Canoeing in the Midwest

August 1976

HUT!



New 14 Foot Canoe on the St. Croix

Photo by Dean Miller

SAWYER CANOES

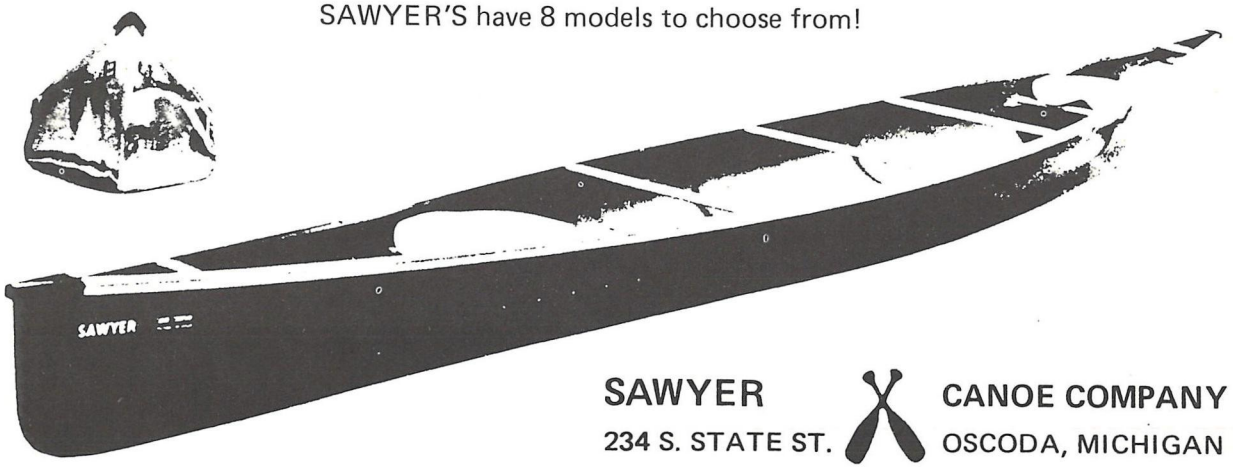
HAND-CRAFTED FIBERGLASS
LIGHTER THAN ALUMINUM

Preferred by
Canoeists
Since
1957

It costs so little to have the finest

This is the Sawyer CHAMPION, winner of the
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SAWYER'S have 8 models to choose from!



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Mad River Canoes

- fiberglass and royalex hulls
- ashwood trim and caned seats
- FAST and AGILE to paddle
- LIGHT for portaging

TRY ONE OUT

Call 399-6638 or 922-5791

URGENT URGENT URGENT

Computer programmer needed for MCA. Present programer will assist conversion and help write program.

Computer needs:
1. Card reader - 80 col.
2. Sorth 1500 card data base
3. Print labels

It takes just 1 hour each month - PLEASE?

URGENT URGENT URGENT

The Editor Says:

No, I'm not going to put my picture in this corner every month. (Page 7 in Sept., page 12 in Oct., page 14 in Nov. and in Dec. a centerfold!)

Seriously though, since I close this section with "see you at the activity meeting" it seemed reasonable to let you know who to look for. And when you find me, give me something for HUT - get your name in print.

L.M.



FROM OUR MAILBAG:

(An article on Niel Christian was in the July issue) "I'm not sure when Niel's subscription runs out but I just can't keep up with everything alone. Sorry. We have enjoyed the canoe so much and hope some day one of the boys will pick up their dad's membership.

Good Luck
Ginny Christian"

Mrs. Christian is being sent a year of complimentary issues of *Hut* and an extension of Niel's membership. The Board sends their sympathies and best wished to Mrs. Christian and her family.

1976 St. Croix Slalom

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 21:

8:00 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 a.m.	Competitors meeting
11:00 a.m.	Beginning of competition
7:30 p.m.	Group dinner - Wild Wood Park
9:00 p.m.	Films - Wild Wood Park

Sunday, August 22:

9:30 a.m.	Team runs
11:30 a.m.	Regular competition

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thurs. August 5

Canoe Brigade of the North meets for fun and practice and showing off at the Phalen-Keller chain. Wayne and Bonnie Kurth are the hosts for the 7:00 p.m. gathering. 457-4288.

Tues. - Thurs. August 10, 11, 12

Basic Canoeing I - Article on Page 3.

Wed. August 11

Board meeting at Tom and Barb Babcooks. 2516 Snelling Curve, Roseville. Guests are welcome, Please call hosts. 633-9323.

Sat. - Sun. August 14, 15

Slalom Clinic, Taylors Falls, Mn. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Saturday on North side of bridge on Minnesota side. Al Button 776-4607.

Fri. Sat. Sun. August 13, 14, 15

Grand Portage Rendezvous. Canoe Brigade of the North is taking their 30 foot North Canoe replica. Call Bourgeois Walt Meyers at 894-3944.

Sat. August 14

Basic Canoeing I. Article on Page 3.

Sat. - Sun. August 21-22

St. Croix Slalom Race. Al Button 776-4607.

Wed. August 18

MCA activities meeting 7:00 p.m. at Broadway Bridge on the Mississippi (south of Broadway on W. River Road) Canoe builders contest and canoe try-outs. See seperate article.

Sat. August 21

Basic Canoeing I. Article on Page 3.

Thurs. September 9

Canoe Brigade of the North meets at Harriet Island (South side of Mississippi near Wabasha Bridge) Grant Friberg is host. 646-0183.

Wed. Fri. September 8, 9, 10

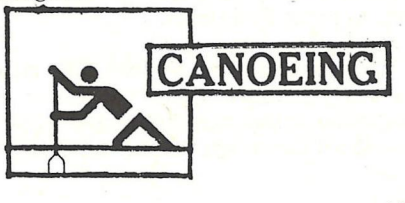
Basic Canoeing I. Article on Page 3.

Thurs. Sat. September 16, 17, 18

Efficcient Canoeing II. Article on Page 3.

Sat. September 25

Color Cruise and Annual Builders Contest. See article on Page 10.



August Activities Meeting

CANOE BUILDERS CONTEST & CANOE TRY-OUTS

The builders of the MCA will again display their handiwork for fellow members to judge on Wednesday August 18, 7:00 p.m. at Broadway Bridge on the Mississippi.

