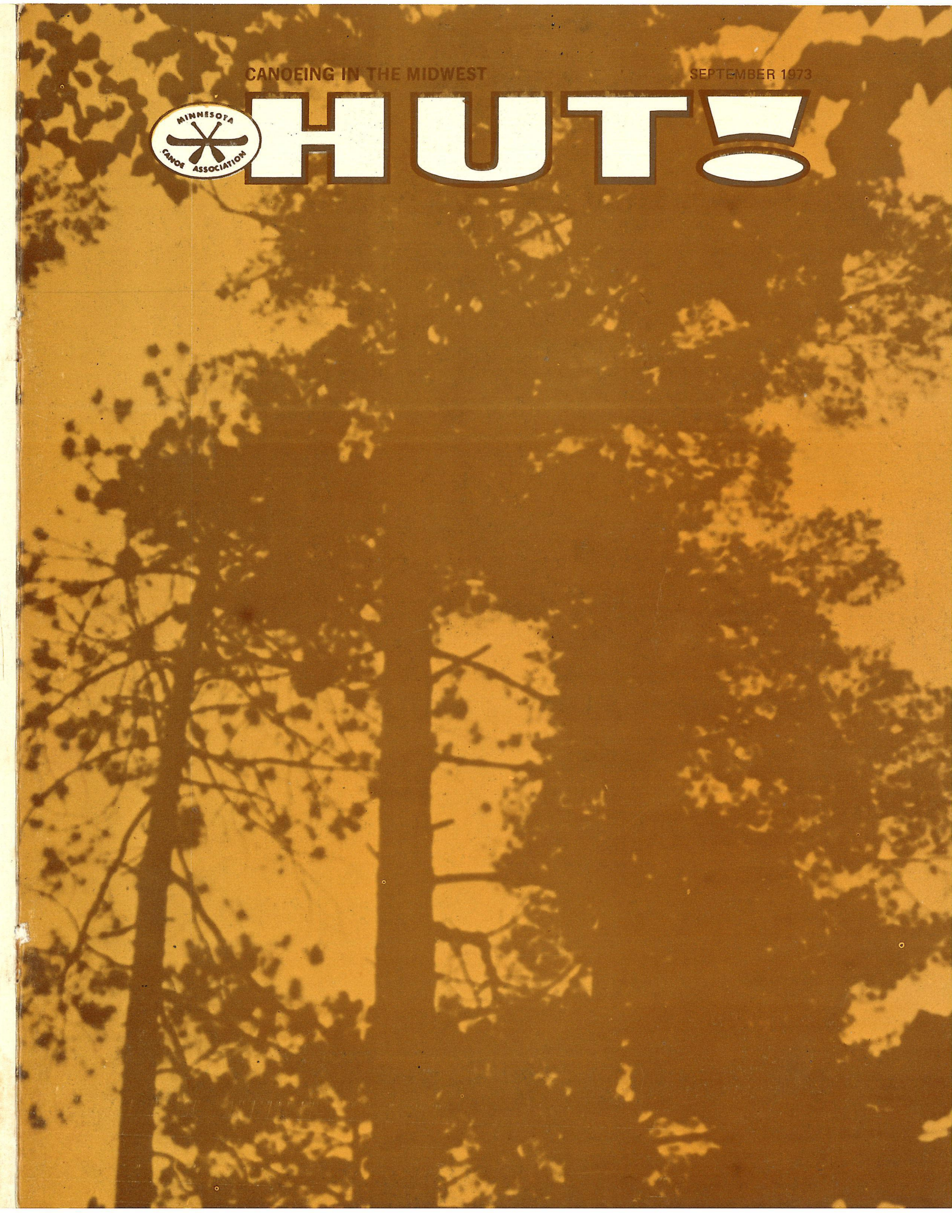
CANOEING IN THE MIDWEST

SEPTEMBER 1973

HUT!





Hansi Marte challenges the Dragon's tooth on the Kettle River, Minnesota.

A Wilderness And Research Experience

by Bob Waggoner

For a number of reasons that are well known to the readers of HUT!, spring and fall are very enjoyable times for traveling in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Unfortunately, because of their schooling, most young people are unable to arrange outings at these times. However, for the 30 Marshall-University High School students in Project AWARE, such a canoe trip is not only a possibility but an essential component of the course.

Project AWARE (A Wilderness and Research Experience) is one of many new educational options available to students in southeast Minneapolis, as a result of a grant from the Experimental Schools Program of the United States Office of Education. Beginning in June of 1971 and continuing through school year 1975-1976, this grant, called South East Alternatives (S.E.A.), has underwritten educational innovation in Tuttle Elementary (The Contemporary School), Marcy Elementary (The Open School), Pratt-Motley Elementary (The Continuous Progress Elementary) and The Free School as well as Marshall-University High School.

The philosophy of Project AWARE centers around a concern for our environment. It is the intention of the course to increase students sensitivity to the physical environment as well as to themselves and to each other. Putting this philosophy into action requires a setting that differs from the traditional school in several important ways.

First, the students are enrolled only in this course, and so are together all day, for twelve weeks, except as individual study requires. During this time a wide variety of topics, ranging from ecology and population to urban problems and social structure, are presented in an informal setting. There remains, however, a good deal of unstructured time in which students are responsible for organizing their own efforts in the pursuit of a project of their choice.

A second unique aspect of the course is that 25-35% of the time is spent outdoors. Equipment, food, and transportation are provided for a number of outings each quarter including: caneoing, back packing, bicycling, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, and other activities appropriate to the season. The project AWARE staff firmly believes that living close to the land is the surest way to come to appreciate and care for it, and further, that the fellowship which arises from such group outings is the 'unpollution' of the human environment.

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HUT! Magazine is published every other month starting in January by the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc. a nonprofit organization, and is distributed to more than 1800 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.

Pictures (glossies), cartoons, art work, announcements, letters, and articles of all kinds which serve to promote the purposes of the MCA are cordially invited. Contributions should be typewritten, preferably double-spaced, and should be in the hands of the editor by the 5TH DAY OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH, AD COPY BY THE 17TH. We regret that only token compensation can be paid for photographs, and that no compensation can be paid for literary copy, however, byline credit will be extended to all contributions. Contributions cannot be acknowledged and will be returned — usually within eight weeks — ONLY when requested and accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please DO NOT send documents. Address: HUT! 5804 Tracy Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55436.

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by Bob O'Hara, Jr.

"Canoeing in the Classroom"

The typical 3 R's of education now include a fourth: Recreation. With the increasing emphasis on outdoor recreation, schools have introduced curriculum that includes education in this area. In some districts it is known as Outdoor Education or Life Time Sports. The emphasis is to acquaint students with the varied aspects and opportunities to be discovered outdoors. Canoeing, of course, is a natural to be included in the schools of the mid-west.

