

Obituaries

Rahr

Conservationist and philanthropist Mr. Guido R. Rahr, 83, a resident of Boca Raton, Florida, died Friday morning, September 27, 1985, at his summer residence, 3109 Waldo Blvd., Manitowoc.

There will be no funeral or memorial service in Manitowoc.

Mr. Rahr was born March 25, 1902, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, son of the late Reinhardt and Clara Roch Rahr. He married the former Elizabeth Bilharz on March 21, 1927.

Mr. Rahr was a graduate of Culver Military Academy and Yale University. Mr. Rahr joined Rahr Malting Co., the family founded business, in 1925. He became President and Treasurer of Rahr Malting Co. in 1933. After the sale of the Manitowoc Malthouse to Anheuser-Busch, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, in 1962, Rahr Malting Co. was reorganized with the general office located at Minneapolis, MN. and continued to operate its malting facilities at Shakopee, MN. Mr. Rahr was elected Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. He continued to serve as a Director and member of the Executive and Investment Committees of the company, chairing both committees for several years. Mr. Rahr also served as Chairman and a Director of Rahr Properties, Inc., President of Lakeside Machine Shop, Inc., President of the Guido R. Rahr Foundation, Director and past President of Rahr Foundation, Director Emeritus of Manitowoc Savings Bank, N.A. (Associated Manitowoc Bank), and was a former Director of The Manitowoc Company, Inc.

A dedicated conservationist, Mr. Rahr served for 23 years as a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, which later emerged as the Department of Natural Resources. Of those years, 7-1/2 were spent as Chairman, 6 as Secretary, and 12 as chairman of the business affairs committee. Commission appointments were made by four consecutive state governors.

Mr. Rahr was the recipient of many civic commendations as well as local and state awards for his work in conservation. In 1966 Mr. Rahr was honored by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as State Conservationist of the Year, and by the National Wildlife Federation as National Conservationist of the Year, accepting the President's Award at a banquet in Washington, D.C. In 1969 he was cited by the State of Wisconsin Legislature for his conservation efforts.

In 1955 Mr. Rahr was instrumental, through Rahr Foundation, in acquiring the property which is known as the Rahr Memorial School Forest. From its inception, this project has benefited thousands of school children who learn and enjoy the various aspects of nature which the School Forest provides. Further backing by Mr. Rahr assisted in the building of the shelter, acquisition of additional acreage, a dormitory lodge, and other utility buildings, plus a pond and roof outdoor class area and gun safety and target shooting installation.

Substantial support initiated by Mr. Rahr through Rahr Foundation and the Guido R. Rahr Foundation assisted the Rahr-West Civic Center, Silver Lake College of the Holy Family, Holiday House, Lakeland College, Boy Scouts of America, Manitowoc Memorial Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA, Trees for Tomorrow, Wisconsin Audubon Camps, Ranger Mac school conservation program, and Wisconsin Conservation and University of Wisconsin research projects.

Through his personal foundation, Mr. Rahr sponsored and accompanied expeditions to India, Chad, Kenya, Angola, Uganda, Mozambique and Botswana in behalf of the Milwaukee Public Museum, and held the title of Research Associate in Conservation conferred by the museum Board of Trustees. Friends of the (Milwaukee) Museum appointed him a life member, benefactor status. The Zoological Society of

Milwaukee County (Milwaukee County Zoo), of which Mr. Rahr was a life member, active and later honorary director, also shared in his contributions.

Mr. Rahr was a member of the Milwaukee Club, University Club (Milwaukee), Explorers' Club (New York, NY), Chicago Athletic Club, B.P.O. E. Elks' Club, Mill Reef Club (Antigua, West Indies), Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America, Manitowoc County Historical Society, National Audubon Society, Society of Tymphonuchus Cupido Pinnatus, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, and the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth; two sons, Guido R. Rahr Jr. of Mound, Minnesota and Frederick W. Rahr of Bloomington, Minnesota; a daughter, Mrs. Harry (Petrea) Stern of Lake Forest, Illinois and nine grandchildren also survived.

