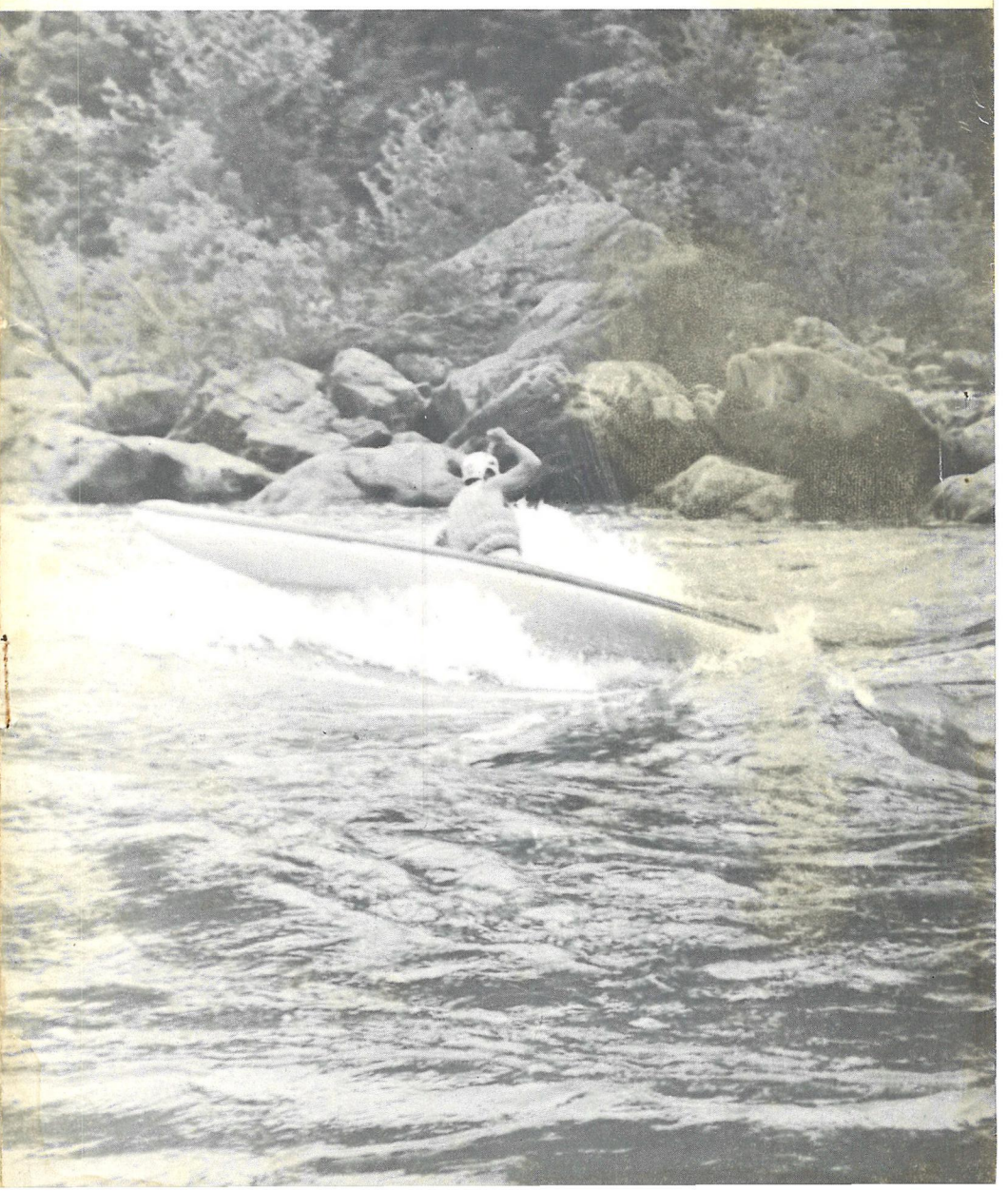
HUT!

MAY 1969
Volume 3 No. 7



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETINGS

May 21	Activities Meeting - Camping Expo, Movie, "Waters of the St. Croix",St. Joseph's Church, Hopkins.
May 28	Board Meeting - Button
June 18	Activities Meeting - Paddling Style and Technique from Cruising to Racing to Whitewater. Lake of the Isles, Mpls., South Shore. Bring your canoe.
June 25	Board Meeting - Ketter
July 16	Activities Meeting - Traditional Treasure Hunt, 3M Chapter Host.
July 19,20	Board Meeting and Cruise. Terry McGaughey Pine River, Minn.
Aug. 20	Activities Meeting - Evening Cruise on Chain of Lakes: Brownie, Cedar, Lake of Isles, Calhoun. Picnic on Cedar Lake.
Aug. 27	Board Meeting - Wisniak, Nomination of Officers.

