

# Mini-Session Report

Minnesota House of Representatives • September 18, 1991 • Volume 1, Number 2



Fishing continues to be among the most popular activities for many families who spend their vacations in the Brainerd lakes area.

## 'There's nothing quite like being there'



Local legend holds that it took five storks to deliver Paul Bunyan.

So it only seemed fitting that attendance for the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session should be Bunyanesque in size.

The House Administrative Services Office says more than 100 of the 134 House members attended the three-day mini-session that ran from Sept. 4-6.

A total of 25 committee meetings were held on topics ranging from Native American gambling and Eurasian water milfoil to septic tank problems and the DNR's walleye stocking program.

It was the eighth region of the state to host the periodic gatherings of the House since it took its legislative show on the road in 1987.

And as many legislators will attest,

there's nothing quite like being there.

Lawmakers got a first-hand look at the Grand Casino in Garrison, which employs 783 people and has reduced unemployment on the Mille Lacs Reservation to near zero today from 45 percent a year ago.

The casino, and a second one that is being planned in Hinckley 60 miles to the east, has further broadened the economic base of the regional economy.

Likewise, some members also toured the MacMillan Bloedel of America plant in Deerwood where a new composite wood product has been developed using the fast-growing aspen tree — weaning the company from its reliance on old-growth timber.

Lawmakers also heard from county auditors from across Minnesota who denounced the upcoming presidential primary because it will force voters to publicly declare their party preference.

They also toured the Croft Mine Historical Park, which local leaders hope will someday become the 67th state park

in the extensive Minnesota system.

And one lawmaker even questioned a state law that prevents supermarkets and convenience stores from selling milk as a loss leader but allows soft drinks to be advertised at a loss.

Although no formal action was taken at any of the committee meetings because the Legislature is technically in recess between the first and second years of its session, the informational hearings will no doubt have an impact on future decisions when the Legislature convenes on Jan. 6 and Feb. 17 of next year.

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# Mini-Session Highlights

Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country . . . September 4-6, 1991



## Environment

### Save the lakes

Lakeshore property owners in the Brainerd area share a growing concern about the quality of their lakes.

Testimony at a Sept. 6 House Environment and Natural Resources Committee meeting during the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session indicates there is cause for alarm.

"Sub-standard septic systems are a serious threat to the quality of our lakes," said Bill Beck, president of the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association. "If we want to preserve our vacationland and our tax base, we ought to stop turning our lakes into cesspools."

His association is taking a unique approach to halting lake water pollution.

Beck hired Al Cibazar of A & W Research and Image Engineering to take infrared aerial photos of a number of area lakes. Where foreign substances were detected in the water, follow-up samples were taken from individual properties.

The results were less than encouraging. The firm found that as many as 78 percent of the septic systems on one lake weren't in compliance with local zoning ordinances.

"We want to see prevention [of pollution] through education," he said. "People need to understand what their faulty systems are doing."

After photographing 142 miles of shoreline and taking follow-up ground samples on 1,600 properties, Beck is pushing for improvements. Armed with test results and infrared photos, he is conducting interviews with each violating property owner and explaining the dangers of septic systems that are out of compliance.

With 1,500 interviews behind him, Beck is seeing results.

"The licensed septic installers in the area have experienced a tremendous boom," he said.

Beck encouraged lawmakers to

consider funding such aerial studies. The total cost to his organization has been a modest \$62,500 — "a small price to pay for a permanent slice of paradise," he said.

### Paul Bunyan Trail accord

Paul Bunyan Trail advocates reached a milestone Sept. 5 when Raymond Hitchcock, assistant commissioner for operations for the Department of Natural

Resources, announced that the "off-the-road trail corridor" from Brainerd to Bemidji is now in public ownership.

"We have a letter of intent from Burlington Northern, and we are on the way," he told legislators and civic leaders at a luncheon sponsored by the Paul Bunyan Trail Association during the legislative mini-session in the Brainerd lakes area.

The 1988 Legislature authorized the creation of the Paul Bunyan Trail and provided funding for the state to enter a



Members of the House Commerce Committee stand on the site of the Paul Bunyan Trail after hearing testimony on local tourism. The meeting was held in the new Nisswa Community Center Sept. 4.

lease agreement with Burlington Northern Railroad. In 1989, money was earmarked for the trail for appraisal, preliminary engineering, and beginning acquisition. The 1990 session provided necessary funds for acquiring the abandoned Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way.

"The 100-mile trail provides the missing link in a network of trails in the northern portion of the state," said Brainerd's Terry McGaughey, who initiated the project and serves as its volunteer coordinator.

Now trail supporters say they will ask the 1992 Legislature for \$900,000 in state borrowing authority for the development of bridges, culverts, and grading of the trail. A request to blacktop the trail will be made later.

The all-season, multi-use trail will be open to walkers, roller skaters, bikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, wheelchair athletes, and other recreational users, said McGaughey. A second path could be developed for horseback riders, hikers, and joggers.

"The planning and design phase will begin in the next few months," said Hitchcock. This will include working with the state Department of Transportation on bridge replacement, and the U.S. Forest Service because the trail passes through the Chippewa National Forest.

"Development of the trail will begin as soon as funds are available," he said. "We think we can make significant progress on making the trail operational over the next few years."

### **Cuyuna Country State Park**

A new state park just 140 miles north of the Twin Cities whose beauty would rival the Boundary Waters Canoe Area?

That's what a group of citizens from the Crosby-Ironton area proposed Sept. 5 to a group of legislators during the three-day Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session.

"It's like the boundary waters 100 miles from Minneapolis," said Robert Redfield, administrator for the Croft Mine Historical Park. "It's spectacular."

The nearly 5,000-acre tract in the Crosby-Ironton area 15 miles northeast of Brainerd includes six natural lakes and 16 "pit lakes" created by the mining of



**An overflow crowd attended an open mike hearing of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee at Brainerd's Holiday Inn on the last day of the three-day mini-session.**

iron ore — an industry that has been dormant in the region for 10 years.

The land — 80 percent of which is owned by Crow Wing County and/or several townships and cities in the region — is currently being managed by the Cuyuna Range Mineland Recreation Area Joint Powers Board.

Redfield, speaking before the Appropriations Committee's Environment and Natural Resources Division that was assembled under a tent on the Croft Mine Historical Park grounds, said the board intends to acquire the additional 20 percent of land that is in private ownership and is not seeking state funding for that effort.

What the proposed "Cuyuna Country State Park" does want, however, is the increased traffic that comes with a state park designation, and money to help operate the park, said Redfield.

"I know our attendance would double just by being on one of those [state park] lists," said Redfield. "I guarantee — once the word gets out about this place — we'll have to beat the people away."

He said the pit lakes formed by iron mining have filled with crystal clear water, making them a mecca for scuba divers and boating enthusiasts. In addition, some of the lakes have been stocked with trout and other game fish, and there is also a mine interpretive center at the park.

The 1991 Legislature created Glendalough State Park, the 66th state

park in the Minnesota system from land donated to the state by the Nature Conservancy, which was given the land by Cowles Media Co. And the chairs of both the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Committee's Environment and Natural Resources Division, which controls funding for such programs, seemed to welcome the idea of yet another state park.

"I want to say I'm very sympathetic with this park here," said Rep. Willard

### **October mini-session**

The second mini-session this year will be held Oct. 21-23.

Unlike the recent mini-session held in the Brainerd lakes area, the October session will focus on the Twin Cities suburbs — an area of the state that suburban lawmakers often charge gets overlooked.

If you're on the House Public Information Office mailing list, a schedule of events and committee meetings for that mini-session will be sent to you.

The suburban mini-session originally was planned for Oct. 23-25, but the possibility that the Minnesota Twins may be in the World Series swayed lawmakers to move it up to avoid a potential conflict.

Munger (DFL-Duluth), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Asked after the meeting what the chances of approval for the park would be in the upcoming legislative session, Rep. Dave Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors), chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, said, "I think they'd be good if the money is good."

"Frankly, I don't think you can overdo any of this stuff," added Battaglia, who once worked in an iron mine himself and whose father drove a locomotive at one.

### Indian spearfishing

For an hour and 55 minutes of a two-hour subcommittee meeting Sept. 4 on game and fish issues, the mood was generally pleasant.

But when the attorney for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians told state lawmakers gathered at the Emily Elementary School in Emily that "we do intend to be spearing on Lake Mille Lacs next spring," that sunny attitude vanished.

"Why are you going to start spearing?" asked Rep. Joe Begich (DFL-Eveleth). "You can't kill the mother when it's laying a baby."

That brief exchange at the end of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee's Game and Fish Subcommittee meeting echoed the strong emotions that will surely come to play in negotiations over Indian hunting and fishing rights.

The Mille Lacs band and the state of Minnesota are currently negotiating those rights granted Indians in the 1837 Minnesota Chippewa Treaty that covers parts of 12 central Minnesota counties.

