

ALFRED DELLOYD SUTHERLAND

"When sick at heart from contemplating the frightful destructive power of modern science, go forth under the open sky and listen to nature's teachings. You may find solace and inspiration to solve mankind's destructive teachings."

-A.D. Sutherland

BIRTH: February 28, 1891 in Fond du Lac, WI

DEATH: died October 8, 1987 in King, WI

MARRIAGE: to Mary Noyes on August 17, 1917 in Marquette, MI
-5 children, 20 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren

EDUCATION: Ripon College, undergraduate work, graduated 1913
-member of Pi Kappa Delta, and Theta Sigma Tau
Harvard Law School, law degree completed in 1917
WWI - 10th Infantry, resigned as a Major

CAREER, CONSERVATION RELATED ACTIVITIES, AND POSITIONS HELD:

A.D.'s professional career as a lawyer involved many legal cases and much legislation dealing with the conservation and preservation of our state's and country's natural resources.

*A.D.'s interest in conservation began in the early 1920's. He was employed, as a lawyer, to stop a tannery from polluting the Fond du Lac River with fur, meat, and hair. The company ended up connecting their outlets to the city sewage plant, where the wastes could be treated.

*During the 1920's, A.D. was the Director, the Vice-president, the President, and the National Counselor of the local Chamber of Commerce (Fond du Lac).

*During this period, he became convinced that the Isaac Walton League's goals were of state and national importance, so he became a member.

*All of the following statements refer to A.D.'s involvement with the Isaac Walton League:

-Calumet Harbor was purchased by the IWL and restored (previously, it was a resort-type property with a hotel and cottages on it). A.D. helped convince the county board members to buy this property for a public recreational area.

-In the 1920's, A.D. suggested that if the State owned the land bordering the Caldron Falls on the Pestigo River, the power company wishing to build a dam there would not be able to do so. As a result, the Goodman Lumber Company gave the State large tracts of land on either side of the rapids to be used as a park.

-In 1941, as the state president of IWL, A.D. realized that with the increasing number of "No Trespassing" signs in the north there soon would not be any areas for public recreation. So, the League proposed a public hunting ground program, and A.D. drew up a bill that would take \$.50 off of each hunting license to purchase hunting grounds and to pay for their maintenance. The bill passed and became the first public hunting program in the U.S.A.

-As president of the local IWL chapter, A.D. helped get Eldorado Marsh (about 1,000 acres) established as a public hunting ground with the money from the bill above.

-In the 1930's, A.D. helped in the campaign to have the State purchase, restore, and maintain the Horicon Marsh (thousands of acres) for wild fowl and the public. A.D. and the League succeeded. Horicon Marsh is now nationally known.

-Also in the 1930's, A.D. helped purchase land in the Kettle Moraine area. This area is now known as the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

-During 1948 and 1949, A.D. was the president of the state division of the IWL. He and the League decided something should be done to clean up water pollution. They found that almost all of the public waters in the state were actually too polluted to be used. They studied the legal aspects, the health problems, and possible remedies. They found that a law had been passed in 1913 prohibiting any refuse that would harm aquatic plants or fish. A.D. drew up a bill that called for experts to be hired. They would find sources of pollution and recommend remedies. The polluting agency would be given a certain amount of time to correct the problem, and would then be fined if they had not complied. After major opposition, they got the bill passed.

-In 1950, another case went to the State Supreme Court. The "V.J. Muench, President of the State Division of the IWL vs. Public Service Commission of Wisconsin" case protested the damming of the Namekagon River. A.D. represented V.J. Muench. After many hearings, the dam permit the power company was requesting was denied on the grounds that the public's rights outweighed private interests. A.D. and the IWL were particularly pleased at their success in this case.

-In 1955, A.D. was one of the lawyers in the "Jerry Cutts and Raymon J. Zillmer vs. Department of Public Welfare" case. This case dealt with the disposal of one square mile of land in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, which Cutts and Zillmer, the IWL and A.D. opposed. They lost.

-In 1965, the United States Supreme Court declared that an 1898 law was valid. This law made the placement of industrial refuse in navigable waters illegal. A.D. spoke on this topic. The 1898 law still stands.

-The "Soil Bank Program" was another combined effort of A.D. and the IWL. This program was in response to the nationwide misuse of soil. A.D. was the chairman of the resolutions committee. They concluded that if 60 million acres were taken out of production there would be no surplus crops, about \$3 billion in taxes would be saved per year, and the soil would simultaneously be enriched and prevented from eroding away. The acres taken out of production were planted with grass and trees. The landowners were paid a production price per acre. The government could decline to make payments at the end of any year and could restore to production any amount of acreage necessary to meet the country's needs. A.D. became the chairman of the action committee. They drew up a bill that was violently opposed by farm machinery and fertilizer manufacturers. However, the bill was passed.

*In 1973, 467 newspaper clippings and copies of 26 talks on conservation by A.D. were deposited in the University of Wyoming's library.

*A.D. wrote the books "Sixty Years Afield and Observations on Conservation," and "Inside a Law Office, Justice or Injustice."

MEMBERSHIPS:

- 50 year member of the American Judiciary Society
- 50 year member of the American Bar Society
- member of the Fond du Lac County Bar Association
- emeritus member of the Wisconsin Bar Association
- member of the U.S. Supreme Court, Court of Claims, Tax Court, U.S. Court of Appeals, and other courts

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- 1951 - received the Diamond Pin Broughton Award of the State Division of the IWL
- 1954 - received the Nash Motor Award in Washington, D.C. (This later became known as the "American Motors Conservation Award.") Ten of these awards were given annually nationwide for outstanding achievements in conservation.
- 1957 - elected as the honorary president of the Isaac Walton League of America (A.D. had previously served as national director, vice-president, and an executive board member)
- 1966 - received the La Budde award (La Budde is a chapter of the IWL)
- 1971 - received a conservation award from Ripon College for outstanding work in conservation
- 1974 - entered in Kiwanis Clubs book of "Golden Deeds"
- 1986 - inducted into the Washington Conservation Hall of Fame

-A.D. is also listed in Who's Who in Wisconsin

"People do not realize what nature has done or what it can do if left alone."

-A.D. Sutherland