

(Here I plan to show that the Army Engineers offer little hope, and that indeed its presiding General Clarke had the temerity recently to get up and address a group of conservationists at Duluth, concluding that as his Corps tries to weigh the "economic aspects of the Reserve Mining Company operation against the deleterious effects that are alleged with respect to the lake, I don't think we are going to come out with a permit that forces Reserve to shut down.")

Revised.

(Army guy implies no alternatives)

(Here I plan to revert to Hal on the lake shore at the end of summer, and conclude fast with some wry comments about "effluents"—"Effluent, pal, is a refined word for refined crap," etc -- and some assorted funny-sad quotes I am assembling.)

X

his replacement,

Back at the fray the next day I collided with a rash of conferences, discovering that three federal pollution control conferences ~~about~~ had been held on the Reserve pollution ^{question} since the 1968 ^{conference} Report, one called by ^{Mr} Stewart Udall and the other two by Secretary of State Michel. (Conferences ~~are~~ ^{were} all very fine, I reflected, but I remembered that ~~over~~ ^{some} ~~years~~ ^{that} following the ~~last~~ ^{last} ~~conference~~ ^{conference} and nine years ^{that} had been devoted to ~~concessional~~ ^{concessional} huddling over ^{the} Lake Erie ^{pollution} and that when the last spoonful of scalloped potatoes had been served at the last conference it was discovered that meanwhile Erie had quietly ^{polluted} ^{up} ^{again}.)

X
I was getting so depressed
I took a day off and
went fishing -- inland
from Lake Superior -- but
it was no use; the plight of
the stricken lake haunted me,
and I couldn't get my
mind off the plight of the
stricken lake.

come thru hard and
clear --

evident as the nose on
my face, and I've got
a dandy,

2

My ~~was~~ enchantment ^{was} increased when I learned that ~~despite the fact~~ ^{that} Reserve had ~~the~~ ^{other} funds than in the military. Thus, ^{in 1968} during the ten months Interior's 1968 Stoddard Report (in which Interior was in ^{the works} ~~preparation~~ ^{and} in which ^{four} Interior agencies participated) Reserve tried to quell ~~the~~ mounting public criticism by ~~asserting~~ ^{asserting} that ~~the~~ ^{the} study would confirm Reserve's own tests showing no harmful effects.

Yet when the Report, ^{after some delay} came out in January 1969, containing several hundred pages of detailed scientific findings and a 36-page summary ^{criticized} the Reserve officials ^{promptly} ~~outlined~~ it, but the congressman from the Reserve's district, John A. Blatnick, ^{branded} ~~called~~ it ^{as} "completely false." Even more ^{no less than} ~~more~~ ^{specific} the director of Minnesota's own Pollution Control Agency, one John Badalich, stated that the report "contained errors" (which he did not specify) and ^{called} ~~that~~ its conclusions "speculations and conjectures." (Mr. Badalich since seems to ~~be~~ have seen the light; at least he now appears to be pressing his state's pollution case against

before
(Whom I'd never known was
a part-time ecologist)

Johnny

including widespread harmful pollution

X

Besides a state senator ^{or two} and a few other less notable, Rescoe's biggest prize was probably Max Edwards, former assistant secretary of Interim during the period of the Report's preparation, ^{who} also stated that ^{the Report} contained unsuspected ^{reportedly} errors, concerning at least Rescoe, who ^{had} ^{been} ^{named} ^{as} ^{their} Washington counsel.

fantastically

X

I learned that

What pollution does to ^{bill} lakes and streams was a ^{complicated} scientific

story, but that most simply put

a body of water was like a man or a tree or an eagle in that it followed the same

eternal life cycle of ~~birth~~, growth the plant and animal

kingdom -- birth, growth death -- and that

pollution ^{remarkably} speeded up ^{the} death cycle (Lake Erie aging

fifteen ^{thousand} years in ^{but} 50 years

X

Digging deeper I was delighted to ^{discover} ~~learn~~
~~My wonder increased when I learned~~
~~that Reserve had understanding friends other~~
~~than in the military~~ that Reserve had understanding
 friends other than in the military, and my enchantment was
 boundless when I ^{learned} ~~was enchanted to learn~~ that during
 the ten months ~~that~~ Interior was preparing
 its 1968 Stoddard Report (in which, as noted, no
 less than five specialized Interior agencies participated)
 Reserve had nothing but praise for the study ^{in progress} and
 for the ~~the~~ forthcoming report, ^{often} using it to quell mounting
 public criticism of its ~~lake discharges by~~
 by assuring complainers that it would ^{almost certainly} confirm Reserve's
 own tests showing no harmful effects.

Then when the ^{report} Report burst upon Minnesota
 and the country in mid-January ¹⁹⁶⁹ Reserve officials
 promptly ^{together} joined in a ^{thunderous} choir of criticism, of ~~it~~, as might
 be expected. Less ^{or} expected, at least by me, was that ^{on the same day} the
 congressman from Reserve's own district, John A. Blatnik
 (whom I'd long ^{heard known of} ~~known~~ as a ^{politician} fighting liberal but ~~had~~
 had never ^{before} suspected was also a part-time ecology ecologist)
 on the ^{same} ^{day} promptly branded ~~it as~~ the Report as "completely
 false." (It took me ^{about several} ~~three~~ days just to read and
~~founder the a summary of it.~~)

X

I found this statement, ^{strangely} particularly disheartening, coming as it did from the head of the sole agency designated under the 1899 ~~act~~ federal act to guard our navigable waters against pollution, especially when that man publicly used the word "allegedly" ~~set set~~ in referring to the deleterious effects of Reserve's pollution.