The state has reached an agreement with several Minnesota tribes, but the issue with the Mille Lacs band could prove even more emotional.

That's because Lake Mille Lacs has long been considered a sacred place for the Ojibwe and the Dakota Indians who were there before them. Now, it's a mecca for thousands of Minnesota anglers.

Marcy Dowse, the information and marketing director for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, says her department has been negotiating with the band since August 1990.

And while she hopes for a settlement



Docks and boats jut into the water from the manicured shoreline on one of 464 lakes within a 30-mile radius of Brainerd.

soon, Dowse said after the meeting that it took the state of Wisconsin and Indians living there 15 years to resolve a similar hunting and fishing dispute.

Anita Fineday, solicitor general for the Mille Lacs band, called on the estimated 75 people who attended the meeting to view the issue rationally.

"The bottom line is numbers — not the method it [a walleye] is taken," she said in response to Begich's spearing question. "If you catch that same fish during the ice-fishing season on a hook and line, it's not going to spawn."



## Agriculture

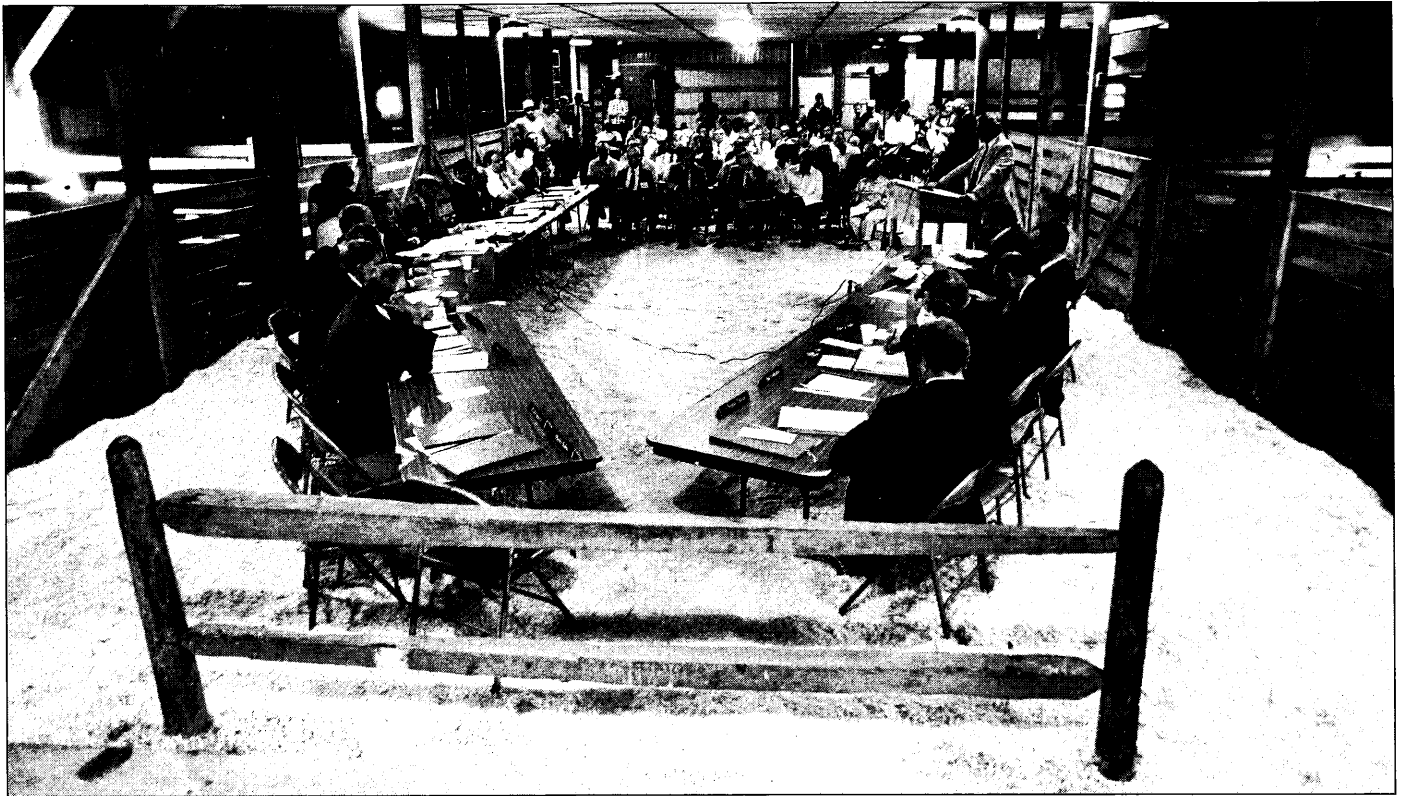
### Marketing milk

The corner convenience store often runs discount specials to advertise Pepsi or Coke at cut-rate prices.

But should that same store try to promote milk as a loss leader, it could get the state Department of Agriculture knocking on its door.

That's because Minnesota state law prohibits the sale of any milk, fluid milk by-products, and frozen dairy products at below actual cost — a prohibition one state lawmaker says should be reconsidered.

Speaking before the House Agriculture Committee Sept. 4 at the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session, Rep. Gil



Ankle deep in sawdust, members of the House Agriculture Committee heard from Elton Redalen, commissioner of agriculture, farm organizations, and farmers on the issue of milk pricing. The Sept. 4 meeting was held in a barn at the Brainerd High School Farm.

Gutknecht (IR-Rochester) said the law actually punishes dairy farmers by forcing retailers to advertise soft drinks as loss leaders instead of milk.

"Is it really fair to go after the retailers who are trying to sell more milk?" he asked committee members who met in a barn on the Brainerd High School Farm just outside Brainerd. "More and more consumers are being drawn from milk."

Gutknecht has drafted a "House advisory," which is a document asking the Legislature to study the 1957 Minnesota Dairy Unfair Trade Practices Act and is not an actual bill calling for the repeal of the law.

The law was originally designed to protect small grocers from cut-throat competition from large supermarket chains who might be tempted to use milk as a loss leader, according to a memo prepared by the Minnesota House Research Department.

The state Department of Agriculture enforcement guidelines call for milk to be priced at no less than the cost of delivery to the store plus 15 percent as an average "cost of doing business," although a lower mark-up may be permitted if it can be documented, said the memo.

Between 1935 and 1960, more than 30

state legislatures enacted regulatory controls on dairy product marketing, including several that actually set a minimum retail price for milk. But since that time, said the memo, several states have dropped the regulations or are not enforcing them.

Gutknecht says it's foolish for the state to penalize retailers who attempt to promote milk while there is no prohibition on charging exorbitant prices for it.

State agriculture officials were summoned to Rochester in April of this year when milk prices there dropped sharply. A July survey of milk prices showed the average cost for a gallon of whole milk ranged from \$1.86 in Rochester to \$2.73 in Duluth.

The discrepancy in prices prompted many of the estimated 100 people who attended the meeting to question who was pocketing the extra money. It seemed clear farmers aren't; the price farmers receive for 100 pounds of milk has dropped by roughly a third since December 1989 — a trend that has caused several counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin to declare "economic disaster area" status.

Although repealing the law would represent a shift in state agricultural

policy, Gutknecht suggested that farmers and lawmakers look to the Soviet Union for guidance.

Just as it has embraced free market concepts, so should the state of Minnesota, he said.



## Education

### Learning Ojibwe

Students at Brainerd Community College and Leech Lake Tribal College are learning a traditional language in a very non-traditional way.

The Ojibwe language is being taught to students and others in the Leech Lake area through a method called "The Silent Way" that bypasses the need for an alphabet.

Instead, the silent way methodology uses a color chart consisting of colored rectangles for each sound in the language. This enables students to speak directly rather than to read, said Jamie Robertson, a Leech Lake Tribal College faculty member and curriculum developer of the college's Ojibwe program.

Robertson and Larry Aitkin, another



Leech Lake faculty member, demonstrated this method Sept. 5 to lawmakers at the House Appropriations Committee's Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division meeting at Brainerd Community College.

Robertson said too much emphasis is placed on translation when people are learning a new language. He said that people learn the skill to make the sounds by using the silent way process.

The Ojibwe classes are being offered to help preserve the Ojibwe culture, said Robertson, adding that use of the language is declining on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation.

### Technical colleges merge

Brainerd and Staples Technical Colleges are among the first of the state's 34 technical colleges to be joined together under the same umbrella — a merger that Carole Johnson, chancellor of the technical college system, is calling a "marriage."

