

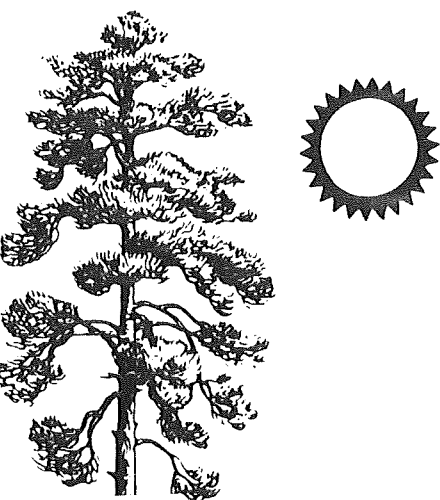
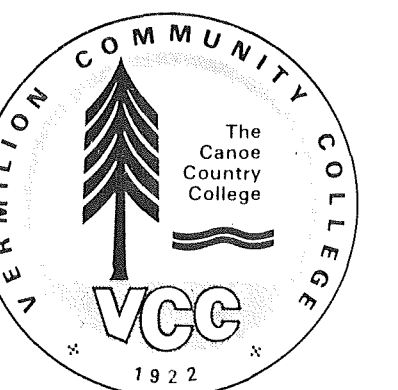
# The Vermilion Experience

## AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER INTERPRETING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE ON MINNESOTA'S VERMILION RANGE

### *STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT*

MARVIN LAMPPA  
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Vermilion Community College  
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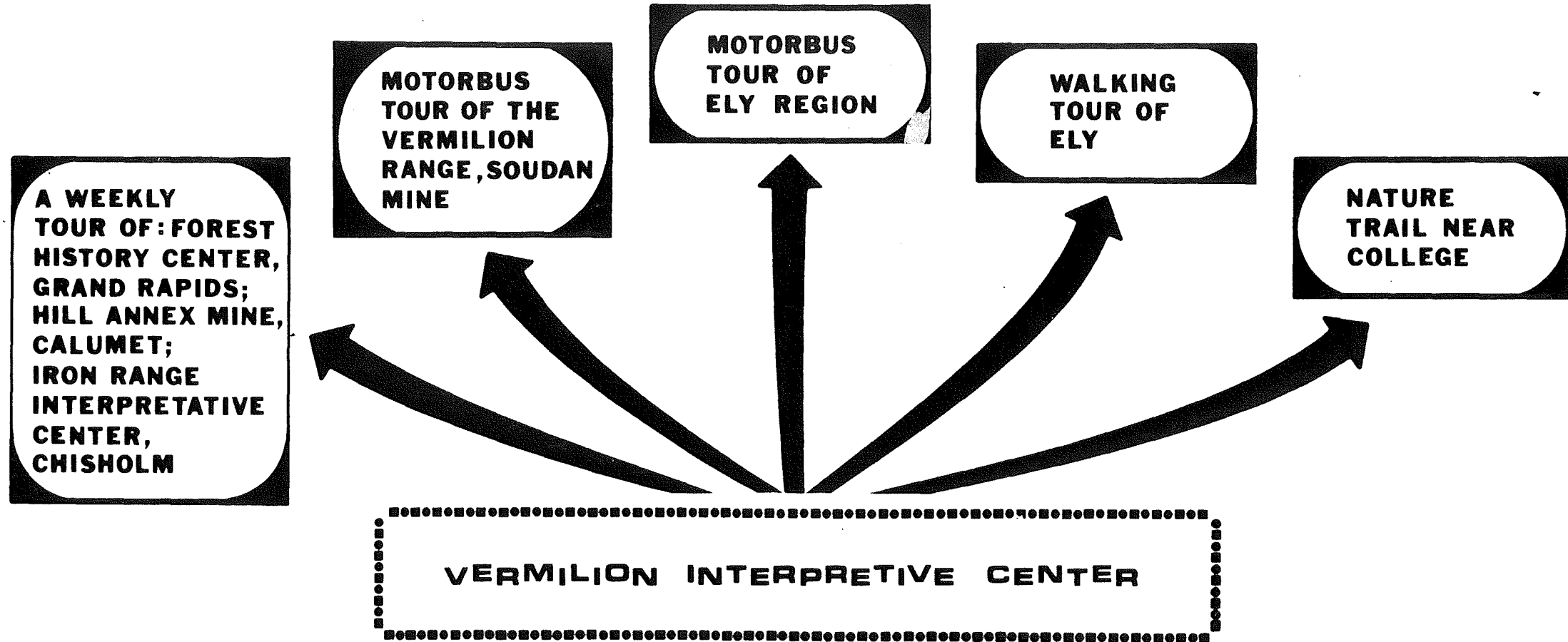
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## THE VERMILION EXPERIENCE

- THE STORY OF PEOPLE AT THE EDGE OF WILDERNESS
- A PROGRAM OF ADVENTURE AND DISCOVERY!



## VERMILION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Vermilion Community College, established in 1922, is one of Minnesota's eighteen state supported community colleges governed by the Minnesota Community College Board. As a community college, Vermilion provides the first two years of education for students seeking a four year degree, opportunities for students seeking careers and other programs related to community needs. Its mission is:

To provide the highest quality comprehensive education offering each citizen client the maximum opportunity to learn and develop intellectually, socially and culturally. In keeping with the college's unique locale, Vermilion recognizes its special responsibility to provide courses of study and specialized activities related to its natural environment.

The college is unique in its location next to the primitive million acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area. This land of forests and lakes, preserved by the Federal Government, is steeped in history. Water and portage routes once traveled by Indian people and French Voyageurs are still in use. For this reason a number of environmentally related programs have been established on its campus.

The college has experienced a 31% growth rate over the past three years and presently serves 525 full time students and 900 more who are involved on a part time basis in its many programs. The total population of the area served is approximately 12,000 and this triples during the summer months due to a very active tourist and resort business.

Visitors to the Vermilion campus are impressed with its completely modern and well equipped facilities. All the buildings are new. The college moved to a newly completed campus in 1971. It contains four buildings, activity areas, parking lots, and a central circulation mall. Included is a cultural center complete with a theatre and interpretive museum facility. A fifth building is envisioned to house a new student center and expanded classroom facilities.

## VERMILION RANGE COUNTRY

Minnesota's north country with its wilderness, lakes and streams has long been a favorite of certain segments of America's vacationing public. Situated at the very edge of this primitive region is the Vermilion Range with its communities of Ely, Tower, and Soudan. These towns were formed as part of a powerful and complex experience that not only influenced the direction of the industrial development of this nation but overnight brought about a vast migration of people from all parts of the world. Rich deposits of hematite ores drew people to the region and the mining which resulted left behind a rich heritage of history, legend and mingling of cultures that equals that of the "Old West".

It was a Vermilion Range of immigrants, gamblers, toughs gun-slingers and frontier living in the last decade of the 19th Century. Legends of "Bull Montana", "Finn Charley", of gold rushes and Cornish mining captains are still told by "oldtimers" in Tower and Ely. All through the region, spectacular excavations rusting head frames, crumbling steam stacks and ghost towns bear mute testimony to an earlier time -- a time when mining was an art and foreign languages were heard on the boardwalks of frontier towns. The region is truly a vast outdoor museum of natural history, geology, history and archaeology. It awaits discovery.

And even yet on back roads near shorelines of nearby lakes, ancient earthen mounds, piles of heaped stones, etchings on rock walls and half overgrown trails, tell of an earlier time. --There were other people,--other ways, --the remains of an ancient tradition so old that it is difficult to comprehend.

## ONE VAST OUTDOOR MUSEUM

The Vermilion Range countryside, comprising an area of eighteen square miles is a vast museum of industrial archaeology, geology, history, prehistory and spectacular scenic beauty. Man made cliffs rise high above clear pools at almost forgotten mining sites and logging railroad beds wind through pine and birch forests providing unsurpassed hiking experiences and new discoveries at almost every turn. The displays are already in place and all that is needed is a sound program of interpretation that can interest people and lead them to these places.

Vermilion Community College has constructed a facility on its campus to serve this purpose. It is planned to function as the nerve center for discovering the Vermilion Range. Here powerful and exciting displays will be housed to interpret the region and motivate people to explore the towns and surrounding countryside.

The theme of the center "The Vermilion Experience" reflects the activities of people and stands in contrast unpeopled wilderness being developed in the Boundary Waters Canoe area.

Here at the edge of a great wilderness is an area dotted with the remains of human activity. Its story is warm and alive and filled with experiences to which everyone can relate. It is in this setting that a viable and exciting alternative to the wilderness experience is being established.

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# Changing Exhibits

**REGIONAL EXHIBIT  
PROGRAM**

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT  
PROGRAM**

**CHANGING EXHIBIT SPACE  
1,496 sq. ft.**

DISPLAYS FOR THE VERMILION RANGE  
INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Fundamental to promoting exploration of the Vermilion Range is the design and construction of effective interpretive displays for the Vermilion Range Interpretive Center now completed at Vermilion Community College in the City of Ely. The facility provides a space of 1,795 square feet for basic displays, 1,496 square feet for traveling exhibits and special events, and 309 square feet of office space for a director.

The building was built by Vermilion Community College under a grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for the expressed purpose of serving as an interpretive center to broaden and expand tourism in northeast Minnesota. Maintained entirely by Vermilion College, its purpose is twofold:

- To provide an alternative to the wilderness for the touring public.
- To serve as an educational center introducing the public to the rich heritage and history of the Vermilion Range and the State of Minnesota.

Two years of research and planning have taken place to develop the most accurate and effective concepts to be displayed within the center. These efforts have drawn deeply on local resources and professional expertise and reflect an accurate and exciting account of the human experience in this particular region. The following groups have combined talents in a unified effort to bring forth the concepts for the center:

- Vermilion Community College Staff
- The Iron Range Interpretative Program Staff, IRRRB--State of Minnesota
- The Ely-Winton Historical Society
- Ely Historian, Lee Brownell
- The Ely Chamber of Commerce

These exhibit concepts are planned for the Center:

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CHANGING EXHIBITS

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A section of the center is reserved for traveling and local exhibits from a wide variety of sources. The traveling exhibit section of the center is administered by the Vermilion Community College through the following programs:

THE REGIONAL EXHIBIT PRESENTATION PROGRAM

Here regional art groups, historical societies, ethnic organizations and other groups will have the opportunity to develop special exhibits and display them at the center. The following groups are suggested as some participating agents:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| ● The Tower-Soudan Historical Society     |          |
| <u>Contact:</u> Mrs. Henry Simonson       | 741-8103 |
| ● The Virginia Area Historical Society    |          |
| <u>Contact:</u> Virginia Kirby            | 741-2249 |
| ● The Iron Range Historical Society       |          |
| <u>Contact:</u> Catherine Rukavina        | 749-3150 |
| ● The St. Louis County Historical Society |          |
| <u>Contact:</u> Lawrence Sommer           | 722-8011 |
| ● The Lake County Historical Society      |          |
| <u>Contact:</u> Elsa Setterlund           | 834-4899 |
| ● The Range Artists Association           |          |
| <u>Contact:</u> Darrell Wirkkala          | 263-6785 |
| ● The Iron Range Interpretative Center    |          |
| <u>Contact:</u> Bob Scott                 | 254-3323 |



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## CHANGING EXHIBITS (Continued)

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- The Minnesota Museum of Mining, Chisholm  
Contact: Peter Del Greco 254-4150
- The Canal Park Maritime Museum  
Contact: C. Patrick Labadie 727-2497
- The Minnesota Historical Society  
Contact: Russell Fridley (612) 296-2747
- The Immigration History Research Center  
Contact: Rudolph Vecoli (612) 373-5581

Each group is responsible for researching, organizing, designing, transporting and assembling its own exhibit. Exhibits must meet the following standards:

- They should be developed around a single theme.
- All exhibits should interpret a valid aspect of culture. This includes, but is not limited to, historic interpretation, art, music, crafts, folklore, ethnic experience, and reminiscences.
- All exhibits should be well planned, attractive and informative.
- Exhibits shall not duplicate displays within the center.

### Examples of Regional Exhibits:

Tower History	Italians in Mining Towns
Art Exhibit	Mining Tradition Cornish
Photography Exhibit	Fire Departments
Indian Crafts	Range Schools
Soudan, a Company Town	Mining Locations
The LWW on the Range	Underground Mining
History of BWCA	Railroads
The Voyageur	Ore Shipping on the Lakes
Finns on the Range	

The Vermilion Interpretive Center supplies necessary security, lighting and assistance in assembling the exhibit. It also assists in promotion and advertising. It is recommended that a minimum of four regional exhibits be displayed each year. An exhibit screening committee is responsible for:

- determining whether or not proposed exhibits meet standards, and
- making all contacts with prospective regional organizations. The committee is appointed by the President of Vermilion Community College and consists of:
  - A representative of the Vermilion Community College
  - A representative of the Ely-Winton Historical Society
  - A representative of the Iron Range Interpretative Program, IRRRB

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT PROGRAM

This program is administered by Vermilion Community College and consists of the rental of already established traveling exhibits from well known sources. These exhibits are usually attractive, professionally designed, informative and educational. In most cases, the costs of transportation must be born by the borrower and generally run about \$50 - \$100 per exhibit. In the case of the Smithsonian Institution, transportation is included in a flat fee which can run as high as \$1,000 per exhibit. In certain cases, valuable collections must be covered by a special temporary insurance which can be added as a rider to the Vermilion Community College existing insurance contract. Most well known museums run a traveling exhibit program and many of these are willing to exchange exhibits at no cost. Grants to cover some of the cost can be applied for from the following sources:

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CHANGING EXHIBITS (Continued)

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- The Minnesota Humanities Commission  
Metro Square Building  
7th and Robert Streets  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
- The State Arts Board  
314 Clifton Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

The following are examples of major sources:

The Smithsonian Institution (PRICE RANGE \$100 to \$1,000)

- Contact: Sally Slater  
(202) 381-6631  
Sites Program  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C. 20560
- Examples of Appropriate Exhibits:
  - Extra Extra. History of American Journalism  
COST \$100
  - Worker's Alliances. History of Trade Unions  
COST \$100
  - In The Hearts of The People. The story of  
Patriotism  
COST \$100

A very long and complete list of exhibits with prices can be obtained by writing the Smithsonian Institution.