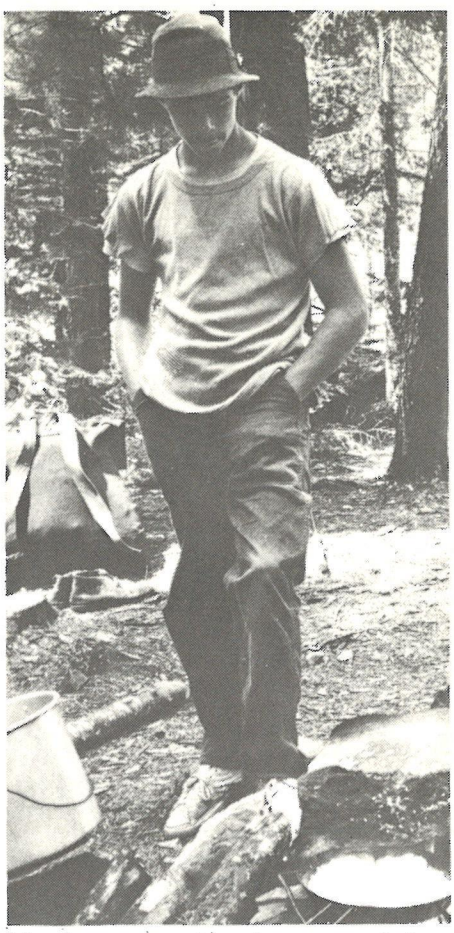
Why should canoeing be included in the curriculum? That, to many taxpayers, is a very legitimate question. The answers are many and varied. First off, this type of course is usually included in the curriculum area of Physical Education, which is by State Law required of each student. Secondly, most districts can implement the program at little or no additional cost with cooperation from groups within the community. Thirdly, Minnesota and surrounding areas have a water oriented summer playground, and our citizens should be aware of its potential. Lastly, the schools have an obligation to provide students with skills that can be incorporated into the future. Curriculum today in many schools does just that with courses that include archery, golf, swimming, tennis, outdoor cooking, backpacking, camping, canoeing, rock climbing and cross country skiing. This to some is a radical departure from the traditional phy ed classes of football, basketball and baseball. These are still in the curriculum and deserve their place, yet skills that the individual can take into adult life are equally important, especially skills that will also be valuable to a future family.

With the environmental emphasis today, it is crucial that those people who participate in activities like canoeing have a good understanding of what impact they will have. Too often well intentioned but poorly trained groups of young people have descended upon the Canoe Country only to leave behind campsites with trees cut, fires in the wrong place, trash, damage to natural areas like beaver dams, etc. Some of these same parties do not always have an enjoyable vacation experience because of poor canoe handling ability. For the many who return from a canoe trip with good feelings, a percentage will never again set foot in a canoe because of an unpleasant trip experience. The bad experience is often due to the lack of training and preparation. Too often camps have measured the success of a trip by the miles covered rather than the more intangible values of quiet, opportunity to observe wildlife, exploration, decision making or just plain self sufficient opportunities. Thus the need for

education.

I believe strongly that as todays young adults reach out for adventure they have a great desire for it to be theirs and by their own design. Feelings of resentment or distrust arise from the idea that every experience must be adult organized, adult supervised and adult led. I recall my first really big canoe trip when I graduated from high school. With three companions, I toured the Canoe Country for 15 days. The learning experience was fantastic, and I credit much of my Arctic adventures of today back to those early days of youth and decision making. I only regret the opportunity not to have had more training before my undertaking. A group of my former students this summer organized and paddled themselves to York Factory on Hudson Bay. Therefore, as our young people turn to the outdoors on their own, we have the obligation to offer the opportunity of developing skills that are commensurate with their needs. The outdoor education experience in a school therefore is aimed at making students self sufficient and self confident. It hopefully will also place upon their shoulders some of the burdens to preserve and protect our environment for their future use.

The State of Minnesota Department of Education has recognized the need for Outdoor Education and, in turn, has over the past four years been conducting a series of workshops designed to acquaint teachers with the necessary skills to implement programs in their schools. I have had the opportunity of planning and conducting many of these and will be involved with one this September for over 100 teachers from across the State. Our emphasis this fall is backpacking, canoeing and rock climbing. These workshops are based on the "learning by involvement" principle. We do more than just talk canoeing; the participants canoe. It's really a three day cram course, but I believe its merits are great. Already many school districts have responded with appropriate changes in their curriculum.



Meal preparation, just one of the outdoor skiils associated with canoe camping instruction.

Breaking thru the ice.



You, as an involved citizen can encourage your school to implement such programs. You can serve as a resource person, or possibly as a guest instructor for a day. You can encourage your school library to become a subscriber to HUT! Encourage your Physical Education instructors to take advantage of the workshops offered. Today with everyone showing criticism toward the educational process in our country we need citizens to offer help and encouragement. The schools are to supplement the community and community organizations. Many young people today no longer participate in organized youth groups. The Classroom therefore is one of the last places students can get turned on to outdoor sports. I hope you as an MCA member, interested in what canoeing represents, will see the value of its incorporation into your local school. With some positive encouragement, more schools will offer such opportunities. Next time you have the chance, give CANOEING IN THE CLASSROOM a boost!

In the next issue of HUT! begins Bob O'Hara's account of his latest expedition to the Arctic.

The Thousand Waterways of Minnesota

by Ralph Thornton

On a summer day in the late 1700s a canoe paddled by French-Canadians and loaded with trade goods to barter for Indian furs overturned and sank, along with helmsman, in the Horsetail Rapids on the Minnesota-Ontario border. It was not an uncommon occurrence, for the voyageurs, as they were called, were adventurous, impetuous men who would rather shoot the rapids than make tedious overland portages of canoes and cargo.

Occasionally their courage exceeded their skill and today, nearly 200 years later, scuba divers are finding evidence of their misfortunes. Flintlock muskets, clay pipes, axeheads, brass kettles and other relics of that fur trade era have emerged from murky pools below such rapids, their locations pinpointed by musty diaries recently discovered in Canada.

As a result, underwater archeologists of the Minnesota Historical Society and Royal Ontario Museum have been able to add much to existing historical records of the Northwest Territory and its growth.

An even greater treasure, however, has emerged along the canoe routes once plied by the voyageurs. That is the recreational and sports use made of these wilderness highways, part of more than 15,000 miles of rivers in Minnesota which truly deserve the title of Canoe Country U.S.A.

The double-ender canoe, its efficient design a gift of the American Indian, was once the chief means of transportation in this watery Northland. Replaced by the railroad and automobile, it went into seclusion until the recent leisure boom brought it back as a leading sports craft in the Great Lakes states. For not only does it offer unspoiled back country camping experiences, but for the daring there are whitewater challenges of Olympic proportions.

One such challenge is the boisterous Kettle River in northern Minnesota, whose seething waters tumble as much as 20 feet in a mile to create a descending staircase of boating thrills. Here on weekends members of the Minnesota Canoe Association, their wives and sweethearts, take their whitewater canoes (essentially kayaks with covered decks and drawstring-equipped holes for one or two persons to sit in watertight compartments).

Minimum equipment for such canoeing includes a skin diver's "wet suit" of sponge rubber, a life preserver and a crash helmet. Capsizing is common; one's head may encounter rocks under water and in the icy spring freshets that provide the best whitewater canoeing the chill renders one helpless after 20 to 30 seconds in the current.