~~all this~~ despite the exhaustive 1968 ~~study~~ and report of Interior, ^{as a result of an agreement} ~~made by agreement~~ ^{investigated by} the request of his own Army, categorically finding ^{an} wide and harmful pollution. ^{the} ^{ambiguously} phrase

There is more. If by "shutting down Reserve" the General meant shutting down the pollution he should, according to the ¹⁹⁶⁷ Army-Interior agreement and the ensuing Stoddard Report. If instead he meant ~~that by the act to simply~~ ~~by the phrase~~ that the 'only alternative to continued pollution is the shutting down of Reserve he is ^{clearly} wrong because not only the same Report ^{but} ^{other} ^{further} studies, and the Michigan low-^{level} experience show that on-land disposal ^{has} of Reserve's tailings is both physically and economically feasible.

mining

Department of the Interior

both of his department and the public
the study resulting in

my spirits rose a little when
I learned that this report had been
initiated by the then Secretary of Interior Udall
himself in response to mounting public concern
over the Lake Superior pollution and that he
had also ^{helped} worked out an agreement between
Army and Interior that ^{since 1967, at the request of the Corps,} the latter would
~~be~~ investigate and advise the Army Corps
of Engineers on the granting and renewal of all ~~discharge~~
permits ^{to discharge wastes} into navigable waters.

I was ^{further} heartened, ~~too~~ to learn that
five Michigan low grade ^{iron} ore properties were
safely discharging their similar ^{residues} wastes inland and
still remained solvent and competitive, especially
since the Stoddard Report and other studies ~~had~~
indicated that Reserve could both physically and
economically do the same.

3rd.
aug. 25, 26, '90

In rough
draft, please.
J.W.

LAKE SUPERIOR -- IS IT SICK
OR BEING SLANDERED?
by

Robert Traver

~~"The world's biggest beaver pond," and
old fishing pal used to describe Lake Superior to
me as we fished along its southern shore, meaning
that~~

poetic "The world's biggest beaver pond," ~~was~~ a
old fishing pal ^{one day fished} described Lake Superior to me
as we ~~two~~ were ~~fishing~~ along one of its ~~remote~~ stretches
of ~~the~~ rocky shoreline. ~~He~~ was referring, as he
glawingly ^{proceeded to} explain ~~to~~ the purity and spring-like
coldness of its water and, to the diverse and
thrilling ^{marvellous} sport fishing ^{the lonely lake} ~~we~~ had so long ^{provided} ~~afforded~~ us.

"I agree, Hal," I recall saying at
the time. "And it's so far away from big
cities and crowds of people it should
stay that way for a long time."

back ^{maybe} ~~ten or more~~ ^{ten or more}
~~seven or eight~~

This was ^{several} ~~many~~ years ago and Hal
and I have ^{together} fished the big lake and its feeder
streams ~~together~~ many times since then. ~~Last~~
This ~~past~~ summer we again met ^{at the lake} to fish,
this time at the mouth of one of our favorite
trout streams ^{and the lake.} The big lake was calm, the
gulls lazily ^{whistling} wheeled and ^{soaring,} soared, and ^{simultaneously}
occasionally a big ^{rising} fish would ^{simultaneously} break the
surface and raise our pulse rate.

Last summer Hal and I ~~met to~~^{again} fish, this time at the mouth of one of our favorite trout streams and the big lake.

"You know something," ^{pal} Hal said, gazing up along the rugged rocky shore, "I've dreamed up a new name for our old lake."

"What's that, Hal?" I casually inquired, busily rigging up.

"The world's biggest outhouse," Hal ~~said~~^{replied}, dolefully shaking his head.

"How come?" I said. "What's happened to the world's biggest beaver pond?"

"Don't afraid it's dying," he answered. "Just another victim of our ^{insatiable} national love for big production, big payrolls, big ^{profits} prosperity and ~~big~~ ^{big} ~~profits~~ ^{at any price.}"

"I thought you forgot big boobies," I said. "But please explain what you're driving at."

"Pollution," Hal went on, wagging his head. "Pretty soon ^{guess} we can say about Lake Superior what's so long been said about Lake Erie: people unlucky enough to fall in ^{the place} don't so much drown as rot."

"Maybe if it gets bad enough they could walk ashore," I suggested helpfully. "But meanwhile suppose you climb down off your soapbox long enough to tell me precisely what's happening to our old lake." I stared out across its lovely glitter and heave. "Still looks purty as ever to me."

PURTY →

Hal gave me a withering look. "Sit down," he commanded, motioning me to join him on a handy rock. "Let me tell you just some of the ~~things~~ ^{happening to} that have been afflicting the world's biggest beaver pond."

former

So Hal told me,

"In fact," he went on,
"many

4
So Hal told me, giving me an
alarming earful, in fact, first about the 67,000
tons of taconite tailings -- a sort of ^{submerged} sandy
waste ^{made} from the separation of iron ore from its host
rock -- that are daily being discharged into Lake
Superior by the Reserve Mining Company ^{a few miles} north of
Duluth. He explained that U. S. Steel ^{powerful} was the principal
agency of Reserve Mining and that this ^{company} thing, pollution was
^{nothing new that} had been going on for over 15 years with no sign of
abatement, ^{in fact} and that ^{conservative} alarmed conservationists ~~were~~
are predicting that if it ^{isn't} stopped soon Lake Superior
will ~~be~~ join Lake Erie as a doomed inland sea."