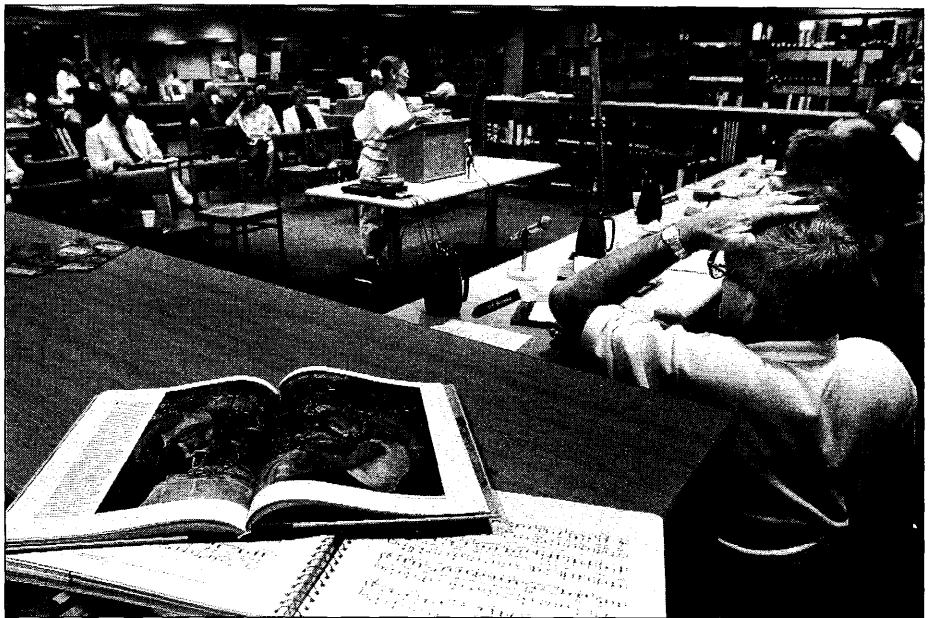
The 1991 Legislature required the technical college system to reduce the number of its technical institution school districts to between nine and 15 by December.

Supporters of the measure told lawmakers at a Sept. 4 meeting of the House Appropriations Committee's Education Division at Brainerd Community College that joining some of the institutions will promote program efficiency and cultural diversity, decrease course duplication, and reduce administrative costs.

Stan Edin, president of the merged facility, now called the Brainerd Staples Regional Technical College, says merging the two higher education facilities "will enrich program offerings for students."

Rochester, Austin, and Faribault technical colleges also have merged and are now operating as the Minnesota Riverland Technical College.

Other technical college systems that could combine administrations are: Eveleth and Hibbing; Mankato and Albert Lea; Willmar and Hutchinson; and Wadena, Detroit Lakes, Bemidji, and East Grand Forks.



Arts and humanities groups testified before the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Division of the House Appropriations Committee Sept. 5 with the hope of continued funding. The meeting took place at Brainerd Community College in the Learning Resource Center.

### School mergers no panacea

The problems facing large school districts with few students will not be solved by mandating consolidation, a number of superintendents told the Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Sept. 4.

Meeting at the Pine River-Backus School, where a \$3.2 million renovation is nearly complete, lawmakers listened to the problems confronting outstate districts.

These realities include a three-hour bus ride for some elementary students in the Akeley School District, which covers 900 square miles. Akeley consolidated with Walker in 1990 in one of several mergers that made Cass County the state leader in school consolidations in the past few years.

"You don't save money by consolidating," said David McCarty, superintendent of the Walker Public Schools. "What you do get is better programming for your students."

The hurdles that need clearing to merge two schools are enormous, he added, including questions about the use of facilities, personnel, and materials.

"But the greatest questions, and the most difficult are often those like 'what should the team name be,' and 'what are the school colors.' These take time and more than a bit of courage," said

McCarty.

He looked to Pine River-Backus as a unique success story, noting that the decision to merge was made by the schools, not the state.

"What worked for that school may not work anywhere else in the state," he said. "I suggest you do not adopt universal legislation, but that you give the school districts the authority to form their own mergers."

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## Enrollment options

Parents and students applauded a state program that allows high school juniors and seniors to take free college courses. But some educators fear the program is eroding the quality of high school programs.

"We lose 25 seniors a year to this program," said Jim Christenson, a social studies teacher at Crosby-Ironton High School. "We lose the kids, we lose the funding for those kids, we then lose course offerings, and then we lose more kids."

Approved by the 1985 Legislature, the post-secondary enrollment options program is designed to provide "rigor and variety" to an educational experience by allowing high school juniors and seniors to receive up to two years of free college education.

Christenson, speaking Sept. 4 before the House Education Committee's Higher Education Division at the Brainerd Technical College, said he's not against choices for students, but believes the odds are against high schools.

"Who can compete with an offer of free college tuition, books, and even a mileage reimbursement?" he asked.

And some say it's not "rigor and variety" students are looking for at the colleges.

"The students are doing this for social and financial reasons," said Robert Gross, superintendent of the Brainerd public schools. "There is rigor available at the

high schools."

Of 67 Brainerd high school students attending community college last school year, only 10 took advanced placement courses at the high school. Gross said there are 13 subjects where advanced placement is an option. He advocated a three-person panel to "screen" candidates for the program.

But parents testifying before the committee don't want the program narrowed in any way. Peggy Blaine, whose son is now in his second year at Brainerd Community College, warned that in "closing a loophole, you are also locking out an opportunity."

She asked that lawmakers not "tinker with the law" to establish eligibility requirements. Instead, that authority "should rest with the cooperating institutions," she said.

## Parent power

Parents can wield power in determining educational curriculum for their children. But do they realize it?

State legislators heard from education officials and community members Sept. 4 as they reported their experiences with the Planning, Evaluation, and Reporting (PER) process before the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Curriculum.

The 1976 PER law, enacted to respond to a need for increased accountability in elementary and secondary public education, depends on local community

involvement to evaluate and improve programs.

"We are seeing a lot of change in our [educational] systems," said Faith Rudmitski, curriculum development director for the Leaf River Education District. "We have to have a process in place for those changes to be organized and to be systematically put into the school system. Site-based management is good for a building, but as a district, you need that broad spectrum look, and the PER committee provides that."

Rudmitski said the views of community members are especially important because they are the ones who pass referendums. And they often have questions and misinformation about what goes on in schools because they have no children there, she said.

"The PER committee becomes a forum for the community and parents to voice their concerns," said Rudmitski. "They know they will be heard there. They know there will be action because it is a process in place. And that's the importance of PER."

But the committees are also frustrating to parents because it forces them to go through the process, said Rudmitski. "You cannot simply go to a librarian and say, 'Pull that book.'"

Although PER has been in place for nearly 15 years, some educators and parents question whether the public even knows about it.

"Parents are not yet aware of how effective PER can be," said a member of



House members experience an early mining environment at a simulated underground mine at the Croft Mine Historical Park in Crosby. The House Environment and Natural Resources Committee toured the mine Sept. 5. At right is the park's administrator, Robert Redfield.

the local PER group in Walker.

Added Marjorie Johnson, who represents the Seventh Congressional District on the State Board of Education, "I don't think [parents and community members] realize their power as members of a PER committee."



## Law

### Domestic abuse prosecutions

For years, prosecutors have complained when victims of domestic abuse refuse to cooperate in the prosecution of their abusers, leaving them with no option but to dismiss the cases.

Now, prosecutors and others are seeking a change in state law that would allow them access to medical records — ones that could show evidence of a black eye or a cracked rib, for example — without the consent of the person to whom the medical records pertain.

Members of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Data Privacy heard a spirited debate Sept. 6 on a bill (HF180) that would grant prosecutors access to those records in criminal cases where there was bodily harm.

District Court Judge John Spellacy of Grand Rapids spoke in favor of the measure, saying that all too often, "victims involved in crimes of violence are able to completely block a prosecution by claiming medical privilege (right to privacy concerning medical records)."

Spellacy told members of a "girlfriend-boyfriend" automobile accident where the woman was legally drunk at the time of the accident.

Prosecutors charged the woman with the more serious offense of criminal vehicular operation, but were thwarted when the boyfriend, who was a passenger in the vehicle, claimed medical privilege. That prevented prosecutors from being able to prove in court that the man suffered injuries in the accident, and the charge was dismissed.

But Lois Seleski, the executive director of a Brainerd-based battered women's shelter, said she opposes removing the medical privilege in existing law.

She told lawmakers that the bill could increase the chances that a defendant would retaliate against his victim.

### Child support collections

Although many of Minnesota's child support enforcement programs are among the best in the nation, there is still room for improvement.

That was the message delivered by two collections officers and an assistant county attorney who appeared before the House Judiciary Committee's Family Law Subcommittee Sept. 5.

The biggest problem in tracking child support evaders is the lack of adequate funding, said Maila Hedin, collections manager for Scott County. Caseloads are large, and child support officers have had to assume new duties because some positions have been eliminated.

In addition, child support managers say the collection rate could be improved by employing computer technology with adequate staffing to efficiently administer programs, and by blocking the issuance of hunting and fishing licenses if an applicant's child support payments are in arrears. Such information is now reported to credit bureaus.