Paddlers know when they capsize they must continue their roll to an upright position again, and they practice during the winter in indoor swimming pools to perfect the technique, for to remain upside down for long in the rapids is considered bad form—no self-respecting whitewater canoeist would be caught dead in such a position!

Launching their craft beside a sign reading "Unsafe Waters," the canoeists, both male and female, enter the boiling rapids on timed runs. For openers they bob through a turbulence known as Blueberry Slide, then another dubbed Mother's delight, while scraping rock outcrops dating to the Ice Age when the river drained glacial Lake St. Louis.

Halfway down the canyon they encounter Dragon's Tooth, a rock incisor normally jutting above the water in the center of the channel, but hidden when water is high. Choosing which side to take can be a life-or-death proposition.

I have seen canoes broken in two against that rock, their occupants disappearing into the maelstrom to remain for agonizing seconds as they are caught in the kettles, underwater whirlpools that seize and pummel their victims before releasing them to float to the surface downstream. Escaping the Dragon's Tooth, all the contestant must do is make it through mile-long Hell's Gate Canyon and he is home free.

Another popular type of whitewater canoeing involves slalom runs in less heavy rapids, where canoeists must guide their craft between poles suspended vertically above the water, turning upstream, across the current or executing other fast maneuvers in the turbulent waters. Both styles of canoeing will be in evidence at the 1972 Summer Olympics at Munich, West Germany, this summer. Whitewater canoe events will be held on the Lech River near Augsburg, where some of Europe's fastest water comes crashing out of the Alps.

Such athletic canoeing, however, is but a small part of the canoeing revival which finds millions of refugees from the noise and pollution of cities streaming to the rivers for quiet and a sniff of pure air. For the vast number of recreational canoeists the spectacular canoe camping wilderness routes of Minnesota and Ontario offer the ultimate in outdoor experiences. Touring in a canoe is watching an unending cyclorama of nature unroll as the scenery changes with each paddle stroke, each bend of the river.

To an increasing number of city families the canoe vacation has become an eagerly-awaited summer outing. Many repeaters have accumulated the proper gear over the years—their own canoe, paddles, life preservers, lightweight tent, sleeping bags, air mattresses, cookware, axe, shovel, water bucket. Others prefer to travel light to their embarkation point and rent the entire outfit there, including soap, towels, rain parka, bug bombs and a balanced supply of dehydrated or canned food, at a cost of about $10 a day per person. Usually a minimum charge of two or three days is made by outfitters, while children under fifteen get reduced rates.

Fortunately for Minnesota residents and their summer visitors, there is a wide choice of canoe routes. They range from half-day or day trips on scenic stretches only 25 miles from the downtown Twin Cities to one-and two-week jaunts in the 87,000-square-mile Boundary Waters Canoe Area which embraces much of Superior National Forest and adjoins Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park to create a wilderness in which it would be possible to lose the population of New York.

Entering through such outfitting portals as Ely, Crane Lake and Grand Marais, they fan out across the one million acres which is probably the nation's last untouched wilderness. The BWCA is a labyrinth of lakes tied together with streams, a roadless area 175 miles long and 40 percent water-covered. Forests of pine, spruce, aspen, birch and other hardwoods line the shores and provide sheltered campsites. Moss, ferns, rushes, lichen and wild rice thrive in the damp muskeg, and wild blueberries wait to be picked and added to muffins or pancakes.

Game fish, including the walleye, northern pike, and lake trout, can be caught for shore dinners, along with occasional bass, bluegill sunfish, crappies, rainbow and brook trout. (A resident fishing license costs $4, or $6 for husband and wife; nonresidents pay $6.50 and $10.)

As the smell of woodsmoke and frying fish fills the evening air it is not difficult to feel the presence of those who have shared the same camp in the past—generations of Chippewa, Cree and Sioux braves - or the ghosts of the voyageurs, singing their gay Medieval chansons, or their leader, a canny Scottish trader, puffing his pipe while watching the crew relax.

Perhaps in the distance is heard the crashing sound of a moose plunging into the lake, followed by the call of a loon. Then, after a while, there is just the profound silence of the wild.

Here Nature and man are at peace, their histories entwined in the geologic and sylvan wonders in which the region abounds. The rocky isles along the route

where the 12-man canoes of the voyageurs silently glided contain a chronology of the earth, including some of the earliest evidence of the continent's formation.

The oldest exposed rocks, of Ely greenstone, are volcanic flows formed on the prehistoric ocean floor. Younger granitic rocks appear next, followed by sedimentary rocks formed by the erosion of the uplifted greenstone and granite. More than one billion years old, they are of the Pre-Cambrian Period.

Visible are quartzite, and iron formations that led to discovery of Minnesota's vast iron ore and taconite deposits, plus copper-nickel sulfides and sandstone. Topping it all is the evidence of ice age glacier action one to three million years ago, when the scouring action of that mile-thick sheet left exposed massive rock surfaces as if cut by a gigantic bulldozer, for detailed study by budding geologists.

History lives in every bay and landing along the Voyageurs Highway, soon to be commemorated in the new Voyageurs National Park on the Kabetogama Peninsula of northern Minnesota. The area is rich in French names, the legacy of early explorers such as Radisson, Groseilliers, duLuth, Le Verendrye (some of whom visited the region before Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock), at Lac la Croix, Riviere a l'Aile de Corbeau, Grand Portage (where a reconstructed stockade recalls fur trade days) and Cheval du Bois.

More abundant are those names given by its initial residents, the Indians (Gabimichigami, Ogishkemuncie, Papoose, Kawasachong, Ge-be-on-e-quet), followed by reminders of later pioneers (Shoepack, Hungry Jack, Disappointment, Bootleg, Temperance, Lost Woman and Romance).

At several points along this Voyageurs Highway (and that of the Indians thousands of years before them) are colorful painted rocks, or pictographs, where Indian painters using enduring pigments modern manufacturers could well copy, recorded scenes of hunts, battles, religion and village life.

There are other places where Indians recorded their life and times, at Hegman Lake, Burntside Lakes and the Kawashiwi River. Many predate even the Sioux culture, which flourished in the north woods before they were driven to the plains by the Chippewa (no doubt to the later regret of one George Armstrong Custer).

If the voyageurs wondered at such paintings in passing, they probably didn't miss a stroke in their rowing cadence. For the attraction deep in mid-North America during that period was the beaver pelts they fetched to market by the thousands. Popularity of the beaver hat in European circles created a demand for the animal's pelts that caused it to be hunted clear to the Pacific and finally nearly to extinction.

The busy beaver, whose name became synonomous with "eager" long before modern slang made it a cliche, still builds his dams up the side rivers, creating trout pools and quiet ponds in the otherwise impatient streams. Only the slap of his tail, sharp as a rifle shot and given as a warning to his fellow timber contractors, is a clue that he is about, and his lodge stands in his millpond as a proud testimony to his craftsmanship.

All this history, nature and sport is easily within the grasp of the average American family, and at a cost less than that of many modern recreational pursuits. For the uninitiated, for example, trained guides are available at $25 a day for parties of two, plus $2 per person beyond that up to four. These woodsmen are usually bronzed, muscular college youths who do all the cooking and portaging on the trip, thereby endearing themselves to the mothers and fathers as well as providing an attraction that encourages teenage daughters to go on such wilderness excursions.