"Well, what do you know?" I said, shaking
my head. "Where'd you get all the dope?"

"Reading the same paper you do

"Out of the same newspaper you take --
only I read ^{occasionally} more than the weather report for tomorrow's
fishing."

"If I'm not too soaked I sometimes

"I also work the crossword," I said,
fighting back. "Tell me more."

Hal told me ~~that~~ ^{how} Reserve Mining ^{Company} was presently engaged in litigation with Minnesota's pollution control officials, challenging the state's anti-pollution regulations as "unreasonably restrictive" and ^{further alarming} ~~concerning~~ that the tailings it admittedly daily discharges into the lake is inert and stationary, only ^{slightly} discoloring the water but posing ^{real} threat to marine life or to public health.

Hal, "maybe they're right," I suggested. "After all, there's no federal law ^{declaring} ~~making~~ big corporations invariably ^{in the} wrong."

"Except that the pollution goes merrily on," ~~at the~~ Hal continued gloomily, "at the rate of 24 million tons annually -- I said ^{not} tons, comrades, ~~said~~ ^{said}, not pounds -- and despite the fact that ^{mounting} ~~virtually~~ every conservation effort ^{mounting} ~~claims~~ ^{of people} ~~in~~ Wisconsin and Michigan conservationists ^{spread} ~~is~~ ^{and} ~~insist~~ ^{claim} that the Minnesota pollution is ^{offending} ~~offending~~ ^{harmfully} ~~harmfully~~ their areas of the lake."

state on the 6.

"But why doesn't somebody stop it?"
I said. "The government or somebody?"

"That's one of the ^{big} problems," Hal went on sadly. "Nobody ^{really} seems to know who has the authority to question or stop it. For a long time the Federal Water Quality Control Administration kept ~~stayed~~ out of the act in the belief that ^{the pollution} ~~was~~ affected only Minnesota waters, but now, at the ^{increasing} ~~prodding~~ of Michigan and Wisconsin ^{authorities}, it has finally begun ^{an} investigation."

and "As ^{meanwhile} the flood of ^{junkola} ~~polluted~~ ^{troubled} ~~water~~ goes on, I said, looking out across my ~~affected~~ lake.

AFFLICTED →

"Then
"Again, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seems to claim exclusive jurisdiction over the 'character and quality' of discharges into the lake," Hal went on. "Indeed it ~~was~~ ^{is} ~~they~~ ^{that} ~~they~~ ^{the mining company} ~~that~~ ^{must} ~~pass~~ ^{on} ~~its~~ ^{renewal}." "Reserve Mining its permit to pollute and ^{in the first place} must pass on its renewal."

argued

~~"Maybe it will stem the tide of crapola," I said.~~
~~"But I suggest,~~
~~"Maybe," Hal said.~~ "Meanwhile let's go fishing while we may."

7.

"Maybe ~~it~~ the Army Engineers will have the guts to stem the tide," I said hopefully.

"Maybe," Hal gloomily agreed. "But meanwhile I suggest you read your newspapers so at least you'll know what's happening to ~~your~~ our lake in case they don't.

"Righto," I said.

"Meanwhile let's go fishing while we ^{get}

may."

"Righto," I repeated.

After that ^{really} I began looking into what was ~~really~~ happening to the ~~big~~ lake beside which I had virtually been born and raised and along which I had so often strolled and picnicked and on which I had so often boated, ^{of course} and in which I had ^{even more} so often fished. I learned -- or rather re-learned -- that Lake Superior contained the biggest body of fresh water in all the world, ~~not only being~~ ~~speeded in surface area by Africa's shallower~~ ~~and warmer Lake~~

not only being fed by a whole flock of remote northern bush country streams in ^{bordering} Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan but from the very heartland of ^{sub-arctic} Canada by such fabled streams as the Nipigon and many others. Yes, Lake Superior was unique, the very queen of the inland seas...

START

NEW PAGE →

(From here on I plan to discuss other ^{by plain non-} forms of pollution in the lake, just what it does to a lake -- bringing out that lakes are like people and trees, ^{that} they too can get old and die, and that continued pollution simply hastens the death, and further bringing out that when the big lake dies the whole water-feeding area around it becomes inevitably crippled or dead.)

Ed. Narrator

START
NEW
PAGE

9

→ I dug deeper into ^{the alleged} Minnesota pollution and the deeper I dug the bleaker I felt. At first I had thought that the Minnesota ore could not ^{possibly} be mined without the ^{accompanying} pollution until I learned that Michigan had at least five ^{similar} low-grade ore properties ~~who~~ ^{to my surprise} ~~left~~ their wastes inland, not an ounce getting into the lake. ^{discovered} In other words, that not only was the Minnesota pollution unnecessary but that it gave ~~Reserve~~ the ^{already} powerful Reserve Mining ^{people} and ^{smaller} unfair economic advantage over their ^{smaller} rivals, in effect rewarding their brazen pollution with a public subsidy.

Start
new
Page

Clarke

(Here I plan to show that the
Army Engineers offer little hope,
and that indeed its ^{presiding} General
temerity [^]
had the ~~guts~~ recently to get up
and address a group of
conservationists at Duluth, concluding
that ~~the~~ his Corps ~~is~~ trying to
tries to weigh the ~~the~~ "economic aspects
of the Reserve Mining Company operation
against the deleterious effects that
are alleged with respect to the lake,
I don't think we are going to come
out with a permit that forces
Reserve to shut down.")