But other than those modifications to the system, child support collection advocates say more education about existing laws is what is needed.

Hedin said many private attorneys just don't understand Minnesota's automatic income withholding (AIW) law.

"In our county, about 90 percent of the dissolution orders coming through ignore that law," she said. "We get calls from people who want to know where their money is and we've never heard of them."

Kris Davick-Halfen, assistant county attorney for Morrison County, cited the following other problems in enforcing child support collection programs:

- Judges tend to show little interest in child support cases. Different judges often handle the same case at various times over long periods, frequently arriving at different decisions. Judges often disregard guidelines, and their decisions many times favor the person making the payments rather than the child.

- Self-employed people are difficult to collect from because they can easily hide their income.

- People often say, "I don't have the money," and yet they can afford to spend five out of six nights at a bar. Investigating this behavior is difficult. Davick-Halfen said she would like to see an easier way to prove contempt of a court order.

- Due to small staffs, county attorneys often have a conflict of interest when they find themselves representing both parties in a case at different times.

### Say 'no' to get tough on crime

Mille Lacs County Attorney John Hoffman says the get-tough-on-crime response is not the way to deal with the increase in heinous acts being committed in the state.

Hoffman told a House Judiciary Committee Sept. 4 that "any response



Majority Leader Dee Long, front, and Rep. Kris Hasskamp disembark at Brainerd's Lum Park after an hour-long plane ride over the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country area Sept. 6.





The House Regulated Industries Committee heard about telecommunications issues in a Sept. 4 meeting at the Arvig Telephone Company in Pequot Lakes.

should look comprehensively at the strains 'get tough' legislation places upon the criminal justice system."

He said it's necessary to provide resources to help determine the reasons that cause violence and to further fund education and rehabilitation programs.

Hoffman also shared his views on how the system should punish repeat sex offenders. He says sex offenders are simply too dangerous — and in many cases can't be rehabilitated — to allow them to serve moderate prison sentences with no follow-up supervision. He called for an evaluation of the sentences called for in the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines.

Hoffman applauded the Legislature for its efforts to ensure more input from victims into the criminal justice system, but says requirements calling for victim notification, plea negotiation input, and sentencing notification, place tremendous strains on his small office.

## **Labor**

### **Dislocated workers' program**

Demand for the state's popular dislocated workers' program is far outstripping available resources, said Janice Heiling, assistant commissioner of the state Department of Jobs and Training.

The program assists unemployed people — often those resulting from a plant closing or mass layoff — in retraining efforts, resume writing, and career search methods.

For 1992, 13.8 million state dollars will be available for the program. A projected \$14.3 million is expected for 1993, said Kevin Wilkins, the new program director. But despite these high dollar amounts, not everyone is being helped, Wilkins told the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Sept. 5 during the three-day Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session.

Over the next few months, Wilkins expects a number of large funding requests from the University of Minnesota, some state agencies, and a handful of local governments "due to the last round of painful budget cuts and high layoff numbers."

Wilkins said the department has to identify priority cases. Targeted populations include single heads of households and older workers — "those who

(continued on page 12)

## ***It's a fact!***

Although you'll find Bavarian architecture on Main Street in Nisswa, the town actually takes its name from an Ojibwe word meaning "three lakes."

With a rich Native American and lumbering heritage, today's Nisswa has 13 lakes within its city limits, including the famous Gull Lake chain.

Civil War veteran Webster Whiting Brooks Hill and his wife Bessie Leigh are credited as the town's founders. The date of their marriage — Oct. 14, 1886 — is also celebrated as Nisswa's anniversary.

Hill was a logger for the nearby Gull River Lumber Co. until 1889, when the mill ceased operations. Two years later he renovated much of the abandoned land and re-opened the site facing Middle Fishtrap Lake as "Web Hill Ranch."

Hill remained in Nisswa until Bessie's death in June of 1920. He then moved to be with his youngest daughter in Brainerd, where he died six months later.

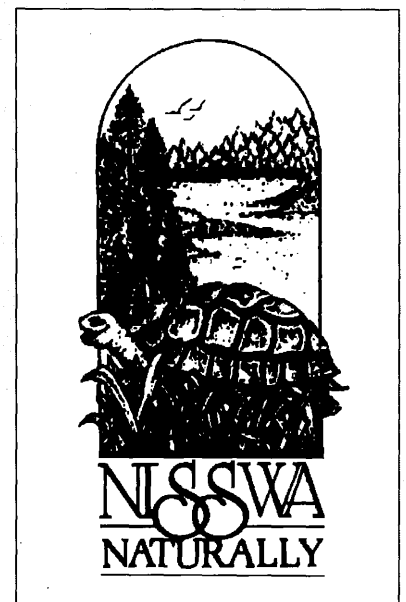
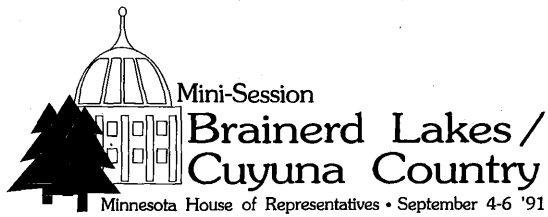


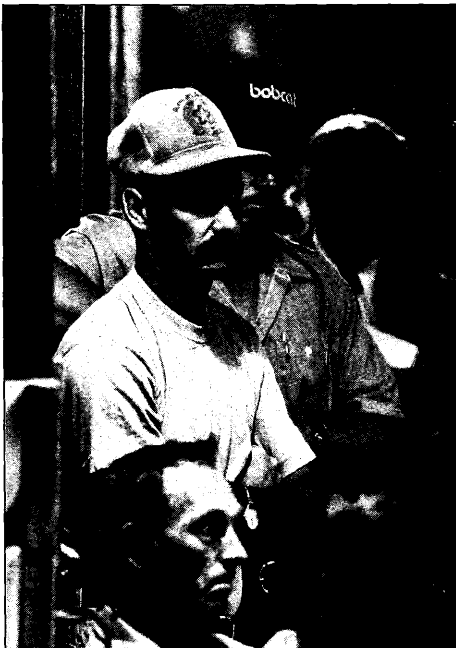
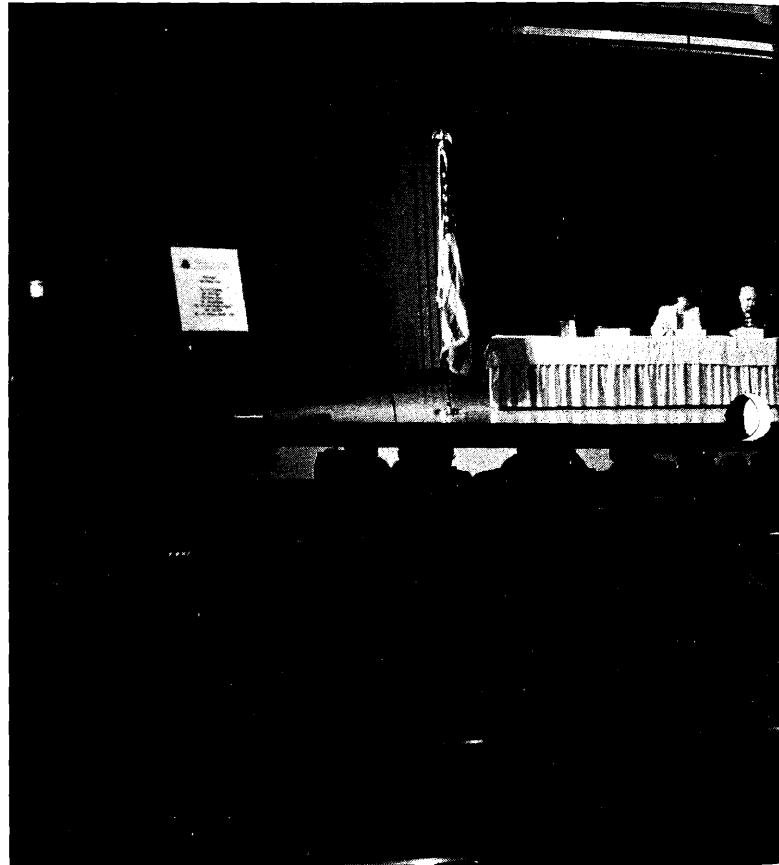
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Nisswa Chamber of Commerce