Come and enter or vote for your favorite canoe in any of the following five classes:

1. The classic wood strip - any design of cruising canoe.
2. Long distance racing canoe - any design and/or construction method.
3. Fiberglass hull - any cruising design.
4. Fiberglass hull - any whitewater design canoe or kayak.
5. Restored classic - any canoe of sufficient age and heritage that has been restored to useable condition.

Canoes are judged by all MCA members present. Silver cups go to all winners of classes with 5 or more entries. Certificates to all winners. No entry fee or other red tape required.

There are no restrictions on entries as to year of building or renovating. Judgement will be on appearance, construction techniques, weight, quality of construction, etc. Have your canoe there at 7:00 p.m. If you can't make it have a friend bring your canoe and enter it for you.

Come and see how your boat stacks up against all boats ever built by MCA members. This is your best chance to meet fellow builders and see the latest designs and building techniques.

NOTES:

1. Canoes 30 ft. and larger are not eligible to compete.

2. There is to be a follow-up contest to be in conjunction with the Minnesota State Fair. Space is limited for display at the Fair Grounds, so our contest will serve as a preliminary screening for entries. Two categories will be scheduled:
   A. Wood strip canoe (cruising or racing)
   B. Fiberglass Hull (open cruising or racing, whitewater canoe or kayak)

CANOE TRY-OUTS

A variety of commercially made canoes will be on hand for try-out. Also, if you have a model that you are willing to offer for try-out, please bring it to the meeting. It is suggested that everyone provide their own paddle and life preserver.

ATTENTION!

PLEASE NOTIFY THE MCA OF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES SO THAT THE NEWSLETTER CAN REACH YOU UNINTERRUPTED. IT WILL ALSO SAVE US ADDITIONAL TIME AND POSTAGE. SEND CHANGES TO: MCA BOX 14117, UNIVERSITY STATION, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414.



LOCATENNIAL CRUISE OFFERED

Over the years the Locatennial Cruise has been one of the biggest cruising events. The cruise, held on the Mississippi, begins on the West bank by the 694 bridge and ends at Showboat Landing. Highlight of the trip is always the experience of locking through the upper and lower locks of the St. Anthony Falls Dam.

Hilmar Wagner is willing to lead the trip in late September or early October. He just wants to know the best day and how many are interested. Call him at 823-4837. How about Saturday, October 8 Hilmar??

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER?

MISSISSIPPI MUD

Q: I've noticed several racers using bent paddles. How do they work?

A: Using the "Hut" technique and the stroke developed by racers such as Gene Jensen, the angle paddle was created to increase the effective length of the stroke in the water.

Q: How do the pros make their canoes go so fast?

A: Practice.

Q: How long are the paddles the racers use?

A: In order to maintain a high stroke rate, most racers use between 51" and 54" paddles, usually with 8" blades.

Have any questions you want answered? Send them to "Mississippi Mud" c/p Frank Green, 7620 49th Ave. N., Mpls., MN 55428.

PRESIDENTS OPINION

By Walt Jones

Having been asked to write something I got to checking over myself and I have come to the conclusion that I should try not to be serious about anything. Rather I find more pleasure telling tall stories and jokes.

You know I've never seen an article in *Hut* on what kind of soap is best - so I'll write about soap.

It would be hard to imagine life without that sudsy substance that does so much to make everything cleaner, fresher, and better smelling. But for many years men did indeed go soapless and getting washed up for dinner meant a rubdown water and sand, grass, or even pumice stone.

One legend has it that a certain gladiator wanted to slick down his hair but accidently mixed some ashes in with the goat oil and turned his hair dressing to lather.

A much more believable story is that in Rome about 3000 years ago the ladies pounding out the dirt from the clothes by the river bank found the cloth getting cleaner near the runoff from areas where animals were sacrificed in fire.

Despite soaps early discovery, European Colonists had soap pretty much like the gladiators hair tonic. The housewife saved her fats, boiled them with lye made from wood ashes, and produced the infamous yellow soap that removed tons of dirt and acres of skin.

In 1791 a process was discovered to make soda ash from common salt and the first detergents began to appear.

All of which is fortunate for us. Can you imagine a mother washing out a little boys mouth after his using a "bad word" with pumice? Or how about Nellie Forbush in the musical *South Pacific* singing "I'm going to sand that man right out of my hair"?

I prefer Ivory Bar Soap - it has no odor to draw bugs and it floats.

Walt

WANT TO RUN THE MCA?

At the August board meeting we will begin nominatins of candidates for the October election. Some of the board members are willing to continue while a number of other positions will be vacated. About one half of the board members elected each year are new to the group. This gives us that much needed "new blood" and allows us the continuity of the "old hands".

There are different types of board positions: Official sounding jobs of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and membership that handle administrative functins. Areas of special interest like conservation, cruising, building, education, programs, and publicatins.

A director is also elected from each chapter which now include 3M, Cascaders, Marathon, Hiawatha, and Voyaguers. All these directorships are one year terms while three are held for three years. The job titles of these three year directors are: legal, liasion, and volunteers.

TOM BOBCOOK'S PIZZA

Method: Reflector oven
Time: Ten to fifteen minutes
Yield: 12 individual pizzas

6 English Muffins
1 can pizza sauce or 1 pkg spaghetti sauce mix
1 pepperoni sausage
Grated or sliced Mozzarella cheese

Split muffin in half
Spread with pizza or spaghetti sauce
Add sliced pepperoni
Sprinkle with cheese
Place in reflector oven and bake until cheese is melted.

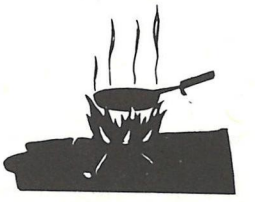
GRANT FRIBERG'S FRENCH TOAST

Now I'm sure that there are at least 500 people in our club that will say "that's the recipe I've used for years!" I never said this recipe for French toast was original - just that it's good, and so easy you can't miss!

2 eggs
½ pint cream
1 tbs. of vanilla
1 tbs. of sugar
1½ sprinkles of cinnamon

Put all this in a bowl and whip with a fork till it's fairly frothy. Then take thick bread - like inch thick slicess of Italian or French loaf - and soak it well in the batter. After a good soaking fry in butter.

Two suggestions. Use low heat or you'll get the soggy center syndrome. And don't flip more than once. It is said that multiple flips will toughen it up. I'm not sure about that but mother has never been wrong yet.



