

FROM THE WATERS OF "BIG BLUE"  
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF GORDON "SILAS" MACQUARRIE  
TROUT FISHING ON THE BRULE RIVER

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AND THE INTERESTED !

REC'D YOUR NOTE, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ANSWER. RE: "MACQUARRIE" MILW. JOURNAL.

I MET AND GUIDED "G. MAC" AS HE LIKED TO BE CALLED AND REFERRED TO, MY 1ST CONTACT WAS WITH HIM AFTER I REC'D A CALL FROM THE AREA LAW ENF. SUPV. D.W.W. ASKING ME TO SPEND A DAY OF GUIDING "GORDON MACQUARRIE" NOTED OUTDOOR WRITER, ON THE BRULE RIVER AND USE MY GRUMAN SPORT BOAT AND NOT TO FORGET 2 3X3 PIECES OF CARPET TO HOLD DOWN THE NOISE AS HE IS A QUITE NERVOUS PERSON AND WOULD REALLY BECOME UPSET VERY EASILY, AND WE DON'T WANT THAT DO WE? WELL!!

WE MET AT STONES BRIDGE ON CO. TRK. S., THE OFFICIAL CANOE LANDING. I ALREADY HAD THE GRUMAN IN THE WATER AND THE CARPET, BOAT CUSHIONS IN PLACE---PADDLES/PUSH POLE. WELL; AFTER THE INTRODUCTIONS HE LOADED UP HIS EQUIPMENT AND PROCEEDED DOWN RIVER FOR AT LEAST A MILE, THEN HE TURNED AROUND AND LOOKED AT ME , POINTED TO THE WATER, WELL THE FLY FISHING MASTER LOADED UP AND BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR THE "WILY BRULE BROOK TROUT". NOW; TO SAY THE LEAST, A REALLY & TRULY MASTER WITH THE FLY ROD. HE FINALLY SELECTED A FLY AND TURNED ABOUT FACING ME AND TOLD ME THIS STORY OF THE FLY HE WAS ATTACHING--"THE HORNBERG". HE SAID: SON, DO YOU RECALL A NAME OF FRANK HORNBERG? I ANSWERED TO THE POSITIVE, AND THAT HE WAS ONE OF OUR OLDER WARDENS WORKING OUT OF ST. POINT. HE THEN SAID YOU GOT THAT RIGHT SON! THAT WAS ABOUT THE LAST WORD I SPOKE THAT DAY. HE THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN MR HORNBERG ALSO WAS A FLY FISHING EXPERT AND THAT HE TIED THE FLY "WINGS OF REAL JUNGLE COCK", HE WAS ABOUT TO USE, HE NOW HELD IT UP AND SAID; MR. HORNBERG YOU'LL MAKE MY DAY, AS HE GAZED UP IN THE SKY AND WHISPERED THANK YOU.

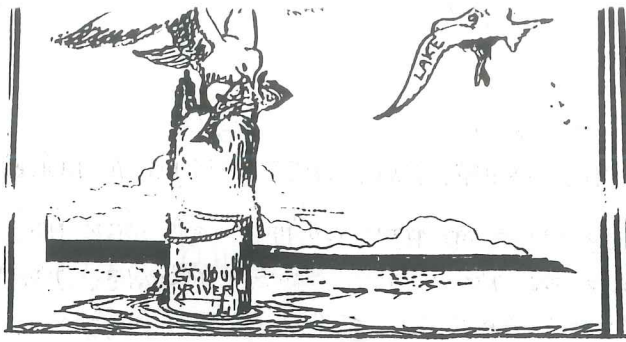
7 NOW, WE DRIFTED ALONG JUST PAST MCDUGAL SPRINGS, I MOVED THE GRUMAN AROUND TO FACE A POOL AT THE SPRING OUTLET--HE MADE 3 OR 4 FINE CASTS THEN! SUDDENLY THE WATER EXPLODED, WITH A LOOK OF EXCITEMENT ON MR. MACQUARRIE FACE, HE WORKED HIM GENTLY TO THE NET, WELL, THAT "WILY BRULE BROOK TROUT" ENDED UP AS A 12" BROWN TROUT, BEAUTIFULLY MARKED, THEN HE GENTLY RELEASED IT BACK TO THE WATER--WHISPERED SOMETHING AGAIN WE CONTINUED ON OUR WAY. THE TOTAL TRIP HE USED WET/DRY/ AND STREAMERS IN THE MORE RAPID WATERS. WE HAD A GREAT DAY. HE CAUGHT NUMEROUS SMALLER TROUT AND THEN WE REACHED "HIDDEN CAMP AREA" I AGAIN MOVED HIM AROUND SO HE COULD WORK THE LOWER END OF THE POOL AND THERE WAS THE "PRIZE" OF THE TRIP, ANOTHER EXPLOSION, AND WHEN HE CAME TO NET IT, IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL 14" NATIVE BROOK TROUT--AND OF COURSE HE AGAIN RELEASED IT BACK TO THE WATER WITH A FEW WHISPERED WORDS. BY NOW WE WERE APPROACHING THE "CEDAR ISLAND LODGE" PRESIDENT COOLEGE'S SUMMER WHITE HOUSE IN 1929. G. MAC TURNED TO ME AND REPLIED, NOW; IF MORE POLITICIANS FOLLOWED THIS GREAT PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLEGE IN HIS WAY OF LIFE, THIS COUNTRY WOULD HAVE LESS TURMOIL AND MORE HONEST LEADERSHIP. PRESIDENT COOLEGE WAS AN ARDENT TROUT FLY FISHERMAN AND HE LOVED THE BRULE RIVER. HIS GUIDE WAS ONE OF THE MOST REVERED/HONORED AND RESPECTED, A TRUE INDIAN GUIDE WHO'S NAME WAS JOHN LAROQUE. HE IS BURIED WITH HIS WIFE "LIZZIE" AT THE BLUEBERRY BURIAL GROUND, 3 MILES WEST OF THE BRULE RIVER AND SOUTH OF U.S. 2. WHEN I'M IN THE AREA, I NEVER FAIL TO STOP IN AND PAY MY RESPECTS TO A GREAT INDIAN GUIDE.