CRUISES AND RECREATION

May 30, 31 June 1	Memorial Day Wilderness Canoe Country Cruise, Superior Nat'l Forest. Three day trip-cruise. Bob O'Hara, leader, 561-3007.
June 21	Ladies Choice River Cruise, Betty Ketter, leader, limited space, reservations necessary. 561-2208.
June 27	Midnight Moonlight Mississippi River Cruise. Anoka to Ketter's Landing, 10 pm to Midnight. Pancake breakfast served after the trip, everyone welcome. Call Ketter's 561-2208.
June 28, 29	Crow Wing River Cruise. An excellant family trip. Bill Marcouiller, leader, 789-0074 before June 13. RR#2 Battle Lake, Minn. 56515 after June 13.
July 13	Third Annual Lockwatennial Cruise through the three Mississippi River Boat locks. 1 pm to 4pm. Put in at Gray Co. landing, below the Broadway Bridge, take out below the Ford Dam Locks at Hidden Falls.
July 19, 20	Pine River Cruise, Terry McGaughey, leader. Pine River, Minn.

COVER PHOTO: Joe Conrad, Cheat River, Ind.

HUT!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION, INC.

MAY, 1969
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 7

MCA ACTIVITIES MEETING

May 21

CAMPING EXPO

Here it is, a real double header. The color movie "Waters of the St. Croix" will be shown along with the theme of Camping.

- Special features will be handouts on camping
- Camp cookery and utensils
- Routes and areas to go
- Equipment

Final details on the Memorial Day canoe trip will be available for those who wish to sign up.

Time: 7:30 pm

Date: May 21

Place: St. Joseph's Church, 1320 West Excelsior Ave. Hopkins.

****

April Showers Reign with Evening of Photos and Information at

MCA APRIL MEETING

Hardly inside the door, your choice of a name tag - yellow for members, orange for guests - and on down a long table covered with loads of river information to take home greeted canoeists. Here at the April meeting was a real chance to get enthused about the river trips or canoeing in general. Attended by 175 the program was interesting and lively. Joe Conrad ran through some excellent slides featuring racing, cruising, and MCA events. Second in line was a 16mm color film by Bob O'Hara, featuring an October trip through Superior National Forest and climaxed by some footage of the Kettle rapids shot on the St. Croix in September. The highlight was Ham Kurtz's presentation of how to make artistic SOS signals on the Seal river while patiently waiting for a rescue. Being a real show stopper, Ham held the audience in suspense, laughter, adventure, and sympathy. It was a great evening with many new friends joining the MCA as members.

SPRING FEATURE

THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN

VS

THE PROFESSIONALS

by Ken Ketter

They say -- whoever "they" might be -- that no matter how good you are at something, you can always learn a lesson.

As the story goes, the experienced boys of Minnesota are still learning some tricks of the trade regarding professional canoeing from Michigan's Molly Brown.

It all started in the middle of the winter when Buzz (Peterson) was driving his snowmobile home -- on the river. You guessed it. Roar! Crack! Splash! Don't feel too bad about it, he did rescue the snowmobile the next day. They say -- whoever they are -- that Buzz is one of the top professionals because he is always trying new ideas. Lets call him our First Wet Professional.

Due to the high waters in Minnesota, a few more or less so called professionals had to get out there to pretest their 3-year old canoe. Jeff Howe and Gary Neddermeyer took off Saturday afternoon, April 12th. As a result, the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune read "POLICE RESCUE TWO CANOEISTS FROM ISLAND."

Sunday, April 13th, was the trip down Rice Creek. Spectators and canoeists saw numerous paddlers swimming. Jeff Howe was now the victor of veteran Clint Waddell, or whatever the case may be.

Excitement wasn't over for the Rice Creek paddlers. Karl L. Ketter got a little wetter than he expected when he helped another swimmer retrieve a canoe. Wasn't hard to get wet under the circumstances. Label Karl Number Five.

The day ended with a surprise, especially for our newest professional, Keith Canny. Bob Bergstrom, the kind soul, decided to help Keith bring his canoe out of the water, not noticeing that Keith was still seated in the stern. Bob picked up the bow and Professional Number Six took a dip. We'll give Bob the Number Seven spot.

Even some of our top amateur racers including MCA president, Joe Conrad, Laura Muellenback, Harold Beecroft and Dennis Withers have had these "Professional" experiences.

So "Who is Molly Brown", you ask. Well, actually he's a funny little man from Michigan who happens to be one of the few pro racers who hasn't gone for an "early swim." Molly Brown, better known as Norm Brown

from Greenville, Michigan visited Minnesota on the weekend of April 18. Molly Brown has proven, in his sarcastic way, that his spring training is far superior to a Minnesotan's. His secret (now don't tell anyone) is that he hasn't been in a canoe yet.