Or the party may hire a "packer" at $20 a day to help carry the canoe and Duluth packs containing supplies, besides doing the "bulling" of canoes over rough portages. Still less expensive is a "voyageur," who is not a guide, not a packhorse, but a teacher to accompany first-timers for a day or two to instruct them in paddling and how to set up the tent.

There appears to be no age limit on canoe camping. One seventy-year-old couple hired a guide recently to take them back in the bush, set up their camp, then leave them there for two weeks before coming in to take them out again. And canoeists on the popular Gunflint Trail last year ranged in age from one to eight-seven.

There is no "best" time to go canoe camping, but the season offers a variety of experiences from which to choose. Cool May and June are best for fishermen, warm July and August for families. The bug season is in June, rainy weather can occur in mid-June and early September. August finds the waterways most crowded, the fall coloring begins about mid-September and the season closes with a snap about October 1.

Such enjoyments are not, however, limited only to the dedicated backpacker with a week to kill, but are attainable even by the casual visitor to the North Star State. Within an hour's drive of the Twin Cities are some of the most pleasant canoe rivers to be found anywhere—the Rum, the Crow, the Minnesota, the Cannon. Finally, one of the finest rivers in the nation is literally in that metropolitan area's back yard—yet presents an undeveloped and unspoiled nature highway to its users.

That river is the St. Croix. Designated a Wild River by Congress, it rises in northwestern Wisconsin, is joined by the Namekagon (another Wild River, equally superb, scenic and unspoiled) and marks the boundary between Minnesota and Wisconsin for much of its length.

It is possible for the traveler or businessman in the Twin Cities, finding himself with a day off from a meeting or conference, to drive to Stillwater or Marine-on-St.-Croix some 25 miles from his hotel, and procure everything needed for a Lazy Man's Float down this riparian jewel which is sometimes called the Rhine of America. The canoe rents for $1.20 an hour, $6 for all day, and there is a Weekend Special—Friday through Sunday—costing $13. A shuttle service takes the paddler's car to his destination.

Once on the St. Croix, cormorants and ducks will rise from the surface ahead of his canoe, deer will look up from their drinking at its edge, birdsongs will trill in a silence uninterrupted by nothing other than dipping paddles, while alongside, the tree-lined banks are forever closed by congressional order to the clutter of a developer's greed.

Or, lacking time for anything more, he may walk or cab to one of Minneapolis' many lakes, rent a Park Board canoe and glide through Lake of the Isles, Cedar Lake or Lake Calhoun, unnoticed save for an occasional cyclist or sunbather on the shore. He may roll up the cuffs of his business suit, even remove his shoes and shirt for a fleeting hour's taste of what has been lost in the civilizing of a continent.

He, too, will find his canoe a decompression chamber from the tensions of a crowded, stifling world, and its silent companionship a tonic that refreshes the soul and spirit while encouraging him to reassess his priorities.

Canoeing—who needs it? Everyone!

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NEW MCA RESIN SALESMAN

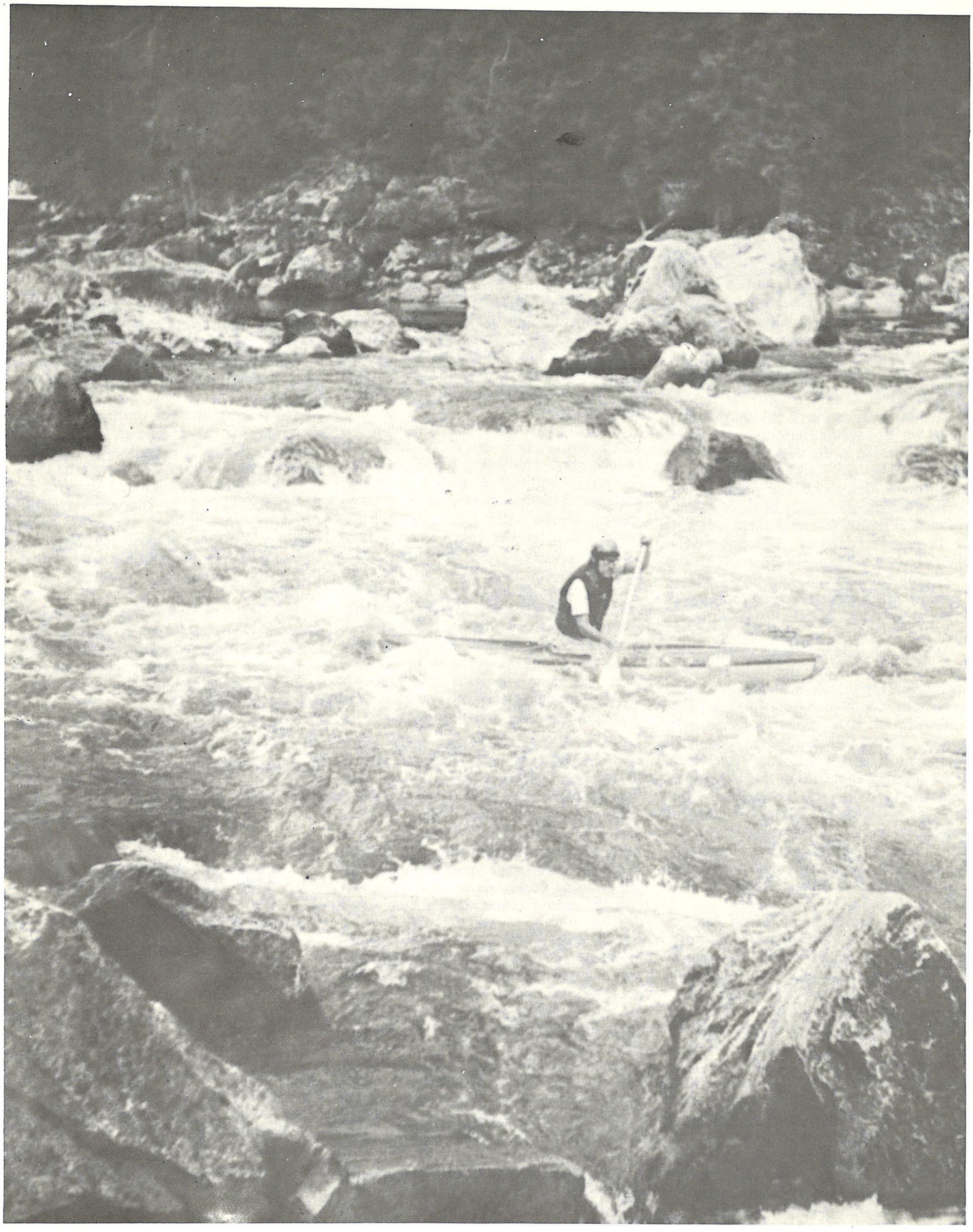
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Steve Parsons in Lochsa Rock Garden

Western Whitewater

by Andy Westerhaus

The most ambitious cruise of the 1973 season was a two week tour of five great western whitewater rivers. The Stillwater, Gallatin, Lochsa, St. Joe, and Flathead were our avenues. Our steeds were 13-foot decked boats; our weapons, paddles; our expendables, duct tape and cognac.

