

HASKELL NOYES MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

(Adopted unanimously by the Conservation Commission on July 8, 1955)

"WHEREAS, Haskell Noyes, Sr. of Milwaukee, served as a Conservation Commissioner from July 27, 1928 to March 31, 1933, and as Chairman of the Conservation Commission from July 25, 1931 until his resignation, and

"WHEREAS, during his lifetime he was recognized as an outstanding conservationist because of his many and varied unselfish interests in this field, and

"WHEREAS, among his achievements he was instrumental for the first purchase of land which is known as the Kettle Moraine State Forest, his vision in the purchase of this land and in this project was long before most people realized the need for such an area in this particular part of the State, and

"WHEREAS, he was always interested in youth, and twenty-five years ago established the Eagle Scout Boys Camp on Lost Cane Lake in Vilas County, and

"WHEREAS, he also was instrumental in the enactment of the Sportsman's License which provided a means for people to make voluntary contributions for the purchase of hunting and fishing grounds so that the average sportsman would have a place to hunt and fish, and

"WHEREAS, he also inaugurated what is known as the Haskell Noyes Warden Award whereby a warden is selected annually for having rendered the most efficient service to the Department, this award having been established to aid in building up an outstanding law enforcement organization and to promote a friendly spirit of competition among the warden force, and

"WHEREAS, he also was very much interested in the forestry program and contributed financially and otherwise to this program.

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission that a memorial tribute be erected to Haskell Noyes, Sr. who passed away on December 8, 1948, at a suitable site in the Kettle Moraine State Forest area so that the effort that he expended in the conservation movement in Wisconsin will be recognized for all time."

1. Haskell Noyes: Served as Conservation Commissioner for 6 years and as Chair of the Commission; instrumental in the purchase of land for Kettle Moraine State Forest; instrumental in the enactment of the Sportsman's License that purchase lands for hunting, charter member of the Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton League.

DEDICATION OF MARKER FOR HASKELL NOYES
MEMORIAL WOODS -CAMPBELLSPORT, WISCONSIN
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1956

(Remarks by Wm. J. P. Aberg, Madison - former Conservation Commissioner)

It is fitting that those who have long and successfully labored in the field of conservation be recognized in a tangible way, in order that posterity may know that those dedicated to the cause have done for it. The Conservation Commission deserves commendation for initiating and sponsoring this event - the dedicating of a recognition marker to Haskell Noyes, a former Commission Member.

The summers of Haskell's early boyhood days were spent on the Brule where his family had a beautiful summer home in a setting on the Brule River, which could not help but inspire anyone with a spark of interest in the out-of-doors.

I first knew Hack when he came to the University of Wisconsin in 1908 to enter the Law School as a graduate of Yale. He attended the Law School for three years during which he coached the Wisconsin Basketball Team, got his degree in law, although he never practiced.

Early in 1923, the Izaak Walton League of America, which had been organized the previous year in Chicago, made its debut in Milwaukee, and Haskell was one of the original organizers of the Milwaukee Chapter. In that organization he gathered around him kindred souls with love for the out-of-doors, and that group became the nucleus for a movement in this state which has never ceased its forward progress. From that mother chapter, other groups were organized around the state. Haskell became President of the Milwaukee Chapter, and then President of the Wisconsin Division which, in the course of five years, had over 12,000 members.

Time does not permit going into detail regarding the many activities of the Izaak Walton League under Haskell's leadership, so I shall merely outline them in sketchy form.

In 1925, the League sponsored the creation of the Winneshek Refuge Area on the Mississippi River, a major national conservation project requiring Congressional legislation and appropriations, and state legislation by way of an enabling act. The State Division, with Haskell Noyes driving it constantly, enlisted the support of the most influential people in this state, and succeeded in passing an enabling act which Governor John Blaine threatened to veto.

A nucleus of dedicated conservationists beginning in 1924 set about to revamp the Wisconsin Conservation Program. First came the constitutional amendment adopted in 1924, permitting the levy of a mill tax on property for forestry purposes. The Izaak Walton League and its officers and members were active in promoting the approval of that amendment on a statewide basis.

