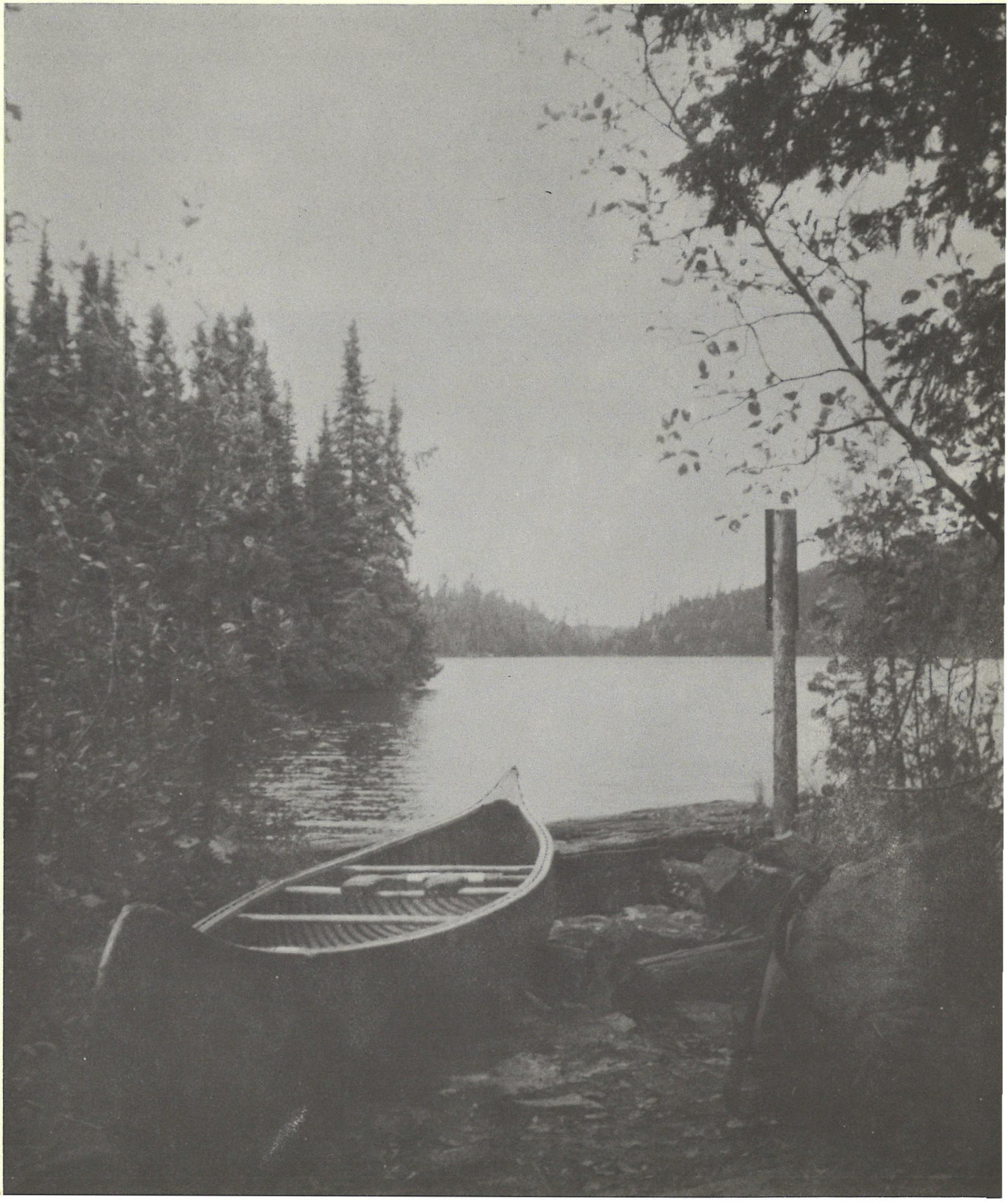
SEPTEMBER 1977

HUT!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Canoeing in the Midwest



"HUT" is the signal said by one canoer to his partner in order that both paddlers may switch sides in unison. This practice was originated by canoe racers of Minnesota in the late 1940's with the word "HUT" first used by Eugene Jensen, who still builds and races canoes. This swift and distinctive style of paddling has since been recognized as the most effective way to move a canoe by both recreational and racing paddlers.