In every incident mentioned here, safety did come first and no individuals suffered injury. Life jackets were in use. The buddy system proved a savior to many, when necessary. Always remember, anyone can tip -- even YOU! So, please CANOE, but canoe safely.

RICE CREEK

MCA cruises got off to a lively start with the Rice Creek Cruise. A flock of canoe birds arrived like a spring migration. In one of the biggest canoe cruises ever for the MCA, over 30 canoes started down the creek. The weather was perfect...Warm (in the 70's), windless, and sunny. Low bridges, trees barricading the channel, ruins of bridges and dams, and rocks made staying afloat a challenge. Spirits were high even though about a dozen canoes spewed paddlers into the icy water. Many learned that even a small unpretentious creek can demand canoemanship. Our thanks for a fine job of organizing to Ab Jones.

Included in the Survival List are:

Bruce Henry
Bob Larson
Myrvin Secord
Bob O'Hara
Bob Soach
Bill Rollefson
Jay Berne
Dick Westby
W. A. Brun and 2 kids
Betty and Karl Ketter
The Robidoux Twins
Richard Dalgue
Pat and Keith Canny
Gordy and Norma Erickson
Tam Elliot
Ken Ketter
Tom and Dick Benepe
Gerry Moore
Les Eck
Bob Bergstrom
Clair Nelson
Sharon Nelson
Ed Klunder
Rog Bell
Leroy Kochel
Paul Tamm
David Martin
Jack and Jim Imbertson
John Breckenridge
Ron Burley
Ray Levingston
Dave and Jean Markusen
Dick Cunningham
John Webb
Ann Cunningham
Gary Brynes
Mark Imbertson
Jeff Howe
Clint Waddell
Barbara Cunningham
Gary Quick
Harold Beecroft
L. Muellenbach
E. Schlaman
Greg Jones
Ab Jones
Thakohurst
Karen Gintu
Mari Siemon
Milton Zien
Larry Turner

RIVER CRUISE

CANOEING THE PINE RIVER

By Einer Anderson

The distinguishing charm of the Pine is its wilderness atmosphere. Here you can enjoy nature's silent dignity among its abundance of wild life. The spirit of the early Indian people can be captured while traveling this ancient waterway and imaginative ears will hear the sounds of muffled drums and chants of ages past as they ride the night breeze to your camp fire.

The Pine is not a well known river, which accounts for the little use made of its waters and the wilderness atmosphere that prevails. Its course runs intermittently through pine and hardwood forests and occasional marsh areas.

The portion of the Pine that we will discuss in this article will be that portion from county road 36 in Crow Wing County to its confluence with the Mississippi. The upper reaches of this route are quite shallow until the river enters Pine Lake. South from Pine Lake the current will carry your canoe along four to five miles per hour. Camp sites are numerous along this beautiful river as the major portion of land ownership is held by the County of Crow Wing and the Northwest Paper Company. Beautiful pine ridges afford excellent camp sites along the route, but its greatest asset is the Pine's clear water. I can thing of no river with waters excelling that of the Pine.

The greatest display of wildlife along this river can be found during the spring season. All species of ducks native to the area can be found in abundance at this time of the year. Song and shore birds will thrill the bird watcher as he glides down this river.

There are many interesting backwaters along the route that will give you a chance to see fur bearers such as the beaver and the muskrat. The early spring trip will also reward the canoeist with the annual display of spawning fish, which at times covers the bottom of the river in certain areas. The Little Pine river enters the Pine approximately two thirds of the way down this route from a northeasterly direction and a short distance up the Little Pine you will find riffles where this wonder of nature takes place.

The Pine also has something for the history buff. Approximately an eighth of a mile from the junction of the two rivers, there is a lake that lies to the west and can be reached by a small creek connecting the two. There are mounds on the east side of the lake that have been referred to as Fort Flat Mouth. Mention of them is made in N. H. Winchell's "Aborigines of Minnesota" published in 1911.

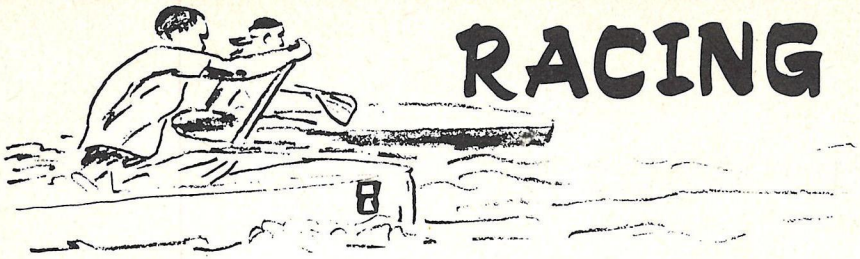
A short distance from the junction of the Little Pine, the river enters a large marsh area. This area can be found most interesting from a wildlife standpoint. On one of our many trips down this river, I was fortunate enough to see a brush wolf in this particular area. I never fail to be enchanted by the abundance of wildlife that exists in a marsh area, if one only takes the time to look.