In 1925 and 1926, Haskell was in the forefront of a group which formulated a legislative program to remove the control of conservation matters from partisan politics and modernize the administrative set-up in the state. I know of my own knowledge that it was through Haskell's personal friendships, contacts, influence, and hard work that men like Walter Bender, Joe Quarles, Sherman Brown, Mr. Kiekhofer and other outstanding Milwaukee citizens became interested and added their counsel and support. On a statewide basis were included Aldo Leopold,

Curly Radke of Horicon, Frank Graass of Sturgeon Bay, and others too numerous to mention. The movement gained such momentum that it became the key issue in the gubernatorial campaign of 1926. It elected Governor Fred Zimmerman that year.

Haskell was present at meetings in Milwaukee, Madison, Horicon, Stevens Point, and other places in the state during the formative period when the legislation to be offered in 1927 was crystallized. He was in the forefront throughout the 1927 session, when this legislation was working its way through the Legislature. The result was the creation of the six man Commission in July, 1927.

Many incidents could be told in passing if time permitted. One must not be left out. When the Commission bill had been signed, the sponsors asked for a meeting with the then Governor Zimmerman regarding appointments to the new Commission. The State Division of the League indicated that they wished to name one representative, and that representative was Haskell Noyes. The Governor, during the campaign and from time to time, had stated in writing and in speeches that he would ask all conservation groups and interests in the state to agree upon a list of twenty names and he would make his selections of six from that list. Under the leadership of the League, a list of twenty was approved. The American Legion joined in it, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Garden Groups, and a miscellany of other organizations. The list was submitted formally to Governor Zimmerman at a meeting in his offices, attended by Noyes, Senator Blanchard, and about a dozen other League members. The Governor made his appointment a week later, but failed to name a single one from the list of twenty he had asked for. The repercussion was terrific, and the result was that on the first vacancy which occurred in 1928, the Governor appointed Haskell Noyes without even calling him to ask if he would serve, the first notice of his appointment being when I called him on the telephone to announce the Governor's action. He refused to accept the appointment at first, and it was only upon the persuasion of many friends that consented to serve.

In many other things, Haskell has left his imprint in the state. He was interested in the Boy Scout movement, locally in Milwaukee, and on a statewide basis, and it was through his influence that the Eagle Scout Forestry Camp was set up.

Haskell served on the Commission from 1928 to 1933, when he resigned shortly before his term expired. He served as Chairman from 1931 to 1933.

After leaving the Commission, he continued his interest and sponsorship of worthwhile changes in our conservation laws. He initiated the voluntary sportsmen's license, which, strange to relate, had a rugged passage through the legislature. Opponents feared that the holders of sportsmen's licenses would gain some favor, thereby not available to the holder of ordinary licenses, when, in fact, all that Haskell and others had in mind in sponsoring it was to permit those with sufficient interest to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the conservation fund. It was designed to provide funds for the creation of public hunting areas, for which no money had up to then been available.

Haskell was active in promotion of the forestry laws, attending conferences, enlisting the aid of leaders and legislators in the enactment of the forest mill tax law in 1929, the forest crop tax laws in 1927 and 1929.

Mr. Noyes had great faith in the administration of conservation matters by the non-paid six man commission, and worked constantly to increase its jurisdiction and its powers, these efforts resulting ultimately in granting to the Commission the powers to fix seasons, sizes and bag limits.

He had the rare ability and knack of enlisting and convincing men of prominence and ability to aid in the cause. He was a great friend of Fred Luening, who was on the Editorial Staff of the Milwaukee Journal, and as a result and because of Luening's great personal interest in the cause, the Journal was a tower of strength in promoting sound conservation legislation and practices. One of the outstanding things which Luening and Haskell spearheaded and promoted was the founding of the Wisconsin Fire Protection and Prevention Program, which has become to this day outstanding in the nation.