MCA OPEN BOAT CANOE I AND II

BASIC CANOEING I and EFFICIENT CANOEING II classes still have openings for those who wish to improve their paddling efficiency. CANOEING I covers safety, paddling a canoe in a straight line and turning. CANOEING II stresses crusing skills and deals with wind and current maneuvers. Sign up for CANOEING I and then take CANOEING II later in the summer. Classes will be held at Lake Phalen, Lake of the Isles and the Broadway Bridge on the Mississippi. Classes are limited to 10 to 15 people. Canoe rental is available. Classes run from 6:30 to dusk.

Classes for Basic Canoeing I on August 10-12 and Sept. 8-10 still have openings as does Canoeing II on Sept. 16-18. Other dates are available so call and leave your name if you cannot make the above dates. We will also offer a class Aug. 14 and another Aug. 22 for Basic Canoeing I. These classes will be finished in one day for those who cannot fit in the mid week sessions.

Call Stu Knappmiller 777-8993, or Karl Ketter 636-8116, to sign up...$4 MCA members, $6 non-members.

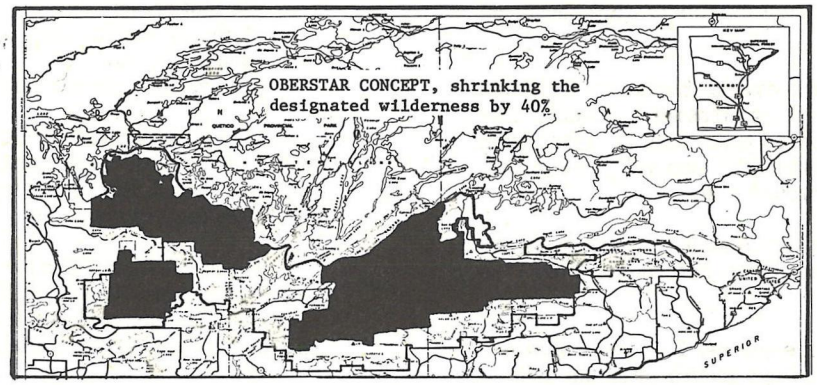
By Lew Miller

Three cheers for Fraser

In an earlier article we addressed the attempt of Minnesota Representative James Oberstar to reach a compromise between those who know the value of wilderness and the logging-motorized interests.

The careful reader will remember that we dealt harshly with Oberstar's proposal. The article concluded with these words:

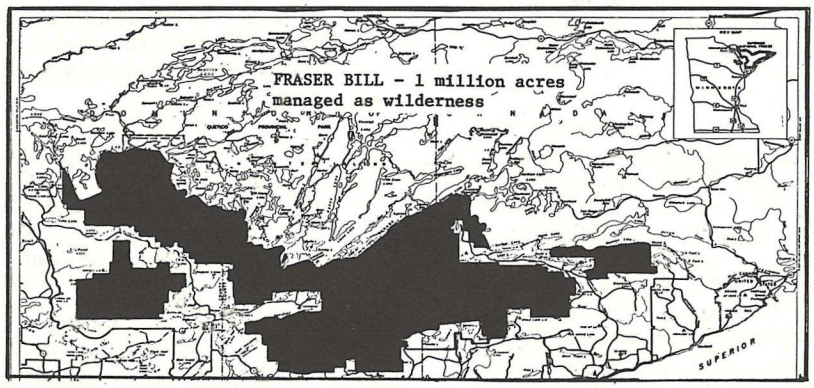
"But among the flood of differing opinions, only one is truly appealing to one who remembers the past and dreams of the future. The editorial stance of the *Minneapolis Tribune* may ignore political reality, but it is morally correct. Make the whole BWCA a wilderness. Ban all forms of motorized transport. Surround the wilderness with a buffer zone of National Forest. And say a firm final NO to the mining and logging interests."



Believe it or not, there is a politican who understands the moral imperative of wilderness. He is Minnesota Congressman Donald Fraser. And he has introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives a bill that would terminate the abuses to which the Boundary Waters has been subjected.

Logging and mining would be terminated immediately and the use of snowmobiles and motor boats would be gradually phased out over a five year period. The Forest Service could then manage the area for wilderness not for exploitation and would be unencumbered by the special language in the wilderness act which accomodates non-wilderness use.

The accompanying maps show the benefits of Don Fraser's bill. Both the bill and the congressman deserve our support.



The Sierra Club addressed the issue of wilderness status for the BWCA with these words:

"The lakes, flora and fauna of the Boundary Waters have their own set of complex laws to live by. Unwritten and unspoken, their laws have been in effect for thousands of years and have created and maintained a place of incredible beauty, variety, and stability. Their laws do not contain the language of lawyers, but the bio-language implanted in every creature and growing thing that comes to life in that vast lakeland forest.

"There will always be those who would turn the last stands of virgin timber in the Boundary Waters into newspapers and magazines, who would trade its cold, clean waters for cold cash. There will never be a law so perfect and immutable that the Boundary Waters can be considered "saved" forever. But good protective laws and informed citizens can do the job."

Representative Fraser's Boundary Waters Wilderness is a good protective law.

Now there are four things that you can do:

1. Write Fraser to tell him that his Boundary Waters Wilderness Bill is great and you support his efforts.

2. Send a note to James Oberstar telling him that you prefer full wilderness status for all the BWCA and that you don't like the recreation area concept.

3. Write your own representative and ask him to support Fraser's Boundary Waters Wilderness Bill.

4. Clip out the mini-poster below and desplay it on your car window.

The most these four deeds will cost you is 40 cents (tape allowance figured in) and a half hour of your time.

What's the BWCA worth to you?????