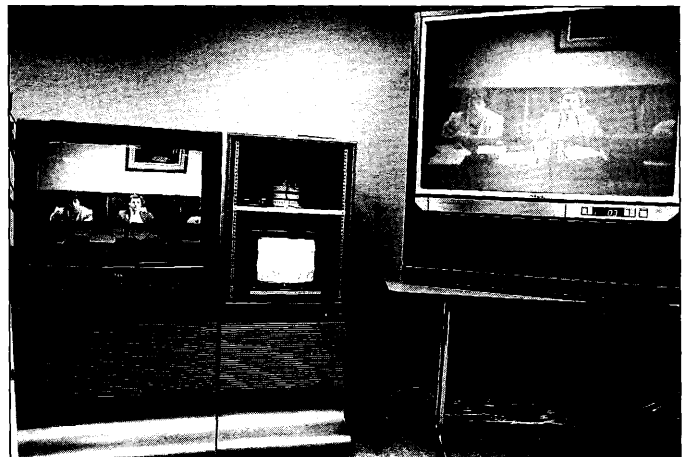
# Face-to-face Listening to the people

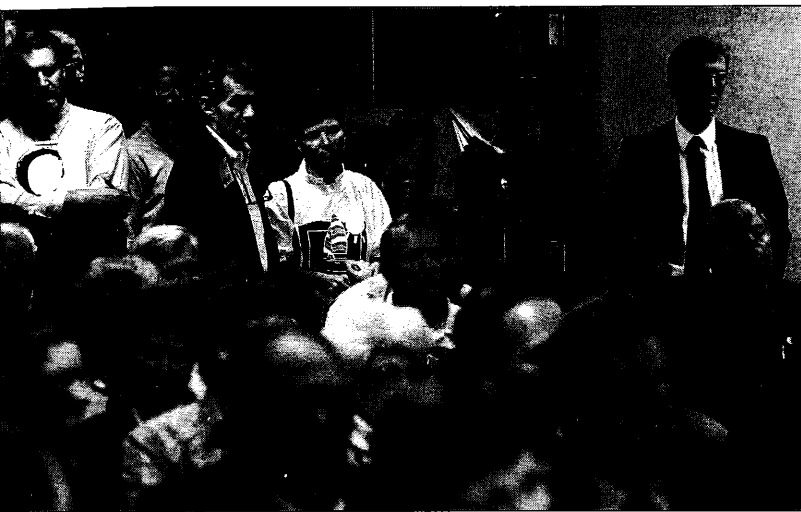


In Crosby's Croft Mine, Rep. Willard Munger, chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, examines iron ore as Steve Blanich, a member of the Crosby-Ironton Joint Powers Board, looks on.



Local farmers came to listen and testify before the House Agriculture Committee at the Brainerd High School Farm.



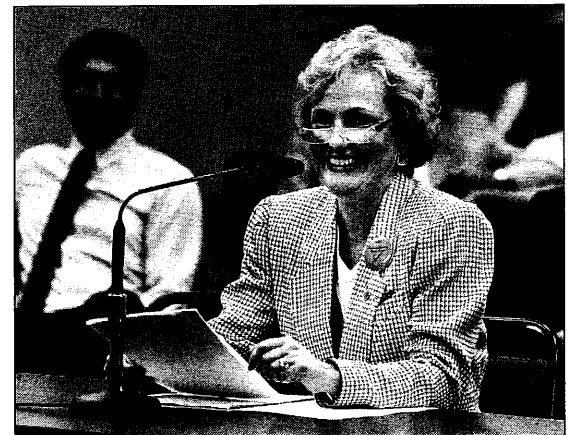


Residents listen as lakeshore property owners testify before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee about how faulty septic systems are polluting lake water.



Right: At a meeting of the House Labor-Management Relations Committee, Rep. Steve Sviggum, left, assures Lionell Iverson of Pequot Lakes that his workers' compensation benefits won't be affected by future changes to existing law.

Left: Through an interactive video system, people in Monticello talk with members of the House Regulated Industries Committee at the Arvig Telephone Company in Pequot Lakes.



"Tourism is the number one industry in the Brainerd lakes area," says Judi Smith, executive vice president of the Brainerd Area Chamber of Commerce. She testified before the House Commerce Committee at the Nisswa Community Center.

During the town meeting at Crosby-Ironton High School, local resident Jeanne Simmonds expressed her concerns about the special needs of gifted and talented students. Seated on stage were, left to right: Rep. Becky Lourey, Minority Leader Terry Dempsey, Majority Leader Dee Long, Rep. Kris Hasskamp, and Sen. Don Samuelson.



encounter certain barriers," he said, adding that "it is the department's responsibility to look at the marketability of a dislocated worker."

But despite the tough funding decisions, Wilkins said he's glad to make them, noting that few other states have committed the dollars Minnesota has to assisting dislocated workers.



## Economic Development

### PSL 300

For years, MacMillan Bloedel of America, Inc. researchers have been studying ways to extend the supply of high quality wood-based materials to wean themselves from increasingly rare old growth forests.

The result was "PSL 300," an engineered wood product whose first use will be as core material in the window and door manufacturing industries. The product's name is an abbreviation of "parallel strand lumber" made from 300-millimeter strands of aspen.

Members of the House Economic Development Committee and the Appropriations Committee's State Government Division toured MacMillan Bloedel's new plant in Deerwood Sept. 5, the second day of the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna County Mini-Session.

Donning hard hats and eye protectors, members got a close-up look at the plant which uses fast-growing aspen to fashion the composite wood product.

The plant, which represents an \$80 million investment and is scheduled to open in about two months, will enable the forest products company to move away from dependence on old growth forests of pine, spruce, fir, and hemlock.

But it also represents what can happen through grass roots economic development, said both community leaders and MacMillan Bloedel officials.

"Community members did a tremendous job of selling Crow Wing County as a location for the plant," said John Robillard, general manufacturing manager of the plant, adding that it is "the first of its kind in the world."

The plant itself will support 102 permanent jobs aside from sales and marketing positions, said Bob Batt,

MacMillan Bloedel's plant manager. Monthly salaries will range from \$1,400 to \$2,500. In addition, he said it is expected that between 300 and 350 other jobs will be created as a result of the plant.

Several Cuyuna Range Economic Development Inc. officials, who spearheaded the development, and members of other community development corporations, praised the work of grass roots economic development organizations and urged lawmakers to continue their funding.

"Keep us a part of the process of the planning for economic development," said one official. "Economic development more and more is coming from the top down. We're saying we work, we make it happen, we leverage a lot of money, and we bring a lot of jobs into the area."



## Gaming

### Grand Casino booming

A year ago, Robin Eagle was unemployed and drawing a monthly AFDC check from Mille Lacs County. Today, she has a full-time job, with health care benefits, at the Grand Casino and has been promoted twice in the past three months.

She was just one of several people to praise the new casino at a Sept. 5 meeting of the House General Legislation,

Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee during the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna County Mini-Session.

Unemployment on the Mille Lacs Reservation has dipped from nearly 45 per cent in 1990 to virtually zero today because of the booming Grand Casino. It employs 783 workers; 40 percent of them are Native American.

"Gaming is an economic resource that allows us to plan and build for our future," said Marge Anderson, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians.

Several projects are in the works to maximize the \$9 million the casino is expected to net this year. Groundbreaking for a new school will take place within the next year, and there are also plans to make water and sewer improvements. In conjunction with the Minnesota Historical Society, a new museum is in the planning stages to replace the old one along the shores of Lake Mille Lacs.

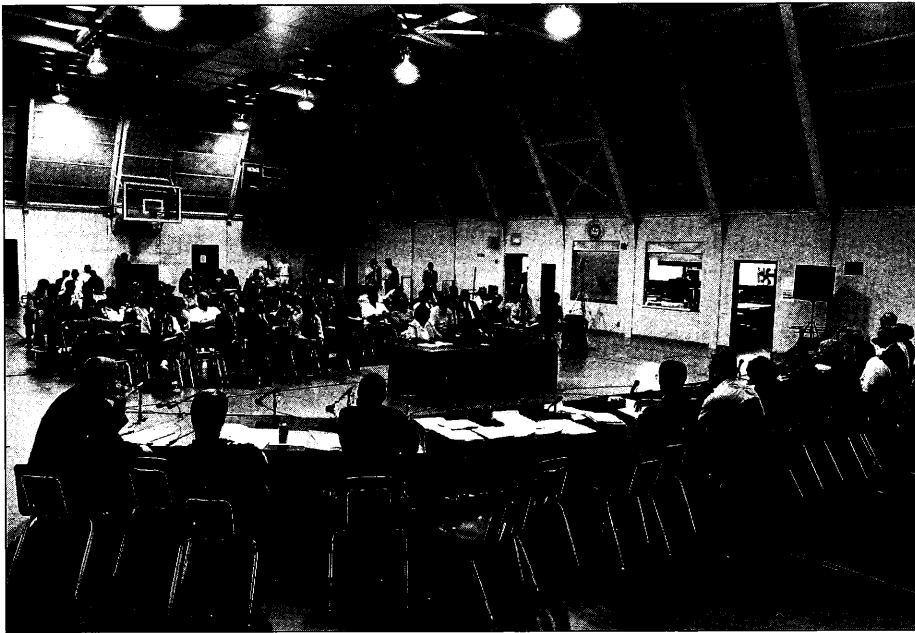
And there are plans for more.