HUT Magazine is published monthly by the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc., a non-profit organization, and is distributed to more than 1500 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.

Editing and Production
by
Lew Miller
7500 Lake Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
784-7667

COVER PHOTO
END OF BWCA PORTAGE
Photo by Lew Miller

BELOW:
READY OR NOT HERE IT COMES.
DNR Photo



Saturday October 1

Color Cruise

Our annual color cruise will begin at about 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 1 at the boat landing in Interstate Park (Minnesota side).

Shuttle service will be provided by the Voyageur Chapter.

The cruise will take from 4 to 5 hours including time spent for a lunch break at the Osceola bridge. Bring your own lunch.

A new feature of the trip this year will be an endless supply of soft drinks and the contents of a keg distributed as you float from the 30 ft. Voyageur canoe. Catch us if you can!

We will arrive at O'Brien State Park in time for the Builders Contest.

Builders Contest

The annual MCA Canoe builders Contest will be held following the St. Croix color cruise at O'Brien State Park, October 1, 1977.

Any MCA member may enter any canoe or kayak built during the past year.

Judging will begin at 5:00 p.m. by all members present.

The six classes are as follows:

CLASS 1 . . . . . Cedar or Redwood Strip Canoes
CLASS 2 . . . . . Long Distance Racing Canoes
CLASS 3 . . . . . Fiberglass Hull Cruising Canoes
CLASS 4 . . . . . Decked Whitewater Canoes or Kayak
CLASS 5 . . . . . Restored Classic
CLASS 6 . . . . . New Design

No entry fee – Certificates are awarded to winners of each class. Silver Cups to first place winners in classes with five or more entries.

Builders need not be present.

If you have any questions on the cruise or the contest call Chuck Alberg at 529–0779.

The Editor Says –

So sorry about the late arrival of your August Hut. It was printed the first week of the month but complications in the new mailing system developed. Everything is taken care of now – I hope.

Your Board of Directors has decided that sending CANOE magazine to each member was far too expensive to continue – we were taking money from savings each issue to pay for it. We'll be working with the publishers to provide a reduced subscription rate to MCA members like that offered by WILDERNESS CAMPING. Watch for it in the October issue of Hut.

In the meantime I'm waiting for YOUR contribution to these pages.

Deadline for material to be included in the October Hut is October 1.

L.M.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 1, SATURDAY
Color Cruise and Builders Contest

OCTOBER 6, THURSDAY
Voyageurs Chapter meeting at Larry Johns home at 7:30. 2936 N. Simpson, St. Paul.

OCTOBER 8, SATURDAY
Ballots sent to membership.

OCTOBER 19, WEDNESDAY
Annual meeting and counting of ballots. 7:30 at the MCA office in the Y at 9th and Cedar, St. Paul. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

OCTOBER 29, SATURDAY
Ice Breaker Cruise at 10:00 on the Mississippi River from the Champlin boat landing to Riverside Park. Trip leader – Chuck Alberg 529–0779. Annual Banquet at Little Jacks, Second St. N.E. & Lowry in Minneapolis at 7:00.

Steak $8.50 Ribs $7.50 Chicken $5.65
Prices include tax and gratuity. Registration forms will be in October Hut.

New Position Proposed

The average member is hardly aware of the great number of hours contributed by volunteers in The Minnesota Canoe Association. We're a large association and our activities in publishing, canoe building, safety and canoing classes, displays and such mean a great amount of work just keeping track of everyone.

Our try at having an office where materials are stored and activities take place hasn't worked too well mainly because too few members are willing to invest the time necessary to keep it open.