On paper these rivers look much the same – 50 feet per mile gradients, 1,000 cubic feet per second in volume, snow melt water, and outstanding mountain scenery. Yet we found each river to be quite different, each with unique beauty, challenge, and character. Each river had outstanding whitewater runs. Some had runs suitable only for persons whose knuckles drag on the ground, have hair all over their bodies, smell bad, and have the IQ of an eelpout. *(Editor's Note: An eelpout is the same as a blenny – well, almost.)*

Hot, dry days and cool, crisp nights were our daily fare. No mosquitoes were a welcome relief. Early day runs would result in badly fogged eyeglasses.

Between the Stillwater and the Gallatin we drove over Beartooth Pass on a road which I consider to provide the most spectacular view from any paved highway in the adjacent 48 states. Near the top we had a kayak race down a snowfield. A little Klister would have helped. That night the Marte car was broken into. Sleep gear, tents, cameras, a C-1, a K-1, and paddles were stolen.

Our crew:

Ralph Beer, Marge, Larry and Tom Johns, Laura and Lee Kochel, Hansi and Egon Marte and family, Steve Parsons, Dave Quilling, Jackie and Bob Schuetzler and family, Joerg Steinbach, Joanne and Andy Westerhaus and family, and Faust our mascot.

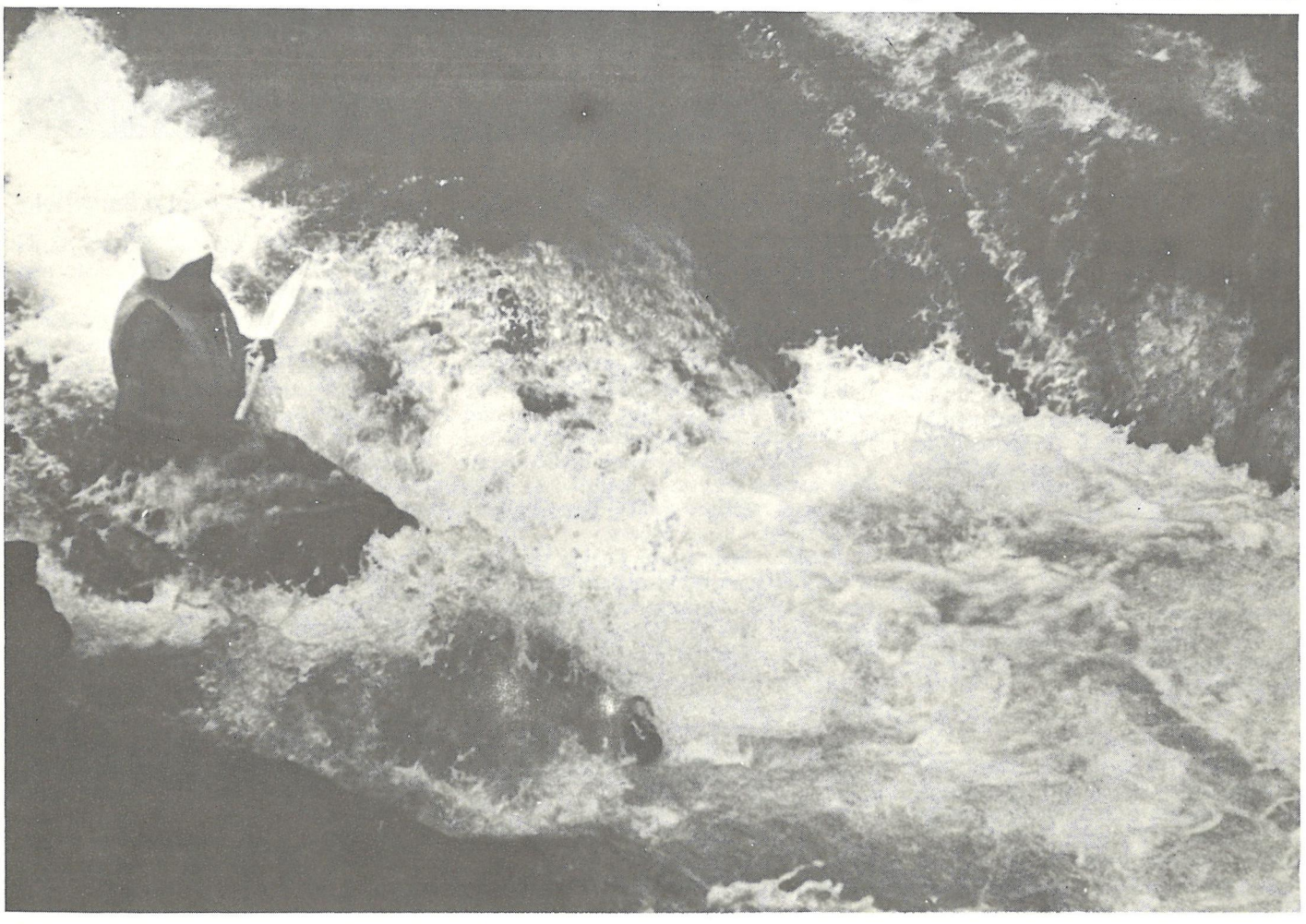
Each river was my favorite. A best would be hard to select. You be the judge.

The Stillwater

A classic misnomer. The Stillwater cascades from the Beartooth primitive area, north towards Columbus, Montana joining the Yellowstone, then the Missouri.

A great grade II-III, 15 mile run with many play spots exists between the Moraine and Cliff Swallow fishing accesses. A very difficult heavy water section can be found starting near the Woodbine Campground. Just downstream from this beautiful camp is a steep rapid or a falls depending upon ones personal viewpoint. This drop is followed by a mile of the heaviest, continuous water I have ever paddled. Man eaters seemed to be everywhere, no way to avoid them all, just work your tail off to avoid the real biggies. The local paddlers think Ralph, Joerg and I made the first run of this segment. Even with a portage around the falls we chalked up one long swim (30 plus pounds of floatation is nice, ask me!) on the first fun and a totaled out boat on the second run. To gauge the water turbulence a snug fitting wet suit bootie was sucked off during one of these swims.

Egon Marte at Tumbledown Falls





Kayak Race on a Snowfield

The Gallatin

The Gallatin rises in Yellowstone National Park and flows north towards Bozeman, past the Spanish Peaks primitive area.

The Gallatin, at reasonable water levels, provides a great deal of fast, near continuous rapids which could be negotiated by experts in open canoes. The stretch between Greek Creek and the ranger station bridge is suited for decked boats only. The most difficult part is the Cabin Rock, a large boulder in the middle of a steep, narrow rapids.

Dave Quilling and Gregg Westerhaus provided us with a fresh trout breakfast from the Gallatin. A horseback ride up the mountain gave us some inspiring views of the Gallatin Valley.

The Lochsa

An Indian word meaning "rough water". The Lochsa along with the Selway forms the middle fork of the Clearwater River in Idaho. The water in the Lochsa is so clean it appears somewhat yellow in shallow areas due to the color of the rocks in the river bed.