11.

(Here I plan to revert to
Hal on the lake shore at the end
of summer, and conclude fast with
some wry comments about "effluents"
-- "Effluent" ^{pal,} is a refined word for
refined crap, etc -- and some assorted
~~the~~ funny - sad quotes I am
assembling.)

X

We simply cannot tolerate a situation where the fate of the world's greatest lake can be left up to one man, Gen. Clarke, especially where that man has already publicly spoken of "alleged" pollution, this in the face of an exhaustive report of Interior, made at the request of his own Army, for guidance, categorically finding pollution. If by "shutting down" Reserve, Gen. Clarke means shutting down the pollution, he should; if ~~by~~ instead he means ^{by the Army} that the only alternative to continued pollution is "shutting down" Reserve, ~~the man~~ he is wrong because his own Report plainly tells him that out-land disposal of Reserve's tailing is both physically & economically feasible.

X

Sub
I know in the Stollard Report,

So I dug deeper and the deeper I dug the darker the picture got and the blabber I felt. First I learned that not only had this massive ^{-rise of} pollution been going on since 1956, but that of late years Reserve Mining had been increasing the dose.

Next I learned that at the original 1947 ^{hearing held} ~~report~~ the Minnesota Water Pollution Commission ^{(which promptly} on the ~~issue of~~ ^{state} question of issuing a permit to allow any discharge into the lake at all, Reserve Mining had assured the Commission that its tailings would not be observable a mile from shore yet a ^{10-month} ~~10-month~~ ¹⁹⁶⁸ ~~1968~~ ^{study} by the U.S. Department of Interior shows harmful polluted "green water" some 18 miles south of the plant and that its tailings are being deposited ^{in variable densities} over an area of at least 1000 square miles.

??

Next I learned that while at the same 1947 hearing Reserve had claimed that the amount of its tailings would be "insignificant" compared with the natural sediment deposited by Minnesota streams the same Interior study showed that Reserve's daily discharge just about equals the yearly discharge of all Minnesota's streams, that is, roughly 365 times greater.

reminded the permit

X
I ~~also~~ learned ^{also} that despite Reserve's 1947 assurance that no soluble materials ^{whatever} would accompany the tailings, a recent ^{independent} laboratory study shows that 160,000 pounds of dissolved solids, much of it harmful, is daily being added to the lake by Reserve discharge.

Again while at the 1947 hearing Reserve also promised that no chemicals would be added to the lake, recent studies -- ^{by Reserve} admissions by some ^{of Reserve} employees -- show that Reserve is ^{dumping} substantial amounts of harmful calcium chloride and sulphuric acid into the lake.

My hilarity was not ^{increased} when I next learned that, despite all of the foregoing, as recently as May 1969 the president of Reserve, Edward Furness, ^{publicly} stated that its tailings are "inert, inorganic, insoluble in Lake Superior, and biologically inactive" -- this in the face of a finding by the National Water Quality Laboratory that its tailings were biologically active in harmful concentrations of about one milligram per liter of water over a wide area of the lake.

algae

X

a referendum

flabby

any

My spirits lifted a little when I ran into an 1899 federal law forbidding all or any pollution ^{into} "navigable waters, imposing ^{stiff} criminal penalties for violations ^{and} impairing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as guardian of the "character and quality" of all discharges into such waters and to grant permits therefor. Spirits sagged

Spirits sagged when I learned that in 1948 the guardian Army Corps of Engineers routinely issued a permit to Reserve to discharge its tailings into the lake with the sole condition that it not obstruct navigation -- a rather droll test of pollution for a guardian against some to take, not unlike telling the polluter, "Look, Buster, you can pollute all you want long as ^{the lake} will still float a boat."

further

Spirits plunged ^{further} when I learned that this permit was ~~renewed~~ ^{without hearings} renewed in 1950 and again in 1960 at the request of Reserve, the latter permit to expire December 31, 1970. rock

Spirits hit ^{bottom} when I learned that when Reserve objected to any ^{type} ^{limit at all} ~~deadline~~ the Corps obediently removed its deadline and extended its permit indefinitely. -- ^{whereupon} ^{suddenly} and I developed a powerful intuition "that I was learning more about the frightening rapport of the military mind with big industry, against which

X of the Army Corps ^{will} helping save
She had ^{and} warned us -- than about the chances ~~to~~
for saving ~~save~~ Lake Superior. ~~This~~

This intention was not ^{measurably} abated when I
read ^{only} this ^{past} August that the head of the Corps,
Gen. Frederick L. Clark ^{speaking} ^{to a} ^{committee} ⁱⁿ ^{consideration}
in Duluth, ^{explicitly} ^{stated} ^{that} ^{the} ^{Army} ^{is} ^{trying} ^{to}
the question of the renewal of Reserve's permit to
continue pumping 67,000 tons of tailings into
Lake Superior each day his Corps is trying to
weigh ^{the} economic aspects of the Reserve Mining
Company operation against the deleterious effects
that are alleged with respect to the lake. I don't think
we are going to come out with a permit that forces
Reserve to shut down."