In Hinckley, 60 miles to the east, a second Grand Casino will open next May. A golf course is also planned. Combined, they will have brought more than 2,000 jobs to the region, "without one state dollar," Anderson noted.

Although several resorters along Lake Mille Lacs say the casino has been a boon to their businesses, others want the state to authorize gaming centers on non-Indian land. "Fairness" is often the reason cited, but tribal officials beg to differ.



An open forum on health insurance access and costs was held before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Sept. 4 in a conference room at St. Joseph's Hospital in Brainerd.



Indian gaming issues provided the focus of the Sept. 5 meeting of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee. Testimony took place in the gymnasium at the Mille Lacs Reservation School.

"This is not an issue of fairness," explained Anderson. "For us, it is gaming or nothing. Before gaming, we had nothing. If you [the state] allow other gaming, we will again have nothing."

Committee members applauded the efforts of the Ojibwe, especially their willingness to work with local resorts.

"But I think we need to be cautious," said Rep. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park). "I'm concerned that this gaming craze could rear and turn on us — and there's quite a bit at stake here."

The casino, which opened in March of 1991, is expected to have more than a million tourists in its first year of operation.



## Housing

### Housing woes

Eleven people presented their views on rural housing issues Sept. 6 during an open forum before the House of Representatives' Housing Committee on the last day of the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session.

Those testifying at the meeting represented local religious groups, social service organizations, builders' associations, finance agencies, and employment programs.

Dennis Johnson, director of Crow

Wing County Social Service, sees the housing situation in this area as "abysmal" with substandard housing units and extremely high rents — "almost at metropolitan levels." While satisfied with a number of funding resources available, he cited a need for resources to provide safe, affordable housing for the mentally ill, which make up a large portion of the homeless population.

Paul LeDuc, pastor of the First Congregational United Church of God in Brainerd and founding president of the local Habitat for Humanity chapter, said he believes that affordable housing is achievable.

The non-profit organization, whose goal is to make home ownership possible for the "working class poor," assists in both the financing and construction/renovation of homes. Its goal is to provide mortgages with payments of between \$200 and \$250 per month. This year, the organization housed four families in Brainerd, said LeDuc.

Another Habitat for Humanity organization exists in Bemidji where Jim Helzer, director of Bemidji's Housing and Redevelopment, and Economic Development authorities, serves on the board of directors. Though he says he is pleased with the efforts of the organization, he measures it against the larger housing picture in Bemidji.

Right now, said Helzer, there are 1,000

units of substandard housing in Bemidji, and 56 percent of the housing available is rental property. "The greatest problem here is the need to have available affordable, decent, safe rental properties for low- and moderate-income families to live in," he said.

Helzer labeled Bemidji a "minimum wage town." The houses are small, and, in certain sections, stand on 25-foot lots. In the center of the city, for example, the average house is 80 years old and the rent is very high, he said.

The city also has a large state university, said Helzer, so in the fall, students compete with families for the same low-income rental properties which creates a tight housing market. And because Bemidji doesn't have a comprehensive inspection program, "you'll find people living in virtually anything that is standing" — a situation that is not only depressing, but dangerous, he said.



## Banking

### Banking ad restrictions

Is it enough to say "substantial penalty for early withdrawal" in small print at the bottom of advertisements for certificates of deposit? Or should much more detailed information be provided as is required under Minnesota law?

The president of the American National Bank in Brainerd and the chair of the committee that oversees banking issues expressed sharply different opinions Sept. 5 on the second day of the three-day Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session.

Bank President Tom Johnson told members of the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee's Banking Division that of the five agencies that oversee bank advertising in the state, only Minnesota's Department of Commerce requires the more explicit disclosures.

"You've got fine print all over those ads," he said. "The term [substantial penalty for early withdrawal] is okay for everybody but the state of Minnesota. It's absolutely ludicrous to have a fifth agency overlooking these ads. What I'm saying is enough is enough."

But Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Financial Institutions and

Insurance Committee, disagreed. "I don't see what's wrong with it," he said.

After the meeting, Skoglund explained that the more stringent disclosures were added to state law a few years ago as a "consumer protection" and "truth-in-advertising" measure.

"What the ads wouldn't say was what the interest rate really was," he said. "What's wrong with telling the truth about what your interest rates are?"

In addition to spelling out the penalties for early withdrawal, Johnson said the state law requires additional disclosures on interest rates. Because those penalties and rates vary from CD to CD, Johnson said it's difficult to comply with the law.

Only about half the banks in the state follow the requirement, said Johnson, adding that he and others believe the less restrictive federal regulations supersede state law — making it meaningless. But he said he doesn't want to press the matter in court.

Instead, he hopes to persuade the 1992 Legislature to do away with the requirement. And he says both the Independent Bankers Association and the Minnesota Bankers Association support his position.

Skoglund, however, may not be too receptive to the idea.

"The law works well," he said after the meeting. "That's the first complaint I've heard."



## Elections

### Presidential primary

Morrison County Auditor Russ Nygren had a suggestion for state legislators who authorized a presidential primary election to be held next year.

Answer the phones in his office when the complaints start flooding in about a provision that will require voters to declare their party affiliation before they vote — information that will become a part of the public record.

"The citizens are going to lose a lot of trust in the system and the people who are running it, and that's us," said Jerry Tvedt, Kanabec County auditor. "Who am I to say they have to declare their party."

County and township officials from throughout central and west central

Minnesota sharply criticized the law before the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee's Elections Division Sept. 6 on the last day of the three-day Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Mini-Session.

Not only did they condemn the law for requiring voters to publicly declare their party affiliation before voting, but they also chastised members for not funding the election that is estimated to cost between \$3 million and \$5.5 million statewide.

"I think you would all be heroes and heroines if you repealed it [the law]," said Marion Woie, the Wabado Township clerk in Cass County. "We don't need it and it's a waste of money."

The law was approved by the 1989 Legislature and amended in 1990. But it's still not clear what the full effects of the April 7, 1992, election will be. The law says state delegates to the national political conventions will be apportioned based on the presidential primary vote.

But state DFL Party Chair Todd Otis, who attended the hearing at the Brainerd Technical College, said state law doesn't apply to his party because it is not a "governmental entity". It plans to follow the caucus system of electing delegates, arguing that the primary will be nothing more than a "beauty contest."

He told the estimated 25 people who attended the hearing that a presidential primary would further weaken political parties and make the process more susceptible to slick campaign ads.

"The nature of American politics has degenerated into 30 second ads," he said. No representative from the state Independent-Republican Party spoke at the meeting.

Several committee members, however, argued that it's the people who should decide who the candidates should be, not party leaders.

But whether a presidential primary, the first in Minnesota since 1956, would bring more people into the process remains to be seen — at least among county auditors and township clerks.

"I have three members of my board who will not vote," said Barbara Welty, the Kathio Township Clerk in Mille Lacs County, echoing the sentiments of several colleagues. "These people are just very, very secretive of how they vote. They feel that that's very private."

So how will delegates be chosen and who will pay for the election?

Otis said after the meeting that his party doesn't intend to challenge the law in court, but Rep. Linda Scheid, (DFL-Brooklyn Park), chair of the Elections Division, says somebody probably will. She said she's confident that the law, which was written to conform with national Democratic Party rules, will withstand a challenge. And Scheid added that she hopes to ask the 1992 Legislature for funding for the primary.

When one county auditor thanked Scheid for a letter that pledged her support for funding, Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) underscored the difficulty in making good on such a pledge.

"That and a quarter will get you a cup of coffee," he joked.



