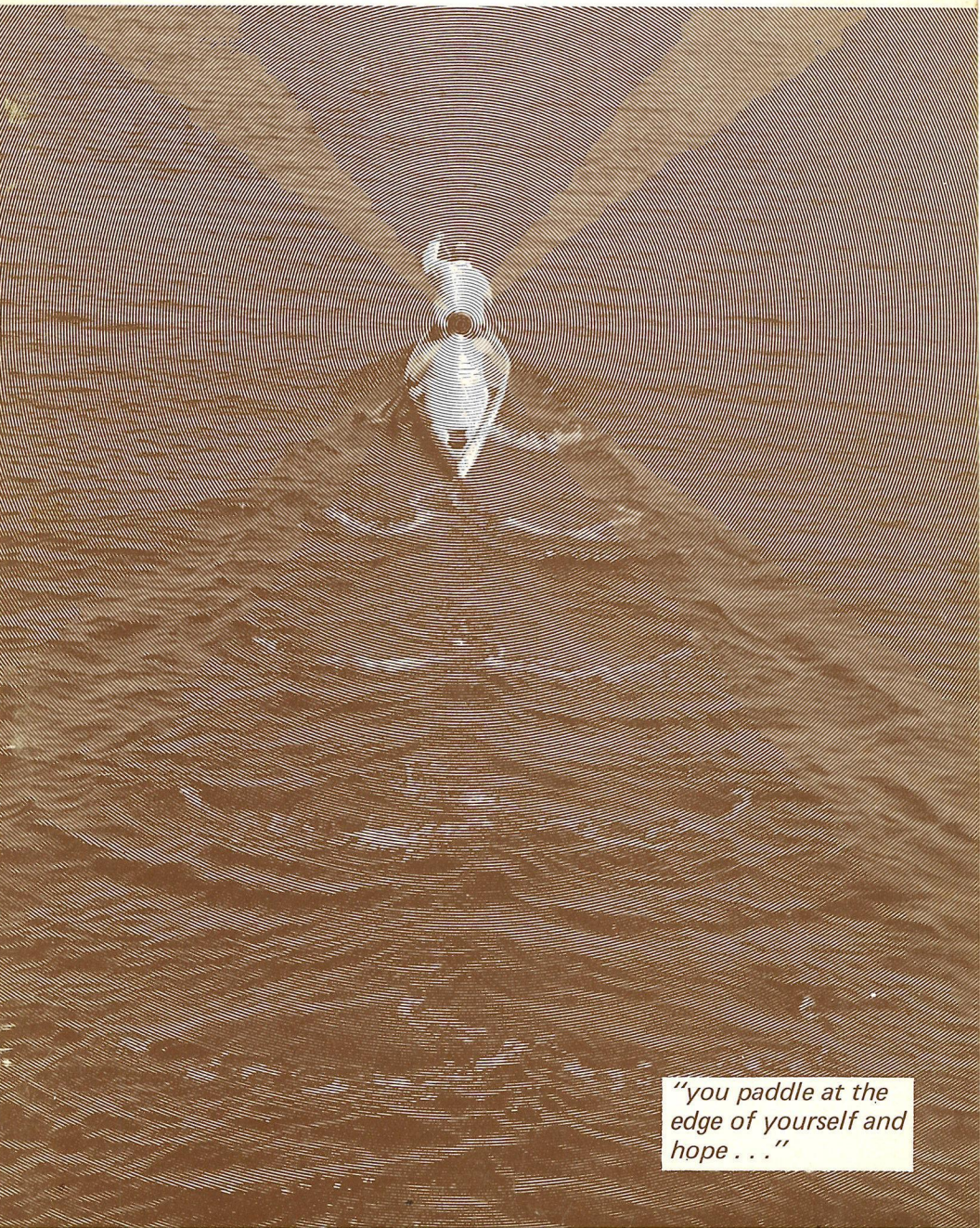
HUT!

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1971



"you paddle at the edge of yourself and hope . . ."

HUT!

VOL. 5 – NO. 3

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 13	**Board meeting at Larry Johns' home, 2936 Simpson, St. Paul – 7:30 P.M.**
Jan. 20	**"Journey to the Polar Sea" presented by Bob O'Hara and Bruce Koci, 7:30 p.m., Prudential Auditorium, Highway 12 east of Highway 100. See article for details.**
Feb. 10	**Board meeting at Abner Jones' home, 7966 Eastwood Drive, Minneapolis – 7:30 P.M.**
Mar. 10	**Board meeting at Kurt Mommsen's home, 6265 Sunny Lane, Minneapolis.**

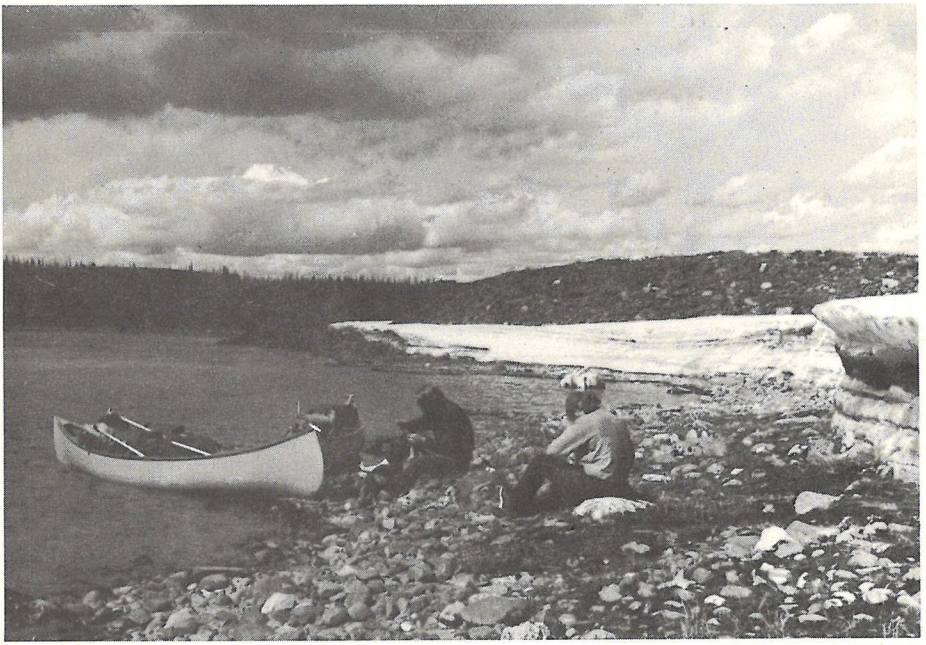
CONTENTS

January Activities 1
February Activities 1
March Activities 1
The Silent Sport 3
Finding the Right Outfit 6
Cruising Capers 9
Book Review 12
Trading Post 12
Wayward Wind 14
Camp Cookery 16

HUT! Magazine is published monthly by the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization, and is distributed to more than 1000 members and numerous friends of the MCA across the nation. Our purpose is to distribute information about canoe sports and canoe camping, to preserve and promote wild rivers, to effect conservation of canoeable waterways, and to encourage canoeing as family recreation.