Rep. Don Fraser
1111 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. James Oberstar
323 Cannon
Washington, D.C. 20515

Clip here Tape on car window Clip here

FRIEND



OF THE

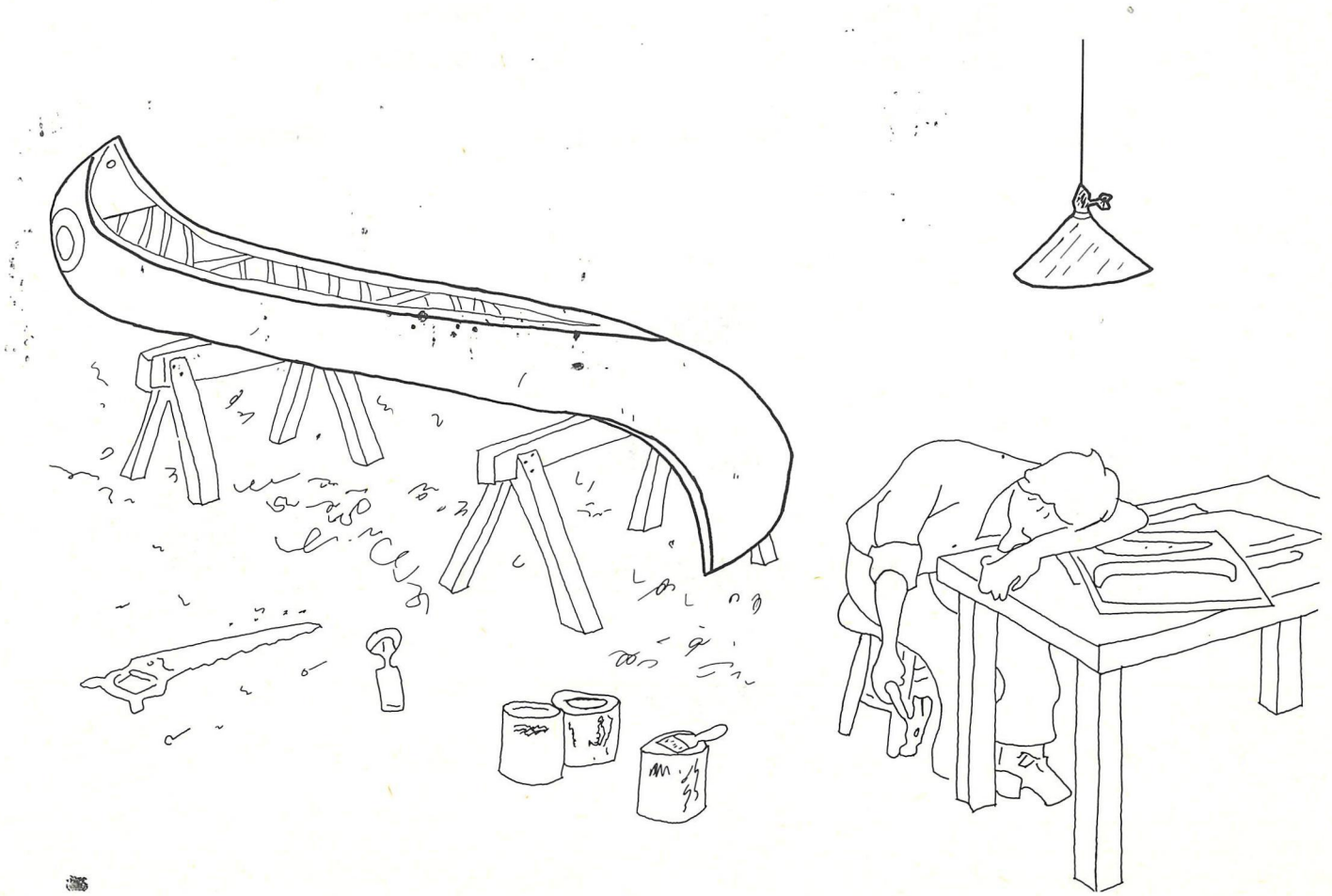


BOUNDARY WATERS

WILDERNESS

The cartoon below should have accompanied Larry Johns fine artile, May 18, 1979, that appeared on Page 14 of the July Hut. The editor doesn't have any idea who left Larry's name off the page - better read the piece again!





BOARD MEETING MINUTES
By Steve Burt

MCA Board meeting June 9, 1976

Present: Burt, B. Babcook, T. Babcook, Johns, Jones, Simmons, Geis, Ketter, Mabley, Jahnke, Miller.

Minutes not read and approved.

Barb BABCOOK (membership) reported 16 new and 37 renewal memberships for May. No response from ads in the newsletter. Newsletter was mailed June 8.

Tom Babcook (treasurer) reported basically no change in finances. No expenses and $800 in resin income.

Karl commented that some of the resin is the wrong kind and doesn't set up. It seems that the manufacturer's order number between the two kinds differs by a single digit.

Karl Ketter reported for Bob O'Hara (Publications) ... Bob can't get hold of Wind River. It's Karl's opinion that there will be no *Hut* until fall. Bob suggests the Board propose to the membership that we subscribe to *Canoe* (with an insert added for the MCA).

Ensuing extended discussion. Airing of negative feelings toward Wind River and toward Bob (his commitment to the job). Discussion of alternatives of improving what is agreed is the mess our publications are in. General agreement over a motion which is passed joining our newsletter and our feature magazine into one monthly publication, to bear the name of *Hut*! Lew Miller, who edited the June newsletter, will continue to edit the new publication. The Board will act as Publications Director for the indefinite future. Your humble secretary takes the job of calling Bob O'Hara to tell him his position no longer exists. (Later he doesn't get throught to Bob before Bob leaves on his Yukon or where ever trip. Doubt Bob is worrying about this anyway.)

Miller appeals for help from all. Photos and artwork are encouraged. As are stories if you can write worth a damn -- or if you don't mind a little rewrite.

Geis (Program) May activities meeting was a failure -- a dozen people attended. Forest Service Rep. came down from Duluth to report on the new BWCA permit system and Duncan Storley brought his slides. Newsletter came out the same day as the program, which didn't help (though some did rush over, apparently). Geise recommends not holding any more activities meetings in May indoors. We got only 25 people last year at the May meeting, and that was with good advance publicity.

Karl reports for Stu Knappmiller that there's difficulty getting students for Canoeing I. Need 5-10 to run the course. Stu is going to try for all day classes on Sat. and Sun. rather that the evening on separate weeks as in the past.

Jahnke (Cruising) has forms for people to use on trips to gather information for updating Minnesota Voyageur Trails.

Third Wednesday in August to be canoe judging -- selecting ones to be displayed at the State Fair. Contest is open to all, regardless of when the canoe was built.

Ketter (Volunteers) Reported on costs of the YMCA office. We need donated equipment such as file cabinets, storage shelves, file boxes and a bulletin board. We decided that Board meetings will be held there in the future, as well as the annual meeting and chapter meetings, if chapters wish. The office will be staffed by his being there one night a week. An AYH person will cover one day a week. He also says Board members will be expected to put in time. No discernible reaction to this.

Decided that the next Board meeting will be at the office. (The Y in St. Paul, 9th and Cedar).