The Indians named the river correctly. The Lochsa is mostly continuous rapids suitable for open canoes at reasonable water levels except for two segments. These two runs contain steep, boulder studded rapids and occasional ledges. We were faced with unusually low water, and as such, these rapids and ledges required tricky maneuvering between boulders and three narrow chutes. At high water these rapids are reputed to be very difficult heavy water – I'm a believer.

A short hike from the Lochsa provided us with a bath in a natural hot spring. Sitting in a 105 - 110 degree pool at sundown, surrounded by the beautiful Bitterroot mountains can't be described. We were able to see elk at an animal lick near this hot spring, and two large bears near the trail back to camp.

We tried to drive directly from the Lochsa to the North Fork of the Clearwater but the slow going and difficult (Grade V) road convinced us to turn back.

The St. Joe

The St. Joe is about 100 miles north of the Lochsa and, like the Lochsa, flows westerly and is exceptionally clear, and was unseasonably low.

The St. Joe provided two very delightful runs, both through narrow, small canyons. Even at low water (700 cfs) the canyons were narrow enough so that good whitewater was present. The low water removed any great danger so everyone had enjoyable runs. Tumbledown Falls, a vertical 4-footer with a runnable chute, provided an exciting run.

The Flathead

The middle fork of the Flathead forms the southwestern border of Glacier National Park.

We paddled the last five miles above the town of West Glacier. The road runs quite high above the river and the rapids looked quite small and easy. Once on the river we found it to be carrying a lot more water than the others and that the rapids were quite heavy. This run did not have continuous heavy water and as such was very forgiving – an excellent river to get a taste of heavy water without great hazard.

Report — Izaak Walton League Convention

by Paul Toren

It's not hard to see why many canoe enthusiasts are also actively concerned about the preservation and proper management of our natural environment, since much of the enjoyment of canoeing depends on the quality of the lakes and streams we use. With this in mind, I suppose that an article in HUT about the Izaak Walton League is not inappropriate, especially in view of the long time involvement of the Ikes in the establishment and preservation of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. I was asked to write about the League's recent national convention in Duluth, which I will do. I will also try to include a more general idea of how this national conservation organization sets its policies and carries on its work.

First a little background. The IWLA is a 50 year old, national organization with about 50,000 members (3000 in Minnesota). Although its areas of interest encompass the entire environment, natural and man-made, its forty-plus years of committment to the BWCA give it a special place with those who know and use that particular area.

An anthropologist has recently drawn a parallel between environmental confrontations, Earth Day symposia and other "eco-oriented" activities, and revival meetings of a religious sect. I suspect that an IWLA convention also fits this description, although most of those attending are already "converted", and find in the personal contacts and the formal program of the convention a means of confirming and strengthening their faith. It seemed to me, however, that this meeting went beyond this in that most of the presentations included representatives of the "enemy" as well as those we agreed with, and we had the opportunity of weighing more than one side of the questions. I can't pretend to give a full report or what transpired at the convention. What follows are things that I remember and that I think might be of interest to MCA members.

The present and future status of the timber wolf was the subject of a discussion, or confrontation, between Dr. David Mech, well known wild-life biologist who was one of the authors of the proposed timber wolf management plan for Minnesota, and Mr. Lewis Regenstein, National Director of the Fund for Animals and a major contributor to the defeat of this plan in the recent legislative session. The convention program had this session titled both as "The Morality of Management" and as "The Mortality of Management". I don't know which it was supposed to be, but both of them were really correct. Dr. Mech described the background and rationale of the management plan, and to my mind presented a conclusive case for its adoption. Mr. Regenstein's presentation was a disappointment to me, since it consisted mostly of quotations, out of context, from Mech's book, and repeated assertions that the Forest Service, the DNR, and anyone else in favor of the management plan was deliberately attempting to exterminate the timber wolf in Minnesota. As the result of the efforts of groups such as the Fund for Animals, the wolf now has no protection whatsoever in Minnesota, which makes me wonder if these groups are really concerned with the true situation, or only with some abstract idea of "nature" untouched by the presence of man.

No Izaak Walton meeting in Minnesota is complete without a session on the BWCA, and this one was no exception. Again we had the opportunity of hearing several points of view. First was Sig Olson, speaking from over forty years of working with the Ikes, first as a concerned member and later as our National Wilderness Consultant. He spoke of the BWCA as a unique and irreplacable natural area, which must be preserved just because of what it is, and because of what it means to those who care about maining at least a few areas where nature, and not man, has primacy. Next we heard from Ron Walls, an Ely attorney who recently represented the timber companies in litigation concerned with the BWCA. His main point was that a well managed program of lumbering, in the Portal Zone for example, need not interfere with the recreational use of the area, and would in fact be of benefit in improving wildlife habitat and variety of vegetation. Third on the panel was John Waters, of Canadian Waters canoe outfitters. As he pointed out, conscientious outfitters are caught in a dilemma -- realizing that their incomes depend on more people using their services, but also that too many people in the BWCA can destroy the area, and the outfitting business as well. The fourth member of the panel was Harold Andersen, Supervisor of the Superior National Forest, the man who has to resolve these conflicts of interests and viewpoints, and manage the BWCA for the best long range interest of the public. (By the time this article is printed, the long awaited management plan for the Superior Forest and the BWCA should be available for study and comment, and we can form our own opinions as to how well this has been done.) The differences between the viewpoints of the members of the panel were not surprising, but what was interesting was their areas of agreement. Each one, in his own presentation, made the point that we must accept a decreased freedom of access and use, if the BWCA is to be maintained as a reasonable facsimile of a wilderness area. Sig Olson expressed the general feeling during the discussion period when he commented he had never thought to see the time when he couldn't put in his canoe and travel as he pleased in the BWCA, but he could see that restrictions would soon be needed to preserve the area.

While the educational and informational program of the convention was going on, a number of delegates were wrestling with the policy statements and resolutions to be presented to the full convention for action on the last day of the meeting. Any member, or chapter, of the League can submit such resolutions for consideration before the convention meets. They are studied, discussed, rewritten, modified and sometimes rejected by the resolutions committee and by several special area task groups. For example, I sat in with a group on energy policy, and worked on proposals including energy conservation, nuclear power plants, and the Alaska pipeline. The resolutions which we prepared then went to the full resolutions committee and then to the convention for discussion and voting. These resolutions, as approved by the convention, become our stated policy and the basis for action by our legislative committees and other working groups. I won't try to mention them all – there were about 30 of them passed, covering the country from "Big Cypress Swamp" to "Oregon Wilderness", and including subjects all the way from "Urban Environment" to "Wingdams, Jetties, and Groins". We passed a resolution reaffirming the League's position on the BWCA (no commercial logging or mechanized transport) which we first adopted in 1964. We approved a general policy with respect to off-road vehicles, that their use be prohibited on public lands, except where expressly permitted as part of a rational and well enforced management plan. There were others which are of direct interest to Minnesotans and canoers, but this should be enough to indicate the type of things the League is concerned with.