January Activities Meeting to Feature Adventure on the Coppermine River

Bob O'Hara and Bruce Koci will present slides and narration on their separate trips down the Coppermine River to the "Polar Sea". Their presentation is scheduled for January 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Prudential Auditorium on Highway 12 east of Highway 100. For more details see last month's issue of HUT!, including the article on the activities meeting as well as the article by Bruce Koci.



MCA Outdoor Activities Fair to Be Held February 17

The February Activities Meeting, an Outdoor Activities Fair, will provide MCAers with information on ski-touring, winter camping, building, cruising whitewater, pro racing and pro boats, lightweight packing, and other topics. Anyone interested in setting up some equipment or displays in some of these areas, call Pam Foster, 861-6613. Presentations will be scheduled throughout the evening. Location is not yet determined, so will be announced next issue.

Whitewater Carnival Tentatively Scheduled for Brookdale in March

The indoor Whitewater Carnival being planned for March 17-20, evenings, will include 15-20 minute demonstrations in the pool. Although it has not yet been confirmed, it will probably be held at Brookdale, according to the program committee.

Everybody Moved at Square Dance

Pam Foster reported that we had, in her opinion, a very successful Christmas Square Dance and Hayride on December 12. She said between 40 and 50 people danced, and 36 of them went on the ride. It was a beautiful evening – not too cold, with a light snow coming down on the riders in the horse-drawn wagon. The fire in the fireplace and the hot cider and cookies warmed hearts and hands. Lowell Hanson and his wife came down from Montevideo to call. As Pam put it: "Everybody moved."

Pros Award Prizes

The raffle held by the Minnesota Professional Canoe racers was delayed beyond the time stated on the ticket stubs (3:00 p.m., Saturday, November 21, 1970 at the Builderama Har Mar Mall) because we found out too late that the Mall has a very strict policy against such raffles. A meeting of the Pro racers was called for 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 1 at which time the tickets were well mixed and the three winning tickets were drawn. The winners were notified by phone at that time and were all very happy. The lucky new owner of the canoe is Mel McCarty who lives at 1307 Birch Lake Avenue in White Bear Lake. Mr. McCarty had been in bed all day with the flu, but he made a speedy recovery after he got the good news. Second and third prizes were beautiful Jensen-Peterson paddles and were won by Ruth Graham, 625 - 47th Avenue N.E. of Minneapolis and Donald Olson, 3565 Coon Rapids Blvd. of Anoka. There were 232 tickets sold in all, giving us a net gain of about $150.00 with which to promote canoe racing in Minnesota.

THANKS TO: Midwest Fiberglas Products for making the canoe and giving us a good deal on it.

Eugene Jensen and Irvin Peterson for donating two very beautiful paddles.

All of those who helped us by selling tickets.

All of those who bought tickets even though it was the middle of snowmobile raffle season.

Whitewater Pool Sessions Nearly Filled

Chuck Mensch's article on whitewater pool sessions in the November issue of HUT! has created a great deal of response from people interested in whitewater.

Due to this great response, these sessions will be by preregistration ONLY! Therefore, you should contact Chuck Mensch immediately. Quite possibly three or four sessions will be set up to train one group interested in the advanced technique of rolling and/or gate practice.

Because of the demand, Chuck needs several currently active whitewater paddlers to provide instruction and boats particularly in the C-1 and C-2 class.

Contact Chuck Mensch at 537-7831 or 7117 - 64th Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55428 for either registration or offering of your expertise.

Here is another rapidly growing MCA activity. Anyone who can contact and make arrangements for pool time, particularly in another part of town, contact Chuck Mensch (537-7831), Bob Haug (331-5634) or Denny Withers (920-2887). They will assit you in planning the dates and acquiring instructors. Definitely there is a lot of interest and need for this type of instruction, but we only can accomplish this activity with your help.



Photo by Bob Haug

THE SILENT SPORT

by Bruce Koci



Winter, like a spring rain, is a succulent experience once you go out into it, observe it, and become a part of it. The best way I know to experience it is to walk on snowshoes, camp, walk again, observe the beauty, and be out in it 24 hours a day for as long as possible.

At first the cold may be the outstanding factor but after a short time the outer coolness is pushed back by a warm inner glow. Part of this glow is noticing how quiet the woods are in winter. Snow covers everything with a sound-deadening blanket and many of the noisy critters of the brush are asleep or have moved to warmer climes. About the only sounds heard are the soft scrunching of the snowshoes or the distant croaking of a raven.

Snow is the medium of winter, thus worthy of consideration.

The concept of snow itself has always been one of gently falling or settling like a blanket. Rarely have I heard mention of snow crashing and banging to earth like a million garbage can covers.

One finds that walking through snow is a rather slow process. Coupled with short days the distance covered in a day is generally less than 10 miles. To offset this, I know of few other times when the mind travels further within and without. It could be said that winter camping is a philosophical sport. It is also a time when many new things are learned.

A most interesting observance is found in the great wisdom of our forefathers' invention of the trapdoor on old wool scratchies. This is found very quickly when the chill winds issue out of the north. Interestingly enough technology has eliminated the trapdoor while adding nylon and polyester to the undergarment world.

The black and white world of winter is more than compensated for by the presence of shapes carved by and of wind. Drifts of snow give insight to the shape of the wind around a rock or tree. Lakes have waves of snow, and while walking with the wind one is joined by rivers of ice crystals showing the shape of the wind across the lake. When snow falls and the wind is high, white tornadoes are everywhere with other patterns marking a three-dimensional wind. Winter is one of the few times when I feel I can see and chase the wind.

Lunch is usually brief but interesting. A sheltered place is chosen, sustinance grabbed quickly, and there is time to look closely at the white world all about. Snowflakes are marvelous. The peculiarities of the water molecule define their six sides. Surely there must be two alike somewhere!

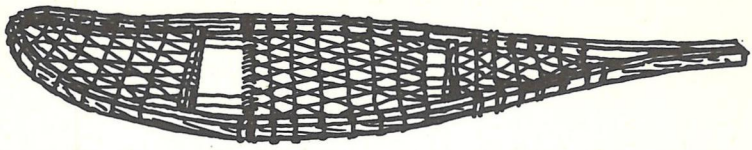
A lesson can be learned from snowflakes. Taken individually they seem insignificant, put together they can stop great cities, build great bridges, or break strong trees. Perhaps people are a bit like snowflakes.

While walking along one sees many tracks as a dog sees the tracks with his nose in summer. Stories are all about: the mouse who carelessly ventured into the open, marked by a set of tracks, suddenly ending by two wing prints in the snow; wolves frolicing on the lake the night before, and occasionally the marks of others, totally out of hand.