Mabley (Legal, Lobby) spoke against proposed state regulatins which would virtually outlaw light weight tents by requiring overstrict and unrealistic fire standards.

Letter is being written (or has been) advising the 3M chapter that giving $300 to a certain C-1 paddler to go to the Olympics is probably a violation of his amateur status. More importantly, it would violate the MCA regulation which says no member shall benefit individually from the club.

I guess that means they could take up a collection, but not a cent shall be given from the treasury.

Simmons (Cascaders) Reported on upcoming events. Says the CPR clinic was well attended (that's Cardio-Pulmonary-Resusitation, you-all).

Having eaten Dick Simmons out of house and apartment, we adjourned.



MCA TO GET PHONE

The MCA has suffered in the past as potential members have had great difficulty finding us. A telephone would be nice but who would be willing to take calls on their home phone for a group our size? With our occupation of an office in the YMCA building (9th and Cedar, St. Paul) it is planned that we will finally have a telephone.

Just one little problem must be solved: Which MCA member will answer it? We are looking for members who have time to help the MCA. Board members will be working out of the office and at least one director will make a daily appearence. What is still needed are members willing to spend an afternoon (1-5 p.m.) or evening (5-9 p.m.) talking canoeing.

If you can help us out or have some questions call Karl Ketter 636-8116 or Barb Babcook 633-9323. If a few new faces come forward we'll list our new phone number in the September *Hut*.

A PLACE FOR THE EAGLE

opinion by Anthony H. Williams
[Minn. Rescue & First Aid Assn.]
[Nat'l Ski Patrol - Nordic Div.]
[Fellow - I.S.E.]

"I am the eagle, I live in high country,
In rocky cathedrals that reach to the sky...."

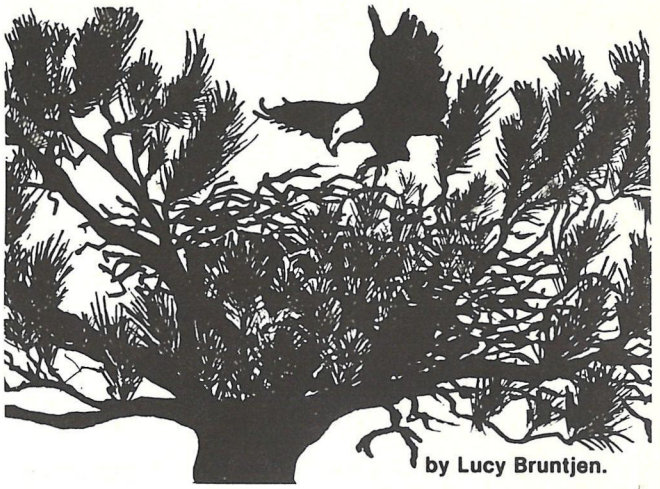
These are words from a song by the minstrel of the Rockies - John Denver. I feel compelled to borrow these phrases of his to relate a brief but exhilarating experience which I had this past May in the Quetico/Superior Forest region of the province of Ontario, Canada. While traveling East on Lake Saganagons in the Quetico, I spotted the nest of an eagle in the top of a dead but still magnificent Norway Pine. Sitting on a branch adjacent to the nest was the magnificent figure of a Bald Eagle. As my friend and I approached the island and began to land, the master of the sky lifted toward the clouds on its' enormous wings. He circled the island constantly and cried to us in no uncertain terms that this was his domain and we had no right of trespass. I felt privilged though to have been allowed by Mother Earth to have been a spectator to this wonderful and disappearing creature in his dwindling habitat. I think that the Bald Eagle can possibly be lost to our natural history because of our neglect and lack of consideration for our environment.

I always feel the same sense of privilege whenever I enter an area of this continent which has been maintained as a wilderness sanctuary. If we were to allow any such area, including the BWCA or the "rocky Cathedrals" to become decimated what could we possibly do to recreate what we've lost? We as a society here in Minnesota have as of late questioned the ethics of such large impersonal beings as Reserve Mining and what they have been doing daily to their environments and the populations which surround them. Shouldn't we also question the ethics of ourselves and what we do daily to such areas as the BWCA, it's population and environs?

I have a great love of the canoe as a means of recreation and transportation. Normally without the use of a motor it doesn't pollute either aquatic or sonic atmosphere which is what we must strive for in our wilderness areas. The canoe permits us to reach areas inaccessible to other forms of transport; it puts us into primitive contact with the water, and can allow the imagination to soar back to Father Marquette, Natty Bumpo, and the Voyageurs. I have seen though, what the canoe has brought into the BWCA and my love becomes tempered with tolerance - cans, pull tabs, aluminum foil scraps, cigarette filters, and food wrappers.

Slowly one can begin to agree with the Park Services of the U.S.A. and Canada when they begin to limit access to the Superior/Quetico forests. Shall we permit our wilderness to take on the same look as our city streets? Must we coninue to "decorate" our trails and lakeshores in this manner? We must as proponents of the new wilderness ethic say that there is a line to be drawn and it must begin with ourselves. No longer can we continue to hack trees and carve-up rock faces with such genious as "Bud was here - 1972".

When we enter the wilds of the continent it beehooves us as guardians of the dreams of the past and future to employ knowledge of woodlore and modern technology. Aside from the fact that Daniel Boone cooked his meals on an open fire, is it necessary for us to do the same when we have companions such as Coleman, Otimus, and Svea?



by Lucy Bruntjen.

These people have found ways to produce faster, hotter, and cleaner sources of heat than Ole Dan'l could have thought of in his day. Save the trees for the squirrels, bears, birds, and plants that use their remains as a basis for new life. Many of us are finding this year, with our past weeks of drought, that we really can get along quite well without that open fire; and we can leave behind two rather cumbersom things from our packs - the very "macho double-bitted ax" and the bow saw. Granted, no Coleman stove can be as spiritually uplifting as an open fire on a crisp May evening, but consider the "high" one can get from a sky streaked with shooting stars or the northern lights. We must all know how to build a fire for that emergency situation, and know how to control it to our advantage, but never let that little knowledge become a dangerous thing. Talk to a person, as I have, who has seen a fire explode from the center of a tree on a cool Spring day. "Fire buried under humus-rich soil can burn for weeks and could possibly spread to trees."

