

Haskell Noyes Marker Dedicated

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An area in the Kettle Moraine state forest now is dedicated to the memory of one of Wisconsin's great conservation crusaders, a man with a remarkable record of achievement.

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 north-east 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, Fred T. 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



The late Haskell Noyes, one of Wisconsin's conservation giants of the 1920's and 1930's.

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 . . .

"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 . . .

"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 crystal-



Among participants in dedication of the Haskell Noyes marker were (from left): Larry C. Whiffen, Milwaukee; T. Fred Minor, Iron River; Andrew F. Bell, Milwaukee; Frank N. Graass, Sturgeon Bay; W. J. P. Aberg, Madison.

lized. 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 . . .

"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. He 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 . . .

"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."

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."

Virgin Wilderness Didn't Furnish High Living

Another illusion shattered: prehistoric upper Mississippi valley Indians apparently DID NOT subsist mainly on such culinary delights as venison or buffalo steak, nor on what we now consider the better species of fish.

The evidence comes from a cave in the Mississippi river bluffs near Hastings, Minnesota, right next door to Wisconsin. Here, archeologists of the Science Museum at St. Paul have dug through the refuse left by red men over