The sun seems far away and low in the sky almost without warmth at times. It is at times like this when one thinks of what the world might be like if that benevolent ball of fire should ever go out.

Camp is generally made in a sheltered area. The days of pine bough beds and lean-tos (or threes) are over. It's rather nice since it is no longer necessary to ravage a forest to enjoy it (at least for camping). The foam pad (technological pine boughs) and vinyl-coated nylon tarp give adequate protection against most of the elements. On the other hand, the goose was using down long before man thought of it.

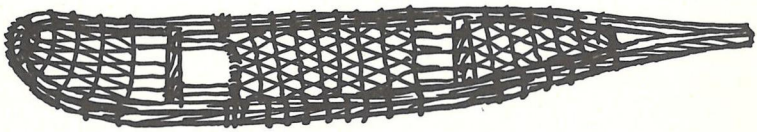
There is a lot of time to sit around the fire and watch the trees dance by the light of the fire. When it is very cold I am respectfully



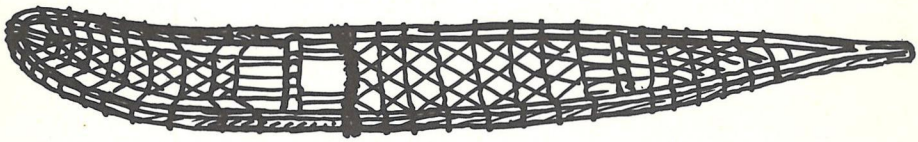
MICHIGAN OR MAINE MODEL — DEVELOPED BY INDIANS



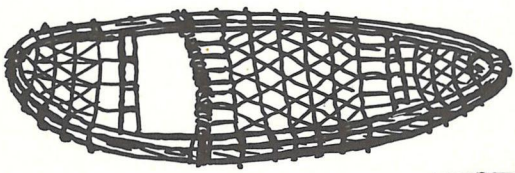
GREEN MOUNTAIN BEAR PAW — SUPERB IN WOODLANDS



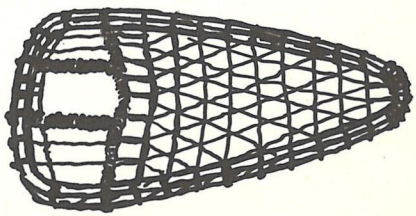
THE CROSS COUNTRY SHOE



ALASKA TRAPPER — FOR DEEP, LIGHT, POWDER SNOW



THE REGULAR BEAR PAW (ABOVE) IS NOT FOR BEGINNERS . . . RIGHT, THE ALGONQUIN, POPULAR WITH LOGGERS & SNOWMOBILERS . . .

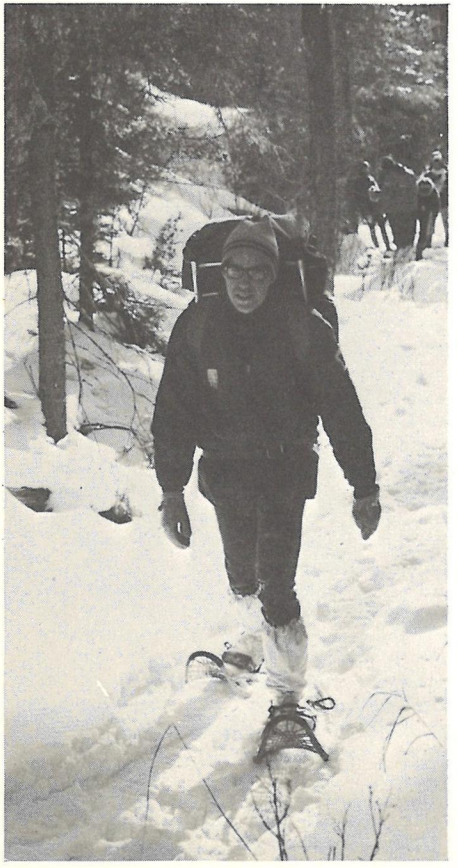


Reprinted from the CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER

grateful to Mr. Diamond for inventing the match.

Just as one must leave the comfort of the house to find the solitude of winter one must leave the fire for various reasons, one of which is to look at the winter sky. Often there is the surprise of northern lights but more often the stars are presented much more vividly than in summer. While observing I have often wondered if there are more stars or snowflakes – each is a jewel of the highest order. Surely one of each might be enough, but we are blessed with many. Sometimes the stars intermingle with ice crystals falling from the sky as the air cools. Sleep is difficult with so many magnificent things all about. The mind boggles.

Morning and spring in like manner come and replace something with something else. Morning brings promise of another day and spring brings promise of another season. I think everyone in MCA knows the answer to: Where is the snow in spring?



Incident on Basswood Lake

by Ham Kurtz

You know, you can paddle for years in the BWCA and, unless you take the time, never get a good look at an area burned over by forest fire. My time for such a look came this summer.

It was time well spent. I had gone in to fish with three other guys on Basswood Lake, just northeast of Ely. It was during our second day while fishing far up the bay that we saw the smoke. The obvious answer was *forest fire!* But we didn't really believe that. It just doesn't happen where *you're* camping. It's always somewhere else.

Not long after we saw the smoke the Forest Service plane came over, and circled the spot where the smoke was rising, and settled onto the lake out of our line of vision. A few minutes later a fast motorboat with Forest Service designation sped by from the border station north of us. Because the fire zone seemed to be near our campsite, we started back to see what was going on. Our camp was okay, but we went over to see where the fire had been. There was no smoke now. Paddling over, we saw a darkened area still smoldering on a large island near us. Walking around, spraying cinders with pressurized water cans were two Forest Service men. We stopped and talked.

You have to talk with a man whose business is trees and the forest while standing in a still-flickering burned-over area to get the full impact of what a careless camper can do. What hurt me was that this camper must have been a canoeist like you and me. As the Forest Service man saw it, this camper didn't choose to use an established campsite nearby, but instead selected an outcrop of rock about one hundred feet away. In this part of the BWCA the Forest Service has established cooking grills at campsites. These grills are placed with fire safety as one of the considerations. The spot the camper had selected was a poor site in dry weather. The outcrop of rock was creased with many cracks, with weeds and roots abounding through the cracks. The Forest Service man said it was typical. The fire had probably gone down through the roots and weeds, smoldering along the cracks, only to emerge some distance away – probably after the camper had left, thinking his fire was out.

If there is a lesson to be learned from this experience, it would be a reminder for each person to review campfire safety the next time he goes camping. Especially he should be aware that those cooking grills in the BWCA have been placed with his forest as well as his convenience in mind.

YOUR WILDERNESS BED: THE SLEEPING BAG

Third In A Series On
Canoe Camping Equipment
by Terry McGaughey

Bedtime comfort on a wilderness journey is as important or perhaps more so than when at home. A night of restful sleep is a real key to a successful outing.