X

I found ^{unanimously}

This is a particularly disheartening statement not only because it comes from the head of that agency appointed by law to guard our navigable waters against harmful ^{pollution} waters, because ~~it comes~~ ^{it comes} despite a 1962 agreement between the Army and Interior that the latter agency henceforth ~~was~~ ^{granting and} investigate and advise the former on the renewal of all discharge permits, and further despite Interior's 1968 Stoddard Report and later studies ~~not only~~ ^{finding} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~harmful~~ ^{pollution} by Reserve, and despite the fact that ^{several} ~~five~~ ^{hundred} ~~million~~ ^{square} ~~low~~ ^{feet} ~~grade~~ ^{of} ~~ore~~ ^{properties} discharge their ^{wastes} inland and still remain solvent and competitive, ~~and~~ the man still uses the ^{word} "alleged" and plainly implies that the only alternatives for Reserve are to pollute or close - ^{despite} ~~despite~~ the ^{contrary} ~~contrary~~ findings and reports that were ^{made} ~~made~~ by Interior ^{justify} ~~justify~~ him in his decision.

Despite the findings that they could

Trans

The deeper I dug -- to steal a deep of Hald's alliteration --
not only the darker the picture grew, ^{but} ^{and} the more depressed
this digger got. First I not only learned that these ^{massive} ^{daily}
close of pollution had been going on since ¹⁹⁵⁶ ~~1947~~ but
that Reserve Mining ^{had gradually been} increasing ^{the dose} ^{of the issue of}
despite its ^{Reserve's} assurance at the original hearing on dumping
^{any} ^{wastes} ^{at all} before the Minn. Water Pollution Control Commission
that its tailings would not be observable more than
a mile from shore that a ^{recent} study by the U. S. Dept.
of Interior shows harmful polluted "green water"
some 18 miles south of the plant and that its ^{harmful} ^{tailings}
are being deposited on the ^{lake} bottom over an area ^{of} at least
a 1000 square miles; that in 1947 Reserve claimed
that the amt. of tailings would be insignificant compared
to the sediments deposited in the lake by Minnesota's rivers
and streams, yet ^{the} Interior's study shows that Reserve's
daily discharge into the lake just about equals the
yearly contribution of sediment from all of Minnesota's streams

In 1947 Reserve ~~was~~ claimed there would be no
soluble materials in the tailings yet a recent laboratory
study shows that 100,000 pounds of dissolved solids
is added each day by Reserve's discharge.

In 1947 Reserve promised that no chemicals
whatsoever would be added to the lake yet since then
Reserve has admitted dumping substantial sums
of ^{calcium} chloride into the lake and sulphuric acid into the
lake.

As recently as May 1969 the President of Reserve, Edward Furness, stated that its tailings are "inert, inorganic, insoluble in Lake Superior, and biologically inactive" yet the National Water Quality Laboratory has found that the tailings are biologically active at concentrations of about one milligram per liter in a wide area of the lake.

Reserve claims it has no alternative which is commercially feasible yet independent studies show that it could build on-land disposal of its wastes (see)

X

~~1/2~~

"I agree, Hal," I ^{recall saying} said at the time.
~~But~~ "no lake in the world can, ^{possibly} be
purer and fresher than Lake Superior,
fed as it is by streams flowing from
the remote ^{northern} bush country of Minnesota,
Wisconsin and Michigan, not to mention
from the Canadian heartland by such
fabled streams as the Nipigon and many
others."

1 A

and near

During the weeks that followed I began to learn something about the big lake beside which I had ~~been~~ virtually been born and raised, ^{upon which} had ^{swum} boated ^{as a boy} upon and for ^{in which} ^{for} ^{so} many years had fished ^{at} ^{for} ^{so} many years. I re-learned ~~that~~ what I had forgotten from my boyhood school days -- that Lake Superior contained the biggest volume of fresh water in all the world, being exceeded in surface area covered only by Africa's shallower ^{and deeper} Lake Tanganyika.

I dug deeper into the alleged ~~Minnesota~~ pollution emanating from Minnesota and reached the somber conclusion that it constituted the biggest single threat to the health and survival of the lake.

X

~~the~~ Lake Superior -- Is it Really Sick
or ~~Really~~ Being Slandered?

~~Years ago my~~

remoter

spring-like

"The world's biggest beaver pond," ~~my~~
an old fishing ^{one day} ~~one~~ ^{once} ~~described~~ ^{colorfully} Lake of its
Superior to me (as we ^{were fishing} ~~were~~ ^{along} ~~one of~~
^{stretching} ~~at~~ ^{of} ~~shore~~ ^{gloriously} ~~into~~ ^{the} ~~rocky~~ ^{shores} ^{going} ~~on~~ ^{to} ~~explain~~ ^{referring}
so ^{the} ~~gloriously~~ ^{pointing} ~~to~~ ^{the} ~~beauty~~ ^{and}
coldness of its water and ^{the} ~~amazingly~~ ^{amazingly} ~~diverse~~ ^{amazingly} ~~sport~~ ^{diverse} ~~fishing~~ ^{sport ~~it~~ ^{gave} ~~us~~ ^{us} ~~long~~ ^{long} ~~ago~~ ^{ago}.}

Last summer ~~we went~~ ^{again}.

Last summer ^{Hal and I} ~~we~~ ^{met} ~~to~~ ^{fish} ~~at~~ ^{the}
~~mouth~~ ^{at} ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~mouth~~ ^{of} ~~one~~ ^{of} ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~favorite~~ ^{favorite} ~~trout~~ ^{trout}
streams ^{joins} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{and} ~~his~~ ^{his} "biggest beaver pond."