Consider also the beauty of the shorelines of the islands and mainland in our wilderness lake country. Aren't the various hues of green - from the blacks of the Norways to the ice-mint of the birches - a fantastic thing to see splashed with the gray of rocks and the rusts of the lichens reflected in the black water? Consider also a scene from the depth of Death Valley or a favorite sanitary landfill. Which is more pleasing to the mind's eye? You and I have been in areas where someone has had to test ax or knife on every tree available, eventually the forst will be proof that the cutting implement had passed the test. I passed by a vacant campsite at the base of Silver Falls this Spring, and was disgusted by someone's addition to the landscape - two plastic bags of garbage hanging in a tree. Truely there is no excuse for such a thing. That portage load must have been lighter by at least twenty pounds considering the size of the bags. If something is worth carrying into an area, the remains are surely worth carrying out so that we can enjoy that place as unspoiled as we found it but at a later time. Food packs become much lighter when the contents are carried in the stomach.

It is time friends, that we begin to, or continue to "clean-up our act." If we can be magnanious enough, we should consider all around us and not just ourselves. Protect that which is already in the wilds by using "modern fires" and maintaining a respectiful attitude toward our Mother Earth. As John Denver says in his song, *The Eagle and the Hawk*.

"... reach for the heavens and hope for the future, and all that we can be and not what we are."

KON TIKI REVISITED

By Tom Babcook

It was 99 degrees when our party, Herb Hoke, Carl Johnson, Mayo Johnson, and myself, Tom Babcook, piled in the truck on our way for an exciting week in the wilds of Canada.

After a long, hot drive we wre anticipating a cool restful evening in our pre-reserved, **pre-paid** rooms at Rico's Travel Lodge in Virginia, Minnesota. No such luck. We were told that they had rented our rooms. They graciously refunded our money and said that we could sleep in their parking lot. Our luxurious accomodations turned out to be the flatbed of a pick-up truck. It did have it's lighter moments. At about 6:30 we woke up to the sight of two guys driving in circles - fishing.

I won't bother you with all the details of the trip, just a few of the high and low points.

Campsites:

One of the nicest was at High Falls on the Namakan River. I was surprised at its cleanliness. The tent was positioned about 15 feet from a roaring falls. A very popular site. I suggest arriving at noon, as we had 3 to 4 parties after us that had the same idea we had.

Wisa Lake - Eastern Edge of Large Island. This elevated site offered a panoramic view of the lake. Room for one tent, and be prepared to sleep on a slant.

Portages:

A necessary evil but we had some humdingers. Out of David Lake - The map is accurate for a change. Over 1½ miles of fairly level terrain.

Into Thompson Lake (This portage comes right after the aforementioned). Naturally it is uphill for about ¾ mile. The faster you walk the fewer mosquitos you will treat to lunch.

Vie Lake into Wisa Lake - Your Fisher map is absolutely wrong. The portage starts about 300 yards further north than the map shows. Your Fisher map also shows the portage as 112 rods. It is really ¾ mile either uphill or downhill. If you are on level terrain you have lost your way. Believe me, I know!

Fishing

Adequate

Wisa Lake - Northern and Crappie

Crappies average over a pound . 24 were caught in all. 20 in 21 casts.

High Falls - Several 3 - 4# Walleyes

Rock bass, Sauger, 8# Northern. I even caught an 8 inch Walleye. Throughout we used rappalass as our main lure.

Problems:

For the first time Cutters did not repel mosquitos but attracted them.

High winds forced large fishing boats - and us - off Namakan and Sand Point Lakes. Our solution to the problem was to sail the lakes in the moonless night. And sail we did - for over 20 miles.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PHOTO

September Activity Meeting

ANNUAL ST. CROIX COLOR CRUISE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Come and join the MCA's oldest cruise activity. Check out the wildlife in the side channels. Dig the color of the maples and the birch. Sniff up some crisp autumn air. Stick around for the Canoe Builder's Contest at O'Brien State Park.

Here are lot's of alternatives to join your old friends in the MCA and meet some new faces.

(1) Take the whole trip -- put in at the Minnesota landing of Interstate Park (about 1 to 2 miles south of Taylors Falls on Hiway 8). Start on the water about 10:00 - 10:30 and paddle 16 miles to O'Brien State Park (3-5 hours paddling time). Lunch stop at the Osceola Bridge.

(2) Put in later in the day at the Osceola Bridge (nine miles to O'Brien).

(3) Just drive up to O'Brien later in the day and paddle a bit up or downstream from there.

(4) Spend the day at Taylor's Falls practicing whitewater techniques and drive down to O'Brien to join the group for supper and the Canoe Builder's Contest.

(5) If the wind is blowing strongly upstream try putting in at Marine-on-the-St. Croix or some lower point and paddle **up** to O'Brien State Park.

We'll still be on Daylight Time so it will be dusk around 7:00 p.m. Try to get to the park by 4:00 p.m. so we can shuttle cars, have the Builder's Contest, and have some chow before dark.

You're responsible for your own food, but call your buddies -- group cooking is more fun!

The voyageurs will be around to help organize shuttle but if you work out your own shuttle they won't hold it against you. It might be a good idea to follow the voyageurs North Canoe down river -- they always are looking for the deep channels. But don't challenge them to a race because they haven't lost one yet and we'd hate to see a great big voyageur cry in his high wine. Or would we?

CANOE BUILDERS CONTEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

The builders of the MCA will again display their handiwork for fellow members to judge on Saturday, September 25 at William O'Brien State Park on the St. Croix River.

Come and enter or vote for your favorite canoe in any of the following five classes:

1. The classic wood strip - any design of cruising canoe.
2. Long distance racing canoe - any design and/or construction method.
3. Fiberglass hull - any cruising design.
4. Fiberglass hull - any whitewater design canoe or kayak.
5. Restored classic - any canoe of sufficient age and heritae that has been restored to useable condition.
6. New design - one man canoe.
7. Voyageur Canoe Replicas - must be at least 30 ft. long and painted funny. Those entering canoe must sing a French solo in unison accompanied by three barking and yelping running dogs.

Canoes are judged by all MCA members present. Silver cups go to all winners of classes with 5 or more entries. Certificates to all winners. No entry fee or other red tape required.

Canoes should have been built or renovated within the past year. Judgement will be on appearance, constructin techniques, weight, quality of construction, etc.

The contesst will be held at 5:00 p.m. near the southern boat landing on the St. Croix River at O'Brien State Park. Have your canoe there at 4:30 p.m. If you can't make it have a friend bring your canoe and enter it for you.