When you look back at paintings of early voyageur canoe brigades camping out in the 1700s and 1800s you might ask yourself if you could sleep as they did – each one wrapped in a meager blanket sleeping on top of bare rocks with his head under the edge of an upturned North Canoe. Not me! I need the security of a good tent, a warm, fluffy down sleeping bag and a soft comfortable foam pad to rest my city-bred bones. I am not so sure those voyageurs enjoyed their sleeping conditions. Perhaps at the end of an exhausting 18 - 7 hour day of paddling and portaging they could have slept standing up. I think when they finally laid down to sleep they simply became unconscious. I'll never understand why all those guys didn't die of pneumonia.

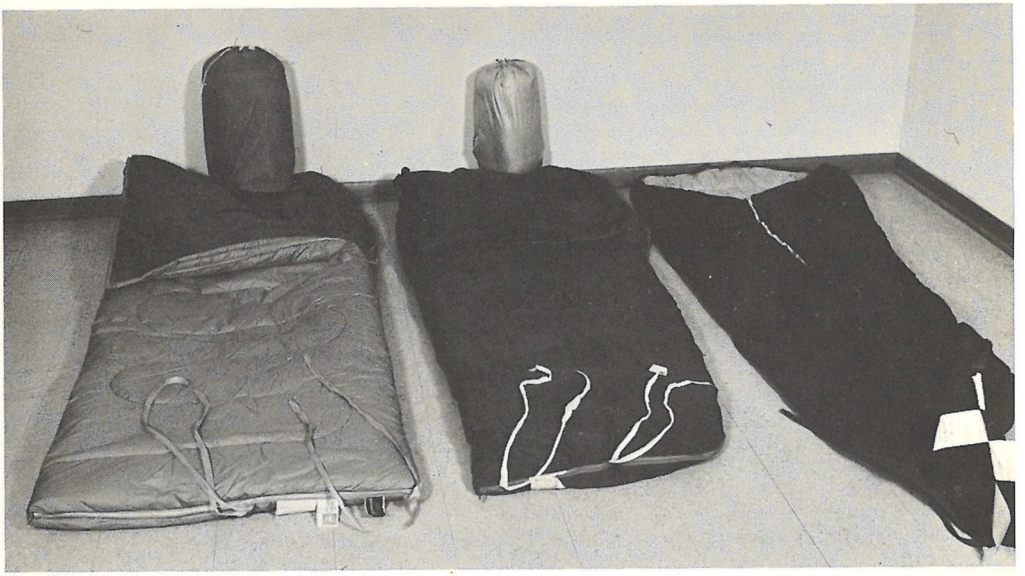
The evolution of wilderness sleeping gear moved slowly to the days when two Hudson's Bay Point Blankets were folded and pinned together with large blanket pins. In the colder north, several fur pelts were stitched together to make a large bag of fur. It was not until about 1930 that the first form of sleeping bag as we know it today appeared. Seattle Quilt Manufacturing Company was a pioneer in this type of equipment when they made sleeping bags for the Alaska Railroad crews. Later, during World War II, they were awarded the first U.S. Quartermaster Corps contract for sleeping bags. They are still one of the leaders in sleeping bags and down garments putting out their products under the "Comfy" label.

Today many companies manufacture a fine quality line of sleeping bags. The Gerry Brand, Pacific Tent, Woods and White Stag are a few of the many brand names. Most of the leading stores with camping departments handle one or more top brands. The sleeping bag science has became just that. You will see when studying the various catalogs and literature that most companies will provide impressive scientific facts showing that their products are superior. Without really trying various sleeping bags first hand it is difficult to judge what will be best for you, but a few basic facts can help guide you through the sales propaganda.

There are really only two basic styles of bags. One is the common rectangular shaped bag with a zipper generally running along the entire side from top opening to the bottom and then along the bottom to the folded edge. This allows the bag to be easily aired but perhaps a more important feature is that it can be opened flat and another bag zippered to the top forming a double bag. The rectangular bag is the roomiest style, and a restless sleeper who tosses and turns often generally finds this style most agreeable.

The other basic style is the mummy bag which generally follows the body contours and is close fitting. This bag tapers from a wide point at the top opening to a narrow bottom sometimes coming to a point. More often, though, the bottom is a boxed section large enough to accommodate the feet comfortably. Some of the so called mummy bags are perhaps better called tapered bags – somewhat a cross between a close fitting mummy style and a rectangular style. These designs provide maximum warmth and minimum overall weight. This style also takes up the least space when packed. The only real drawback to this style is some people find it too confining, but I think almost anyone can overcome that by just getting used to it. While deciding on the style most appealing to you think about the time of year you will be using it most. Select the bag that will provide you with comfort during the coldest temperatures you anticipate. In other words, if you camp only during your July vacation you can get by with a lighter bag than you would need camping in May or October. Of course a warmer bag can be adjusted somewhat to be comfortable, to avoid overwarmth.

In choosing a bag it is necessary to have some understanding of the insulating properties of the various materials used in its construction. Federal law now requires bag manufacturers to clearly label the contents and amount of insulation. This is helpful to a certain degree. Cotton, wool batten, kapok are some fillings seldom used any longer except in some of the most inexpensive bags, and it is wise to avoid bags with such fillings. Polyester fiber fill is commonly accepted as the best synthetic fiber for insulation. Dacron 88 and Kodel are two of the most common trade names in this category.



No synthetic fiber has yet been made that can equal the effectiveness of prime goose down.

Down's insulating properties and its ability to regain full loft, or fluffiness, after being compressed are superior. It is also the most durable fiber, outlasting other insulators in this ability to regain full loft after prolonged use. There are different qualities of down but most major companies use only the best.

Speaking of down sleeping bags may bring to mind (for some of the old time campers) visions of awakening in the morning after his first experience with an old GI mummy bag spitting feathers and looking like he was just caught in the middle of a chicken coop panic. This was not really a down bag. It was a feather bag, although it may have had some down inside. Feathers can add weight but do not have the tiny spindly fibers like the down feathers. Dacron will have far greater insulating value than feathers.

One question I have frequently been asked is the different between duck and goose down. Probably the simplest explanation I have heard is that by nature a goose is larger than a duck, hence the down feathers are larger and consequently have more loft for their weight. One more virtue of the down worth mentioning is the millions of microscopic air cells allow body moisture to pass through without any body heat loss. Again, other fibers can do this to an extent but not as effectively as down. The old argument that down is impure and some people are allergic to it had some merit years ago, but shouldn't be a factor today. Down is now treated by a chemical process that penetrates and cleans the down, virtually eliminating the impurities. The theory of trapping dead air to insulate is well established. This ability to fluff up and provide thickness is what staying warm is all about.

Shown in accompanying photo: Three summer weight sleeping bags.

LEFT: Common rectangular style, filled with combination of 1½ lb. polyester fiber and 1½ lb. of down. Total bag weight about 5 lbs. Comfortable to about 25° above.

