

EDITORIAL

THE OLD NORTHWEST TERRITORY—that region lying west of Pennsylvania, north of the Ohio River, east of the Mississippi, and south of a centerline (more-or-less) through the Great Lakes—is the subject of five of the papers in this issue.

When Congress established the Territory in 1787, four states—Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia—had land claims within this area, which they ceded to the U. S. central government between the years 1780 and 1800. The region is rich in the history of the United States—from the peculiar 5-mile-on-a-side townships of Connecticut's Western Reserve in northeastern

THE OLD NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND
UNITED STATES NATIONAL PARK AND AFFILIATED AREAS
IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION *



*Adapted from a map by Scheiber (ed.), 1969.

Ohio, to the southern Ohio land grants given to Virginia's Revolutionary War veterans, to the French voyageurs in the northern lakes area of the early fur trade era, to the lumbering in Michigan and Wisconsin "that built and rebuilt Chicago." The area now comprises the "Great Lakes States" of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and that part of Minnesota lying between the St. Croix and the Mississippi — including that strange geopolitical anomaly, the "Northwest Angle."

In April of this year, a workshop conference was sponsored by the National Parks and Conservation Association, The Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research at Northwestern University, and the Johnson Foundation (the wax folks) of Racine, Wisconsin, on National Parks of the Great Lakes. The conference was held at the magnificent Frank Lloyd Wright Wingspread Conference Center in Racine — operated with many tasteful amenities by the Johnson Foundation. Happily, I was invited to attend.

Several past and present employees of the US NPS attended the conference. Most of the "NPS-types" were sort-of-wondering-a-lot-of-times "where have we heard all of this before?" Later I realized that the discussions — ranging from resources preservation techniques to injustices done to park inholders — were the very same topics "agonized over" by many generations of NPS employees. With that realization came another: perhaps we NPS-types think we're sharing our views with the world, when actually it's only among ourselves. A function of the spacial arrangement of offices, perhaps, which has led in years past to such diverse events as President Nixon's creation of Federal Regional Office cities (and Officers), and to the establishment of frustrated citizen-group lobbyists. One is most influenced by those s/he has lunch with, or runs into several times daily at the washroom-down-the-hall, or whatever. Anyway, the papers included here will, on occasion, criticize and recommend; valid or not, these deserve some listening to — speaking to us are those "other guys" eating lunch in another town and using washrooms in other buildings. Sincerity, however, is on both sides here.

The Conference had many fine attributes. Among these were the excellent background papers presented to the conferees, written by authorities in their fields. Some of these seemed to be especially suitable for publication in the FORUM and subsequent events have led to their inclusion in this issue.

Today, the northwoods on the south edge of Lake Superior, in the northernmost part of the Old Northwest, is resplendent with the reds, golds, yellows, beiges, rusts and greens of autumn. Ominous-gray clouds race across the azure heavens, and I am reminded that this summer issue is a bit overdue. Thus, with the close of this sentence the last words will have been written and if all the equipment works, Summer 1982 should be on its way to you all in a few days.

Bob Linn