

WARF Acquires More

Wisconsin Dells Property

*University benefits from
income gained at tourist center*

IN A TRANSACTION of far-reaching importance, the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation has acquired several hundred acres of woodland property on the Lower Dells of the Wisconsin River.

Completion of the purchase agreement will give the Foundation control of nearly all of the Wisconsin Dells, one of the state's top tourist attractions and a natural beauty spot known throughout the nation.

The Foundation is buying about 250 acres on the west side of the river, below the power dam and a new bridge across the river.

Included in the sale was a fleet of about 25 "ducks," the army surplus amphibious vehicles used for sightseeing tours. An agent for the Foundation will operate this fleet.

Title to the land was received from the Dells Corporation, which was jointly owned by Dr. R. O. Ebert and Mrs. H. H. Raab. As part of the transaction, Mrs. Raab has expressed her intention of turning over her home, the ante-bellum sandstone mansion known as Dawn Manor, to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Title to the fleet of 25 "ducks" was received from Dr. Ebert who established the operation several years ago. Operation of the "ducks" will be taken over by a new organization known as Wisconsin Ducks, Inc., which has been formed by local boat operators and WARF.

Announcement of the changes was made by Ward Ross, Managing Director, and E. O. Rosten, Operations

Director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.

The Foundation first became a factor in perpetuating the beauty of the Dells, when in 1953 the Crandall heirs deeded all their property to it for that purpose. The heirs were Mrs. Lois Crandall Musson and her sister, the late Mrs. Phyllis Crandall Connor, and their husbands, H. Howard Musson and Dr. Ralph Connor. The Crandall property included hundreds of acres of evergreen forest on either side of the Upper Dells, also the Dells Boat Company and the Crandall Hotel.

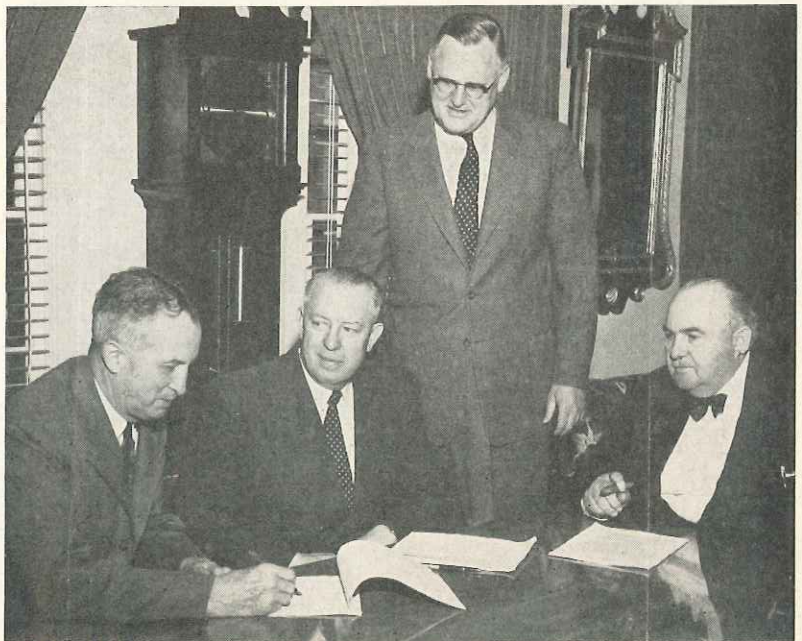
"The Foundation will manage its properties with the purpose of protecting the natural beauty of both the Upper and Lower Dells," Rosten said.

"Fred Harvey will continue to operate the Crandall Hotel and other former Crandall properties, exclusive of the forests. Ben Olson of Wisconsin Dells will act as manager of Wisconsin Ducks, Inc.

"The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation turns over its profit from Wisconsin Dells to the University of Wisconsin for the support of research," he noted.

Mrs. Raab was the wife of the late George Raab, former curator of Milwaukee's Layton Art Gallery and one of Wisconsin's best known painters. The house, built in 1853 at the site of the "lost city of Newport," houses many art treasures, including George Raab's collection.

At signing of papers on latest Wisconsin Dells acquisition for WARF were Thomas E. Brittingham, WARF president; Dr. R. O. Ebert, owner of Dells Amphibian Lines; Ed Rosten, operations director of WARF, and Herman Breitenbach, president of the Dells Corp. Mrs. Helen Raab, an owner of the Dells Corp., also announced she'd turn her home over to the State Historical Society.



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