CENTER: Tapered mummy style with 1¼ lb. down filling. Total weight about 3 lbs. Comfortable to about 30°. Two tapered bags can be joined to form double bed.

RIGHT: Pointed mummy bag with draw hood. Filled with 2½ lbs. polyester fiber. Comfortable to about 25°. Total weight 4 lbs.

Note comparison sizes of bags when ready for packing at head of picture.

Sleeping bags in photo courtesy of Hoigaards, Inc., Mpls. Photo by Dick Barton, Pine River, Minnesota.

Just for a rough formula in comparing the various insulating materials and their effectiveness consider pure Northern goose down as 100%. Then, Dacron 88 would be about 80%, other polyester fibers about 75%, acetate 70%, pure wool about 25% and cotton batten virtually 0%. You can see that down is the best, but it doesn't necessarily mean that you cannot have a satisfactory bag without it. Generally a down bag will cost considerably more than a polyester fiber filled model, and, if you use it only occasionally, perhaps the investment in a down bag won't be warranted.

There is no rule that everyone will need the

same amount of insulation to stay warm. Some sleeping bag manufacturers will include a tag specifying to what temperature you can expect to stay comfortable. Most good sleeping bag models offered will be available in different sizes – a regular size and a larger, longer model for a bigger person. Of course a larger bag will require more insulation to provide equal warmth. Shortie bags are available for children, but unless you plan an endless chain of children to use it you are better off investing in a regular size and folding back the unused portion under the sleeper.

The fabrics used on sleeping bags will vary considerably. A polyester bag will commonly have a cotton outer shell of twill or duck and sometimes nylon. The inside is generally cotton flannel, but occasionally you may find a nylon lining. Down bags require a down-proof cover. Lightweight ripstop nylon is often used, sometimes a blended fabric of 50% pima cotton and 50% nylon or a high thread count closely woven cotton or nylon taffeta. Make sure you completely avoid waterproof fabrics. They won't allow body moisture to escape through the bag, and condensation will remain in your bag, resulting in a cold, clammy, wet feeling.

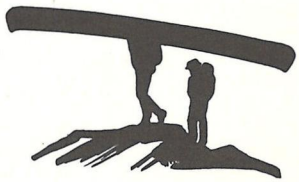
It is very important to look at the overall construction of bags. Examine how the insulation is stitched in place. Will there be cold spots? An insulated weatherstrip along the zipper is important to keep out breezes and to avoid coming in direct contact with the cold zipper. Look for a substantial zipper no less than a number 5 aluminum or brass. Some companies offer a nylon zipper to save weight. Whatever the zipper, be sure it is sewn in well and reinforced at likely points of strain. Some old-time campers still have a mistrust of zippers, but if you look for these features you shouldn't have any trouble. Outfitters, whose equipment get more than normal use, very rarely encounter zipper problems. Other good features found in some bags are two-way zippers so the bottom can be opened for ventilating if a bag becomes too warm. Some bags have an attached hood or snaps for one, which would be advantageous in cold or breezy conditions. Sometimes a stuff bag or compression bag for storing the bag when it is packed is included. If not, these can be purchased separately.

Often bags are photographed with a head canopy. Forget this feature. It is useless except to roll the bag into for packing. Another well-touted feature is an airmattress pocket. Forget this too. It is not important. Most people just roll their bags out on top of the airmattresses, if they are used.

A very important thing to remember no matter what type of sleeping bag you choose is to keep it dry and clean. Air it out as often as possible. Turn it inside out and dry it in the sun whenever you have a chance. Moisture and condensation seriously impair the insulating qualities of any insulation. As soon as you set up camp get your bag rolled out and fluff it up. Fluff it up again before retiring for the night.

This brings us to the next important part of the wilderness bed. The foundation. Next month we will discuss pine bow beds, foam pads, air mattresses and sleepwear.

Write me if you have a question: Terry McGaughey, Route One, Pine River, Minnesota 56474.



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CRUISING CAPERS



MCA Cruise Committee Plans A Raft of Cruises for 1971

The 1971 MCA cruising season will begin where 1970 left off, with a cruise down Rice Creek. With 15 cruises already scheduled, and many more in mind, the MCA Cruise Committee is looking forward to a busy season. Their goal is to have a cruise planned every weekend.

MCA cruises are open to all MCA members and their guests. We only ask that you notify the cruise leader ahead of time that you are going so you won't be left behind. Besides meeting new challenges and discovering new rivers, the cruisers look forward each trip to meeting other MCA members who are out to discover the fun and thrills that await them on a downriver cruise.

The following list is subject to change. Prior to each trip, the leaders will be providing additional details in HUT! If we've omitted your favorite river from our schedule, it's probably because we're waiting for you to volunteer to lead a trip down it.

Date	River	Leader
April 18	Rice Creek	Abner Jones
May 2	Cannon	Linda Jones, Beth and Mary Siemon
May 9	Sunrise	Stu Duncanson
May 15	Kettle	–
May 16	Snake	Bob O'Hara
May 22, 23	Namakagon, Wis.	Linda Jones
May 29, 30, 31	Flambeau, Wis.	Larry Johns
June 5, 6	Crow Wing	Walter B. Jones
June 12, 13	Bois Brule, Wis.	Harry Miller
June 20	Upper St. Croix	–
June 27	M'haha Creek	–
July 3, 4, 5	Upper Mississippi	Bob Haag
July 11	Lockwatennial on Mississippi	–
July 23	Midnight Run on Mississippi	Janet & Janice Robidoux
July 31	Upper Flambeau	Larry Johns
Oct. 3	St. Croix Color Cruise	–

You will note that we still need leaders for some of these cruises. If the cruise happens to be in your back yard and is on a date that you can make, give Larry Johns a call and help us out. Larry is the new Cruising Committee Chairman and would welcome hearing from you. His phone number is 633-6734.

A brainstorming session at the end of the meeting revealed the secret dreams of some of the cruisers are to paddle down the following rivers. If you know of somebody who would lead a trip down any of these rivers, or interested in coming along should plans materialize, call Larry Johns.

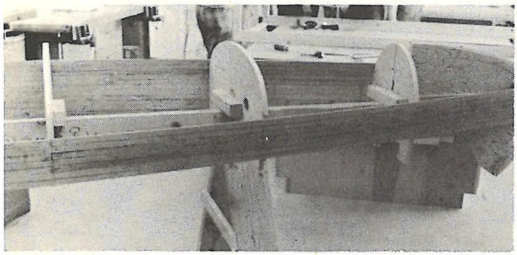
Cloquet River
Big Fork River
Little Fork River
Wolf River, Wis.
Chippewa River, Wis.
Totagatic River, Wis.
Blue Earth River
Root River
St. Louis River
Snake River, Wyoming
Buffalo River, Arkansas

In addition to the scheduled cruises, there will be many impromptu cruises, planned a day or two in advance. Larry Johns will act as a clearing house for these cruises. If you'd like to be called whenever he hears of one of these impromptu trips, give your name to Larry and he or the trip leader will call you whenever one comes up. Some of these trips are the most fun of all. There were two or three of these impromptu trips down Rice Creek in November after the heavy rains in October. In fact, as the meeting broke up, Abner Jones was heard to mutter, "I wonder how Rice Creek will be on Dec. 26?"

