

La Budde

Opposition to the Gun Club plan was voiced in this way: "The women are largely responsible for getting protection on most of the owls and hawks, and we don't want a lot of men who don't understand what they are doing to upset all our work. Hawks and owls feed on rodents. That is quite well established. As for kingfishers and snapping turtles, which the gun club also would destroy, they feed on scavengers which eat fish eggs."

Mrs. La Budde was astute in maintaining good press relations, and often added this notation to news stories: "Please put this in a space where you think it will attract most attention. Thank you." Clubwomen supported this education program by sending post card appeals to radio stations requesting broadcast of conservation programs. Follow-up post cards congratulated station managers for airing the programs.

The John LeFerber Medal was presented to Mrs. La Budde by the Wisconsin Humane Society for her efforts to save porcupines from extinction. Civilian Conservation Corps workers, acting upon orders from Washington, had been killing the animals on sight. When women protested, the order was rescinded. George La Budde recently spoke in defense of the porcupine, voicing the sentiments taught by his warm-hearted, crusading mother; "The porcupine is a slow and really quite edible animal, easy to catch, thus offering food for humans who may become lost and destitute in the woods. He also provides food for the slow predators, in order to maintain the balance in nature."

Members of the La Budde Memorial Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, the only all-women's chapter in Wisconsin, recall Mrs. La Budde's vigorous efforts to establish a sanctuary for owls and hawks along the Lake Michigan shoreline near Sheboygan. As a member of the Izaak Walton League of America, she served as chairman of Indian Affairs for the Wisconsin Chapter. Indians, representing tribes in various states, sought her help. She championed their causes by challenging United States Army engineers who flooded Indian lands, denuded forestlands, built dams, and caused serious erosion. Indian groups expressed their appreciation and gratitude for her support. In 1967, Mrs. La Budde was named to the Hall of Fame of the Izaak Walton League of America. This honor recognized twenty-five years that she had invested in conservation activities.

Working for the restoration of Horicon Marsh was one of Mrs. La Budde's most challenging and worthwhile projects. This water storage basin provided a breeding place and sanctuary for wild animals, and a resting place for the water fowl migrating south from Canada. As one writer editorialized, "The women of the state — and to their everlasting glory be it said — helped save it for posterity. The thirty-one thousand-acre Horicon Wildlife Refuge, often referred to as the 'Everglades of the North,' provides one of the most celebrated nature

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THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW

CHAPTER **445** LAWS OF 1935.



To amend subsection (1) and to create subsections (11), (12), (13) and (14) of section 40.22 of the statutes, relating to the curriculum in certain schools.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Subsection (1) of section 40.22 of the statutes is amended to read: (40.22) (1) Reading, writing, spelling, English grammar and composition, geography, arithmetic, elements of agriculture and conservation of natural resources, history and civil government of the United States and of Wisconsin, citizenship and such other branches as the board may determine shall be taught in every common school. All instruction shall be in the English language, except that the board may cause any foreign language to be taught to such pupils as desire it, not to exceed one hour each day.

SECTION 2. Four new subsections are added to section 40.22 of the

Mrs. La Budde worked for the passage of a state law that required the teaching of conservation in all Wisconsin schools.

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study areas in the United States. Located in Fond du Lac and Dodge counties, the northern two-thirds of the Marsh is federally owned, called Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. The southern one-third, known as the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area, is owned by the state of Wisconsin. The refuge combines open water, swampy marsh and dry upland sections to provide an ideal habitat for a variety of wildlife. Deer and many interesting small animals are plentiful. Guide service is available so that visitors may observe some of the three hundred and fifty varieties of birds, including egrets, scores of song birds, and Mrs. La Budde's beloved herons."

In 1935, a continuing drought resulted in a "plague" of grasshoppers. Thirty-five counties were denuded and farmers used arsenic to protect crops. Mrs. La Budde opposed the indiscriminate use of insecticides. She waged a battle against the wide use of chemicals to destroy brush along country roads. The cleared places robbed birds and small game of protective underbrush and breeding places.

Mrs. La Budde championed other causes. She fought to retain the scenic value of rivers, and helped to keep the Namokogan River from being flooded and robbed of its beauty. She saved the Kinnickinnic River in Milwaukee from being boxed up, and turned into an underground drainage canal that would have been little better than a sewer. She worked to preserve the banks of the Milwaukee River. Mrs. La Budde continued her protests against the inhumane steel traps with which fur-bearing animals were captured. Finally, in 1937, the Wisconsin legislature passed two humane trap bills.

Mrs. LaBudde's far-sighted dedication to preserving the natural beauty of the environment and the wise management of Wisconsin's natural resources provided inspiration to those who are concerned with the similar challenges today. Walter E. Scott, of the Department of Natural Resources, suggested that Mrs. La Budde's papers be placed in the manuscripts collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. They include fourteen boxes of material covering the years from 1924 through 1956, and five scrapbooks.