The Minnesota Historical Society

- Contact: Maureen Otwell  
(612) 296-9070  
Education Division  
James J. Hill House  
240 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
- Available Exhibits:
  - The Sacred Circle of Life. History of the Dakota and  
Ojibway  
NO FEE
  - The Photographs of John Runk. Photographs of Minnesota  
Countryside  
NO FEE
  - Alexandria in 1876. Photographs of the town  
NO FEE
  - Parks: The Changing Shape of Public Lands  
NO FEE
  - Minnesota School Days. Early Photographs of School  
Life  
NO FEE
  - New Homes: The Immigrant Experience  
NO FEE
  - How They Spelled Relief. Display of the New Deal Era  
NO FEE
  - Baggage, Country and Squeaks. Transportation by  
Ox Cart  
NO FEE

There is a limit of three displays per year per institution. The borrowing institution must bear the cost of transportation which can be determined by arrangement. No special security is needed for these.

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## CHANGING EXHIBITS

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- **Special Security Exhibits:**

- Portraits of the Chippewa. A beautiful collection of large clear photographs of Chippewa life. Interpretation included (The institution must place these in a secure place and insure them for \$15,000.)  
NO FEE

- Railroad Standards: Building 1879 - 1910. A large display of drawings, maps, engineering studies and land purchases. (These must be insured for \$4,000.) Gallery security must be guaranteed.  
NO FEE

### The St. Louis County Historical Society

- Contact: Lawrence Sommer  
(218) 722-8011  
St. Louis County Historical Society  
County Heritage and Arts Center  
506 West Michigan Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

- Photographs and pictorial displays on Duluth  
FEE BY ARRANGEMENT

- The Society is only beginning to develop a traveling exhibit program, according to Director Larry Sommer.

- The Director is anxious to develop these exhibits and is willing to give out artifacts on a long term loan basis.  
NO FEE

### The Iron Range Historical Society

- Contact: Barbara Lamppa  
(218) 749-3150  
Gilbert City Hall  
Gilbert, Minnesota 55741

- **Displays:**

- Workers Unite! Early unionism on the Range. This is a dynamic presentation of photographs, interpretation and artifacts. (A document signed by Frank Little is part of the display. Gallery security is required. (Some of the materials cover the Vermilion Range.)  
FEE BY ARRANGEMENT

- Women on the Range. Series of photographs, artifacts and graphic displays of women in Iron Range towns.  
FEE BY ARRANGEMENT

### University of Minnesota Gallery

- Contact: Mary Harvey  
(216) 376-3614  
University of Minnesota Gallery  
110 Northrop, 84 Church Street S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

- A complete listing of exhibits is sent out to educational institutions each year. The gallery has seven touring exhibits for 1980-81. Each exhibit comes complete with a packet of brochures, promotional materials and interpretation.  
FEES RANGE FROM \$100 to \$200 WHICH INCLUDES SHIPPING AND FULL INSURANCE.

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CHANGING EXHIBITS (Continued)

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Immigration History Research Center

- Contact: Rudolph Vecoli  
(612) 373-5581  
826 Berry Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114
- Finns In America: Interpretive panels with graphics and photographs portraying the Finnish experience in America.  
NO FEE

Tweed Gallery

- Contact: William G. Boyce  
(218) 726-8222  
Tweed Museum of Art  
University of Minnesota, Duluth  
Duluth, Minnesota 55812
- Displays
  - The Prints of John Taylor Arms. 25 prints with brochures for the public. (Gallery security required; One month showing.)  
\$100 FEE PLUS TRANSPORTATION
  - A 1930's Print Show. 25 prints by various artists including Grant West and Thomas Hart Benton. (One month showing.)  
\$100 FEE PLUS TRANSPORTATION
  - Bicentennial Print Edition. 25 or more very large prints by various well known American artists. (One month showing.)  
\$100 FEE PLUS TRANSPORTATION
  - Special Shows by Arrangement  
FEE BY ARRANGEMENT

National Gallery of Art Extension Service

- Contact: Laura Schneider  
(202) 737-4125  
Extension Service  
National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D. C. 20565
- The objective of this organization is to provide slide lectures, film strips, and motion pictures to schools, colleges and libraries free of charge. These productions pertain to the Nation's Collection of Art.  
NO FEE

Other Museums and Organizations

Following is a list of some appropriate museums and similar institutions that should be contacted in regard to exchange of exhibits, programs and touring exhibitions.

- American Indian Education - Project Media  
115 2nd Avenue South  
Ivy Tower Building  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
- Effigy Mounds National Monument  
Box K  
McGregor, Iowa 52157  
Indian artifacts (loans to educational institutions).
- Indian Action Council Library  
P. O. Box 3108  
905 3rd Street  
Eureka, California 955101  
(Photographs - loans to educational institutions).

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CHANGING EXHIBITS (Continued)

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- Institute of American-Indian Arts  
Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
(Indian arts - loans to educational institutions.)
- Mid-America Indian Center Museum  
650 North Seneca  
Wichita, Kansas 67205  
(Indian artifacts - loans to educational institutions.)
- Croatian Ethnic Institute, Inc.  
4851 South Prevel Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60615  
International Croatian collection (Loans to educational institutions.)
- American Swedish Historical Foundation  
1900 Pattison Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19145  
Artifacts, photographs, exhibition (loans to educational institutions.)
- Finnish-American Cultural Society of Baltimore  
5912 Shady Spring Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21237  
Manuscripts (educational speakers and slide shows.)
- Norwegian-American Museum  
502 West Water  
Decorah, Iowa 52101  
Objects and documents (loans to educational institutions.)
- Jesse Besser Museum  
491 Johnson Street  
Alpena, Michigan 49707  
Ethnic materials, artifacts, photographs (Loans to educational institutions).

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## CHANGING EXHIBITS

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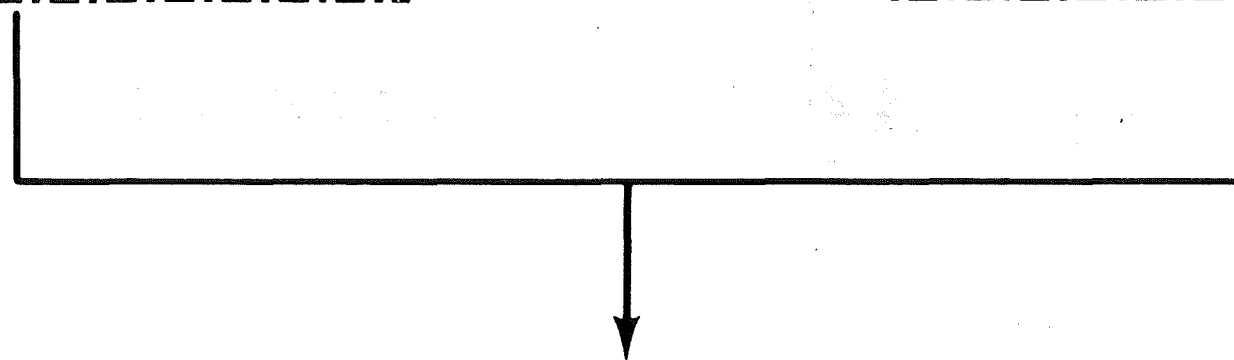
### CHANGING EXHIBIT AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that the two changing exhibit programs, The Regional Exhibit Presentation Program and the Special Exhibit Program be established immediately so that the center will have public attention as soon as possible.
- The Regional Exhibit Screening Committee should contact all of the listed prospective participating agencies to invite them to put together a display in the center. Simultaneously an application for a grant to fund the planning, transportation and assembly of four exhibits should be made to one or both of the recommended funding agencies. The amount of the grant should cover all fees asked for by participating agencies plus a 10% administration fee to the college. The Screening Committee should be responsible for picking the four or five best proposals received and descriptions of these should be included in the grant request. The fact that a number of groups are coordinating efforts should increase the possibility of receiving the grant. It should be remembered that the Minnesota Humanities Commission looks favorably on issue oriented presentations that are combined with public discussion.
- A public discussion evening conducted by Vermilion Community College staff should be planned as a special event to open each regional exhibit. A panel including members of the participating agent and a concerned humanist (this can be any professional involved in the subject) should make a presentation to the public. There is some possibility that these costs can be written into the grant.

- The Community College should be responsible for all special exhibits. As a starter it is recommended that at least two special exhibits be placed into the changing exhibit areas as soon as possible. Two sources are recommended as excellent starters to the programs.
  - Art - The University of Minnesota Gallery. Their productions are excellent and include brochures and interpretive materials.
  - History - The Minnesota Historical Society Portraits of the Chippewa. This is a beautiful display and one that will hold the public's interest.
- The special displays should be in the center by the end of July so that they hit the peak tourist season and they should be promoted in the media as major area events.
- Event calendars should be established for both the special displays and regional displays. There is a strong possibility that one or more of the participating agencies would be willing to develop a regional display at no cost to the center. If this is the case, a regional display should be placed in the center as soon as possible.

**REGIONAL EXHIBIT  
PROGRAM**

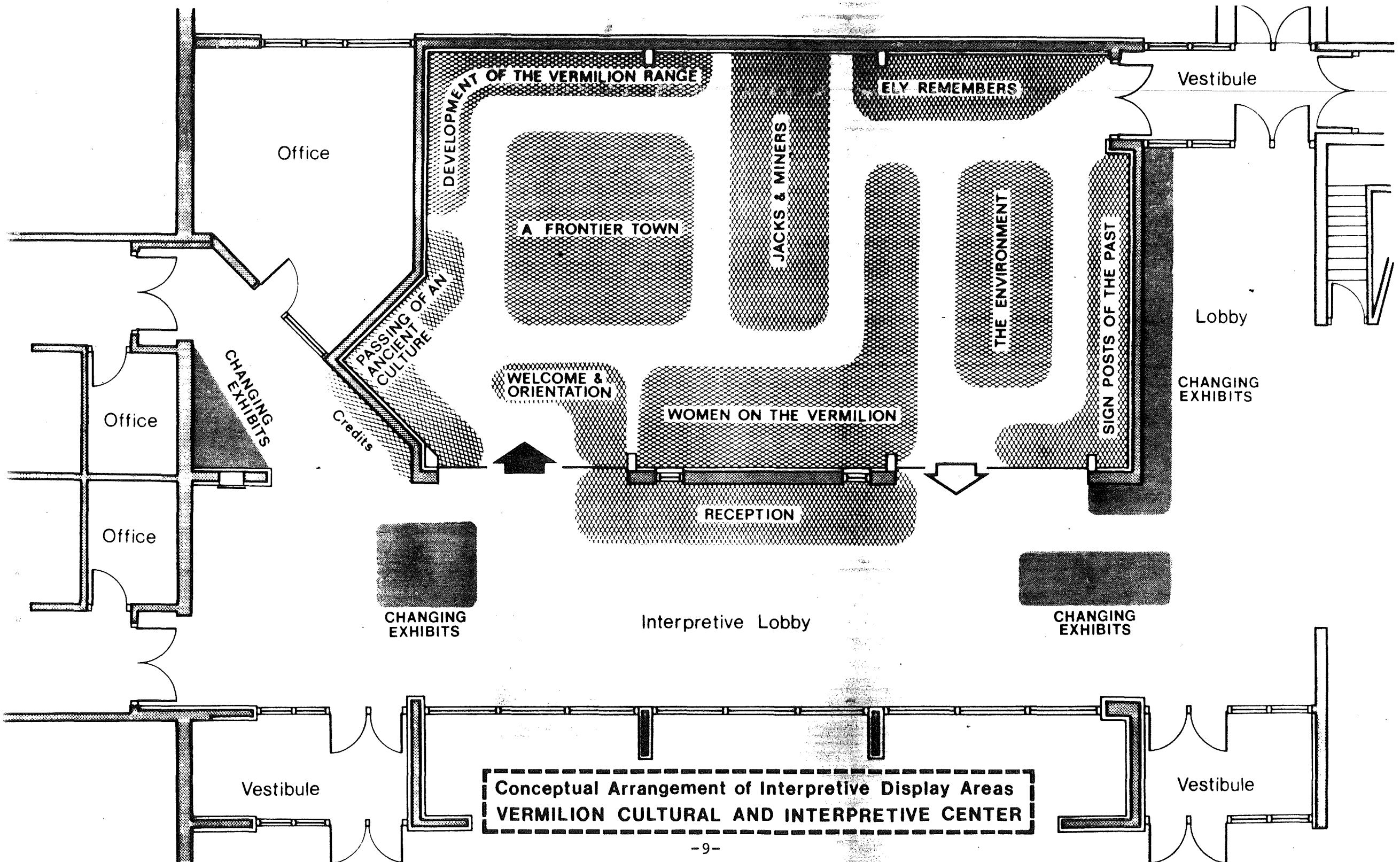
**SPECIAL EXHIBIT  
PROGRAM**



**CHANGING EXHIBIT SPACE  
1,496 sq. ft.**

# Permanent Exhibits





## PERMANENT EXHIBITS

### Abstract of Preliminary Script for Permanent Exhibits

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#### I. WELCOME AND ORIENTATION EXHIBIT

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As the visitor enters the interpretive portion of the center, he/she is welcomed to an introductory area which establishes the impact of humanity on the land and orients people to the location of all exhibits. A panel of five photographic blow-ups:

- A) A pre-Ely wilderness scene showing Indian people;
- B) Ely in 1890;
- C) Ely in 1910;
- D) Ely in 1930, and;
- E) Ely today

give the visitor an immediate impression of swift and overwhelming change while a brief orientation audio welcomes all to enjoy "The Vermilion Experience: The Story of People and Their Impact on the Land". The remainder of the display presents graphically a colorful floor plan of the center showing the location of all exhibits.