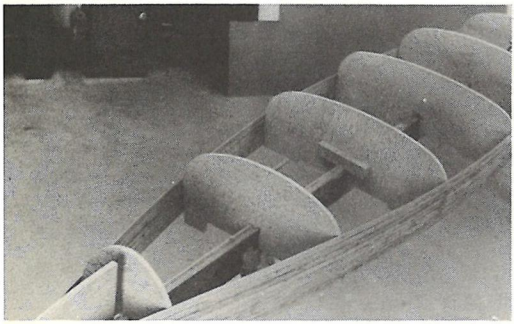


CLASS CANOE-BUILDING DONE BEST IN SMALL GROUPS

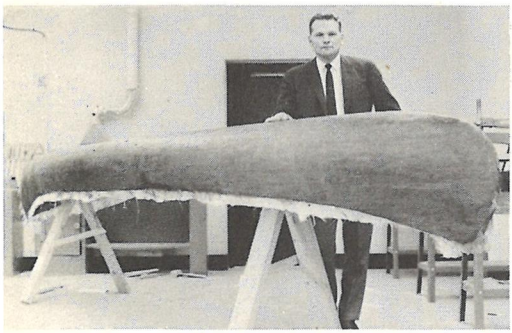
by Ham Kurtz



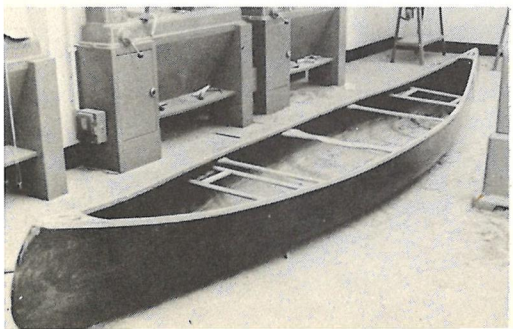
Side view shows early efforts and success at woodstrip bending and glueing.



Partially completed canoe shows blending of MCA know-how and 9th grade student skills.



Wayne Estby poses with freshly fiberglassed canoe done by his class.



Nearly finished canoe awaits final touches for completion.

Mr. Wayne Estby of West Junior High School, Hopkins Public Schools, Hopkins, Minnesota, as a project had his 9th grade woodshop class build a woodstrip fiberglass canoe based on MCA plans. The class decided to do this project concurrently with individual projects. Their decision to build the canoe was a natural result of the interest that most 14 and 15 year olds have in the out-of-doors.

Though the class had 15 students, usually just a few worked on the canoe at any one time. Using the MCA canoe-building book, Wayne encouraged the students to solve their construction problems themselves. In his opinion, this method provided a surer learning experience than giving detailed help would.

Benefit derived from this project was exposure to several skills useful for many other purposes than just canoe building. Wayne listed these skills: building a form, woodstrip bending, fiberglassing techniques, and sanding methods.

First of three problems that Wayne mentioned was initial lack of needed skills among his students. Secondly, the serious problem of the canoe's belonging to no one meant that individual motivation and pride in workmanship sometimes lagged. In addition, there were problems in knowing just where to get materials, since this was the first canoe that Wayne or the students had ever built.

If he were to repeat the project, or if someone else working with junior high students were to try it, Wayne would recommend that the number of students per canoe be limited to four or five at the most.

On completion of the canoe Wayne said that the canoe project was, in his mind, generally a success. "There isn't a kid in that class who doesn't know how to build a canoe."

At the end of the year the canoe was sold to the highest bidder, becoming the pride of Chip Fuhrmann, a student at West. Chip reported this fall that he thought it was a "neat" canoe and was very pleased with it. He indicated it was faster than other canoes he had paddled.

If you are interested in such a project for your school, contact Wayne Estby at West Junior High, Hopkins, to get more details.

Summarization of the December Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at President Bob Haug's home on Wednesday, December 9, 1970. All Board members were in attendance; several interested members – John Arver and Al Buchholz of the 3M Chapter and Larry Johns, Art and Production and Director of HUT!, attended and Roy K. Thomas, Jr. of the Boy Scouts of America and Kim Williams were guests at the meeting.

The following is a summarization of the meeting.

1. The Professional Racers' Raffle had their drawing. A boat and two paddles were raffled which netted and income of $143. This profit will be used to promote professional racing in Minnesota.
2. The Board members appointed Janet Robidoux and Karl N. Ketter, to serve on the Publications Board.
3. The Board members discussed the problem of membership. In the discussions the following ideas were proposed:
   a. MCA needs a membership chairman,
   b. MCA should have a membership drive with a set goal,
   c. The possibility of building a portable (membership oriented) display to be used at different shows and activities meetings.
4. Al Buchholz and John Arver were authorized to represent the MCA in the BWCA hearings to be held in Duluth and St. Paul. Al Buchholz and John Arver will present a report of these hearings at the next meeting.
5. HUT! will now have a specified budget based by the previous month's circulation.
6. Roy Thomas from the Boy Scout office discussed with the Board members various programs in canoeing that could be presented to high school students. He was encouraged to approach young people using the MCA name, and we agreed to help supply "experts" in canoeing, camping, and related fields, as available, to help the program go.



Brush Wolf Sighted in St. Paul

Minnesota conservation officers were understandably skeptical last week when a woman living in the Grand Avenue area of St. Paul called to say there was a wolf in the neighborhood.

Thinking the woman had mistaken a German Shepherd dog for a wolf, she was told to call her local conservation officer Claude Whitney if the animal showed up again.

Well it did. And Conservation Officer Claude Whitney went out to Grand Avenue and not only saw the animal but took some pictures of it.

Now there are some red faces in the headquarters of the Conservation Department's division of enforcement and field service in the Centennial Building, and a lady on Grand Avenue is saying, "I told you so".

Just how or why a brush wolf is hanging about a metropolitan neighborhood has game officials puzzled. One hazarded a guess that the wolf followed the Mississippi River Valley downstream into the city without realizing he was headed into a populated area.

It might also be somebody's pet because it was seen playing with some of the neighborhood dogs.

ICF Congress Meets in Denmark

30 national federations were represented at the 1970 Congress of the International Canoe Federation, held on August 3rd and 4th at the Hotel Lyngby in Copenhagen. Of special interest was the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENT – The United States introduced the following resolution on Environment, which was approved by a standing ovation:

The future of the sport of canoeing depends upon the availability of air and water of sufficient purity as will not endanger the health and enjoyment of our canoeists.

