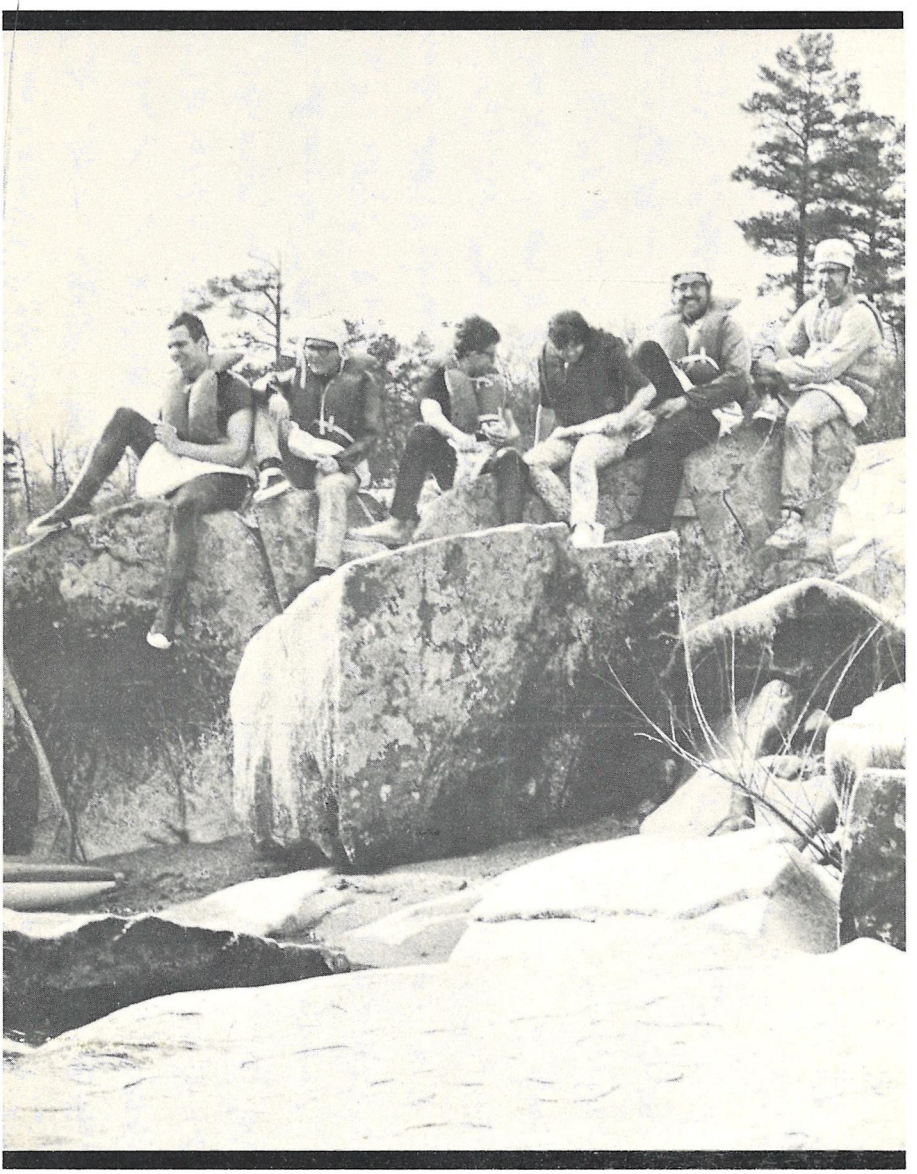
VOLUME 3 NO. 8 JUNE 1969

HUT!



A Publication of The Minnesota Canoe Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18	Activities Meeting - Paddling style and technique from cruising to racing to white water. Lake of the Isles, Minneapolis, South shore. Bring your canoe.
June 25	Board Meeting - Ketter's
July 16	Activities Meeting - Traditional treasure hunt; 3M Chapter host.
July 19, 20	Board Meeting and Cruise - Terry McGaughey's, Pine River, Minnesota.
August 20	Activities Meeting - Evening cruise on chain of lakes: Brownie, Cedar, Lake of the Isles, Calhoun. Picnic on Cedar Lake.
August 27	Board Meeting - Wisniak's; nomination of officers

CRUISES AND RECREATION

June 21	Ladies' Choice River Cruise - Betty Ketter, leader; limited space, reservations necessary.
June 27	Midnight Moonlight Mississippi River Cruise - Anoka to Ketter's Landing, 10 p.m. 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, RR. 2, Battle Lake, Minnesota 56515.
July 13	Third Annual Lockwatennial Cruise - through the three Mississippi River locks, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Put in at Gray Co. landing, below the Broadway bridge; take out below the Ford Dam locks at Hidden Falls. Call Ham Kurtz, leader, 825-3155.
July 19, 20	Pine River Cruise - Terry McGaughey, leader, Pine River, Minnesota.
August 20	Activities Meeting - Evening cruise.