Abstract of Preliminary Script:  
TITLE: THE VERMILION EXPERIENCE

##### 1A Pre-Ely Wilderness Scene

The land was here first. It is ancient beyond imagination and for most of the time that it has been here only those who understood its uncompromising ways could live with it.

##### 1B Ely - 1890

Then came powerful forces; the Industrial Revolution and a rapidly developing American society bent on change. Over night, strange settlements appeared on the land.

##### 1C Ely - 1910

As America grew, the land gave up its rich iron ores. Thousands of strangers came and set about tunneling, gouging and heaping. Settlements grew into towns and forests vanished.

##### 1D Ely - 1930

Change was ever present as thousands found work in the mines, camps and mills. Day and night long trains of ore were pulled by steam driven engines to waiting boats on Lake Superior.

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I. WELCOME AND ORIENTATION EXHIBIT (Continued)

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1E Ely Today

And it was over. The mines and mills closed but the land and the people remained. This is the Vermilion Experience....

● Audio

Welcome to the Vermilion Range Interpretive Center.

Presented here is the Vermilion Experience; the story of the peoples of this region and the ways in which they have related to this harsh and beautiful land.

Enjoy your time here and remember this is only the beginning. You are about to learn of places to visit where you can experience first hand this exciting past.

● Location: Exhibits in Center Display

TITLE: THE VERMILION EXPERIENCE

Floor plan of Center showing the location of the following displays according to diagram:

1. Welcome and Orientation  
YOU ARE HERE
2. A passing of an Ancient Culture
3. Development of the Vermilion Range
4. A Frontier Town
5. Jacks and Miners
6. Women on the Frontier
7. Ely Remembers
8. The Environment
9. Signposts of the Past

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## II. THE PASSING OF AN ANCIENT CULTURE

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Against a large silk screened blow-up of the Hegman Lake Pictograph, Indian people's artifacts, clothing, crafts, pottery and artwork are displayed. A map with accompanying audio describes places in the region that relate to the always fascinating story of Indian cultures in the region.

### 2A Hegman Lake Pictograph Display (Accompanying Script)

Painted on a cliff overlooking Hegman Lake two miles north of Ely are these prehistoric pictographs which appear to mark the meeting place of two Indian parties. One party came, waited, and finally left the drawings as a message for the other party. Near the top of the picture are three canoes (two contain two men each and the third has one man) that indicate the size of the party. The canoes all point north, indicating the direction the party took when it left. Below the canoes are seven marks, indicating that seven fires were built (this means that seven days were spent waiting for the second party to arrive). The large man represents an Indian who killed the moose with the gigantic set of antlers. The wolf may indicate the totem to which the Indian belonged. The line below indicates

that the carcass of the animal was taken with the group since it also points north. Since the man is 10-12 feet high, this was probably not just an ordinary hunting party. Berry juices used as paints remain to this day clear and legible.

2B All artifacts are directly drawn from Lake Vermilion to the Ely area and are ready to be placed in cases.

- Indian moccasins (Ojibwa)
- One full headdress (Ojibwa)
- One beaded vest (Ojibwa)
- Two birch bark sap gathering containers (Ojibwa)
- Two Mde birch bark scrolls (Ojibwa)
- Six arrowheads (uncertain origin)
- One beaverskin medicine bag (Ojibwa)
- Two scrapers (Uncertain origin)
- One flint knife (uncertain origin)
- One copper knife (found on Lake Vermilion)
- One large stone hammer (uncertain origin)
- Two snuff boxes with shells-Mde-(Ojibwa)
- One birch bark pack basket (Ojibwa)
- One leather cradle (Ojibwa)
- Assorted charms (Ojibwa)
- One leather dress (Ojibwa)
- Steel trap (Ojibwa)

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## THE PASSING OF AN ANCIENT CULTURE

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2C Large panel map showing locations of Indian sites:  
According to map sample. Indian Panel Map 2C.  
A coordinated audio is designed to light up the sight on  
map as it is being described:

### 2Cb Script to Accompany Map

The land holds many secrets. By lakes and streams  
earthen mounds, ancient pathways and mysterious pictographs  
are reminders that people have lived in the region for a  
very long time. When the first miners came to Soudan and  
Ely they found the Ojibwa people living here. Their  
legends told of a time when they lived by a salt sea to  
the east, and of a long migration to this area. When they  
arrived some time during the 18th century, they too found  
people living here.

Archeological and historical evidence support Ojibwa legends.  
Near Pike Bay on Lake Vermilion and at Lake Superior are  
abandoned habitation sites and secondary burial mounds that  
may go back a thousand years. These Laurel people traveled  
the waterways of the Vermilion, Embarrass, Pike and St. Louis  
Rivers and were responsible for the construction of the Grand

Mound on the Rainy River. This is the largest secondary  
burial mound in the State of Minnesota.

These may not have been the first people in the region, for  
it is known that between 5000 BC and 1000 BC small groups  
of "Eastern Archaic Peoples" occupied areas of the Great  
Lakes region. These people sometimes called "The Old Copper  
Indians" were the first on the American Continent to use  
metals for tools. Copper knives, fish points and other  
artifacts have been discovered near the Pike Bay area of  
Lake Vermilion.

Historical evidence makes it quite clear that Indian people  
living here at the time of Ojibwa occupation of the terri-  
tory were the Yankton Dakota. They were encountered on  
Lake Vermilion by early explorers in the 17th century and  
it is believed they established several trails in northeast  
Minnesota. One of these trails connected Lake Vermilion  
to Minnesota Point on Lake Superior. Campsites along this  
trail could be found at Lake Esquagama and Island Lake.

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## THE PASSING OF AN ANCIENT CULTURE

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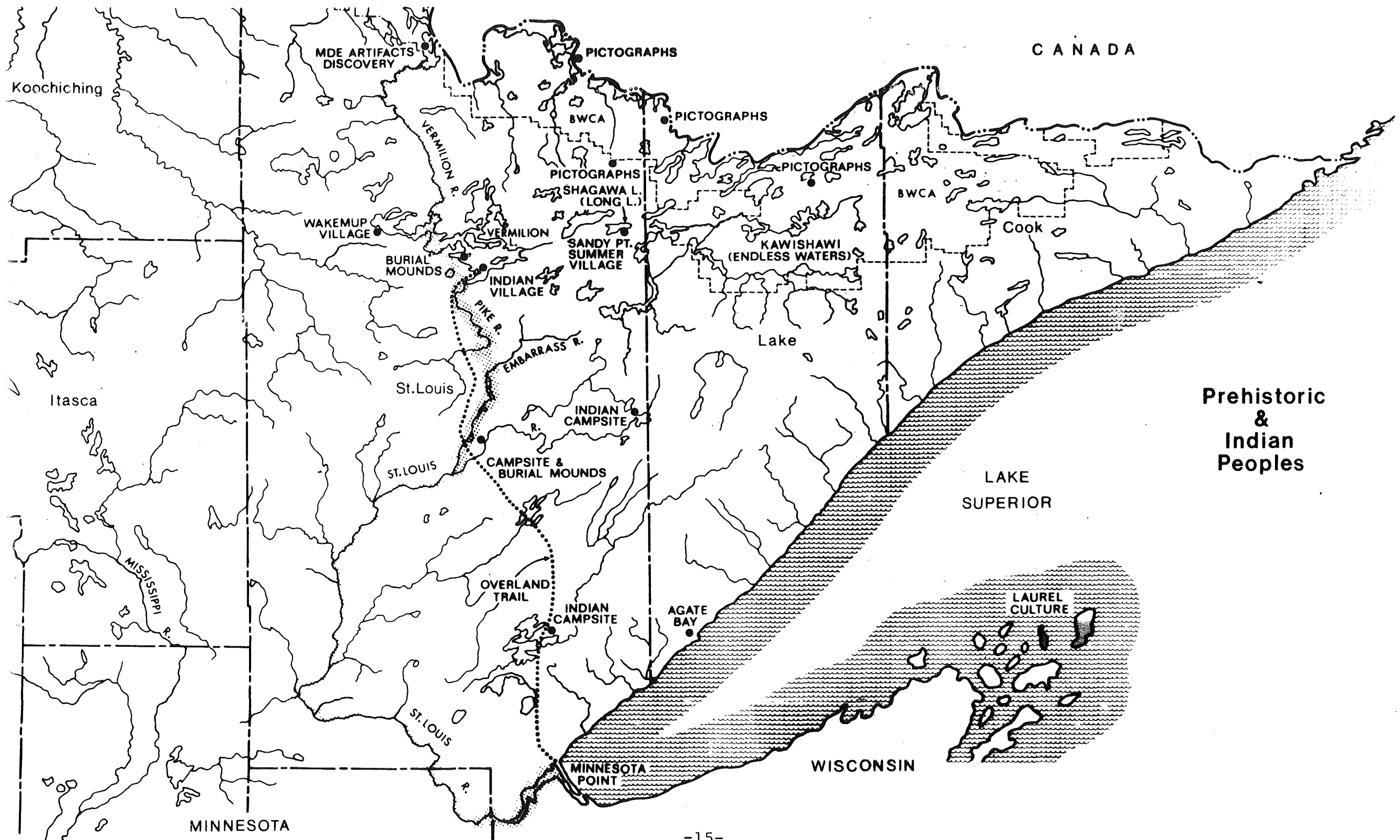
This same trail was used by Ojibwa people and by gold seekers during the Vermilion Gold Rush in 1865-66. Today highway #4 generally follows this same route to Duluth. Arrowheads and dugout canoes found in the area are believed to be of Dakota origin.

In the beginning the Ojibwa served as middlemen in a rapidly growing trade between the Dakota and the French. But after 1730 the French began to trade directly with the Dakota. The bypassed Ojibwa sought alliances with the Cree and Assiniboin people and a long and bitter conflict resulted leading to complete Ojibwa occupation of the region by 1770.

By the 19th century, the Ojibwa people had adapted to an area rich in fish, wild rice, berries, sugar, maple trees and to a lesser extent, game and fur bearing animals. Their culture was rich, diverse and much in harmony with the land on which they lived. Within the seasonal cycle, groups

celebrated events with prayer, ceremony and fasting. These events, or stages, included birth, naming, youth, adolescence, marriage, adulthood and transformation to a life beyond. Ceremony emphasized the importance of this harmony at all times.

Every summer Ojibwa families settled into wigwams on Shagawa Lakes, Sandy Point. Here community gardens were planted with corn, beans, pumpkins and squash. Summer was a time of renewal when the Ojibwa prepared themselves for the long winter ahead. When September came families scattered to build temporary houses on the shores next to their rice fields. A large summer village also existed on Lake Vermilion near Tower. Many lakes and streams in the area retain their Ojibwa name.



**Prehistoric  
&  
Indian  
Peoples**

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### III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERMILION RANGE 1700-1880

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This display stresses cataclysmic change brought about by the emissaries of whiteman's world. Beginning in the 18th century they came in ever increasing numbers--fur traders, gold seekers, mining explorers, lumbermen and developers. The landscape of the Vermilion Range was quickly and permanently changed. Accounts of experiences in this harsh country are powerful and poignant. Lives and fortunes were lost overnight. Forests were cut down and the great iron deposits of the region escalated in value as America emerged into the age of steel. Scattered across the Vermilion Range are the remains of their efforts; shafts driven into quartz formations, test pits, gold diggings, abandoned lumbercamps, long forgotten trading posts and piles of stone.

#### 3A (1) What Was This Great Fuss Over Beaver Pelts?

Against a backdrop of a photographic blow up of the Fond du Lac Fur Post are displayed:

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| ● A metal pot          | ● A flint lock rifle         |
| ● Two steel trade axes | ● Four knives                |
| ● Two handkerchieves   | ● Voyageurs "bill of lading" |

#### Accompanying Script:

"En Roulant"

Voyageurs! With laden canoes they came, bringing with them the precious metal tools and trade goods from Europe. All this they willingly exchanged for the hide of a beaver. Indian people found it difficult to understand why.