"You know," Hal said, "gazing out
across ^{along} ~~the~~ ^{rocky} ~~shore~~," "I've got ^a ~~me~~ ^{new} ~~name~~ ^{for}
an old lake."

"What's that?" I ^{casually} ~~inquired~~ ^{casually},
busily rigging up.

"The world's biggest outhouse," Hal
answered, dolefully ~~shaking~~ ^{shaking} his head.

"How come?" I said. "What's happened to
the world's biggest beaver pond?"

"I'm afraid it's dying," ^{he said,} ~~Hal went on,~~ "Simply
another victim of our national lust for ^{prosperity and} ~~prosperity and~~
^{peak} production and ^{profit} at any price." ~~He shook his head.~~

~~"Pretty soon we can say about it what's long been
said about Lake Erie: anyone ^{people} unlucky enough to fall
in ^{don't} drown but rot."~~

^{in the world} "The alliteration is ^{very} pretty," I said, "but
what do you ^{mean?} are you driving at?"

~~"Pretty soon~~

"Pollution," Hal went on, wagging his
head. "Pretty soon we can say about Lake Superior
what's so long been said about Lake Erie: people
unlucky enough to fall in ^{so much} ~~drown~~ ^{as} ~~rot~~."

"You're fixing me, pal," I said. "Supposedly you get down off your soap box and tell me what's happening to our old lake." I stared out across ~~at~~ its ~~restless~~ ^{lively} glitter and heave. "Still looks ~~pretty~~ ^{pretty} as ever to me."

~~"Sit down," Hal said, motioning me to join him on a handy rock. "Let me tell you just~~

~~"Don't you ever read the newspapers?"~~
Hal ~~said~~ ^{inquired} with deceptive calm.

"Don't you know it's trout season, man?"
I countered. "Rarely get past the ^{blooming} weather report."

"Sit down," Hal ~~said~~ ^{commanded}, motioning me to join him on a handy rock. "Let me tell you just some of the things that have been happening to ~~the~~ our old world's biggest brown pond."

And ^{so} Hal told me, first about the 67,000 tons of taconite tailings that are ~~daily~~ daily being discharged into Lake Superior, ~~by the~~ by the ^{Minnesota} Mesabi Range mining interests; how this has been going on for 15 years; and of how ^{many} conservationists say that a continuation of this relentless pollution, which contains ^{roughly} a daily accompaniment some 25 tons of phosphorus and even more of manganese -- ^{both of} which hasten the growth of lake-aging and oxygen-consuming ^{bacteria and} algae and other weeds -- may ~~soon~~ eventually put Superior in a class with afflicted Erie.

"Well, what do you know?" I said.

He told me how the biggest ^{Taconite} polluter, Reserve Mining Company, is engaged in ^a ^{real} court suit with Minnesota's pollution control officials, challenging the state's anti-pollution regulations as "unreasonably restrictive" and arguing that the material it ^{discharges} is inert and stationary, ^{only discoloring the water, and poses} ~~poses~~ no threat to either fish or public health, ~~except for~~ ^{and how} of how this litigation drags on and on, with the prospect of inevitable appeals, which ^{the} ^{pollution} goes merrily on; and ^{how}, despite ^{Minnesota} Mining claims, Wisconsin and Michigan experts claim that the Minnesota pollution has spread to their areas of the lake.

In the weeks that followed, and
for the first time in my life, I
really began to study the lovely lake I had virtually
been born and raised beside;

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The World's Biggest Beaver Pond -- Is It Sick or ^{Simply} Being Slandered?

"The world's biggest beaver pond, in the ^{colorful} way an old fishing pal ^{one year ago} described Lake Superior ^{to me}, ^{addressing} as referring, as he ^{gloumily} ^{lamented} to the coldness and ^{pristine} purity of the water and the ^{and several} ^{beautiful} ^{lake afforded} marvellous sport ^{that} fishing, he had so long ^{as we were rigging up} gotten him.

The first time I fished with him, this past summer, he ^{told me} ^{said} he had a new definition for Lake Superior.

"What's that, Hal?" I inquired, ^{curiously} ^{threading} ^{my} ^{hook} ^{into} ^{the} ^{line}.

he ^{answered} ^{scoldingly} ^{he} ^{replied} ^{dolefully} ^{shaking} ^{his} ^{head}. "The world's biggest backhouse."

"How come?" I said. ^{What's} ^{What's} ^{happened} ^{to} ^{the} ^{old} ^{lake?} ^{happened} ^{to} ^{the} ^{world's} ^{biggest} ^{beaver} ^{pond?}

"It's dying, is all," Hal went on. "Simply being killed by our national lust for prosperity, high production and profit at any price. Pretty soon we can say about it ^{what's} ^{being} ^{said} about Lake Erie: when ^{anyone} ^{from} ^{the} ^{bad} ^{lands} ^{of} ^{the} ^{west} it he doesn't so much ^{drawn} ^{as} ^{rat}."

"You're losing me," I said. "Get down

our
off your soap box and tell me what's
happening to the old lake. Still looks ~~the~~ lovely
as ever to me."

"Don't you read the newspapers?" Wal
countered. "It's as plain as the nose on your face."