HUT!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION, INC.

JUNE, 1969
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 8

MCA Activities Meeting

Wednesday, June 18

EXHIBITION OF RACING AND PADDLING TECHNIQUES

Ever wonder what a "banjo" paddle is? Or a C-1? Do the numbers "3 and 27" mystify you? Come and learn the "in" slang of the racers.

** Demonstration of long distance racing techniques
** Demonstration of various whitewater canoes and kayaks and paddling strokes
** Advice and tips from the experts to help YOU paddle better
** Recreational canoeing on the lake after or during the meeting
** Bring your new cedar-strip canoes. We want pictures of them for the "Hut".

TIME: 7:30 p.m. sharp
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 1969
PLACE: South shore of Lake of the Isles, Minneapolis.

May Meeting

Another huge turnout of MCA members (over 175) thronged to St. Joseph's Church auditorium to gather information on canoe camping. Bob O'Hara presented the latest regulations on camping and travel in the Quetico-Superior wilderness area. Bob also gave several tips on equipment and gear for portage travel. A complete camp set-up was exhibited. Commercial representatives showed off a line of lightweight dried foods as well as handy food containers (Tupperware). Highlight of the evening was a very beautiful movie showing the character and recreational use of the St. Croix River. Bob deserves thanks for another interesting program.

COVER PHOTO: A flock of "fuzzy faced foam finders"

WHAT'S *Ahead!*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Membership is at an all-time high! Great, but this means we need more volunteers to service this membership, particularly in the critical area of our newsletter, "Hut"! Our editor, Bob O'Hara, has resigned after a term of service in which he gave us many excellent issues and pointed out some new directions for "Hut" and the club. Karl Ketter has agreed to serve as editor over the summer months while we search for a replacement for Bob. One thing is very clear. We simply cannot think of the newsletter as something that someone else does. We all must do it in terms of writing, taking pictures, typing, proofreading, sorting and mailing. If you, as a member, take pride in our club, pitch in and help. At first it may seem as though help isn't needed--believe me it is.

Our chief purpose simply stated is "get more people into canoes". All else, racing, cruising, and conservation, should follow from that simple purpose. At present about 20% of our members are competitors of some kind. They do at least half of the work of the club. I want more cruisers. To lead cruises, of course. But also to write, to interest others in the club, to report on new river routes, to keep the club posted on conservation issues.

Do you feel the available canoe space in the state and nation is being whittled away? Then help out. Become informed and pass the info on to others through "Hut"! Gather new members. The more people interested in canoeing, the more likely it is that our public officials will reverse the trend toward destruction of our waterways.

The Board of Directors, in considering the need for more help to run a larger organization, is thinking of introducing by-law changes to expand the Board or to create a large Executive Committee. We hope thereby to expand the base of support for the club. Give us your ideas, your time, and your continued membership support. We can do more than simply enjoy canoeing. We can work toward a permanent guarantee of that joy for ourselves and for others.

CRUISING

CROW WING RIVER CRUISE

June 28-29

If you're looking for a pleasant float trip down a gentle but interesting river, a trip you can take the whole family on, why not plan to join us on the Crow Wing River Cruise! The dates are June 28th and June 29th. The Crow Wing is in central Minnesota about 160 miles from the Twin Cities. The starting point for our trip will be Shell City Campsite about 15 miles East of Menahga, Minnesota. The time, about 11 o'clock on Saturday the 28th.

We should be able to paddle and float, mostly float, down to Huntersville Forest Campground, the plan is for another 14 mile float to Nimrod, starting about 10 o'clock. You can join us for either days float or both. Shuttling will be arranged. You should plan on fishing and maybe swimming.

If you need outfitting ---- Ed Patson of Menahga or Irv Funk of Nimrod can serve you. When you've decided to come, drop a card to Bill Marcouiller, RR #2, Battle Lake, Minnesota, 56515, to let him know.



June 21 - 22 Ladies Choice Canoe Trip CALL BETTY KETTER

Ladies choose your partner -- preferably an able man -- and call in your reservation.

By the time you read this, it will be almost time to shove off, so here are a few facts and figures to help make the trip interesting.

We assemble to leave from Hidden Falls below the Ford Dam at 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 21st. Come prepared for the day with enough lunch to last until 2 p.m. Bring an extra paddle and rain gear just to fool the weather and if you bring a camera, be sure it is in a double plastic bag, or other waterproof container.