But in Europe the rich and famous paid handsomely for hat-felt made from the soft inner hairs of the North American beaver. And the area abounded in beaver. Their dams kept waters high and almost every stream was navigable. It seemed as if the supply was endless in the late years of the 17th century.

But it was not to last and in a few short years the beaver were trapped out and the waters subsided. Only the main river systems of the region remained navigable and quickly became fur transport routes to more remote areas.



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DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERMILION RANGE 1700-1880

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Fur posts and forts were erected to protect the routes and they stood until the early decades of the 19th century as grim reminders of white man's world of trade and finance.

3A (2) This Land Has Been Under Three Flags  
(Three periods to the fur trade);

- French Period : 1650-1763 Company of 100 Associates
- British Period : 1763-1824 Northwest Company  
Hudsons Bay Company
- American Period : 1824-1854 American Fur Co.

The Treaty of LaPointe, 1854, placing Indian people on reservations and marks the official end to the period of the great companies. However, a fur post was maintained by Francois Roussain on Lake Vermilion until the 20th century.

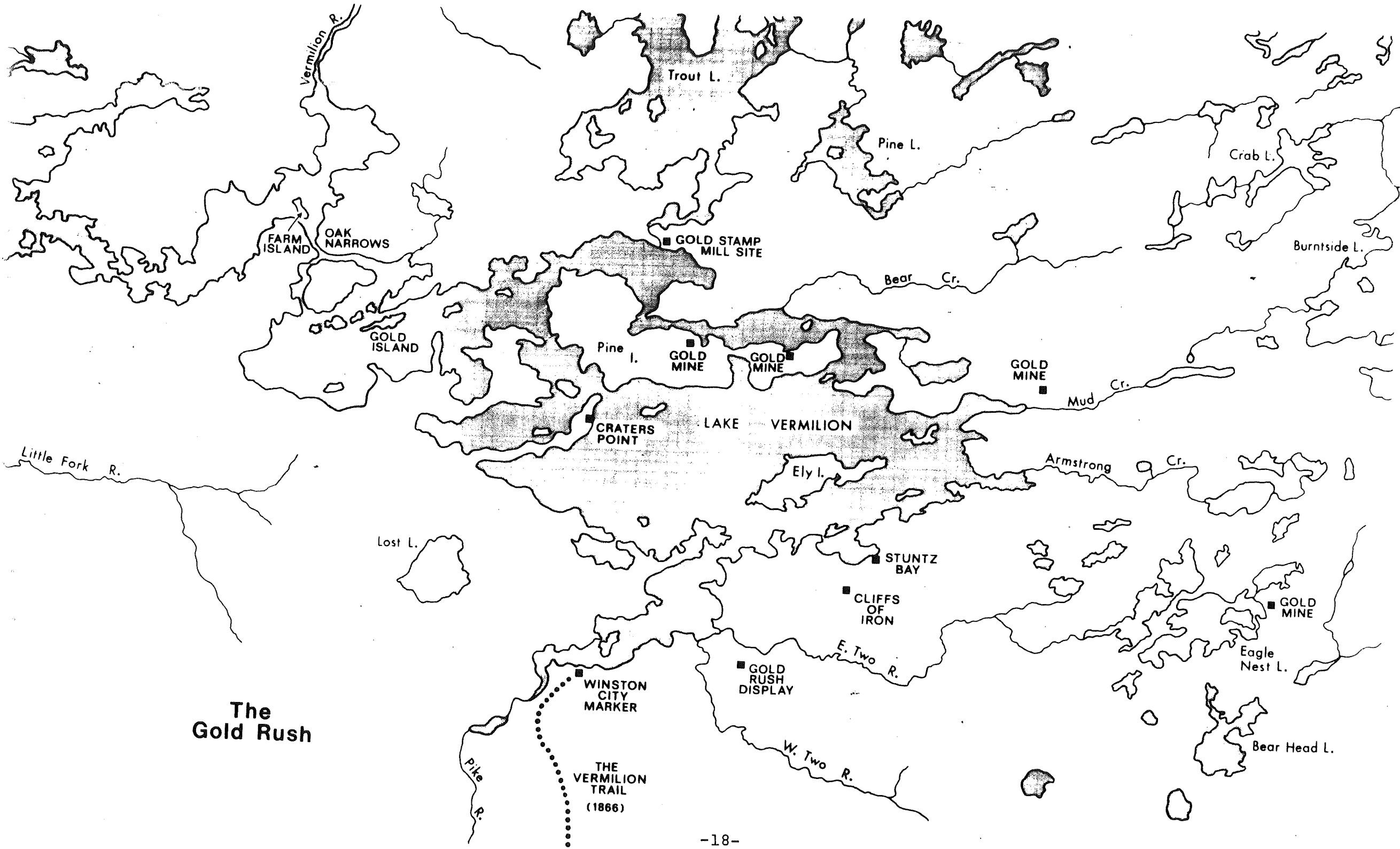
3B (1) The Gold Rush

A fully dressed manikin of a gold seeker stands holding what he hoped would be gold bearing quartz.

Accompanying Script:

Gold! The word like magic rippled through St. Paul's population of 8,000 people in 1865. Henry Eames, Minnesota State Geologist had brought back from Vermilion Lake samples of what he believed to be gold bearing quartz.

The rush was on! Word spread across the nation of a gold strike in Minnesota and thousands left for Lake Vermilion in the dead of winter 1865-66. The first prospectors arrived at the lake in March 1866. Winter ran late and they had time to plot a town---Winston City. In only two months it grew to a place of several saloons, a couple of stores, fourteen hastily erected shacks and a post office. By summer the population of the place approached 500.



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## DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERMILION RANGE 1700-1880

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Then came the bust.

Gold in paying quantities was not to be found. By Christmas 1866, the name of the place was changed to Vermilion City but still no gold was found. The city was abandoned, along with the tools, hopes and dreams of thousands. A marker just east of Tower displays part of a quartz crusher.

Today the remains of this venture can still be seen; a shaft on Pine Island, a mine near Pike Bay, and part of a quartz crusher from a stamp mill dug out from Trout Creek and placed on display outside of Tower. When the towns of Tower and Soudan were established in the 1880's there was so much metal lying about that a special barge was built to pick it up and convert it to nails for the first houses in these communities. These houses still stand.

The Gold Rush had two effects on the region. The cliffs of iron ore that were to become the Soudan mine were discovered and an 84 mile overland route was established to connect Duluth with Lake Vermilion - The Vermilion Trail. The land was now open for development.

### 3B (2) The Gold Rush

Accompanying script for audio (The Gold seeker speaks)

My name is Olaf Norman. My partner Pete Peterson and I were at Lake Vermilion during the Gold Rush. Let me tell you about what happened to us.....

Those were the days when black powder was used in blasting. Pete and I were looking for gold along the banks of Vermilion Lake. We found a nice vein of quartz, charged a hole, and hid to avoid the blast. Nothing happened. After a few minutes we decided to go back and remove the tamping. Just as we got back the powder exploded.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERMILION RANGE 1700-1880

I don't remember much after than. I know we crawled back to our boat and tried to paddle across the lake to where some of our friends were working. Our faces were burned and at first we could hardly see from the blast. But when we got out onto the lake both of us became totally blind. I don't know how long we were out there, but a bad storm came up and blew us against some rocks. Somehow we crawled to shore. We had no idea of where we were. Neither of us could see.

It was then I noticed my arm was broken. I was sure this was the end. The rest is pretty hazy. We wandered around the woods falling and stumbling. We had no food. I became delirious and in this condition saw an Indian handing me some bread. But when I reached out the Indian vanished.

After nine days of this, by some miracle, our friends found us. We were tied to stretchers and hauled back along the Vermilion Trail to Duluth--84 miles. We lived, but let me tell you, I'd never go back there again.

3C "Nothing But Iron in Site"

A panel of photographic blow-ups of prominent explorers and developers of the Vermilion Range.

- Photographs    George Stuntz    Edward Breitung  
                  Albert Chester    Elisha Morcom  
                  George Stone    Charlemagne Tower
- Artifacts    hand drill    chisel    Surveyors compass  
                  hand compass    pack sack    pick  
                  heavy sledgehammer

3C (1) Accompanying Script

George Stuntz: George Stuntz (1820-1902) Duluth explorer.  
  
Nobody knew Vermilion Range country like George. Stunz Bay on Lake Vermilion is named for him.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERMILION RANGE 1700-1880

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George Stone: George Stone (1822-1900) First man to bring the story of the rich deposits of iron on the Vermilion to Charlemagne Tower.

Edward Breitung: Edward Breitung (1831-1887) His investments helped develop Vermilion iron mining. The Tower-Soudan Township is named Breitung in his honor.

Charlemagne Tower: Charlemagne Tower (1809-1899) Eastern capitalist who founded the Minnesota Iron Mining Company and built the D. and I.R. Railroad to Lake Superior. The City of Tower is one of five in the nation named in his honor.

Albert Chester: Albert Chester (1843-1903) Noted mineralogist who led two expeditions to the area in 1875 and 1880. The findings led to large investments and the opening of the Soudan Mine in 1882.

Elisha Morcom: Elisha Morcom (1835-1908) Cornish Mining Captain who developed the Soudan Mine.

C2 Accompanying Audio Script for Displays:

Narrator: George Stuntz who spent a great deal of time exploring the region for iron was once quoted as saying of the region around Soudan.....

George Stuntz: "When this country is developed, it's that big mountain of iron I saw that will do it. It was a magnificent sight. Nature had done all the mining and all that is necessary is to break up the formation, and tons of rich hematite will be ready for the shipping!"

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERMILION RANGE 1700-1880

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Narrator: He was right. Great investments were made and mining was begun in the Soudan district in 1882. Using black powder, hand drills, chisels and sledges like the ones you see before you, the hard formation of Soudan was broken up by "the best hard rock miners assembled in one place".

It was estimated that there was enough ore at the surface to pay for the building of a railroad. They were wrong. The D & IR Railroad cost twice as much to build, but by then everyone could see that the ore formation was much larger than any one dreamed. Underground mining was under-way by 1886.

In that same year great iron strikes at the Pioneer and Chandler brought a railroad spur to the Ely area and soon the East Vermilion surpassed Soudan in production.

Change was everywhere. The forests were cut down to bring timbers into the mines and miners and laborers by the thousands swarmed to the region.

The land would never be the same again.

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#### IV. FRONTIER TOWN EXHIBIT

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On a stage of four specific display areas are set the artifacts of Ely's past.

4A An underground scene from the Chandler Mine displaying artifacts from underground mining in 1900. (Sublevel caving system)

Artifacts: (All from the Chandler Mine)

- Timbers
- Timbering axe
- Drill (1900 vintage)
- Miners hats
- Miners wet clothes
- Picks
- Hand tram car
- Railroad lamps
- Rails
- Blasting materials
- Carbide lamp
- Pump
- Cedar lagging
- Hematite ore from the site
- Miners boots
- Lunch pack
- Other assorted artifacts

4B Drug Store: Interior of an early 20th century Ely Drug Store with counter, shelves, clock on wall, and other typical furnishings of the period.

Available artifacts:

- Candy jars
- 240 assorted drug bottles and containers
- Clock from early Ely Drug Store
- Soft drink bottles: Iron Range Bottling Companies
  - Aurora      --Duluth      --Gilbert
  - Ely          --Biwabik      --Mountain Iron
  - Tower       --Sparta       --Two Harbors
  - Virginia    --Eveleth
- Drug store counter
- Various advertisements and signs

4C General Store: Interior of early 20th century general store in

Available artifacts:

- 18 different kinds of canning jars
- Large coal burning stove
- Store counter
- Scales
- Clock for wall
- Assorted clothing
- Assorted signs and advertising
- Two oak barrels
- Dry goods containers
- Assorted fruit boxes
- Shelving from Ely General Store
- String to be hung from ceiling
- Assorted collection of artifacts
- Large collection of hats
- Large collection of shoes
- Assorted photographs

4D Frontier Kitchen: Interior of a typical kitchen for homes of early 20th century Ely miners.

Available artifacts:

- Large collection of cooking utensils
- Wood burning cook stove
- Table
- Kitchen cupboard
- Curtains
- Carpet
- Four kitchen chairs
- Ice tongs
- Wood box
- Various kitchen items
- Door to early Ely kitchen
- Canning jars

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## FRONTIER TOWN EXHIBIT

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These displays can be changed and the setting to a variety of other displays. These can include a living room, mine office, lumber camp, sawmill office, boarding house, hardware store, candy store, and saloon. All artifacts for these displays are available from local sources.

### Accompanying Script:

With the development of the Chandler, Pioneer and other area mines, houses sprang up in the present site of Ely. The ease of mining in the area attracted thousands and Ely quickly rivaled Tower as the largest community north of Duluth. By 1895 it boasted three good hotels, a newspaper, a busy railroad station, a hospital and a bank. Austrians, Finns and Eastern Europeans swarmed to the new town in the wilderness.

Early Ely was a place of mud streets, saloons, false front shops, stores, hotels, gambling halls, China laundries, greasy spoons, all fronted with hitching posts for horses.

