congress that the study was "a preliminary staff report," a statement that Reserve repeatedly cited in its effort to discredit it.

The study also was attacked by U.S. Rep. John Blatnik, a Duluth Democrat who called it a preliminary report with no official status.

Ultimately, Stoddard was vindicated by the federal courts, which ruled that Reserve was polluting Lake Superior with potentially injurious

asbestos-type fibers.

Reserve was fined more than \$1 million and shifted its taconite wastes to an on-land disposal site.

Udall eventually retracted his statement, telling the New York Times that the study was an official Interior Department report.

He said his original discrediting of it was prompted by concerns raised by Blatnik, who in 1969 was a powerful politician whose support on many issues was needed by the Interior Department. Blatnik died in 1991.

Udall's recanting also was vindication for Stoddard, who died Thursday at a nursing home in Spooner, Wis. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for several years.

"Chuck Stoddard was a fearless public servant," said Grant Merritt, a Minnesota conservationist who played a key role in the campaign to end Reserve's discharge into Lake Superior.

"Chuck did his job regardless of the heat he had to take," Merritt said. "The Stoddard Report gave us the scientific basis we needed to seek on-land disposal of Reserve's tailings."

Stoddard was born in Milwaukee in 1912 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan in the 1930s. He later did graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and at Princeton.

He was a Naval Reserve officer during World War II, and while serving in the South Pacific, he discovered a species of tropical tree that later was named after him: *Mastixiodendron stoddardii*.

He had several stints as a federal employee specializing in conservation issues, including work as a U.S. Forest Service economist in the 1930s.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, he was a private forestry consultant in

Minnesota and Wisconsin and was active in several conservation groups.

From 1955 to 1961, he worked for Resources for the Future, a nonprofit conservation research organization based in Washington, D.C.

Stoddard also was involved in Democ-

appointed director of the Bureau of Land Management.

After retiring from federal employment, he served for a year as president of the Wilderness Society.

He wrote numerous reports on environmental issues, often focusing on land-use matters, and was the author or coauthor of three books on forestry and conservation practices.

Shortly after the lawsuit, *United States vs. Reserve Mining Co.*, went to trial in 1973, Stoddard encountered the trial judge, Miles Lord, in a hall of the federal courthouse in Minneapolis.

"Do you know me, Judge Lord?" he asked. When Lord said he didn't, Stoddard explained: "I'm the guy who got you into this."

Stoddard is survived by his former wife, Patricia Coulter Stoddard of Duluth; a daughter, Abby Marrier of Milaca, Minn.; four sons: Charles Jr. and Paul, both of St. Paul, and Glenn and Jeffrey, who live in Wisconsin, and five grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held at Wolf Springs Forest, the Stoddard family's nature preserve near Minong, Wis. The family suggests that memorials go to the Sigurd Olson Institute for Environmental Studies at Northland College in Ashland, Wis.

Sources: "This Vast Pollution," by Thomas Bastow (Green Field Books, 1986); "The Reserve Mining Controversy," by Robert Bartlett (Indiana University Press, 1980).



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Grant Merritt, a Minnesota conservationist who played a key role in the campaign to end Reserve Mining's discharge into Lake Superior.

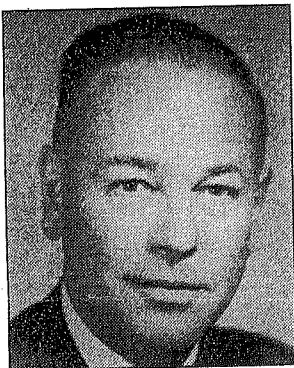
atic Party politics, and during the 1960 presidential campaign, he worked first for candidate Hubert Humphrey, then as an adviser to John F. Kennedy on conservation issues.

After Kennedy was elected, Stoddard was named an assistant secretary of the Interior Department and, later, was

NOTICES

Nelson, both of Gary, Indiana, and Shalicia Johnson of Madison; a brother, Howard Gearon; a sister, Marlene Barnes, both of Gary, Indiana; four grandchildren; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. at TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH with Reverend William Berg presiding. Burial will be in Blooming Grove Cemetery. Friends may call from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 1997 at the GUNDERSON FUNERAL HOME, 5203 Monona Drive, and from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service at the church. The family asks that flowers be omitted and suggests memorials be made to the family.

...he was a loving husband and father who will be deeply missed by his wife, children, family and many, many friends.