Afternoon will find us at Hastings, Minnesota where we will freshen up and enjoy a dinner at Nybos Resturant. It is a family style meal with a choice of any or all four main courses for a slight fee of $2.50 per person. Reservations have been made at Gardner Hotel, home of the early river boat travelers for a fee of $5.00 per couple. Other entertainment has been planned for the evening. Come prepared with only 1 suitcase for your fresh-up. These will be carried in a furnished car to Hastings, so canoes will go almost empty. No extra passengers in the canoes, this is a pleasure trip. If we feel like going farther on Sunday, we can. If not, we can just have a good time in Hastings.

Arrangements must be made by you to have you and your canoe picked up when we end.

Be sure to call soon -- you are very welcome. What better trip can you have for a little more than a ten dollar bill per couple.

June 27th MOONLIGHT CRUISE ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Full moon, a canoe, and a river ---- the essentials of romance for the MCA annual Midnight Run. (But don't forget your life jackets) This is probably the most unique float we have, and it is a float! Just drift along in the moonlight. Plenty of good food and canoe talk at Ketter's after the trip. The run is from Anoka to Ketter's landing with a portage around the Coon Rapids Dam, about 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call in advance if you plan to come and get details

CORRESPONDENCE

ZUMBRO RIVER TRIP

Clair Nelson (Good Old Nels) not only sends a very interesting account of an outing on the Zumbro, but a little philosophy as well.

"We were all up around 5 a.m. - cheerful - and got in motion around 5:45. We drove down to Mantorville in good cheer and met Howard Brady and his daughter.

The water was on the shallow side with rapids about every block and the usual tight bends and hazardous tree limbs. Every one paddled skillfully though! The day was beautiful and we saw the first of many cardinals.

We were making good time and finally the rapids, tree-limb, river-bend combination wiped out one canoe. This unfortunate pair immediately had a pair of 80 lb. sleeping bags. Around 2:00 p.m. we got to town. I sought and found the nicest fellow, Darold Holt. He had a pick-up truck and got a rubber-tired hay wagon. We quickly had the canoes and paddles aboard and enjoyed the cross-country drive.

We set up tents and quickly had a nice camp among the many big piles of wood. Paul Hetchler cooked a big pot of stew for those who needed it. A nice group of canoeists from Winona were camping alongside us. Just before the evening rain we were joined by two handsome guys (Chuck Siercks and Dale Schulz) from Rochester. They were experienced canoeists, but they upset near Oronoco and lost a camera.

We got going the next morning about 10 a.m. We went down about 14 miles to the nice town of Thielman in 1 hr and 40 minutes. Paul Hetchler had a talk with a store owner who wants to set up a 24 hour canoe supply service. He also wants to get a nice camp there.

We saw several more cardinals along with other assorted wild life. It was like canoeing in a mountain state because of the vistas we saw as a mixture of various beautiful high bluffs and plains.

My wife was waiting in a convenient place -- I didn't even need to phone her! We loaded the 3 canoes and headed home. It was a cheerful and pleasant trip back. I'm having the Rochester guys do some research on the upper Root and the Winona guys do the same on the Whitewater.

Now to mention something that has been proven again -- That regular people can go on a canoe trip and can make miles and can enjoy it! Dissension is the basic danger, but most people are basically good. By making everyone see that they must think positively, to show extra kindness and helpfulness, etc., strangers and everyone will get along nicely. There is always a way out --- you find a way or make one. Our kind of trip was adventure in it's purest form .....

.....

Cruisers Note: Next month Glen Bennington writes on, "THE LIGHT CANOE CAMP", a humorous and informative article designed to make portage travel a sheer delight.

CONSERVATION

NATIONAL FORESTS THREATENED!!

A bill to increase the allowable cuts of timber on National Forest lands is before the House of Representatives. The speed up would cut in 15 years the virgin timber which was programmed to last years. The bill also threatens possible wilderness areas which can be considered for this wilderness preservation system under the 1964 wilderness law.

Write to your congressman to oppose H.R. 10344. Be polite, but firm ---- YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

.....



Garry Neddermeyer and Joe Conrad cross the line at the Handicap.



Look for the gold windbreakers – Our 1969 Handicap winners.
Front Row – Tom Elliot, Joe Conrad, Harold Beecroft
Second Row – Irvin Peterson, Garry Neddermeyer, Walt Huotari

ANNUAL JENSEN HANDICAP CANOE RACE

Perfect weather favored the 24 canoests and the sun pumped Vitamin "D" into the veins of the racers as they dug a new 3 mile channel from Ketter's landing to Hi-way 694 Bridge and back in little more than one half hour. New winners were crowned as Gary Neddermeyer, after 7 years of competing in this race, hit the perfect draw of "world's oldest living amateur" Joe Conrad for a partner and Ken Ketter's little red canoe.

