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D. K. Lewis

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THE AUTUMN MEETING — DULUTH-CLOQUET AREA
SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10, 1949:

SECRETARY'S REPORT

D. K. LEWIS

Members of the Minnesota Academy of Science began to assemble late in the afternoon of September 9 at the Cloquet Forest Experiment Station, the designated headquarters for this meeting. General visiting, registration, and assignment to the Station's cabins for sleeping accommodations kept all new arrivals busy until after 8:00 p.m. Approximately seventy-five members and guests attended and enjoyed a film on bird life, presented by Dr. William R. Bagley of Duluth. An informal social hour followed this program. Truly, this night at the Experiment Station, with its congenialities, the bright northwoods moon, and the cool, coniferous air prompted those present to feel that members unable to attend were missing something special.

Saturday morning began at daybreak, when about forty members assembled for a sunrise bird walk led by Mrs. Evelyn Putnam of Duluth and Dr. W. J. Breckenridge and Dr. Dwain Warner of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. The participants enjoyed the fresh fall air along the colorful forest trail and observed about thirty migrant and resident bird species. By 7:50 a.m. the unmistakable aroma of bacon and coffee percolating through the conifers completely altered the focus of attention and even our leaders forgot all about the birds. An excess of seventy-five members and guests sat down to a most delightful and complete breakfast smartly served in the dining hall of the Station by the efficient, smoothly functioning local committee.

Following this repast, President Essex called a brief business meeting and presented a timely address re-emphasizing the need for strengthening the Academy's bulwarks. After considering several matters of business, this session terminated with a sincere vote of thanks and appreciation for the highly commendable, effective, and accommodating efforts so graciously expended by the autumn meeting committee: Chairman Dr. Olga Lakela, Dr. R. Darland, Dr. T. Odlaug, Mr. J. Gerberich, Dr. M. Keith, Miss Mary Elwell, and Miss Helen Heino; and for the excellent entertainment at the Forest Experiment Station so kindly provided by its director, Dr. Thorward Schantz-Hansen and his staff.

At 9:30 a.m. members in their cars enjoyed an enlightening tour of the extensive experimental projects progressing within the Sta-

tion's forests. Mr. Raymond Jensen, Assistant Scientist, acting for Dr. Schantz-Hansen, absent on special assignment, clearly and patiently explained the various long period tests involving planting, thinning, species survival and resistance, etc. Doubtless, forest industries and Minnesota's citizens stand to gain in many ways from the scientifically controlled studies initiated at the Station.

The caravan next moved on to Jay Cooke State Park, arriving about 12:30 p.m. at the picnic grounds where Dr. Lakela and her gyrating committee were already on hand with picnic plate lunches and coffee for all to enjoy outdoors in the warm sunshine. At 1:30 p.m. Mr. Howard Evans of the Oliver Iron Mining Research Laboratory, Duluth, conducted a field trip into the valley of the St. Louis River to study the pre-Cambrian Thomson formation slates, diabase dikes, folding, glaciation, and erosion by running water. Mr. Evans presented clear and informative interpretations throughout. At the same time, Dr. Breckenridge, Dr. John Moore, and Dr. Lakela pointed out ornithological and botanical observations to provide a well-balanced and enlightening field trip. All too soon the lengthening shadows of the pines and balsams silently but surely closed this meeting, and the Academicians departed southward leaving the northwoods once more to the chickadees and their wilderness associates.