Your Board of Directors is recommending the establishment of a new position, that of Executive Secretary, who would be paid to do several things that have become too great a burden upon those now doing them. The proposal will appear on the ballot in October for your approval.

Applications are now welcomed from individuals who would undertake the duties and responsibilities listed below at a salary not to exceed $250.00 per month.

1. Provide the directors with monthly reports concerning memberships processed, letters and phone calls answered and publicity accomplished.
2. Maintain storage space for the materials now stored in the YMCA office and making them available as needed to the Board.
3. Answer all phone inquiries about the MCA.
4. Pick up mail and process new memberships and renewals each week.
5. With the guidence of the Directors, prepare the annual ballot and accomplish its mailing.
6. See that all activities of the MCA receive adequate publicity in the media.
7. Edit and oversee the production of 12 issues of Hut each year. Solicit advertising for Hut and handle billing of advertisers.

Your Board of Directors urges your approval of this position. They have discussed the matter fully for over three months and are convinced that this step is necessary if the MCA is to become a smoothly run association responsible to its membership. No dues increase will be necessary.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Make checks payable to, and send payment to the Minnesota Canoe Association, YMCA Building 475 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101

Age _____ Sex _____ No. of years canoeing _____ Occupation _____

Own canoe? _____ Type _____ How many others in your family canoe? _____

Status (check one) [ ] New membership [ ] Renewal

Type of membership (check one) Single [ ] Family [ ] Supportive [ ] Contributing [ ] Life [ ]

Chapter Affiliation – 1. Brigade du Canots Du Nord 2. Cascaders 3. Marathon 4. 3M 5. Hiawatha

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIPS – Single $8 – Family $10 – Supporting $25 –Contributing $50 Life Membership $100.

Name _____
(Last name first)

Address _____

City and State _____

Zip Code _____ **Telephone No.** _____

(Our publications will not reach you without zip code)

MAILING DATA
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DO YOU WANT TO FILL ONE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS FOR THE NEXT YEAR? WANT TO HELP THE THIRD LARGEST CANOE ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES BECOME NUMBER TWO? THEN CALL KARL KETTER AT 636–8116 TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT. CALL HIM TODAY.

THE MCA NEEDS YOU!

Twisting on the Straight

"Paddle for Clean Water!" has become the on-going theme of a group of conservation minded citizens living along a south central Minnesota stream, the Straight River. Simply labeling itself as the Straight River Committee (SRC), this group has enthusiastically sought to preserve the natural resources of this river as it flows from its headwater, Oak Glen Lake, northward to the Cannon River and on to the Mississippi. Before its confluence with the Cannon at Fairbault, in Rice county, the Straight has visited the Steele County community of Hope, Owatonna, Clinton Falls and Medford.



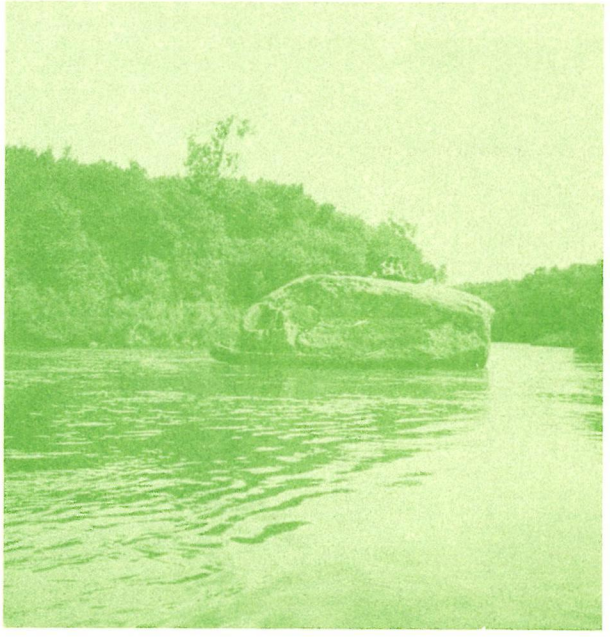
A first-visit hiker or canoeist on this river might well become skeptical of the baptism of this watercourse as the "Straight" River. Its meandering character certainly is not in keeping with a linear definition of "straight". The explanation of the apparent misnomer lies in the rich Indian history of the area. Sioux Indians named the river Owo-tan-na Wak-pa'. WAK-PA is Siouxan for "river". Owo-tan-na translates from a moral term meaning "good, strong, honest and straight."