Parkside Funeral Home of Manitowoc assisted the family with arrangements.

Conservationist Guido Rahr dies

MANITOWOC — Guido R. Rahr, 83, making company executive and noted conservationist, died Friday at his summer home at 3109 Waldo Blvd.

There will be no funeral or memorial services. The body will be cremated. Parkside Funeral Home has charge of arrangements.

Rahr had been in ill health in recent years and maintained a winter home in Boca Raton, Fla.

Rahr devoted much of his life and energies to wildlife and conservation activities.

From his own resources and through the Rahr Foundation, a family enterprise, he supported numerous civic and charitable undertakings in Manitowoc County and also contributed thousands of dollars to conservation projects. The foundation had an endowment of about \$500,000.

Rahr's interest in the outdoors led to his appointment to the State Conservation Commission in 1951 by the late Gov. Walter Kohler. He served 23 years on the commission, including 8 as chairman, before retiring in 1968 when it was merged with the new Natural Resources Board.

Under Rahr's chairmanship, the commission introduced a committee study system, developed sound business procedures and consolidated fish and wildlife game regulations.

Rahr was named Wisconsin's conservationist of



Civic leader Guido Rahr shown in 1974 file photo

the year in 1966 and was recognized as conservationist of the year by the National Wildlife Federation in 1967.

The Rahr interests donated property to the city of Manitowoc which became the Rahr-West Civic Center and in 1947 contributed \$125,000 for a children's addition to Holy Family Medical Center.

Rahr bought wooded land adjacent to Point Beach State Forest and gave it to the Manitowoc Board of Education for development as a school forest; education project. About \$15,000 of Rahr money was used for land acquisition.

He was instrumental in the development of Conservation Education workshop program for teachers in the early 1950s and also had a role in the acquisition of land in the Collins marsh area.

Rahr sponsored expeditions to India in 1964 and Africa in 1965 to collect mammals for diorama exhibits at the Milwaukee Museum. Among the countries visited were Chad, Kenya, Angola, Uganda, Mozambique and Botswana.

He was active in the raising of blooded stock on his farm west of Manitowoc and carried out other conservation projects at his 3,200-acre summer home on the Wisconsin-Michigan border.

He received the Silver Beaver Award from Waukegan Boy Scout Council in 1952 for his contributions to Camp Simawa through the Rahr

Foundation

Rahr set up a fund for gold diamond-studded pins to be presented annually by the Manitowoc Chapter of the Izaak Walton League to persons who made outstanding contributions to conservation in this area. The program was inaugurated in October of 1954.

Rahr was born in Manitowoc March 25, 1902. A graduate of Culver Military Academy and Yale University, he joined the family founded Rahr Mating Co. in 1925.

He became president and treasurer of the company in 1933. Rahr also became chairman of the board and was chief executive officer of the firm which reorganized its operations in Minnesota after selling its barley maling facilities in Manitowoc to Anheuser-Busch Inc. in 1962.

The deceased served in an executive capacity in several allied businesses, was a director emeritus of Associated Manitowoc Bank and a former director of the Manitowoc Co. Inc.

Survivors include his wife, the former Elizabeth Bilbartz; two sons, Guido R. Rahr Jr., Mount Pleasant, and Frederick W. Rahr, Bloomington, Minn.; a daughter, Mrs. Harry Stern (Petra Rahr), Lake Forest, Ill., and nine grandchildren.



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Governor Doyle and The Nature Conservancy Announce \$2.1 Million Stewardship Fund Grant for Northern Wisconsin



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Madison, Wisconsin—30 August 2005—Governor Jim Doyle and The Nature Conservancy today that the Conservancy will receive a \$2.1 million grant from the Knowles-Nelson State Fund to purchase and protect 971 acres in the Border Lakes area of northeast Wisconsin.