The river now enters a hardwood and pine area and is one of the more scenic stretches of this river. At this point, you are now approaching your destination and the lift out at the bridge that crosses the Pine River on county road 11.

The Pine is an excellent river for the wildlife enthusiast and for those who desire a quiet week-end canoe trip with a wilderness atmosphere. There are no difficult white waters to negotiate and camp sites are both scenic and plentiful.

If we should meet on the Pine, we shall greet you in the language of the first people of this ancient waterway - "Bojo Tchiman nikaniss."





RACING

RACE SCHEDULE

May 17-18	Red River, Kentucky
	Wolf River, Wisconsin; Wildwater races
	Mad River, Ohio
May 24-25	Wolf River, Wisconsin; Slalom Races
	Big Miami River, Ohio
May 25	Jensen Handicap, Mississippi River; MCA
	Des Plaines River, Illinois; write Ralph Freese, Chicagoland Canoe Base, 4019 Narragansett, Chicago, Ill. 60634
May 31	Black River, Wisconsin; write Black River Country, Inc., Herbert E. Rhoades, Secy. Box 191, Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456
May 31 June 1	Wolf River Marathon (Note: This race is NOT MCA approved. It has no organization behind it and wholly lacks safety considerations. (Joe Conrad))
June 7	Grand Rapids, Minnesota; 15 miles (See note in this issue)
June 7-8	Little Miami, Ohio
June 8	Valentine, Nebraska; write to M. J. Nelson 501 Green Street, Valentine, Neb. 69201
June 14-15	Big Miami, Ohio
June 14-21	Texas Water Safari; Pro, 419 miles. Write to Texas Water Safari, Box 721, San Marcos Texas, 78666
June 15	Kickapoo River, Wisconsin
June 21	White River, Indiana
June 22	Beatrice Homestead Days Race, Nebraska
	Driftwood River, Indiana
June 29	Kankakee River, Illinois
July 5	Devil's Jump, Tennessee-Kentucky, South Fork Cumberland River
July 26-27	Glenwood Waterama; MCA Canoe Races, Write to Karl Ketter, 101-79th Ave. N, Mpls, MN 55430

JENSEN RACE

ANNUAL JENSEN HANDICAP CANOE RACE

DATE	Sunday, May 25th
TIME	1:00 pm sharp. Participants must be there one-half hour early for drawing of partners and canoes.
COURSE	Canoes start at Ketter's landing on the Mississippi River, 101-79th Ave. N. Mpls. Proceed downstream around the island just north of the Highway 694 bridge and back upstream to the landing. Canoes pass the west side of the island downstream and the east side coming upstream. Any course may be followed before and after going around the island.
DISTANCE	About 3 miles; approximately 45 minutes to complete race
CONTESTANTS CANOES AND EQUIPMENT	Experienced racers and novice racers are paired by a drawing. Teams then draw to determine which canoe they will use. Bring a 16 ft, 3 and 27 racing canoe if you have one. Each participant must bring a paddle and a life preserver. Each contestant must be a dues paid regular member of the MCA.
PRACTICE	It is recommended that those who plan on racing who have never raced or paddled in a 16 foot racing canoe contact the Ketters or some other racing member and arrange for a paddling instruction and training session. These sessions will be on the weekend. Such experience assures closer competition and added interest in the race. The Jensen Handicap has always been a very successful event and we look forward to an even better one this year.
AFTER THE RACE	The race will be followed by refreshments and a light lunch, picnic style. Members, bring you friends and guests. Everyone is welcome. Last year we were covered by WCCO TV, so lets have a good crowd in case they honor us again.

GRAND RAPIDS

SECOND ANNUAL STATE CANOE CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	June 7th
PLACE	Grand Rapids, Minnesota
ENTRY FEE	$10.00
PRO PURSE	Total, $1,000. Breakdown $300 - $225 $175 - $100 - $80 - $60 - $40 - $20
COURSE	Same as last year
SPECS	Canoes 18½ max, 3 and 27, pumps allowed
AMATEUR RACE	Canoes 17 max, 3 and 27 Trophies and merchandize prizes
BOY SCOUT CLASS	Same route. If interested, contact your local scout leader or council office. Canoe rules: stock model canoes, aluminum, glass, wood, canvas covered.
MORE INFORMATION	For additional race information, write to: Grand Rapids Jaycee's, Grand Rapids Minnesota 55721

BUILDING

NEW KAYAK MOLD AVAILABLE

A second whitewater slalom kayak mold has been completed and is available to MCA members from Bob Haug. The kayak has a larger cockpit and more hull volume, making it ideal for larger paddlers - in the 160 to 200 pound range. In its first competitive use it took second and third place in the St. Francis, Missouri Slalom and first place in the novice class. Those of us who have paddled it have been impressed by its easy handling without sacrificing speed.