Springing ~~springing~~ ^{springing} ~~springing~~ ^{springing} to the defense
"Don't get personal," I said, ~~defending~~ ^{defending} of
my generous provisos. "As for reading the
newspapers, ^{just} remember, man, ^{it's} trout season. First
things first, ^{I always say.}"

"Sit down," Wal said, motioning me to
join him on the car bumper. "Let me ^{just a little of} tell you what's ^{happening}
happening to the world's biggest beaver pond."

"Yes, sir," I said meekly. "I'm all ears--
just ^{for} ~~for~~ ^{for} companionship for my ^{old} schnozz."

sheerest chance, might also have been stockholders in and even policy makers of some of our country's most distinguished polluters. And again by the sheerest coincidence Mr. Morton is being appointed to head the very same Department of Interior that one faintly recalls Mr. Mitchell said (in those famous guidelines, remember?) should be left to take care of our worst polluters.

Mr. Morton's appointment, I have since learned, is being opposed by the League of Conservation Clubs, which rates him in the lower tenth in the House on conservation issues, and also by the Sierra Club which, ironically enough, on the very day it concluded its impressive indictment of Mr. Morton's anti-conservation record, experienced the double rebuff of watching the committee before which it had just testified favorably report out his nomination for full Senate action. (Latter tidbit heard over national television on

January 27, 1971.) *The next day the cup of conservation sloppeth over -- by a unanimous vote the Senate confirmed the Nixon nomination!!!*

Item: Out of the blue the week before Thanksgiving Wisconsin

Congressman Henry Reuss, long well known for his anti-pollution effort, announced from Washington that the Army Corps of Engineers had just started new federal prosecutions under the old 1899 refuse

statute mentioned earlier against 50 defendants who wer allegedly
dumping mercury into various rivers and lakes, this, one gathered,
without the blessing of Mr. Mitchell.

My small glow of encouragement was quickly dimmed when I
read further that the Corps biggest gripe seemed to be that the
alleged pollution was being done without a permit, making me wonder
just when mercury had become less lethal when dumped under the

Please re-do, orig and copy, cutting any run over 41. (not 41A, just 41.)

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~~corporate~~ polluters. And again by the sheerest coincidence Mr.

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out the nomination for full Senate action. (both)

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^{impressive} enough, on the very day it concluded its
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 record before the ^{committee} ^{favorably}
~~it~~ reported out his nomination ^{to the}
 considering his nomination ^{favorably} reported it out
 for ^{Senate} ^{action} usually a sign of ^{conformity}

^{detailed} on the very day it concluded its ~~testimony~~ ^{testimony}
~~the~~ ^{detailed} ~~impressive~~ ^{array} of instances where
 impressive indictment of Mr. Morton's anti-
 conservation record, ~~watched~~ ^{experienced}
 the ^{delusion} of having the committee before
 which it testified ~~at~~ ^{favorably} report out
 his nomination for full Senate action

LAKE SUPERIOR -- IS IT SICK OR BEING SLANDERED?

By

Robert Traver

"The world's biggest beaver pond," ^{an} a poetic old fishing pal
once ^{proudly} described Lake Superior to me as we ~~one day~~ ^{its} fished along
a remote stretch of rocky shoreline. Hal was referring, as he
glowingly ^{explained,} ~~proceeded to explain,~~ to the purity and spring-like
coldness of its water and ~~to the diverse and marvelous sport~~
fishing the lovely lake had so long ^{given} provided us.

"I agree, Hal," I faintly recall saying at the time. "And it's
so far away from big cities and ^{swarms} ~~crowds~~ of people it should stay that
way ~~for~~ a long ~~long~~ time."

This was back maybe ten ~~or more~~ years ago and Hal and I have
together fished the ~~big~~ lake and its feeder streams many times,

~~Since then~~. This summer we again met to fish, this time at the

mouth of one of our favorite trout streams and the ~~lake~~. The
~~big lake~~ was calm, the gulls lazily wheeling and soaring, and

occasionally a big rising fish would simultaneously break the

surface and ~~raise~~ our pulse rate.

"You know something, pal" Hal said, gazing up along the rugged rocky shore, "I've ^{just} dreamed up a new name for our ~~old lake.~~ ^{world's biggest beaver pond."}

"What's that, Hal?" I casually inquired, busily rigging up.

"The world's biggest outhouse," Hal replied, dolefully shaking his head.

"How come?" I said. "What's happened to the world's biggest beaver pond?"

"I'm afraid it's dying," he answered. "Just another victim of our national lust for ~~big~~ production, big payrolls, big profits and ~~peak~~ ^{big} prosperity at any price."

"Though you forgot ^{our national passion for} big boobies your alliteration is ^{powerful} pretty,"

I said. "But please explain what you're driving at."

"Pollution," Hal went on, wagging his head. "Pretty soon I guess we can say about Lake Superior what's so long been said about Lake Erie: people unlucky enough to fall ^{into} ~~in~~ the ^{blooming} place don't so much drown as rot."

"Maybe if it gets bad enough they could walk ashore," I suggested helpfully. "But meanwhile suppose you climb down off your soap box long enough to tell me precisely what's happening to our old lake."

I stared out across its lovely ^{far} glitter and heave. "Still looks purty as ever to me."

Hal gave me a withering look. "Sit down," he commanded,
motioning me to join him on a handy rock. "Let me tell you just
some of the things that have been happening to ^{the} former world's
biggest beaver pond."