Haskell at one time had a brief interest in political office, and only once. The candidate endorsed by the Republican Convention for Lt. Governor resigned, leaving to the State Central Committee the naming of a candidate. Haskell announced his interest in it, and his name was presented to the State Central Committee; in fact, I presented it myself for a place on the ballot as Lieutenant Governor. The Committee, however, selected someone they said had more political experience, and named a man who is now on the Supreme Court, Judge Steinle. He was defeated in the election.

In retrospect, one is inclined to ponder on what traits of character or qualities make some leaders, and others followers. From my own acquaintance with Haskell Noyes, I am convinced that it was his deep-seated love and belief in the causes he espoused, his sincerity and firmness of conviction that made it possible for him so to influence others. He was firm and unwavering, yet never in any offensive way, but always pleasant. He could disagree violently with those opposed, but do so with a friendly smile, and always come away without rancor and always with a dent in the armor of the opposition. Haskell was a man of big caliber. There was nothing small or petty or mean about him. He had a fine sense of humor, was noted for his capacity as a genial host. He was thoroughly Democratic and his close friends ranged from the man of the street to those who were tops in industry, the professions, and finance. The fact that these fine human qualities were not without human frailties served only to strengthen his effectiveness in the causes for which he lived.

In closing I wish again to say that it is most fitting that this area be preserved and immortalized in its natural condition for future generations, as a symbol of the labors and spirit of Haskell Noyes, one of God's noblemen.

HASKELL NOYES MARKER DEDICATED*

On the Indian summer afternoon of October 12, 1956 a small group of conservationists including the Conservation Commissioners and Department Staff joined with the family and friends of Haskell Noyes to dedicate a recognition marker to his memory in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. A parcel of natural woodland in Fond du Lac County set aside as a scientific study area was christened the "Haskell Noyes Memorial Woods". The marker is located in a beautiful sylvan setting in this woods northeast of Mauthe Lake on County Trunk S five miles East of Campbellsport. A special parking area calls attention to this trail entrance used by youth groups and other hikers.

Conservation Commission Chairman Leonard J. Seyberth opened the ceremonies by calling attention to the significance of the occasion and the fact that Haskell Noyes also had been chairman of the Commission a quarter century ago. Conservation Director L. P. Voigt then introduced the Noyes family and special guests present including Mrs. Haskell Noyes, Mrs. Haskell Noyes, Jr., Mrs. Robert (Margaret Noyes) Banks, Patricia S. Noyes, Miss Antoinette Noyes, W. Emerson Noyes, Haskell Noyes, III, Andrew F. Bell, Frank N. Graass, Douglas Hunt, T. Fred Minor (representing recipients of the Haskell Noyes Warden Awards) and Larry C. Whiffen. Haskell Noyes, Jr., as well as several other guests were absent because of illness.

Former Conservation Commission Chairman W. J. P. Aberg gave the dedication address based upon his personal experiences as a fellow worker with Haskell Noyes in many pioneering conservation activities. Part of his statement reviewing the early history of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America and of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission is as follows:

"Early in 1923, the Izaak Walton League of America, which had been organized the previous year in Chicago, made its debut in Milwaukee, and Haskell was one of the original organizers of the Milwaukee Chapter. In that organization he gathered around him kindred souls with love for the out-of-doors, and that group became the nucleus for a movement in this state which has never ceased its forward progress. From that mother chapter, other groups were organized around the state. Haskell became President of the Milwaukee Chapter, and then President of the Wisconsin Division which, in the course of five years, had over 12,000 members... In 1925, the League, sponsored the creation of the Winneshiek Refuge Area on the Mississippi River, a major national conservation project requiring Congressional legislation and appropriations, and state legislation by way of an enabling act...

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* Article by W. E. Scott in Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin for December, 1956.

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Haskell Noyes, III unveiled the memorial plaque inscribed as shown in the picture accompanying this article. W. Emerson Noyes, a son of Haskell Noyes, gave a short response for the family. No closing statement for this article would probably be more appropriate than the first sentence of the inscription on this dedication marker:

"This scientific area preserved in natural condition for future generations is symbolic of the spirit of Haskell Noyes of Milwaukee (1886-1948) - one of Wisconsin's foremost conservationists".