Wah-chunk-a-maza was Wapekute' chieftain whose village stood where the city of Faribault is today. The Wapekute' were a branch of the Dakotah nation and lived generally in the Upper Cannon River and lower Straight River watersheds.

Many Indian artifacts are to be found along the Straight lending credence to its Indian lore. One such site is the east bank historic site know as Walcott Mills. A large Indian viallage was once located there.



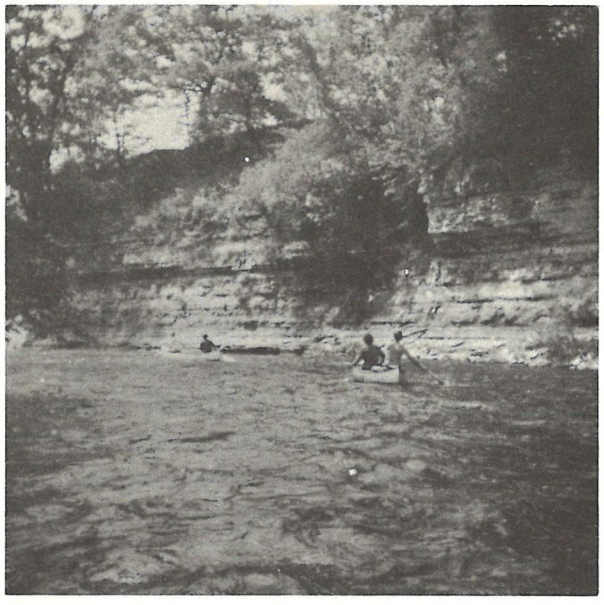
A gigantic glacial erratic rests in midstream about one mile southeast of Faribault. The Wapekute' labeled this mass of granite as INYAN TONKA (big rock) and it stands in mute testimony to the many Indians who lived in the area.