A mold for an 18½ ft. cruising and racing canoe is in progress, based on an original design by Bob Haug and Al Button. The prototype strip canoe is nearing completion and a 2-part mold will be constructed from it. It should be a fast, easy to paddle boat but, because of its volume, should have a large cargo capacity and should be stable.

RESIN

MCA RESIN AND FIBERGLASS MOVES

John Musil, the MCA's here-to-for indispensable dispensor of fiberglass supplies has turned the job over to two new committeemen. The responsibility is one of vital importance to the organization. John has done a superlative job over the last two years. He has been available at almost any hour of the day or night. Hundreds of members have realized savings in canoe-building costs because of his efforts. The MCA knows no way to fully recognize John's contribution. From the Board of Directors and the membership we extend heartfelt thanks.

ATTENTION!

TWO SUPPLY DEPOTS

The MCA is establishing a North and a South Depot for resin and fiberglass. Because we rely on volunteer workers and because the MCA is a nonprofit organization (meaning we can sell to members only), it is imperative that members note the following rules:

1. Supplies sold only to PAID UP REGULAR ($5) MEMBER who shows his card

2. Call the depot and schedule a time for picking up supplies. This affords the vendors some measure of privacy and often permits him to have your order ready when you arrive.

3. Bring a clean glass gallon bottle for each gallon of resin. Bleach bottles are not recommended. Bottles can often be obtained at root beer and Dairy Queen stands. Anyone without a bottle will pay a bottle fee.

NORTH DEPOT	Cliff Lee (Phone 784-8202) 423 - 79th Way NE, Fridley
SOUTH DEPOT	Jerome Kress (Phone 929-6949) 5647 Wood Lane, St. Louis Park





Bill
and

R
CR

Photo

Dave and Jean M
through a bit of f
Rice Creek.



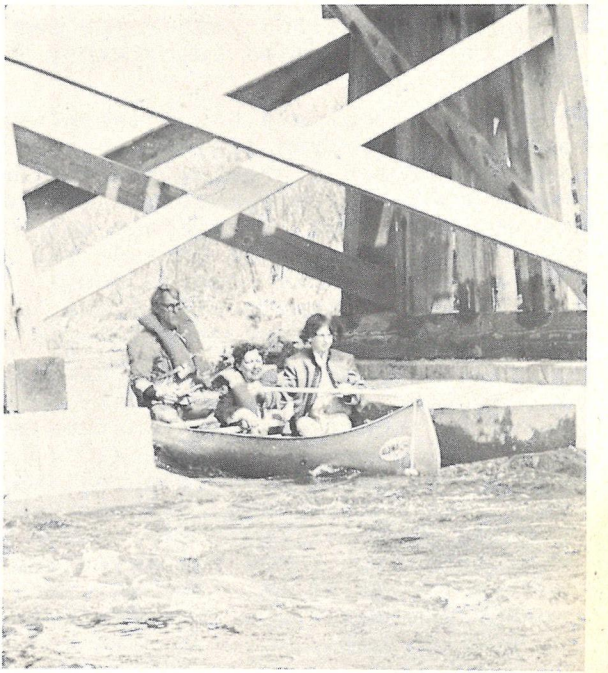
Rollefson and Betty Keter watch the last canoes finish at Locke Park. Gerry Moore Les Eck, paddle partners, are on the right.

ICE

REEK

os by Bob O'Hara, Jr.

arkusen shoot fast water on



Dick, Barbara and John Cunningham slide through one of the many bridges with ease.

OUTWARD BOUND

Ed. Note: The author is a sophomore at St. Thomas College. He was asked to write his own reactions to his experiences. This article therefore reflects the feelings of an individual and his reactions to the Outward Bound Program.

by Tim Stoddart

I have found that when most people are asked if they have ever heard of Outward Bound Schools they usually say "Isn't that some type of physical training camp where kids go to build muscles?" As a result of this kind of answer, many myths about its programs and purpose have been formed. As a graduate of Minnesota Outward Bound School, I would like to present my feelings toward the school and what it meant to me, perhaps eliminating a few of the strange myths that have been heard around the streets. My account of the school is simply what I experienced and what it did for me.