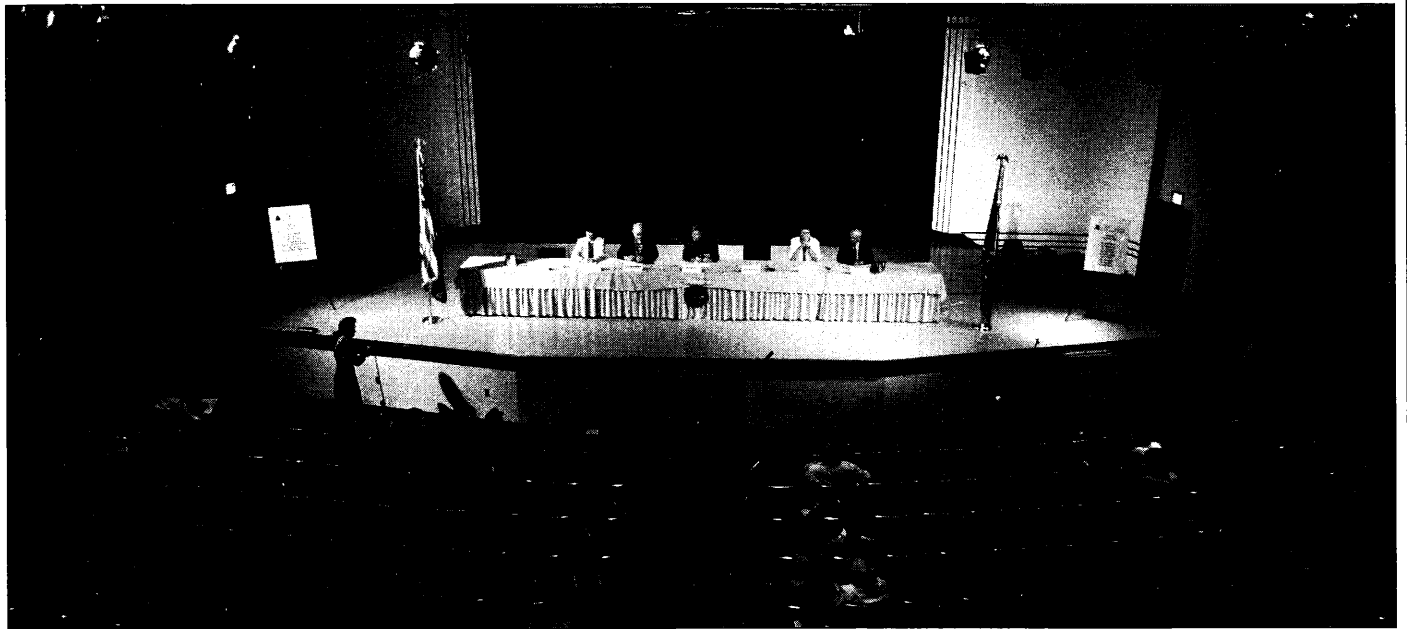
Just off Highway 371 on the Brainerd/Baxter border is the Paul Bunyan Arboretum, where over 3,000 species of plants are tended on nearly 600 acres of land.

A non-profit organization, the arboretum's 1,700 members donate nearly 7,500 hours annually to staff the outdoor nature conservatory. It was designed to promote conservation and to provide outdoor recreation that respects natural plants and wildlife.

Founded in 1977, the arboretum maintains both formal and wildflower gardens, six kinds of fruit trees, nine varieties of berry trees, plus cherry and grape bushes.

Over 16 miles of groomed trails are used for hiking in the summer, and cross-country skiing come winter.





## Town meeting

**R**esidents had a chance to question lawmakers and voice concerns about local problems at the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country Town Meeting Sept. 5. The gathering, a part of a three-day mini-session, took place in the Crosby-Ironton High School auditorium.

The dialogue between a panel of legislators and local citizens, teachers, students, and community leaders touched on many issues, including education, the environment, spending, cuts in funding, and violent crime.

Gail McKenzie, a student from Crosby-Ironton High School's advanced placement government class, asked that more restrictions be placed on the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act. She said the program creates a lack of specialized classes in their curriculum, a loss of teachers, and a "kind of breakup of their class."

Jeanne Simmonds, a local woman who works with gifted and talented students, was concerned that such students are not getting the special attention they need. She pointed to 38 states that have mandated programs for gifted education and said it "saddened" her that Minnesota, which is often called the "brain-power state," is not one of those states.

Lansin Hamilton, long-time area resident, stressed the importance of preserving the area's history. Most of the area's natural lakes are surrounded by

"wall-to-wall cabins," he said. "There's no public shoreline left." He urged legislators to save the minelands area as a state park.

One man wanted to know how legislators felt about "dumping all that money [into] Northwest Airlines?" Both Reps. Terry Dempsey (IR-New Ulm) and Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley) said they felt that state participation was justified, and that the question should be whether we are adequately protecting the money we are investing, and whether the risk is worth taking.

Speaking both as an elected official and a government worker, Mike Kneeland, mayor of Deerwood, who also works for the housing authority in Crosby, objected to the increase in state mandates and the cost of compliance: "We are peddling faster and faster trying to keep up with those rules that you're making. As mayor, I see over 100 laws come through each year. . . . When we have these additional requirements from the state, I wonder how on earth we're going to comply with them. Who's going to pay for it?"

Brainerd Mayor Bonnie Cumberland, who is also a high school marketing teacher, said the cut in local government aid is "extremely painful" for central Minnesota.

Rep. Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville), former mayor of Burnsville, assured Cumberland that all regions of the state probably feel the same way. She urged mayors to get involved with the League of Minnesota Cities, where a combined group could draft a fair local government

aid policy that everybody agrees to.

In response to a written question on violence, Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), chair of the House Judiciary Committee, overviewed the areas her committee is working on. "Particularly in the area of rape, the sentences are still too low," she said. "There is a need to keep better track — both in and out of prison — of the most violent criminals who are least likely to ever change. We are working to put people who will not benefit from rehabilitation into state security hospitals, rather than back into the community."

Vellenga added that victim support services have a long way to go in Minnesota, and that the state needs to spend whatever money it takes to achieve an effective program.

Commenting on the causes of violent crime, a woman, whose 19-year-old son was arrested for rape last year, attributed the increase of heinous crimes partly on pornography. "Pornography turns our children into abusers and victimizers," she said, "And unless we learn to stand together . . . our nation is on the verge of losing a generation to pornography."

Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) also offered her thoughts on the subject: "We must connect the way we treat our children, and the way we take care of our family problems now with the kinds of troubles that families and children experience later in life. . . . There is, indeed, a direct connection and we need to do a better job of educating and taking care of people in need right now."



**Crow Wing County dairy farmer** Dan Neeser wasn't exactly in the right forum, given his strong views on the subject. When Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) asked him if he supported a federal, two-tiered milk pricing system, Neeser said, "I can't answer that. I don't believe in government. That's my philosophy." He later went on to say that the federal government has never approved a farm program that has been good to dairy farmers. The House Agriculture Committee met Sept. 4 in a barn at the Brainerd High School Farm.

**Those who believe** Eurasian water milfoil isn't a problem had better consider the following statistics. During a recent check of boats and trailers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, 21.7 percent were found to have Eurasian or northern water milfoil on them. (There is no danger with northern water milfoil, but it is difficult in the field to distinguish from Eurasian water milfoil.) Another boat check north of the Twin Cities found that 3 percent of the boats and trailers were contaminated with Eurasian water milfoil. Jerry Engelbrecht, the DNR's regional enforcement supervisor in the Brainerd area, said the plants were usually on anchor ropes, the floors of boats, and on fishing line and equipment — places that were clearly visible. Some people attending the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee's Game and Fish Subcommittee meeting in Emily Sept. 4 called for stiffer penalties for transporting Eurasian water milfoil, a fast-growing aquatic plant that multiplies quickly in lakes.

**Rep. Willard Munger** (DFL-Duluth) had a little advice for the citizens group that is seeking state park designation for the Croft Mine Historical Park. During a tour of the simulated mine, Munger said, "If you were smart you'd give something to Battaglia to have in his office."

Rep. Dave Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors) is chair of the House Appropriations Committee's Environment and Natural Resources Division, which controls the funding on state environmental programs.

**Support for the state's** 1992 presidential primary seemed evenly divided among Independent-Republicans and DFLers during a Sept. 6 meeting of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee's Election Division. DFL Rep. Don Ostrom of St. Peter opposes the primary while his party colleague, Rep. Tom Osthoff of St. Paul, strongly supports it. On the Independent-Republican side, Rep. Ben Boo of Duluth is opposed to the primary while Rep. Gil Gutknecht of Rochester favors it. Gutknecht has more than a philosophical reason for supporting primaries. Back in 1982, he won a sharply contested primary for House seat 33A by a mere 21 votes.

**While talking about** presidential primaries, the League of Minnesota Cities reminded the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee's Election Division Sept. 6 that elections aren't cheap. The league estimates that the April 7, 1992, primary will cost \$5.5 million statewide. The league says that translates to 25 cents per capita for counties, 45 cents per capita for cities, and 62 cents per capita for townships.

**Minnesota's State University System** now serves 33 percent of the state's post-secondary students on only 20 percent of the allocated education dollars, said Martha Simpson, vice president of university relations at Saint Cloud State University (SCSU). Testifying Sept. 4 before the House Education Committee's Higher Education Division at Brainerd Technical College, Simpson outlined a number of other challenges facing the state university system, including the transfer of credits. One of three new students entering SCSU is a transfer student, said Simpson.

**One million tourists a year** are expected to wager at the 18,000 square foot Grand Casino outside Garrison, Minn. Marge Anderson, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, told lawmakers at a Sept. 5 meeting of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee that that means more dollars for everyone in the community. A survey conducted by Anderson shows 30 percent of area businesses reported increased revenue since the casino's opening, with 13 percent showing a decrease. The remaining 57 percent reported no change.