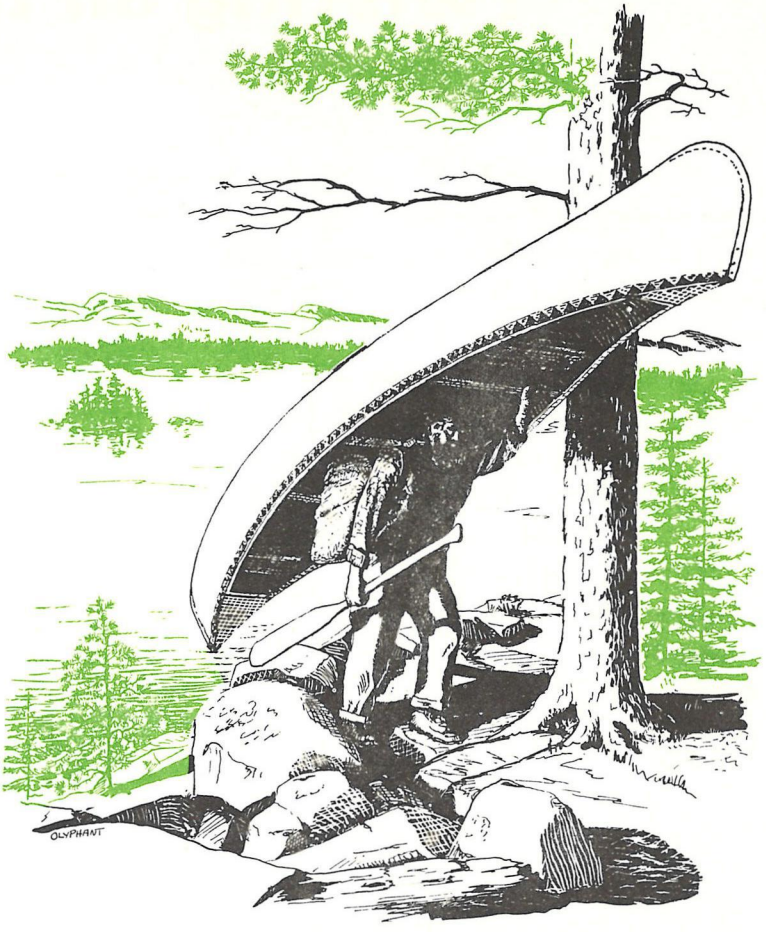


Of prime importance to the SRC has been the improvement of the river as a canoeing stream. Clean up campaigns and construction of canoe landings have been undertaken.

Many members take to their barks with the departure of the ice in the spring. Patches of snow may linger along some reaches where the oak groves approach the banks, but the river "season" has begun for the hardier canoeists. The urge "to go" is sometimes tempered by fluctuating water levels in mid-summer, but the final trips in the fall are every bit as enjoyable as the first ones in the spring.

Perhaps the height of activity on the river is generated by an extravaganza called "Straight River Days." This annual affair held in the spring centers on the community of Medford. Various kinds of entertainment are part of the celebration, but the real highlight of the week is a well-organized canoe derby featuring races from Owatonna to Medford. This derby, sponsored by the Medford Civic Association, has attracted progressively more entries from 44 in 1971 to 218 in 1975. Canoeists have come from many states, and even one foreign country!





Additional activities of the SRC concern the improvement of fish and game habitat. Projects such as placing woodduck houses and planting seedlings in cover plots have been done. Early history books indicate that the river was once a premiere smallmouth bass fishing stream – the SRC would like to see the return of this fine species to some choice reaches, if not all of the river. Catches of northern pike have improved as water quality has improved over the last several years. In 1974-75, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conducted electrofishing surveys of fish populations at the request of the SRC. Some experimental stocking of fingerlings of various species was done. As yet, results of this experiment have not been determined.

Every stream is unique–each has its own set of characteristics, and, hopefully, each has a person or group of persons who feel a bond with it. The Straight River of Southern Minnesota offers a bit of the whitewater, much of the peaceful float, a place to live for both fish and bird, a spot for man to recreate – many have made a bond with it.



BASIC STROKE IS MOTION OF BODY AS WELL AS ARMS

BY KARL N. KETTER

Here are features of the basic deep water stroke. There are individual variations – no two people will stroke exactly the same, nor will you use this stroke under all conditions, but this is the basic technique. (It is similar to the bow stroke described in the American Red Cross Canoeing Manual.) It is a motion of the body, not just the arms. There are three parts:

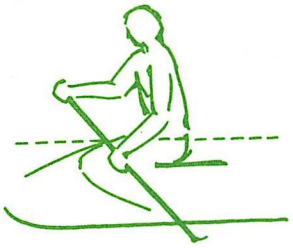


1. CATCH POSITION (THE START) – Top hand near chin, lower hand extended forward, top hand's shoulder back, lower hand's shoulder forward. A good stroke cannot be taken if it is not started correctly. You must reach the TIP FORWARD.



2. DRIVE – Maintain a basically erect position. SIMULTANEOUSLY the top hand pushes STRAIGHT FORWARD and across and down, and the bottom hand pulls back (elbow will bend). The shoulders rotate into the stroke. The stroke is two types of muscles working simultaneously as two types of levers.

   Think of the pressure as being on the tip of the paddle – not on the whole blade.



3. RECOVERY – Blade is sliced out to the side when the lower hand is near the hip and then brought forward parallel to the water (feathering). Blade is turned back to the catch position; lower hand and shoulder reach for the start of next stroke.



Look At Your Label

Several numbers appear just above your name on the mailing label that brought you your Hut. Their meaning is simple: to tell each member of the MCA when his membership needs to be renewed. If, for example, those numbers are 7806, then your membership expires in June 1978.