The Congress of the International Canoe Federation held in Copenhagen, 3rd and 4th August, 1970, goes on record as being in agreement with all actions taken to combat pollution and to improve the quality of the lakes, rivers, streams and other canoeable waters of the world.

The Congress recommends that all national federations support all efforts to preserve and improve our environment.

BOOK REVIEW

by Sid Rommel

FINLAY'S RIVER, R.M. Patterson, William Morrow & Co., Inc., 1968. $6.95

This is first-class reading for ice-bound canoeists. The author tells how in 1949 he spent the summer canoeing on Finlay's River and the Parsnip River. These rivers, the headwaters of the Peace, come brawling out of the Rocky Mountains like a hard rain off a shed roof. He traveled up and down them without a motor, thereby confounding the Indians to whom all outside white men are wealthy but anyone without an outboard is destitute. He obviously loves this country and cherishes all aspects of it. He tells about it with wit and charm but it never gets sugary under his treatment. He thoroughly researched the history of the exploration of these rivers, and he picks the highlights of those stories which he interweaves with his own experiences. He answers one question that people interested in fast water canoe travel on small rivers may have asked. Can navigation be improved by rolling the rocks to one side to concentrate the channel? The answer is yes, and it apparently is a lasting improvement.

Equally great reading is the same author's *DANGEROUS RIVER,* but you will have to find the book in your library because it is now out of print. This is his story of the South Nahanni River in the twenties when he was a stout young man of twenty-six, eager to pit his strength and skill against the far north and one of its nastiest and most beautiful rivers.

THE TRADING POST

FORMS FOR 17' GUIDE (steel strongback) – $5.00/boat – contact Pete Romness, 377-2018.

WANTED: MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CHAIRMAN – Can you put a team together to encourage the present members in becoming active and to acquaint new members by having them become involved? We have never had a concerted membership drive in MCA's history! Let's change the tradition by calling Bob Haug at 331-5634.

REDWOOD STRIPS AND STRONGBACK – 16' Guide – contact Dick Swanson, 545-9596.



Photo by Joe Conrad

Outdoor Activities Fair in the Making

MCA is organizing an Outdoor Activities Fair for the February meeting. There will be canoe exhibits and building, camping (including winter camping) and possibly ski tours. If you have an outdoor display or ideas, contact Pam Foster at 861-6613 and join the show.

MCA Presents $500.00 to "Ikes" for BWCA Defense Fund

The MCA's Canoe Country Defense Fund hit the $500 mark last month. Allan Buchholz presented a check for this amount to Robert Zentner of the Izaak Walton League on October 16 at the BWCA Conference at Brookdale. The Izaak Walton League will use this money to support their legal actions to keep drilling and mineral exploitation out of our wilderness canoe country.

This League has been active for many decades in protecting the interests of canoeists and others interested in outdoor recreation and conservation. They can still use contributions to their own Boundary Waters Defense Fund. Make your check payable to this fund and send it to the MCA address. We'll pass it on to the Ikes."

Charlie Reveals Unique Solution to Problem of Winter Canoe Storage

by Ham Kurtz

The other day, as a matter of fact last Saturday, I stopped by Charlie's house. Charlie had told me that he had salvaged his cast iron canoe from the St. Croix River following his accidental sinking during the MCAs Annual St. Croix Cruise. So I pressed him for details that Saturday.

"Yeah, I didn't really expect to get 'er back," said Charlies. "It was those people up in Franconia who did it. Several of the townspeople and local businessmen claimed the Rusty Red Baron was polluting the St. Croix. It seems there was a distinct reddish tinge to the water downstream from where it sank. They told me 'Get that thing out of there, or we'll report you to the Pollution Control Commission!' So I did."

I started looking around for the metal monster. I asked Charlie where it was. He grinned and said, "I shined 'er up, got rid of the rust, and put 'er away for the winter."

I asked him if he had strengthened the garage beams for storage, since I knew Charlie usually stored his canoe out there. He kinda chuckled and asked, "Don't you know where I store my canoe?"

No, I responded, and then compounded my mistake by asking where. Charlie went into detail.

"You know," he said, "I really love my canoe, and I just couldn't see leaving it alone all winter, so I brought it into the house." I thought to myself, Charlie's gone nuts. He saw my look, so added, "Come on down in the recreation room."

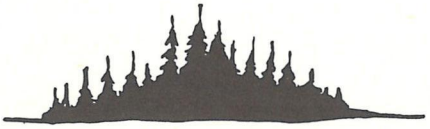
Descending the stairs, I saw Charlie wasn't kidding, for there was old Rusty Red. "Had a little trouble getting it in, but after I broke some of the concrete blocks around the windows I was able to get it in using block and tackle. Doris nearly had a fit, but I showed her how useful a canoe in the basement could be. See," he said, as he pointed toward the bow and stern seats, "I've mounted my stereo speakers under the seats, and the iron seems to actually improve the tone. The turntable and amplifier are up here in front. I use the seats themselves sorta like TV tables."

I told Charlie I thought it was all very unique. He seemed pleased with my response. He said, "Yup, and of course the built-in beer can opener on the bow does double duty now both winter and summer."

I noticed there was dirt in the middle of the canoe. I asked Charlie jokingly if that were a flower box. He laughed and said, "No, that's for our cat. She spends a lot of time down here during cold weather. I figure by late April I should have plenty of fertilizer for my garden."

Charlie did admit one serious problem. It seems tha playing ping-pong down in his rec room requires some pretty fancy footwork because each player must straddle an end of the canoe when the table is up. Needless to say, one slip and they're in trouble.

As we climbed the stairs, Charlie said this arrangement eased his mind in one other respect. Three years ago, during heavy spring rains, his basement had been flooded. "At least, if I get flooded this spring, the stereo won't be damaged," he concluded, "and the cat will be safe, too."





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The Wayward Wind

(7th in a series)
by Bill Fisher

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the house
Not a creature was a stirring . . .

Well, maybe no one except Charlie's son trying to get a peek under the tree to see if his dear old dad had really built him a smaller version of the cast iron special.

This is the season for fireside and tales, and Quetico campfire buffs have won many a contest along this line. "The northern lights have seen strange sights . . ." Well, Robert Service would have to jump to keep up with some of the happenings related by old Quetico travelers.

There was Marvin Middleman, who really turned on when he heard of the prowess of the MCA paddlers who switched every five or ten strokes. The first time Marvin tried it the thick part of the shaft wrapped around his jaw. Much shoreline went by before he was steady enough to get his blade in the water again. But he was a determined cuss, and so pretty soon he cried out "Hut!". This time he kinduv tangled his arms and twisted his neck a bit, and was rather well out of it for another considerable stretch. He finally mastered it in a ten-step procedure, finishing the switch just as his partners called out "Hut!" for the next change. So we put his canoe out in the lead, and he was a grand drum major with that twirling paddle that never touched the water. Good old Marvin.