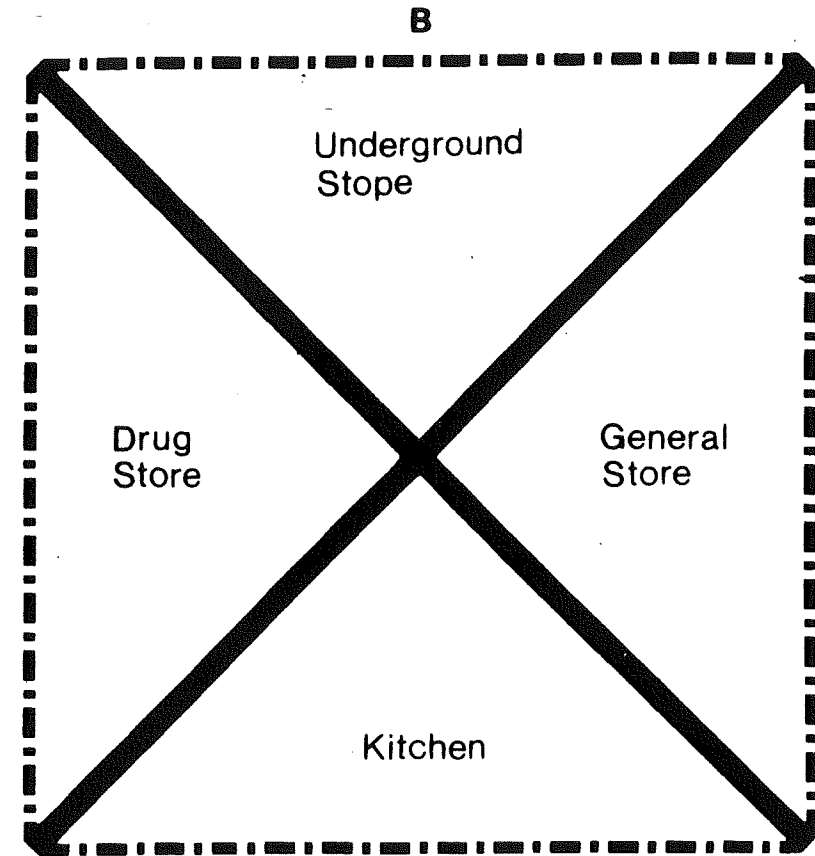
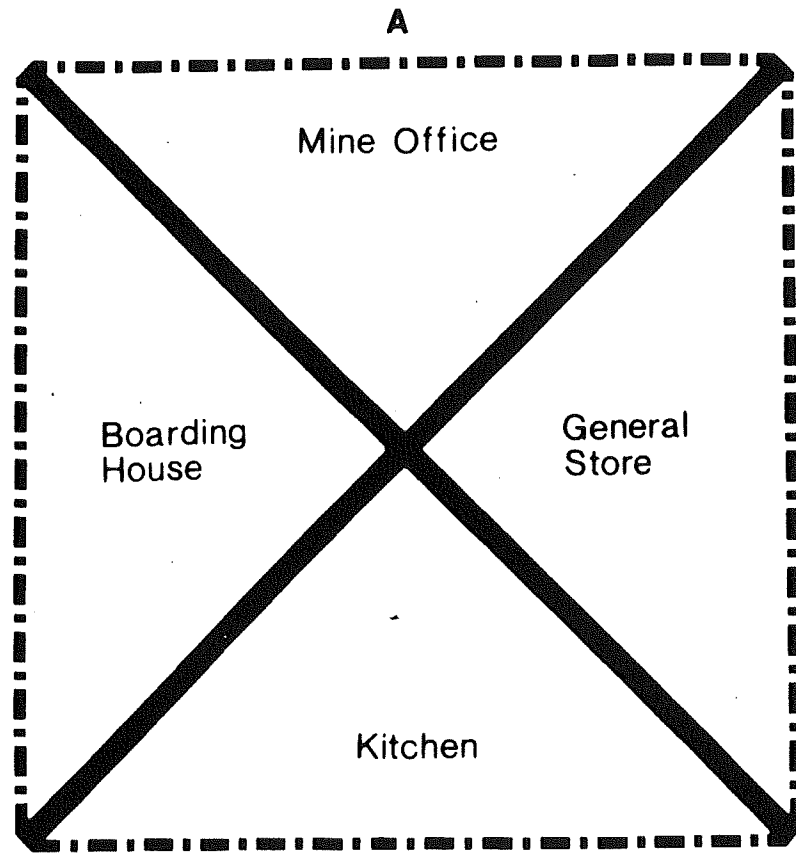
Mrs. Vida Squire James, second grade teacher, described her first day in Ely:

"The next morning...I looked out the window. Such a contrast to what I had been used to greeted my eyes. Instead of rolling hills, cultivated farms, and beautiful maple trees, I saw log cabins, large boulders, winding paths, and a mining shaft house appearing above the dark pointed top trees. Paths led from house to house around stumps and large boulders. I knew I was at the end of the railroad, but I felt that I was at the end of the world.

Join us now in our visual presentations of Pioneer Ely.



# FRONTIER LIFE INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY



## VARIATIONS

- Underground Stope
- Mine Office
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- General Store

- Saloon
- Boarding House
- Blacksmith Shop
- Drug Store
- Hospital

- School Room
- Hardware Store
- Hotel
- Candy Store

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## V. JACKS AND MINERS

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This is a two sided panel featuring blow-ups of photographs of miners and lumberjacks. Photographs are to be selected from Lee Brownell's nationally recognized collection of photographs. All photographs are to be blown up life size and much can be read into close looks at miner's and lumberjack's faces.

### Accompanying Script

#### 5A Jacks:

The days of the great drives, swampers, road monkeys, sawyers and jacks are over now. But the struggles and traditions of the Vermilion's lumbering era are deeply rooted in the hearts of its people.

From 1890 to 1920 the great lumber companies, Swallow and Hopkins, St. Croix, Trout Lake, Vermilion and Rainy Lake, sent thousands into the timberlands. Much has been made of the brawny lumberjack felling giant trees, telling tall tales and hitting the saloons of Tower and Ely at the end of the season. This romantic image sometimes glosses over the hardships endured by these men.

See here these faces and think of the bitter winters, the muddy springs, the swarms of mosquitoes and gnats, the lice, the aching shoulders and cold dawns in this lonesome land. Think too of the loved ones who waited for their return at the end of each season. For such heroics these men received thirty dollars a month, a blanket, and a colorful place in the folk history of northeastern Minnesota.

#### 5B Miners:

Conditions were not exactly hell in the mines as has so often been said, but at least on one occasion rumor had it that the devil himself was down in the Chandler! Captain Pengilly, prominent mining captain at the mine, was quick to squelch the rumor by telling his crews the devil was dead, and if he had seen the gentleman down there, he would have assigned him a number and put him to work.

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## JACK AND MINERS

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They came from Michigan, Cornwall, Canada, Finland, Sweden and Austria to find a place in the mines of Soudan, Ely and Section 30. They did their own drilling, they did their own blasting and they did their own mucking. They got paid for only what they did. At the end of the month the number of cars of ore they took out was counted and pay determined in that basis. The Finns were noted for their axe skills in cutting and setting up timbers in the mine. These timbers held back the heavy ores during mining and blasting. It has been said that timbering was more than an art. As one miner put it, "You don't blast against the side of a log cabin".

One thing about underground mining: You don't really know what's above you. You don't know if there's water up there. You don't know...

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## WOMEN ON THE FRONTIER:

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is exhibit is designed to be a major attraction within the Center. There is no place in the land where women's influence was felt more keenly than in the remote and old mining camps and lumber towns of Minnesota. They fought with them the settling, comforting, steadying and of permanence and their lifestyle was as demanding as any women have had to face. Here powerfully told from a woman's point of view is their story.

The exhibit is designed around ten mini-themes with accompanying photo-blowups. A self activated two minute audio program ties the themes together. Along with this self activated sound-slide production portrays a week in the life of a miner's wife in early Ely.

### Ten Mini-Themes:

- Catherine Ely, Missionary
- Families
- The Hard Life
- Boarding Houses
- Have We Passed America in the Night?
- The Arrival
- Those Early Teachers
- Comforting Hand of Care
- Ely Mother's Club
- The Changing Role

### Basic Components

- Three Display Cases
- One Tape Recorder with Speaker
- Panels for Mini-themes
- 

### 6C Artifacts to be Displayed:

- Four Handwritten Letters to England
- Diary of a Young Girl
- Collection of Hats
- Series of News Clippings From Early Ely
- Selection of Women's Clothing
- Two Family Albums

### 6A1. Accompanying Script for Ten Mini-Themes

#### TITLE: WOMEN ON THE FRONTIER

- Catherine Ely, Missionary:

Fond Du Lac Mission, 1835: It is a warm April day. Catherine Ely is in the cabin built by her husband, Edmund. In blood and heritage, she is a woman of two worlds---Indian and White. For months an uncertain atmosphere of hostility has prevailed between these worlds. Suddenly the door to her cabin bursts open, and in walks a young man named Bezhikognobie. They speak in Ojibwa. He demands potatoes. She refuses. On leaving the young man locks the door and hides the key. Catherine forces open the lock, confronts Bezhikognobie and gets back the key. Angered, the man stabs her dog, killing him on the spot. Undaunted, Catherine demands and receives an apology. The Ojibwa community supports her and the young man leaves the settlement.

- Families

St. Patricks Day, 1884: Horsedrawn open sleighs stop abruptly in front of two rows of newly built houses at Breitung location. For three days the strange convoy has been making its way along the 84 mile Vermilion Trail from Duluth to the Minnesota mines. Mrs. Henry Kellow climbs out of her sleigh and surveys the new town. Houses all alike, open hillsides of stumps and rocks, gray crusted snow and a raw wind blowing present a dismal and lonely scene. Mrs. Williams calls to her. They laugh. Hopes are high. Families have come to the Vermilion Range.

- The Hard Life

Ely, 1895: Amid an array of false fronted saloons bearing such ominous titles as "The Bucket of Blood", "The Arcade", and the "Chippy House" are similar looking structures with more feminine titles; "Maggies", "Daisy's", and "Bessies Place". However, few women are ever seen entering or leaving these places for they are the bawdy houses of old Ely. Not only are these places very much accepted by their mining and lumbering clientel, --they are an integral part of the established order. Although prohibited by town

ordinance, prostitutes contribute heavily to the town treasury by allowing themselves to be arrested at the first of each month, and paying \$100.00 fines. Thanks to the prostitutes, a great amount of street improvement and law enforcement receives financial support.

- Boarding Houses

Ely, 1906: Anna, a girl of 17 has recently arrived in Ely from Austria to work in the boarding house run by her brother and his wife. She can't believe the number of men her brother has been able to pack into the simple frame building he calls a boarding house. The beds are never cold. Four men are assigned to each of the eight double beds in the place and when one shift leaves for work in the mine, another replaces it. She has 22 men to care for and must rise each morning at 5:00 A.M. to grind the coffee and prepare the bacon, eggs, and pancakes for the men going to work. Then follows the packing of lunch pails with the usual two porkchops, home baked bread, coffee and occasionally a strange looking pie of potatoes, meat and onions called a pasty. As soon as the men are gone she sets the

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## WOMEN ON THE FRONTIER

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bread for the day and begins to prepare the evening meal. She seldom has any money, because she must pay her brother back for the cost of her fare to America. Sometimes she is allowed to keep some of the money earned from selling beer to the men at 10¢ a quart. She longs for the day that she can find a man to marry.

### ● Have We Passed America In the Night?

Mary Hill had heard much about America in her native land of Finland. In America there was wealth and plenty, and the streets were lined with gold. When the morning train stopped at Ely Station, she gazed at the window of streets of mud sand stumps, on which trudged an army of miners, their faces covered with red ore dust so that one was indistinguishable from another.

"Oh mother", she said. "Have we passed America in the night?"

### ● The Arrival

"She knelt on the floor beside her open trunk, arranging the folds of the silken brown dress she had worn for her arrival in Ely. Her head suddenly went down on her arm, her whole body shaken with grief, crying and sobbing as if her heart were breaking. I tried to comfort her, tried to disengage her fingers from the beautiful lace to which she clung, crumpled and pressed to her cheek and wet now with tears. Kissing her fervently, I coaxed, "Don't cry Mamma, don't cry! I'll ask Papa to take you back to Milwaukee!" With a wild "No! No!" she flung her arms around me. "No! No! You must never tell Papa! Never!"

### ● Teachers

From the beginning the major responsibility for education on the Vermilion Range was assumed by women. Ella Wilson was principal and teacher for all ages when the school first opened in Ely in January, 1889. Kate Sevelting, Mary Kinny, and Alvina Morcom held similar positions

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## WOMEN ON THE FRONTIER

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in the Tower-Soudan School District. Tower had 28 teachers in its system in 1920. Twenty-three of them were women. They were expected to conform to a strict code of rules. The Ely school district expected its teachers to be "honest and temperate in all habits". A teacher was not to keep irregular hours or permit her social life to deprive her of the proper amount of rest needed to perform her duties. For all their long hours of work, women teachers in Ely in 1920, received \$125.00 a month for a school year of nine and a half months. Men doing the same work received \$209.00 a month.