AT THIS TIME AND POINT WE WERE 5 HOURS ON THE BRULE RIVER, HE THEN REMARKED WE MUST PUSH ON, AS I HAVE TO CALL IN A STORY AND CONTACT MY OFFICE, IN MILWAUKEE.

WE NOW APPROACHED BIG LAKE AREA AND CASTLES BRIDGE, WHERE I HAD MY CAR PARKED. WE SKIDDED THE GRUMAN TO THE CAR AND BEGAN TO LOAD UP THE EQUIPMENT, WHEN SUDDENLY I HANDED HIM HIS "FLY ROD SPLIT BAMBOO" WICKER OR REED CREEL AND LANDING NET. HE TURNED AROUND AND SAID: I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT AND ALSO PLEASE TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE ART OF FLY FISHING, AS THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TO ONES LIFE SPAN. A BIG HAND SHAKE AND A THANK YOU AS HE LEFT THE AREA.

G. MAC WAS A MAN OF FEW WORDS&I FOUND OUT, IN HIS PRESENCE YOU ONLY SPEAK WHEN SPOKEN TO AND THAT WAS "NIL" IN 6 HOURS TOGETHER ON THE WATER.

HE DID REMARK WHAT A WONDERFUL CRAFT THE GRUMAN SPORT BOAT WAS FOR "RIVER" FLY FISHING, SO FOR-GIVING AND STABLE. OH! HE ALSO SNEAKED A SIP OUT OF HIS SILVER FLASK, BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT CONTAINED?? HE ALSO HAD A BAD "STOMACH GAS" PROBLEM, AND OF COURSE I WAS IN THE LINE OF FIRE, IN BACK OF THE GRUMAN.



FROM THE WATERS OF "BIG BLUE"

AND

THE DESK OF TONY JELICH

I MUST SAY ONLY THE WORD "HORRID" WOULD PARTIALLY APPLY. TO THE RELEASED AIR AND ONLY THE "BLOW FLIES" ENJOYED IT. I NEVER SAW A "NOSEEUM" OR MOSQUITOE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE TRIP. THAT WAS THE NEGATIVE FACTOR OF THIS FIRST TRIP.

I PROBABLY GUIDED G. MAC. AT LEAST 5 OR 6 TIMES IN 1953-54.

SO; TODAY I HAVE THE "MACQUARRIE" EQUIPMENT THAT HE GAVE ME, AND I'M IN THE PROCESS OF TURNING IT OVER "TO THE MAN" "JAY REED" OUTDOOR WRITER JOURNAL/SENTINEL TO HANG IT IN THE OFFICE THAT "HONORABLE GORDON MACQUARRIE OCCUPIED DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL OF WHICH ABRUPTLY ENDED HIS CAREER AND DEMISE WITH A LIVER AILMENT. BUT I'LL BET HE'LL CONTINUE TO TELL ST. PETER OF HIS FISHING CAREER AND HIS BEST FRIEND "FRANK HORNBERG"

OH! I THINK I PROBABLY FORGOT SOME OF MORE IMBORTANT TIMES I SPENT WITH THIS "GENTLEMAN OF GRANDEUR STATUS"

*Induction Ceremony*

*Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame*

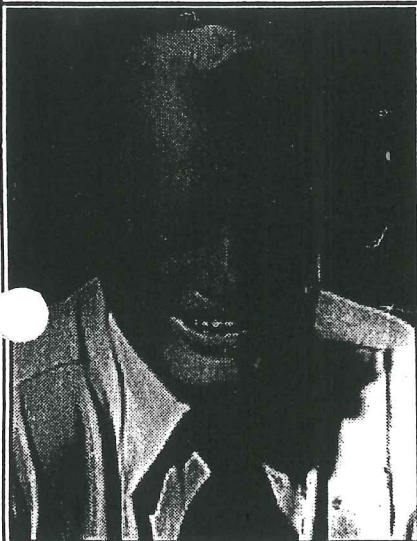
Sentry World Headquarters Theater

Saturday, April 18, 1998

THE ABOVE STORY OR WHATEVER YOU'D "CATARGUISS" THE ABOVE WAS READ AT THE INDUCTION CEREMONY

**Gordon MacQuarrie**

1900 - 1956



*"Ride a conservation hobby of your own choice, but keep an open mind about the other fellow."*

Gordon MacQuarrie pioneered outdoor writing into a medium for the promotion of conservation. He broke the mold and created a new one with emphasis on the environment. His columns were a forum for ideas which advanced the sensible, scientific management of all natural resources.



**WISCONSIN  
CONSERVATION  
HALL OF FAME**