The first Outward Bound School was founded in the British Isles under the auspecies of the British Army. Its purpose, then, as it is now, is to show men their mental and physical capacities and prove to them that man can endure more than he might think. With this knowledge of self-confidence man was found to have more of an awareness of the things he does and the people he meets. Its results were found to be so successful that after the war the Outward Bound theories were carried into twenty three schools all over the world.

At Minnesota Outward Bound there were ninety-six boys ranging in age from sixteen to twenty. Upon arrival, each boy signed a promise stating he would accept and meet the challenges presented to him to the best of his ability. The large group was divided into brigades of twelve. Each brigade was composed of a boy from a correctional home, a couple from college, a few from homes that could afford the $425 tuition, and the majority were from "ghetto" or "slum" areas.

My first surprise was to discover that the physical conditioning was not what I had feared. I had expected to find it so hard that my muscles would not be able to move when finished. It was hard, but resulted in being more of a challenge than a punishment. The conditioning allowed everyone to compete, with the most difficult part being how much you could push yourself. There was never anyone yelling or forcing you to go on. The motivation to go a little further was built and founded in the relations of the brigade members. You were the only one that determined what you could or couldn't do. As I reflect back on the days in base camp, I remember them as

being physically hard, but even more mentally straining because I had to force myself to do a little more when nobody else could. As time went on the brigade accepted more challenges and became more positive of its capabilities.

Personal relation and respect were a very important part of the ten days at base camp. In each brigade there were kids from all types of homes and backgrounds. We worked and lived together on equal terms and didn't bother to consider where the other fellow hailed from. When we would have difficulties with one another it was never in terms of "that nigger" or "that rich kid". Instead, when someone made a mistake it was an individual that did it not a race or class of people. I cannot consider that negros are bad or slum persons are not worthy citizens, I think of them only as the individuals they are.

At the conclusion of ten days in base camp, the brigade elected two student leaders, of which I was one. My responsibility was to lead five guys on a ten mile trek through the woods. We were directed only by a compass and the fundamentals taught us. Each of us carried thirty pounds on our backs and our goal was to arrive safely in the designated location.

I don't know if it was the swampy terrain or the fact that we were on our own that caused things to go as they did, but whatever it was, the going was very hard. During lunch break, two guys started running ahead and a little later somebody thought we were lost and going in the wrong direction. These were problems, probably the first real problems we had faced together. These were bad things to experience, especially for me because I felt responsible for the rest of the guys. It was one of those things that at first you would like to quit, but realize that you have a goal and must move on. This, then, was a challenge that we had to meet and overcome together, which was the philosophy taught us during base camp.

The second half of the course was the expedition through Quetico. The trip lasted for ten days during which time we averaged thirty-five to fifty miles a day in canoes.

I remember the expedition as being very hard work. I don't recall the long sunsets or the good fishing we had. Working hard both mentally and physically, each of us had a load to carry and a job to do and we were expected to do it. Often we were challenged to use the knowledge learned in base camp. There was

close personal contact within the group along with arguments and hard discussions, but it was very challenging to live with this, not having the option of quitting when you wanted to or going off alone and forgetting the brigade. I felt there was such a feeling of accomplishment at the end that it really made the trip a worthwhile experience in human understanding.

The highlight of the course was the solo. Here were presented with the challenge of living by ourselves with the aid of a few matches, fish hooks, and a small plastic sheet. Each student was alone and the responsibility of how well he made his solo depended upon his willingness to meet unknown challenges.

I'll admit that when the time for solo came I was very glad. I was happy because I wanted to be alone away from the brigade. I was getting tired of the confusion and responsibility and really wanted a rest.

When I began my solo it was really great. At last I felt that I was free to do as I wanted. I proceeded to set up my lean-to shelter and search for food. After much effort and frustration, I discovered the only food available was a handful of berries and a few leaves to make tea with. The following day I awoke with the feeling of freedom which made me feel great. However, as the day progressed, so did my feelings of which I noticed a change. There was no food and I was hungry. I started to move a little slower. I became bored with fishing and carving wood. As time went on I began to experience the unknown challenges I had heard of and realized how tough they were. The greatest challenge was just being alone. This was the first time I had ever felt so alone and so aware of myself in relation to my family and friends. It's funny how you can think about your parents and friends and not really realize how important they are to you until you are totally separated from them. It was a real challenge to keep from getting depressed when I thought of how little I had done for them and how much they had already done for me. I missed my parents, family, and members of the brigade while on solo. However, I was very appreciative of the opportunity to make myself aware of them and what they were doing for me.

Upon returning from solo I was more aware of myself and of other people. I told the members of the brigade that I had thought about and cared about them.