### ● The Comforting Hand of Care

Eva was working in her garden when the labor pains started. She was frightened. Her husband Helmer was on day shift at the Chandler and at work far below the ground. The one room building which served as their home was located only a short distance from the fine Shipman Hospital, but this

gave her little comfort because she knew there were no facilities for her there. Mrs. Leino, her neighbor, saw her distress and called to her daughter who was washing clothes.

"Quick! Go get Mrs. Pruukki. I think Eva is about to have her baby!"

The delivery was made on the kitchen table in the one room miner's hut. Eva fears and vanished as soon as she saw Mrs. Pruukki. She remembered neighbor ladies bringing in hot water and towels and the midwives' sharp voice shouting, "Scream! Push! You've got a baby in there, not a pea in a pod!"

It was a fine boy. His name would be Arne.

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## WOMEN ON THE FPONTIER

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- Ely Mother's Club

The Ely Mother's Club was organized in 1909 to "promote a better understanding of the school, and to foster closer fellowship among members so that teacher and mother may work together more harmoniously." Founded by Lillian Schaefer, Greta Ellefsen and and Anna Leino, the club was not only active in promoting better education but also helped area poor with clothes, food, glasses and even cash. To raise money, this organization made up entirely of women, put on talent shows, public dances and appealed to local businessmen for support. In 1922 the club sponsored the first baby clinic in the Ely area. There was no organization in the area that did more public service, or more to bring together the different nationalities on the Vermilion Range. Its membership role contained the names of women from all walks of life.

- A Changing Role

The rate of change in today's society has been discussed by many and accepted by all. Yet few are aware of the increasing acceleration of this rate of change and the effect it has had on the position of women. A rather startling fact illustrates this. A woman today in her mid-fifties was born in the middle of human history. As much has happened since she was born as has happened before. Thus, women today face the challenges of the present with feelings rooted deeply in the traditions of the past.

It is clear that women have had an experience in this region that is unique to them and vital to an understanding of the history of America. That their roles are changing is an understatement. They have been and are still changing at an ever increasing rate. The direction is clear. Women are helping to create a new society of equal participation, equal opportunity to create and equal recognition. The anonymity of the past is gone forever.



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## WOMEN ON THE FRONTIER

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### 6A2 Self Activated Audio

Much has been made of the ingenuity and foresite of the men who developed the Vermilion Range. But how much is known about Hester Crooks Boutwell or Catherine Ely who accompanied their missionary husbands to the Fond du Lac mission in 1843; or Dr. Andrea Hall, immigrant girl from Norway who came to Minnesota at 15, earned a previously unheard of Medical Degree of the University of Minnesota and practical medicine on the Iron Range?

From the very beginning women have made their influence felt in the region and their accomplishments are many. Their courage is unsurpassed. When the oldest of the four Sipola sisters of Soudan was only 14, their mother died of cancer. They managed the household, finished high school and alternately supported each other until all four earned teaching degrees. Elsie Patterson, Tower nurse, delivered babies on dining room tables in Vermilion

Range homes, while Mrs. Nels Johnson crossed Vermilion Lake with a cook stove, two cows, a calf and half a dozen chickens to join her husband in their new wilderness homestead.

Women have been active and influential in all aspects of life and brought to this frontier the settling, comforting and steadying hand of permanence, though their lifestyle was as demanding as any women have had to face. The rough pioneer days are over, the trails have been cut, the schools and churches are established, and the nationalities have blended. Times have changed.

Today the material world appears to offer all the comfort and convenience one could wish for---but deep within women of today are feelings rooted in this past. And change continues.....

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WOMEN ON THE FRONTIER

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6B Accompanying Script: Sound-slide Production

"A Miner's Wife"

Monday: It is washday and it doesn't matter what the weather is like. It's up before sunrise and clothes on the line before eleven o'clock. Everyone knows a late wash is the sign of a lazy and shiftless woman. The white clothes are boiled in a large copper boiler while the rest is rubbed on a wash board and put through a hand wringer. It's 10:30 A.M., the wash is on the line and the house is spick and span. A visitor to this house will find it hard to believe that a large wash has been done today. It's time now to prepare the big noon meal.

Tuesday: It's ironing today. The fresh clothes are carried into the house in baskets, sod irons are heated on the woodstove and ironing begins. It is important to get an early start on this because the house gets too warm from the heat of the stove. Besides there are other chores for the day, the noon meal, washing dishes, straight-

ening up the house and spending some time with the children.

Wednesday: Today is mending and darning day. Bottoms always have the habit of falling off and have to be re-sewn. Nothing can be wasted. Socks have to be darned and clothing made over so that they can be used by the smaller children. A good wife is a frugal person.

Thursday: Today is baking day. Lucky for this housewife that she has a small family, otherwise baking would have to be done twice a week. The bread dough must be mixed and put to rise while the oven is being heated to just the right temperature. By the time the kids are coming home from school, they are greeted with the aroma of fresh baked bread. There will be a big treat waiting inside the house: a slab of fresh baked bread with butter and sugar on it. Nothing could be better. The house is still hot from the cookstove. They hardly notice how tired mother looks today.

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## WOMEN ON THE FRONTIER

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Friday: It's shopping day. Groceries are needed and special items are needed for the big Sunday dinner. It is a pleasant walk to the downtown grocery store, women exchange greetings and local gossip is exchanged. The clerk is pleasant and piles the ordered groceries on the counter. A large pork roast is purchased at the meat market. Then follows a leisurely walk home with no bundles to carry because both the grocery store and the meat market have a delivery system to bring the goods right to the kitchen.

Saturday: The house must be prepared for Sunday. Every room receives a thorough cleaning and all wooden furniture is dusted and polished. The wooden floors are scrubbed on hands and knees until they are so clean you could eat off them. A good housewife is never satisfied until her kitchen floor is as white as the driven snow.

Sunday: The morning is spent in church. Everyone dresses up and father puts on this Sunday suit. The sermon stresses the everlasting love of the Father in Heaven. Immediately upon returning home preparation must be made for the Sunday dinner. It is by far the best meal of the week. A good wife is always able to put together a feast on Sunday afternoon. As soon as the dishes have been washed it's time for Sunday calling. Today, Uncle Fred and his family will be calling. Talk centers around the latest gossip of the day and those who are less fortunate. The visit continues until after the kerosene lamps are lit. It's time to go to bed. Tomorrow is wash day.

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## VII. ELY REMEMBERS

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This space provides a display area for changing exhibits portraying a variety of human experiences on the Vermilion Range. It is to be completely flexible allowing opportunities for college design students, local artists, the Ely-Winton Historical Society and talented area people to combine efforts in planning and presenting artistic presentations of life experiences in the area.

### Display Elements:

- Large wall mural of Ely street scene with graphics.
- One large removable wall display case.
- One large removable floor display case.

### These Examples:

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● Those Hat Stores             | ● Our Pioneers                 |
| ● What It Was Like Underground | ● Homesteading in a Wilderness |
| ● The Great Log Drives         | ● Our Fire Department          |
| ● Our Schools                  | ● Our 4th of Julys             |
| ● Winter Sliding Ramps         | ● Winton                       |
| ● Spaulding                    | ● The Swallow and Hopkins Mill |
| ● Section 30, A Ghost Town     | ● Sigurd Olson                 |

### Script: Graphic for Wall Mural:

- ELY REMEMBERS

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## VIII. THE ENVIRONMENT

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One of the more poignant aspects of the Vermilion Range is the environment. There are few places in the nation where development in this case, mining, contrasts so sharply with the natural setting. Piles of rubble, the gigantic Chandler Pit, rusting metal, and the concrete and stone engine houses of the Savoy and Section 30 mines are set in a scene of pines and clear lakes. Blistering summers and arctic-like winters are part of the way of life in Ely, and controversies rage over usage of the nearby wilderness region.

This space is designed as a mini-theater to present a series of presentation featuring the environment and environmental issues. Each presentation should be designed so that it can be presented for a three to six month period and then replaced with another show.

It is recommended that the basic elements for the mini-theater be designed into a unit that will provide for good viewing for an audience of nine and sound be focussed into the area so that it cannot be heard unless the viewer is seated in the theater.

### Basic elements:

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Projection booth        | ● Two Special Speakers |
| ● 35 mm Projector         | ● Nine Backless Seats  |
| ● 16mm Sound Projector    | ● Screen               |
| ● Acoustic Control Panels | ● Tape Player          |

All productions shown in the mini-theater should run approximately 8-12 minutes, with no more than three showings per hour.

### Some Suggested Themes:

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Winter                   | ● Copper-Nickel        |
| ● The BWCA                 | ● The Wilderness       |
| ● Minerals and Human Needs | ● Recreation and Rules |
| ● Government and People    | ● Lumbering in BWCA    |

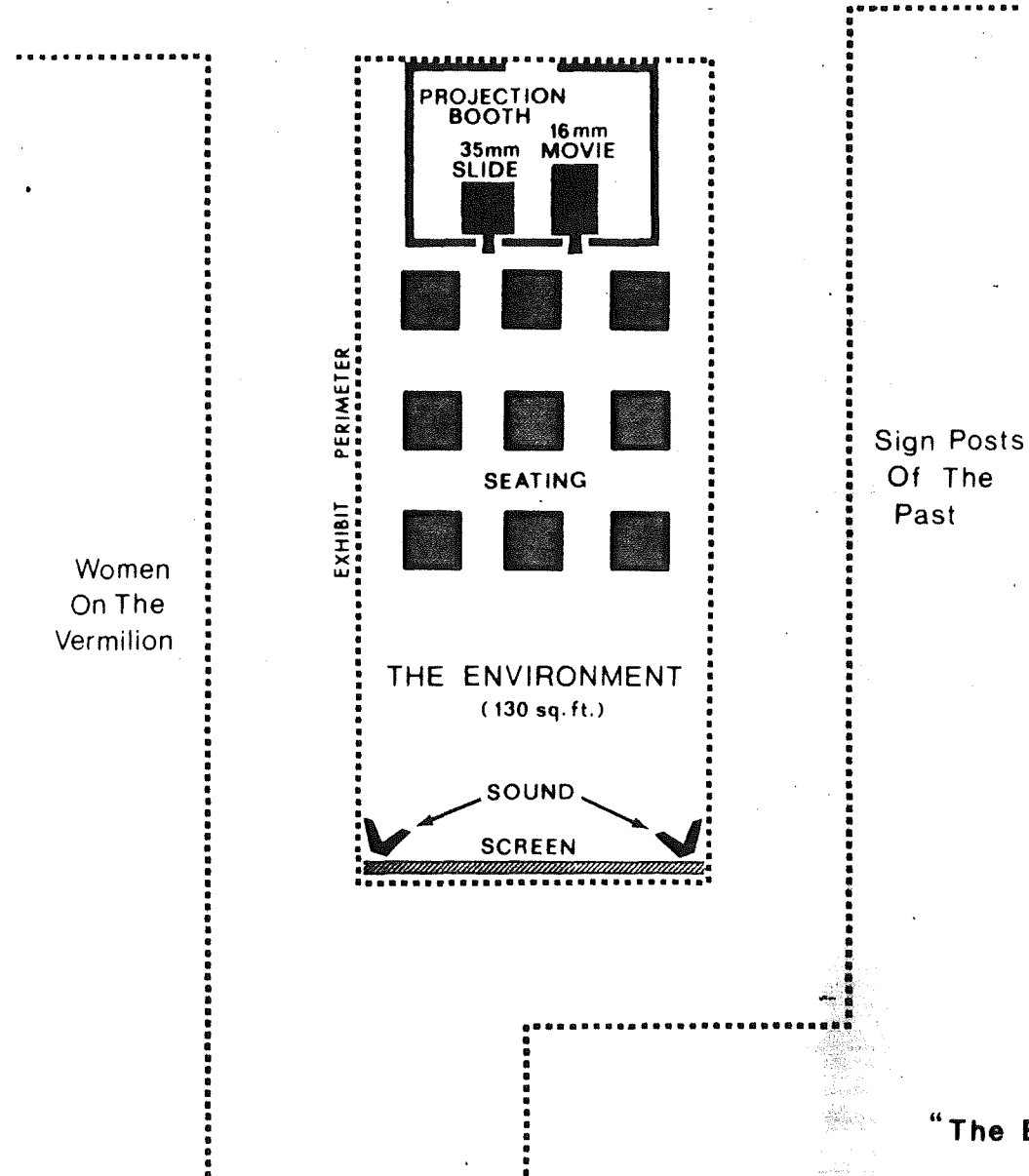
It is recommended that the first production be professionally done and of very high quality. The first program should be "Winter". People from outside the area are fascinated with the idea of a winter where the snow is dry and the temperature never rises above freezing for months on end. Their visits to the area are mostly in summer and this is a good way to promote winter activities in the area.

A professional film producer is needed to write and produce an eight minute sound-slide production on this theme. The final product will be unique to the Center and a model for future efforts on the environment.

### Script: The script should cover the following:

- Visual impressions of winter in natural settings
- Visual impressions of winter in town
- Ice fishing
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoing
- Ely Sled Dog Races

Ely Remembers



"The Environment" Exhibit

VERMILION CULTURAL AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER

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## IX. SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST:

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Two large colorful wall display maps with accompanying photos and audio encoverage viewers to explore the town and region. Walking tours and organized motorbus trips begin here. Counter space in front of the wall displays provides the opportunity to distribute advertisements, flyers and other materials describing tours and things to see while in Ely. A small sales area at the end of the counter near the east exit provides an outlet for local art work and publications.