Drawing of partners continues to improve the rally as the experienced and inexperienced paddlers are getting so close in ability that a close race was definitely assured. Canoes are still the best 16 footers in the country, but there is a sorry lack of them as many are sold away, either out of the state or out of the country, and not many new ones are being built.

Contestants came from all over Minnesota and Wisconsin just to be counted in the best competition race in the state. Next year we will promote a few more novice paddlers to take the place of those who moved up into the expert class this year.

Many thanks goes to the interested spectators, rescue boat drivers, owners, and workers, who came to cheer on their favorites and enjoy a congratulatory picnic in the back yard.

SO THIS IS THE JENSEN HANDICAP!!!!

By: Glen Bennington

The Jensen Handicap is one of Minnesota's most popular canoeing events. Each year the faithful gather at the Mississippi, draw for mixed expert-novice teams, and splash off in a general down-river direction, enveloped in a cloud of atomized water particles and shouted commands. Forty minutes later the survivors re-grouped around the Ketter coffee urn to talk canoeing and honor the winners.

This year, to get a contestants eye-view of the race, a small tape recorder was stowed away under the seat of a canoe. When recovered and dehumidified, the following unabridged conversation was found.

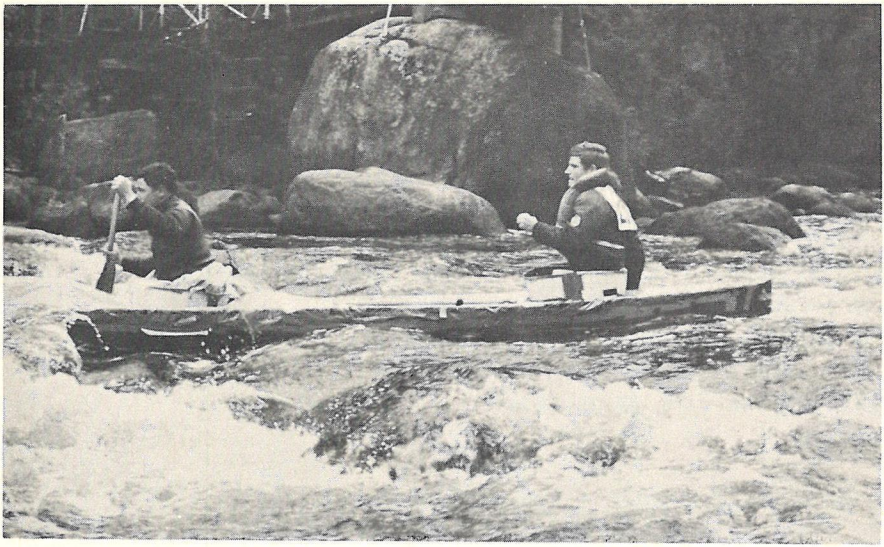
"That's Gene Jensen over there!
Where?
There!
The one with the Superman Sweat Shirt?
Naw, that's a hippe. Gene doesn't look like superman unless you're racing against him.
He looks pretty strong. Are you sure I don't need experience for this race?
Sure, sure. You may even get Gene for a partner.
Groovy!
Go sign us up with Karl Ketter.
The big guy with hands like canoe paddles?
Those <u>are</u> paddles stupid! Go sign up.
We're signed up. What now?
Here he comes with the hat. Draw a number.
I got #7. What did you get?
GREAT GOBS OF GOOSE GREASE. I got #7 too.
Then we're partners!
And to think I only brought you to give somebody else a handicap.
We draw this red canoe for the race.
OK. Into the water with it.
Where do I sit?
When was the last time you paddled a canoe?
I rode in a boat --- once.
You're in front. I'll push us off.
Yiiiii Wa- Watchit !!!