TENNIS SHOE SAFARI

BY BOB BROWN

The high water was past and the mosquitos still a week off when we launched our boat near the Hwy. 3 bridge outside of Farmington. Four boys ages six, nine, thirty-five and fourty were off on the Vermilion in a boat named "OLD LEAD BOTTOM" headed for Hastings.

Somehow we managed to get our spartan provisions and the four of us into the 18 ft. Herters and with a wave back to the better half we were off.

The first half mile was duck soup. The stream was small and we poled along pushing our paddles off of the banks. We were feeling like experienced travelers when we passed under a foot bridge and into the woods.

Woods!!! I should have said jungle. We must have gone a hundred yards when we ran out of river. The Vermilion disappeared into a log jam. An easy portage and a half mile of woods, then we learned about fences.

Clear of the first fence was some more pasture land and BENDS. The boys began naming the geography. The maps don't show Crow Fly Turn or do they show Noisy Cow Bend nor do they show Empire Straights or Tennis Shoe Bend but then the map makers were never boys.

We passed many muddy chutes leading into deep holes full of fish (big brown ones) and more bends. We must have gone three miles for each one closer to our goal. We never looked at one thing for long before it was lost around a bend.

Toward evening we came into view of the church tower at Vermilion and another portage, so we decided to stop.

Bill, the fourty year old, and I waded the river and went to the nearest farm for permission to camp.

Our landlord, with much surprise, agreed as long as we didn't bother his cows. Up went a tent and Bill started priming his stove. I lit a fire and heated a can of Chef-Boy-Ar-Dee while Bill was working on his stove.

After dinner Bill taught me how to build a star fire and Paul and Danny showed me how to wave a glowing stick in the growing darkness. We told a tall tale then turned in.

I woke once to the sound of a May shower and about an hour later to the sound of a cow rubbing against the tent. "Shoo cow, Get" a head of black and white monsters made a hasty retreat.

Another willow fire, this time with coffee and instant oat meal, cinnamon and apple, my favorite.



We broke camp and headed downstream passing the back yard of some Vermilion residents then back into the woods.

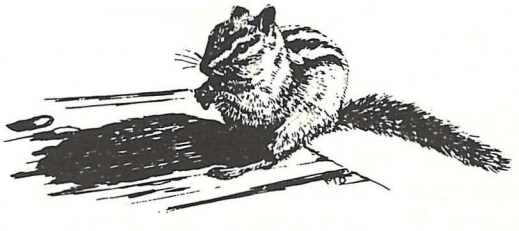
More log jams and fences but the river was getting bigger. We began to get more drop with some stretches of fast water. "OLD LEAD BOTTOM" lost much paint on that gravel.

We lined under one bridge as neither Bill or I relt real daring then paddled past Bank Swallow Bend and into Section twelve rapids. We stopped for peanut butter and jelly after we passed the Coats Road.

After a short rest we headed into the outskirts of Hastings. The river begins to drop quite noticably there, passing several ledges in a mile of fast water, then slowing again. We paddled around the Big Junk Yard Bend and into the Hastings Straight. We were approaching Hwy. 61 when we met our shuttle.

We loaded all gear, minus two tennis shoes, both lefts, then into Hastings for a DQ and home for a shower.

Several years have passed. My boys and I are ready for the Upper Croix and hope to make the BWCA this year. For those who may think they must travel into the great north woods let me say that this trip on the Vermilion brought me and my sons closer. Now every time I cross this stream I have a warm feeling for the muddy little river.



THE TRADING POST

Items for The Trading Post should be mailed to: Hut Editor
Lew Miller
7500 Lake Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Your ad will only run for one month and is free to members. HUT editors reserve the right to determine if ads are for a commercial venture and to charge the rate for space used.

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MCA Resin and Fiberglass cloth
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Rules for purchase: Call ahead and schedule pick-up time. Payment by check or money order to Minnesota Canoe Association. Bring a valid membership card.