### 9A Walk Through Old Ely

A large 7' X 12' wall map, with illustrations, outlines a suggested walking tour of the town. The following places of interest are included in the tour.

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ● Ely Chamber of Commerce          | ● Shagawa Hotel               |
| ● Pillow Rock                      | ● Asa Camp House              |
| ● Spaulding-Ghost Town             | ● Old Shipman Drug Dispensary |
| ● Sandy Point Indian Camp          | ● Holmes House                |
| ● Pioneer Mine Headframe and Stack | ● Mine Captain's House        |
| ● Chandler Location                | ● Finnish Stock Co. Bldg.     |
| ● Old Ely Railroad Station         | ● Carpenter-Tanner Hospital   |

### 9B Vermilion Range Tour

A large 7' X 12' wall map with illustrations identifies sites of cultural and historical significance on the Vermilion Range. Included in the tour are:

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ● Section 30-Ghost Town        | ● North America Mine Site           |
| ● Swallow and Hopkins Millsite | ● Mystery of Lee Hill Mine          |
| ● Historic Winton              | ● Breitung Location                 |
| ● Savoy Engine House           | ● Old Soudan                        |
| ● Zenith Mine Ruins            | ● Fire Engine House-Tower           |
| ● McComber Mine Site           | ● Iron Range Brewery                |
| ● Mud Creek Mine Disaster      | ● Tower-Soudan Museum               |
| ● Soudan Underground Mine Park | ● McKinley Monument                 |
| ● Jasper Peak                  | ● Winston City                      |
| ● Pike Bay Mounds              | ● Vermilion Lake Indian Reservation |

9C Counter: Made of attractive wood and of standard height and width, 14 feet long.

9D Sales Area: Display counter--cash register--book shelves

### Accompanying Script -- 9A Walk Through Old Ely

- Ely Chamber of Commerce Building: Here is one of the most photogenic buildings in Ely. Built of pine logs, it was once part of the Quetico Research Center on Basswood Lake. In 1975 the structure was dismantled log-by-log and reassembled on the spot on which it now stands. It is typical of many structures which once existed in the area.

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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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- Pillow Rock: See an outcropping of greenstone, the oldest rock in the world. The formation's age is estimated to be well over two billion years. Long before there was life on this planet, its "pillowed" structure was formed by lava solidifying under the primeval sea. Many of the drifts and shafts of nearby mines run through this same kind of rock.

- Spaulding: This is a ghost town. The first businesses of Ely had their start here. When mining became active after 1886, buildings were removed to the site of Ely's present business district. Old Foundations can still be seen.

- Sandy Point: Indian people built summer villages here for centuries. During the first years of Ely's existence wigwams and teepees were a common sight.

- Pioneer Mine Headframe and Stack: Here stand the remains of one of the oldest iron mines in Minnesota. See the tall brick stack from the engine house which once raised ore to the surface by steam power. The headframe, dryhouse, and red brick engine house standing nearby are some of the last remnants of underground mining on the East-Vermilion Mining District.

- Chander Location: Underground miners once built their houses on company land in this area. It is typical of many company towns which once existed on the Vermilion Range. For many years city water lines did not reach the area and outside toilets were a common sight. The location today remains a cluster of houses on twisting streets and hilly terrain.

- Ely Railroad Station: It is said that during Ely's wild earlier years the Sunday morning train arriving at the depot always ran over a body or two. This was once Ely's



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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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busiest place, as a stream of trains were constantly arriving and leaving. It was from here that many recent arrivals from Europe had their first look at Frontier Ely.

- Shagawa Hotel: Originally Turf Hall, dances were held regularly upstairs. Bergland's store was in the lower portion. The building also once served as headquarters for the St. Louis County Fourth District and at one time was the Forest Service headquarters. It has been a coal company office, a saloon, and is still a liquor store and hotel.

- Asa Camp House: This is the oldest house in Ely. Asa Camp came from Cornwall, England in 1886. He was involved in the opening of the Chandler, Zenith and Sibley underground mines, and was one of many from Cornwall who came to the mines of the area. It has been said, "Where ever you have a hole in the ground, you find a Cornishman". In later years Camp made a reputation for himself in local politics.

- Shipman Drug Dispensary: Here is one of Ely's oldest businesses. Shipman was an earlier pioneer who in 1886, had to walk into town because the railroad was not yet completed. He constructed the building in 1895 as a hospital and drug dispensary. Later his partner, Fred B. James, bought him out and changed the building into a drugstore. It still serves this purpose today.

- Holmes House: Holmes was a contractor. To some people of the time, a brick house was a status symbol; brick was also thought to be more fire proof. Fire was a constant danger in early Ely. Holmes was a fireman, which meant he was not only a member of a firefighting organization, but also a member of an elite and discriminating social club.

- Mine Captain's House: This home is symbolic of a tradition on the range, a fine home for the captain or superintendent of a mine. Ben Richards was the last superintendent of the Zenith Mine. The company had built this house as a residence for its superintendents and when the mine closed Captain Richards purchased it.

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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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- Finnish Stock Company Building: In 1912, the Ely-Finnish Stock Company moved into this building. It sold foodstuff, dry goods, clothing and all other articles except meat. It raised its original capital by selling shares of stock, hence, the name "Stock Company".
- Carpenter-Tanner Hospital: Here is one of the more unusual buildings in Ely. Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, this structure is not only unique for its architecture but for its history. Dr. Jenterro Ferdinand Tanner was a noted physician, lecturer, and activist in promoting human rights. In 1903, he designed and built this remarkable building as a hospital. It was described in 1909 as the most advanced hospital facility of its size in Minnesota.

### Accompanying Script: 9B Vermilion Range Tour:

- Section 30 Ghost Town: Walk through the remains of a mine and ghost town of World War I vintage. Only a few buildings of the once active mining town still stand, but a walk through the area is spectacular. Natural growths of pine and birch have reclaimed the area and a breathtaking view of the manmade canyon, the ruins of the engine house and many deep pools of clear water make a visit to the place well worth the effort.
- Swallow and Hopkins Millsite: In 1914, a major industry was established in the area, the Swallow and Hopkins sawmill. Providing employment for over two hundred workers on the site, the mill was equipped with two board saws and operated both a lath and box department. At its height, its logging department employed almost a thousand lumberjacks at five camps. The company also built a railroad at four mile portage, hoisting logs from Basswood Lake and transporting them to Fall Lake where they were pulled

# LAKE

## Rocky Bay



Shagawa

River

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## ABSTRACT

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**Abstract**

**Nature Trail**

VERMILION  
CULTURAL &  
INTERPRETIVE  
CENTER

VOYAGEUR  
VISITOR  
CENTER

**N**

CITY LIMITS

ISABELLA ↓

- 43 -

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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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by tugboat to Winton. The mill has vanished, but a walk through the area reveals many interesting remnants of this past.

- Historic Winton: The peninsula on Fall Lake, on which Winton is located, was a lumberman's dream: A lake seven miles long surrounded by great stands of white pine. It's population grew from 100 lumberjacks and sawmill hands to a lumber town of 600 in 1900, known as Knox's Mill. Its name was changed to Winton to honor the marriage of the millowner's daughter to a certain Mr. Winton of Chicago. In that same year, its population peaked at 2,000 people with two major sawmills in operation; the St. Croix Mill and the Swallow and Hopkins mill. The town was noted for its huge wood buildings including the St. Croix Hall and a number of fine residences. A few of these old residences can still be seen today.

- Savoy Engine House: The large concrete and stone engine house of the Savoy Mine still stands amid growths of tag elder and trees. Operated by the Oliver Mining Company, the Savoy Mine shipped close to two million tons of hematite ore between 1899-1916. In those days, mining companies put a great deal of effort into construction of surface buildings. Structures such as this housed huge Cornish made pumps which extracted water from the mines. Its appearance is similar to many seen in Europe and in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

- Zenith Mine Ruins: An interesting complex of ruins from the old Zenith Mine can be seen just northeast of Ely. The Zenith Mine, which opened in 1892, shipped over twenty-one million tons of some of the richest hematite in the area before it closed in 1964.

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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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● McComber Mine: In the 1880's, Captain John McComber sank a shaft 60 feet and extracted about 400 tons of rich blue hematite ore. This was left in a stockpile. In 1910, George A. St. Clair unwatered the shaft, retimbered the mine and constructed a number of surface buildings. In 1913 the property was leased by the Mutual Iron Mining Company of Duluth, which laid out a townsite including a fine hotel fronting the beach of a nearby lake. The last shipment was made in 1919 and the town died. A walk through the area reveals many vestiges of this past.

● Mud Creek Mine Disaster: The Mud Creek Mine was operated by the Consolidated Vermilion and Extension Company which during the World War I period shipped over 22,000 tons of marketable hematite. In 1916, without warning, the muck bottom of mud creek burst into the mine. However, the crew was at the surface during their lunch hour and no one was hurt. The mine was

pumped out and mining continued, but a few months later the mine flooded again without warning, drowning six of the crew. It is said the bodies of the victims are still entombed there. Shortly after, the mine was abandoned, its headframe tipped over and the settlement of nine buildings removed.

● Soudan Underground Mine Park: Operated by the Department of Natural Resources, the park provides an opportunity to see first hand what an underground mine was really like. Explore fully interpreted surface buildings, see the deep pits of the Breitung and East Tower Mines and descend over 2,000 feet underground to explore the drifts and great stopes of the world famous Soudan Mine. This is the finest interpretive facility of its kind in the midwest. On the park grounds there are the remains of prehistoric red and yellow ochre mines.

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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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● Jasper Peak: This formation rises 1,650 feet above sea level and is one of the highest points in St. Louis County. Its name is derived from its peculiar formation of jaspilite, a compact siliceous rock resembling jasper.

An easy to follow trail leads the climber to the top where there is an unsurpassed view of Soudan, Lake Vermilion and the surrounding countryside.

● Pike Bay Mounds: Here are some of the oldest man-made formations in the state. Associated with the prehistoric Laurel Culture, these burial mounds indicate that the area has been inhabited for centuries.

● North America Mine Site: During World War I an attempt was made to mine iron and gold. It was expected that gold discovered would pay the cost of the mining. A number of people invested in the project, a hotel was begun and a shaft was sunk. The project collapsed suddenly and no ore was ever shipped from the place. Investors lost heavily.

● Mystery of the Lee Hill Mine: In 1886, the Lee Mine was described as nothing but iron ore. But on a July morning in that year miners returning to work were surprised to find that the mine had vanished. No paymaster was waiting to greet them, all surface buildings had disappeared and even the railroad leading to the shaft was gone. For years residents of Tower and Soudan whispered about the mystery of the Lee Mine. A walk to the site reveals a fine excavation into the hillside, a beautiful pool of clear water and views of the shaft at the bottom of the pool.

● Breitung Location Houses: At the foot of the hill on which is located the Soudan Mine are the oldest houses north of Duluth. These six houses were constructed in 1882 and nailed together with square nails made of iron retrieved from the days of the 1866 Gold Rush. They stand much as they were and are like many company-built homes constructed in Michigan and elsewhere.

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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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- Old Soudan: A walk through Soudan reveals the basics of a typical company town of the 1890's. See Captain Elisha Morcom's home, the master-mechanic's home, the time keepers home, the company store and hospital amid an array of various kinds of miners homes. Streets wind along the hillside below the mine.
- Tower Firehall: Along the mainstreet of Tower is the old firehall built of bricks from Elisha Morcom's brick works. The arched doorway is only large enough to allow horse drawn fire wagons to pass. It stands today as a reminder of Tower's greater days as the first city north of Duluth.
- Iron Range Brewery: Iron Range beer was familiar to lumberjacks and miners across the Iron Range from Hibbing to Ely. A sign inside once read, "Iron Range Beer is Good For You". The three story poured concrete structure was the cooling vat for the beer. Ice was raised to the top and packed into the place in great quantities

to ensure steady cooling even during the hottest summer weather. This company was typical of many such independent operations prior to prohibition.

- Tower-Soudan Museum: Here is an actual steam driven passenger train which madedaily runs from Duluth to Ely on the DM & IR Railroad. Inside the passenger car are memorabilia from the earlier days of Tower. Nearby is a trapper's cabin of the 1930's. The museum is run by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.
- McKinley Monument: An oddity that should not be missed in Tower is a monument erected in memory of President McKinley who was assassinated in 1901. It was built two weeks after his death and the first to be built in the nation honoring the deceased President. It was dedicated on November 19, 1901 and Minnesota Governor Van Sent came to the dedication in a special train. Captain D. H. Bacon, Superintendent of the Soudan Mine and close friend of the President delivered the dedicating address.