The Izaak Walton League and the Minnesota Canoe Association have many interests in common, and I feel personally that belonging to both groups is a natural expression of this. Speaking as an officer of the Minnesota Izaak Walton League, I would be pleased to see more MCA members join us, and would be happy to supply more information to anyone interested.

Tips on Paddle Building

by
Bill McArthur

Laminated canoe paddles are easy to build and with the cost of buying a good one, making them is an attractive alternative. Very few tools are needed. Latch on to someone with a table saw, get yourself a can of good waterproof glue, a little spruce, a hand plane, and some sanding gear (an electric drill with sander is fine); and you're ready to begin.

I made an edge glueing jig for use on my workbench, with which two threaded rods with wing nuts soldered on the end apply the pressure to the edge of the wood.

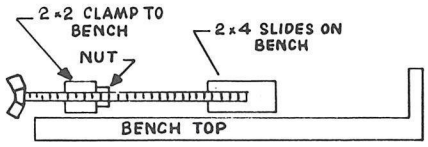


Fig. 1

In general, I like to make handles at least 1" wide, 1 1/8" is real good and about 1 1/8" to 1 1/4" thick. Blades can be 1/4" or even 3/16" thick if glassed on both sides, but remember there will be some loss due to planing after glueing. I like Sitka Spruce best for most stock. Cedar is okay but splinters easily when stripping. I use cedar, mahogany or walnut for accent color strips.

There are many blade shapes which people like and any can be made in any of the ways described below. The most popular blade is about 8" wide x 18" to 24" long.

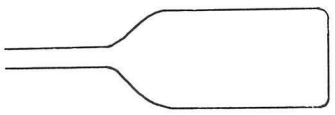


Fig. 2

I have made a banjo which I enjoy very much in shallow rocky streams. Its blade is about 13" wide by 15" long or even a 13" round blade would work well.

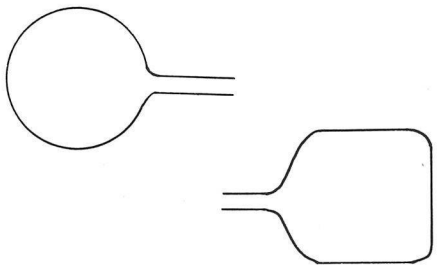


Fig. 3

Several handle styles are also used and any of these can be put on any of the styles shown.

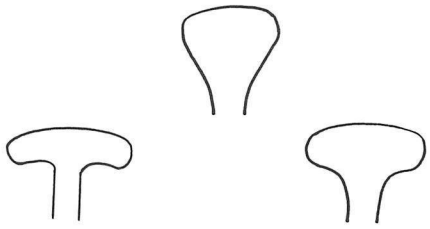


Fig. 4

The easiest method which gives a good paddle is as follows: Cut strips 1/4" thick and edge laminate, handle and blade.

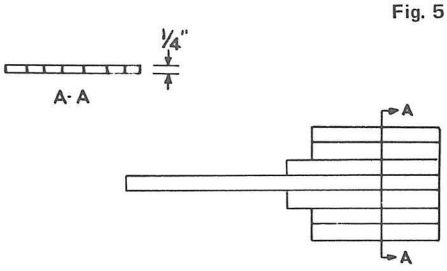


Fig. 5

Plane the blade area for flatness and to remove excess glue. Glue and clamp handle stiffeners to about 1 1/4" thick. The blade end should be tapered and shaped before glueing.

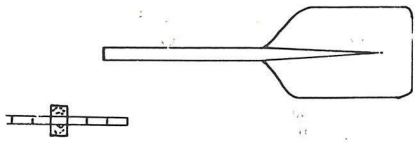


Fig. 6

The handle can then be built up, glued and clamped.

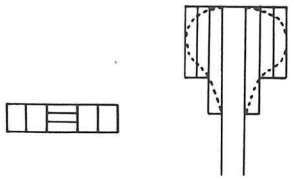


Fig. 7

Now you're ready for shaping and sanding.

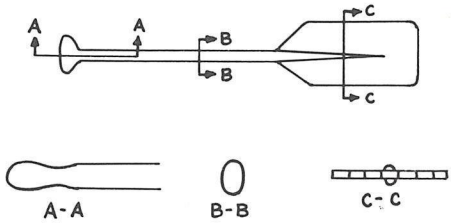


Fig. 8

Next, I like to add fiberglass support to the bottom edge and corners so the paddle is not damaged on rocks. This step is fairly easy on this design due to the square or flat edge. Use narrow strips or strands of glass – unravelled roving or cloth does well. Wet the edge of the blade with resin and start to lay strands on the 1/4" edge. Saturate the strands as added. After the first few strands, put a piece of oversized wax paper on each side of the blade to form a channel into which to lay the strands. Continue building up until there is 1/8 - 1/4" of glass over the end and corners of the blade and feather off up the sides as shown.

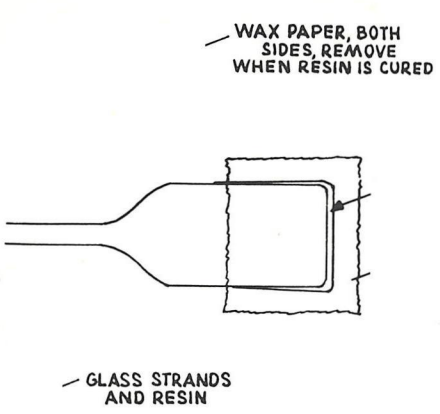


Fig. 9

After cured pull off waxed paper and sand flush.

The next step is to put fiberglass on both sides (faces) of the blade. To go smoothly over the raised handle, the glass cloth must be cut on the bias of the weave. Another method is to put a bias strip over just the handle area, then cover the remainder of the blade up to where the handle comes down using four smaller pieces.

A little trimming, sanding, and a coat of polyurethane varnish over the non-glassed areas and the paddle is finished.

A second style like the commercial Cadorette comes out a little heavier, wastes more lumber and requires a little more care and time in finishing but is considered stronger and more attractive by some people. To make this paddle, first laminate the handle from 1 1/8" to 1 1/4" wide strips to yield a thickness of 1" to 1 1/8" wide. Then the blade is laminated to shape using thicker stock, 1" thick near the center and 1/2" thick near the edges, also build up the handle.

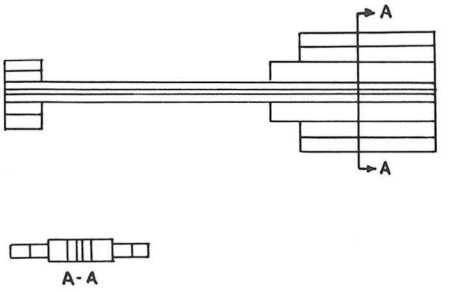


Fig. 10

Then shape and compound taper the blade with a hand plane or equivalent and shape the handle as before.