Looking over what I have written here, I can think of much that has been left out and how much I would like to relate about Outward Bound but can't because of space limitations. My contact with the school both as a student in session and the times I have gone back to see the instructors has convinced me that the school is dedicated to building youth. They want to help youth learn that he can do anything if he wants to find the goals and meet the challenges.



Joe Conrad, Harold Beecraft, St. Francis River, Mo.

St. Francis Slalom Results

K-1	pen.	total
Seaman	80	389.5
Button	60	482.6
Witters	130	504.4
Ransburg	70	510.6
Pete Cary	90	516.4
Alan Temple	130	549.6
Gil Bortleson	90	559
Bruce Campbell	160	586.5
Eric Olsen	150	603.1
Jim Fahey	210	671.5
John Strahler	600	952.1
Steve Sirr	640	964.9
Ollie Stone	950	1290

C-2	pen.	total
Olsen,Eric	80	543.9
Conrad,Joseph	110	562.5
Ransburg,Steve	180	597.3
Weber,Bruce	180	625
Button,Allan	190	626.4
Woltjen,Duane	340	714
Bortleson,Gil	210	796.1
Kloepper,Ron	310	807.5
Schmidt,Jeremy	500	970.8
Klunder,Edgar	460	975
Guenther, Michael	750	1157
Beecroft,Harold	1040	1432.6

C-2 M		
Woodside-Olsen	180	715.9
Woltjen-Woltjen	440-	843.9
Muellenback	450	962.6
Seaman- Seaman	860	1248.9
Vedder-Fahey		DNF
Denzel-Denzel		DNF
McCracken-Button		DNF.

C-1	pen.	total
Olson,Eric	80	543.9
Conrad,Joseph	110	562.5
Ransburg,Steve	150	580.9
Weber,Bruce	180	625
Button, Allan	190	626.4
Woltjen, Duane	340	714
Bortleson, Gil	210	796.1
Kloepper,Ron	310	807.5
Schmidt,Jeremy	500	970.8
Klunder,Edgar	460	975
Guenther,Edgar	750	1157
Beecroft,Harold	1040	1432.6

C-2 M	pen.	total
Olsen-Ransburg	50	393.2
Conrad-Witters	230	604
Bortleson- Fahey	200	696.4
Button-Cary	310	748
Guenther-Schevers		DNF
Kloepper-Woltjen		DNF

C-1 Novice

Hawksley	320	761.4
Campbell	360	776.3
Brauer	1020	1274.4
Palmer	1030	1359.15

C-2 Novice

Weber- Campbell	290	700,5
Schmidt-Brauer	550	965.5
Yanke- Strahler	590	1019

K-1W Novice

Lorene Vedder	770	1132.8
Cindy Woodside		DNK
Laura Muellenbach		DNF

WHITE WATER

FROM BEGINNER TO WINNER

ST. FRANCIS SLALOM, 1969

as reported by Al Button

How does a person get started paddling whitewater canoes and kayaks? If you are a student at the University of Minnesota, as is Laura Muellenbach, you happen to wander into the Cooke Hall swimming pool one cold winter evening to find a half dozen brightly colored toy-like boats bobbing around in the water. Someone ways, "Come on down and try one of the boats." Why not? It looks harmless enough and everyone seems to be having fun. You are given a spray skirt and a paddle and you are told how to kneel in the front of a C-2. You are shown how to brace, draw and pry. A little later you try a kayak and just when you are getting a little confidence - splash! Over you go. Well, at least you now know it's easier to get out of those tight little boats than you had feared.

The experience was fun, so you return the next week. And the next. You hear lots of talk about "The Missouri Trip" and become curious. What is a slalom race? What is it like on a river? Is there room for another rider in one of the cars?

Yes, there is room. So Thursday evening, March 27 finds you and nine other whitewater people in four cars with about eight boats on the way to the St. Francis River. After a thirteen-hour ride you arrive, quickly set up camp and then volunteer to ferry the cars back while the experienced people run the upper St. Francis for fun.

It doesn't work out that way. You find yourself in the front of the C-2 piloted by Joe Conrad and paddling with the rest of the group in spite of your protests. A wet suit has been produced and a life preserver and there are plenty of paddles. The air is warm, but the water is only 45°. You try not to think about capsizing. For ten miles you bounce, splash, and weave through some nice class II and III rapids trying, not always successfully, to follow captain Conrad's shouted commands. Miraculously, you survive the trip and enjoy all the excitement of it. A kayak didn't fare quite as well and required several yards of plastic tape applied to the bow so it could limp the last three miles.

You begin to relax and enjoy watching the races the next day. But Joe has other ideas. He could use a partner for the C-2 mixed class. Being the only girl in the MCA group, other than Georgia Longtin who is busy taking pictures, you are elected.

