

Time Capsule in Lake Superior
Public Radio 90 News
Radio Spot
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START OF RADIO SPOT

Ann Nelson (AN): A unique approach to the preservation is being taken through the joint efforts of the Michigan Polar Equator Club, Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission, and Michigan State University. While most communities place time capsule in building cornerstones, or bury them somewhere for future generations to open, this one is going to be gently placed at the bottom of Lake Superior. The capsule is going to be carried to the deepest part of Lake Superior, that's over 1300 feet below the surface, by the research submarine *Sea Link 2* operated from its mothership the *Seward Johnson*. While most capsules are metal boxes or cement vaults, this one is going to be a glass bottle and it contains an environmental message from Governor Blanchard conveyed by his UP representative Tom Baldini on board the *Seward Johnson*.

CUTS TO SOUND BITE

Tom Baldini (TB): The reason we're here this morning is for two purposes. One, to present a time capsule to the *Sea Link 2* which will be taken by its mothership the *Seward Johnson*, out to the deepest point in Lake Superior. We're also here to get a briefing this morning by the scientific team on the exploration that's going on. The capsule here contains a letter from Governor Blanchard addressed to the people of Michigan in the year 2037 when we will be celebrating our bicentennial. The individual who is responsible for coming up with the idea, and the motivation behind it, is Gibb Butler from East Lansing. Gibb is a member of a subcommittee of the Sesquicentennial Commission, but he's also a member of the Polar and Equator Club of Michigan. And we're going to call on Gibb for a few comments.

Gibb Butler (GB): Thank you Mr. Baldini, and I'm not going to give you a full blown speech thank goodness because I don't want to have to listen to it either. However, I thank all of you on behalf of the Michigan Polar Equator Club, Michigan State University who is a co-sponsor of the capsule, and the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission for being here. This is an exciting event in our sesquicentennial celebration and I hope that it does come up in 50 years and people will really take the time to read our governor's message, Governor Blanchard. And with that, thank you Tom.

TB: It's very appropriate that we're going to place this capsule at the bottom of Lake Superior. What it really symbolizes, what Gibb and the Sesquicentennial Commission and what the governor wanted to do, is we wanted to symbolize the fact and how important natural resources really have been to the history of Michigan, and will continue to be. The water, the timber, the minerals. And it's also very important that this capsule is going to be placed at the bottom of the greatest of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior. These lakes have had such a tremendous impact on our state. Historically, our industrial revolution and into our future. In this capsule is a letter from the governor, a text I think many of you have already received. But what it stresses most importantly, is the whole question of natural resources. Just let me read to you briefly. It says,

the governor, as he greet the citizens of Michigan in this lesson and explains how the capsule really gets to the bottom of the lake, and he stresses the importance of the natural resources to Michigan. But most importantly he warns the citizens that we almost destroyed our land and polluted our water. In quoting from his letter he said: "Through ignorance we plundered our lands and polluted our waters. Fortunately we discovered what we were doing before it was too late and we took steps to correct it. We understand the outstanding citizens of Michigan have consistently rallied whenever the need arose to overcome our problems, and to turn them into assets." And he challenged the future generations. He said, quoting, "We hope we have turned over to you the stewardship of our environmental resources in better condition than we received them. And we charge you with the task of keeping our natural resources in our state something of which we can always be proud." So on behalf of the people of Michigan and Governor Blanchard, I want to present this capsule here to *Sea Link 2* which will be taken out and deposited at the deepest point in Lake Superior.

AN: And with that, the little Sea Link submarine reached out its claw, grabbed ahold of the thing and held it in its tight grasp in order to take it down into the bottom of Lake Superior and deposit it for future generations. Dr. Bill Cooper commented at the press briefing that morning, but he didn't quite think that somebody was going to find it since it is going to be resting in the bottom sediment of the lake off of Caribou Island not too far from Munising. But he speculated it could be a good thing in the future. Our first governor Stephens T. Mason once told his legislature that "no country has ever been settled by a more enterprising, intelligent, and industrious citizens. With such a population Michigan with assume her station as a member of the Union with a character which might entice her to its importance and respect." That "we" of 1987, as the governor would say, would wish everybody in year 2037 continued peace and prosperity with a feeling of confidence that it can continue with the spirit of the ancestors to keep the state of Michigan one of the greatest states in our nation, and one of the cleanest. For Public Radio 90 News, I'm Ann Nelson.

END OF RADIO SPOT