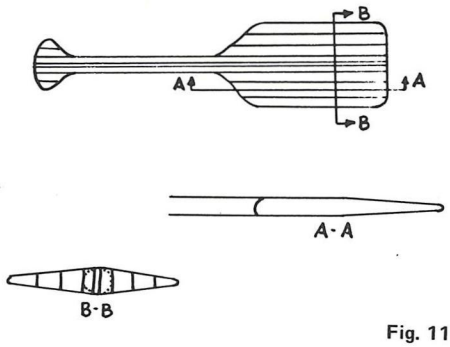


Fig. 11

After this style is shaped, about 3 layers of glass over the end and corners of the blade will save the paddle from damage on the rocks. To do this cut bias strips about 3" x 18" and wrap them over the area of the blade where bracing is needed.

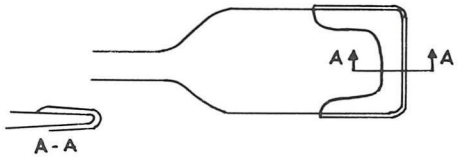


Fig. 12

Make the strips slightly different widths so all the edges don't occur at the same place. This will make a less abrupt transition edge. After the resin has cured, sand the edges smooth. When all the shaping and sanding is finished, varnish with polyurethane the exposed wood parts of the paddle and it's done.

A third style (as made by Clements) is similar to the Cadorette style but does not require as thick strips (less waste and finishing) as the second style but requires a little more care in finishing. The blade and handle are edge glued of 3/8" strips;

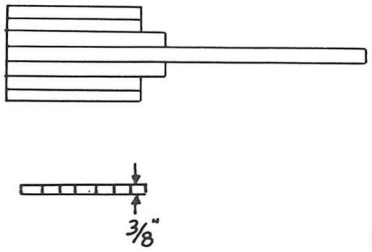


Fig. 13

then two handle/blade stiffening members of 3/8-1/2" thick strips are edge glued as follows:

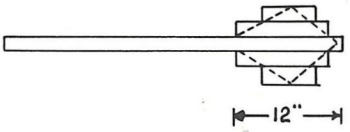


Fig. 14

These should be planed flat on one side, and the full size blade planed flat on both sides. Next glue the stiffeners to either side of the blade and handle.

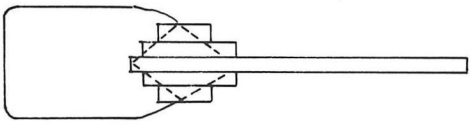


Fig. 15

The grip can be built up as in the other styles. Then the finishing and shaping can be started. The blade should be tapered both lengthwise and side to side as in the second style. This will then leave a very attractive wood pattern as follows:

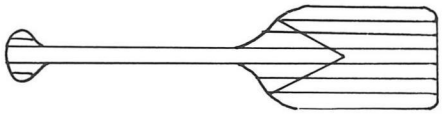


Fig. 16

Again, the end and corners should be glassed for strength against abuse as was done on the second style.

These are the only three laminating methods I've tried, and I guess I like the first one best for paddle weight, feel, and ease of finishing. All give plenty of strength, especially if the blade and handle are fiberglassed.

Happy paddling.



The Joe River — Everglades National Park

by
Norris Van Gelderen

The author is an MCA member who lives in Miami.

Whenever I get that feeling that far away places are not to be found around the area any longer, I think of a river where isolation still reigns supreme. It's a place whose remoteness stays forever in my mind. The joy of it, its oneness, its primitive nature always can be recalled to rekindle aliveness on a bleak day.

Canoeing there is my talisman. The river genie that I rub when I need it is the Joe River. It is a crooked, sometimes ill defined waterway that reaches from Coot Bay near Flamingo to mud Bay in the innermost part of the Everglades National Park, paralleling the southern side of White Water Bay.

It is seldom travelled by boatmen except those seeking shelter from wind tossed open stretches of White Water Bay. Few fishermen bother to drop a hook in the Joe because it has a long standing infamous reputation of being a waterway without fish.

Yet, the Joe is in many respects as fine a stretch of water as you will find in South Florida. It offers a canoeist virtual isolation – a quality becoming more and more rare in this state. And there are fish in the Joe River. I have caught trout and mangrove snapper there in large numbers and an occasional snook. Tarpon frequently can be seen rolling and sometimes they will strike. But, in fairness to a fisherman it is not one of the better fishing locales.

There are good qualities about the Joe which boatmen often overlook. For example, the family seeking a place to take youngsters on an exploring trip will find the river ideal. Some four miles from Coots Bay, there is a channel that winds its way south from the Joe River into a small lake. Children love to go to the lake because there is something mysterious about the place – a quiet spot with no name and a favorite hangout for alligators. Seeing a 'gator in the wild is an experience a youngster (or anyone else) will never forget.

On warm spring and summer days, you may see several alligators sunning themselves on the surface in the little lake off the river. You must be patient and remain still for about 20 to 30 minutes before the 'gators get brave enough to come to the surface. And in the late afternoon, the weird sound of the 'gator resounds from the mangroves that border the lake.

For those more adventurous, there is a narrow waterway through over hanging mangroves that takes you to still another lake. This tiny lake is shown on Geodetic Chart 598 S.C. Mangroves, some 40 feet high, line the shoreline all the way. Near the western extremes of the Joe River are towering cypress trees.

The show of birds is too much for non-birdwatchers to try and describe. Flights of spoonbills cross the skyline. Wood Ibis, with their black tipped wings, pelicans, terns, egrets and anhingas are everywhere. Occasionally you see the great white pelicans which are nearly twice the size of their cousins, the common gray pelicans.

On a trip along the Joe River, I noticed that a single pelican (common gray) stationed itself at the entrance of nearly every tributary to the river. Apparently each has its own feeding territory staked out and guards it jealously. In the winter season, it is not uncommon to see a flock of mallards paddling to get away from your on-coming canoe. Near the entrance to Mud Bay, there is an eagle's next. Two young eagles were seen squawking noisely from the nest – impatient for the adults bringing food.

There are many turtles in the river, most quite small; but I have seen at least two weighing 50 pounds or more.

The Joe River, with a poorly defined entrance and a nondescript exit still remains a neglected waterway for such a fine stretch of river. I am surprised that the Everglade Canoe Trail did not include this area or at least mention it as an alternate route. Instead, the trail was routed through White Water Bay area, no doubt due to a better location for camping facilities of which it has two. Yet there is a Seminole type shelter that can be used for a camp site on the western entrance.

The distance from Flamingo to Mud Bay via Buttonwood Canal, Coot Bay, Tarpon Creek, and Joe River is sixteen miles. If you don't allow yourself to be hurried, this makes a nice two day trip taking into account the time to go from Miami to Flamingo and back by car. One could camp at the Joe River camp site and either return the same way or take the channel to White Water Bay and head for marker 34. This way there is only about a mile of open water. The rest is near shore.

On the inside cover of the back of the book *A Guide to the Wilderness of the Everglades National Park* is a very crude map showing the location of the Joe River. The river is actually much narrower and longer than depicted on the map, hosever. I definitely would not cruise the area without Coast and Geodetic Survey chart 598-SC.

We all have our place, whether we are nourished in the sun of the farmland or struggle in the hustle of the city – our hide away where we can forget the stricter dictates of our lives and enjoy the quiet contemplation of our inner being. We share such exquisite places with only our loyal comrades. I've told you about mine – as an ardent canoeist and fisherman. I know that you have one also.

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