Another pal was keen on Indian or voyageur headwear, especially the big gaudy feathers. When we hit the Great Northern Rok rookery on Squabus Lake, this pal led an expedition in the dead of night to secure the finest plume available. It's not quite clear whether his trophy was plucked from a live rok or drifted down as the bird soared away. He was the only survivor and naturally quite proud of that huge plume. But one day a good breeze got up and without warning he had lift-off. The rest of us soon overcame our surprise and were just getting up a good cheer to spur him to greater heights when he caught a downdraft and splashed down. Luckily we were headed in his direction and soon fished him out, but the water-soaked feather had lost its sheen and was such a weight that he soon pitched it over and began to talk of wearing dragon flies behind the ears.

Barney – now he was usually worried about bears, really worried when he was portaging a canoe and couldn't see the creatures sneaking up behind him. He knew that his canoe still advertised a fish dinner 'cause of all the walleye and northern that had flopped around in its bottom. Soon as he got off a little way on a portage he'd commence to bang on the sides of his aluminum boat, hoping to intimidate any furry threats that might otherwise approach too close. One day the canoe was particularly rank. All the way along the trail Barney pounded away and mumbled to no one special, "I smell bear." Well, the truth was that just that one time a whole line of bears *did* tag along behind him, very solemn in single file. Just as he arrived at the other end and slid out from under the canoe with a sigh of relief, the bears did a slick maneuver and had him surrounded. He thought his number was up, but wild war-whoops came from the other side of the clearing, and a great gathering of Indian warriors who had trailed this clan of bears for days, it seems, leaped out. The bears fled with disappointed grunts. This was the original Lost Tribe of Moonawhaho braves, responding to the SOS which Barney had unknowingly been beating out on the side of his canoe. The Lost Tribe greeted him like a long lost brother, and were all for packing him off for the initiation ceremony, but fortunately from the forest at this point came . . . well, that's a grandaddy of a tale best saved for another campfire.

Of course there are many friendly forest friends. My trooper buddy, the range ranger who arranges the ranges in the Quetico region, had a phobia for taming young beaver and training them for the Great Sliding Race. Travelers who keep their eyes and ears open know how little beaver love to make a mud slide, the slipprier the better, and while away the time by ripping down it. The range ranger would keep an eye on a colony until the youngsters had gained some proficiency in this sport, then sit around with choice pieces of birch bark and talk to them about the Great Race. In no time he'd have more volunteers than he could handle, and when the woodsmen gathered for the Great Race those with inside information always put their money on my friend's entry. The only time I knew him to come out second best was when some bright young trail bandit fed his entrants ironwood stew. When they hit the slide with that extra weight that shot down it so fast some swore it didn't happen. But it did – sortuv a reverse jumpin' frog of Calavaras County, and the range ranger went off to arrange the ranges muttering to himself.

The great white pines who stand silent but observant around some of those Quetico campsites have seen their share of great outdoor cooks. When judging the merits of a genuine skillet man in those parts, not only the flavor of the final product is considered, but also the skill with which he manipulates his utensils. The best of 'em are not just taste masters but

sleight-of-hand artists, sometimes even kind of song-and-dance men.

They believe a traveler should be in the proper mood when he sits down to enjoy a meal, and if they can draw 'em in while preparing a meal, they can guarantee a preconditioned propensity to appreciate the final offering.

Take Pancake Pete, for instance, the quickest man with a skillet this side of the Arctic Circle: shuffle the cakes around, a little patter, a neat little two-step between the batter pot and the grill, all set up for the grand climax – the triple flip. Lots of fine single and a few great double flippers were plyin' the trade, but he was the only one who scored consistently on a triple-flip. One time his showmanship almost got the best of him. He scrounged around for the biggest skillet he could find, near 30 inches across, and toted it over the portages, just itching for that first p-cake breakfast. When the moment came for the triple flip, with the dudes standing around drooling at the size of that cake, Pete reached casual-like for that magnificent skillet, hoisted it off the grill, and with hardly a pause gave the old flick and sent that lovely first pancake high into the air. Sure enough it turned over at the top, but instead of coming on down for the other two flips it slid sideways and then gained altitude and in no time was lost over the tallest white pine. Pete was crestfallen, attributing it to some fault in his technique. But when he heard later that the Canadian Royal Air Force had been called out to intercept a flying saucer but couldn't down it, he did allow it must have been one of his lightest cakes and no disgrace.

When men can no longer spin their tales with the fire-flick in their faces, it will be time to seek solace in other areas and activities.



Camp Cookery

FRUIT SOUP* (40 camp minutes)

24 pieces dried apricot, pears or peaches
12 prunes
1/2 c. (packed) raisins
1/3 c. sugar
1 T. quick-cooking tapioca
1 stick cinnamon
1/4 tsp. nutmeg (optional)

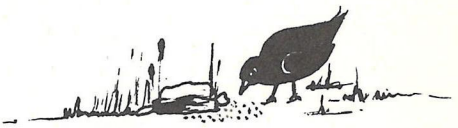
Mix above ingredients; heat-seal in bag.

1 small thin-skinned orange, washed and dried
1/2 c. milk powder (optional)

Put milk powder in plastic bag; tie shut. Put dried fruit package, orange and milk powder packet into pouch; heat-seal.

At camp Slice unpeeled orange thin, discarding stem and blossom ends. Put orange and fruit mixture into pot, add enough water to cover ingredients, and simmer (covered) 30 minutes or until fruit is tender. Discard cinnamon stick. Serve fruit soup warm, topped with milk, if desired. (For milk, dissolve 1/2 c. milk powder in 3/4 c. water.)

*from *A FINE KETTLE OF FISH And Other Things: The Wilderness Chef's Handbook,* ©1970 Jean-Marie Fisher.



Blake Club to Hold Slalom in January

The Blake Whitewater Club will sponsor a pool slalom on January 23 and 24 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Blake School pool, Blake Road at Excelsior Avenue East, Hopkins Minnesota, about 2 miles west of Highway 100, on Excelsior Avenue. Although expert division will be included, special emphasis will be placed on novice and intermediate classes. The pool will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, but you must arrive earlier if you are bringing a boat (which must be clean). The slalom is open to everyone, and boats will be provided for canoeists without crafts. If you have questions, please call Doug Peterson at 464-5813, or write him: Route 4, Box 41, Excelsior Boulevard, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print in ink or type. Make application for membership on official MCA forms only. Fill in all spaces each time you renew. If you do not want to use the back page of your Hut, join at a monthly meeting. Forms will be available there.

MEMBERSHIPS

1) Regular Members —$5.00 annual dues; full club benefits.
2) Junior Members —$3.00 annual dues; full benefits except for voting rights. Not yet age 19.
3) Associate Members — $4.00 annual dues; receives the newsletter. May purchase separately, items in the membership kit.
4) Life Members —Full benefits for life.

Your membership card will be your proof of payment. Memberships are non-transferable. Make checks payable to the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc.

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