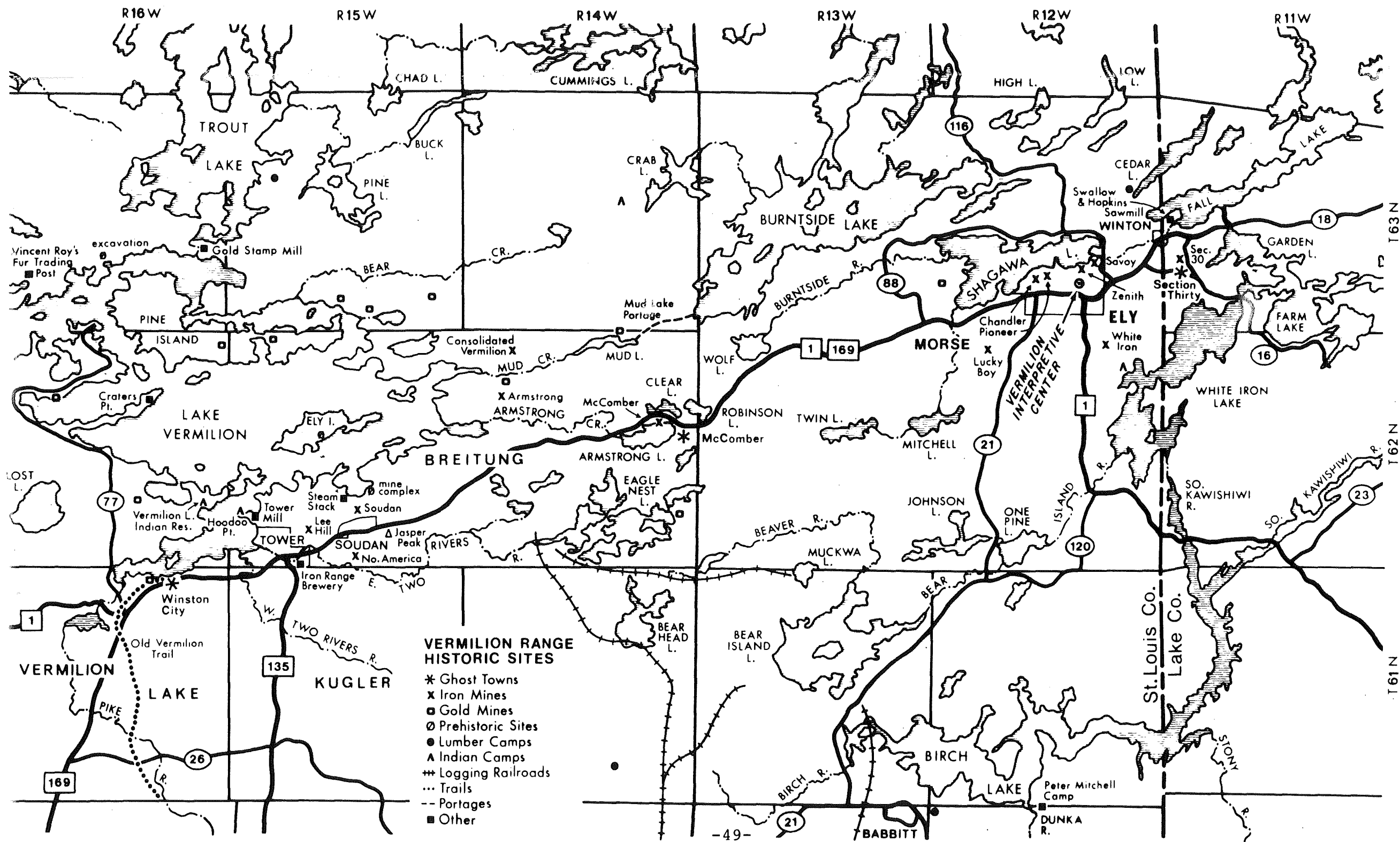
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## SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

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- Winston City: This placard marks the site of Winston City, a gold town, which existed briefly on the south shore of Lake Vermilion. Nearby piles of quartz and the remains of a gold mine are reminders of the great rush for gold which took place in 1865-66.
- Vermilion Lake Indian Reservation: Here lived people of the Boise Forte Nation known in their time as "Men of the Thick Fir Woods". This land has been inhabited for centuries. A survey made in 1878 identified a village, mission house, Indian gardens and at least two cemeteries. Nearby, the outlines of an ancient fur company post can still be seen. Many artifacts of the past have been found here including ancient glass bottles, iron bottles, chimney bricks, and parts of a well. Some of these artifacts are on display at the Tower Historical Museum.





ESTIMATES OF SIZE---PERMANENT EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1	Welcome and Orientation	48 Square Feet
Exhibit 2	Passing of an Ancient Culture	78 Square Feet
Exhibit 3	Development of the Vermilion Range	112 Square Feet
Exhibit 4	A Frontier Town	225 Square Feet
Exhibit 5	Jacks and Miners	161 Square Feet
Exhibit 6	Women on the Frontier	234 Square Feet
Exhibit 7	The Environment	131 Square Feet
Exhibit 8	Signposts of the Past	122 Square Feet

Estimated costs for exhibit planning, fabrication and installation.  
 These estimates represent thoughtful research and experience and  
 are in keeping with the costs of today's museum design and fabrication.

I. Final planning, writing out specs. and developing  
 working drawings for fabrication. . . . . \$ 24,000

II. Fabrication

1. Changing Exhibits (provided)	-0-
2. Welcome and Orientation Exhibit	4,800
3. Passing of an Ancient Culture Exhibit	7,800
4. Development of Vermilion Range Exhibit	22,500
5. Frontier Town Exhibit	4,500
6. Jacks and Miners	12,600
7. Women on the Frontier	23,400
8. The Environment Theatre	5,930
Winter-Sound Slide Production	10,800
9. Ely Remembers	2,600
10. Signposts of the Past	12,200

III. Installation (including transportation costs)	<u>15,600</u>
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TOTAL	\$146,730
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## BRINGING THE EXHIBITS INTO REALITY

### ● Normal Procedure:

1. An A-95 Review of the project is made.
2. Funding is sought for a design firm to convert the script into working drawings.
3. A request for proposal is developed and sent along with copies of the script to design firms throughout the mid-west.
4. A screening committee is appointed to review all proposals received.
5. Five or six firms are selected from the proposals received.
6. An interview of the firms selected takes place (full screening committee).
7. One firm is picked to develop the script into display concepts and form detailed working drawings for each exhibit.
8. Periodic reviews of design development are made.
9. Funding is sought for a contractor to build and install exhibits.
10. The designer sends working drawings and specs to selected museum contractors and makes a public announcement of the project, opening the project for bids. He sends working drawings and specs to firms requesting them.
11. The designer awards the contract to the low bidder with the approval of the college.
12. Construction of exhibits takes place.
13. All artifacts are gathered.
14. Exhibits are installed.

### Addresses:

- A-95 Review: A review of the project is made by the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission. This is always good to do and necessary when federal public funds are used on a project.

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission  
200 Arrowhead Place  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

### Needed for Review:

1. A completed A-95 review form
2. A copy of the script
3. A summary of the project
4. A letter from the college requesting the review

### ● Suggested Funding Sources: (Public monies)

1. Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board  
Commissioner, Patrick McGauley  
Box 678  
Eveleth, Minnesota (218) 744-2993
2. Museum and Historical Organizations Program  
Division of Public Programs  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Washington, D. C. 20506 (202) 724-0327
3. Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission  
200 Medical Arts Building  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802 (218) 377-2845
4. Museum Program  
National Endowment for the Arts  
2401 East Street  
N.W. Washington, D. C. 20506 (202) 634-6164

● Examples of Design Firms:

1. General Exhibits and Displays, Inc.  
2100 North Racine Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614
2. Joseph A. Wetzel Associates, Inc.  
77 Washington Street North  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
3. Dimensional Displays and Design, Inc.  
1222 University Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota
4. Displays, Inc.  
1191 N.E. Stinson Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Any number of good architectural firms are also capable of doing the job.

● Suggested Private Foundations:

1. Northwest Area Foundations  
West 975 First National Bank Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
2. Otto Bremer Foundation  
386 North Wabasha  
Suite 1300  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
3. Burlington Northern Foundation  
176 East 5th Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
4. Bush Foundation  
West 962 First National Bank Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
5. Grain Terminal Foundation  
1667 Snelling Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
6. General Service Foundation  
c/o James Shannon  
400 Foshay Tower  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

7. Jerome Foundation, Inc.  
West 1052 First National Bank Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
8. Paulucci Foundation  
Paulucci Enterprises  
525 Lake Avenue South  
Duluth, Minnesota
9. Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10020

It is recommended that one person be hired or a staff member of the community college be appointed to make a full study of funding sources and make all contacts with potential sources.

VERMILION INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Planning Committee

Louise Trygg, Ely-Winton Historical Society  
John Penninger, Ely-Winton Historical Society  
Mary Ellen LaVander, Ely-Winton Historical Society  
Lee Brownell, Ely Historian  
Muff Shoemaker, Ely-Winton Historical Society  
Marvin G. Lamppa, Historian-Planner, IRRRB, State of Minnesota  
Ralph Doty, President, Vermilion Community College

Contributing Organizations and Institutions

Ely Community College  
Ely-Winton Historical Society  
Tower-Soudan Historical Society  
State of Minnesota, Iron Range Resources Board  
Iron Range Historical Society  
St. Louis County Historical Society  
Minnesota Research Center, Minnesota Historical Society  
Iron Range Research Center  
Iron Range Interpretative Center

## MARKING PROGRAM

It is suggested that the marking program on Vermilion Range be incorporated into the Iron Range Country Program and the National Register of Historic Sites Program. Funding is available for this through the State of Minnesota. The following sites have historic, cultural and scenic significance:

Hegman Lake Pictographs  
Section 30  
Asa Camp House  
Pioneer Mine  
Breitung Location Miners Cottages  
Breitung Pit  
Soudan Mine  
Burntside Lodge  
Chandler Location  
Finnish Stock Company Building  
Gold Digging, Lake Vermilion  
Gold Stampmill Remains  
Indian Village Site  
Jasper Park  
Holmes House  
Indian School Site  
Iron Range Brewery  
LaRue Mine  
Lee Hill Mine  
Lucky Boy Mine  
McComber Mine  
Mud Creek Canoe Route  
Mud Creek Gold Camp  
Mud Creek Iron Mine

North America Mine  
Northwest Fur Company Post-Site  
Old Settlers Monument  
Pike Bay Prehistoric Habitation Site  
Pillow Rock  
Prehistoric Mine Site  
St. Croix Sawmill Site  
Secondary Burial Mounds, Pike Bay  
Section 30 Ghost Town  
Sellers-Owens Millsite  
Shagawa Hotel  
Shipmans Frontier Drug Dispensary  
Spaulding  
Stuntz Bay Steam Stack  
Swallow and Hopkins Mill Site  
Vermilion Trail  
Winston City, Gold Town of 1866

## AN IRON RANGE COUNTRY PROGRAM

A major commitment of IRRRB State of Minnesota is the ongoing establishment and promotion of a network of sites of historic, geologic, scenic, industrial and recreational significance as part of its Iron Range Trail Program. By executive order, the responsibility for this has been transferred from the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. In order to avoid confusion between established recreational trails, it has been recommended that the word "trail" be dropped and the word "country" replace it. Legislation is at this time being sought to make this change. The specifics of the law remain the same and are as follows:

### M. Statutes 1077, Section 298.22, Subdivision 1

(4) In recognition of the unique combination of cultural, geographical, industrial, historical, recreational, and scenic characteristics of Minnesota's Iron Ranges, the "Iron Range Trail" program is hereby established on the Vermilion, Mesabi and Cuyuna iron ranges and at related points on Lake-Superior. The Commissioner shall establish, develop and maintain those places of interest under his jurisdiction and control, for the purposes specified in this subdivision. The area shall be developed to coordinate places of interest between the ranges. The Commissioner, in cooperation with other state agencies, local governments and private organizations and individuals shall mark and, where necessary, interpret places of cultural, geological, industrial, historical, recreational and scenic interest. In cooperation with state and local road authorities, local governments, and private organizations and individuals, the Commissioner also shall mark access, where available, to those places of interest from public roads and highways. The Commissioner may acquire by gift or purchase necessary easements and related interest in and across lands needed for development. The Commissioner also may enter into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the operator or the owner of active or inactive mine areas and with the person having the right of possession

thereof for the use and development of these areas for the "Iron Range Trail" program. The Commissioner may develop, maintain, and operate such areas or may enter into contracts with third parties for the development, maintenance or operation of the areas. If the Commissioner enters into such a contract with a third party, the contract shall provide that the operator, owner and any person entitled to possession or control of the area shall be held harmless and indemnified by the third party from and against any and all claims for injuries or damage to person or property, from such use or development. Nothing in this section prohibits a person from asserting any claim for alleged damages which may be presented to the Legislature commission on claims pursuant to sections 3.732 to 3.84.

At the joint request of the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation in 1978, the Governor by executive order transferred the powers and duties of the Iron Range Trail from the DNR to the IRRRB.

This is a logical step in keeping with all the accomplishments made by the Iron Range Interpretative Program in establishing, designating and developing sites of historic, geologic, scenic, industrial and recreational significance. It is now necessary that the order be upheld.

In order that confusion be avoided between area recreational trails and the Iron Range Trail program as established in M.S. 1977, Sec. 198.22, it is recommended that the term "trail" be dropped and the term "country" replace it. Thus the program will be known as the "Iron Range Country" program. It is intended that legislation be sought to make this change.

The Iron Range Country Program not only establishes a network of sites of interest across northeast Minnesota, but allows the advancement of coordination between groups of the public and private sectors in such ventures as promotion, downtown development, and other forms of economic promotion for the area.