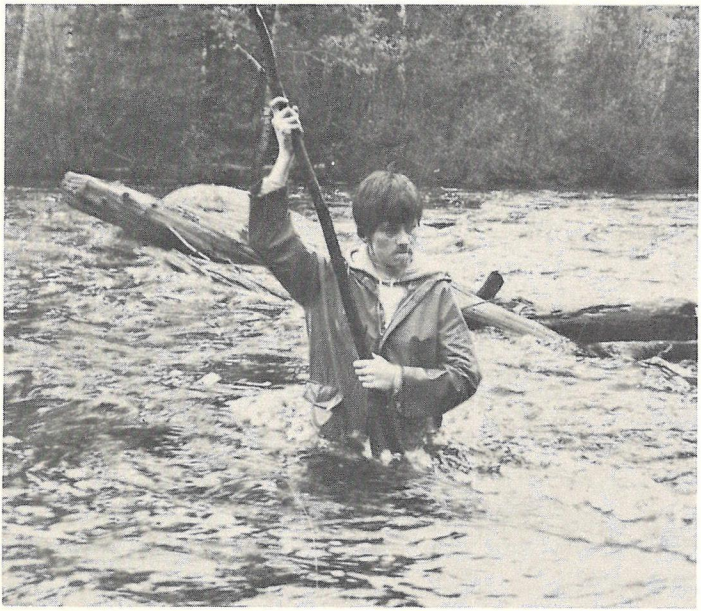
What's wrong?
This isn't a canoe, it's a floating disaster!
Let go of the gunnels and paddle.
Nothing doing. I want a belt!
You're wearing a belt.
The belt I need, you wear on the inside.
Why didn't you tell me you were afraid of water.
I'm not afraid of water, it's just that my shorts
aren't sanforized.
Let go of the gunnels, you're squeezing the sap out of
the cedar.
Alright. I've let go already.
So paddle.
BANG
Splooosh - Sploooooosh - Sploooooooosh
Faster! Faster! Faster! Take short strokes.
Splish, splish, splish, splish, splish, splish
Draw!
This is no time to play cowboy.
DRAW!!! Ther's a rock ahead !!!
CRUNCH
That rock?
That rock. Are we taking water?
No, I pushed a Hershey bar in the hole.
Paddle!
Splish, splish, splish.....
Why are we going East when everyone else is going South?
Hut!
I said, why are we going East wh-------
Hut! Hut! Change sides you idiot.
OK, OK, I'll change sides.
No! No! Just the paddle. Just the -------

Unaccountably the tape ends here. Moreover the inner workings of this recorder were found to be extremely soggy.

The paddlers whose voices were recorded survived this race, however. They were last seen huddled by this coffee urn discussing the pros and cons of taking a canoe down the Bush Lake Ski Jump.

It is hoped they will forgo this experience and return next year for another shot at the JENSEN HANDICAP.....





ANK
UNNING



Bank running on the Wolf River is for the stout-hearted.

Bob Ramstad leads Mary McCracken and Nancy Amerson into deep water.



KETTLE RIVER WILDWATER RACE

By: Al Button

May was racing month for the MCA whitewater paddlers, with three races in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The first annual Kettle River Wildwater Race, MCA sponsored and directed by Dennis Withers, attracted competitors from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. This race was also the American Canoe Association Western Division Championship. Arriving at the Kettle, we found the water very high and very rough. Thus, only expert K-1 and expert C-1 were run on the Kettle, with C-2 and intermediate classes held on the safer Snake River, 20 miles away. Twin City paddlers did well in C-1, C-2 and C-2 mixed, but two Kayak paddlers had trouble with tippy, slow-turning downriver kayaks and tipped over. One kayak, paddled by Al Button was lost for a week under a ledger after he "wipped out" in the big holes at Dragon's Tooth Rapids. Denny Withers was in sight of the finish line when Hell's Gate Rapids clobbered him and robbed him of a high place in the finishing order.

KETTLE RIVER RACE RESULTS

K-1 Men Expert

Bortleson	10:02	Hoofers
Cary	10:07	MCA
Funderburgh	10:21	Hoofers
Campbell	10:24	U.Chicago
Strahler	11:27	Hoofers
Sirr	14:01	MCA
Nelson	14:34	Hoofers
Withers	14:34	MCA,finish line out of boat
Button	D.N.F.	MCA
Miller	D.N.F.	U.Chicago

C-1 Men Expert

Conrad	10:09	MCA
Button	10:19	MCA
Olsen	11:01	Hoofers
Ransburg	11:13	Hoofers
Weber	11:22	U.Chicago

SNAKE RIVER RACE RESULTS

K-1 Men Intermediate

Klunder	52:51	MCA
Stamm	53:39	Hoofers

C-1 Men Intermediate

Beecroft	44:36	MCA
Bortleson	46:13	Hoofers
Klunder	48:45	MCA
Nelson	50:17	Hoofers
Campbell	63:45	U.Chicago

C-2 Expert

Conrad-Withers	33:53
Olsen-Ransburg	35:39
Lovell-Stamm	41:39

C-2 Intermediate (slalom boats)

Button-Cary	43:35
Bortleson-Nelson	45:26
Beecroft-Sirr	45:50

C-2 Mixed

Conrad-Mullenback	36:50
Olsen-Foster	37:29
Martin-Ransburg	38:39
Lovell-Thielen	50:22

C-2 Open Class Std.Hull

Arnold-Miller	37:55
Fisher-Martin	59:23

WOLF RIVER WILDWATER RACES

After a warm-up trip on the Kettle river, in which the "lost" kayak was recovered, the Twin Cities MCA-er's left for the 6th Annual Wolf River Races on May 17th and 18th. About 150 contestants arrived to compete in every type of craft (rubber rafts to decked slalom canoes) in many different classes. The local people go for the raft races, U. of Wisconsin Hoofers and Minneapolis-St.Paul paddlers dominate the whitewater boat classes, while the open canoe class draws paddlers of all stripes.