Come and see how your boat stacks up against the other new boats built this year by MCA members. This is your best chance to meet fellow builders and see the latest designs and building techniques.

Jim Malek
Contest Chairman

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Paddlers in Buckskins

by John D. Baird

photos by Dick McLees

There is a breed of men and women in this country who are not just content to read about history. They have a deepseated desire to live some of that history, to feel for themselves some of the thrills and emotions that were more common to an earlier day.

Not content to just read about long-past events of the mountain fur trade, the exploration and settlement of this country, these history buffs are able to see tracks in the dust that were made by men who traveled these trails a hundred years or more ago—and they attempt to follow those tracks, as they seek to learn more of the men who made those faint marks.

These men and women shoot the old guns of the trapper, camp in the tipi of the Indian, paddle the rivers that were once the red man's roads, and at every opportunity gather together to share their enthusiasm and interest in such things. Colorful in their adoption of the habits, skills, and dress of those legendary figures of the fur trade, they seek to share their interest and accumulated knowledge with a curious public intrigued by the sight of buckskin-clad men carrying rifles and accoutrements not seen since great-grandfather's time.

Historical re-enactments, centennial celebrations, parades; indeed, public gatherings of every nature welcome these emulators of the past, as they seek to present their interpretation of long-past events. Fort Bridger, Wyoming sees them each Labor Day, as they gather at this historic old fur trading post; every summer sees similar "frolics" held on mountain meadows where once beaver trappers matched wits against nature and the hostile Indian tribes. From coast to coast celebrations and historical events are heightened by the appearance of the "buckskinners" who find such an outlet for their strange hobby.

But when the parade is over, the last of the crowds have gone home, and the last vagrant shred of black powder smoke has wafted away on the breeze—where do the "buckskinners" and their outdated equipments go? Do they fade into oblivion, to be remembered faintly, if at all? Were they really not just play-actors, their ease and self-confidence a calculated effect, their worn and stained buckskins only the product of some talented wardrobe master?

Not at all! Granted, the demand for scouts and trappers of Jim Bridger's caliber is somewhat limited in this day and age, although the supply might be in excellent order. Those who would serve as such may do so only at odd moments, and must seek a more modern means to earn their daily bread.



Buckskinners prepare to launch canoes for a seven-mile race as part of the activities during a recent rendezvous.

And so the world is not aware that the weary surgeon coming from yonder operation is at heart a part-time trapper and scout—that the carpenter building the house down the street is happier when he is setting up the smoke-stained poles of his Indian tipi. Commuters on our busy highways are not aware that the patient patrolman in the police car on the shoulder of the roadway is also an expert in such arts as trapping beaver, trailing game, or the making of the beaded finery of the Indians. Nor do they suspect that the burly driver of the semi-trailer rig just ahead of them on that same busy highway is equally proficient with a paddle. How could they know that their favorite dentist and the plumber who came last week have common interests—that both can be found on weekends, at the range, shooting their muzzleloading rifles, or perhaps in the shop, helping each other build those same guns, or the accoutrements used in the shooting? What does the public know of the postman who carries a heavy mail pouch all week and who is to be found in the woods on his time off, carrying a pouch of another sort, with a horn of powder, while he hunts with a rifle that he has made himself?

A few times a year these men can blossom forth in full regalia, feeling a kinship of brotherhood with those long-dead men who also knew the exhilaration of life in its more primitive forms. A few times a year they will expose themselves to the public's curious gaze, whether it be at shooting exhibitions, a Fourth of July celebration, the re-enactment of a historical event, or, more probably, at one of the several "Buckskin Rendezvous" held around the country each summer. Then they disappear into the vast sea of faces about us—faces of men resigned to living in the 1970's and earning their livelihood by modern means. But they are there, dreaming about those days of yore, regretful perhaps that they could not have lived then, instead of now, and applying the lessons of history to their everyday lives. It is well that they do, for a great man once said, "A nation with no regard for its past will have little future worth remembering." (*A. Lincoln.*)



Phil "Bluejacket" Sanders, well-known primitive muzzleloading enthusiast from Roosevelt, Utah, taking part in a primitive canoe rendezvous.

To introduce the hobby-activity we choose to call "buckskinning" to the average layman is a task that reminds me of an incident in my own colorful, if questionable, career. I had been requested to speak to a group of church laymen at one of their monthly meetings, using as my subject the fur trade and the part it played in the development of our nation. When it was learned that I often spoke before groups while dressed in the buckskin clothing of the trapper, carrying a muzzleloading rifle and the accoutrements of such a life, and that I illustrated such talks with the showing of colored slides of modern-day activities of fellow buckskinners, I was urged to appear before this group in such a fashion. I agreed to do so and thought no more about it until the appointed time.

The moment I stepped before this roomful of well-dressed, conservative church laymen, I realized that to their eyes I must present a ludicrous picture indeed. My tongue grew dry and perspiration popped out on my forehead as the realization came to me that here was no eager-eyed group of Boy Scouts, or excitement-hungry school children. If ever I needed to champion the activities of the buckskinners it was now, if for no other reason than to reassure this group that their entertainment committee had not hit the bottom of the barrel and was now recruiting talent from the nearest lunatic asylum.

Happily, every grown man retains an element of little boy in his make-up, and what little boy can resist the picture of Indian tipis, bull boats, and birchbark canoes, with brave men treading the wilderness in fringed buckskins and moccasined feet, stalking the deer and evading the wiley Indian? Deadpan stares and whispered nudgings turned to excited anticipation for each scene shown, and after the presentation I found myself fielding a barrage of eager questions. Old men recalled "grandpa's old rifle," and young men talked of canoe trips or muzzleloading rifles they had seen. I came away with the knowledge that this group had a new respect for those of us who are so interested in our heritage that we would attempt to re-create some of the scenes from that heritage, by wearing the clothing, using the accoutrements, and attempting to step in tracks left behind by those whose passage through life has long since been forgotten by so many.



Little buckskinners enjoy the rendezvous as much as their folks.

''Buckskinners'' first came to public notice in the late 1960's, when the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association established a primitive camping area at their Walter Cline Range, where the NMLRA's National Matches are held each year. With a camping area set aside for those with tipis, the muzzleloading enthusiasts who look upon their charcoal burners as being a link with the past quickly adopted this mode of shelter for their camping. The Fall Shoot of 1975 saw over a hundred such tipis pitched on the primitive camping area; indeed, an area thought to be capable of providing ample room for years to come is already approaching the bursting point, as tipis are crowded upon each other until it is difficult to adjust smokeflap poles.