**Want more walleyes for your lake?** The Cuyuna Range Conservation Club says it has the answer at little cost to the state. The club has constructed a walleye rearing pond adjacent to the Mississippi River. Since 1962, it has produced more than six million walleyes that have been stocked in several area lakes. The DNR provides the walleye fry to fill the pond, but with the help of many volunteers, the club nourishes the tiny walleye fry until they grow to the size of fingerlings (3 to 6 inches in length). The DNR then returns and stocks area lakes with the fish.

**If you're looking for more protein** in your diet, how about adding a little more wild rice? The Minnesota Paddy Wild Rice Council says wild rice has 14.1 percent protein compared to just 6.7 percent for polished white rice. Likewise, wild rice has much more phosphorus, iron, potassium, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin than its white rice counterpart. Wild rice is abundant in north central Minnesota.

**Lookout Tower** in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park is one of a dozen best places in the state to see fall color, according to the Minnesota Office of Tourism in the fall issue of *Minnesota Explorer*. Just north of Onamia near Mille Lacs Lake, watch for signs off of Hwy. 169 and Hwy. 27. Take a short walk from the park road to a 100-foot observation tower. Climb the stairs for a long-distance view of an expanse of forest and the giant Mille Lacs Lake.

## Crow Wing missed its chance

C.H. Beaulieu was skilled at many things. But history will always consider his negotiating prowess a bit suspect.

Beaulieu, the owner of a trading post at the confluence of the Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers and founder of the town of Crow Wing, was sure the Northern Pacific railway would pass through his town.

A trading post was established at the site as early as the 1820s. Several years later, the town served as a jumping off point for oxcart trains heading north from St. Paul on their journey to the Red River Trail.

Later, when the logging industry boomed in the region, the town grew even larger.

"The town became the outfitting center and a dispensary of rotgut whiskey," said the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch's* 1971 centennial edition. "By 1855 there were two churches, three missions and seven grog shops. Brawling and robbery were common."

By the 1860s, Crow Wing was a thriving little town of nearly 600 and was considered the major outpost in central Minnesota. Where else would a railroad cross the Mississippi?

"The railroad company negotiated for some time with Clem Beaulieu and made him an offer, but Clem's price was too high," said the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch's* 1971 centennial edition.

Instead, railroad officials sent a survey crew to the region and decided upon the present site of Brainerd, a few miles north of Crow Wing, for a river crossing. The original plat of Brainerd was made in 1870.

Beaulieu "failed to realize that railroads sometimes build towns," wrote the newspaper.

After Brainerd was established, the town of Crow Wing, a remnant of which can still be seen at Crow Wing State Park, slowly withered away.

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## Legislature reconvenes Jan. 6

The Legislature will reconvene on Monday, Jan. 6, 1992, so it can approve a redistricting bill to re-draw the boundaries of the state's eight congressional districts.

The House hopes to approve a plan within a few days and then recess until Feb. 17. That's when the second year of the 77th Session of the Minnesota Legislature is scheduled to begin.

The Legislature has already approved a redistricting plan to re-draw the state's 67 legislative districts. That bill became law when Gov. Arne Carlson failed to veto it within the constitutionally mandated time frame.

That plan, however, is expected to be challenged in court.

Legislative and congressional boundaries are required to be re-drawn every 10 years following the U.S. census to ensure that the population levels in the respective districts are nearly equal.

This is done to uphold the "one-person, one vote" principle.

## Do You Know!

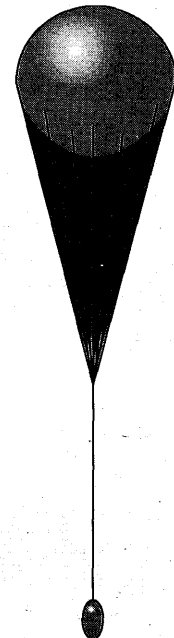
Wheaton is home to the world's largest mallard, and Hackensack is home to Paul Bunyan's sweetheart. But did you know that the mine area in Crosby is the "Birthplace of the Space Age?"

In 1957, the U.S. Air Force launched a balloon from the bottom of the 500-foot-deep Portsmouth mine pit. Project MAN-HIGH was the first manned balloon flight to break the 100,000-foot barrier, paving the way for manned space flights.

The Air Force launched from the pit, which is now filled with water, because it needed a place below the earth's surface where there was no wind.

The Croft Mine Historical Park is in the process of gathering more information about the historic launch from the Air Force so it can create a display of the event.

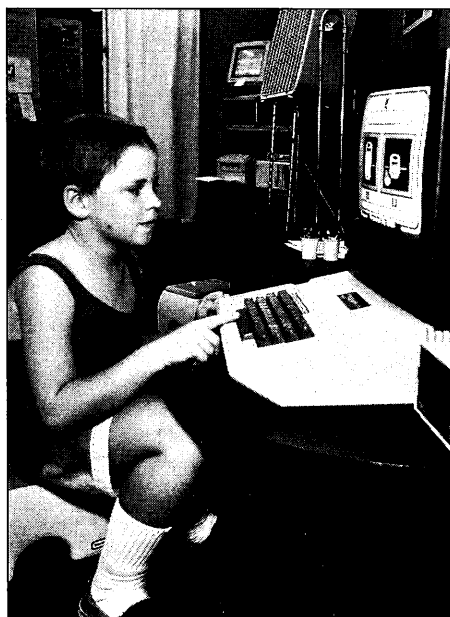
In the meantime, stationery touting the park bears the logo, "Birthplace of the Space Age."





# Hats off to the Minnesota State Fair!

Rep. Katy Olson of Sherburn, *left*, and Rep Sally Olsen of St. Louis Park were two of 48 representatives who welcomed fairgoers to the House exhibit in the Education Building at the Minnesota State Fair, Aug. 22-Sept. 2, 1991.



Youngsters tried their hand at identifying the 11 official Minnesota state symbols — milk, wild rice, loon, blueberry muffin . . .

## You saw them at the fair

### House members

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dick Anderson (IR-Waseca)            | Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville)   |
| Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon)        | Dennis Newinski (IR-Maplewood)    |
| Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island)       | Sally Olsen (IR-St. Louis Park)   |
| Terry Dempsey (IR-New Ulm)           | Katy Olson (DFL-Sherburn)         |
| John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)              | Tony Onnen (IR-Cokato)            |
| Sal Frederick (IR-Mankato)           | Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul)        |
| Jeff Hanson (DFL-Woodbury)           | Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount)      |
| Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby)           | Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona)        |
| Bob Haukoos (IR-Albert Lea)          | Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul)     |
| Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul)         | Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault)  |
| Phil Heir (IR-Blaine)                | Linda Runbeck (IR-Circle Pines)   |
| Paul Hufnagle (IR-Bloomington)       | Gary Schafer (IR-Gibbon)          |
| Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls)    | Bill Schreiber (IR-Brooklyn Park) |
| Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) | Art Seaberg (IR-Eagan)            |
| Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia)        | Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls)           |
| Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)              | Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley)      |
| Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)            | Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey)         |
| Rick Krueger (DFL-Staples)           | Andy Steensma (DFL-Luverne)       |
| Harold Lasley (DFL-Cambridge)        | Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake)     |
| Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley)      | Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) |
| Dee Long (DFL-Mpls)                  | Sylvester Uphus (IR-Sauk Centre)  |
| Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover)            | Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls)          |
| Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) | Ray Welker (IR-Montevideo)        |
| Harriet McPherson (IR-Stillwater)    | Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)            |

Minnesota House of Representatives  
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 Majority Leader: Dee Long  
 Minority Leader: Terry Dempsey

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# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country

Number of lakes within a 30-mile radius of Brainerd .....	464
Number of golf courses .....	18
Average snowfall per year, in inches, in Brainerd area .....	44
Number of miles of snowmobile trails .....	1,200
Total, in tons, of iron ore shipped from the Armour No. 2 Cuyuna Range Mine .....	9 million
Number of miners who died in the Ida May Mine flood of 1924, the greatest mine disaster in the Lake Superior region .....	41
Number of months it took to recover the bodies .....	9
Total number of trees planted in the Cuyuna Iron Range since 1978 .....	129,298
Percent of Crosby-Ironton High School graduates going to college .....	65
Number of employees, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center .....	265
Number of employees, Ruttgers Bay Lake Lodge .....	250
Population of Crosby-Ironton-Deerwood in 1960 .....	3,876
Population in 1990 .....	3,150
Pupil-teacher ratio in Crosby-Ironton-Deerwood elementary schools .....	14:1

Sources: Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce; Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board; MN Department of Trade & Economic Development "Community Profile."

For general information, call:  
**House Public Information Office**  
 (612) 296-2146 or  
 1-800-657-3550

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### For Hearing Impaired

Electronic communication for hearing  
 impaired persons. To ask questions or  
 leave messages, call:  
**TDD Line (612) 296-9896**