Saturday's races were over $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of moderate whitewater with time allowed to enter several events. Al Button surprised Joe Conrad to take first in the C-1 class. Marlene Bortelson of the Hoofers took first in the C-2 mixed class with a pick-up partner, and Joe Conrad squeaked out a first in the poling event. Sunday's long races saw Beecroft-Conrad taking the C-2 wildwater class, Gil Bortleson, Al Button, Denny Withers, -- one, two, three -- in the K-1 class and Ed Klunder 2nd to Bruce Weber of Chicago in the C-1 class.

The water was low with many boulders and rocks, giving many boats a coat of scratches.

WOLF SLALOM RACES

The next weekend we were off to the Wolf Slalom races. The MCA, although outnumbered, still was well represented in all classes and we all had a good time trying to navigate all those gates, 25 on the expert course, 15 for intermediates and 10 for novices. The Hoofers, The University of Wisconsin Outing Club did an excellent job of organizing the race and setting up a challenging course. Then Eric Olsen and Steve Ransburg showed how to run it in a C-2 and Eric was unbeatable in a C-1 although pressed hard by Al Button (second) and Joe Conrad (third). The MCA's outstanding performance was turned in by Pete Cary who nosed out Illinoisian Chuck Seaman for top spot in the kayak division. Pete then led a kayak team (Cary, Withers, Button) to victory in the team event and he and Al Button took second in C-2, by far their best effort in that class.

Our newer whitewater paddlers showed promise, with Ed Klunder taking second in K-1 intermediate and Ellie Johnson first in K-1 W novice and second in C-2 mixed Intermediate.

CALENDAR

June 21	White River, Indiana
June 22	Driftwood River, Indiana
June 29	Kankakee River, Illinois
July 5	Devils Jump, Oneida, Tenn. 37841
July 5	Lower Current River, Doniphan, Missouri
July 5	Menominee River, Wisconsin, Professional, Amateur, Michigan rules or USCA rules. Local Classes, standard canoes. Women's class: Write to George S. Robbins, Box 512, Marinette, Wisconsin 54143
July 12-13	Green Lake, Fox River, Wis. Write: Earl Dodge, Green Lake, Wis. 54941
July 20	Minneapolis Aquatennial Race Write: 128 S.8th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 25-26-27	St. Croix River, Mn. VFW sponsored, open to any 8 man team age 14-17. Write: John Sharp 243 6th St., Pine City,Minn. 55063
July 26-27	Glenwood Waterama, Minnesota. M.C.A. 16 ft. 3&27, 5 miles. Professional, Amateur, Mixed Doubles, Junior. Write: Dr. J. G. Gilman, Pope County State Bank, Glenwood, Minnesota
July 27	Wisconsin River. Amateur, U.S.C.A. 15 miles Write: American Legion Canoe Race, Muscoda, Wis. 53573
July 27	Buffalo Bill Canoe Race, Tom Bigelow, 815 West E. North Platte, Nebraska 69101
July 31	Sauk Rapids Canoe Race. Professional, Amateur Standards, Local 7 miles. Write: John Benson Sauk Rapids 56379
Aug. 2-3	Au Sable Marathon, Write: Charlie Versteeg, Box 153, Ashley, Minn. 48806

RESULTS ----------JENSEN HANDICAP

Joe Conrad,St.Paul----Gary Neddermeyer,Long Lake	36:04
Harold Beecroft,Mpls---Walt Huotari,Cohasset,Mn.	37:06
Tom Ellion,Crystal--Irvin C.Peterson,Coon Rapids	37:32
Greg Peterson,Coon Rapids-Ken Ketter, Brklyn Pk	38:03
George Bateson,Hibbing---Eugene Jensen,Brklyn Pk	38:44
Ronnie Renko,Brooklyn Pk----Robin Baker,Cohasset	38:56
Jim Kerfoot,River Falls,Wis---Clint Waddell,St.P.	39.03
Kieth Canny,Blaine----Jeff Howe, Mpls.	39:34
Glen Bennington,Mpls---Steve Peterson,Coon Rapids	40:25
Larry Peterson,Coon Rapids---Joel Wienhold,Anoka	41:27
Denny Withers,Mpls---Pat Roberts, Mpls.	41:38
Chas. Stewart,River Falls,Wis.---Tom Chapin,Hibg	45:20

SAUK RAPIDS INDIAN DAY CANOE RACE

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1969 --- 7:00 P.M.