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Walt Jones	488–4570	St. Paul North
Betty Ketter	561–2208	North Minneapolis

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FOR SALE — 2 Oswego slalom kayaks. Polyester construction. A good deal at $160. Call Skip Anderson at 471-9894.

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FOR RENT — New kayak mold, latest design, fast and maneuverable, medium volume. Call Bob 331-5284 or Larry 633-6734.

FOR SALE — The MCA has epoxy ($13.00 per gal.) and 66" Nylon (1.65 per yd.) for sale. Call Larry Johns 633-6734 and remember your membership card.

FOR SALE — Lettman Team Mark II slalom C-2, Mithril construction in excellent condition. This is a lightweight racing boat identical to that used in 1972 Olympics. Comes with floatation. Reasonably priced!! Call Jim at 777-5130.

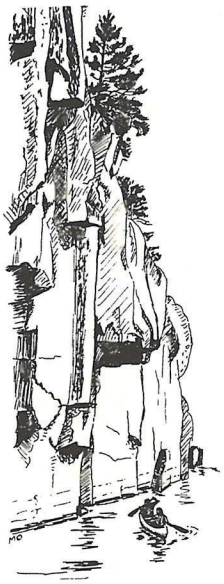
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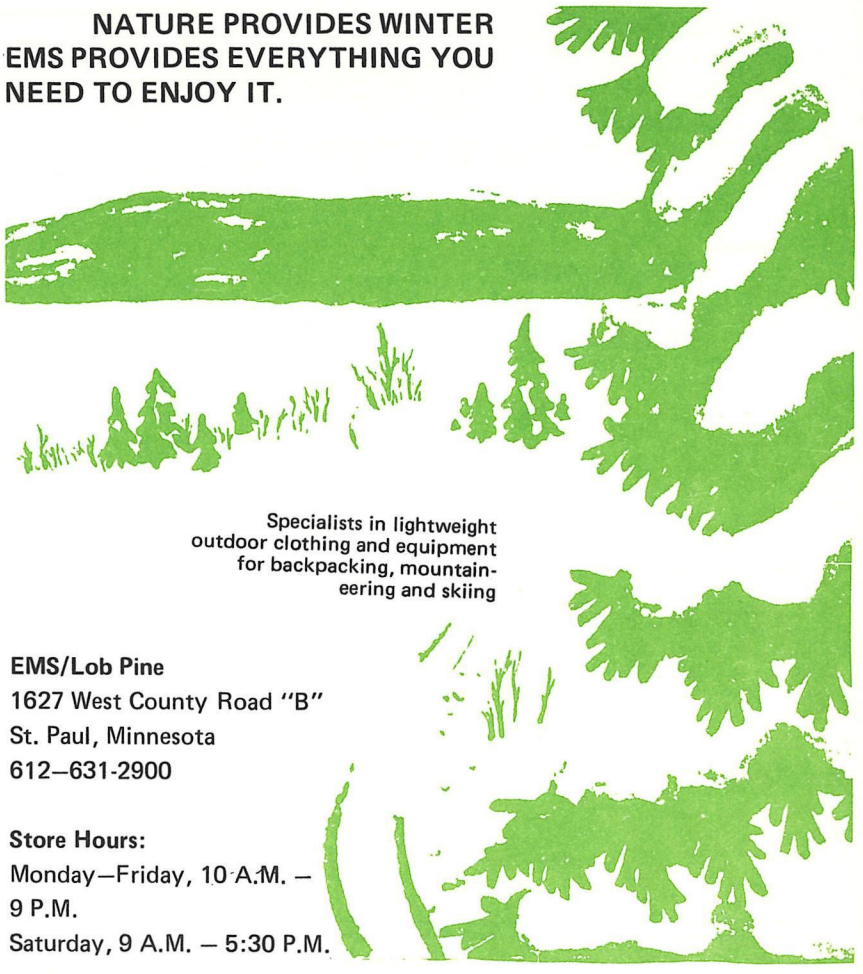


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