Stoddard, Charles

SPOONER - Charles Hatch Stoddard, age 85, a lifelong conservationist and public servant, died on Thursday, December 25, 1997, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was born on April 28, 1912 in Milwaukee to Charles and Eloise (Jackson) Stoddard, and had been living at Community Memorial Nursing Home in Spooner, Wisconsin, since 1993. Mr. Stoddard earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan. He did additional graduate work at Princeton and the University of Wisconsin. He was later awarded an honorary doctorate of public service by Northland College. During World War II, Mr. Stoddard served as a Naval Reserve Officer in the South Pacific, where he also discovered a new tropical tree species which was later named for him: *Mastixiodendron Stoddardii*. In the 1950's, Mr. Stoddard held several positions with conservation groups and public agencies. In 1961, he joined the Kennedy Administration as an Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Interior. In that capacity, he wrote the first

draft of President John F. Kennedy's message on conservation. In 1963, Mr. Stoddard was appointed as Director of the United States Bureau of Land Management, where he instituted many reforms. Mr. Stoddard was later appointed as Upper Midwest Regional Coordinator for the Interior Department. In 1969, he launched the landmark legal battle to stop Reserve Mining Company from polluting Lake Superior. After retiring from government service, Mr. Stoddard organized the Northern Environmental Council, and served as president of the Wilderness Society, and on the citizen's advisory committee to the Wisconsin Public Intervenor. During his career, Mr. Stoddard wrote numerous technical bulletins and articles, and two books *Essentials of Forestry Practice*, and *Looking Forward*. Mr. Stoddard always maintained a close tie with nature at his beloved Wolf Springs Forest near Minong, Wisconsin. It was there that he fished and hunted with family and friends, planted trees, and practiced forest stewardship and conservation. Survivors include his former wife, Patricia C. Stoddard of Duluth, Minnesota; four sons, Charles H., Jr. and Paul C. of St. Paul, Minnesota, Glenn M. and Dr. Jeffrey J. of Madison, Wisconsin; daughter, Abby Marrier of Milaca, Minnesota; and five grandchildren, Adam, Laura, Sarah, and Patrick Stoddard, and Steven Marrier. A private memorial service will be held at Wolf Springs Forest.

The BROWN FUNERAL HOME in Minong is handling the arrangements. Memorials may be made out to the Sigurd Olson Institute for Environmental Studies at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin.

Saager, Lawrence R.

LODI - Lawrence R. Saager, age 70, died unexpectedly on Monday, December 29, 1997. He was born on December 27, 1927, the son of Edward and Meta (Hackbert) Saager, on the family farm, where he was a lifelong resident and farmer. He was a member of First Lutheran Church. On July 9, 1955, he was united in marriage to the former Margaret Quam. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Saager; two children, Stephanie (Ralph) Saager-Bourret of Platteville and Stephen (Lori) Saager of Lodi; a grandson, James Lawrence Saager; two sisters, Marian Mill and Audrey (Bernie) Kvam, both of Lodi; a brother, Melvin (Eileen) Saager of Plant City, Florida and many other cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 1998 at FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH with Reverend Kenneth L. Schaub officiating. Interment will be at County Line Cemetery. Friends may call from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 1, 1998 at the HAMRE FUNERAL HOME in Lodi. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorials to First Lutheran Church.

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State conservationist Stoddard dies

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Charles H. Stoddard, who as an official of the U.S. Interior Department worked to protect Lake Superior from industrial pollution, has died. He was 85.

Stoddard, a native of Minong, Wis., lost an appointment to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board following opposition by legislators and business interests.

About three years earlier, he coordinated a major federal study on the taconite wastes that Reserve Mining Co. of Silver Bay was dumping into Lake Superior.

Rather than accept industry and political pressure to suppress his report, he released it, attracting controversy and becoming a hero among conservationists.

Stoddard died Thursday at a nursing home in Spooner, Wis. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for several years.

In 1961, Stoddard was appointed assistant secretary to the U.S. Department of the Interior, where he wrote the first draft of President John F. Kennedy's message on conservation.

Two years later, he became director of the department's Bureau of Land Management. He sponsored reform policies on public land use in the Western states concerning mining, grazing and logging.

As coordinator of the department's Upper Midwest Region in 1969, Stoddard laid the groundwork for a court battle with Reserve.

He provided copies of his report to the company in advance. It appealed to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall not to release the

report, arguing it contained errors.

News reporters were aware of the study and were constantly calling Stoddard's office in Duluth.

Stoddard released the report without Udall's approval Jan. 16, 1969. While he was praised by conservationists, Stoddard was denounced by the industry and Udall distanced himself from the report.

Ultimately, Stoddard was vindicated by the federal courts, which ruled that Reserve was polluting Lake Superior. Reserve was fined more than \$1 million and shifted its taconite wastes to an on-land disposal site.

Wisconsin Democratic Gov. Patrick J. Lucey appointed Stoddard to the Natural Resources Board in 1972 but Wisconsin Senate Republicans blocked the appointment, questioning whether Stoddard lived in Wisconsin or in Duluth.

Stoddard earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan in the

1930s. He later did graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and at Princeton.

He was a Naval Reserve officer during World War II, and while serving in the South Pacific, he discovered a species of tropical tree that later was named after him: *Mastixiodendron stoddardii*.

Stoddard also was involved in Democratic Party politics. During the 1960 presidential campaign, he worked first for candidate Hubert Humphrey, then as an adviser to Kennedy.

Stoddard is survived by his former wife, Patricia Coulter Stoddard of Duluth; a daughter; four sons; and five grandchildren.

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DAILY MATS. 1:00-3:00-5:00
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Scream 2 12:45-3:30-7:10-9:35 (R)

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