Entry fee: $1.00 Indian Day Button

Distance: Approximately 7 miles to the Sauk Rapids Bridge on the Mississippi River

Professional Division Canoe Rule: Maximum Length 18½ ft. -- minimum width 27 inches -- 3 inches up from bottom at widest point.... PRIZES: $50 - $40 - $30 - $20 - $10 - $5 - $5 - $5

Amateur Division Canoe Rule: Maximum Length 17 ft. - 3 inches and 27 inches. USCA rule OK on width..... PRIZES: 3 Trophys

Amateur Standard Canoe Div.: Maximum length - 18 ft. - 3 inches and 32 inches. Canoes such as Old Town, Gruman, Alumacraft, Taft, Dolphin, Aerocraft, Core Craft, Forester, M.C.A. Guide Model, etc.... PRIZES: 3 Trophys

Local Team Trophys 3 Fastest Times for an all local team in any of the above Divisions receives Trophys. (Local means within a radius of 15 miles of Sauk Rapids) Judges Decision Final .....

Entry Blank Write to Mr. John C. Benson, 17 North Broadway, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota 56379



NAMING RAPIDS ON THE KETTLE

by Joe Conrad

I first paddled the Sandstone rapids of the Kettle River with Karl Neal Ketter in the spring of 1964. The river was high, with very cold water conditions not made for pleasurable canoeing. Since then it has been my favorite piece of river, sometimes playful and relaxed, at other times violent and dangerous. Here is an account of one of the more pleasant trips.

* * *

In the fall of '64, Bob Ramstad and I set off to run the Kettle near Sandstone and name the rapids. A 15' Gruman, wet suits, lifejackets, and a waterproof cartridge case (for cameras) were our basic gear. I was armed with a spray can of orange paint with which to mark a gauge on the bridge at Minn. Route 23, the put-in point.

The river was disarmingly calm at the bridge. We paddled out to the pier where I estimated the bottom was about 3' down, sprayed an orange line just above the water, labeled it "3", and continued so at one foot intervals up to "7". Our gauge established, we set off down the slow-moving river. Three lazy bends later, the little waterfall channel split off to the left and the first pitch roared just around the bend.

We landed quickly on the left side just where the water begins to pick up speed. There was a faint path leading to a rock outcrop overlooking the entire sweep of the first pitch. Here the water slips down a sloping rock ledge which extends across the whole river. On the left it has a more gentle slope and most of the water flows there. A couple of mean-looking backrollers, then a long series of haystacks around the curve on the left with an eddy to either side complete the picture.

It was a thrill to step out of the brush onto this overlook and be greeted by the white foam, dark waves and brown rock, and the roar of tossing water. A brilliant red maple on the far bank added spice to the scene. "Something-or-other Slide", I suggested to Bob as a name for the pitch. "Okay" he agreed, and we discussed just what sort of slide it would be. Then we ran out of the blueberries we had picked along the path to the outcrop. Thus reminded, we christened the first pitch "Blueberry Slide".
Suited up, we ran it, and grazed the ledge, then plunged into the current and into the eddy with nineteen gallons of water in the canoe. "Reflexes seem a bit slow today," I suggested. Bob agreed.

No rivets were missing, so we ferried upstream across "Haystack Alley" to the large eddy in the center of the river in order to reach the far right side. We chose this path to avoid the power of the main current which swept down the slide, through the haystacks, and on over a series of stair-step ledges which were hidden now by waves and backrollers.
After the chute to the right of "the ledges", we pulled into another eddy on the left. Through the next two pitches, there are more or less sheer rock cliffs on the right and a few small landing spots on the left. We climbed the lower left bank and walked along a faint trail to study the next pitch.

For a name I was stuck. There seemed to be no outstanding feature of the rapids or the shore. There was only a jumble of rocks. "Joe," said Bob, "We've just got to name one of these rapids "Mother's Delight." "How so?" I asked. "Well, people are going to come paddling down this thing and think, 'Oh Mother's Delight, that sounds like fun' then they'll get down here and just rack themselves up...," he broke off laughing gleefully. I thought he had a fiendish sense of humor, but no other name came to mind and "Mother's Delight" has stuck.

Back to the canoe, through the "Delight", and into another bank eddy we paddled with reflexes much improved--no rocks hit and no water in the boat. We climbed up the left bank again and strolled out onto the table-like shelf of rock above the next pitch. This was the last of the big drops beginning with Blueberry Slide in what we called the "Upper Gulch".

