

GRAND RAPIDS

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ADMIRING THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE dedicated Wednesday to Raphael Zon, pioneer in forest research and management, are his grand-daughter, Judith Zon of St. Paul, and Edward P. Cliff, chief of the U. S. Forest service at Washington, D. C. The memorial is in the "Avenue of Pines" on highway 46 in the Cutfoot Sioux district of the Chippewa.

Raphael Zon, 1874-1956

Foresters Dedicate Plaque To Pioneer in Research

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A limited number of copies of the session laws of the State of Minnesota passed and approved at the last session of the legislature are available at the Grand Rapids Herald-Review office.

All laws are contained in 41, 190

Raphael Zon, 1874-1956

Foresters Dedicate Plaque To Pioneer in Research

Chief Edward P. Cliff of the U.S. Forest service officiated at dedication ceremonies Wednesday afternoon for a plaque honoring Raphael Zon, "forester, scholar, planner and scientist."

An interested participant was Miss Judith Zon of St. Paul, granddaughter of the first director of the Lake States Forest Experiment station established in St. Paul in 1923. A bronze plaque is mounted on a large boulder in the famed "Avenue of Pines" in the Cutfoot Sioux district of the Chippewa National forest on highway 46.

"It is a great privilege to make this dedication," Cliff said. "Raphael Zon would have enjoyed being here, and he is." (Chairman Z. A. Zasada pointed out earlier in the program that Zon's ashes had been scattered in the forest at his own request). "His career, overlapping two centuries and two continents, was long, colorful and productive. His destiny was to accomplish much more than most men do."

Educated in Russia but forced to flee in 1896 because of his liberal leanings, Zon was a charter member of the U.S. Forest service when it was cre-

ated from the Bureau of Forestry in 1905. He served 43 years in the field of forest research.

A m o n g contributions cited by Cliff before a crowd of more than 100 foresters standing beneath the tall pine were initiating silvicultural research on jack pine and aspen, considered weed species then, two of the most widely used species in the region today; campaigning vigorously for the use of partial cutting of forest stands to halt destructive cutting; editing the Journal of Forestry and the Proceedings of the Society of American Foresters; conceiving the idea of establishing a network of shelter belts in the prairie-plains states; research in the drainage of forested swamps; pioneering studies of the relation of forests to streamflow and flood control; and envisioning and laying the foundation for the system of forest service regional experiment stations "that has done so much to advance forest practices."

Sharing the platform with Cliff and Miss Zon were chairman Zasada; Martin Coyer, head of the Northwest chapter of the Society of American Foresters; Marvin K. Lauritsen, new supervisor of the Chippewa National forest; and Paul O. Rudolf, retired, a friend and working associate of Zon. Regional forester George James of Milwaukee and David King, director of the Lake States station at St. Paul, were present.

Members of the society attended business sessions Wednesday morning, had lunch at Mosomo point on Cutfoot Sioux at highway 46 and attended the dedication. The plaque was made possible by contributions from members of the society and friends of the pioneer forestry leader.

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PROMINENT FORESTRY OFFICIALS at the dedication included David King, left, director of the Lake States Forest Experiment station at St. Paul, and Dr. Frank Kaufert, director of the University of Minnesota School of Forestry.



REGIONAL FORESTER GEORGE JAMES of Milwaukee visits with Frank Roebuck, left, a member of the Lydick Lake Youth Conservation center, at the Raphael Zon plaque dedication Wednesday.



CHATTING BEFORE THE RAPHAEL ZON MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION
Wednesday are Marvin Lauritsen, left, supervisor of the Chippewa National forest; Z. A. Zasada, former Grand Rapids man who is now assistant director of the Lake States Forest Experiment station at St. Paul, dedication program chairman; Miss Judith Zon, grand-daughter of the man honored; Martin Coyer, chairman of the Northwest chapter of the Society of American Foresters; and Paul O. Rudolf, retired forester who was associated with Zon.

Tribute to Raphael Zon

Contributions Made by Forester to His Profession Recalled

11-12-56

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

During the past week death overtook Raphael Zon, a forester. Native to Russia, Zon came to our country for political asylum. He studied forestry at Cornell and upon graduation in 1901 entered the United States Forest Service, for which he worked until his retirement in 1944.

As a young forester Mr. Zon attracted the attention of Gifford Pinchot and other leaders in forestry. Six years after graduation he became Chief of Forest Investigations. His contributions to forestry as an investigator, as a research administrator and as a writer assure his name a prominent place in any history of the profession in the United States. Even more significant, however, has been his contribution to the philosophy underlying forest policy in the United States.

Raphael Zon believed that forestry should be practiced for the benefit of men, not for the forests alone. He believed, further, that first consideration should be given to the needs of the men who live in the forest and whose livelihood depends thereon. An original thinker, his ideas sometimes shocked his fellow foresters. He was forever asking them to defend their policies and actions in terms of the public good and the good of the people most affected by such actions.

His fertile and active mind grappled vigorously with such forestry problems as the light requirements of forest trees, the relationship between forests and water, world forest resources and the place of forestry in the use of land in the United States.

Planting Shelter Belt

It was to Mr. Zon that forest administrators most often turned when faced with a particularly difficult problem. For example, when the Chief of the Forest Service received in the Nineteen Thirties a note scribbled in longhand to Henry Wallace, "Why can't the Forest Service plant a belt of trees a mile wide from Canada to Mexico and stop these horrible dust storms?" signed F. D. R., he was at a loss what to answer. It was Raphael Zon who explained that the President's idea was good but needed appropriate elaboration. This elaboration ultimately became a zone some seventy-five miles wide, in which intensive shelter-belt planting was undertaken. The success of this venture depended much on painstaking research carried out under the direction of Raphael Zon.

Not the least of Mr. Zon's contributions was his influence on the many young men with whom he came in contact either in person or through his writings and his long editorship of *The Journal of Forestry*. He inspired them with loyalty to the profession of forestry, devotion to conservation as an ideal and the need for sympathetic understanding of the men living in forest communities with whom the forester must work.

In a time when plaudits go more