Wilhelmine D. La Budde died on November 28, 1955, in Milwaukee and was buried in the cemetery at Elkhart Lake. Her leadership in conservation-oriented organizations included:

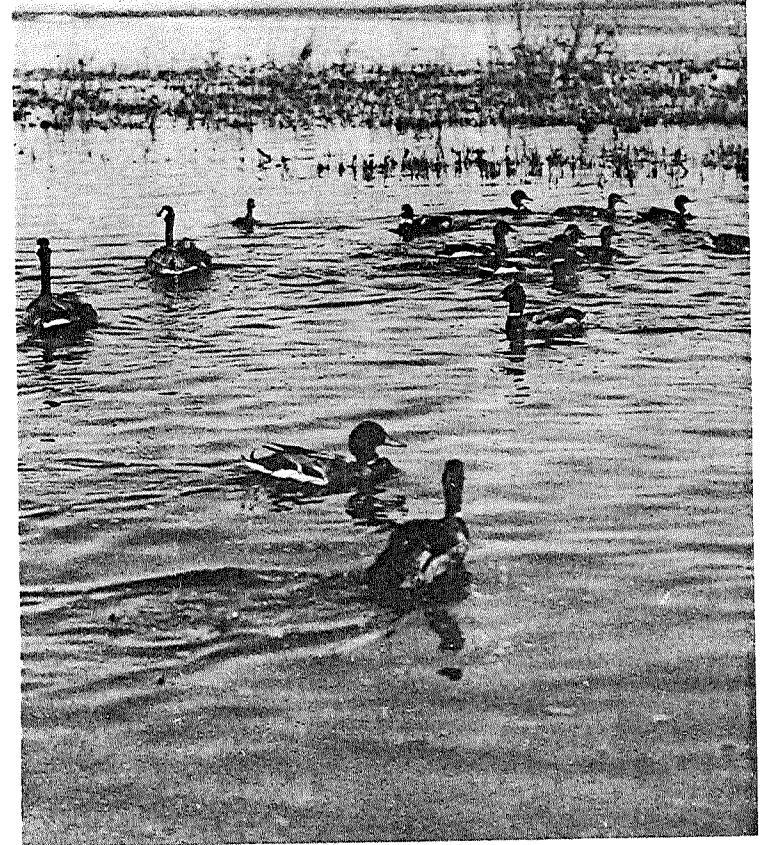
The National Wild Life Federation

Friends of the Land

Wisconsin Conservation Education Association

Women's Fortnightly Club

Milwaukee County Conservation Alliance



Canada Geese and Mallards in the Horicon Marsh, 1935.

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League of Women Voters
Citizens of Natural Resources Association
American Forestry Association
Izaak Walton League of America
The Blue Ox

She was the first women member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and was a charter member and honorary president of the Women's Conservation League of America, Inc. For over twenty-five years she was an active leader in the Milwaukee County Federation of Women's Clubs and Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs.

Wilhelmine La Budde, truly "Mrs. Conservation," lived this creed that she wrote for the Women's Conservation League of America, Incorporated:

We know that Providence showered this continent with an over-abundance of all things necessary for a rich and full life.

Therefore, we pledge ourselves to express our gratitude to the Creator, the source of all good, by doing everything we can to help conserve and perpetuate His handiwork.

We know that in the past, and up to the present day, ruthless exploitation and waste have devastated, and in some instances, annihilated certain valuable Natural Resources.

Therefore, we will raise our voices in protest whenever danger threatens so these remaining treasures may be used with care and discretion, because upon their perpetuation depends the Life of a free and untrampled America.

We know that we owe certain obligations to posterity and to those who will come after us.

Therefore, we will consistently preach the Gospel of Conservation. We will hold aloft the Torch of Good Precepts, and finally, hand it down to the next generation with the admonition that the Light must never be allowed to fail in order that each succeeding generation — even those who will live in the far off, dim and distant future — may be assured of some of the blessings which we of this generation are enjoying now.

This is Our Creed — a part of our religion.

— Mrs. Annabel Douglas McArthur

Sources:

Conversations with George La Budde
La Budde Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Blue Book, 1935

Laura Case Sherry

(Mrs. Edward P. Sherry — 1876-1947)

Laura Case Sherry, talented Wisconsin actress and leader in experimental theatre, is considered one of the founders of the Little Theatre movement in America.

Born in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, in 1876, Laura was the fifth child in a family of seven. Her father Lawrence Case, who had come to Wisconsin from Connecticut in 1861, was a well-known merchant. He had married Miss E. F. Avery of Lawrence, Kansas, two years before coming to Wisconsin.

Laura's classmates and closest companions were Virginia and Violet Dousman, granddaughters of Col. and Mrs. Hercules L. Dousman. Laura's early interests included playacting and creative writing. She attended the University of Wisconsin for two years and graduated from Northwestern School of Speech. Her father must have been an understanding man for he allowed her to go to New York to study at the Empire Theatre Dramatic School, a daring adventure in 1896 for a young girl from the midwest.

Following this training, Laura had the opportunity to travel with the Richard Mansfield Stock Company. The tour itinerary took in her home territory. Wherever the company performed Laura encountered friends of University of Wisconsin days. It was during these years that she established friendships with Rachel Crothers, Zona Gale, Harriet Monroe, Carl Sandburg and Robert Sherwood.

Although illness forced her to leave the company after two years, Laura had performed in several productions during that time, including *Beau Brummel*, *Devil's Disciple* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

In 1902 she married Edward P. Sherry of Neenah, whose family held large lumber interests. They had one son, Avery.

Together with author Zona Gale and Professor Thomas H. Dickinson of the University of Wisconsin, Laura Sherry organized the Wisconsin Dramatic Society in 1909. This first experimental theatre group in the country, now known as the Wisconsin Players, held early meetings and rehearsals in the ballrooms and drawing rooms of some of Milwaukee's prominent citizens: George P. Miller, William Van Dyke, and Edward