Here the river was squeezed down between the sandstone walls on either side. I wanted a more awesome name for one of the rapids and this one spoke to me. "Dragon's Tooth," it said. We had a small debate then. Bob wanted to call this one "Mother's Delight" instead, but my Missouri blood was up and "Dragon's Tooth" it became. The name suggests a great sharp rock sticking above the water, but this is a crafty old dragon with a worn blunt tooth which lies just at or below the surface ready to catch and chomp the unwary paddler.

We splashed around the tooth on the left, the dragon's tongue gave us an affectionate lick, and we were onto the "Middle Rapids", which run by the abandoned settlement of Banning. No more difficulties were encountered, and we enjoyed a dash through some rocks, small haystacks and rollers until the river took a jog left against a high cliff and into a long quiet stretch.

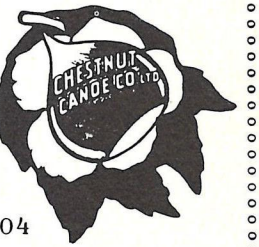
We noticed the cliff ran back away from the river and sheltered a quiet backwater pool. By fighting the current, we gained the pool to be greeted by an overflow channel of the river bordered on one side by a wooded bank and on the other by a high cliff. It was a secretive place. Great flat shelves overhung part of it and the cliff was sculptured with potholes and scallops. Small trees grew from ledges, and the walls seeped water in long wet curtains green with moss. Should there be a name? Bob had it and no debate. Angkor Wat, the ancient city of Cambodia, overgrown with jungle and full of rounded massive figures recalled the same mood. One carved by man and overrun by nature, the other carved by nature along--both called for a contemplative spirit and reflective thoughts.

We left the little glen and paddled quietly to a landing just above the last big tossing rapids. This was already proclaimed "Hell's Gate" in silver paint on a cliff just below it. The giant pothole is there with its opening into the river and up to the table rock and back into the bank. It is a very picturesque scene of jumbled rock ledges and moving water.

The rapids can be portaged on the left by clever trail picking, but we were there to run it. Unfortunately, our celebrated reflexes fled at a critical moment, and I decided to jump out, since I have a preference for swimming with a half-filled canoe rather than a full one. It filled anyway, and I grabbed at glasses, hat, paddle, and canoe, managed only two of them and then concentrated on the canoe alone. We checked its momentum before the plunge over the final drop and washed into the pool below, where we grabbed all the floating gear, swam to shore, and emptied the canoe. The camera was bone dry in the cartridge case, and the only casualties were my glasses and two popped rivets. Thence, guided by Robert's eagle eye, we stroked on to the park at Sandstone to end a memorable day on the Kettle.

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REVIEWS

MY LIFE WITH THE ESKIMO by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Collier Books, New York, N.Y.; 431 pages, $1.50 paperback.

Originally written in 1913 in hardcover edition, this outstanding narrative is now available in paperback. For four years, Stefansson traveled the very top of the world. He walked or dog sledded from Alaska to Victoria Island and back. Living entirely off the land, his main diet consisted of Caribou and seal oil. In his discoveries was the race of blue-eyed, blond Eskimos. This adventure was the beginning of Eskimo studies regarding their culture, customs, and everyday life. Yet, even today, much of what Stefansson experienced has not changed. The true arctic tundra is one of the few unchanged areas of North America. To read what was done over sixty years ago is almost as incredible as what recently happened in man's trip around the moon. This account is extremely rich in scientific and human detail, which leaves me with deep respect for the author.

OPEN HORIZONS by Sigurd F. Olson, illustrated by Leslie Kouba, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N.Y.; 227 pages, $5.95.

In case there may never be a sixth book by Sig, this one, his fifth is definitely a summation of his life activities. In a sense an autobiography, yet without the usual boring details about one's maturing, Sig reflects on his upbringing in Wisconsin and his first introduction to the understanding of Ecology, following through to his teaching on the Iron Range, his eventual move to Ely and his first days of guiding and discovering the Quetico-Superior lakes, before the days of maps. It is certainly a delightful narrative about the Wilderness and the adventure that lies there yet today, thanks to those like Sig who have helped make Americans aware of America's beauty hidden in the wilds. The final chapters of the book are devoted to the future, expeciàlly the future of the universe in terms of man and his environment. For those who have read the other four books by Sig, this fifth is certainly enjoyable and meaningful. As usual, the illustrations by Les Kouba enhance the flavor of the book and stimulate the imagination to past days of camping and adventure. These two Minnesotans have certainly teamed up to present a most delightful night's reading.

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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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