So Hal told me, giving me an alarming earful, in fact, first about the 67,000 tons of taconite tailings--a sort of pulverized sandy waste made from the separation of iron ore from its host rock ~~rock~~ [^] that are daily being disgorged into Lake Superior by the Reserve Mining Company a few miles north of Duluth. He ^{revealed} ~~explained~~ that powerful U. S. Steel Company was the principal owners of Reserve Mining [^] and that this massive pollution was nothing new but had been going on for over 15 years with no sign of abatement.

"In fact," he went on, "many alarmed conservationists are predicting that if it isn't stopped ^{and damned} soon Lake Superior will join Lake Erie as another doomed inland sea."

"Well, what do you know?" I said, shaking my head. "Where'd you get all the dope?"

"Out of the same newspaper you take--only I occasionally read more than the weather report for tomorrow's fishing."

"If I'm not too pooped I sometimes also work the crossword,"

I said, fighting back. "Tell me more."

Hal told me how the Reserve Mining Company was presently engaged in litigation with Minnesota's pollution control officials, challenging the state's anti-pollution regulations as "unreasonably restrictive" and further claiming that the tailings it admittedly daily discharges into the lake is inert and stationary, only slightly discoloring the water but posing no real threat to marine life or to public health.

"Maybe they're right," I suggested. "After all, Hal, there's no federal law ~~declaring~~ ^{making} big corporations invariably ~~in the~~ ^{wrong}."

"Except that the pollution merrily goes on," Hal continued gloomily, "at the rate of 24 million tons annually--I ~~just~~ said tons, comrade, not pounds--and despite the mounting alarm of Wisconsin and Michigan conservation people who claim that the Minnesota pollution is spreading and already harmfully affecting their areas of the lake."

"But why doesn't somebody stop it?" I said. "The state or the government or somebody?"

"That's one of the big problems," Hal went on sadly. "Nobody really seems to know who has the authority to question the thing or put a stop to it. For a long time the Federal Water Quality ~~Control~~ ^{Admini-}stration kept out of the act in the belief that the pollution affected

Stoddard caught.

only Minnesota waters, but now, at the increasing prodding of
aroused Michigan and Wisconsin authorities, it has finally begun
an investigation."

"And meanwhile the load of junkola flows on and on," I said
morosely, looking out across my afflicted lake.

"The ~~the~~ U. S. Army Corps of Engineers seems to claim exclusive
jurisdiction over the 'character and quality' of all discharges
into the lake," Hal went on. "Indeed it is that august outfit
that ^{gave} ~~gives~~ the mining company its permit to pollute ~~and~~ in the
first place must pass on its renewal."

Still
Corps

Revised =
Stoddard
date.

"Maybe the Army Engineers will have the guts to stem the tide,"
I said hopefully.

"Maybe," Hal gloomily agreed. "But meanwhile I suggest you
^{occasionally glance at}
~~read~~ your newspapers so at least you'll know what's happening to
^{lovely}
our lake in case they don't."

"Righto," I said.

"Meanwhile let's go fishing while yet we may."

"Righto," I repeated.

After that I really began looking into what was happening to the beautiful lake beside which I had virtually been born and raised and along which I had so often strolled and picnicked and ~~on which I had so often boated—and of course~~ *on which I had so often boated—and of course* in which I had even more often fished. I learned—or rather re-learned—that Lake Superior contained the biggest body of fresh water in all the world, not only being fed by a whole flock of remote northern bush country streams in bordering Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan but from the very heartland of sub-artic Canada by such fabled streams as the Nipigon and many others. Yes, Lake Superior was *indeed* unique, *the* *aristocrat* and *fall* the very queen of ~~the~~ inland seas...

(From here on I plan to discuss by plain non-Hal narration
other forms of pollution in the lake, just what it does to a lake--

bringing out that lakes are like people and trees, that they too

can get old and die, and that continued pollution simply hastens *dissolution*

and causes premature
the death, and further bringing out that when the big lake dies

the whole water-feeding area around it becomes inevitably crip-

pled or dead.)

Stoddard:
eutrophication

I dug deeper into the alleged pollution and the deeper I dug the bleaker I felt. At first I had thought that the Minnesota ore could not possibly be mined without the accompanying pollution until, to my surprise, I learned that Michigan had at least five similar low-grade ore properties which treated and left their wastes inland, not an ounce ^{of it} getting into the lake. In other words I discovered that not only was the Minnesota pollution unnecessary but that it gave the already powerful Reserve Mining people an unfair economic advantage over their smaller rivals. ^{In} effect, ^{a helpless public was rewarding a brazen polluter} rewarding their brazen pollution with a public subsidy ^{for its pains.}

↑ (ton?)
Sp

(Here I plan to show that the Army Engineers offer little hope, and that indeed its presiding General Clarke had the temerity recently to get up and address a group of conservationists at Duluth, concluding that as his Corps tries to weigh the "economic aspects of the Reserve Mining Company operation against the deleterious effects that are alleged with respect to the lake, I don't think we are going to come out with a permit that forces Reserve to shut down.")

Revise
A
show
hope re
Stoddard
dupl.

(Army guy implies no alternatives to either polluting or shutting down. Dead wrong. Cite Michigan ^{mining} example.)
Just costs more.

Conclusion

(Here I plan to revert to Hal ^{and I} on the lake shore at the end

of summer, and conclude fast with some wry comments about *several things,*

such as

"effluents"—"Effluent, pal, is a refined word for refined

crap," etc — and some assorted funny-sad quotes I am

assembling, *ending in a note of guarded hope.*)

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