In the summer of 1973 the first National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association Buckskin Rendezvous was held west of the Mississippi River, being staged near Chadron, Nebraska, on National Forest Service land and with the help of Charles E. Hanson of the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron. This first western Rendezvous was a resounding success, and it was resolved to continue the practice.

In October 1973 a magazine called *The Buckskin Report*, oriented toward the activities of the buckskinners, or ''primitives'' as they are sometimes referred to, began publication. The motto on each issue's cover states that it is ''a publication dedicated to the preservation of the authenticity of muzzle loading firearms and the activities associated with those same firearms''. The *Report* might be considered the unofficial spokesman for buckskinners the world over, with circulation throughout the United States and Canada, and subscribers in New Zealand, Australia, and in several countries where the subscribers are serving in U. S. armed forces. As editor and publisher of the magazine, I take pride in the manner this publication has been accepted by those for whom it was intended; while at the same time I would point out that it is not just a magazine for muzzleloading enthusiasts. Anyone who is interested in pioneer history, the fur trade era, and canoeing and other ''primitive'' activities will find it interesting reading. We are proud that as many women and children find the *Report* just as interesting as the men in the family do.



1975 NAPR rendezvous on the Boulder River, Montana.

In recent years several organizations have blossomed, all designed to further the interest in primitive style muzzleloading —activities we like to refer to as ''buckskinning.'' The American Mountain Men is an organization based in California, with local chapters scattered across the nation. Membership is by invitation only, and applicants must be sponsored by established members while they undergo a one-year probationary period. AMM holds a national rendezvous each summer that is growing in size and attendance. For the past two years their rendezvous has been held on Henry's Fork of the Green River in Wyoming, near one of the old fur trade rendezvous sites.

The NMLRA's Western Rendezvous, now in its third year, has been held in the Rocky Mountains each summer. The first was at Chadron, Nebraska; the following two were held in the Big Horn Mountains near Buffalo, Wyoming; and next year's is expected to be in Jackson's Hole, Wyoming.

The National Association of Primitive Riflemen, an informal association sponsored by *The Buckskin Report*, and membership to which is gained through a subscription to that magazine, has held an annual summer rendezvous for the past two years. The first was held on an old Crow Indian camp site beside one of the streams that run into the Yellowstone River, near Big Timber, Montana. The 1975 get-together was held on an ancient Indian camp site beside the Boulder River, high in the Absarokee Mountains, south of Big Timber. The site, according to archaeologists, has a history of such use that dates back 7,000 years.



Author John D. Baird, founder of NAPR and publisher of The Buckskin Report, *readies his canoe for a short trip down the Yellowstone River near Big Timber, Montana.*

Both the NMLRA and NAPR sponsor eastern rendezvous; in October 1975 the two were held jointly on the same site, beside the North Fork of the Vermillion River in central Illinois. Many local clubs, often affiliated with one or the other of the national organizations, hold weekend rendezvous, muzzleloading matches, or get-togethers of one sort or another, all designed to let the participants enjoy the friendship and brotherhood of like-minded people doing their ''thing.''

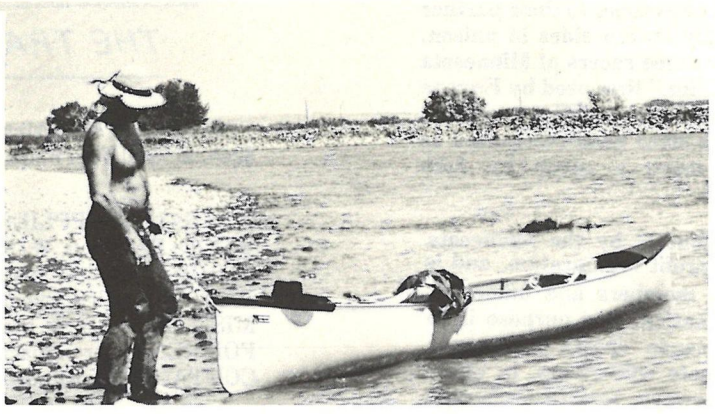
Because of possible confusion on the part of the public as to what constitutes a muzzleloading ''shoot'' and what is a ''rendezvous,'' NAPR member Bill Gilbert of Steamboat Springs, Colorado has suggested the following classifications.

Shoot: A pre-arranged muzzleloading shoot, using formal paper targets and scored in the conventional manner. Any clothing acceptable.

Primitive Shoot: A pre-arranged muzzleloading shoot using non-paper targets (i.e., feather cuts, charred boards, split the ball, hawk throws, etc.) Primitive costume preferred.

Rendezvous: Pre-arranged meeting of buckskinners. It is assumed that there will be shooting, that being up to the participants. Blanket shoots only (non-paper). Primitive clothing and camping highly desirous, and may be specified as required.

A ''primitive shoot'' or a ''rendezvous'' is usually a colorful affair, attended by the whole



Ed Keney, NMLRA 1976 Western Rendezvous Chief, was the other paddler in the author's Yellowstone River canoe trip.

family. With modern tents and campers being relegated to an area removed from that reserved for tipis and lean-tos, the primitive camp takes on the aura of an Indian-mountain man camp, not unlike those of the fur trade days. Vehicles are restricted to loading and unloading, and then are removed from the area. All modern appurtenances are either kept within shelter, out of sight, or prohibited entirely; thus the camp area is particularly appealing to those with a yen to see something from out of the past. Not even modern Indians, with their pow-wows and annual tribal reunions, make such an effort to separate the new from the old.

Editor's note: John D. Baird is the author of *Hawken Rifles—the Mountain Man's Choice*; and *Who's Who in Buckskins*. Subscription information for *The Buckskin Report* is available by writing *The Buckskin Report*, Post Office Box 885, Big Timber, Montana 59011.

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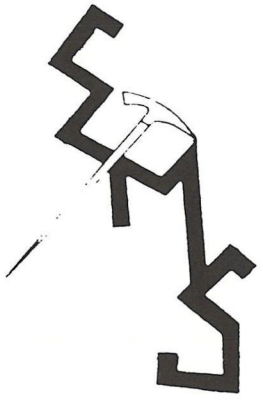
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