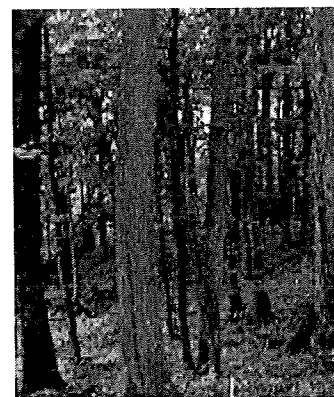
Acquisition of the land, known as the Tenderfoot Forest Reserve, will protect nearly four miles of undeveloped lakeshore on three lakes and 500 acres of old-growth forest—the largest re-expansion of old-growth forest in private ownership in Wisconsin.

Over the past 100 years, old-growth forest has been reduced to one-quarter of 1% of its original extent in Wisconsin. Restoration of old-growth hemlock-hardwood forest, like that found on Tenderfoot Reserve, would take centuries to achieve.

Like most Nature Conservancy properties, Tenderfoot will be open to the public for recreation including canoeing and kayaking, motorized boating on Tenderfoot Lake, hunting for whitetail deer and ruffed grouse, and fishing. There are hiking trails and opportunities for enjoying pristine, wild lakes and undeveloped shoreline.

"When I think of Wisconsin's NorthWoods, it's places like Tenderfoot that come to mind—pristine lakes and big, majestic trees where bald eagles nest," said Governor

Jim Doyle. "Thanks to the partnership between land trusts like The Nature Conservancy and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, places like Tenderfoot will exist for future generations to enjoy. The Stewardship Fund is an investment in our economy, our quality of life, and our future."



The Conservancy will purchase the land in Vilas County from the Rahr family, which is originally from Manitowoc where they brewed beer and made malt for the beer industry. It was on a fishing trip to the area in the 1880s that Reinhardt Rahr fell in love with the property. He tracked down the owner and bought the first piece of property on Tenderfoot Lake in 1885.

[Down](#)

The Rahr family has a history of land conservation in Wisconsin. Guido R. Rahr, father of the current owners of Tenderfoot Forest Reserve, served on the Wisconsin Conservation Commission for 23 years in the 1950s and 60s. During those years, his leadership and business experience were credited to Wisconsin's Conservation Department as one of the most outstanding wildlife agencies in the state.

"My grandfather bought the first piece of land at Tenderfoot 120 years ago, and my family has owned the land ever since," said Frederick W. Rahr. "We've had bald eagles nest in the trees here and seen wolves cross Tenderfoot Lake in the winter. It's a special place, and we don't want to change. That's why we're working with The Nature Conservancy to make sure that it is protected for future generations long after we are gone."

"Tenderfoot is one of Wisconsin's most spectacular natural areas thanks largely to the care the Rahr family has provided for more than a century" commented Mary Jean Huston, state director of The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin. "It is thanks to private landowners like the Rahrs and programs like the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund that we are able to protect some of Wisconsin's most biologically rich lands."

The Rahrs will donate more than \$1 million of the value of the land to the Conservancy in exchange for the property remains in its natural state for generations to come. They are also giving the Conservancy 12 months, interest free, to raise the additional funds needed to complete the purchase.

"Private support, coupled with public funding through the Stewardship Fund, will be vital to the creation of the Tenderfoot Forest Reserve for future generations," said Steve Bablitch, Wisconsin Chapter President. "We have a goal of raising \$2.4 million in private dollars for Tenderfoot and other ongoing conservation efforts in the area."

The Tenderfoot Forest Reserve is part of a larger area, referred to as the Border Lakes Basin, which spans about 24,000 acres in Vilas County. The area harbors white pine forests 100 years old and includes wetlands, spring-fed ponds, many wild lakes and streams.

The Stewardship Fund is an innovative, public-private partnership program that preserves natural areas and wildlife habitat, protects water quality and fisheries, and expands opportunities for outdoor recreation. Through the Stewardship Fund, more than 300,000 acres of land have been protected and opened to the public for hunting, fishing and other types of outdoor recreation.

For more information about the Conservancy's effort to protect the Tenderfoot Forest Reserve or to learn more about the organization's work in the Border Lakes area call 608/251-8140.

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