You have seen the dam where the river suddenly drops for five feet or so. They have hung the first three gates over that turbulent chute. You have seen experienced canoeists and kayakists get overturned in the chute and you watched Denny Withers get pulled down in the undertow to be released thirty feet downstream after swallowing some St. Francis river water. So, with these comforting thoughts in mind you listen to the countdown. Five, four, three, two, one, zero! You paddle out into the mill pond, line up on gate one and swish. Down the chute you go, racing madly into the foam at the bottom, burying the bow. When the boat pops up again it is no longer under you. You are under all that swirling foam and out of the boat immediately, and back to the surface in another second. It's cold but the rescue people help you out quickly and then go after the abandoned canoe, with the frantic help and encouragement of Joe who seems quite interested in the welfare of the canoe.

One of the first things you learn about a slalom race is that you get two tries for each event. So, the next day, there you are again. You've survived your baptism and would like to see what the other fifteen gates are like. This time you make it through that first murderous chute - and through the rest of the course. You watch the rest of the competition and even try the novice kayak course - upsetting as expected, but an old hand at it by now.

Then, you are at the finish line where the trophies are being presented. "Third place, C-2 mixed, Laura Muellenbach and Joe Conrad!" You're a winner. You are also a little hysterical. It was worth the trip for the rest of the MCA group just to watch your reaction.

The rest of the MCA people had a lot to cheer about too as the partial results below will show. We had a great time and were pleased with the progress our newer people, Harold Beecroft, Ed Klunder, and Laura made this winter.

Bob Haug and Georgia Longtin, while temporarily not in the competition, immortalized much of it in a 20 minute super 8 mm movie which shows some of our embarrassing mistakes as well as our good moves.

☆☆☆

CRUISING

Ladies Choice!

CANOEING IS FUN! FUN! FUN!

by Betty Ketter

In these days of unrest, everyone is demonstrating for a change - and for a few of us women, a change in canoeing it will be, even if for only two or three days.

When dad ties the canoe on to the family chariot, it's always north to the wilderness for a quiet bout with nature, nothing to do but sit and relax and paddle a little away from the cares of the work-a-day world, but for me and for other wives it's nothing but work on these little jaunts.

Enough is enough! I talked it over with other canoe bitter homemakers, and we decided on a little plan to switch things around. We decided that one long weekend this summer, we are going to swing the canoe around and head it south and see the things everyone talks about, but no one ever sees.

Have you ever seen St. Paul from the river by canoe? Do the slaughter houses really raise a smell when you paddle by? How much sewage is coming into the river below Pig's Eye Island? Are the bluffs of the Mississippi before Hastings as magnificant as stories tell? Is the river so big and wide and rough at Lake Pepin that it could sink an excursion boat? These and many other things we will find out, but most of all we will find out how nice it can be with no camping along the way.

Plans include a motel and supper at Hastings, breakfast in bed and off to Redwing. I am sure two days of this will be enough to talk about for a long time. Just think, two days of canoeing with no cooking. Just for fun - fun - fun. This is Ladies Choice on June 21 and 22. For details, down payment, and appointment call Betty Ketter, 561-2208.

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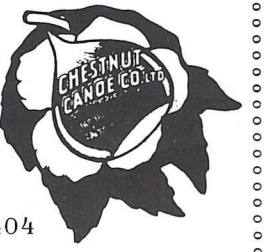
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invites you to participate in a week long canoe trip in the Border Canoe Area. Dates are from August 23 to August 31, and the cost will be about $65 per person (includes overnight accomodations, food, and canoe rental). Non-members may obtain an organizational pass for 25 persons costing $15.

Groups and individuals are also invited to use the Gunflint Youth Hostel on Gunflint Lake, 47 miles northwest of Grand Marais, Minn. Cost is $1 per night.

Contact us at P.O. Box 9511, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(please print)

Name _____ Sex _____ Age _____

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I wish to apply for membership in the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc., for the year Nov. 1, 19 , to Oct. 31, 19

○ REGULAR ($5) ○ JUNIOR ($3) ○ ASSOCIATE ($2.50) ○ LIFE ($100)

SIGNED _____ Date _____ 19 _____

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY INFORMATION

Occupation _____ No. of Years canoeing _____ Canoe Owner? _____ Type _____

Please make checks payable to Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc.
Your membership card will be your receipt and proof of payment.

Mail application to: Minnesota Canoe Association, Karl L. Ketter
Membership Chairman, 101 - 79 Ave. No. Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55430

Moving?

So that you won't miss a single issue of HUT!, please send your new address to Karl L Ketter, 101 - 79th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN, 55430.



NOTICE: Bulk mail cannot be forwarded by the Post Office. Therefore, it is necessary for you to inform Karl Ketter if you have a change in address.

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The Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote all aspects of canoeing. Member of the American White Water Affiliation.

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